

Megan Smith is an award-winning entrepreneur, engineer, and tech evangelist. As the third U.S. chief technology officer, Smith helped the President and federal teams harness the power of technology, data, and innovation to advance the future of our nation and the world. Smith recruited top tech talent to serve across government collaborating on pressing issues, from data science, AI and open source, to inclusive economic growth and criminal justice reform. Her teams focused on broad capacity building by co-creating all-hands-on-deck initiatives, including the public-private program TechHire, the Computer Science for All initiative, and the Image of STEM campaigns including #SeeHer.

Prior to her role as U.S. CTO, Smith served as a vice president at Google for eleven years, first leading new business development, managing early-stage partnerships across the company's global engineering and product teams. She led acquisitions of Google Earth, Maps, and Picasa, steered the shift of Google.org to include more direct engineering impact, such as Google Crisis Response, and later served on the leadership team of GoogleX , where she co-created SolveForX and Women Techmakers. As CEO of PlanetOut, Smith was a leader of the online LGBT community in the early days of the Internet. She also worked as an engineer at General Magic on teams designing early smartphone technologies and at Apple Japan in Tokyo.

Smith is an advisor to the MIT Media Lab, Vital Voices, ThinkOf-Us, and the Malala Fund, which she co-founded and a National Academy of Engineering member. Smith holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from MIT, where she now serves on the board. She was a member of the MIT student team that designed, built, and raced a solar car 2,000 miles across the Australian outback. Smith has recently co-founded shift7, to focus on community organizing innovation for economic inclusion and impact.