Georgia Tech | College of Sciences

Frontiers in Science Lecture

Lance Fortnow

Computer Science in Six-Tenths of a Second
What Happens After Hitting ENTER in a Google Search

April 19, 2018, 7:30-8:30 PM
Room 152
Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons
266 4th St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30313

CREATING THE NEXT

What is computer science? Ask Google or Alexa, and you'll get an answer like "the study of the principles and use of computers." That doesn't really capture the breadth of the field.

But how can you get an answer in a fraction of a second? Now that's computer science!

Lance Fortnow will explore the ideas developed by computer scientists that transport your Google query to the cloud, how the cloud keeps track of the massive amount of information needed to answer the question, how algorithms and machine learning figure out what your question means, and how best to respond.

All these take place in that six-tenths of a second from the time you make the query until answers magically appear, while keeping your information secure and private all the time.

About the Speaker

Lance Fortnow is professor and chair of the School of Computer Science in the College of Computing. His research focuses on computational complexity and its applications to economic theory.

Fortnow has written the popular science book "The Golden Ticket: P, NP, and the Search for the Impossible."

Book signing follows the lecture.