

FutureRama - This is the End...Predictions



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Contributed by Matt Brunk

Spin the wheel and shoot the turkey, or pie. It's okay to shoot pies in the sky so long as you can find someone willing to pull the trigger. The first reaction is to fire, then aim, and lastly ready- readying oneself. Think about it, you're out in the woods and a turkey doesn't walk by- but flies by and makes a disturbing racket purposely to take you off guard. Fire, aim, ready. All this talk about IP, SIP, convergence, global economies, security, humans dealing with change, and who owns the link or gateway really hints at a chicken and egg syndrome and it will definitely take many off their guard.



Ever get an itch you couldn't scratch? Well if you do and you're a domesticated turkey chances are you're the drowning type- either way you will end up cooked. Domestic turkeys always look up and when it rains, well, it happens. But - the good news is if you're the wild type - your chances of getting cooked are greatly reduced but you may get run over and end up like your distant cousin anyway.

Kind of brings us to where we are today. Voice Com, Data Com, Data Com, Voice Com. Converge it and you get Com. Those two guys beneath the desk won't be disappearing anytime soon- this is a process that after decades of purposeful separation that will require some time and space to turnaround. So the really cool new jobs are actually IMHO going to be turnaround specialists which are in their own rights SPECIALISTS.

Technology hence convergence, VoIP, external forces, social issues, government, and everything under the sun have influenced or seem to have influenced telecommunications. Maybe it was or remains a political football, or even at best it was a tool for doing business or reaching out to dear ole' Mom. Sorry Dad, but we only call you collect - or is this too extinct?

So went the bubble.

Someday, someone will put it all together and maybe put it into perspective. So here's to the pie shooters. It's the end of August, 2005 and VoiceCon is going strong.

I've got questions, many questions.

How will the technology play out to the future?

Who will end up being the players?

What will be done to make life better?

Where will this take us now and in the future?

Will collaboration and cooperation change the outcome? How?

Are these turkeys learning what it means to run voice on data networks or is it too early to tell? Will they rise up as conquering heroes or become so lost and embedded in running, safeguarding, and maintaining the infrastructure that you'd have to implant tracking devices in them to ever find them again?

Notice all the Press Releases coming out?

I've got one of my own: FutureRama, spin the wheel. What you do today impacts tomorrow and what you don't do today to positively affect tomorrow comes back again and again and again to haunt you. We are now entering a new bubble and it too will burst, hopefully not too soon. Read on if not for curiosity then for the entertainment. Turn on your virtual music or boom box, I-Pod, or whatever it's now called and be sure to play your favorite tune and I'd love to hear your predictions too.

TOP 20 Predictions

1. The end of long distance, calling cards, toll-free, cellular and utility services as we know them- every one who once worked in IT smiles at this. Payphones will still be around but as collectibles and reminders. New meaning will be given to the term 'PLAY STATION' and these will pick the pockets of the Have-Nots.
2. The end of billing for telephone, internet, video and many other services as we know them today- everyone in a government sponsored Regional IT Company loves this.
3. The end of the US Postal Service as we know it today- all the junk snail mail must go away, forever. Everyone except the

'junkers' looks forward to this. Billing, statements, and other paper mail will too disappear- anything that can arrive electronically will, and it too will be taxed. Junkers and Spammers jobs will be replaced with work listed in items # 8, 10, 12, 13, and 17.

4. The end of the automobile as we know it and our lives encircling it - everyone will work electronically to some degree and they will live their lives the same, highly dependent upon "the connection" to keep the information and exchange of it flowing.
5. Fax machines, credit card machines, modems, and any analog terminal adapter or analog to digital converter will become extinct.
6. IP addresses and telephone numbers will converge into something else, don't ask.
7. The exchange of money will be credits world wide and credits and types of credits earned are scaled in value such as "societal contributing," "entertainment," "health and well being," "safety," "shelter," "provider of water or food," and others.
8. Everyone works or contributes doing more than one thing.
9. Laptops, computers, servers all will cease to exist as we know them today.
10. Fresh and nutritious food, fresh water, clean air and a clean environment will be as fleeting dreams and moments of anxious feelings about the past.
11. Clothing will incorporate our positions meaning the tools we need to work with will be designed and integrated into our everyday clothing and defining who we are but what we do to contribute.
12. Food supplements, vitamins, and some medicines, and even fuel will be extracted and processed from the world's abundant supply of junk, trash, and garbage.
13. Most work will be delegated by 'pipeline' and no one will work for any one company or organization.
14. People of all nations will long for human interaction, the human touch, and most won't know how to act when presented the opportunity to do so. Cultural sovereignty is near extinction.
15. Robotics will replace menial and service related tasks and they will fail because of #16.
16. Fuel will be the precious commodity for maintenance, not silver, gold, platinum, titanium or precious stones, the world has an abundant supply of scrap and worker bees listed in item # 12 are extracting these and more from scrap piles and junk from the good ole' days.
17. Stealing from someone else's garden will be a hangin' offense.
18. Scientists will be hard at work to try and figure out how to create global cooling.
19. Most people reading this will shrug it off with a laugh, some cautiously, and some will even add to the list.
20. A few people reading this will agree and act to invoke positive change.

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