

EPIC Partner Up in the G-Cloud

At the beginning of November EPIC partners 21c were delighted to be informed that 21c had been accepted on the UK G-Cloud framework. The G-Cloud Programme is a cross government initiative led by Andy Nelson (Ministry of Justice) supported by Denise McDonagh (Home Office) under the direction of the Chief Information Officer Delivery Board as part of the Government ICT Strategy.

The initial focus of the programme is on introducing cloud ICT services into government departments, local authorities and the wider public sector. In order to do this they have undertaken a G-Cloud procurement framework for services under the OJEU process. These services can then be reviewed and purchased through the CloudStore. At present there are 4 categories of services: Infrastructure, Software, Platform and Specialist Services.

21c's two offerings fall under Specialist Services and are purposefully designed to help local authorities understand the value of using the cloud, how it can deliver savings for government, and most importantly – how to get started! A brief synopsis of the services is provided below:

1. Introduction to Cloud: A half day workshop that introduces local government to the benefits of cloud computing.
2. Unlocking the Innovative Potential of Cities: A strategic consultancy service to help organisations develop new strategies/implementation approaches for harnessing the full benefits of cloud, including the convergence of key ICT trends – (1) Cloud, (2) Social Media, (3) Social Networking, and (4) Mobile/Information Management.

Contact 21c to find out more about these services, or visit the CloudStore [here](#).

Issy 3D - City entirely modelled in 3D

Within the framework of the EPIC project, Issy-les-moulineaux was pilot city for the urban planning solution called [Issy 3D](#). Six months after the launch of the first test cycles, the urban planning pilot has been experimented by near 200 people among which our targeted users: citizen, SMEs and city administration operators. As planned, after each cycle, iterations have been made resulting in bettering the service according to the feedbacks we received. The pilot testing has notably contributed to redefine and better the design, the navigation, the length for downloading and also the final usages of each kind of users. According to them, the needs are not exactly matching so we try to make changes in a coherent way in order to answer those special needs without creating a frustration for other users.

The analysis of the final results is still going but EPIC Issy partners already say that citizen and city administration are positive on seeing this solution as a tool for communicating and interacting for urban projects even if some adaptations are still required and that SMEs are positive on the urban planning aspect but less enthusiastic concerning Issy3D as a way of promoting their activity and for networking.

Find out more [here](#).



Understanding the Future of Cities



EPIC headed to Ljubljana Castle this September to catch a glimpse into the future at the [2012 Ljubljana Forum](#). Sponsored by the GoForeSight Institute, the Municipality of Ljubljana and the Centre for eGovernance Development for South East Europe, this year's Forum focused on the theme of Energy Efficiency in an Always Online World.

The Forum gathered 160 guests from 29 different countries, and online viewers from around the world. Delegates discussed future possibilities for making our cities even smarter and even more energy efficient and agreed that in time of financial crisis it is urgent to find solutions to make more with less.

Sweden Showcases Open Innovation in Action



Julia Glidden of 21c had the honour to deliver the keynote address at Offentliga Rummet – an annual Swedish ICT conference that examines how government authorities, county councils, regions and local authorities can improve accessibility and broaden citizen participation in the public sector, both with the help of new technology and by starting to think along new lines. In a talk entitled 'Turning Turtles into Gazelles,' Julia discussed the challenges and opportunities that Cloud Computing and Open Innovation, as featured in the EPIC project, presents for the public sector in terms of delivery more citizen-centric services. During a follow on seminar, participants shared the common challenges that public administrators across Europe face in terms of introducing innovation and driving transformational change within public sector organizations.

Seminars, demonstrations and talks at Offentliga Rummet dealt not only with practical experience (such as working with NASA to build compact new satellites that will transform the way in which machines and people communicate) but also with current technological developments, changes in regulations, new forms of cooperation and national strategies. Throughout the conference, the issue of how ICT can pave the way for a robust, more dynamic democratic dialogue represented a common and welcomed theme!

EPIC relocation app at the Creative Media Days



The EPIC Relocation Application is a mobile application for iOS and Android that is aimed at supporting those who would like to move to a new city (Brussels in this case) was showcased at the [Creative Media Days](#) in Ghent (Belgium). The app is one of three pilots within the EPIC project with the purpose of delivering smart-city services via a cloud infrastructure. Users can browse houses and apartments for rent or for sale in the Brussels area and discover surrounding points of interest to better judge where the best place to live is at.

A rich and easy to browse points-of-interest database helps future citizens to get their bearings in the city of Brussels.

EPIC Partners Advising New Smart City Institute



21c has been asked to become a founding member of the Guest Expert Group for the newly opened Pudong Smart City Research Institute in Shanghai. The Institute is a non-government organisation, backed by local government. It provides consultancy services and project execution through government grant funded projects. It is a think tank. The institute will be headed by Mr Feng Songlin (President). Mr Wu Hequan will be the chair of the Expert Committee. They are both national ICT figures in China. The Guest Expert Group is a group of invited experts from outside China to provide consultant service, event support, training and even project implementation coordinated and organised by the Internation Dept of the Insititute, headed by Chongyou Du. The Group will be coordinated by Alex Bassi and Rob van Kranenburg and aims to establish long-time cooperation.

EPIC at the Global Forum in Stockholm



EPIC featured prominently at this years Global Forum extravaganza in Stockholm entitled SHAPING A CONNECTED DIGITAL FUTURE Visions, Challenges, Opportunities for Organizations and People in a Smart World. Key topics discussed at this years event included : Vision For A Smart Future, Towards Smart Networks and Cloud Computing.

Julia Glidden from 21c presented the EPIC project in the conferences digital content session, which was also moderated by Hugo Kerschot of IS-Practice who is the project manager for EPIC. The session discussed how cloud and mobile can work together to enable cities to create and share smarter city services, and showcased EPIC as a pan-European Cloud infrastructure solution for the public sector, with a unique catalogue of services that help solve specific policy challenges. Julia explained how EPIC can help small to medium sized cities begin their smart city.

Open Collaborative Networked Cities



ENoLL Office had the opportunity to promote EPIC at a session on Open Collaborative Networked Cities at Open Knowledge Festival in Helsinki. The session was moderated by Haidee Bell (NESTA), with speakers such as Ilari Lindy (World Bank) Ville Meloni (Helsinki Region Infoshare), Jarmo Eskelinen, (Forum Virium/European Network of Living Labs), Anna Kivilehto (ENoLL) and Katalin Gallyas and Frank Kresin, City SDK/City of Amsterdam.

The following questions were asked at the session:

- The Value of Innovating with Peers?
- How can cities work together with peers and find safe spaces to collaborate and share?
- Plug and Play with City Innovation. How do we encourage cities to move beyond a 'not invented here' mentality and open their minds to imitating innovation elsewhere?
- The Cookbook of City Innovation Services. How to share your recipes for success. Existing tools and networks?
- What role do digital networks and technologies play?

You can see the video of the event [here](#).

Capgemini: Cloud decisions are no longer in the IT department's hands - the suits have taken over



The cloud has well and truly slipped the bonds of the IT department, a new report has found. The report, commissioned by IT consultants Capgemini and released on Thursday, surveyed 460 organisations globally and 50 in the UK, and shows that the responsibility for cloud adoption lies primarily with employees without an IT background.

"The real cloud evangelists these days seem to be on the business side and not the IT side," Ron Tolido, senior vice president for Continental Europe at Capgemini, told ZDNet. "Until now cloud was often considered a more technology-driven topic."

In the UK, business units make decisions on cloud 45 percent of the time, in comparison to IT with 44 percent and third parties with 11 percent. Read the full article [here](#).

The State of Cloud Computing Around the World: Europe



A large number of potential adopters of cloud computing in Europe are averse to embracing the technology fully due to unfounded fears that it has unnecessary risks or dangers operations and management, resulting in the region falling behind a large part of the world.

While there are specific challenges that need to be hurdled with regard to cloud computing, they can be addressed, and in fact doing so would necessitate a faster and more streamlined adoption of cloud computing by Europe's organisations, businesses, and public authorities, which would result in accelerated productivity growth and an increase in competitive across the board.

There are several key areas where actions are needed in order to help drive the adoption of cloud computing in Europe. Read the full article [here](#).