



## Life, Living and Technology in 2050 – A Snapshot

The start of a new year is always a good time to think about what the future has in store for us and, as we start the second decade of the 21st century, here's my take on what life might be like in 2050.

Whilst in many respects it will be 'similar' to today, there will be significant differences. For example, we will be less destructive in our use of raw materials, our health and longevity will have improved, as will food and water supplies and almost every other aspect of life.

Many of these changes will be driven by technology, about 50% of which we can see today if we visit the research laboratories of the world. For the remaining 50% (or so) we have to use imagination, conjecture and prediction. In reality, this second 50% will largely depend on the 50% we see today, as it will originate from what we already have, and what we are about to master.

So here's my snapshot:

**Healthcare** will be subliminal and 'built into our lives' with constant body monitoring via 'lab-on-a-chip' technologies. Genetic and Proteomic Profiling at birth will be the norm at a cost of less than \$1 with all our key information retained and carried on embedded implants.

**Mobiles, PCs and iPads** will have become 'jewellery' with conversational and tactile interfaces. We will have moved away from the real and the virtual toward 'augmented reality' – a more powerful mix of 'seeing through and into' things and information.

**Cybernetics** will see intelligent entities more capable than humans in many narrow fields aiding and assisting our endeavours in science, engineering, technology and medicine.

**Education and Learning** will have migrated from the classroom 'sage on the stage – chalk and talk' model back to the Aristotelian 'guide at the side' model. The big difference will be the reduced human contribution as the machines take over the Aristotelian role. Business will be transformed by distributed creativity and manufacturing. 3D replicators will be as abundant as office and home printers with

## IT Organisational Agility

We're investigating the factors that contribute to organisational agility in the IT function, and we would like to know the extent to which you feel six factors contribute to agility in your organisation today. The six factors are Installed Technology Base, Operating Model, Software Development Methods, Governance, Mindsets and External partners.

To complete the survey – which will take no more than 10 minutes – click [here](#).

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## Who Should Be Your Chief Collaboration Officer?

Companies need an executive responsible for integrating the enterprise – a Chief Collaboration Officer (CCO) – argue Morton Hansen and Scott Tapp in their recent HBR [article](#).

They believe this person should 'look after the whole' by taking a holistic view of what is needed to get employees to work across silos.

They are not advocating yet another (expensive) executive in the C-suite, but suggest that the CIO, CFO, COO, Head of HR or Head of Strategy assumes the mantle. However, choosing the CCO is less about which role a person currently occupies and more about whether he or she has the skills. In short, pick the best collaborator.

To read their article, click [here](#).

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## More Insights

Our [Insight](#) articles aim to inform and inspire. They cover a range of leadership, change and technology topics, including:

- [Achieving the Dual Goals of Innovation and Horizontal Integration through Business Platforms](#)
- [Change Must Be About Improving Tomorrow – Not Changing Today](#)
- [IT's Role in Being a Centre for Business Innovation](#)
- [Making Your IT Organisation More Agile](#)

the ability to recycle and reform materials locally.

**Travel** will be revolutionised by new energy sources, artificial intelligence and mass transit integration. We will be building aircraft, trains and personal transporters of materials that are far stronger and lighter, and hybrid fuels that do not pollute significantly.

**Energy and Recycling** will at best reduce the impact on the environment; at worst it will actually make things worse. The good news is that we are seeing the possibility of very real solutions that should be in place by 2050. These are based on new materials and technologies and the realisation that we can ape the 'food to waste to food' cycles of Mother Nature if we take the holistic and symbiotic routes to solution.

To read my full article, click [here](#).

I welcome your thoughts.

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## About Formicio

The [Formicio](#) team is passionate about helping their clients change their futures. We do this by helping business and technology executives make informed choices, implement these choices and realise the benefits.

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## Parting Thought

"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you."

B.B. King,  
American musician, 1925-