

Biography

Dr Ashley Lloyd



Ashley's interest in using technology to transform processes started in the 1990s when he set up his first 'Web server and, with colleagues still at EPCC/Bayes, used a Cray supercomputer to perform the first 'big data' analysis in the UK mortgage market. Ashley gave the first talk on using the 'Web for education in the UK's Computers in Teaching Initiative in 1994 and, as part of an initiative by the University's Network Services, led the project to set up the first 'Web server and resource for teaching Business on the UK's first operating academic Metropolitan Area Network. This was part of a UK-wide vision for building shared education resources across the HE sector, which highlighted how tightly pedagogy is linked to competition in this sector.

Later, Ashley led the project to build the first global computing Grid to connect three continents, linking Scotland to Australia and China, and gave the first demonstration, in Xi'An, of global-scale collaborative analysis of commercial data across the Trans-Eurasia Information Network. This led to subsequent projects with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese commercial partners, funded by the UK Research Councils that enabled analysis and modelling of more consumer records than the UK population.

Such global infrastructures are not only capable of creating a large carbon footprint, but also offer improved coordination and management of carbon resources, leading to a presentation at COP23 and a current collaboration with the UNFCCC on attributing climate action along global value chains, again with colleagues in EPCC/Bayes and Law. This was presented at COP26 in collaboration with the Bertling Group – the first global logistics company to provide customers with data on emissions to support a shift to cleaner transport.

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