

Shawn C. Whetstone, Ph.D.

Shawn Whetstone is the Director, Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, and Chief Data Officer at IDA. In this position, Shawn provides strategic leadership, project management and direction for IDA's data management, data analytics and artificial intelligence initiatives. He is responsible for enhancing IDA research and business operations by assessing and evolving our data- and artificial intelligence-related infrastructure.

Shawn joined IDA in 1988 as a member of the research staff in the Operational Evaluation Division (OED) of the Systems and Analyses Center. Over the years, Shawn led a number of projects and in 2015 assumed leadership of OED's Net-Centric Portfolio, leading and mentoring staff in providing analytical support for tests and assessments of information, space and communications technology for Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security sponsors. In 2021, he became an assistant director in OED and in 2023 became the deputy director of OED.



As a researcher, Shawn provided analytical support for the design, observation, analysis, and reporting of more than 80 operational tests and assessments of selected acquisition programs and operational organizations and published more than 95 limited distribution publications. Over the past decade, his research focus has been in the general area of cyber operations, and he has developed analytical methods, procedures and training for integrating cyber considerations into operational tests and assessments.

Shawn holds both a doctorate and a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Michigan. He earned a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering from the Pennsylvania State University.

About IDA

IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three federally funded research and development centers in the public interest. IDA answers the most challenging U.S. security and science policy questions with objective analysis leveraging extraordinary scientific, technical and analytic expertise.

