# Data – the fuel that powers the new digital economy

**Date:** 07\(^{th}\) January 2014  
**Time:** 18:30 (Tea/Coffee from 18:00)  
**Venue:** Rochestown Park Hotel  
**Speaker:** Mr. Bill McCluggage, CEng MIET FBCS  
Chief Information Officer, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

## Synopsis:
The phrase ‘data is the new oil’ of the information age has been around for a number of years but as a systems engineer by background I prefer to think of it as a basic raw resource, similar in many instances to electricity. In his bestselling book ‘The Big Switch: Rewiring the World, from Edison to Google’, Nicholas Carr compares and contrasts the history of the electricity industry with the causal effect that the Internet is having on our daily lives. It was engineering skills, experience, knowledge and innovation that many years ago helped fuel the transformation that we now know as the ‘industrial revolution’. Today we are at the heart of the digital revolution. This lecture will explore some of the developments and complex inter-relationships of the new ‘fuel’ of our digital age; namely: data, connectivity and social networks and the massive computing power that is now available. What will the next few years look like for the public sector as it struggles to understand and recognise the potential impact of the ‘technology deficit’ and how can embracing the new ‘fuel of our digital age’ and a ‘born digital’ approach help to fill the gap?

## About the Speaker:
Bill McCluggage became Ireland’s first Government Chief Information Officer on 10 June 2013 and is responsibility for the strategic direction of technology across the Public Sector. Prior to this role he was with EMC as Chief Technologist – Public Sector (UK & Ireland) working in the field of Cloud, Cyber and Data Analytics. This followed a very successful role as the UK’s Deputy Government CIO in Whitehall where his successes included publication of the UK Government’s ICT Strategy in March 2011.

He joined the Cabinet Office from the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS), where he was Director of eGovernment and then CIO. He has held a number of senior positions in private sector companies, including IT Director for Harland & Wolff Heavy Industries in Belfast. Bill is a Chartered Engineer, a Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, a Fellow of the British Computer Society and a Visiting Professor at the Ulster Business School within the University of Ulster.

Fee/ Booking: Admission is free.  
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