



e-G8 FORUM

e-G8 Forum Summary

Paris, May 24-25 2011

Plenary Session III: Future Net: What's Next?

Limitless bandwidth. Massive data. Total mobility. Technology continues to accelerate. Will the infrastructure keep pace?

Key Findings

- * Computers will emulate humans, eliminating complex technological interfaces
- * As machines talk directly to machines, infrastructure will become more vulnerable to breakdown and difficult for governments to manage.
- * Governments will need to develop policies based on a vision of how the internet will develop in the future, not what it looks like today.

Synopsis

Tomorrow's internet will look strikingly different from today's, creating exciting opportunities and thorny problems for entrepreneurs and governments. Computers will rapidly begin to emulate humans. Keyboards, complex commands and other artificial interfaces will slip away, making interacting with a computer more like interacting with another person. Remote wireless monitoring will transform the health-care industry, which currently devotes 75% of its resources to patients with chronic diseases. One current example: an implantable sensor the size of rice grain was recently tested in San Diego; it can predict whether the wearer will suffer a heart attack within the next 24 hours. Machines will increasingly talk directly to other machines, letting automobiles warn one another of an impending collision without consulting their drivers.

These opportunities will entail serious risks. An infrastructure of talking machines will increasingly bypass the ability of government to manage or even understand it. Breakdowns will be likelier, and their consequences catastrophic. These enhanced services will also outrun current growth in bandwidth capacity. Battery capacity, too, will strain to keep pace with the needs of a new generation of marvelous devices for more and more power. Unless battery technology advances at a more rapid pace, users will see digital quality decline, as quantity increases. On a political level, the



world will splinter into digital haves and have-nots, putting pressure on governments to manage equitable distribution of digital resources.

As yet, governments are doing little to foster potential innovation and showing little awareness of the problems that may result. Health care regulation, to give one example, must acknowledge that some of the most startling innovations come from small companies that have neither the time or money to bring them to market today. Governments should develop a vision of this different future, and develop policies for it now.

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Session Panelists

Future Net: What's Next?

Paul Jacobs, Chair and CEO, Qualcomm

Danny Hillis, Co-Chairman and CTO, Applied Minds

Peter Chou, CEO, HTC

Craig Mundie, Chief Research and Strategy Officer, Microsoft

Paul Hermelin, Chairman and CEO, Capgemini

Michel de Rosen, CEO, Eutelsat

Moderated by:

David Rowan, Editor, Wired UK

The view expressed are those of certain participants in the discussion and do not necessarily reflect the views of all participants or of the e-G8 Forum as a whole.

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