

## NIUSR El Capitan Retreat -- June 2004

NIUSR used The Singularity as a starting point for future thinking about a strategy for moving forward. Our objective was to work backwards from The Singularity and develop goals and objectives for the next year, as well as for the future direction of NIUSR programs.

***What is the Singularity?*** Sometime in the next few years or decades, humanity will become capable of surpassing the upper limit on intelligence that has held since the rise of the human species. We will become capable of technologically creating smarter-than-human intelligence - perhaps through enhancement of the human brain, direct links between computers and the brain, or Artificial Intelligence (AI). This event is called the "Singularity" by analogy with the singularity at the center of a black hole in the Universe

Just as our current model of physics breaks down when it attempts to describe the center of a black hole, our model of the future breaks down once the future contains smarter-than-human minds. Since technology is itself the product of intelligence, the Singularity is an effect that snowballs once it occurs - the first smart minds can create smarter minds, and smarter minds can produce still smarter minds.

***Why does the Singularity matter to NIUSR?*** The Singularity may represent a tremendous opportunity to accomplish good. The Singularity may offer a new opportunity to solve fundamental human problems, not just by creating new technologies, but also by increasing the intelligence with which we solve problems. For the first time, there is the possibility of humans using technology to become, not just healthier and wealthier and longer-lived, but *smarter*. It may be possible for our intelligence to grow along with our technology. A world, which should create a better world, one with the best possible futures for humanity.

***What did we accomplish at El Capitan?*** We came to the following conclusions, which each member can use to develop personal goals and objectives to further the mission of NIUSR — until we meet again in El Capitan:

1. We are entering the Networking Age, which feels a little out-of-control for many of us who were raised in hierarchical organizations. Yet we concluded that network organizations (which are biological) trump hierarchical organizations (which are machine-like). This is why the war on terrorism is such a concern — terrorists work in network organizations while nation states are primarily hierarchical.

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2. Hierarchical organizations make the change to network organizations through technology - from the bottom-up and not from the top-down — *Technology* drives *Process* change, which drives *Behavior* change, which drives *Organization* change.

### *General Goals Developed:*

1. NIUSR endeavor to rid our bureaucracy of Silly Rules that are road blocks to efficient and effective action. How? Develop a list of the Top 10 NIUSR Silly Little Rules. Then Influence David Letterman (or similar person) to read it on the air.
2. Promote CERT growth and expansion as a network organization based on a compelling idea with meaningful results for members
3. Sponsor the *CERT Olympics*
4. Create a blueprint for a standard Citizen s Emergency Information Center (CEIC), which can be replicated in any community
5. Support a San Diego Conference in the fall in 2005

### *Goals for NIUSR s participation in the 2005 San Diego Conference:*

1. Include Sensors to Citizens — No Assumptions
2. Include a Whacky Idea Section
3. Demonstrate an Intelligent Early Warning System
4. Present a Homeland Security Lexicon
5. Demonstrate a National Incident Action Communications System
6. Elevate the Health/Safety Syndromic
7. Demonstrate Bridge Between CERTs and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders (CEIC)
8. Recommend Cures for Media Non-Over Dramatization
9. Develop Procedures for Distributed Citizen Input Filters
- 10 Present Ways and Means to Reduce Terrorist Capabilities
- 11 Demonstrate Available and Integrated Communications
- 12 Present Ways to Get Rid of Silly Little Rules
- 13 Hold a CERT Olympics
- 14 Provide Web Applications for Corporate Sponsor Registration Scholarships
- 15 Make San Diego a Model for Other State/Cities/Communities

### *NIUSR s Objectives for 2005 San Diego Conference:°*

1. Simulate San Diego Fires — with one more day of Easterly Winds
2. Impact Water — CIP — Trains/Planes/Autos
3. Include Imbedded Reporters
4. Include dot edu s Participation

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5. Include NorthCom J3 Participation
6. Include Citizen Web Services, Ontology & Communities of Interest
7. Integrate with other San Diego Exercise Plans

V/R,

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**NIUSR 2004 Eagle of the High Lonesome**

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