IDA Ideas

Episode 7

DATAWorks 2022:
Day 2 Attendee Reactions

DATAWorks

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Guests: Ricky D. Lindsey Jr., Steven A. Rabinowitz

Host: Rhett A. Moeller

April 2022

IDA

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About This Publication

This work was conducted by the IDA Systems and Analyses Center under contract IDA's Independent Research Program, Project C9087, "IDA Ideas (Podcast Transcript)—DATAWorks 2022: Day 2 Attendee Reactions." The views, opinions, and findings should not be construed as representing the official position of either the Department of Defense or the sponsoring organization.

For More Information

Kelly M. Avery, Project Leader
kavery@ida.org, (703) 845-2265

Vincent A. Lillard, Director, OED
vlillard@ida.org, (703) 845-2230

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DATAWorks 2022: Day 2 Attendee Reactions

IDA Ideas host Rhett Moeller spoke to Ricky D. Lindsey Jr. and Steven A. Rabinowitz, researchers in the IDA Systems and Analyses Center, about their experiences as attendees on the second day of the Defense and Aerospace Test and Analysis Workshop (DATAWorks) 2022, held at IDA in Alexandria, Virginia, on April 26-28.

[Begin transcript]

Rhett Moeller: Hello listeners, I'm Rhett Moeller the host of *IDA Ideas* and I am excited to welcome you back to an end-of-day podcast short as we summarize another full day of DATAWorks activity. For those who are just joining us, DATAWorks is a premier annual event dedicated to bringing together a community centered around applying rigorous statistical approaches to test design and data analysis, particularly in the fields of defense and aerospace. This workshop is the product of a collaboration between the Institute for Defense Analyses, the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, or DOT&E, NASA and the American Statistical Association, or ASA. Well, here we are at the end of the second day right in the heart of DATAWorks. Today I'm excited to share some time with two more researchers from IDA's own Operational Evaluation Division [or OED], Ricky Lindsey and Steve Rabinowitz. Gentlemen, can you take a moment to introduce yourselves?

Ricky Lindsey: Hello everybody. I'm Ricky Lindsey, a recently hired research associate, and I'm just excited to finally be contributing to IDA using my background in mathematics, physics and data science.

Steven Rabinowitz: Hi, I'm Steve Rabinowitz. I'm a research staff member in the Operational Evaluation Division. I earned my Ph.D. in physics at Columbia in 1992 and then was hired directly into OED, and I'm currently the task leader for undersea warfare.

Rhett Moeller: Great, thank you very much for introducing yourselves, and I just want to take a moment at the end of this long day of attending the various activities to talk about your experience. First of all, I want to ask you: How long have you been attending DATAWorks? Ricky, you want to start?

Ricky Lindsey: This is my first DATAWorks, so it's been a pleasant experience.

Steven Rabinowitz: I've actually attended every DATAWorks even before it was DATAWorks. I've actually lost count. Through COVID, online and all the various manifestations.

Rhett Moeller: Great. Great. Now for the fun part. What do you say is your favorite part so far?

Ricky Lindsey: So far, I've really enjoyed just the breadth of subjects and topics covered. Coming straight from academia to IDA, I'm finally seeing all the various ways I can apply my background knowledge and see where I'm deficient.

Rhett Moeller: Great.

Steven Rabinowitz: It's always fun to get together with people who are doing, you know, similar work from different institutions, meeting up with old friends, people who are doing, you know, various kinds of research, and also learning about techniques that they're using and considering how we might be able to apply that in the stuff that we're doing here at IDA.

Rhett Moeller: Obviously, we are now two days into the DATAWorks. How would you say your experience so far will help to shape your future work?

Ricky Lindsey: Overall, I expect, mostly the new applications of design of experiment to make the biggest difference. Despite design of experiment being such a big topic here, not really, it was not a large part of my undergraduate education. So, trying to get a better grasp of traditional DOE as well as Bayesian DOE, I really feel will allow me to be more productive in reviewing and analyzing various sponsor data.

Steven Rabinowitz: Well, as usual, DATAWorks is focusing on a lot of the critical sort of hot topics in, especially in defense acquisition. And so, I've enjoyed a lot of the sessions on things like modeling simulation, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. All, again, very very relevant to the kind of work we're doing, so I'm hoping we'll be able to apply some of those to our research.

Rhett Moeller: Excellent. We're now at the end of day two of DATAWorks, and obviously you've been exposed to a lot of concepts, perhaps some of them new. What would you say has been the most interesting moment of the workshop so far?

Ricky Lindsey: The most interesting moment for me so far was during the rapid session today. The final speaker, Eli Golden, was using support vector machines in his research, and he pointed out something called Platt scaling, and I've done a lot with support vector machines, but I never knew there was actually a probabilistic scale that could be applied. So, I very much look to follow up with him at the poster presentations to see more about that.

Rhett Moeller: Yeah, thank you.

Steven Rabinowitz: The final talk at the cybersecurity session was probably the most fun because Mark Herrera and the team from the cyber lab, as usual, came up with one of their live demonstrations, in this case, knocking a drone out of the sky using jamming techniques.

Rhett Moeller: Nice. We're two days down. And there's one full day of experience left to go. What would you say you're looking most forward to in the final day?

Ricky Lindsey: Um, for me, it's just continue to drink from the proverbial fire hose and really just absorb all the information that I'm so blessed to be a part of receiving.

Steven Rabinowitz: Well, looking at the schedule, there are a lot of great talks lined up for tomorrow so I'm very interested in all of them, but in particular, there's going to be a keynote speech by our principal sponsor, Mr. Nick Guertin, the DOT&E himself, tomorrow morning, so I think that should be very interesting.

Rhett Moeller: Gentlemen, I want to thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts and your excitement.

Ricky Lindsey: Well Rhett, thank you for inviting me.

Steven Rabinowitz: Thank you.

Rhett Moeller: Listeners, if you haven't yet taken the time to listen to yesterday's discussion, please take a moment to do so. Also, in this episode's show notes we include a link to the DATAWorks site, so be sure to check that out for more information. As always, thank you for joining us. We hope you'll join us again tomorrow for the final day of a very busy and enriching workshop. Again, we'll chat with two more DATAWorks attendees and see what caught their attention. Until next time.

Show Notes

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Learn more about these and other events during DATAWorks 2022 at https://dataworks.testscience.org/full-agenda/.