

A DECADE FORWARD

Dr. David Bray

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Since 2017, Dr. David A. Bray has served as Executive Director for the People-Centered Internet coalition co-founded by Vint Cerf, focused on providing support and expertise for community-focused projects that measurably improve people's lives using the internet.

He also provides strategy to both Boards and start-ups espousing human-centric principles to technology-enabled decision making in complex environments. Business Insider named him one of the top "24 Americans Who Are Changing the World" under 40 and he was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum for 2016-2021. He also was named a Marshall Memorial Fellow and traveled to Europe in 2018 to discuss Trans-Atlantic issues of common concern including exponential technologies and the global future ahead. He was also named a Senior Fellow with the Institute for Human-Machine Cognition in 2018.

Brexit in 10 years' time, what will it be?

I'm going to be an optimist and say, what happens 10 years from now is we have Brexit in name only. Yet essentially, all the benefits of the UK still working as a trade partner with the EU exists, but that both sides can claim victory.

Space tourism 10 years from now? What does it look like?

Unfortunately, I think space tourism will exist only for the ultra-wealthy. Space is an extremely harsh environment, so, as much as we want to have more humans up there, I think the reality of space exploration for the most part will be by robot.

The one thing about the world, 10 years from now, that will surprise us, good or bad?

I think, first, we will be surprised at the things that we thought were going to change that didn't. I mean, personally, I was promised when I was growing up that we were going to be in space by now. But similarly, I think things that we didn't expect to change will. I think people have been used to the post World War Two order, for essentially 70+ years, and I think what we're seeing is something new is going to take its place. What it is, is still not known.

The one truth in the future you would most like to experience right now?

One possible future of work is, if more things become automated, then collectively we could actually, if all of us agree to work less hours, that could be a way to solve the problem of who's working and who's not working. I'd love to have a digital assistant right now, I can basically just ask it to do anything a digital assistant would do it.

What's the one thing from now, you'll miss in 10 years' time?

Well, I hope this is not the case. It does seem to be a trend, which is, we're losing more natural preserves. I think unfortunately, if you look at the trends, whether it's rain forests, whether it's wonderful mountain areas, whether it's coastal areas that are not touched by massive parts of construction, I think we're going to lose some of those. And I think I'm going to miss that, and being able to describe that to my son, as to what it used to be will be something that I'll miss, those natural spaces.

How will we vote for government?

Do we elect people, or do we encourage people to do part of their civic duty is that, no life is complete without really spending five years tossing your hat in the ring, and whether you're doing it as a professional civil service person for five years before you go back to whatever you were doing, or you actually are saying, I'm willing to be serving as an elected. And it could be elected as by vote, or you put your hand in the box and you demonstrate you're competent and capable of doing the role, they show you the box up, and whoever's randomly selected, you get your two, four or five years, whatever, to do that term, and then you're done.

“I think we're going to actually ask new questions about how do we actually put in place appointed individuals. And if I wanted to be bold and audacious, possibly appointed algorithms as well, that we the public have selected.”

AI in your daily life, 10 years from now, what does it feel like?

It's ubiquitous, it surrounds us, which can be both a good and bad thing. If it's designed well, it's not obtrusive. It's much more like having a conversation, like we're having right now. You're able to ask things, it knows when it's good to interrupt, it knows when it's not good to interrupt. And it knows the best style in which to present information to you, such that it ideally influences the best decisions. And similarly, what I would really hope, it can actually be a mirror to yourself and let you know your own personal biases, or cases where you may not be aware, but the last five or six decisions we made were skewed this way, are you okay with that, or maybe you're actually discovering an unconscious bias?

Do you think cars exist in 10 years' time?

Oh, yes, but the definition of what a car is may have changed, to start thinking of it as a room, or a suite, or an office on wheels.

