

Breaking news: A2A and MCP - Better together!

- **Speaker:** Justin Castilla
- **Room:** CC 234
- **Time:** Sat 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm
- **Format:** Lecture (30 Min + Q&A)
- **Difficulty:** Introductory
- **Track:** AI / ML
- **Presenter Location:** In-person
- **Experience:** umpteenth time speaking

Description:

Modern AI applications are evolving beyond single chatbots into networks of specialized agents working together. **Agent2Agent (A2A)** is a protocol that enables AI agents to communicate and collaborate — for example, in a digital newsroom where a Reporter agent writes stories, a Researcher gathers facts, an Editor reviews quality, and an Archive agent retrieves historical context. A2A coordinates **who talks to whom**.

But each agent also needs access to tools and data. This is where **Model Context Protocol (MCP)** comes in, providing standardized access to databases, APIs, and other resources. MCP handles **what tools each agent can use**.

This talk demonstrates how A2A and MCP complement each other through a practical newsroom example. Attendees will learn:

- When to use A2A for multi-agent coordination
- When to use MCP for tool and data integration
- How to implement both protocols in real applications
- Why combining them leads to more maintainable, scalable systems

Developers will leave with a clear understanding of how to build distributed agent systems that leverage specialization, autonomy, and standardized tool access to accomplish complex workflows that single agents struggle to handle efficiently.

Target Audience:

- AI/ML developers
- ML DevOps practitioners

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