

Thought transfer

with

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2020 Vision – The next decade

The Danish physicist, Niels Bohr, said: "Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future".

It is hard enough to envisage what the perpetually converging and shifting worlds of finance and technology will look like by the end of next year, let alone in 2020. However, there are some constants amongst the variables: Information will be at the core of all innovation and technology will enable its intelligent dissemination.

More than three billion of the world's adult population will be able to transact electronically via mobile or internet technology by 2020. Demographic changes in the workplace, including a new wave of tech-savvy management will mean rapid acceleration of technology adoption, deployment and change.

Future-web is mobile

According to Gartner, by 2013, the combined installed base of smartphones and browser-equipped enhanced phones will exceed 1.82 billion units compared with the PC installed base forecast at 1.78 billion units. We will start to see new portable devices such as tablets with ten times more battery life.

The geolocation revolution

Real-time smart alerts on relevant financial products and offers from bank ATMs or branches will be pushed to location-aware devices and applications.

Carbon footprint will become part of every business case

Economic and political pressure to demonstrate responsibility for carbon dioxide emissions will force more vendors to quantify carbon costs in business cases or face market share erosion.

Financial businesses will own few of their own IT assets

Gartner predicts that by 2012, 20% of businesses will own no IT assets. Several interrelated trends are driving the movement toward decreased IT hardware assets, such as virtualisation, cloud-enabled services, and employees running personal desktops and notebook systems on corporate networks.

Interactive environments

Technology tools that promote interactions, such as wikis, virtual team environments, "ideagoras" (eBay-like marketplaces for ideas) and videoconferencing, may become no less ubiquitous than computers are now.

Lenders in B2B markets are currently reflecting on the above trends with interest and are set to make key technology decisions that will catalyse change and shape the next decade to come.

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