

2019 MTUG IT Summit Workshop Request-For-Proposals (RFP)

The Maine Technology Users Group is soliciting proposals for our educational workshops at the 2019 MTUG IT Summit scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019 – and we would love to spotlight your workshop ideas!

Workshops sharing IT challenges and solutions are the essence of our User Group tradition, and we are very happy to continue – with your help – to offer a rich, informative program for our attendees. We plan to offer approximately 15 workshops depending on the final schedule. ***We have outlined up to 10 potential Workshop Track categories in advance – Workshop Track descriptions are on the 2nd page of this letter.***

If you have an idea for an interesting and thought-provoking educational session that you would like to develop for this year's IT Summit, we invite you to submit a 1-page proposal for the MTUG Board's review.

Required Format

- Proposals must be submitted **NO LATER than ~~February 22, 2019~~ EXTENDED DATE of Friday, MARCH 1, 2019**. Please submit to MTUG at programs@mtug.org. ***Please submit as early as possible*** -- earlier submitters may get feedback from Board Members and a chance to submit revisions.
- **IMPORTANT: All workshops must have "End-User" Tech Professionals as co-speakers or primary speakers.** "End-Users" in the MTUG "world" are tech professionals or decision-makers who do not work for an IT sales/service company. IT sales/service providers proposals **MUST** have a substantial co-speaker role for an end-user (such as a customer's IT admin or business manager who can speak about the technology).
- **Vendors must list their "End User" co-speakers on their RFP submission form (with their permission).**
- **Topic should be relevant to one of the Workshop Tracks listed on the form** (descriptions on next page).
- **Most topics should be 1 hour in duration**, which should include 10 minutes for Q&A.
- **Please try to limit proposals to 1 page.**

Other Considerations

- If appropriate, we welcome multiple-speaker panels, such as 2-3 end users or other interested parties.
- **"LEVELS"** – Please indicate a "Level" of prior technical knowledge needed for attendees to benefit most (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced).

Our volunteer nonprofit Board will evaluate proposals based on the above criteria to determine which proposals will be included in this year's Summit. **If you are selected to lead a workshop session, we will contact you in mid-to-late March.** Chosen workshop presenters will be given a free pass for the whole Summit – for Workshops with more than 2 presenters, the number of presenters per workshop receiving complimentary attendance is at the discretion of MTUG, with an emphasis on making sure all end-user presenters receive this benefit.

For more information about the Summit – including attendee, exhibitor and sponsor registration – please see the event web page at <http://www.mtug.org/summit>. Thank you very much for your help and support!

Kate Carpenter, MTUG Executive Director • Contact MTUG at programs@mtug.org • 207-370-5327

2019 MTUG I.T. Summit Workshop Track Descriptions

This year, the MTUG Board is presenting potential speakers with a variety of potential Track ideas. Actual tracks featured at the Summit will be based on number of quality proposals received in that track.

Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery [NEW!]

Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity plans are important for businesses in all industries. How can organizations reduce risk and plan for the various scenarios that will impact production and revenue? If there's damage to major network / computing resources organizations need a recovery plan, which can be tested with regularity. Proposals for this track should touch on example BCP and DR plans for one or two industries and general considerations for all businesses.

Data Analytics / Big Data [NEW!]

MTUG seeks proposals that explore the data management methods, services, and technology to rapidly solve the always-evolving operational and analytical data challenges/needs of every enterprise, at any size. Proposals can take on topics and/or solutions such as (but not limited to): Data Lake Development, Lean Data Pipe-lining, traditional Data Warehousing methods, Cloud services like AWS/Azure (in relation to data strategy), Data Visualization, Data Governance, Predictive Model development/deployment, etc.

“Tech Mavericks” [NEW!]

Are you a technology maverick? Do you have unique tech-enabled approaches to solve problems that “break the mold”? If so, this is the track for you! MTUG seeks proposals that break away from conventional approaches to technology or its use in everyday life and business, and push Maine's technology leaders to consider a different perspective. Proposals should highlight your unique approach to a problem with a goal to elicit discussions that challenge conventional thinking. Past “Maverick” style sessions included music created via code-enabled sensors, DIY secure open-source home routers, and facility environmental data collection with Raspberry Pi devices.

Cloud Track

It's clear that the cloud is here to stay, along with the questions it raises. Public, private, or hybrid? What workloads should be migrated, how can it be done seamlessly, and how can cloud infrastructure, applications, and services be secured? Topics in the cloud track should demonstrate how the cloud solves old problems in new ways, and how companies are making (or not) the transition work for them.

Dev Ops Track

MTUG seeks proposals that explore the dependencies between application and infrastructure teams, and address the challenges and methods for helping these teams collaborate. Proposals can take on topics and/or solutions such as – but not limited to – DevOps for rapid SDL, Agile methodology implementations, hybrid cloud infrastructure, software-defined infrastructure, team collaboration/alignment policies, etc.

IT Career Development Track

Proposals for this track can cover a wide range of topics affecting the development of Maine's IT workforce. This may include sessions on soft skills, technical skills, or IT methodology. Broad subjects may touch on internship and mentorship programs, career paths, staffing, and management/EQ. Specific topics could hit on: keeping up with the demand for talent; IT professionals sharing their career path story; the skills/competencies hiring managers expect; negotiating win-win results; writing great RFP's; or managing expectations and change. We also encourage panel discussion groups or “lightning talks” featuring an array of perspectives.

IT Management Track

IT managers face a growing field of challenges – recruiting skilled staff, keeping staff motivated and productive, growing and changing to anticipate the business, creating IT policies that are prescient of organization and security concerns, crafting convincing project plans, and so much more. Workshops should focus on specific methods of tackling these and other management challenges.

Security Track

The Security Track discusses issues of physical and logical security for critical data and systems. It covers the implementation of successful security programs, training, policy and compliance concerns, and explores technology tools and emerging threats.

Unified Communications

Collaboration is changing the way we do business. Organizations are trying to develop the best workplace experience for their employees in order to increase productivity and boost mobility. How can business leaders drive collaboration between users and customers with reliable chat, voice, meetings, video and presence tools? A single platform is needed to encourage engaging meetings among colleagues and customers, and the platform is only as good as the adoption rate. What Unified Communications tools are available and how are they increasing productivity?

“Tech Sandbox” Track

As always, MTUG encourages hands-on demonstrations of new or interesting technologies. All tech welcome! Previous Tech Sandbox demonstrations have included innovative iPad/DIY technology sports scoreboard systems, robots, 3-D printing, and similar hands-on or hardware-intensive presentations/demonstrations.

Presenters are encouraged to consider how their topic impacts Maine's small and medium-sized businesses.

"Small businesses [less than 500 employees] significantly impact Maine's economy.

They represent 97.0 percent of all employers and employ 58.7 percent of the private-sector labor force."

(SBA Office of Advocacy, Small Business Profiles – Maine, <https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/me12.pdf>)

Workshop Proposal Form - 2019 MTUG Information Technology Summit

All fields required.

Workshop Title:

Presenting END USERS(s), including Name, Position and Company (non-I.T. sales-company speakers):

COMMITTED END-USER REQUIRED. An end-user implements technology & does not work for an IT-sales organization. Can include technical staff or business operations/managers from an organization that is not an IT-sales organization.

All Other Presenter(s), including Name, Position and Company (from I.T. sales organizations):

Technology Presented:

Description of Workshop Content:

Describe Benefits to Workshop Attendees:

Workshop Track (Type "X" next to the ONE track listed below that best aligns to your proposal):

Complete Track Descriptions can be found on the previous page of this RFP package.

If your presentation applies to multiple tracks, number those tracks in order of preference (1 = 1st choice, etc.).

	Business Continuity / Disaster Recovery		Data Analytics / Big Data
	"Tech Mavericks"		Cloud
	Dev Ops		IT Career Development
	IT Management		Security
	Unified Communications		"Tech Sandbox" Track
TECH LEVEL:			← Enter Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced (for all submissions this year)

IMPORTANT: MTUG reserves the right to merge a workshop proposal with other/similar proposals to create a panel of presentations. This may result in a delivery time period of 20 or 30 minutes. MTUG will seek approval from the RFP submitter of this type of change.

A/V/Connectivity Requirements & Contact Information:

Contact Name and Company:

Contact Phone and Email:

Please email by ~~February 22, 2019~~ **EXTENDED DATE of Friday, MARCH 1, 2019** to MTUG at programs@mtug.org (207-370-5327)