

HIGH TECH EXPLORATION AND NEW FRONTIERS AT WORK

Discovery. Decades ago, it was the new frontiers of space. Centuries before that it was far-off lands and cultures across the Earth. These days, with vast stores of information at our fingertips and the ease of lightening-speed connections, we might wonder... *What new worlds can still be discovered by those who dare to explore?*

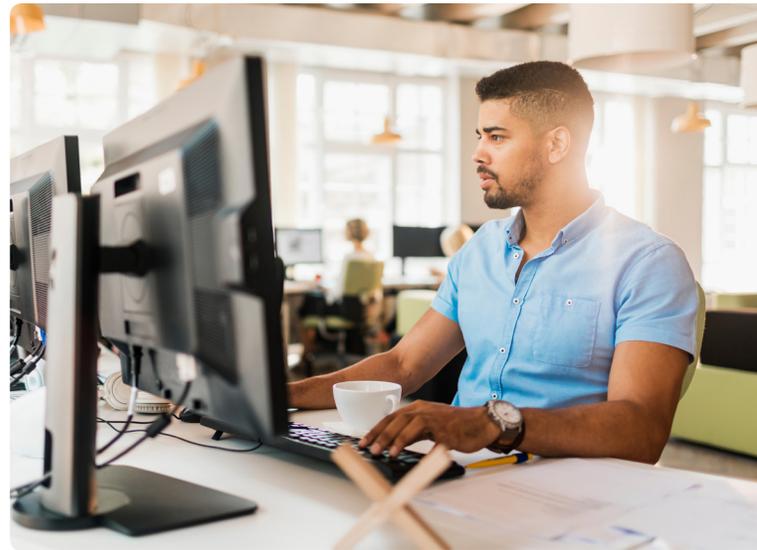
For many, that answer may be found at the center of our lives, where our minds and talents can bring us seemingly endless possibilities to learn, grow and thrive. Think of technology as being a lot like the ship we are sailing to our next destination.

Technology has revolutionized nearly every industry, from filmmaking to healthcare to retail and beyond, leaving few businesses untouched. Just as the emergence of the personal computer changed the office, and the emergence of the internet allowed businesses to connect in new ways with their customers, tomorrow's innovations are poised to move businesses in exciting new directions. Perhaps even more important will be how you will take your own skills and opportunities along for the ride.

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

Have you ever wished you knew more about certain topics that are increasingly relevant at your work? Which aspects of the information age are crossing over to become essential in your everyday role? Do you have the skills you need to be considered fluent in the digital age--and if not, what kind of knowledge are you interested in developing?

These kinds of questions can lead you to discover new worlds of your own, and journey to them through training, education and self-exploration. Who knows where the future can lead you? Think about some of the following groundbreaking technologies to get yourself



into a discovery state of mind. And get excited about what tomorrow may bring to your work, your life, and the world around you!

INTERNET AND E-COMMERCE

The Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) — the precursor to the modern internet — facilitated some higher-tech business functions such as transferring orders and sending invoices. Then, when the World Wide Web emerged in 1990, that connectivity began to alter the business landscape, fostering global communications, convenient advertising, telecommuting, new product development and more.

Similarly, e-commerce has changed the way many people buy and sell products all over the world. Online selling expanded the potential reach of a business, by offering lower-cost online transactions as an alternative to brick-and-mortar setups, and allowing shops and businesses to run 24/7.

THE INTERNET OF THINGS

Much has changed since the early days of The Internet of Things (IoT) — a network of connected devices that makes otherwise ordinary items “smart” — is poised to change the way companies make products and engage with their customers. Among the first connected devices were those that emerged at the Interop show in 1990, which featured the first internet-connected toaster.

Today’s smart products are still designed to make daily living easier. Use your mobile device to activate your air conditioning at home, or have your smart refrigerator order produce for your grocer to deliver.

BIG DATA

The sensors built into IoT devices record data (Big Data), which businesses can collect and analyze to use for strategic planning, product development and targeted marketing. And developments in big data storage and mining could provide revolutionary agility in IT through intelligent systems like smart homes. As with many high-tech developments across industries, more widespread availability can lead to more affordability for these products through the laws of supply and demand.

BEACON TECHNOLOGY

It used to be that advertising at the point of purchase was focused on simple ideas like window dressings, store signage and product placement in the check-out aisles. Now beacon technology may bring changes to marketing and retail practices. The technology relies on small radio transmitters that use Bluetooth technology to send messages, ads and signals to nearby smartphones. This allows businesses and marketers to target customers in specific locations and direct them to certain products or areas.

THE FUTURE OF IT AND YOU

In the age of information, we’ve seen how innovation drives new technology, and technology drives evolution, both in business and in everyday life. In the years between the first microchips and all that is wireless and smart today, tech has been changing the way we operate. From stocking shelves, to interacting with customers, to investing in virtual reality, the digital future looks bright!

Whether you’re back in the classroom learning new tricks, enjoying reskilling training at work, or simply experimenting with your kids’ digital pastimes, the possibilities are yours for the exploring.

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