Some Ups and Downs of Industry/Academic Research Interaction

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Industry Interactions

- Some of my experiences.
- More than "isn't it fantastic".
- Apologies: bit of washing list.
- Apologies: Not an expert!
- Apologies: to Seán and Gerard.

Support

- EI
    - ILRP, Technology Centres, ...
    - Innovation Partnership, ...
    - Innovation Vouchers, ...
- SFI
    - Centres, SRC, ...
    - Investigator,
    - Industrial supplement, Industry Fellowships, ...
- EU
    - Cooperation (STREP/IP), ...
    - Marie Skłodowska-Curie, ...
    - PPP, ...

Common Gaps

- Time scale,
- Aims,
- Problem definition,
- Demos.
- Less obvious: ethics, hiring, . . .

Though neither companies nor academics homogeneous.

HEAnet

- Knew HEAnet guys from operations and conference.
- Interacted on IPv6 and fibre to CERN.
- Basically gone according to plan.
- HEAnet got interesting use cases.
- We got access to new services.
- Could we have extended things further?

Eircom

- Contacted by Eircom because of congestion control work.
- Network configuration for QoS and service guarantees.
- Again, basically according to plan.
- Eircom got reports and recommendations.
- Done as a contract, useful as on real network config.

Google

- Lots of people I know and have worked with.
- Internet measurement work of mutual interest.
- Wrote up two proposals, to be on the safe side.
- Approval system within Google changed, while writing.
- Unable to get formal support by deadline.
- Where possible, just do the work anyway.
- Google now also have their own funding mechanisms.

Intel

- Part of group assembled for SFI bid (DIT, NUIM, UL, Intel).
- Were planning lots of wireless work.
- We hoped to work with Intel lablet in Cambridge on WiFi.
- Easier to work with Intel Research Shannon.
- Worked well for Shannon and guys in UL.
- We used built contacts with Cambridge group anyway.
- Subsequently organised a student as a intern.

Paddy Power

- Paddy Power have big operations center.
- Interested in data analytics.
- Sketched out research plan.
- Decided not to take further.

Cisco

- Cisco interested in evolution of congestion control.
- Cisco have research programme based on proposals.
- In principle, hands off: gift to investigate some topic.
- In practice: close interaction with Cisco Fellow.
- Good technical papers were produced,
- Made new academic contacts.

IBM

- FAME consortium (WIT, NUIM, TCD, UCD, UCC, IBM, Ericsson, Cisco, HP, . . .).
- Met people from IBM SVT lab on train.
- Plan: visit IBM and demo a few tools.
- Actual: Just finished four years of work.
- Common interest in network stressing and QoE.
- IBM large and complex: learn how it works.
- Wrote a bunch of papers and patents.
- Were able to give students extra training.
- Were able to give IBM hires.

Final Thoughts

- Encouraged to work with Industry.
- Challenges to expectations, process, . . .
- Finding right people important.
- Outcomes often subject to happenstance.
- Some of best successes from previous blueskys research.

Questions?