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International conference sets direction for World Wide Web

Guest speakers to include Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee at U of C-hosted event in Banff

Nobody owns the World Wide Web, but who is in charge of deciding how it is used now and in the future?

The answer: About 1,000 academic, business and government computer experts who will gather at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel May 8 – 12 for the world's premier forum on the global computer network that was created in the early 1990s and has transformed the way people interact with information.

"The World Wide Web has become a fundamental part of the world's business and culture, and this is the major conference that discusses Web standards and technology," says University of Calgary computer science professor Carey Williamson, co-chair of the planning committee for the 2007 event. "The conference will also be a real opportunity to showcase Alberta's ICT sector on an international scale."

Topics of discussion will include improving access to the web in developing countries, internet security and privacy, and e-government. Keynote speakers at this year's event include World Wide Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee, who will discuss the creative leaps necessary to develop new Web technologies.

Several influential organizations will hold meetings or events in conjunction with the conference, including the World Wide Web Consortium Advisory Committee, the World Organization of Webmasters, and the Web History Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to finding ways of preserving the Web's ephemeral history before it is lost. A Web Accessibility Conference will precede the international conference on May 7-8. The World Wide Web conference will officially open on May 9, which is Web History Day. A Web History exhibit will be on display the entire week of the conference.

The University of Calgary was chosen to host the 16th International World Wide Web Conference by the International World Wide Web Conference Committee (IW3C2) in 2005. It's the second time the conference will be held in Canada since it started in 1994. The 1999 conference was hosted by the University of Toronto. Next year's will take place in Beijing, China.

For detailed program information visit www2007.org.

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