Technology has been around and evolving since humans started learning to use tools and make fire. Now in the 21st century, the word “impossible” is no longer applicable when it comes to technological breakthroughs and scientific discoveries. We have witnessed thousands of technological advancements after four technological revolutions and the line between “natural” and “artificial” is getting thinner. Technology will drastically change how we live and always has profound impacts on everyone in the future.

These changes will happen sooner than we thought. In the past, a computer used to take up the whole room, but after decades of improvements, computer components have shrunk and will continue to shrink more in size to keep up with minimalism and be compatible with smart devices. People will be sucked into the never-ending technological waves and will not stop chasing after new generations of iPhones as long as Apple still dominates the production of smart devices. Soon enough, commuting problems will be partly solved thanks to the inventions of affordable, automatic, driverless vehicles like Tesla. Commuting, therefore, will be more efficient and faster. Also, big data exploration will be a goldmine for those who know how to seize the opportunity, and data science will undoubtedly be the most-pursued field in the job market.

Within a few years, the rise of robots will become inevitable, and AI will be more advanced to take over most of our daily tasks with more accuracy and efficiency. Furthermore, robots could be used for different purposes like forming an army or performing surgery with optimal success. We could even apply technology to develop new vaccines, medications or cure deadly diseases like cancer. The way we obtain information and store data will be different with the existence of augmented reality and cloud computing. Programming languages are expected to be widely used like English. Computer science/IT will likely be included in the curriculum as a mandatory subject for children at young ages, especially encouraging young women to pursue a career in technology.

By 2050, the UN expects the world to have 9.8 billion people. With that growing population, people will run out of spaces to live and meat to consume. Therefore, colonization on a different planet and lab-grown meat or 3-D printed food are ideal solutions. We have already found a sign of life on Mars and NASA has been making promising plans and performing experiments to make it a reality. In terms of meat consumption in the future, the figure will increase by more than 70% than it was in 2005 (Person). By eating 3-D printed food or lab-grown meat, people could be living healthier, and the environment could benefit from having 7% less emission of meat production.

Although future technology comes with undeniable benefits, its negative impacts should also be taken into consideration. As the gap between human and machines is narrowed, it will come to a point when people are too dependent on computers. They may easily be manipulated and forget human interactions. Business retailers will be at risk when online services grow in popularity and unemployment rate would rise after robots replace all human jobs. As a result, the economy could be at stake because no one working will pay tax. Lastly, the problem of cybersecurity will be more severe since the authority, and private firms now keep mass public records and may use them for unjustified reasons.

We have to acknowledge that everything has its two sides and technology is no exception. Even though it poses certain issues, we cannot deny the outweighed benefits since we use technology as part of our lives. As for myself, I think incorporating IT in the common curriculum and making new, positive changes regarding the environment and medical fields with future technology are vital actions that should be taken. I also believe we have to solve safety and privacy problems so that everyone can feel secure when using new technology. For me, I want to help to solve the problem regarding big data because no one should have manipulated public data and used it as an agenda. Personal information should not be taken for granted, and in the future I hope to be a part of something creating new technology to deal with data better. I plan to focus on Computer Science and Economics to become a data scientist and to inspire young women to learn IT in education or pursue a career in STEM fields.

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“I affirm that I have carried out my academic endeavors with full academic honesty."

Signed, Diep Vu (Emma)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vuminhdiep01/>