

## *A Glance at the Future*

Throughout the whole of human existence there have been Disruptive Technologies. These are simply new ways of doing things that have been done for ages, but they make an amazing difference to our lives. Examples are manifold, for example just looking at the time since the Industrial Revolution; transportation by horse and cart was superseded by the introduction of a canal system. Now we could move loads of many tonnes over very long distances rather than a few 100 pounds for a very short distance. At the same time water power enabled industrial processes that would have been simply impossible with human and animal power. It also started the migration from the rural communities to the urban sprawls.

The advent of the railways made the canal redundant and they in turn were side-lined by the introduction of a nationwide road transportation system. Ocean going liners were doomed once airplanes took to the skies and even these might fall pray to the “space” travel that could make London-Sydney only an hours journey!

But I believe that the biggest Disruptive Technology is about to happen. The Information World. We are becoming more and more connected, at higher and higher speeds with more and more capability. For over 100 years we have taken the telephone for granted – a simple device that allowed us to talk across town, country and more recently the world. But that was all that we could do – just talk from one point to another. Modern technologies will change all that. Two years ago we experienced the fist time that there were more machines talking to machines than people talking to people, and the machines talk in a difference manner than we people. They prefer to bundle their information into little packages and then spray these packages throughout a network. Point-to-point is old fashioned, point-to-multipoint commonplace and even multipoint-to-multipoint is not out of the question.

The amount of information that we can pass will increase beyond recognition, from simple voice communication to the sharing of full colour moving pictures. This connectivity will not just be through cables – but will also be available in mobile systems. In the near future we will regularly pass images and movies with as much regard as we pass a simple telephone conversation today.

And with so much information available we – as simple little humans – will not be able to address it all. We will need Artificial Intelligent Agents to help us. These agents will be small packages of software that will know our preferences and sort and sift through the mountains of information and offer to us that which might be of interest. I even see medical agents closely monitoring you vital health parameters and alerting the doctor – with all the evidence, trends and information for diagnosis – before you even realise that you are about to become ill! Mobile systems of the future will enable remote monitoring of medical conditions. No more sitting in a hospital bed – but best care anywhere by connecting your bio-monitor to the hospital via a mobile communications system, that we used to use just for talking.

In the near future we will carry and exchange information even in public places. We might even have implanted into our bodies chips that will have all the details of our biological make-up and medical history – just so that it is instantly available should we ever need it.

## *Looking at the Future Slightly Differently*

In the future we are going to be completely connected. We will be surrounded by information that we can choose to use or ignore. The information will be applicable to us in the location that we are in and available all the time.

This total connectivity is the next Disruptive Technology. How we use it is up to us.

Do you think that you will survive in the totally connected – location sensitive world?