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# April in Paris: European Software Focus

By [Rob Knies](#)  
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The list of great European scientists extends back to ancient Greece and such seminal figures as Pythagoras, Aristotle, and Archimedes. As the Renaissance began to coalesce, the drumbeat of innovation intensified, and the equal of any of the founding fathers of modern-day science was Isaac Newton.

Newton first won acclaim in the 17th century while at the University of Cambridge, and his pioneering scientific spirit continues to flourish at that institution to this day, including the adjacent Roger Needham Building, the headquarters of [Microsoft Research Cambridge](#).

In the 14 years since the founding of that facility by the late Roger Needham, it has become known for its intensive, dedicated efforts to address the challenges that face society and for the assistance it provides toward advancing the state of the art in European computer science.

From April 13 to 15, such efforts will take center stage during the inaugural [Software Summit](#), organized by Microsoft Research at the Microsoft Le Campus in Issy-les-Moulineaux, just southwest of central Paris.

[Tony Hey](#), corporate vice president of [Microsoft Research Connections](#), and [Andrew Herbert](#), chairman of Microsoft Research EMEA, will highlight some of the themes and issues in computer science today



Andrew Herbert

"Microsoft chose to establish its first research lab outside of the USA in Europe due to the world-class scientific and engineering expertise of the region," Herbert says. "This commitment has clearly proved successful, with many technological advances as a result. Collaborating with and nurturing this talent is a priority for Microsoft Research, and hosting our inaugural Software Summit in Europe is an important step in our continued investment."

The event will gather more than 200 European thought leaders from academia, research, funding agencies, and Microsoft. They will discuss software research and development via a

programme of talks, panels, workshops, and demonstrations that provide a clear, comprehensive understanding of how industrial research plays a key role in collaborating with academia and the scientific community to improve society, education, and the quality of computer software.

In addition, the Software Summit will feature [new information](#) about the [Kinect for](#)

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## Events

- [Software Summit 2011](#)

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