

The Digital Economy: Anniversary Edition by Don Tapscott – Talking Points**The Pace of Change**

Reflecting on the last twenty years, where are we headed? In terms of technology advancements, we have moved onto the "second half of the chessboard." The pace of change is quickening, and it is now surpassing our ability as individuals and organizations to comprehend what is happening – let alone manage it. The industrial age is finally coming to an end. Every business is becoming a digital business, and new thinking is required.

The Internet of Things

Soon mobile computing devices, broadband access, wireless networks, and computing power will connect a trillion devices such as home appliances, light bulbs, bicycles, roads, cars, roofs, hospital equipment and factory tools into a vast global network that will fuel exponential change in business model innovation.

Privacy

Companies are data fracking to anticipate our wants and actions. In the name of national security, governments are collecting real-time information about us. Most traditional approaches to protecting your personal privacy, called data minimization, no longer work. A new approach is required.

Transparency

WikiLeaks continues to release classified government and now corporate information. Clearly not all government information should be public. And government employees as a rule should not violate their confidentiality agreements. On the other hand governments need to be more open, and sunlight is the best disinfectant. How can we reconcile government security with transparency?

Digital currencies

Investor and Web browser pioneer Marc Andreessen told the Washington Post that "when we're sitting here in 20 years, we'll be talking about Bitcoin the way we talk about the Internet today." Bitcoin means you don't need a permanent address, bank account, or identification. The impact will be transformative.

Capitalism 2.0

The digital revolution is at the heart of a new economy. But is it still capitalism? The Internet was supposed to bring prosperity for all. So why do we have growing social inequality and so much structural youth unemployment? What changes to capitalism are required?

The New Corporation

Today's economic engines are Internet-based clusters of businesses. While each company retains its identity, companies function together, creating more wealth than they could ever hope to create individually. What new skills do managers need?

Corporate Talent Management Practices

A new generation of "digital natives" entering the workforce is combining with digital technologies that enable new models of work. Together they are obviating traditional approaches to talent management. Organizations should no longer recruit, train, supervise, retain or evaluate the performance of employees. Five new themes are emerging.

Reinventing government

Little has happened in the past twenty years on the use of technology to transform government. What is the real opportunity for 21st century government? The industrial age model of government bureaucracy is stalled. The solution is not simply to slash budgets. Governments need to embrace the next wave of innovation and fundamentally redesign how they operate, how and what they provide.

The Crisis of Legitimacy for Democracy

The paralysis of the US congress points to an emerging crisis of our democratic institutions. More and more young people agree with the bumper sticker: "Don't vote – it only encourages them." How can the digital revolution turn this around, changing the way that governments interact and engage with citizens?

Education

Without fundamental reform, universities will not be able to compete with cheaper and more effective online education providers. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) as currently conceived are not the answer. We need to rethink pedagogy and the nature of the university itself.

Climate Change

Citizens are losing confidence in the ability of international institutions to provide effective leadership on this issue. Rather than waiting for government action, people and institutions everywhere are beginning to collaborate—for the first time ever—around a single idea: changing the weather.