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Great Ideas To Steal

InformationWeek 500 innovators reveal some of their top projects. Could something similar work at your company? Let the brainstorming begin.

Lilly Pulls New Meds Out Of The Cloud

Eli Lilly is using cloud computing and collaboration to speed up the time it takes to develop new medicines. Using Amazon.com's EC2 offering, Lilly is able to take advantage of dynamic provisioning to scale computing environments up and down to meet the changing needs of its researchers' workloads.

Before exploring cloud computing, protein research was fully utilizing a 1,024-CPU Linux cluster. By shifting this research to the cloud, Lilly's scientists are now able to work at a higher level of experimental throughput, and they undertake analytics that weren't possible previously.

Cloud computing also has allowed Lilly to establish external collaboration environments in minutes. What used to take teams weeks and significant capital investment can now be done with a couple of clicks on a Web page at a fraction of the cost. This significant reduction in cost and research cycle time is critical in drug hunting because every day of delay means a delay in delivering therapeutics to patients in need.



JCPenney Now Knows What's On The Truck

JCPenney's Door to Floor pilot program provides stores with information on in-bound merchandise 48 hours and 24 hours before delivery. At the 24-hour mark, stores can see what's coming on the next truck down to the lot level, allowing managers to plan to have staff and equipment available to unload trucks and to prep store floors for new merchandise.

To support this initiative, the retailer created process improvement technology that would help store teams plan for and receive millions of pieces of in-bound merchandise while improving productivity. It also created Web-based visibility reports. It deployed an internally developed forecasting engine that extracts shipment data from the warehouse management system and processes it through a set of business rules to predict which merchandise is one or two days from arriving.

The end result is greater efficiency in getting merchandise to store floors and more time for customer-facing tasks. Pilot stores saw a 16% productivity improvement per store and increased customer service scores. The system has since gone chain-wide.

Turn page, open flaps to see all 20 great ideas ►

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INFORMATIONWEEK'S 21ST ANNUAL RANKING OF

RANK	COMPANY	REVENUE IN MILLIONS	HIGHEST-RANKING IT EXECUTIVE	INDUSTRY
1	CME Group Inc. www.cmegroup.com Chicago, Ill.	\$2,561	Kevin Kometer Managing Director & CIO	Banking & Financial Services
2	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center www.cincinnatichildrens.org Cincinnati, Ohio	\$1,300	Marianne F. James Sr.VP & CIO	Healthcare & Medical
3	The Progressive Group of Insurance Cos. www.progressive.com Mayfield Village, Ohio	\$12,840	Raymond Voelker CIO	Insurance
4	Wells Fargo & Co. www.wellsfargo.com San Francisco, Calif.	\$42,230	Avid Modjtabai Exec.VP, Technology and Operations	Banking & Financial Services
5	Salesforce.com Inc. www.salesforce.com San Francisco, Calif.	\$1,077	Kirsten Wolberg CIO	Information Technology
6	J.C. Penney Company Inc. www.jcp.com Plano, Texas	\$18,486	Thomas Nealon Exec.VP & CIO	Retail: General Merchandising
7	Harleysville Group Inc. www.harleysvillegroup.com Harleysville, Pa.	\$985	Akhil Tripathi Sr.VP & CIO	Insurance
8	The Coca-Cola Co. www.thecoca-colacompany.com Atlanta, Ga.	\$31,944	Jean-Michel Arès Sr.VP & CIO	Consumer Goods
9	University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) www.upmc.com Pittsburgh, Pa.	\$7,068	Daniel S. Drawbaugh Sr.VP & CIO	Healthcare & Medical
10	FedEx Corp. www.fedex.com Memphis, Tenn.	\$35,497	Robert B. Carter Exec.VP of FedEx Information Services & CIO of FedEx Corp.	Logistics & Transportation
11	Travelport Ltd. www.travelport.com Parsippany, N.J.	\$2,527	David Lauderdale CTO	Hospitality & Travel
12	Hewlett-Packard Co. www.hp.com Palo Alto, Calif.	\$118,364	Randy Mott Exec.VP & CIO	Information Technology
13	Aerojet-General Corp. www.aerojet.com Rancho Cordova, Calif.	\$726	Craig Halterman VP & CIO	Manufacturing
14	XO Communications www.xo.com Herndon, Va.	\$1,477	Robert Geller CIO	Telecommunications
15	The Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. www.thehartford.com Hartford, Conn.	\$9,219	Brian O'Connell Sr.VP & CIO	Insurance
16	CenterPoint Properties www.centerpoint-prop.com Oak Brook, Ill.	—	Scott Zimmerman CIO	Consulting & Business Services
17	Roche Diagnostics Corp. www.roche-diagnostics.us Indianapolis, Ind.	\$8,692	Kurt Seiler VP, North America Informatics	Biotechnology & Pharmaceuticals
18	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center www.bidmc.org Boston, Mass.	\$1,200	John D. Halamka, MD CIO	Healthcare & Medical
19	AG Interactive www.aginteractive.com Cleveland, Ohio	—	James Chou Sr.VP & CTO	Media & Entertainment
20	The Allstate Corp. www.allstate.com Northbrook, Ill.	\$29,394	Catherine S. Brune Sr.VP & CIO	Insurance
21	Sentara Healthcare www.sentara.com Norfolk, Va.	\$2,776	Bertram S. Reese Sr.VP & CIO	Healthcare & Medical
22	Christus Health www.christushealth.org Irving, Texas	\$3,200	George Conklin Sr.VP & CIO	Healthcare & Medical
23	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences www.uams.edu Little Rock, Ark.	\$1,200	Kari Cassel CIO	Healthcare & Medical
24	Atmos Energy Corp. www.atmosenergy.com Dallas, Texas	\$7,221	Rich Gius VP & CIO	Energy & Utilities
25	Sempra Energy www.sempra.com San Diego, Calif.	\$10,758	Chris Baker Sr.VP & CIO, Shared Services	Energy & Utilities

Financial data is from public sources and company supplied. Revenue is for latest fiscal year.

Dashes indicate companies requesting financial data not be disclosed or where highest-ranking IT executive not known.