# Session 23: The Future of the Information Economy

It's useful to understand what the future will be like.  After all, we'll be spending the rest of our lives there.  Fortunately, some predictions are relatively easy to make.  For instance, we can be pretty confident that Moore's law will continue and not only microprocessors, but all sorts of information and communication technologies from data storage and memory, to fiber optics and wireless bandwidth, will improve by orders of magnitude in the next decade.   But what are the implications for how we live and work, or even whether we live and work?  Two authors, each with a pretty good track record in technology, make their best estimates.  What are YOUR predictions and what advice follows from them?

## Readings

*Pick one:*

Kurzweil, Ray "Reinventing Humanity The Future of Human-Machine Intelligence" *KurzweilAI*.net  Feb, 2006,
http://www.kurzweilai.net/reinventing-humanity-the-future-of-human-machine-intelligence
(originally published in *The Futurist*, March 2006 ) (10 breathless pages)

Joy, Bill "Why the Future Doesn't Need Us", *Wired*, 8.04
http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy.html
(19 sometimes-depressing pages)

## Optional:

Brynjolfsson and Saunders, *Wired for Innovation*, MIT Press, 2009. Chapter 5.

## Study Questions

Please think about the following questions as you do the reading and think back on the course.

1) Do you think the bold, shocking predictions made in the article(s) you read are likely to come true?  If so, what are the implications for you personally?  If not, what are the flaws in the authors' reasoning?
2) Make one bold, shocking prediction that you are ready to share with the class and be ready to explain why you think it might come true.
3) What do 15.567 graduates need to know to be successful as technology evolves?
4) How can I improve the course for next year?  What specific suggestions do you have for me?

*Don't forget to upload your final team project.*

15.567 The Economics of Information: Strategy, Structure and Pricing
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