



STRATEGIC FORESIGHT FOR BETTER POLICIES

Draft Scenarios on the Future of Digital Transformation

Presentation to the Public Sector Foresight Network

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By Duncan Cass-Beggs
– OECD Counsellor for Strategic Foresight



Project rationale

Part of broader ‘Going Digital’ initiative at OECD. Scenarios aim to contribute by:

1. Pushing further into the future

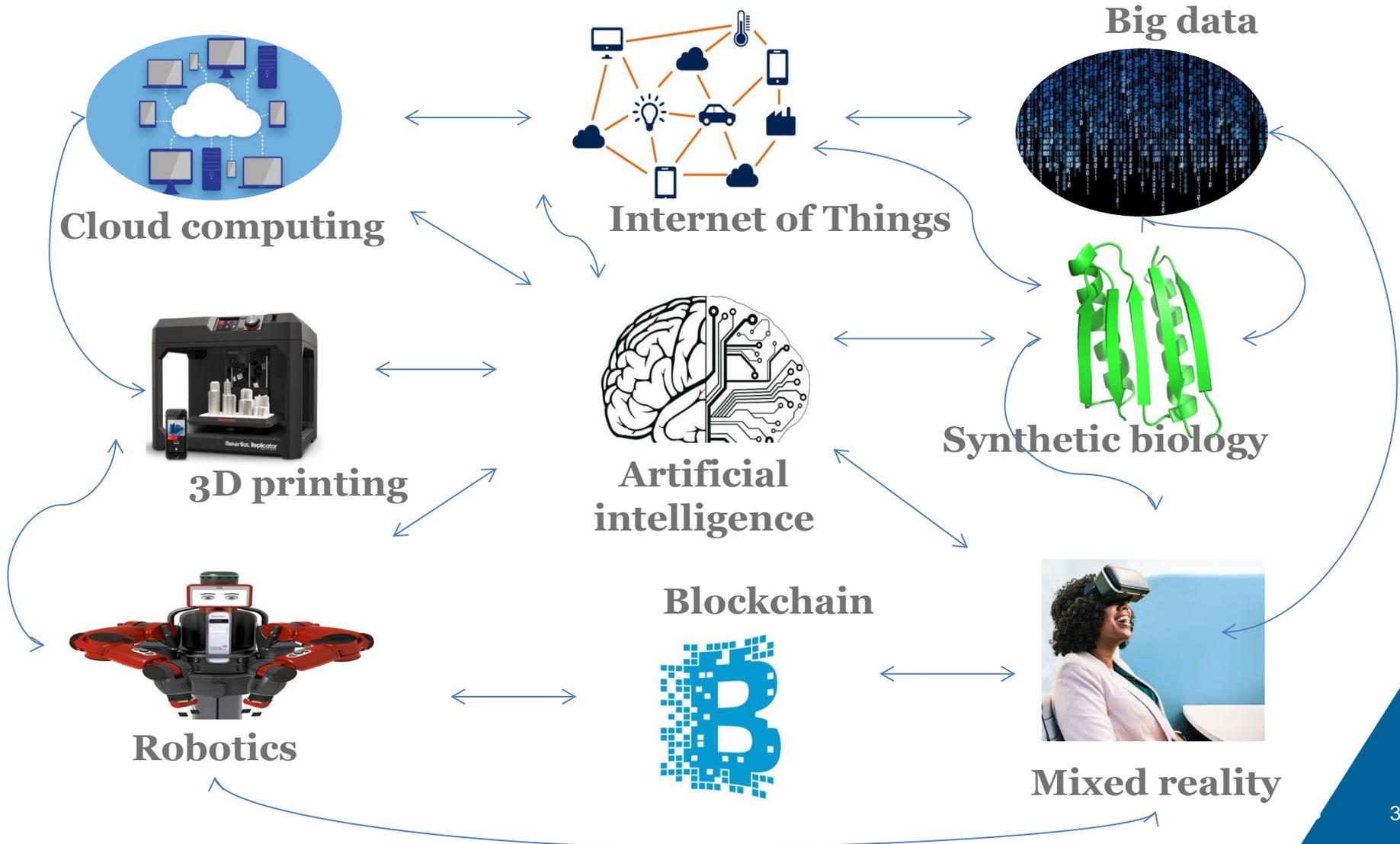
- imagine “what if digital transformation happened faster than expected”?

2. Considering plausible extremes

- identify critical uncertainties and explore multiple trajectories of change



Foundations of “hyper-digital” futures in 2035





What if? Plausible common elements of 'hyper-digital' futures in 2035

- Universal connectivity to digital work, learning, business opportunities
- Digital business models disrupt most industries
- Physical production increasingly local and automated
- Most global trade is in digital files
- Most Internet users in Asia and Africa
- Larger, older, healthier population
- Decentralized energy and post-carbon economy



Some key critical uncertainties about the future in 2035

- **Who controls the data**
 - Individuals
 - Governments
 - Corporations
 - Nobody?
- **Market structure**
 - a few global tech platforms
 - continuous decentralised disruption?
- **International trade**
 - digital free trade
 - new frontiers in cyberspace?
- **Internet**
 - globally integrated
 - national/regional blocks?
- **Technological unemployment**
 - low
 - high?
- **Nature of work**
 - More self-employment and gig-work?



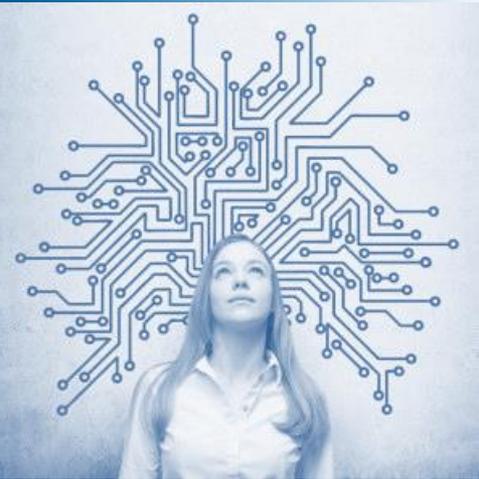
Some key critical uncertainties about the future in 2035 (cont.)

- **Well-Being:**
 - Less or more inequality?
 - Better or worse mental health and long-term happiness?
- **Security and Privacy:**
 - Low or high cyber risk?
 - The end of privacy?
- **Governance**
 - What role for governments in the global digital economy?
 - What new forms of global governance could emerge?
- **Other**
 - ?



Draft Scenarios

Scenario 1
iChoose



Scenario 2
Platform Governments



Scenario 3
Corporate Connectors



Scenario 4
Artificial Invisible Hands





Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you see as the most important critical uncertainties regarding the future of the digital transformation?
 - Where might they fit in the draft scenarios?
2. What new policy opportunities or challenges could arise in each scenario?
3. What actions does your organisation need to take now to be better prepared?



THANK YOU

Contact:

duncan.cass-beggs@oecd.org

joshua.polchar@oecd.org

julia.staudt@oecd.org

mousse.garnier@oecd.org