# M7 Announce UK Centre of Competence for Artificial Intelligence

In the next 3 years the global business opportunity for Cognitive and Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems is demanding significant focus. Across all sectors software vendors have recognised that these latest generation technologies will help them take that next leap in differentiation and positioning, to help deliver the very best customer experience.

Traditional IT infrastructure is being superseded by new partnerships bringing their particular specialism to address the requirements for Real Time Analytics, AI and Deep Learning. The launch of the AI Centre of Competence sees the IBM POWER Platform with NVIDIA GPUs (Minsky), hosted at the M7 Headquarters in Cardiff. This facility provides a platform for Data Scientists, Software Developers and IT specialists to design, test and deploy proof of concept solutions prior to their wider roll out.

## M7 Centre of Competence
## Launch Event - 6th December 2017

**The formal launch of the AI Centre of Competence is scheduled for 6th December 2017.**

**With delegates from across Industry and Government, this event provides an opportunity to meet with M7 and our partners who are providing a range of AI services.**

**The launch is designed to introduce the facilities available at The Centre and there will be a short demonstration of some of the capabilities of the IBM PowerAI platform.**

**You will hear from IBM about some of the options available to help IT management meet the requests from their Data Scientists.**

**As demand to achieve insights from your data increases, hear how IBM NVIDIA based AI Systems can help meet these new business needs.**

**For organisations who are impacted by weather, then The IBM Weather Company can help you optimise or minimise the impact. Great reference stories for Retail, Finance and Airlines too!**

**Short, informative presentations that provide an insight into the opportunities for developing AI solutions for your business, plus the chance to meet other businesses looking to find partners in this new ecosystem. The event will start at 11.00am and finish with a buffet lunch and a chance to network with other delegates.**

**For further information please contact
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## Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Computing is still in it's infancy

Electronic generated data continues to grow exponentially, much of it now unstructured and sitting outside of corporate systems in video, photos and tweets. We have and continue to create the data from which machines can learn.

In addition to data, we need processing capability, to provide relevance in the findings within an acceptable timescale. The timescale may differ by application but in the case of self-driving cars we need this to be sub-second. Other applications like retail self-service or facial recognition response times need to be immediate and not be a prohibitor.

To understand what we could do with this data and computing capability and how it would benefit a business or organisation, we need data scientists. "What can the data tell us? How do we use it to build real intelligence and actionable insight?"

We need software. Applications that can be easily written, maintained, supported and scaled. That can be incorporated into wider AI systems providing integration that is still missing in many cross-enterprise applications today. There will be many AI based applications that will be needed to allow driverless cars. Mapping, weather, and traffic reports need to work alongside sensors, cameras and the analysis of historical as well as current data to enable a safe journey.

We need security. Systems that can prevent unwanted intruders from potentially taking control of AI systems and changing the outcomes. Whatever we build must be secure. Hacking an autonomous car is one thing, hacking the system with 50 million cars running autonomously is another.

## IBM, TechData & M7 announce Education



Run by IBM Consultants from the UK Labs and supported by M7 staff, these public AI Education Sessions cater for the needs of Line of Business strategists, Data Scientist and Data Engineer community.

### Business Advantage through Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning.

Unlocking the value in data is not a new concept. The data analytics evolution has however brought us Machine Learning and Deep Learning; data analysis that automates analytical model building.

This course is focused toward business strategists to help with understanding the first steps on AI project initiation and the tools/ resources available to accelerate the time to value.

### Participants

This course is aimed at Line of Business owners and Business Strategists.

### IBM PowerAI: Introduction to the Platform, AI Frameworks and Accelerated Learning

Coupling the GPU accelerated IBM Power System with a pre-compiled set of open source AI Frameworks delivers an exceptional platform for businesses to get the most from their AI projects. This course is designed to cover all aspect of the IBM solution and enables Data Scientists to deliver accelerated training results and faster time to value.

### Participants

This course is aimed at experienced Data Scientists and Data Engineers.

## M7 Centre of Competence for AI, Machine Learning and Cognitive Computing

### Different Skill sets are required

Those with an IT background will recognise that more traditional skill sets need to be complemented with those more specifically trained towards AI, Deep Learning and Cognitive computing.

Those managing large data lakes for example are typically not writing AI applications or developing chip sets that provide the type of response times required by them. For the successful implementation of AI solutions these disciplines need to come together and agree on how the solution can be designed and deployed to provide the required benefit or outcome, whilst minimising risk.
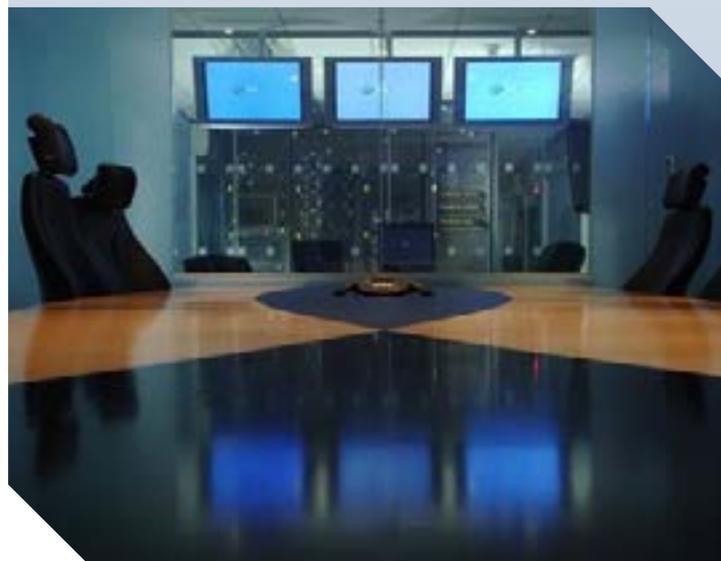
This is the aim of the M7 AI Centre of Competence. To bring together skills and resources to support our customers in the deployment of their AI solutions.

The centre has support from the leading vendor in this market IBM. Their POWER Minsky Systems based on architecture from the OpenPower collaboration, incorporate NVIDIA GPUS and run the PowerAI Framework. IBM is also the home of Watson, their cognitive cloud based solution. Their staff from the UK Labs in Hursley have been working with the M7 team to help create this new centre and provide some of the educational content.

From academia, we have research and consulting skills from Brainpool, part of University College London. Brainpool have access to a range of AI, Deep Learning and Machine Learning consultants. With both academic and industry knowledge, they provide initial scoping support, education and development advice through the life of the AI project.

On the security front the centre is supported by the Enterprise Security Systems division of Azlan, part of the TechData Corporation.

The initiative also has support from a number of Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) developing AI solutions for a range of industries.



### Data Scientist Consultancy Day – What could your data tell you?

As part of an M7 initiative to develop a range of offerings around Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Cognitive Computing, we have teamed up with data scientists from University College London called Brainpool.

This team has a wealth of Industry knowledge and experience in building AI solutions using a range of tools and languages such as Python, R, and TensorFlow. The outputs provide actionable insight for business managers.

By way of introduction to the services we can offer, M7 and Brainpool will provide a day of consulting followed by an outline report showing potential areas where and how you could exploit the data you are collecting. There is no charge for the day or any obligation to purchase anything.

We hope that this will provide an opportunity to demonstrate the type of projects M7 can help you with as you continue to grow the data you are collecting, and as it gets ever more difficult, to gain reliable insight from.

If this is something your management team or data scientists would be interested in discussing further, please let us know and we would be happy to arrange a call prior to any meeting.

"A bigger race is raging within the technology sector around who can commoditize machine learning as a service. Prebuilt machine learning models are worth billions of dollars. This competition pits the largest technology companies on the planet." - Terren Peterson, Technology Enthusiast at **Free Code Camp**

### Centre of Competence Resources

The Centre of Competence has been established on the Cefn Coed Technology Park at Junction 32 of the M4, near Cardiff.

The facility is within a secure campus and has a data centre on-site where IBM Power AI Systems are available to support a range of Education, Consulting and Proof of Concept activities. Test data can be loaded remotely or for security purposes customer staff can bring their data and work on-site alongside a system.

Training rooms, workshops and labs are all available for developers and data scientists who have an AI project which they need either physical, technical or personnel resources to help them.

A schedule of courses will be published for the new year, aimed at the disciplines described above. Courses aimed specifically at Data Scientists are already being scheduled for December 2017.

For those customers who want a hosted environment for a proof of concept outside of a public cloud environment, the M7 data centre has both systems and rack space available to support projects in their early stage.

Roll outs can also be managed with build, test and staging facilities available.

### Why Cardiff for the Centre of Competence?

- ⚐ **The Cardiff location has excellent rail and road links.**
- ⚐ **Direct trains from Paddington run every 30 minutes and take 2 hours and 5 minutes. Bristol is only 49 minutes by train and Birmingham New Street is less than 2 hours.**
- ⚐ **Cardiff Central is only 15 minutes and Cardiff Airport is 30 minutes away.**
- ⚐ **The Severn Crossing is 30 minutes' drive and from 2018 will be toll free.**
- ⚐ **Parking is both secure and free.**
- ⚐ **There are good, inexpensive hotel options within 5 minutes of the building and the Cardiff City Centre has much to offer visitors.**

# About M7

Cloud computing is changing the way that all businesses think about their day to day IT requirements. Where businesses used to rely upon IT infrastructure as a resource within the business, they are increasingly looking to it as a utility - something that is provided on demand and available wherever and whenever they need it.

M7 Managed Services Limited is one of the UK's leading Managed Service Providers with over 16 years' experience in deploying and maintaining hosted infrastructures at both client site facilities and in selected data centres.

We have a proven ability to deliver secure, highly available, cloud hosting services.

These services are deployed on an IBM, Lenovo and CISCO Platform across 2 UK data centres, providing a UK based private cloud.

M7 also deploys applications in the IBM SoftLayer Cloud, enabling customers and Independent Software Vendors to take advantage of a Managed Hybrid Cloud Service which combines benefits of the global reach and elasticity of the IBM Cloud with M7's UK based locations offering data security, customised SLAs and 24 x 7 support services.

We recognise that many businesses do not want to continue to ask their employees to chase the complexities of deploying new technologies but simply want a platform on which they can roll out and support their chosen applications.

In partnership with Independent Software Vendors (ISVs), M7 hosts and supports a wide range of Business Applications, both at the customers' sites and within our Cloud Environment, offering incremental solutions such as help desk, off-site backup and DRaaS.

Working within a wide technology ecosystem, we also provide appliance based solutions for ISVs under the Industry Solution Integrators (ISI) programme run by both IBM and Lenovo. This enables M7 to deliver tested solutions globally, including customer locations in India, Asia, Middle East, Europe and North America. We continue to welcome new ISV partners to this programme and actively work with them to select the best appliance based solution for their applications.

M7 holds a number of Industry and Vendor accreditations including Veeam VMCE and VMware VCP. M7 are a Lenovo Enterprise Partner and IBM Premier Partner.

## Why M7?

- ◤ **UK based Managed Services provider with UK data centres.**

- ◤ **Hosted multi-tenant solutions, private cloud and co-location.**

- ◤ **Full Opex, short term and 3 or 5 year contract terms.**

- ◤ **Industry leading solution for DRaaS.**

- ◤ **Key vendor relationships with IBM, Lenovo, CISCO, VMware and VEEAM.**

- ◤ **Partnerships with ISVs offering white label solutions.**

- ◤ **10 years' experience of deploying and managing IT infrastructures.**

- ◤ **International delivery, export and installation references in 20 countries.**

- ◤ **Maintenance contract management services covering both UK and overseas.**

**For more information on our range of IT services, please get in touch:**

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