



COURSE 2

FORECASTING SKILLS



READING MATERIAL

Stories from the Future:
The Coming Era of Autonomous Vehicles

By David Pescovitz, Devin Fidler,
Jean Hagan, Dylan Hendricks

An article from *Future Now Magazine*, 2016



INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

FUTURES THINKING

taught by Institute for the Future with Jane McGonigal



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FORECASTING SKILLS

Our default tendency is to believe that the future will be largely like the present. But this is rarely true. For a majority of people, the future comes as a surprise – or even a shock. With strong forecasting skills you can overcome this bias and become better prepared to adapt and benefit from change.

In this course, you'll learn how to turn groups of signals into compelling forecasts. Forecasts are evidence-based, but often surprising, visions of the future. They can help you illuminate new possibilities and opportunities—for yourself, for your company, or for any community you want to inspire. We'll show you exactly how it's done: Leading futurists from the [Institute from the Future](#) will share with you the forecasts they're most excited about right now and walk you through the key steps they took to create them.

You'll also practice generating scenarios out of your forecasts. A scenario is a very short story about a specific possibility that could happen in the future you've forecast. Scenarios capture imagination and provide concrete examples of how, exactly, the world might be different in the future.

Forecasting skills help you see hard-to-imagine futures before they happen. They enable you to consider possibilities that others might never see coming or refuse to accept. With this foresight, you can evaluate which futures you want to make more likely and which futures you want to prevent.

About this Specialization

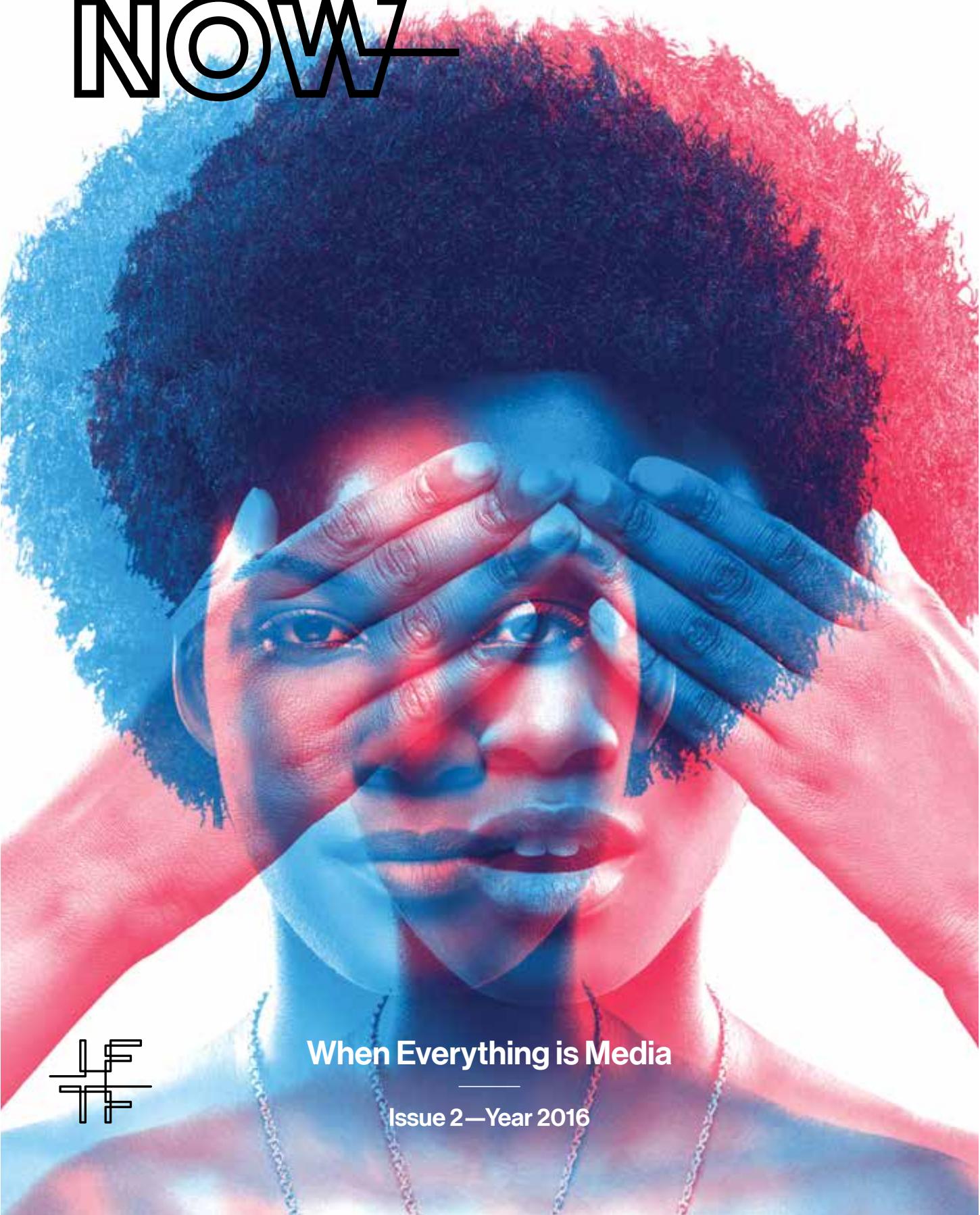
The Institute for the Future is declaring 2020 “The Year of the Future,” because we believe that foresight is a human right. Every human should have the chance to develop the creative skills needed to imagine how the future can be different, and to participate in deciding what the future will be. We believe futures thinking shouldn’t be something that only happens in Silicon Valley. With our specialization in Futures Thinking on Coursera, we are the first organization ever to offer massively open, free training in futures thinking. We aim to upskill the entire planet in future thinking and future making, by teaching one million online learners via the Coursera platform. This text is one of 100 free readings distributed as part of our “Year of the Future” training.

Institute for the Future

Institute for the Future is the world’s leading futures thinking organization. For over 50 years, businesses, governments, and social impact organizations have depended upon IFTF global forecasts, custom research, and foresight training to navigate complex change and develop world-ready strategies. IFTF methodologies and toolsets yield coherent views of transformative possibilities across all sectors that together support a more sustainable future. Institute for the Future is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Palo Alto, California.

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FUTURE NOW



When Everything is Media

Issue 2—Year 2016

Stories From the Future

by David Pescovitz, Devin Fidler,

Jean Hagan, Dylan Hendricks

Illustrations by Jacob Glaser

The Coming Era of Autonomous Vehicles

In the next decade, autonomous vehicles will evolve to become the ultimate mobile computer. These intelligent and connected robots will be nomadic nodes on the Internet of Things, efficiently shuttling atoms around our built environment not unlike packets on the Internet of bits. Sometimes we will ride around inside these mobile computers; just as frequently, they will bring us what we need wherever we are. As the autonomous vehicles traverse our concrete networks, they will collect and share data about the world at very high resolution. This real-time data will help us index our physical world with a greater resolution than ever possible. As that database becomes more comprehensive,

drawing information from myriad sources, it will be the backbone of a new kind of human-machine interface: a search engine for reality itself.

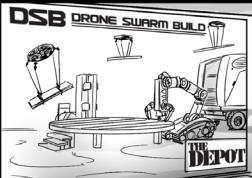
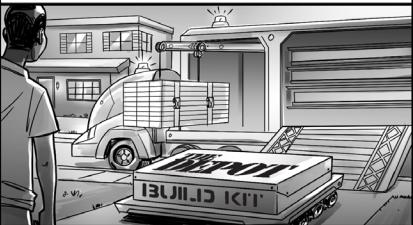
But it's a long road ahead. Working with one of our longstanding clients in the automotive industry, Institute for the Future developed an outside-in, ten-year forecast on the future of autonomous vehicles. The aim was to provoke insights about possible consumer use-cases for fully autonomous vehicles looking ten years out. We presented the forecast in the form of short comics, "Stories from the Future," that are driven by collisions at the intersection of technology and culture.

Matter Routing: The Autonomous Vehicle as a Node on the Internet of Things

THE FREEMANS HAVE JUST MOVED INTO THEIR DREAM HOME. WHILE THEY LOVE THEIR NEW PLACE, THEY DO HAVE A COUPLE OF IMPROVEMENTS THEY WOULD LIKE TO MAKE.



AFTER THE UNASSEMBLED DECK IS ROUTED TO THEIR HOME IN AN AUTONOMOUS TRANSPORTER, THE ASSEMBLY SYSTEM KICKS INTO GEAR.

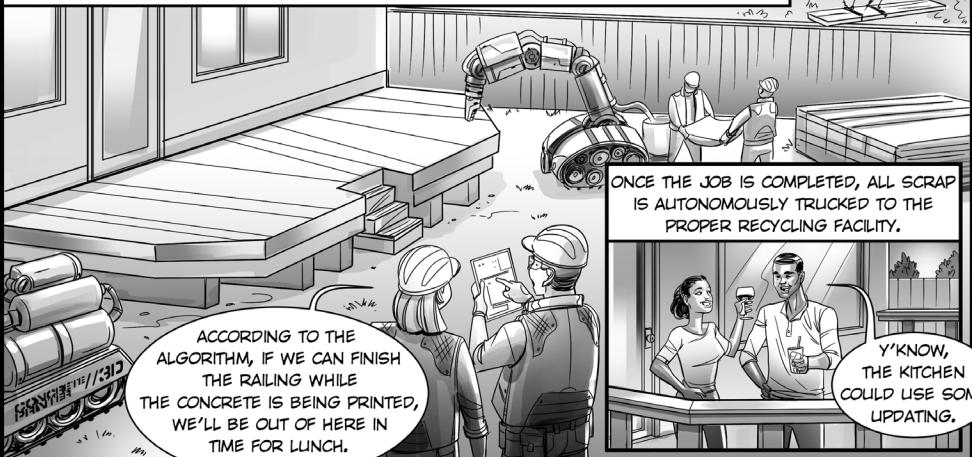


AT THE HARDWARE STORE, THEY DIGITALLY DESIGN THE DECK THEY'D LIKE BUILT. THE STORE OFFERS A "DELIVER, SWARM, BUILD" SERVICE PACKAGE AND THEY SIGN UP.



THE HARDWARE STORE HAS PARTNERED WITH A "LYFT FOR BUILDERS" COMPANY THAT SEARCHES NEARBY FOR THE BEST QUALIFIED WORKERS FOR EACH PART OF THE JOB. AS EACH WORKER ACCEPTS, AN AUTONOMOUS PICK-UP TRUCK IS ROUTED TO THEIR HOMES TO TRANSPORT THEM AND THEIR TOOLS TO THE JOB SITE.

ON SITE, THE SWARM SYSTEMS TIGHTLY CHOREOGRAPH THE PROCESS, ARRANGING, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE FOUNDATION TO BE BUILT JUST BEFORE THE ASSEMBLERS ARRIVE.



ONCE THE JOB IS COMPLETED, ALL SCRAP IS AUTONOMOUSLY TRUCKED TO THE PROPER RECYCLING FACILITY.

Y'KNOW, THE KITCHEN COULD USE SOME UPDATING.

Mobile Family Room: The Journey is the Destination



The Lone Commuter: Rest, Work, Relaxation, Relief



A Collaborative Commute: Workplace on Wheels

AT 8AM, SERENA BRADY'S AUTONOMOUS MICROCAR PARKS AT HER NEW YORK CITY SUBURB'S COMMUTER HUB.



SHE SPOTS HER COLLEAGUES AND TOGETHER THEY BOARD THEIR COLLABORATIVE COMMUTE VEHICLE TO DRIVE THEM TO A HIGH-STAKES MEETING IN WASHINGTON DC.



JUST AS THEY FINISH THEIR MEETING, THE COLLABORATIVE COMMUTE VEHICLE ARRIVES IN DC. THE CLIENTS ARE INVITED ABOARD AND SERENA LAUNCHES INTO HER PRESENTATION.



Gameful Driving: Vehicle as Personal Recreation Space



FORESIGHT

Draw Out Consequences

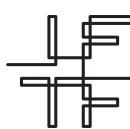


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