

# Back to the Future:

## Is your project future-oriented?

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Malmö, Sweden  
March 2017

# Agenda

- Who am I
- Why bother with the future?
- Get comfortable with being uncomfortable
- Is your project future-oriented?
- How your projects can impact the future
- That moment when I dare you to do something weird
- Q&A



PMP PRINCE2 APMP IPMA-D MSP P3O PMD Pro Level 2

MCP EPM MSc SMP UCL PgDip FSI ISEG BSc

Mgmt ESTG NFSI BPI GTBC WMC OUP

WPM PMWB APM PMO SIG

ISO/TC258 BSPM in2PMO

# How certain are you about the future?



*I think there is a world market for about five computers.*

*Thomas J. Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943*

*A severe depression like that of 1920-1921 is outside the range of probability.*

*The Harvard Economic Society, 16 November 1929*

*No matter what happens, the U.S. Navy is not going to be caught napping.*

*Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy, 4 December 1941, just before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor*

*Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible.*

*Lord Kelvin, British mathematician, physicist and president of the British Royal Society, c. 1895*

# How certain are you about the future ...in 2017?



UK votes to leave  
the EU



Donald Trump elected as  
President of the United States

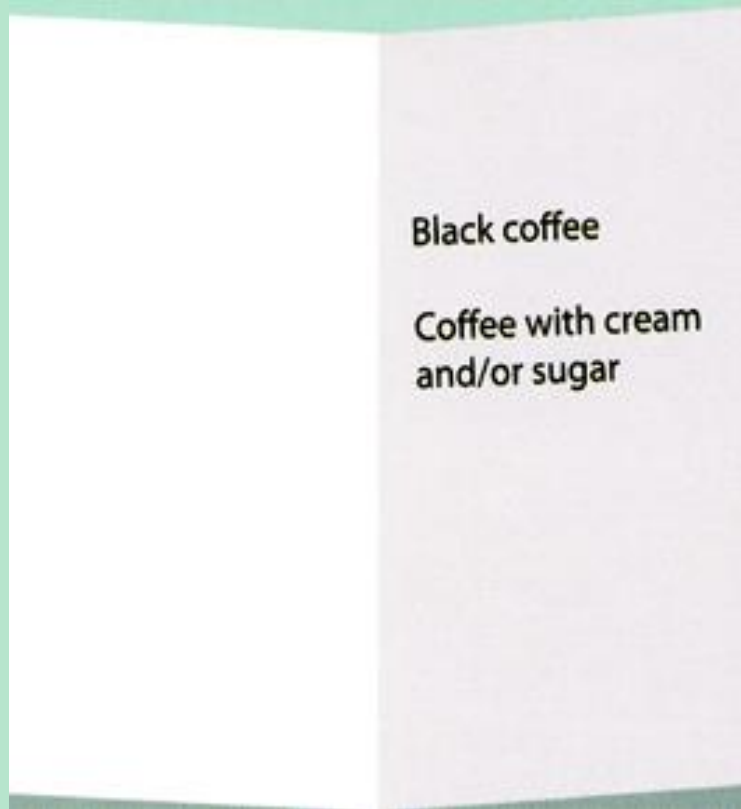


Leicester City wins  
the Premier League



Source: Marcin Ryczek

# The world has become complex



Coffee in 1996



Coffee in 2016



It's a **VUCA** world out there.



# The future is already here



Dear person who  
made a playlist called  
"One Night Stand  
with Jeb Bush like  
He's a Bond Girl in a  
European Casino,"

We have so many questions.



Thanks, 2016.  
It's been weird.

228-019



Dear person in LA  
who listened to  
the "Forever Alone"  
playlist for 4 hours  
on Valentine's Day,

You OK?



Thanks, 2016.  
It's been weird.



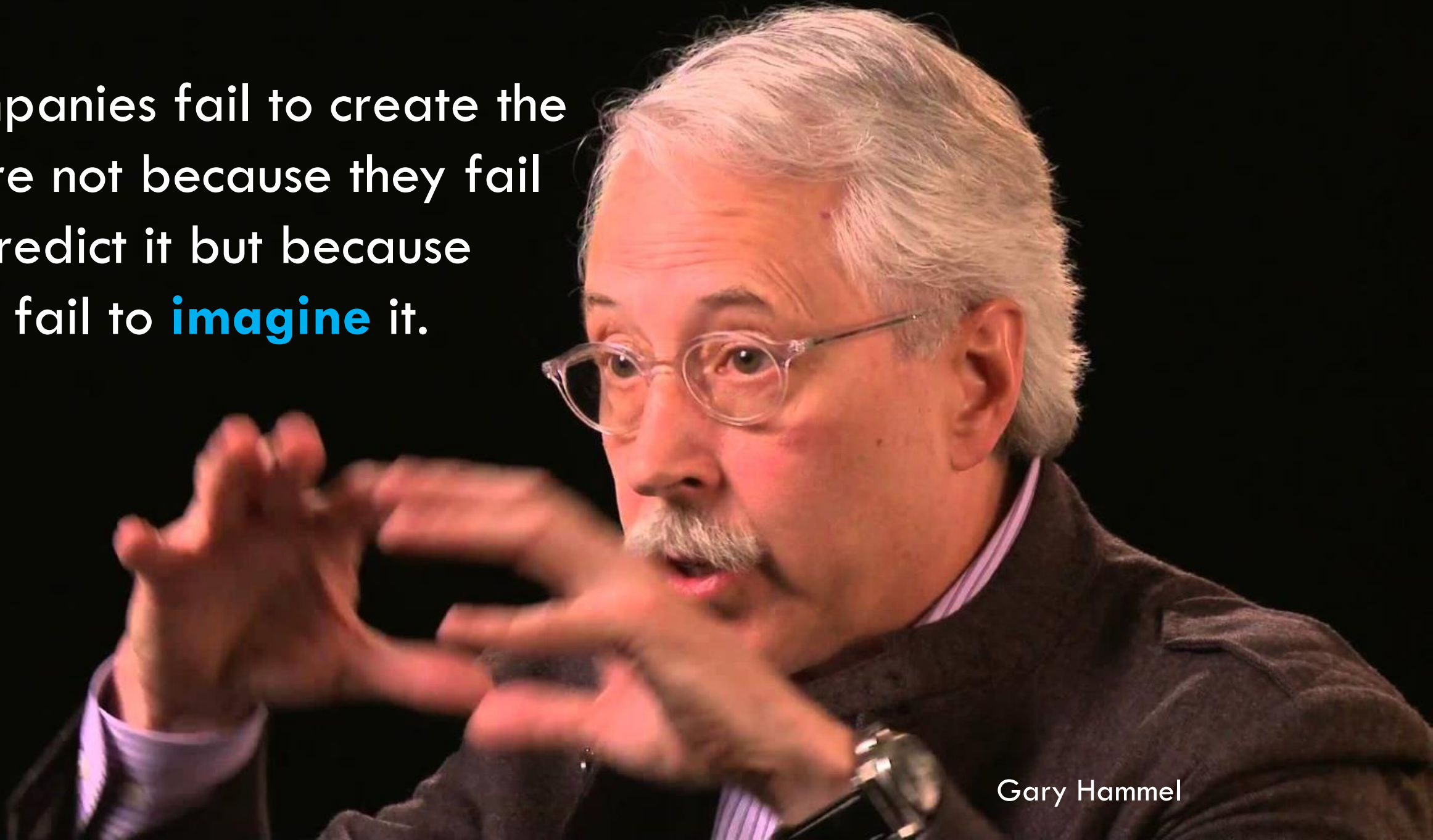
**NETFLIX**



**BLOCKBUSTER  
VIDEO**

**Why bother with the future ?**

Companies fail to create the future not because they fail to predict it but because they fail to **imagine** it.

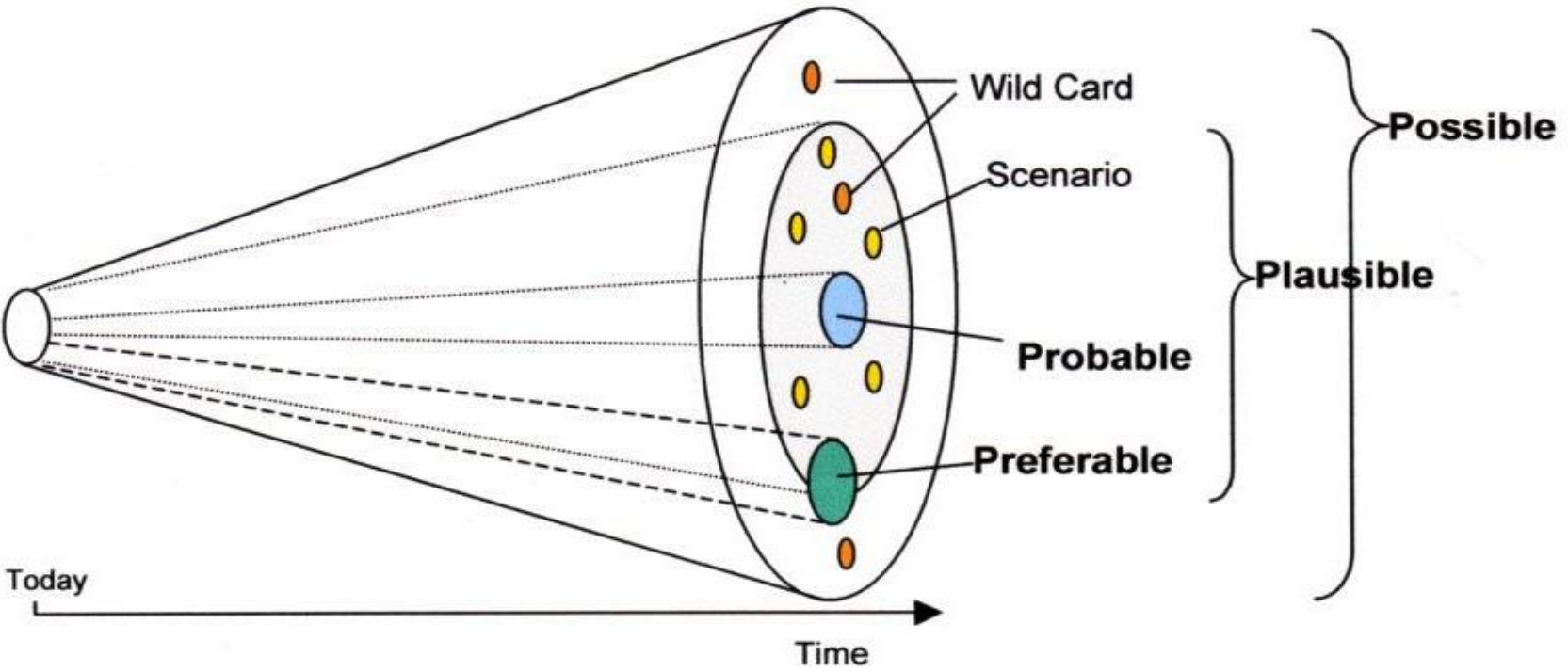


Gary Hamel

# Foresight

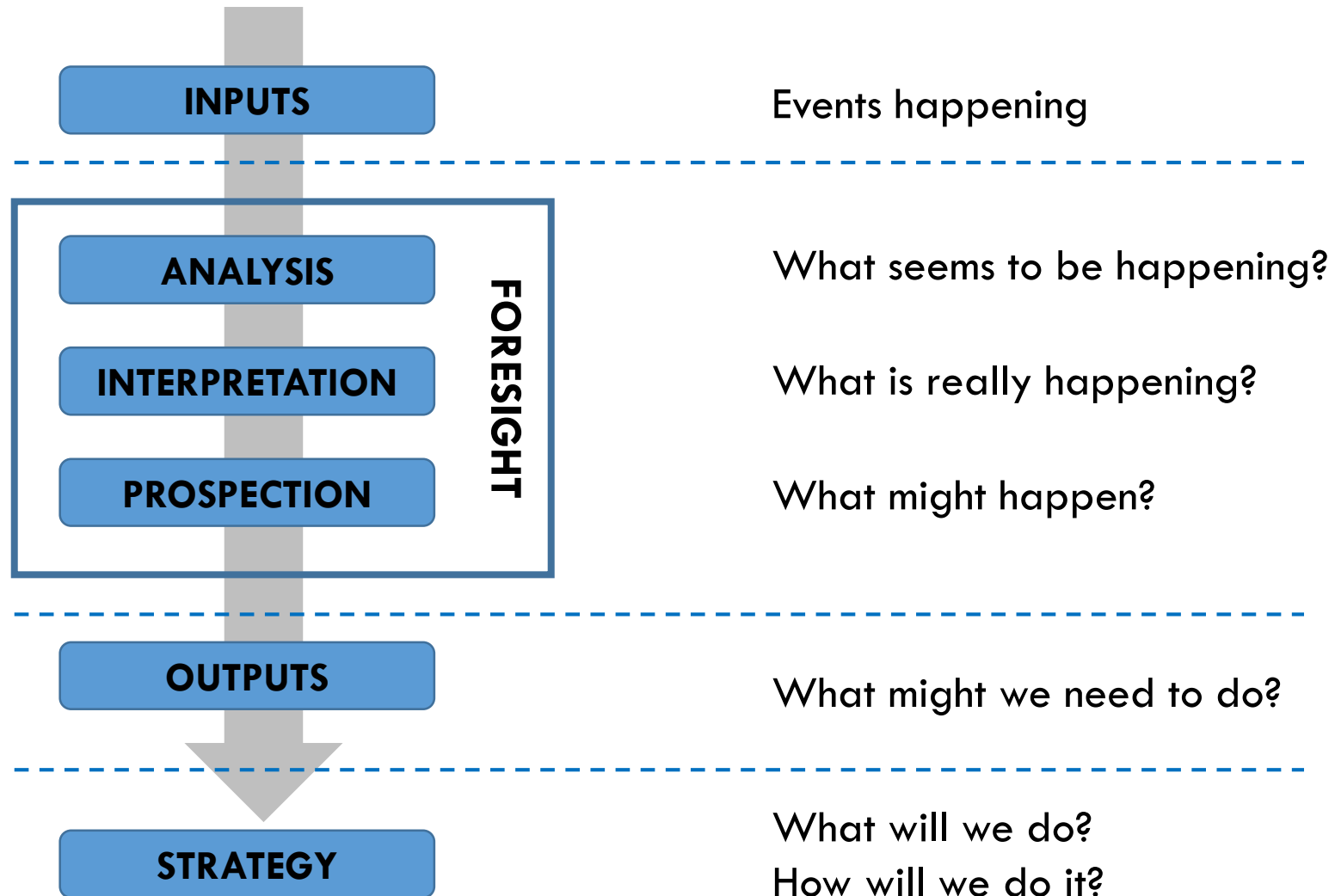


# How far ahead are you imagining ?

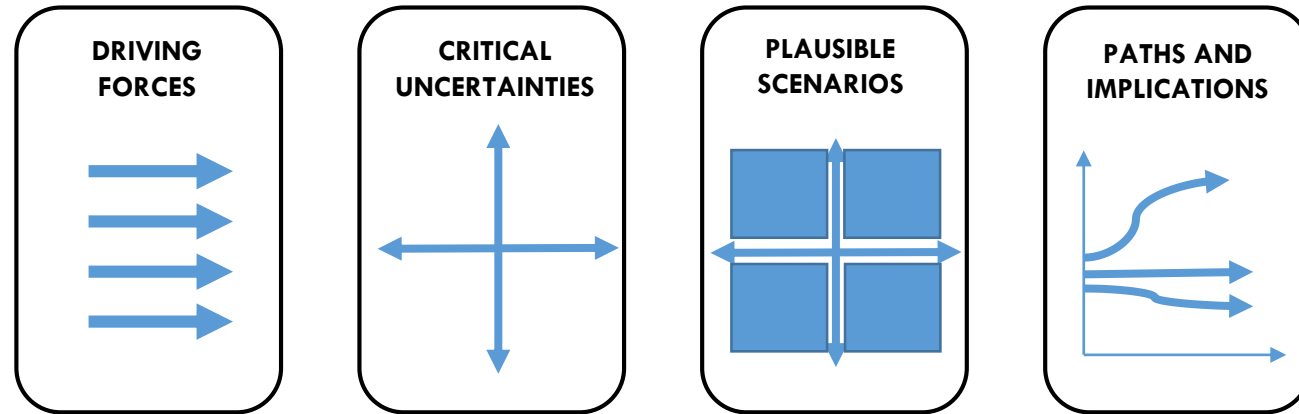


Source: Taylor (1991)

# A generic Foresight model



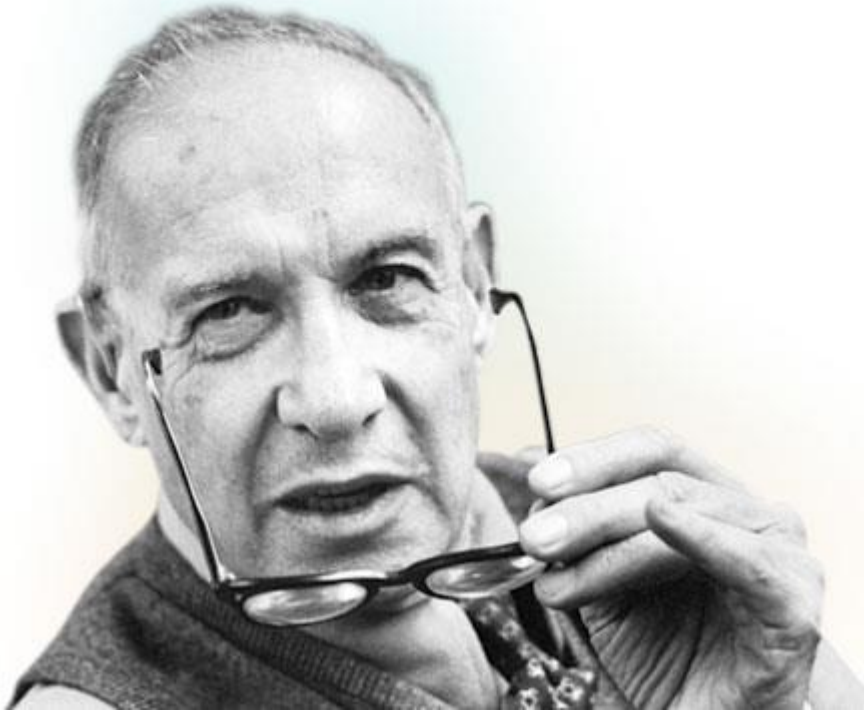
# Portfolio: the art of the long view



- Does the selected portfolio of projects and programs withstand all these scenarios of the future?
- Which set of projects and programs deliver the most suitable balance of risk, benefits and costs if a certain scenario unfolds?
- What would we change in our portfolio if we knew this scenario was going to occur?



# Sense-making



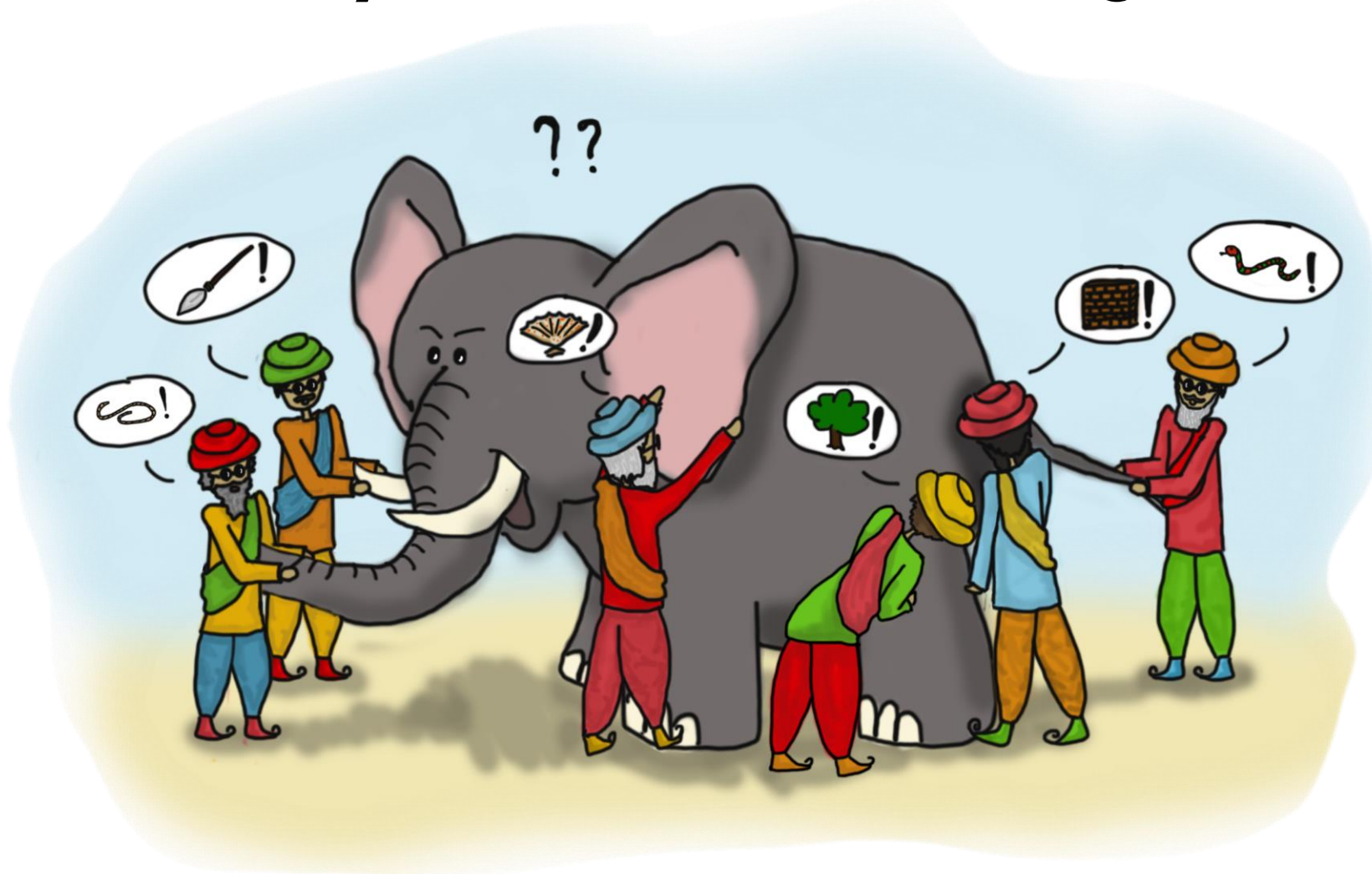
I don't predict.  
I just look out the window  
and see what's visible but  
not yet seen.

Peter F. Drucker



Are you paying attention?

# Systems Thinking



# Best-fit practices > Best practices

**COMPLEX**

PROBE-SENSE-RESPOND

EMERGENT PRACTICE <

**COMPLICATED**

SENSE-ANALYZE-RESPOND

> GOOD PRACTICE

DISORDER

**CHAOTIC**

ACT-SENSE-RESPOND

NOVEL PRACTICE <

**OBVIOUS**

SENSE-CATEGORIZE-RESPOND

> BEST PRACTICE

> CYNEFIN FRAMEWORK by Dave Snowden

[WWW.NEOMOBILE.COM](http://WWW.NEOMOBILE.COM) | [WWW.NEOMOBILE-BLOG.COM](http://WWW.NEOMOBILE-BLOG.COM)





Agility > Agile

# Agility



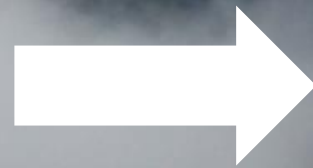
# Get comfortable with being uncomfortable

**V**olatility

**U**ncertainty

**C**omplexity

**A**mbiguity

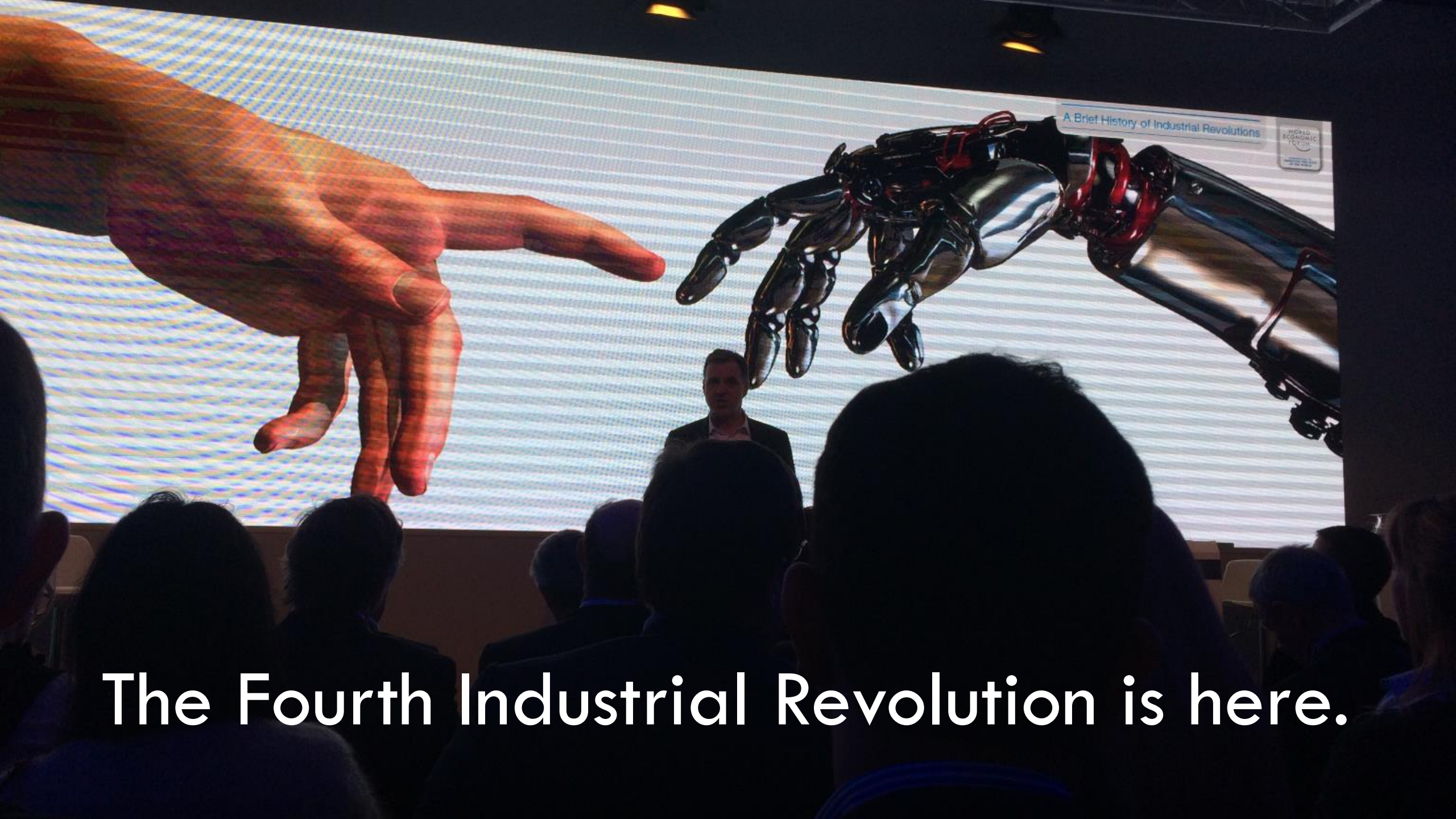


**A**gility

**F**oresight

**S**ystems Thinking

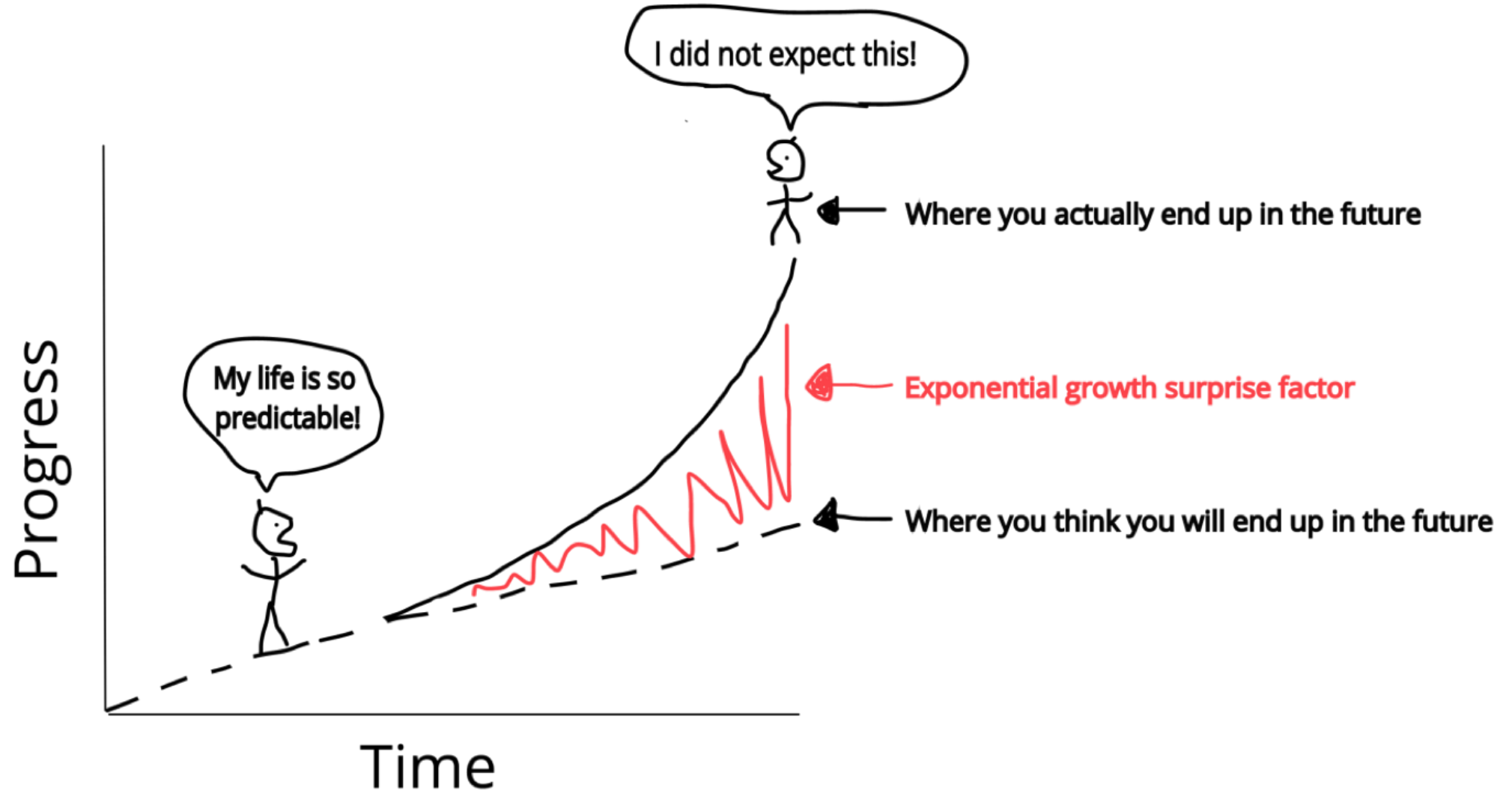
**S**ense-making



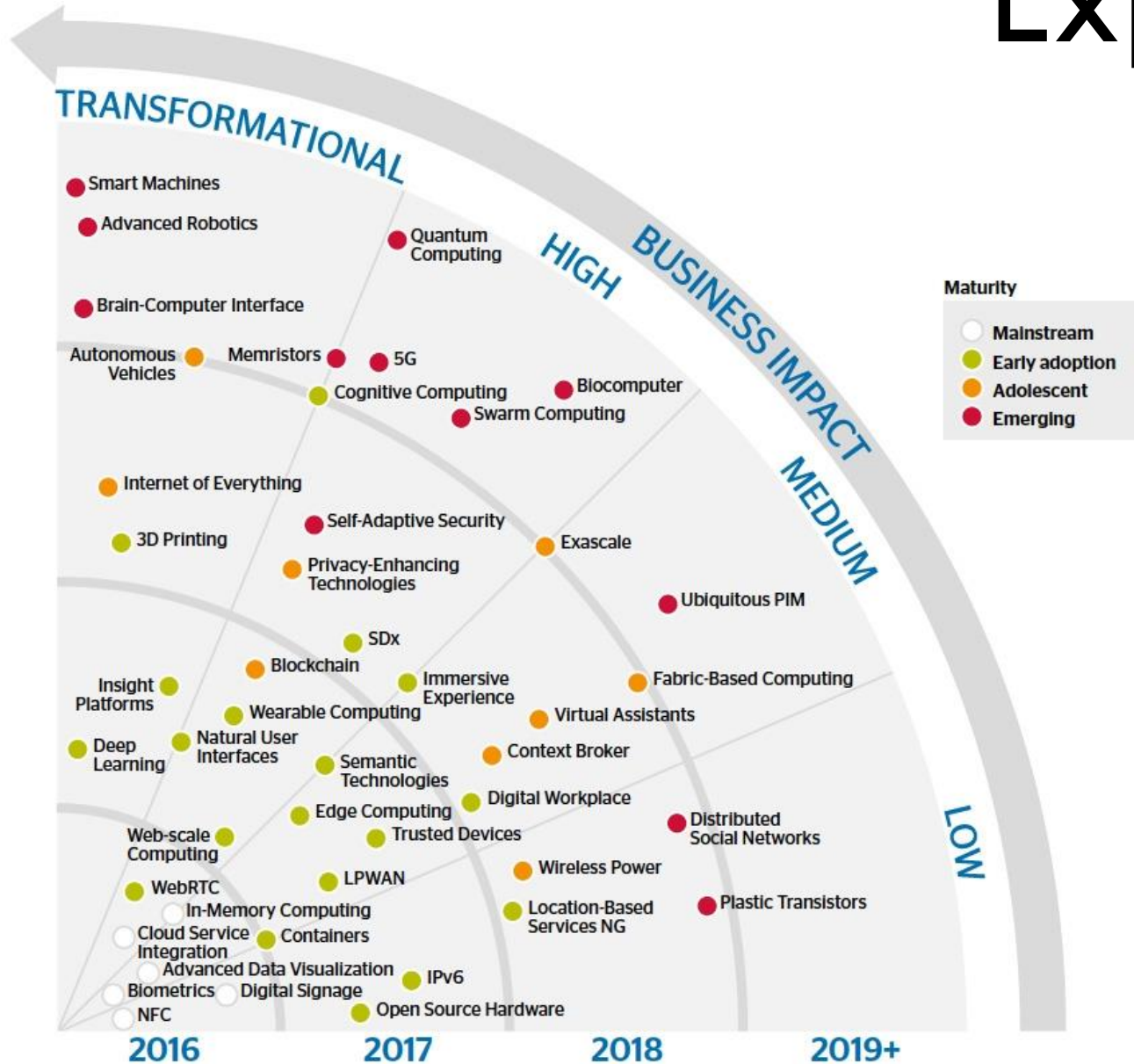
The Fourth Industrial Revolution is here.



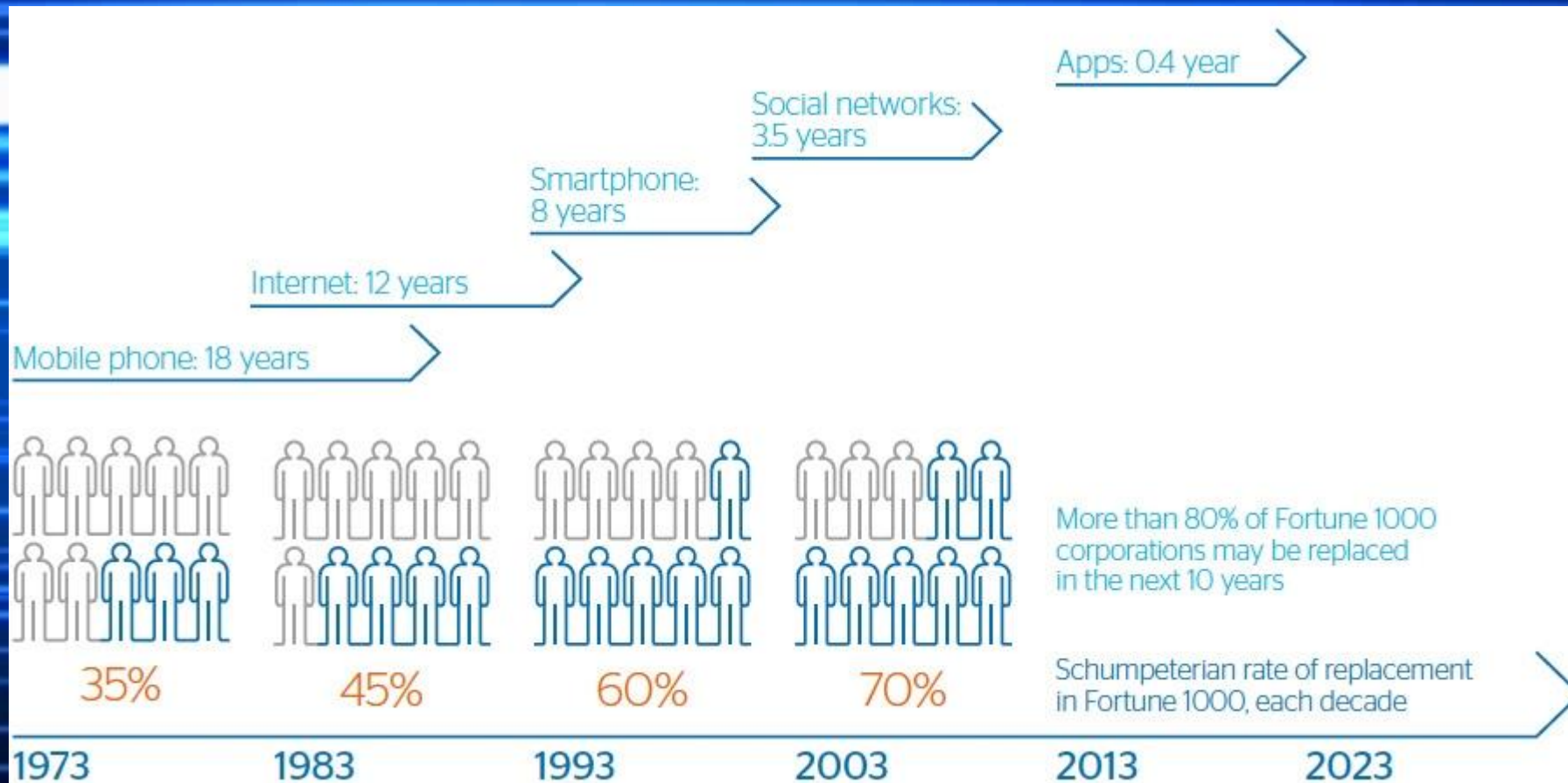
# Exponential Growth



# Exponential Change



# Exponential Speed





HH Sheikh Mohammed @HHShkMohd · 2h  
 Today we launched Dubai Autonomous Transportation Strategy, by 2030, 25% of all trips in Dubai will be driverless



Ali Sulaiman Al-Tajer  
 Founder & Chairman, AST Group Dubai, Serial Entrepreneur, Motivational Speak...

Drone Taxi's in Dubai. The Dubai Road and Transport Authorities announced that it will launch the Drone Taxi service in the Summer of this year. The "Remote Controlled", Single Passenger, Electric Drones can carry a payload of 100Kg plus a small passenger bag of reasonable weight at a speed of 100 Miles for 30 minutes. After buckling into drone seat, the airborne vehicle's passenger selects a destination on a touch-screen pad in front of the seat and the drone flies to the destination automatically. Would you travel in one?  
[show less](#)

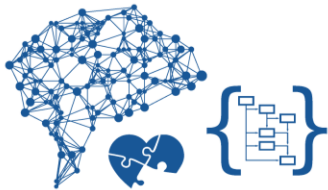


# Will you have what it takes?

## in 2020

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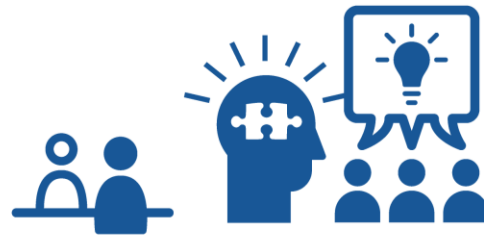
1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Critical Thinking
3. Creativity
4. People Management
5. Coordinating with Others
6. Emotional Intelligence
7. Judgment and Decision Making
8. Service Orientation
9. Negotiation
10. Cognitive Flexibility

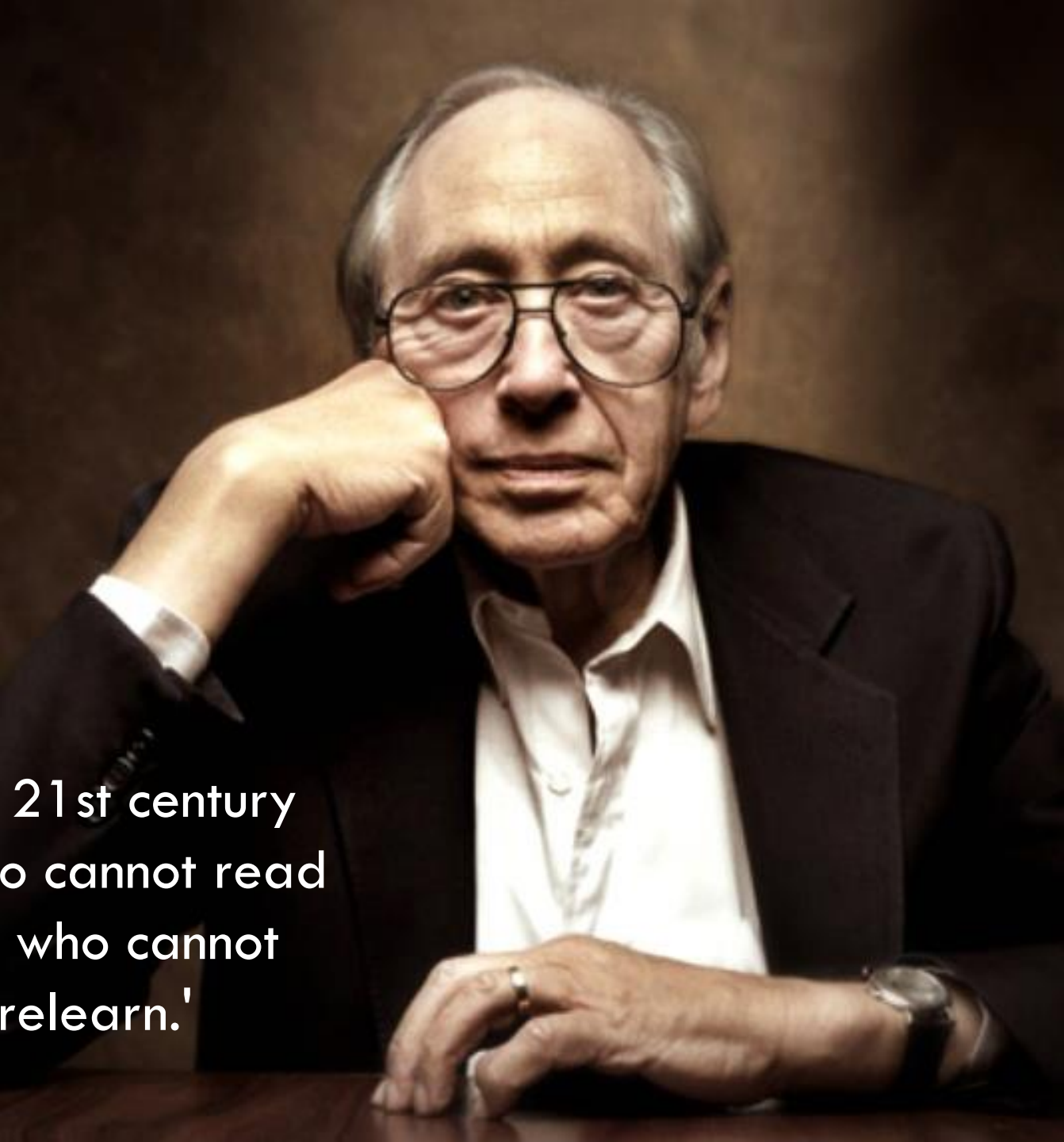


## in 2015

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1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Coordinating with Others
3. People Management
4. Critical Thinking
5. Negotiation
6. Quality Control
7. Service Orientation
8. Judgment and Decision Making
9. Active Listening
10. Creativity

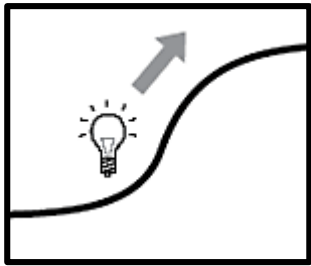


A portrait of Alvin Toffler, an elderly man with glasses, resting his chin on his hand. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is a dark, textured wall.

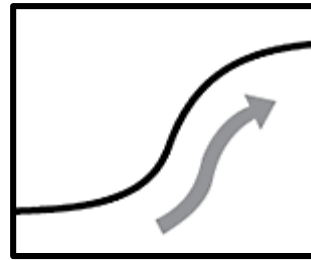
'The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.'

Alvin Toffler

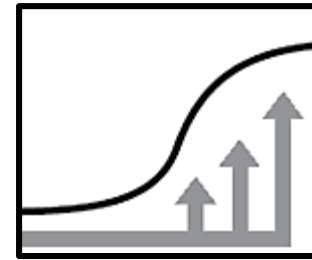
# How prepared for the future are you?



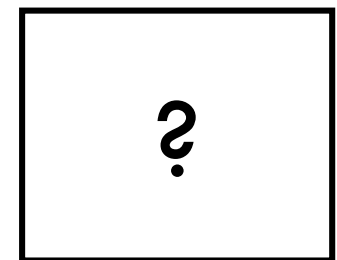
**Shape the  
Future**



**Adapt to the  
Future**

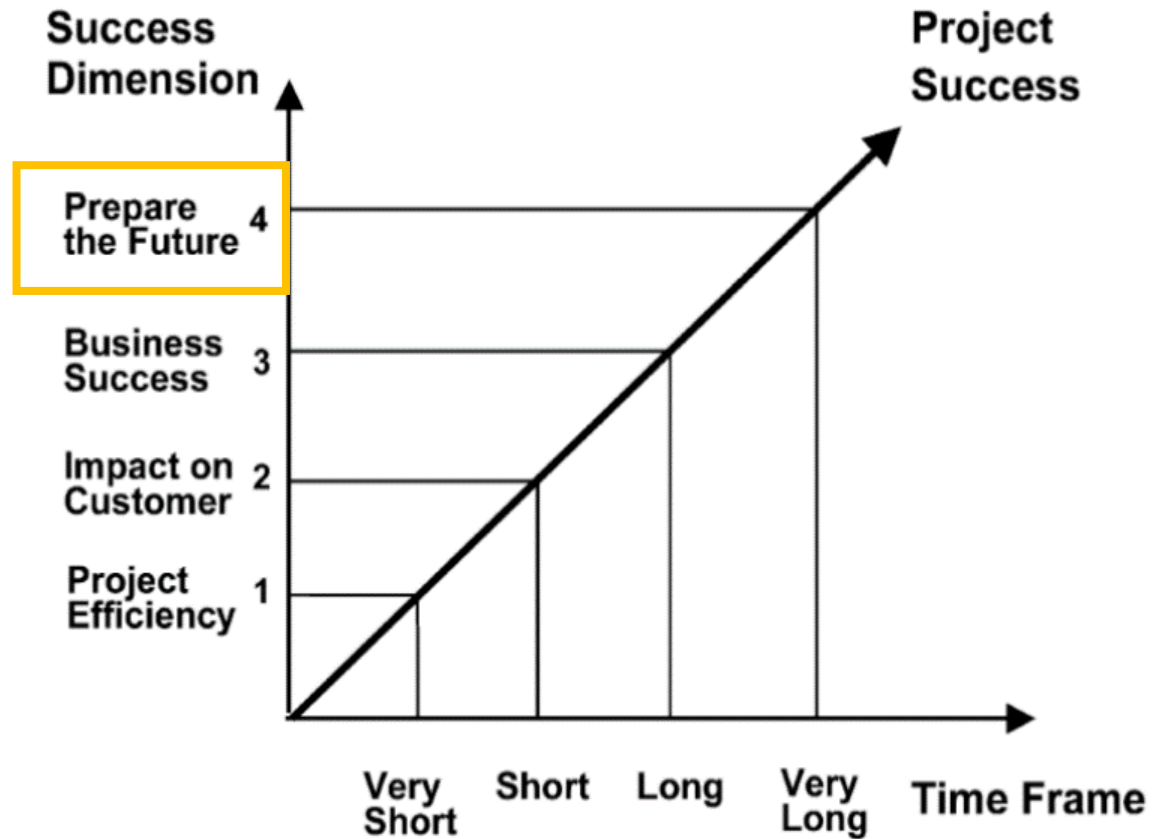


**Reserve the right  
to play**



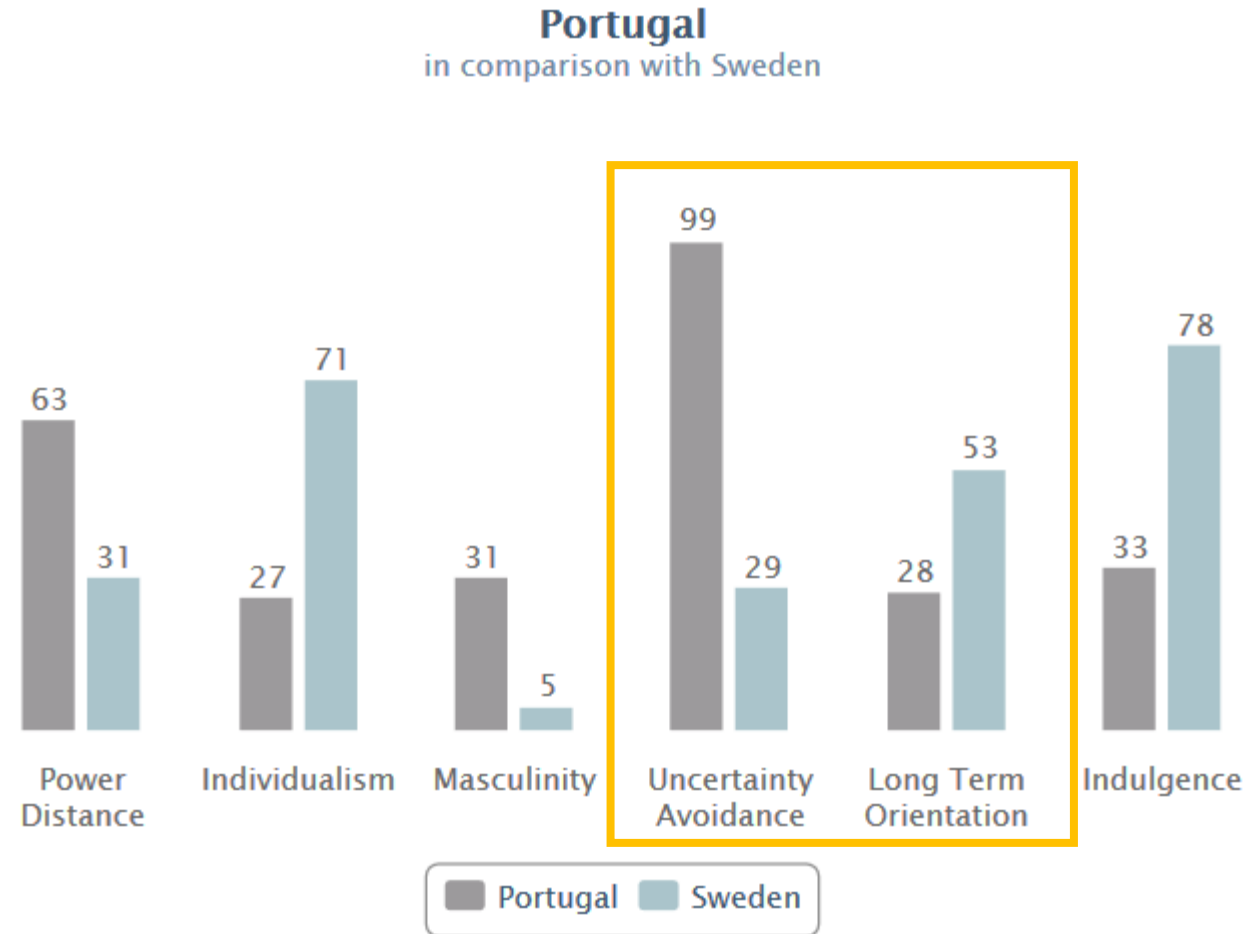
**Don't know**  
**Don't care, I live in the present**  
**I'll find out when I get there**

# Future-preparedness

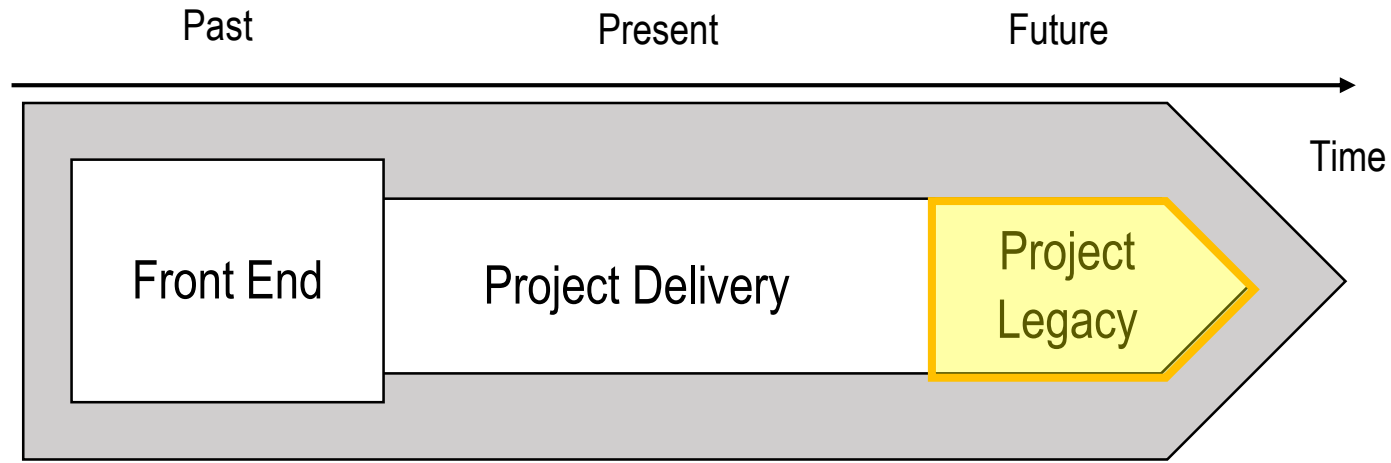




# Aren't all projects future-oriented?



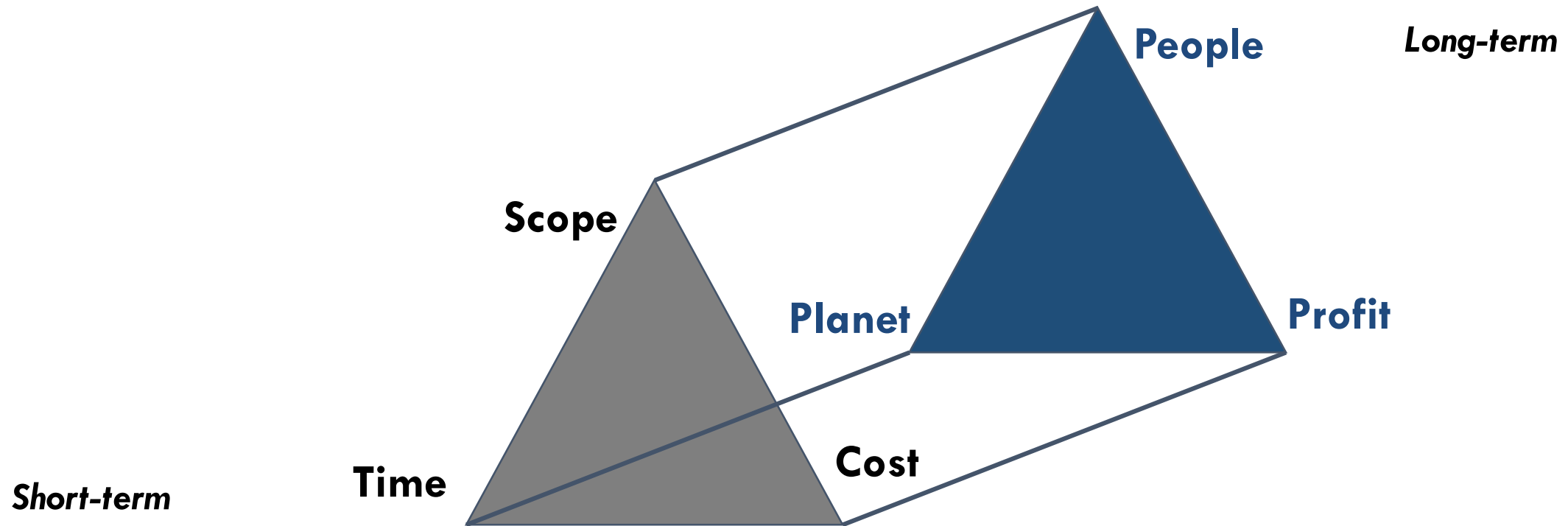
# A Future-oriented approach to the Management of Projects



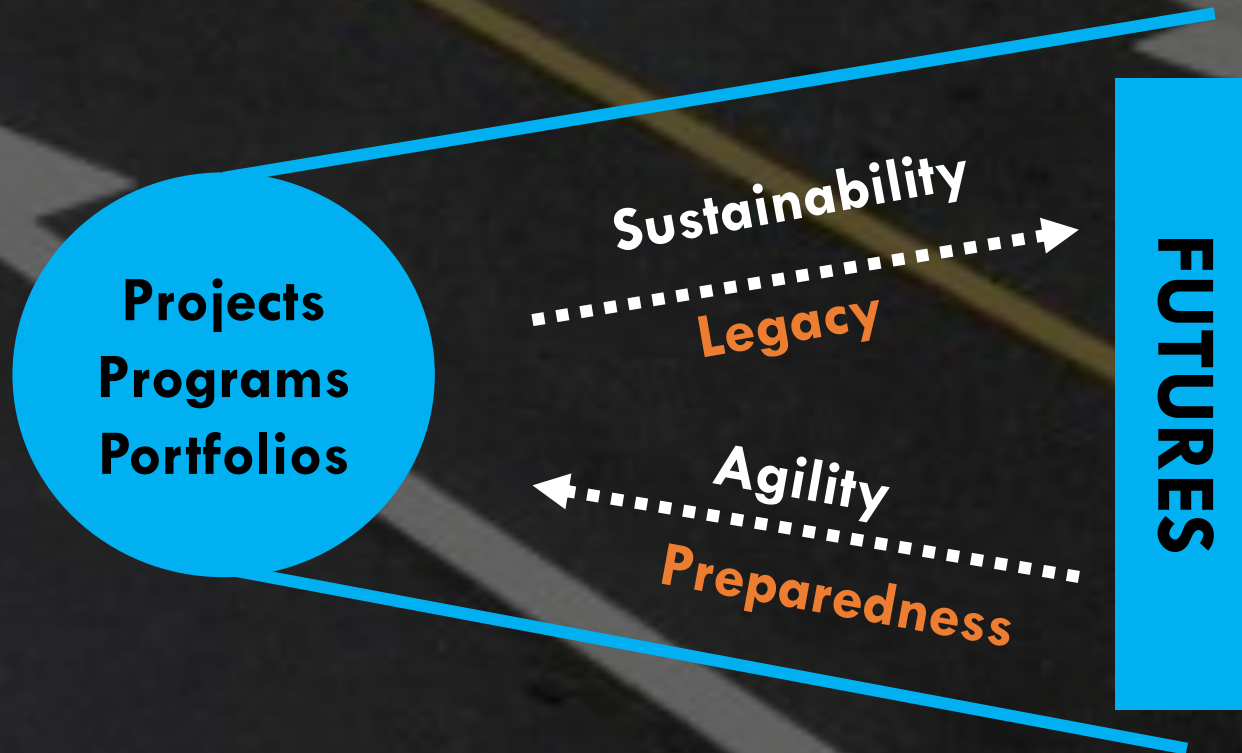
Project Definition  
Strategy  
Finance  
Requirements  
Technology  
Design  
Commercial  
Organisational  
Legacy Definition / Expected Legacy

Success  
Benefits  
Long Term  
Relationships  
Change  
Sustainability  
Overall Goal  
Strategy  
Inspiration

# Sustainability: what legacy are you building?



# The future is a two-way street



# How hard can it be?



Dear Future Me,

I was attending this awesome conference called Passion for Projects, when one of the speakers dare me with a challenge: to write a letter to myself in the future. So that's why you are receiving this letter today, 1 year after that awkward moment, when everyone was thinking how interesting the idea looked like but how shy we were to grab our pens and start drafting something.

I hope you had an amazing year! Did you get that project you were after? What about the PgM certification? Any other news? Come on, you know you can tell me anything! 😊

Always remember the quote from that cool movie:

"I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again."

I hope you meet people with a  
different point of view.  
I hope you live a life you're proud of.  
If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to

Keep having fun and trying your best!  
Your best friend forever and always,

A letter to my future self

**OUR PROJECTS ARE OUR FUTURE.  
LET'S MAKE IT A GOOD ONE.**

**Welcome To  
The Future**

Let's keep in touch.

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**Twitter:** @TheLuckyPM

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