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Centre of Excellence to strengthen Singapore's position as a data and analytics hub

By **Networks Asia Staff** | Aug 30, 2013

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[Revolution Analytics](#), a commercial provider of software, services and support for the open source "R" project, is collaborating with the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) to strengthen Singapore's position as a data and analytics hub.

Together with IDA, Revolution Analytics has set up a Business Analytics Centre of Excellence (CoE) to grow Singapore's big data and analytics capabilities. The company is also an IDA-appointed Centre of Attachment (CoA) for organisations looking to grow their pool of skilled manpower with big data and analytics capabilities.

Through the CoE programme, local companies can tap into the expertise of global organisations, such as Revolution Analytics, to develop new technology solutions. Revolution Analytics will offer its expertise and a ready pool of data scientists and solution developers to help accelerate data analytics innovations among local companies.

"Big data is a key business imperative and many organisations want to take advantage of the US\$603 million big data market. We have received much interest from various companies since the Centre of Excellence was launched, and are looking forward to helping more local firms gain a foothold in the data analytics market," said Mr Laurence Liew, General Manager of Revolution Analytics Asia-Pacific.

The growing importance of big data analytics is also spurring the demand for data scientists in the region. To retain Singapore's position as an international data and analytics hub, IDA has worked with Revolution Analytics through its CoA programme to develop a three-month course aimed at addressing the manpower gaps in the market. Trainees will go through comprehensive learning sessions, before being allowed to work alongside experienced data scientists and big data experts on actual scenarios where big data is leveraged.

"IDA is committed to helping technology companies of all sizes develop and enhance important and disruptive technology products in Singapore. We are also focused on creating

more high-value career opportunities for technology professionals here. Revolution Analytics' new Business Analytics Centre of Excellence and its role as a Centre of Attachment for Analytics are perfectly aligned with IDA's goals to work with industry partners as well as research institutes, universities, polytechnics and other government agencies to build a strong foundation for innovation," said Steve Leonard, Executive Deputy Chairman, IDA.

"Singapore, and Southeast Asia as a whole, represents an important market for Revolution Analytics. In the 18 months since we have established our presence in the region, we have seen great interest in the big data analytics solutions we offer. Additionally, IDA has been extremely supportive. We are delighted to collaborate with IDA to grow a talent pool of data scientists and big data capabilities in Singapore through our Centre of Excellence and Centre of Attachment. We are confident of our continued growth in Asia, and look forward to developing more solution to help our customers take advantage of the growing opportunities in big data," said Mr Dave Rich, CEO, Revolution Analytics.

To further help develop the pool of qualified data scientists in Singapore, Revolution Analytics is teaming up with the National University of Singapore's Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS) and using CloudR for the new "Master of Technology in Enterprise Business Analytics" starting in January 2014 for two modules – Foundations of Business Analytics Core and Data Analytics Core. Additionally, R was used by the ISS as part of its curriculum for its "Statistics Bootcamp". The one week "Statistics Bootcamp" had an Adjunct delivering the half-day module "Big Data Analytics using R" lecture and workshop using CloudR.

Deputy Director of the ISS Dr Leong Mun Kew said that the Masters course would slowly go some way to meeting the number of data specialists needed by Singapore.

Lynx Analytics, a social network and predictive analytics company focusing on the telecommunications, banking and healthcare sectors in Singapore and the region, has been leveraging the Revolution R Enterprise to help customers gain from big data.

"We have been leveraging the Revolution R Enterprise solution as part of our telco offerings to our customers, who among others include Celcom, Indosat and several companies from the SingTel Group. We are also working closely with Revolution Analytics to augment our team of data scientists with knowledge on "R". We look forward to further our working relationship with Revolution Analytics through the Centre of Excellence and Centre of Attachment programmes," said Gyorgy Lajtai, Director, Lynx Analytics.