

Host Ireland boss Kitchin raises concerns over Web Summit

BY EMMET RYAN

● Ben Kitchin, director at Host Ireland Business Broadband, has told *Connected* of what he sees as the damage caused by the Web Summit leaving Dublin for Lisbon.

“Moving 22,000 of the most innovative international IT influencers out of Dublin to Lisbon can hardly benefit Ireland. In essence, we’re losing something valuable. Ireland clung on to its reputation as an international tech hub, by the skin of its teeth, due to its 12.5 per cent

corporation tax level during the more challenging economic times.

“The Web Summit, or Dublin Web Summit as previously known, was integral to further rooting the tech culture in Ireland. We can only be impressed by what the Web Summit has achieved. I suspect it was driven by several business factors. What role does the RDS and its lack of connectivity have on the Web Summit’s decision to relocate?” said the Host Ireland director.

“On the one week of the



Ben Kitchin,
director, host Ireland
Picture: Feargal Ward

year when the world had its eyes on Dublin, the home of the most influential international tech companies, Ireland could not have looked less ‘connected’.

The Web Summit and the RDS, as a location, failed to facilitate sufficient wifi and internet connectivity for not only the 22,000 paying guests, but also the hundreds of companies, both big and small, showcasing themselves at the event. Several companies had paid in excess of €10,000 to be there and their displays could not even access the internet. This wasn’t the first year these problems occurred either.”

The challenge faced was two-fold, according to Kitchin. “You have the provision of high-speed internet access to the RDS and then you have the management of the internal wired network and wifi, both of which had issues,” he said.

“We actually offered the RDS a high-speed internet solution that would have

ensured constant reliable connectivity with optimised traffic routing out to the internet, but we were dismissed both years in a row. Wifi transmission in high-density populated areas requires an intelligent and complex infrastructural set up.

“With the bulk of a human body being composed of water, and several thousand people in one large venue, you have a real challenge on your hands to get wifi working properly as the transmission over 2.4ghz frequency is highly affected by water and all those people contain a lot of water. It raises concerns as to Ireland’s ability to facilitate large events where wifi and reliable connectivity is not taken seriously by a lot of venues. Will showcasing companies be affected again this year with blank screens?”

“I’d bring what you need on a USB key rather than depending on the RDS’s connectivity this year, to be honest,” he said.

Free event from Data Solutions

● Data Solutions will host the first ever .Next Computing Forum on Thursday October 8, 2015, at the Light House Cinema in Dublin. The .Next Computing Forum will cover topics such as data centre computing, storage, network-

ing and virtualisation.

The event will cover where Irish businesses should begin with new technologies that promise to simplify IT, how virtualisation is creating challenges for legacy compute and storage architectures and why web-scale companies like Google and Facebook have gone back to the drawing board when designing their data centres. “The eagerness of industry



Paul Callaghan, chief executive, PFH Technology Group, with Martin Cullen, sales director, Microsoft Ireland

Big step for PFH

● PFH Technology Group, Ireland’s largest indigenous ICT solutions provider, has become one of the first Microsoft partners in Ireland to achieve Cloud Solutions Provider (CSP) status. The programme means PFH will provide the complete Microsoft Cloud portfolio to businesses and organisations, which will benefit from direct billing and combined offerings and services.

As a Tier-1 partner, PFH will directly provision, manage and support products and services.

“It is exciting for us to be the first Irish Microsoft Partner to announce this news to the market,” said Paul Callaghan, chief executive of PFH Technology Group.

“It helps us to provide directly to our customers a suite of services that meets their individual needs more closely – from billing to ser-

vice alignment. Our commitment and understanding of Microsoft’s cloud portfolio strengthens PFH’s ability to provide the best possible service to customers, while delivering knowledge, expertise and guidance.

“This announcement means PFH can build on our existing Microsoft-based cloud solution offerings and empower customers to move swiftly to the Cloud and realise its full benefits,” said Callaghan.

“It also allows for better customer relationships, letting us provide the complete Microsoft Cloud portfolio (Office 365, CRM and Azure) directly, along with direct support and billing. PFH can tailor solutions to meet specific customer requirements in a complete managed service portfolio. This is what is fuelling the growth in the market.”

Next Level for Cork

● Building on the success from Viatel’s previous ‘Next Level’ event, the telecoms firm is bringing its seminar series on tour, with the next stop booked for Cork city on Tuesday, October 20.

The breakfast event will see a host of expert speakers sharing their experience and advice throughout the morning.

Guest speakers include Dan Kiely (Voxpro), Sean

Gallagher, Marc O’Regan (EMC) and Colm Piercy (Viatel). The seminar will focus around cutting-edge technology leadership – drawing on the direct expertise of the speakers along with delegate participation.

Viatel’s ‘Next Level’ breakfast seminar will take place from 7am-10am at Hayfield Manor. Further information is available by emailing info@viate.com.

“As the digital wave advances, organisations must act quickly to create an enterprise data centre strategy that is ultra-agile, scalable and responsive to change. On the user side, organisations must develop a ‘workplace of the future’ strategy that enables individual user work styles while still meeting business goals.”

To register for the free event visit nextcomputingforum.ie.

DATA centres Ireland

Save the Date
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