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Ensuring Successful Collaboration Within the National Labs

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In the information age businesses use terms such as Information Technology and Management of Information Systems, to identify a variety of technology based services that incorporate computer based information systems. Management of information is vital to the operation of an organization, and essentially becomes a capital asset for the organization. However, this simple idea is not so simple to implement. The first consideration needs to be what information is useful to collect? Auto-generated data that is without purpose can be like “quicksand” for an organization. Information that is generated but not used can have an equally stifling affect. What we want to collect is knowledge that is useful to the organization. Secondly, the act of collecting knowledge proves to be an illusive and difficult task to accomplish for many industries. This is due in part, to the steps involved in collecting knowledge itself. In the day of do more with less, two questions come to mind, “How can we expect folks to add to their existing work load?” and “How come we can make the time to search for information when we need it but we won’t take the time to store it so it can be retrieved easily at a later time?” The purpose of this presentation is to provide some useful considerations to the audience to generate some interaction among those present as to what they feel is useful knowledge and to brain-storm processes to encourage this step within our laboratories.

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