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President's Podium

I was recently invited to deliver a virtual 'Tech Talk' by the Nelson Mandela University Computer Society. In light of the fact that I was addressing young people who are studying IT, but who will emerge into a workplace where the subjects they studied could be taken over by AI, I opted to reflect on the overall impact of AI in jobs in the IT sector.

This topic is particularly relevant because the likes of ChatGPT are proving capable – and potentially threatening to humans – in myriad job roles.

I noted that there are currently some drawbacks and hiccups in the deployment of AI for everything: in articles, AI has been reported to make up sources and references that don't actually exist, and recently, we learned that training ChatGPT required enough water to fill a nuclear reactor's cooling tower. Clearly, the technology is going to be hugely resource intensive, and it is not yet mature. But so far, it has proven highly capable, and it's progressing fast. Analysts expect it to replace the equivalent of 300 million jobs, and a significant proportion of people's current work. It is also expected to create more jobs than it takes.

In our view, what this means for IT students and working IT professionals is that we must strive to master this emerging technology, and keep learning in order to stay relevant. IT professionals will have to be agile and adapt fast. We will have to develop a culture of continuous learning. We must remain cognisant of the importance of ethics too. The ethics of AI will be determined by the humans who train it; so, we will need to be cautious, remembering that the AI tools we develop today may control everyone's lives tomorrow.

The good news for young IT professionals now, is that amazing new developments are happening and they will likely end up working in jobs that have not been invented yet, using incredible tools and changing and improving the world in ways we cannot imagine today.

Admire



(Acting) CEO's Communique



Nashia Rajcoomar
Acting CEO

The IITPSA regards 2023 as our year of driving membership, and as such, we urge all our members to become active Ambassadors for the Institute.

As we are sure our members appreciate, there are numerous benefits being a member of the Institute, and we are continually working to add further value to membership. Among these are opportunities to apply for the professional designations Certified Member (CMIITPSA), Professional Member (PMIITPSA®) and Professional CIO (Pr.CIO®). With a return to successful live events, we are also seeing renewed energy as we network and engage with professionals at our partner events.

We are also pleased to announce the theme for this year's IITPSA President's Awards is **IT Visionaries**: Celebrating the IT Industry's Embrace of the Future.

Nominations will launch in May this year, so please watch this space to learn when nominations open. In the meantime, please consider who you will nominate as your champions for these awards.

I encourage all members to take advantage of these opportunities and to become more involved with the Institute. Your participation will help to shape the direction and future of the organisation. Together, we can build a strong community of IT professionals.

Thank you for your continued support.



In The News



Ransomware, loadshedding make healthcare incident response planning a matter of life or death

Ransomware attacks are the most disruptive and destructive type of cyber incidents threatening healthcare, with clear impacts on the systemic functioning of hospitals in service delivery and surgeries. However, ransomware is not the only threat facing healthcare services now.

This is the warning from Veronica Schmitt, co-founder of the DFIRLABS Digital Forensics and Incident Response practice, Assistant Professor at Noroff University in Norway, Security researcher at Medtronic in the US, and professional member of the IITPSA.

[Read her article here](#)



Gauteng Chapter Committee named at AGM

The IITPSA Gauteng Chapter AGM was hosted 18 April at GIBS Illovo. Acting IITPSA CEO Nashia Rajcoomar presented the IITPSA reports, and the committee for 2023/4 was elected.

New committee members who have joined the existing committee are: **Quintin McCutcheon (Vice Chair), Tumang Andrew Cheda, Nick Wanjau and Adore Ruzvidzo.**

Existing members are: **Saba Rahimi (Chair), Unathi Somagaca, Jeremiah Taguta (Treasurer), Marius Snel, Wayne Maillinson and Rob Walker.**

Our thanks to Saba Rahimi, the Gauteng Chair, for coordinating and running this event.



WIIT Chapter Committee Named

The IITPSA's Women in IT Chapter held its AGM recently. The session was a resounding success which saw the committee deliberate and agree on an implementation plan for the WIIT 2023/24 objectives.

The first order of business was confirmation of roles within the WIIT committee. The following members were elected to the committee: Dr. Bukelwa Ngoqo, Senele Goba, Pearl Pasi, Jane Buisson-Street, Prof Lynn Futcher, Dr Unathi Somagacha and Prof Kerry-Lynn Thompson and Eleni Kwinana.



DevOps SIG launching soon!

Watch this space for news of the launch of the joint Developer User Group and IITPSA Special Interest Group webinars to be co-hosted by the Developer User Group, Candice Mesk, and the IITPSA.



Candice Mesk is a director of the Developer User Group, a not-for-profit community-led organisation. Candice is a member of the IITPSA and holds a BSc in Computer Science and spent the first decade of her career writing code, while developing a keen interest in leadership and more effective ways of delivering software. Since her departure from software development, she has worked as an agile coach, delivery lead, and development manager in corporate IT, and currently leads Blockchain application development at FNB. In her spare time, she co-runs the Developer User Group's annual conference (DevConf) in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Candice has recently obtained a degree in Industrial Psychology and is enrolled as an honours student at the University of South Africa.



In memoriam: Hamilton Ratshefola

The IITPSA was saddened to learn of the passing of IT giant **Hamilton Ratshefola**, late Gijima Group Chief Executive and the former General Manager of IBM Sub-Saharan Africa, at the age of 56. We were privileged to have known him when he sat on our IITPSA President's Awards judging panel. He was also named our IT Personality of the Year in 2007.

Moirá de Roche, Vice-president of IFIP, Chair of IFIP IP3, and past President and Fellow of the IITPSA, noted in her tribute on Twitter: "It was a privilege to meet Hamilton when we judged - and he subsequently won - the IITPSA IT Personality of the Year award. He never compromised his principles. The ICT Industry has lost a giant!"

Obituary: What gentle ICT giant Hamilton Ratshefola stood for | ITWeb



Gauteng Chapter to participate in Kingsmead College Coding & Robotics Day

The IITPSA's Gauteng Chapter will be a sponsor at Johannesburg's Kingsmead College Coding & Robotics Day on 4 May, as part of its efforts to encourage girls to pursue ICT studies. The one-day event will include talks on careers in IT, digital art and robotics; with activities ranging from Lego Robotics and drones, to robot races and tech scavenger hunts.



COLUMN: ETHICS IN IT

Constandious Takura Munakandafa, Agile Systems Analyst at Glacier at Sanlam and a member of the IITPSA Social & Ethics Committee, discusses ethics in IT and sport.

[Read More](#)



Spotlight On



Professional Member Spotlight: Khaya Malinga

Professional Member (PMIITPSA) is a professional designation recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), and accredited by IFIP's IP3 (International Professional Practice Partnership). Professional members have demonstrated extensive IT experience backed by significant academic achievements.

Among the highly qualified members holding this designation is Khaya Malinga, Training Instructor, Assessor and Moderator at Hitachi Vantara.

Malinga was appointed to the Hitachi Data Systems (HDS) South Africa Academy training facility for South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa in 2016, to oversee training for Hitachi Engineers, Partners, Customers and Interns on Enterprise, Entry level, Modular and Midrange Storage systems. He previously served as Lead Training Facilitator at the Velisa Africa Academy; as System Engineer (SAN - Mainframe Storage) at Intuate Group; Technical Specialist (SAN - Mainframe Storage) at IBM South Africa; Senior Operator at Business Connexion and Mainframe Operator at the CSIR.



IITPSA in the media

ICT in education needs to be fast tracked

IITPSA President Admire Gwanzura has called for more urgency in the introduction of ICT education in schools, saying children in Africa are falling behind those elsewhere in the world.

Read the reports in:

[Bizcommunity](#)

[IT-Online](#)

More girls than boys in the IITPSA Talent Search

The gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths and ICT fields appears to be closing in South Africa, with more girls than boys participating in the IITPSA Talent Search for the second consecutive year.

[Rising Sun Overport](#)



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



18 MAY 2023

POPIA COMPLIANCE: AN IITPSA CYBERSECURITY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIGCYBER) WEBINAR.

Attend this event for discussion on the POPIA Compliance Assessment Toolkit (PCAT): System Overview, presented by CSIR: senior researchers/cyber security specialists Sipho Ngobeni and Terrence Moabalobelo, and NDC CIO Devan Naidoo. Please diarise this event if it is of interest. Invitations will be sent to all members soon!



23 MAY 2023

POST QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY - DEFENDING THE BLOCKCHAIN: AN IITPSA BLOCKCHAIN SIG EVENT

John Singh will explain how quantum computers work and why they can potentially render current public key cryptography insecure. He will also introduce lattice cryptography and discuss concepts such as the learning with errors problem (LWE), shortest vector problem and how they are applied in lattice cryptography. A must if you love Maths!

[Learn more and register here](#)



EVENTS PARTNERSHIPS GIVE IITPSA MEMBERS A 20% DISCOUNT!

IITPSA members qualify for a 20% discount and CPD points at both DevConf and the Sentech Africa Tech Week Conference. DevConf will be held in Cape Town on 23 May and Pretoria on 25 May. Sentech Africa Tech Week will be held from 2-5 May 2023 in Cape Town.

The IITPSA will have a booth at Sentech Africa Tech Week and DevConf Pretoria, to directly engage with industry professionals.

While DevConf tickets are now sold out, you can still book tickets for the Sentech event and enjoy a 20% discount if you use the [promo code here](#).

The IITPSA has also partnered with ITWeb on leading industry events throughout the year. These include:

- [ITWeb Security Summit, JHB – 6-8 June](#)
- [ITWeb Security Summit, CPT – 15 June](#)
- ITWeb BPM & Automation – 22 June
- ITWeb CX Summit – 5 October

[Get tickets here](#)

See the full events calendar [here](#), and follow IITPSA's social media for updates. Use the discount codes to secure your 20% discount when booking at ITWeb events.

Watch our social media pages and events calendar for details of upcoming events!

[Events Calendar](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS / REMINDERS

Review our IITPSA webinars

Visit our YouTube channel to catch up on IITPSA webinars you may have missed, and see insights from IITPSA thought leaders!

[YouTube](#)

Get social with the IITPSA

Are you following IITPSA on Facebook? Twitter? LinkedIn? Instagram? YouTube? IITPSA is active on all social media platforms, where you can stay up to date with all of our events, partner offerings, thought leadership content and continue to develop your own knowledge and career and remain engaged!

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Member Self Service is Live!

Did you know that you can now easily access the IITPSA member self-service platform, where you can apply for membership and re-grades, apply for a designation or critical skills, pay your membership fees, and record your CPD activities?

Member Self Service



Anti-Virus Products

AVG is a leading developer of Security Software with over 120 million home and business users around the world.

Anti-Virus



ITWeb Publications - Brainstorm

ITWeb Brainstorm is available free of charge to Fellows (FIITPSA), and to paid up Professional CIOs (Pr.CIO) and Professional Members (PMIITPSA) of the Institute.

To subscribe, please contact the IITPSA National Office.

ITWeb Publications



Career Opportunities

IITPSA has partnered with CareerJunction, SA's #1 Quality Candidate provider, to offer a job search/advertising service on its site. Go to www.iitpsa.org.za and click on 'Careers' in the 'Activities' menu to see it in action, or simply click on the link below.

[Career Opportunities](#)

Earn CPD Points

IITPSA members will accrue 1 CPD point for every Tabling Tech or other IITPSA webinar they attend

Follow us on social media, and check our interactive events calendar [here](#) to stay up to date with new events and special delegate discounts!

