The digital technology explosion has been a true revolution with innumerable impacts all through daily life. To explore the phenomenon, Université Laval has grouped its research into an interdisciplinary, interfaculty structure cutting across all boundaries.

IITS-affiliated researchers and research groups develop new tools and systems, imagine new uses and applications, and look at the way information and communications technologies are changing our organizations and societies. In doing so, they also lay the groundwork for future innovations in digital technology.

IITS was founded in 2005 to serve as a liaison between Université Laval and its researchers on one hand and the business community and government on the other, while also helping the university align on-campus offerings with society’s IT needs. The resulting network has generated new business opportunities and fostered many promising and innovative projects.

IITS implements and promotes initiatives in six key areas (e-government, e-culture, e-education, e-business, e-health, and e-sustainable development) and encourages development on campus of strategic interdisciplinary and interfaculty priorities in such areas as smart cities and smart communities.

The work of IITS boosts Université Laval’s and Quebec City’s ICT sector positioning and adds to our understanding of how ICT affects daily life.
Since 2009, IITS has taken a particular interest in the theme of smart cities and smart communities. It has presented events, conferences, and symposiums and collaborated on research and development projects with other organizations. It has been actively involved in local, national, and international initiatives and has become a key player in the field both locally and provincially. It presented an international conference on smart cities and sustainability in 2012 followed by another in 2013 addressing five themes for building and understanding tomorrow’s smart cities and featuring over 100 speakers in six days of reflection on this strategic institutional issue.

The two conferences were among some four dozen ICT transfer and networking activities that IITS has presented before a variety of on- and off-campus audiences since 2010.

In recent years the institute has worked with organizations, businesses, and networks such as IBM, the City of Québec, PROMPT, Institut Canadien de Québec, Quebec City’s chamber of commerce and industry, Québec International, Réseau ACTION TI, VETIQ, Québec Metro High Tech Park, and Webcom. With them IITS has presented thematic activities and worked on large-scale joint projects such as Quebec City’s bid for the Intelligent Community Forum. IITS’s work has also given rise to international collaborations such as the eGovPollinNet digital governance research community, the France-Québec 3D et Médiation urbaine project, and research delegations such as those at French universities Rennes 1 and Rennes 2. It has raised the profile of university research at prestigious awards ceremonies like the OCTAS Gala and led to international agreements like the ones signed between Université Laval and Rennes 1 and Rennes 2. Through its dynamic and creative actions, IITS supports Université Laval’s efforts to establish itself as a leading ICT institution both inside and outside the province.

IITS is an interdisciplinary and interfaculty institute as well as a dynamic network of researchers linked into on-campus initiatives and opinions in the ICT and digital technology field. IITS members are part of a network with close connections to the broader community.

> IITS is a conduit and crossroads, generating interactions and synergy among Université Laval researchers by fostering interdisciplinary and interfaculty collaboration and initiatives. It makes it easier to pool campus expertise and builds a culture of collaboration though innovative, foundational ICT and digital projects. Its knowledge and connections with Québec’s social and economic stakeholders make it a bridge between expertise inside the university and that located outside.

> IITS serves as a strategic lever for opening up new business opportunities and is always on the lookout for partners in IT training and research. Its resources are available for consultation, technology watch, coaching, and development, and it draws on years of experience and its wide-ranging knowledge of the Quebec ICT sector as it provides services in event management, communications, contract negotiations, financing packages, preparation of dossiers, and more.

> IITS presents a variety of activities to attract new ICT and digital technology students and professionals and helps develop training programs for new technologies.

> IITS promotes and spreads understanding through scientific transfer and networking opportunities for its researchers and affiliated groups directed both at target clienteles and the general public. It also supports its researchers’ efforts to develop, implement, and promote such activities.

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