



Professor Rob Aspin

Professor Rob Aspin is an Associate Dean and Head of Computing in the School of Engineering and Computing at the University of Central Lancashire. Current activity is split between strategic leadership of the computing subject domain and activity related to the development of the Cyber, and wider Digital eco-system across Lancashire and the wider North West. In this he sits on various boards and committees including the Lancashire Cyber Partnership (LC), Northwest Cyber Corridor group, NW Regional Defence and Security Cluster, GMCA Cyber Advisory Group (CAG) and is a governance board member for the NW Cyber Resilience Centre (NWCRC). He is a CI on the North West Cyber Comm project and was a lead organizer for the Lancashire Cyber Festival (2023), with additional funding granted for the development of the Lancashire cyber eco-system and novel immersive display systems to support cyber and defence systems.

Prior to joining UCLan, in 2023, he was deputy Head of Department (Computing and Mathematics) at Manchester Metropolitan University, from 2020, and Directory of Computer Science and Software Engineering at the University of Salford. During this time he worked in collaboration, as one of the lead authors for the nationally and regionally recognized ERDF GM Cyber and AI foundry projects (CI for Cyber and AI Foundries, PI for AI Foundry) and Centre for Digital Innovation (CDI). He was a founder, and previous chair, of the North West Partnership for Security and Trust (NWPST) which has been described, by government, as a groundbreaking initiative connecting 4 north west universities with GCHQ to develop and operationalise multidisciplinary research supporting security and national resilience.

He made Professor of Extended Reality in 2019 in recognition of research related to immersive and interactive visualisation of high volume/velocity data, analysed and modelled through AI/ML techniques and typically from a cyber domain. Previous and related research included immersive visualisation and analysis of 3D medical imaging data, generation of synthetic medical imagery, 3D video based reconstruction and numerous projects related to the exploration and interactive visualisation of complex, mostly abstract, data for analysis, exploration and training.

He has Chaired the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing (CPHC) since 2022.