

Office of the Future



As we've discussed in previous articles the rate at which change and innovation happens is growing exponentially. With technology continually becoming faster, better and more efficient, while costing less.

All leading to faster time to market, and rapid adoption of new ideas, products, and services. Take for instance that while it took telephone 75 years to reach [50 million users](#), it took Facebook a mere 3.5 years, and Angry Birds only 35 days. Yet at time goes on we take these innovations for granted. As time goes on the hot innovation of today moves to the background, and we barely remember what life was like before it existed.

Think about the last time you heated up your leftovers in the oven vs. the microwave. Called instead texting a friend to tell them you were running late. Or sent around DVDs of your vacation photos and videos instead of posting them on Instagram.

These everyday innovations are now a part of our fabric. Saving us time, money and making our lives a little easier and better.

But a single innovation can have a major disruptive effect across many industries.

If we look *back* 40 or 50 years ago to the dawn of the digital revolution, offices around went through a dramatic transformation.

As we moved from the Industrial Age to the Information Age there was quite a domino effect on the Office environment and industries that supported it. Punch cards were replaced by typewriters and computers. Mimeographs were pushed aside by printers, photocopiers, and digital printing presses. And bookkeeping machines, calculators, and Dictaphones were transformed into computer applications.

And new industries and professions were born—computer manufacturers, software engineers, UX designers, IT managers, digital graphic artists etc.

That same domino effect is happening as we transition to the 4th Industrial Revolution. Shifting to a world that centers around experiences, intelligence and efficiency.

To understand these how these experiences might evolve and shift over time we can look at the socio-economic and technology trends—Megatrends—happening around us that will have a sustained and transformative impact on businesses, societies, economies, cultures, and our personal lives in the future.

Technology and new innovation will play a key role in addressing these Megatrends. But it's not technology for technology sake, it's about looking for the key inflection points where technology can support and enhance business and user experiences in light of the Megatrends happening around us.

How the trends happening in and impacting our physical world will fuse with digital advancements to create new experiences and businesses.

The transformation from a digital age to an experience age will have a profound effect on how, where and when we work.

Today we have single careers, where often we head to a building or office space to sit in a cube for our 8-10-hour work day. Our computers, servers, printers etc. get more and more powerful every year but for the most part are reliant on our input and interaction to be useful.

In the not too distant future that will drastically change. Our work commute might simply involve heading over to a [shared workspace](#) or small [3D printed office](#), or throwing on [VR glasses](#) to join a meeting. Allowing us to work wherever and whenever more collaboratively and more sustainably.

[Virtual assistants](#) will automate our mundane daily tasks and help us to be more productive. Robot co-workers will help to offload our workload, expedite processes, and keep us [safe](#).

And our single careers will transform into an array of gigs allowing us to explore new opportunities and get a better balance of our work and life.

The office of the future is fast approaching.

Imagine what your workday will look like in this world.

Your smart badge connects with office security systems to identify you as you near the building and unlocks the door automatically. The conference call you were on in the car is automatically transferred to your workstation and turns into a video conference call with shared work screen. Your Virtual Assistant keeps track of your day and changing schedules to make sure you, your clients, colleagues and even lunch is in the right place at the right time.

As you make your way to a conference room in the next building, meeting attendees in both the local conference room and remote conference room are notified of your proximity and arrival time. When you enter the conference room facial detection sensors identify you to attendees on the phone and via video conference and your presentation is launched from the cloud to all participant screens.

Smart virtual assistants in the conference room communicate with smart virtual assistants at home and in mobile devices to notify your family and house that you are still in a meeting and to adjust dinner schedules accordingly.

One thing is sure, work will look very different tomorrow than it does today. Change is inevitable and those that anticipate and embrace it will be the revolutionaries of the experience age.

The time is now to make sure your business is Megatrends ready.