**Big Data & Cloud Computing in Higher Education and Research:
African Academic Experience**

**Abstract**

Cloud computing has become an increasingly attractive option for delivering elastic and reliable services to educational institutions while reducing cost, saving time and increasing efficiency.

This presentation focuses on how cloud models can offer significant advantages for academic and research fields. A wide range solutions and services offered by cloud for education and research including SaaS, PaaS and IaaS will be presented. The talk also discusses the advantages and risks of using cloud computing in higher education and research.

Cloud and big data technologies are converging to offer a cost-effective delivery model for cloud-based big data analytic especially in research field. Cloud computing offers a cost-effective way to support big data technologies and advanced analytics applications. Big data processing tools like Apache Hadoop (a software that provides high-performance compute power needed to analyse vast amounts of data efficiently and cost-effectively) will be presented.

This presentation discusses the African academic experience of using both cloud computing models and big data technologies in the educational and research sectors. Some success stories in few African countries will be provided.