

## Lightsabers & Lightbulbs

**Abstract:** A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away (well, actually in this galaxy) a legend was born. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of one of the most successful movie franchises of all time. Star Wars has captured the imagination of science fiction fans across the globe and its reboot in recent years has made it as popular as ever. Star Wars references are deeply embedded in popular culture and characters such as Darth Vader and Princess Leia are instantly recognisable across the planet. But in addition to the entertainment value of the movies themselves, Star Wars, along with many other science fiction stories, has played an important role in social and technological innovation. From new inventions to personal inspiration, the force has been with us for four decades and has done much to change the world. The speaker will share how science fiction has not only inspired cinematic success but stimulated technological innovation across the globe and here at Western Sydney University. This session shines a light on the value of imagination, inspiration and innovation and its impact.

**Target Audience:** All Professional Staff

**Take home message:** Providing awareness of what ITDS is doing in terms of innovative new workstreams. Innovation is not about technology, its about doing things better. Sci-fi is a great source of inspiration and influences innovation. Seek your source of inspiration and lead innovation in your area.