

The role of practitioners in the implementation of IS networks

Paul Innes, Director, [pic](#)

Types of network define the practitioner's role

- Industry-specific/local
 - Tend to be self-maintaining
 - Opportunities led by relationships between members
 - Focus on particular activities, resources or technologies
 - Low reliance on external financial support
- Oahu, Hawaii

Types of network define the practitioner's role

- National
 - Tend to be highly facilitated
 - Relationships between members led by opportunities
 - More able to generate cross-sector, large scale or multi-contributor synergies
 - High reliance on external financial support
- **UK NISP**

But who is an IS ‘practitioner’?

- Facilitator/manager
- Technical expert/innovator
- Regulator/strategist
- Academic/researcher

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- **Network members**

An example – the ‘facilitator practitioner’ role

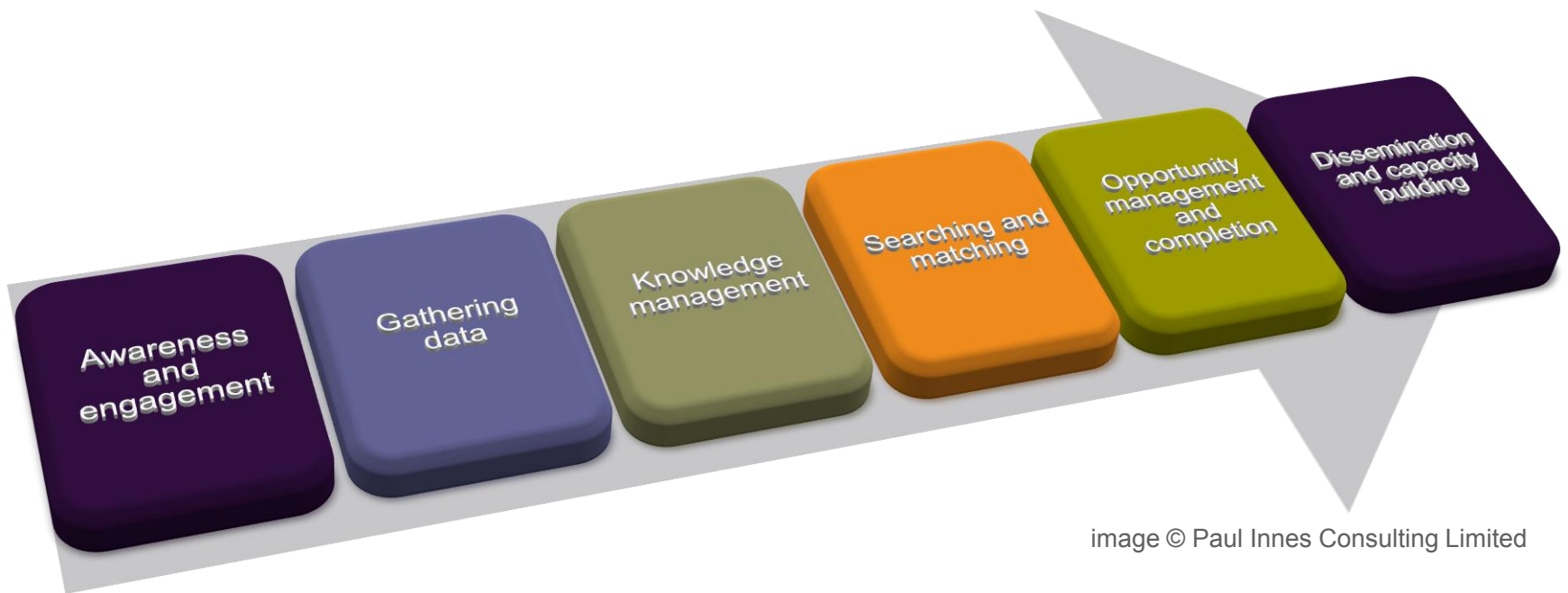


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An example - the 'strategic practitioner' role

- Analysis of network activity
 - things that work – disseminating IS best practice
 - things that don't – trend analysis
- Network performance
 - proof of benefits and return on investment to stakeholders
 - credible way of bringing new members into the network
- Evidence-based predictive modelling
 - future network capacity, direction or focus
 - advising legislative change and policy
 - modelling potential new networks

Strategic IS practice - a future project...

- Mapping the potential capacity and socio-economic impact of a future IS network, using IS network data and spatial modelling techniques

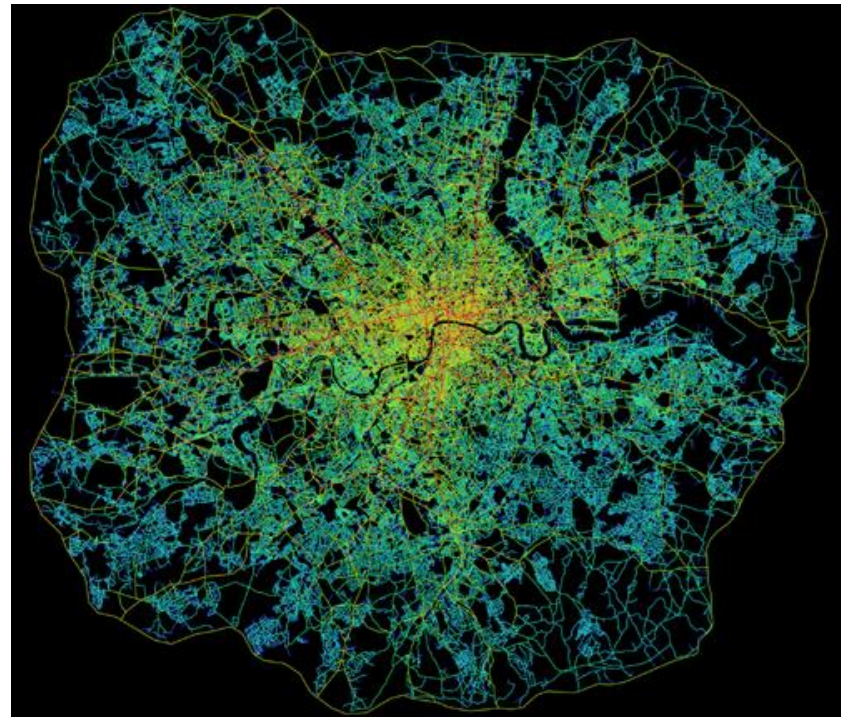


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The practitioner roles in the eSymbiosis model

- Network activity is driven by ‘member practitioners’
- Facilitation support is largely provided through the features of the online platform and the ontologies available in the matching process
- Allows additional ‘added value’ specialist support to focus on ‘technical expert/innovation practitioners’
- Provides the ability to analyse network activity and enables ‘strategic practitioner’ direction from industry bodies, local/national government etc

Ontologies as a ‘practitioner’

- Provide a set of pre-defined relationships between the characteristics and component parts of resources
- Used in the basic matching process instead of intervention by a ‘facilitator practitioner’
- Can be written by technical experts, strategists, policymakers or any combination to facilitate or guide potential in the network
- Can be updated and extended to give higher quality match results as the database grows
- More ontologies can be added, eg to suit particular industries, new technologies or changes in legislation

paul innes consulting

www.pic.eu.com

+44 1986 787018

