



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

LOCATION:
Melville, NY, US

ORGANIZATION:
AIP Publishing

YEAR:
2011

ORGANIZATION URL:
<http://aipuniphy.org>

STATUS:
Laureate

PROJECT NAME:
UniPHY

CATEGORY:
Collaboration

PROJECT OVERVIEW

UniPHY is a first-of-its-kind social and professional networking platform for physical scientists that is pre-populated with profiles of individual researchers based on their publication history. UniPHY enables scientists to connect with over 300,000 colleagues from more than 100 countries. Scientists will discover the research each of their colleagues has conducted and follow a web of connections showing each co-author with whom these colleagues have worked. UniPHY reveals with whom each of these co-authors has collaborated, as well. Pre-populated profiles include information such as the number of articles a person published in a given year, what specific fields these papers were in, and the number of co-author connections each has. Even individuals without pre-populated profiles are welcome to register on UniPHY, establish their own profiles and connect with colleagues. UniPHY also contains other collaborative features such as Discussion Groups, links to social bookmarking sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Delicious, and a CV section, where researchers can display their professional profiles, including education, work histories, and current research interests. UniPHY represents a revolutionary new approach to networking and collaboration in the physical sciences. Through its creation, AIP hopes to facilitate the process by which they network and share data. We also hope that this will both increase the number of significant breakthroughs made across a range of disciplines, and decrease the time it takes to bring these innovations about.

SOCIETAL BENEFITS

There's no doubt that, for the scientific community, advances in communications technology have made the Earth "flatter," by helping to eliminate the physical boundaries to collaboration in the physical sciences. UniPHY contributes to this phenomenon, providing researchers in physical science with a new tool for communicating with colleagues.

PROJECT BENEFIT EXAMPLE

Many members find the various features within UniPHY. Here are a few



examples in the form of quotes from UniPHY members: “This is a great idea... creating a network of the interactions in my department, i.e., to see how the faculty is collaborating...” “I found the feature that it tracks your collaborators' publications quite useful” “I find UniPHY to be very useful. I use it to keep track of my collaborators' papers, which led me to examine other papers outside my immediate network. UniPHY helps me keep abreast of the work in areas that I am not currently working on but may wish to enter (or reenter) in the future. It is also useful to find contacts in various subfields.”

IS THIS PROJECT AN INNOVATION, BEST PRACTICE? Yes

ADDITIONAL PROJECT INFORMATION

UniPHY could be considered an innovation and advancement in that it is the first literature-based, social and professional network tailored for Physical Science researchers. UniPHY's features and functionality could adopted by any other Physics-based organization whose mission is to advance physics-based research.