



COURSE 2

# FORECASTING SKILLS



INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

**FUTURES THINKING**

taught by Institute for the Future with **Jane McGonigal**

# Signals and drivers behind the scenarios:

## What makes IFTF believe these futures are possible?

This week, you've encountered three new scenarios about the future of technology.

**Scenarios** are based on future forecasts, which are based **on signals of change** and **drivers of change** that are already happening today.

**Here are some of the signals and drivers that inspired the scenarios you discovered this week!** And for more information on these scenarios, check out the Ethical Operating System at [ethicalOS.org](http://ethicalOS.org).



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# Scenario #1: Video-faking algorithms are flooding social media and livestreaming sites with “deepfakes”

Inside the Pentagon’s race against deepfakes [CLICK FOR DRIVERS](#)

How and why deepfake videos work – and what’s at stake [CLICK FOR DRIVERS](#)

Facebook launches \$10 million Deepfake Detection challenge [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

AI listened to people’s voices. Then it generated their faces [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

Baidu’s new AI can mimic your voice after listening to it for just 1 minute [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

Dessa fake “voice clones” are impossible to distinguish from reality [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

Forget politics. For now, deepfakes are bullies [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

Deepfake videos could spark violent social unrest [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

Deepfake “face swap” app Zao making people scared of the future [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)



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## Scenario #2: Facial recognition tech is mainstream and can be added to any app, space or service

Facial recognition is ready for its post-phone future [CLICK FOR DRIVERS](#)

8 surprising uses of facial recognition you didn't know existed [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

New uses for facial recognition today [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

19 best facial recognition apps for 2019 [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

Meet five Chinese start-up companies pushing facial recognition into the mainstream – in public security, financial services, transport and retail [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

Facial recognition edges toward the mainstream in retail [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

5 Indian start-ups bringing facial recognition to the mainstream [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

Facial recognition bans: Coming soon to a city near you [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

Why facial recognition tech could be a problem in the future [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)



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## Scenario #3: “Read-and-write” neurotech is widely available, so memories can be “backed up” and shared with others

Mind Reading and Writing: The Future of Neurotechnology [CLICK FOR DRIVERS](#)

Brain-reading tech is coming. The law is not ready to protect us. [CLICK FOR DRIVERS](#)

21 Neurotech startups to watch [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

Cambridge neurotech startup on a mission to replace pills with algorithms [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

44 Technologies and Startups that hack your brain [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

MIT severs ties with startup promising a brain backup [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

Mary Lou Jepsen on wearable MRI + holography based telepathy [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

Things that will blow your mind: The future of neurotechnology [CLICK FOR SIGNALS](#)

New startup aims to commercialize brain prosthetic to enhance memory [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)

Here’s the tech that could one day track, boost or erase human memory [CLICK FOR SIGNAL](#)



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## 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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