The National Al Research Resource & The National Al Initiative

LYNNE PARKER, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL AI INITIATIVE OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

What is a National AI Research Resource?

Vision: A shared computing and data infrastructure that would provide AI researchers and students across scientific fields with access to a holistic advanced computing ecosystem. This would include:

- Secure, high-performance, privacy-preserving computing frameworks;
- High-quality, representative datasets; and
- Appropriate educational tools and user support mechanisms.

Why: democratize access to the cyberinfrastructure that fuels AI research and development, enabling all of America's diverse AI researchers to participate in exploring innovative ideas for advancing AI, including communities, institutions, and regions that have been traditionally underserved.

NAIRR Task Force Mandate

Objective: to investigate the feasibility and advisability of establishing and sustaining a National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource; and to propose a roadmap detailing how such resource should be established and sustained.

Membership: The Task Force is composed of 12 members selected by the co-chairpersons of the Task Force from among technical experts in artificial intelligence or related subjects, of whom—

- 4 are representatives from government
- 4 are representatives from institutions of higher education
- 4 are representatives from private organizations



NAIRR Task Force Membership

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Government:

Lynne Parker, OSTP (co-chair)

Erwin Gianchandani, NSF (co-chair)

Frederick Streitz, DOE

Elham Tabassi, NIST

Academia:

Julia Lane, NYU

Fei-Fei Li, Stanford U

Michael Norman, UCSD

Dan Stanzione, U Texas-Austin

Private organizations:

- Daniela Braga, DefinedCrowd
- Mark Dean, formerly IBM
- Oren Etzioni, Allen Institute for Al
- Andrew Moore, Google Cloud

What are the objectives of establishing a NAIRR?

 The strategic objective of a NAIRR would be to strengthen the U.S. Al innovation ecosystem by

(i) supporting fundamental AI research

(ii) advancing use-inspired AI research including innovations that accelerate discovery in other fields, and (iii) increasing the number and diversity of AI researchers and organizations.

- It would do so by:
 - Lowering barriers to entry
 - >Supporting innovative and novel efforts in AI research and the broad adoption of AI
 - Reinforcing the viability of academic career paths in AI
 - >Advancing the development and training of the AI workforce

Fundamental Questions

- What are the metrics of success?
- Who are the intended users?
- How will access be adjudicated and finite resources allocated to a diverse group of users in an equitable manner?
- What capabilities will be provided?
- How will the resources come together to create the NAIRR?
- How will users access the NAIRR?
- How will the NAIRR be funded and managed?
- How will the NAIRR address concerns around the ethical and responsible development of AI?
- What are other associated issues?

- i. Appropriate agency or organization responsible for implementation and administration
- ii. A governance structure.
- iii. Capabilities required to create and maintain a shared computing infrastructure to facilitate access to computing resources for researchers across the country, including scalability, secured access control, resident data engineering and curation expertise, provision of curated data sets, compute resources, educational tools and services, and a user interface portal.
- iv. An assessment of, and recommended solutions to, barriers to the dissemination and use of highquality government data sets

- v. An assessment of security requirements and a recommendation for a framework for the management of access controls.
- vi. An assessment of privacy and civil rights and civil liberties requirements
- vii. A plan for sustaining the Resource, including through Federal funding and partnerships with the private sector.
- viii. Parameters for the establishment and sustainment, including agency roles and responsibilities and milestones to implement the Resource

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External Consultations

(1) The National Science Foundation.

(2) The Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(3) The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

(4) The National Institute of Standards and Technology.

- (5) The Director of National Intelligence.
- (6) The Department of Energy.
- (7) The Department of Defense.
- (8) The General Services Administration.
- (9) The Department of Justice.
- (10) The Department of Homeland Security.
- (11) The Department of Health and Human Services.

(12) Private industry.

- (13) Institutions of higher education.
- (14) Civil and disabilities rights organizations.
- (15) Such other persons as the Task Force considers appropriate

Timeline & Deliverables



Phases of Work and Timeline



Request for Information on the NAIRR Implementation Plan: *Public Input*

- OSTP and NSF released this RFI on July 23 (86 FR 39081)
- Comments due October 1, 2021 (was Sept. 1):
 - 1. What options should the Task Force consider for any of roadmap elements, and why?
 - 2. Which capabilities and services provided through the NAIRR should be prioritized?
 - 3. How can the NAIRR and its components reinforce principles of ethical and responsible research and development of AI, such as those concerning issues of racial and gender equity, fairness, bias, civil rights, transparency, and accountability?
 - 4. What building blocks already exist for the NAIRR, in terms of government, academic, or private-sector activities, resources, and services?
 - 5. What role should public-private partnerships play in the NAIRR? What exemplars could be used as a model?
 - 6. Where do you see limitations in the ability of the NAIRR to democratize access to AI R&D? And how could these limitations be overcome?



Request for Information (RFI) on an Implementation Plan for a National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource

A Notice by the National Science Foundation and the Science and Technology Policy Office on 07/23/2021

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT	
AGENCY: White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and National Science Foundation.	DOCUMENT DETAILS Printed version: PDF Publication Date: 07/23/2021
ACTION: Request for information.	Agencies: National Science Foundation Office of Science and Technology Policy
SUMMARY: The Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation are issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to inform the work of the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) Task Force ("Task Force"). The Task Force has been directed by Congress to develop an	Dates: To be considered, responses and comments must be received, no later than 11:59 p.m., EDT on September 1, 2021. Comments Close: 09/01/2021
implementation roadmap for a shared research infrastructure that would provide Artificial Intelligence (AI) researchers and students across scientific disciplines with access to computational resources, high-quality data, educational tools, and user support.	Document Type: Notice Document Citation: 86 FR 39081
DATE S: To be considered, responses and comments must be received, no later than 11:59 p.m., EDT on September 1, 2021.	Page: 39081-39082 (2 pages) Document Number: 2021-15660

Lessons Learned from Federal Cloud Pilots



NIH's STRIDES Initiative aims and goals



The STRIDES Initiative aims to help NIH and its institutions accelerate biomedical research by reducing barriers in utilizing commercial cloud services. This initiative aims to harness the power of the cloud to accelerate biomedical discovery. NIH and NIH-funded researchers can take advantage of STRIDES benefits.

Enroll Now

Gain access to

- Discounts on partner services
- Professional services consultations
- Access to training
- Potential collaborative engagements

115 Petabytes of Data

>500

Research Institutions and Programs

>3500

People Trained

100M

Compute Hours

>\$19M

Cost Savings

USGS Cloud Program

- Launched in June 2020
- Dedicated AI/ML support team established in August 2020
- 29 current AI/ML use cases



Lessons Learned

Challenges

- Access controls
- Cloud administration teams
- Skills gaps
- Impact that can be achieved

- Researcher authentication and access
- Privacy and security safeguards
- Awareness of data resources
- Billing and charging

Desired Characteristics

- Single sign-on access privileges across platforms
- Common user interfaces
- Automated self-discovery of data and other resources
- Pre-computed resources and workflows
- □ Further development of management and administration practices



National Artificial Intelligence Initiative

National Al Initiative Act of 2020 (NAIIA)

- Became law on January 1, 2021
 - As part of the "William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021", H.R. 6395, Division E.

DIVISION E—NATIONAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INITIATIVE ACT OF 2020

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the "National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020".

- > Bipartisan legislation defining National AI Initiative, with purpose of:
 - Ensuring continued U.S. leadership in AI research and development (R&D);
 - Leading world in development and use of trustworthy AI systems in public and private sectors;
 - Preparing present and future U.S. workforce for integration of AI systems across all sectors of economy and society; and
 - Coordinating AI research, development, and demonstration activities among civilian agencies, Department of Defense, and Intelligence Community to ensure that each informs work of the others.

National AI Initiative Office – Central Hub for Coordinating Federal Activities, Outreach

- Launched January 2021, per NAII Act
- Charged with overseeing and implementing the National AI Initiative
- Serves as central hub for Federal coordination and collaboration in AI research, development, and demonstration, as well as with private sector, academia, and other stakeholders involved in the initiative
- Conducts regular public outreach
- Promotes access to the technologies, innovations, best practices, and expertise derived from the National AI Initiative to agency mission and systems across the Federal Government



Agencies Coordinate AI Programs and Activities



National AI Initiative



AI Research Institutes

- Program launched in Oct. 2019
- Seeks to fund national hubs
- Multi-disciplinary, multi-sector research, innovation, education
- Each Al Institute is \$20M over five years

News Release 19-021

NSF leads federal partners in accelerating the development of transformational, AI-powered innovation

New funding opportunity anticipates \$200 million in long-term investments in AI research and education over the next 6 years



NSF's AI Research Institutes program will support longer-term research than typical grants. Credit and Larger Version



Al Research Institutes (2020)



2020 AWARDS

- NSF AI Institute for Research on Trustworthy AI in Weather, Climate, and Coastal Oceanography
- NSF AI Institute for Foundations of Machine Learning
- USDA-NIFA AI Institute for Next Generation Food Systems
- USDA-NIFA AI Institute for Future Agricultural Resilience, Management, and Sustainability (AIFARMS)
- NSF AI Institute for Student-AI Teaming
- Molecule Maker Lab Institute (MMLI): NSF AI Institute for Molecular Discovery, Synthetic, and Manufacturing
- NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions



Al Research Institutes (2021)



2021 AWARDS

- NSF AI Institute for Collaborative Assistance and Responsive Interaction for Networked Groups (CARING)
- NSF AI Institute for Learning-enabled Optimization at Scale (TILOS)
- NSF AI Institute for Optimization
- NSF AI Institute for Intelligent Cyberinfrastructure with Computational Learning in the Environment (ICICLE)
- NSF AI Institute for Future Edge Networks and Distributed Intelligence (AI-EDGE)
- NSF AI Institute for Edge Computing Leveraging Next-generation Networks (Athena)
- NSF AI Institute for Dynamic Systems
- NSF AI Institute for Engaged Learning
- NSF AI Institute for Adult Learning and Online Education (ALOE)
- USDA-NIFA AI Institute: Agricultural AI for Transforming Workforce and Decision Support (AgAID)
- USDA-NIFA AI Institute: AI Institute for Resilient Agriculture (AIIRA)

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NAIIA: Risk Management Framework

- NIST work is underway to develop foundations for risk management framework for trustworthy AI
- > Open RFI (86 FR 50326): Public comments due September 15
- Substance of risk management framework for trustworthy AI:
 - **Common definitions and characterizations** for trustworthiness, including explainability, transparency, safety, privacy, security, robustness, fairness, bias, ethics, validation, verification, interpretability, another properties
 - Standards, guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes for developing trustworthy AI; assessing trustworthiness of AI; and mitigating risks from AI systems.
 - Alignment with international standards, as appropriate.
 - Incorporates voluntary consensus standards and industry best practices.
 - Case studies of framework implementation.
 - Technology agnostic Does not prescribe/require use of specific information or communications technology products or services.



National AI Initiative



Educating and Training Al-Ready Workforce

- Al promises great benefits for workers, with the potential to improve safety, increase productivity, and create new industries of the future.
- However, the U.S. urgently needs a larger and more diverse, inclusive, and knowledgeable STEM workforce.

Computational thinking Public Al literacy Lifelong learning Deep Expertise Reskilling Grad Workforce College K-12 School Federal 5-Year STEM Faculty AI Fellowships Fellowships/ NASEM Study on Al National AI Research Institutes Scholarships for Al Education Strategic Plan Impact on Workforce 32

National AI Initiative



International Collaboration on AI: OECD AI Principles

An historic intergovernmental, consensus statement of AI principles, now agreed to by 44 nations. G20 also adopted same principles.



Global Partnership on Al (GPAI)

https://gpai.ai/

- GPAI: multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to bridge the gap between theory and practice of AI.
- Launched in June 2020, and built around a shared commitment to the OECD Recommendation on AI.
- Like-minded nations are working together to encourage development of AI in line with shared democratic values.
- Brings together expertise from science, industry, civil society, governments, international organizations, and academia to foster international cooperation.



Member nations:

- Founding members: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, the United States and EU
- Additional members: Brazil, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain

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U.S.-UK Declaration of Cooperation in Al R&D (Sept. 2020)

- Cooperation agreement includes:
 - Recommending priorities for AI R&D cooperation
 - Promoting AI R&D focusing on fundamental advances and challenging technical issues
 - Coordinating the planning and programming of relevant research activities, including promoting researcher and student collaborations and public-private partnerships

https://2017-2021.state.gov/declaration-of-the-united-states-of-america-and-theunited-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-on-cooperation-in-artificialintelligence-research-and-development-a-shared-vision-for-driving/index.html



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Published 25 September 2020

National AI Initiative



National AI Advisory Committee

> Will advise President and National AI Initiative Office on:

- State of U.S. competitiveness and leadership in AI
- Progress made in implementing Initiative
- State of Al science
- AI and U.S. workforce issues
- How to leverage Initiative resources to streamline and enhance government operations
- Need to update the Initiative
- Balance of activities and funding across Initiative
- Whether strategic plan is helping U.S. leadership in AI
- Management, coordination, and activities of the Initiative
- Whether ethical, legal, safety, security, and other societal issues of AI are adequately addressed by the Initiative
- Opportunities for international collaboration with strategic allies on AI
- Accountability and legal rights, including oversight
- How AI can enhance opportunities for diverse geographic regions of the U.S.

- > Open call for nominations
- Applications due by 5PM ET, October 25, 2021
- See FRN 86 FR 50326



Key Messages – U.S. National AI Initiative

- > AI R&D: The U.S. will sustain investment in AI R&D to maintain U.S. leadership in AI.
- Al Infrastructure: The U.S. will broaden access to cutting edge computational resources and high-quality datasets to advance AI R&D.
- Trustworthy AI: The U.S. will lead the world in the development and use of trustworthy AI systems in the public and private sectors by supporting relevant research, technical standards, risk management frameworks, and guidance that protects privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties.
- Education/workforce: The U.S. will fill the AI talent gap and prepare U.S. workers for jobs of the future by implementing policies that ensure a diverse, inclusive, and knowledgeable workforce.
- International engagement: The U.S. will work with like-minded international allies to advance the development and use of AI in line with our shared democratic values.
- Al in government: The U.S. will promote the innovation and use of AI, where appropriate, to improve Government operations and ensure national security, consistent with established principles and ethics frameworks for trustworthy AI.

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For more info, check out Al.gov!



Al. The National Al Initiative Act of 2020 became law on January 1, 2021, providing for a coordinated program across the entire Federal novernment to accelerate Al research and application for the

11/17/2020

NITRD Supplement to the President's FY2021 Budget, 08/14/2020





Thank you!

Lynne Parker, Ph.D. Director, National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Office

September 2021