

Ten years from now, how do you predict mobile devices and services will have changed the way we live?

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Mobile devices and services in the future will understand us and bring us information when we want it, interacting with the world as a seamless extension of ourselves. Moreover, mobile technology would be in every little thing we carry, not just the phone. I can imagine my mobile phone rescheduling meetings and waking me up early when the traffic to work is moving slow.

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Smart phones will be the main devices for us to communicate and interact with the world. Mobile devices extend Cloud Computing [Internet-based computing] to end users no matter where we are and what we are doing. This gives us unimaginable convenience to access information. In the future, data networks will be much faster with much higher bandwidth and of course, much wider coverage. The nature of mobile devices is that they are carried by users almost 24/7 and this makes them very personalized. My phone knows almost everything about me. It has my schedule and contact list. It knows where I have been, whom I have talked to, which websites I visit and which songs I like most. Ten years from now, my phone will be smart enough to learn from my behavior and act intelligently. It should be able to turn on the heater in my house before I come home, give me directions in the grocery store so I can locate the cookies on my shopping list, automatically summarize my email based on my interests and read the summary to me while I am driving. With all these exciting applications and services, I only hope the batteries in the mobile devices will last at least one day without charging.

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When you go out, what do you take? Your keys, your mobile phone and your wallet. Ten years from now, the mobile phone will be the only thing you'll need to carry because personal identity and mobile payment will be integrated with cell phones in the Cloud. Phones with bio-identity, such as fingerprints and voiceprints, will act as the key to your house or car. You will also pay bills with the phone instead of cash or credit cards. You will be able to transfer money to others via your phone rather than writing a personal check. The convenience of integrated identity and payment services on the mobile phone will make our lives easier.

Alumni