

The future of telework in the information society

**- March 2002 -
By March 2032**

**Work Where You Live - Live Where You Play
anywhere on Earth**

What conditions are needed for that to be possible?

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To forecast the future - first visit the past.

**The pace of change varies: Inventions come first and fast
Societal change takes a lot longer**

**Alexander Bain invented the fax machine in 1843
Newspapers first sent photographs by fax in 1918**

**Marconi radioed across the Atlantic in 1901
John Logie Baird demonstrated colour TV in 1938
Regular colour TV transmissions from 1950**

EdBonza Broadcast History Timeline

**The Postmaster General in 1625 marvelled that letters
were carried “faster than thought”
in three days from London to Edinburgh.
The One-Penny stamp came in 1840 after 120 years of debate.**

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Compare the electronic revolution with the industrial revolution.

1785 to 1918 was characterised by “Hold your Coat Capitalism”

The automation of industry created immense wealth and created the Dark Satanic Mills in Northern England.

It took 150 years of brutal poverty and World War I for society to start to include everyone in the bonanza.

Today, as electronic automation grows, the same human forces are at work.

“Gangster Economies” proliferate creating aristocrats with immense wealth alongside millions of poor.

ENRON, JAPAN, WORLD BANK funded DICTATORS.

But, as President George Bush Snr. said “There is no such thing as privacy anymore. Forget privacy”.

Wealth sharing will not take 150 years this time.

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The more mobile and flexible the population becomes,
the more established, reliable and solid the world
authorities will have to be.

INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES - THE MULTI-NATIONALS

We wanna live
on a mountain
in Tibet

We wanna live
on a beach

We wanna live
in the Tropics

Energy
Banking
House loans, financial services
Travel
Communications
Security, policing
Food supplies
Water supplies
Health agencies
Taxation
Wealth distribution

We wanna live
in a HUGE City

We wanna live
on a boat

We wanna live
on a horse ranch
in China

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**Elected national and regional politicians
will see their roles change fundamentally
from Chief's to Chef's
offering a large menu of choices.**

**I may like Tony Blair's social agenda, this month,
but may think his business policy is rubbish.**

**People, even the brightest like Einstein and Newton, usually
have one really good idea in their entire lives.
Why should politicians be any different?**

We want to vote on ISSUES not for PEOPLE.

And now you can - electronically

Endless Referenda in an Informed Electorate.

**The executive - the civil servants - will gain power in
presenting and offering issues for vote.**

**The elected representatives will
have to run fast to protect the public interest.**

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What does this Utopian future view presuppose?

Global broadband - solar storms aside - that's assured.

World peace - forever an open question.

Fair business practices globally - trust is essential.

World trade - the process is well underway.

Global standards - products, work conditions, Courts.

Global fiscal systems and social security.

An educated and well informed world population.

This is more advanced than is generally imagined.

Honest politicians.

Honest executives.

Fair wealth distribution.

Local government - very flexible - very local.

Goodwill towards men.

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Local Government

If the population is constantly mobile, moving from desirable living place to desirable place as age, work and hobbies dictate - how should local government respond.

Local government will charge property taxes and make their areas, street by street, attractive for the people to live in.

Good local amenities will attract and retain the best of populations, who will pay their taxes, that will go to improve the environment. - a virtuous circle.

There will be highly specialised communities created - e.g. No Cars, or CFZ's {communication free zones} etc

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The Lost City of Chartered Accountants & Legalopolis - the City of Lawyers.

LEGALOPOLIS

IN THE COOL ALPS ABOVE FRANCE & ITALY

Beautiful homes for discerning lawyers including:

“Iron-Grip” Monopoly on all European legal work

Cable, satellite and microwave links
to all European Courts.

Private plane with every home.

“Auto-Fee” generating computers.

23 nozzle Jacuzzi's in every bathroom.

Best wine cellars in the Northern Hemisphere.

\$£ If you have to ask the price - you can't afford it. £\$



Two
Case
Studies
of
specialised
communities

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Cyberspace Headquarters

By 2012 most international organisations will start to establish virtual headquarters, open for business 24 x7 x365 and accessible from anywhere on (and off) the Earth.

Broadband and even more computer innovation will enable a teleworker, say in Vermont, to access, say the World Health Organisation HQ in Geneva, and “appear” in the virtual corridors and rooms - and be able to see and speak with other virtual colleagues, from other locations, who are also “present”. The visitors will be hosted by the permanent secretaries, specially trained as experts of the electronic environment. All the usual head-office facilities will be available.

Off-Planet-Companies

Before the OECD finally slams the door on silly laws that allow the super-rich not to pay taxes to the communities that made them wealthy, alongside Off-Shore companies there will be “Off-Planet” companies, registered on orbiting satellites - to baffle the legislators and tax collectors.

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**Mankind has worked hard to abolish work
and has very nearly succeeded.**

**If people will be able to live anywhere,
can they work effectively from where they live?**

**By 2022 most goods will be made in automated factories,
close to the sources of primary materials, perhaps built underground,
and controlled by engineers hundreds or even thousands of miles away.
Financial services, fiscal and economic controls and most
desk work will be entirely automatic, conducted by computers.**

**The question is not “Can we do this” but more pertinently,
“Who will own it”.**

When nobody *HAS TO* work, who will own the capital?

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**If nobody *has* to work - and if people live longer,
What on earth will they do with their time?**

People will still choose to work - but for a far smaller part of their lives.

**This question assumes an automatic and fair ownership
of income and capital. If that can be done - say from birth
and people are born to a life of middle-class security,
they are most likely to pursue self-education, hobbies
research, invention and vocational work.**

**There are many models of middle-class affluent societies
to examine and to follow.**

**Universal and lifelong education was identified in 1992 by
Martin Bangemann, EC Commissioner for Telecommunications and Industry,
as the largest single application for the tools of the Information Society.**

**Go home and tell your kids they will be staying
at school for the next 120 years.**

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Next Steps

The seismic social forces to create the necessary changes are already apparent.

Global, trustworthy, financial systems will follow from the ENRON and similarly massive frauds. The Gangster economies will be stopped. Auditors will Audit. Financial and legal systems will be harmonised.

The OECD is shutting down Tax Havens and Money Laundering centres - crime will no longer pay. This is a necessary condition for global fiscal and social security systems. Electronic money exchanges have created a global currency. Silly legal loop-holes for the super-wealthy to evade taxes are being closed. Good law systems are going global. All transactions are traceable - if the political will exists.

TV, radio and newspaper are increasingly taking the public's pulse and then using the results to put pressure on politicians. Real issues, referendum politics is on the way.

Major companies are increasingly acknowledging their social role, publishing Social and Environmental reports on their own behaviour.

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We are living in extraordinary times.

And all change is threatening - so hang on for the reactionaries.

The Electronic Revolution has barely started.

**The current pace of change is unprecedented,
other perhaps than change caused by natural disasters.**

**The wealth created by this revolution is immense and
it is sustainable. Global warming will bring changes
but not disaster - just move to higher ground and invest
in the Antarctic.**

**We are, I believe, moving away from the hostile, warring
infantile period of mankind's tenancy on this planet,
where capital has often been won by force of arms, into an era
of intelligent co-operation - enabled by the Information Society.**

Societal change is neck and neck with Technological change.

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The Final Frontier
the most serious question is:
How will wealth be shared?



Who owns the Starship Enterprise?
What is the salary structure - Is this a flattened organisation?