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## Prof tells how supercomputer access can help Richland County businesses

By *LISA MILLER*  
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MANSFIELD -- While most of us don't know a teraflop, a measure of a computer's speed, from a terrarium, Ashok K. Krishnamurthy's audience seemed to follow every word.

Krishnamurthy was the guest speaker Monday at a luncheon sponsored by the Mansfield-Richland Area Richland Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Ohio Information Technology Alliance at the Holiday Inn on Park Avenue West. An associate professor in The Ohio State University's electrical and computer engineering department, he conducts research in signal and image processing, high-performance computing and computational models of hearing. Krishnamurthy is the academic lead for the U.S. Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Program in the area of integrated modeling and testing.

His presentation was geared toward chief information officers and technology managers who appeared to follow his every word. By explaining how supercomputers have been used in the design of everything from Pringles Potato Chips to low-flow toilets, the senior director of outreach at the Ohio Supercomputer Center was able to catch the rest of the audience, too.

Noting that supercomputers are no longer just for large universities, research organizations and governments, he discussed the Ohio Supercomputer Center and how its programs can be a bridge between academic and industry. For every \$1 the state has provided to the supercomputer center, it has returned \$8.75 in research funding, he said.

The Blue Collar Computing Program is directed at the real world approach to helping manufacturers, Krishnamurthy said.

Proctor and Gamble used high performance computing to change the design of Pringles after the chips were flying off the conveyor belt and crashing into the wall.

"It doesn't have to be a high-tech product to benefit from supercomputing," Krishnamurthy said. He also explained how the OSC offers high-tech tools and training not only to big corporations like P&G but also small- and medium-sized businesses.

Bob Leach of the IT Alliance vouched for the supercomputer's speed and cost-saving benefits. He reported a demonstration in which computations and a multi-page report were completed in a matter of minutes, at a cost of \$480 rather than the \$10,000, four to six-week process it might take for people to complete the same task.

Leach, Braintree Center for Business Innovation CEO and Director of Business Assistance, noted the luncheons, held every six months, continue to grow with about 50 people at Monday's event.

"Mansfield is really making a name for itself as a technology center," he said.

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