

PRESENTED BY CHURCHILL CLUB Tuesday, May 22, 2018

1. The New Space Stack Will Enable Extraterrestrial Commerce

After holding back Moore's Law for 50 years, the space industry is being turned upside down by a new ecosystem of startups developing microsat constellations that replace mainframe-like systems at 1% of the cost, with planetary coverage and higher resilience. Companies in tourism, mining, communications, manufacturing, agriculture, energy, defense, media and more will buy the tech and services they need off-the-shelf to operate extraterrestrial fleets.

[David Cowan, Bessemer Venture Partners]

2. Move Fast and Change Everything

From self-driving trucks to electric scooters, every segment of the multi trillion dollar transportation industry is being invented or reinvented, and the unexpected impact on our infrastructure and our lives will be massive.

[Sarah Guo, Greylock Partners]

3. Voice First Will Open Up Internet to the World

We are trying to bring the world online. However, 25% of the adult population are illiterate so the way to bring them online will be voice first.

[Nicole Quinn, Lightspeed Venture Partners]

4. The Hunt for Authenticity

Deep learning enables computers to synthesize voice indistinguishable from humans and generate photographs that look real. Plus computers enable disinformation at greater scale than ever (election, net neutrality debate). Determining authenticity will be an important growth area. [Tomasz Tunguz, Redpoint Ventures]

5. China Accelerates Past the U.S. in Key Technology Areas

If you want to have an MRI read today, you might want to fly to China. Deep learning can help radiologists better diagnose cancers, but it'll be years before that technology is widespread in the US. It's already deployed and scaling in China. The strong alignment between the Chinese government and technology ecosystem, combined with a national focus on key technologies like AI and autonomous vehicles, means that China will become the global leader in these core technologies.

[Mike Vernal, Sequoia Capital]

6. High-Density Al Promises Conversational Bots Smart Enough to Disrupt Mobile Commerce

High-density AI will break up NLP into narrow domains that neural networks can master, enabling a generation of conversational bots who can reliably satisfy consumer needs without human intervention. With intuitiveness and immediacy, these bots will displace mobile apps as the dominant UI for computing, disrupting the entire consumer internet economy.

[David Cowan, Bessemer Venture Partners]

7. The All-Seeing Eye

Cheap and smart cameras with computer vision algorithms are blanketing the world. New smart camera apps, from your face unlocking your phone to Amazon Go stores, will delight consumers. But this tracking of our every move will also remake expectations and regulation around surveillance.

[Sarah Guo, Greylock Partners]

8. People Will No Longer Distinguish Between Online and Offline Worlds

We've seen eCommerce and retail come together into omnichannel and experiential retail. We'll see the same for social, dating, media, fitness and everything else.

[Nicole Quinn, Lightspeed Venture Partners]

9. Decentralization of Data

Today, all of our data is centralized in clouds controlled by a handful of data oligarchs. In the future, users will exert more control over their personal data and use a technology like the blockchain to do it.

[Tomasz Tunguz, Redpoint Ventures]

10. Robotics Goes Mainstream Because of the AV Gold Rush

Thousands of engineers and billions of dollars are being poured into the race for an autonomous passenger vehicle. That investment will (a) massively drive down the price of key sensors and actuators, (b) 100x the pool of engineers trained in perception and planning, and (c) inspire tons of entrepreneurs in adjacent industries (trucking, construction, warehouse management, etc.). We will see a surge in autonomous robots replacing dangerous or laborious jobs across industries.

[Mike Vernal, Sequoia Capital]