

Map of the Decade: 2010s



ExaTrends* of the Decade: 2010s

*Exa = 10^{18} = Mega³

augmented human

More than ever before, we can transcend our human abilities. Traditional memory aids are supplemented by augmented reality glasses or contact lenses, thought interfaces allow us to control machines, exoskeletons give us superhuman power. Machines will not take over humanity... because they will be us.

bio destiny

Now that biological and genomic technologies are largely driven by information technologies, they are on the same exponential trajectory. Medicines personalized to the individual, genetic modification of our children, drugs to increase intelligence, and life extension will all become commonplace.

climate clashes

The divide between believers and dis-believers in climate change and the necessity for action is increasing. Beyond that, views on the potential of planetary engineering will cut to the heart of the divide on faith in or fear of technology, Whatever the meteorological data that emerges, it will tear us apart.

collective intelligence

In a world of infinite information and diversity of opinion we will not drown, but harness our dormant potential to be more together than we are individually. Crowdsourcing platforms and aggregators of insight will be part of the planks that create the reality of a global brain, expressing our destiny.

culture jamming

Remix culture will surge, with everybody taking and jamming up slices of everything and anything to express themselves, while intellectual property law fails to keep pace. Every culture on the planet will reach everywhere – the only culture we will know is a global mashed-up emergent culture that changes by the minute.

demographic crunch

Many developed nations will start hitting the wall in their ability to support their elderly. The contrast with the rapid growth of developing nations will bring into focus the turn in economic fortunes. The inevitable result is mass migration, licit or illicit.

economic power shift

The sheer weight of China's burgeoning economy together with India's rise will change the business world's center of gravity. The Far East will fund the continued profligate spending of the West. The weightless economy based on innovation, media, and professional services will dominate growth.

energy switch

The way we use energy will change faster than ever before in human history. Renewable energy sources, electric cars, and strict energy accounting, driven in part by carbon taxes on fossil fuels, will transform transportation and large chunks of the economy, faster than we currently imagine.

everything media

What we knew as media has exploded far beyond its traditional boundaries to encompass most social activity, how organizations function, and indeed the creation of almost all economic value. Even as newspaper extinction proceeds apace, the best media operators will thrive.

global talent

Talent is everywhere. As organizations shift to networks, transcending workplaces, success will be driven by how well they can attract the most talented, those who can choose where, how, and why they work. Real-time translation software will enable true multi-cultural teams. Wealth will flow to the talented, wherever they are.

haves and have nots

Across communities, nations, and the world, there is a keen risk of increasing separation between those who have access to technology, tools, and basic needs, and those who do not. This is not inevitable. However it will require concerted action around the world to avoid an increasing schism between us.

organizations to networks

By the end of this decade close to half the workforce will be working independently, often across national boundaries. Companies will function on social networks and gaming platforms, professionals will work for many clients, and many of today's companies will be supplanted by networks of experts.

reputation economy

Emerging measures of reputation will shape business and society, providing increasingly accurate views of the trustworthiness of individuals and companies. They will enable far more efficient business, make dating easier, help to filter information overload, and allow no space for the dodgy to hide.

technology awakens

The 2002 book *Living Networks* described how the rise of a hyperconnected world is literally bringing to life the networks that connect us. Soon a profusion of billions of richly connected devices will together manifest behaviors beyond all expectations, evolving themselves and seeking beauty.

● individuals ● business ● government ● planet ● society

The Zeitgeist: 2011

- 1 networked or not?**

We are all facing a fundamental choice that will shape our lives. Many dive headlong into a world of always-on connection, open social networks, and oversharing. A few cry halt and choose to live only in the old world of tight-knit personal communication. The result is an increasing rift across society.
- 2 debt anxiety**

With the global economy seemingly continually teetering on the verge of an abyss, few feel assured about the next few months, let alone beyond. Determined debt avoidance will push discount hunting and postponement of desire. Governments find that debt is the unavoidable elephant that tramples on their best-laid plans.
- 3 mobile universe**

We experience the explosive inflection point of almost everything we know shifting to mobile. The infinite resources of the web are used mainly on mobile devices, location-based services give us context where'er we go, and printed newspapers and magazines are supplanted by the iPad. Our entire world will be wherever we are.
- 4 end of 9 to 5**

Work has already moved far beyond the office. Organizations respond by offering flexibility to avoid traffic, pick up the kids, and manage personal affairs at work. The dramatic rise of global work means many have phone calls at odd hours or find their primary clients or suppliers in far-flung places. Work now transcends time.
- 5 brands in the blender**

The time it takes for a powerful new brand to grow is the same it takes for an old brand to be trashed: next to no time. As reputation shifts from corporations to individuals, trying to keep control has the opposite effect. Chopping and remixing brand identity is better done by choice than by others.
- 6 sensory indulgence**

With many of our basic desires assuaged, we are free to indulge our senses, exploring how richly we can taste, feel, hear, and see. Fine dining explodes as an affordable luxury, while we all become oenophiles. Sensory luxury at home as well as on excursions is a basic expectation.
- 7 immersive entertainment**

Aldous Huxley's vision of the 'feelies' is here, as we use surround sound, big screens, 3D, Kinect motion sensors, video glasses, augmented reality, haptic suits, and more to give us a complete experience of our entertainment. Any and all technology that immerses us in other worlds is taken up with alacrity.
- 8 terror tomorrow**

With terror yesterday and terror tomorrow, the interregnum is more tedious than terrifying. Calls rise for personal freedom and inviolate junk. That is, until tomorrow becomes today, bringing additional control and surveillance to everyday life, with more pushback than last time.
- 9 social news curation**

Who goes to the newspaper front page or 6pm news for their news fix? As more of us share what we like and who our friends are, individually curated news is at each of our fingertips. Web, tablets, and mobiles will offer us the all the news that fits who we are.
- 10 wrath of crowds**

BP and Nestlé have experienced how global mobs can egg each other on and amplify their voices to ravage reputations. Across nations, politics is becoming more volatile, with missteps and mismatched moods crystallizing concerted opposition. The wrath of many will be expressed more powerfully than ever before.
- 11 everyone naked**

WikiLeaks moving into the crosshairs marks the point when society becomes transparent. As individuals we are already scrutinized by marketers who know us better than we do. Corporations succeed governments in their fear of inner workings being unmasked. Many rail and flail but there is no going back.



ROSSDAWSON

Ross Dawson is globally recognized as a leading futurist, entrepreneur, keynote speaker, and bestselling author. He is founding Chairman of Advanced Human Technologies, Future Exploration Network, The Insight Exchange, and Repyoot.

Keynote Speaker. Dawson delivers inspirational keynotes around the world on the future of business.

Strategy Advisor. Dawson helps senior executive teams to prepare for the future.

rossdawson.com
enquiries@rossdawson.com
USA: (415) 439 4890
Australia: +61-2 9994 8066



Future Exploration Network helps leading companies and government agencies to engage with the future, build effective strategies, innovate, and achieve outcomes.

Services include:

- Scenario Planning
- Frameworks for Long-term Strategy
- Strategies for Innovation
- Thought Leadership Content
- Executive Briefings and Workshops

futureexploration.net
fen@futureexploration.net
USA: (415) 315 9566
Australia: +61-2 9994 8011