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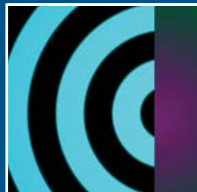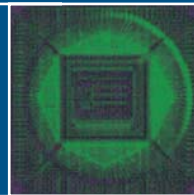
Computer Science and
Telecommunications Board

Where the nation turns for independent and informed assessments of computing, communications, and public policy
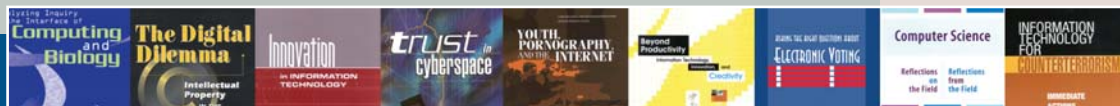
What is CSTB?

A pioneer in exploring Internet and information technology policy, the Computer Science and Telecommunications Board convenes the nation's foremost computer science, telecommunications, and information technology experts. They provide authoritative advice to the nation on technical and public policy aspects of information technology that are critical to sustaining leadership in innovation and on using information technologies in desirable and beneficial ways.

CSTB's products include widely-read, understandable reports and workshops and other open public meetings. Findings and recommendations from CSTB's reports are conveyed in briefings to the Congress, to federal agencies and the administration, and to the press and the public.

How does CSTB do its work?

Some of CSTB's activities respond to requests from the Congress, federal agencies, and other organizations. In other cases, CSTB initiates its own projects on topics of national importance. All studies are performed by independent, well-balanced, multidisciplinary teams of volunteers who are leading experts from academia and industry. Supported by a professional staff, CSTB studies must meet stringent National Academies requirements for quality, peer review, and freedom from any potential source of bias or conflict of interest.

CSTB's work is performed independently; it is enabled but not influenced by sponsors. The majority of CSTB's funding comes from federal organizations. Additional project and core support comes from corporations and foundations. Private support enables a more diverse portfolio and broader dissemination of CSTB's work.

Issues and Themes for CSTB's Next Decade

Building Tomorrow's IT and IT-enabled Workforce • Strengthening Innovation and the Economy • Enhancing Public Safety and National Security • Improving Health Care • Enhancing Civic Participation • Exploring Science and Technology Breakthroughs • Sustaining Technology Leadership • Protecting Critical Infrastructure • Enhancing Trustworthiness of Systems

How can you help?

Your support for CSTB will help to ensure that sound and impartial information about information technology issues will continue to be available for use by the public and policy makers.

Volunteer your time and expertise. Serve on a CSTB committee, speak to a study committee, participate in a workshop, or contribute a white paper.

Share your ideas. Suggest a study topic, a source of funding, or opportunities for the dissemination of CSTB's reports.

Become a sponsor. Your financial support for CSTB or for its individual projects sustains CSTB's ongoing efforts to provide objective, authoritative advice.

For more information about CSTB's current projects and opportunities for participation, visit www.cstb.org or send e-mail to Jon Eisenberg, director of CSTB, at jeisenbe@nas.edu.

Current Projects

Advancing Software-Intensive Systems Producibility • Assessing the Impacts of Changes in the IT R&D Ecosystem • E-Government Strategy and Planning for the Future at the Social Security Administration • Improving Cybersecurity Research in the United States • Policy Consequences and Legal/Ethical Implications of Offensive Information Warfare • Sufficient Evidence? Building Certifiably Dependable Systems • Privacy in the Information Age • Using IT to Enhance Disaster Management • Sustaining Growth in Computing Performance and the Moore's Law Ecology • Whither Biometrics? • Technical and Privacy Dimensions of Information for Terrorism Prevention and Other National Goals • Wireless Technology Prospects and Policy Options

Recent Reports

Renewing U.S. Telecommunications Research • Technology, Policy, and Cultural Dimensions of Biometric Systems (Workshop Summary) • Catalyzing Inquiry at the Interface of Computing and Biology • Using Information Technology to Enhance Disaster Management (Workshop Summary) • Asking the Right Questions about Electronic Voting • Building an Electronic Records Archive at the National Archives and Records Administration • Signposts in Cyberspace: The Domain Name System and Internet Navigation • RFID Technologies (Workshop Summary) • Getting Up to Speed: The Future of Supercomputing • Software Certification and Dependability (Workshop Summary) • Computer Science: Reflections on the Field, Reflections from the Field • A Review of the FBI's Trilogy IT Modernization Program • Innovation in Information Technology

CSTB is a part of the National Research Council of the National Academies, an independent 503(c) non-profit organization chartered by Congress to provide objective and unbiased advice to the nation on science, technology, and policy issues.

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