

25 years from now...

What if the next 25 years

saw as much in the way of technology change as the last 25 years?

25 years ago, in 1989

- The battle of the mainframes: DEC 9000 introduced in October for a cool million dollars, designed to compete with IBM's System/390
- Over in desktop computingland Intel release the 80386DX, clocking at 33Mhz with a 32 bit architecture
- Apple release a “portable” system, the Macintosh Portable, competing with similarly massive weighty offerings from Toshiba and IBM

Back then

- The user interface to computers was clunky and computer-driven
- The first of the visual desktop metaphor systems were appearing, but they were clunky and geekish
- Word Processing and spreadsheets drove technology usage
- Computing was still a luxury, but had escaped from heavily conditioned environment with dedicated attendants and specialized “operators” into a luggable personal use device
- Technology was selectively used to facilitate the production of information, but our society at the time still relied heavily on paper, photocopiers, the postal system and fax machines to disseminate it.

25 years of technology later

- The computer mainframe is extinct
- The desktop computer is a dying breed
- Laptops are also on the way out
- It's all about smart phones and tablets
- Data communications is now abundant
- Computation and storage is now being abstracted into abundant clouds
- Our archives of information have largely been digitized
- Our society relies acutely on technology to amass and disseminate information

What's next?

I don't have a clue!

Much of the elements of our future are with us now, but the way they will be assembled into artifacts will continue to surprise, confuse and astound us

Virtualization

We've seen already that hands and eyes limit the extent to which human/system interfaces can be shrunk in size

Maybe we just won't need dedicated computing devices any more

So maybe we head straight down the Microsoft gesture / Google glasses path and rely increasingly on projections and interacting within a virtualized world of information processing

If you want an example, think about the the Ship UI in "District 9"

Information Models

We're never sure whether to create massive data repositories (just in case) or to smear data over millions of primary data sources (just in time)

I'm not sure that we will make up our minds in the next 25 years either

But whether its aggregated or smeared we can expect a whole lot more of it!

So...

Where are some likely destinations to illustrate where we are headed over the next 25 years?

The Optimist

Increasing access to information engenders a more critical citizen who is aware of choices and consequences

Information and communications is an abundant commodity: accessible, plentiful and pervasive

Much of the mechanics of the world is automated, and the results are customized to match the needs of each consumer

The Optimist

The changes we will be looking for over this period are to transform our information technology platform from “smart” into “wise”

“tell me what you know” is unhelpful

“tell me exactly what I need to know, right here and right now” can be amazingly enabling for each of us

But if there is a bright side of the
future

There is also a darker side...

The Privatization of the Public Space

Much of what was achieved in the last 25 years has been due to an outstanding triumph of open technology and introduction of market forces into previously restricted and regulated activities

Its unclear how this is sustained into the future

Which leads to concerns over increasing private encroachment into traditional open public spaces

Owning History

Who “owns” our history?

Our public institutions that operate our archives in the public interest?

or

The enterprise that digitized these archives and now uses aggressive IPR frameworks to assert control over access?

or

The enterprise that created the private search index across these archives and now acts as a gateway to access



NEWS TECHNOLOGY

3 July 2014 Last updated at 17:29



Google removing BBC link was 'not a good judgement'

By Dave Lee
Technology reporter, BBC News



Links can be removed from search engines if they are deemed "irrelevant, outdated or no longer relevant"

Google's decision to remove a BBC article from some of its search results was "not a good judgement", a European Commission spokesman has said.

A link to an article by Robert Peston was taken down under the European court's "right to be forgotten" ruling.

But Ryan Heath, spokesman for the European Commission's vice-president, said he could not see a "reasonable public interest" for the action.

He said the ruling should not allow people to "Photoshop their lives".

The BBC understands that Google is sifting through more than 250,000 web links people wanted removed.

Related Stories

- Why has Google cast me into oblivion?
- Google receives 'forget me' requests

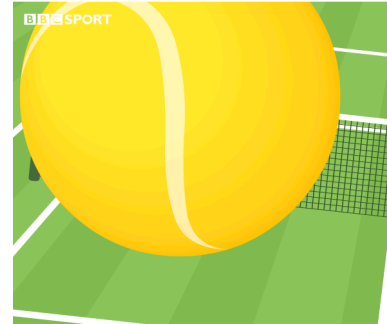
Top Stories



GSK China mass bribery 'credible'

- Isis rebels 'hunting down opponents'
- Flyover collapses in Brazil city
- Israel moves forces near Gaza border
- Wastewater 'triggers US quake surge'

ADVERTISEMENT



Features & Analysis



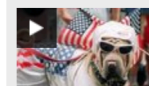
Looking up
How a beautiful Jewish cemetery holds hope for the future



Aye-to-z
A layman's glossary for understanding Scotland



Team spirit
The Brazilian tribe which has its own professional football squad



Proud to be American?
What people in US really think of their country

Owning Our Money

Are we becoming the product rather than the consumer?

Who “owns” my credit card when

It will only permit me to purchase “approved” products

It passes all my transaction data to a “cloud” for subsequent processing and analysis

It will disclose my movements and contacts to anyone who wants to buy it from the card issuer?

PeopleLikeU
The Worlds First Econography Tool

UBank
backed by  nab

PEOPLE LIKE U

A place to compare your spending habits locally & across Australia

▶ **GET STARTED NOW**



**PEOPLE IN
PERTH SPEND**

**27% MORE ON FLIGHTS
THAN THE REST OF AUS**



Owning Us

Are we becoming the product rather than the consumer?

Who “owns” my “smart” device when:

It will only run “approved” applications

It will only permit me to purchase “approved” products

It passes all my data to a “cloud” for subsequent processing and analysis

It will disclose my movements and contacts to anyone who wants to buy it from the device’s controller

The Pessimist

In 25 years:...

Personal privacy is a quaint historic notion

Individual choice is illusory

Picketty persists: technology is exploited to empower the few at the expense of the many

Information-centric corporate structures assume dominant social powers, at the expense of the traditional nation state

Social democracy is a quaint historic notion in the face of unprecedented social inequities

Is this this now time for Soylent Green?