



SDD 2020 rescheduled to 17-21 May 2021

With great regret, we have taken the decision to postpone SDD 2020 for a second time, from September 2020 to May 2021 – so the event will now be branded as SDD 2021.

We've decided to do this for the following reasons:

- The health and safety of all our attendees, speakers and staff is of paramount importance to us, and we're concerned that going ahead and running the conference in September would expose participants to an unacceptable degree of risk with regard to Covid-19.
- While travel restrictions between the UK and some other countries have recently been relaxed, this isn't the case with the US, so it's currently unclear whether many of our key speakers would be able to fly to the UK for the conference at all in September, or if so whether they might then be forced to self-quarantine for 14 days on arrival.
- There is still a high degree of uncertainty about what level of social distancing measures will be in place at the venue in September, and therefore whether it would be viable to go ahead with the event in terms of significantly reduced room capacities – e.g. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently said: "It is my strong and sincere hope that we will be able to review the outstanding restrictions and allow a more significant return to normality from November at the earliest - possibly in time for Christmas".

Speakers & agenda

We're pleased to say that a large majority of the speakers who were originally scheduled to present sessions and workshops in May 2020 have already confirmed their availability for the new dates in May 2021, so we're planning to stick as closely as possible to the original agenda.

Free access to session videos from last two conferences

If you booked a place for May 2020 and didn't choose to cancel and claim a refund when we postponed to Sept 2020, and you decide again to keep your registration and carry it over to May 2021 (see below), as a way of saying thank you and giving you something to fill the gap, we'll give you free access to all the available session videos from SDD 2018 and SDD 2019. We'll follow up with details about how to access the videos soon after the 14th August cancellation deadline mentioned below.

Already registered?

If you had already registered to attend the conference on the original dates, didn't take up the option to cancel and claim a refund when we postponed to Sept, and would like to keep your booking and attend on the new dates in May 2021, you don't need to take any action – your booking will automatically carry over.

We guarantee that you won't lose out in terms of the price that you originally paid – when registration re-opens in the autumn, we won't offer any early-bird rates that are lower than the ones that were in place when the conference was postponed and registration was temporarily suspended in March.

However if attending in May is a problem for you, please contact us via email at the following address by **14th August** if you wish to cancel your booking and claim a refund - please include your name, organisation, and booking reference: **SDD2020@cwt-me.com**

Registration to re-open by October

Registration for new attendees will remain closed for a few weeks, while we update various details – the aim is to open for new bookings again by October at the latest, so if you're interested in booking a place please check back in a couple of months or follow us on Twitter for updates: [@sddconf](https://twitter.com/sddconf)

Finally, I apologise for any inconvenience that the further postponement might cause you, but I believe that we're making the only realistic decision in the circumstances.

I hope to see you in May!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Payne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Payne
SDD 2020 Organiser