

TECH PREDICTIONS THROUGH THE YEARS

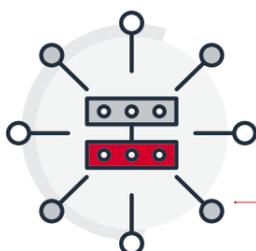
Getting it Right and Wrong

Over the past 50 years, ISACA and the industry overall have had innovative ideas about where technology and the profession were going in the future—some that came true, and some that didn't. We look through media coverage and ISACA publications from over the decades to explore these predictions and where we are now.

1968

PREDICTION

(a year before EDPAA's founding)
"In a few years, men will be able to communicate more effectively through a machine than face to face." Robert Taylor and Joseph Carl Robnett Licklider¹



WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

In 1969, just days after the EDPAA was incorporated, the US Department of Defense ARPANET was launched as the **first computer communications network**, becoming the predecessor of today's Internet.²

1977

PREDICTION

"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home." Ken Olson, president, chairman, and founder of Digital Equipment Corp, 1977.³

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Computers are ubiquitous household items today. By 2015, **86.8 percent of all households in the United States had a computer** in the home.⁴



1982



PREDICTION

Many chapter members will leave the Association if the name is changed from the Electronic Data Processing Auditors Association (EDPAA) to ISACA.⁵

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

ISACA's name change did not harm its membership, which continued to increase in each of the following years. **There are now more than 140,000 ISACA members in 188 countries.**

1983

PREDICTION

The Privacy Act of 1974, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 and the pending Federal Computer Security Protection Act are stepping-stones to more comprehensive legislation.⁶

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Several landmark privacy laws and regulations have been enacted around the world since then, **including the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** in 2018.

PREDICTION

Decisions can and will be made by artificial intelligence, by computers grown large or very small, like a pocket encyclopedia.⁷

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Today, many people use AI-powered technology such as AI assistants like Siri and Alexa, or chatbots in customer service scenarios—and often from their cellphone. The algorithms behind AI systems also are used to help make predictions and provide feedback, which can be used to shape decision-making both at home and in the workplace.

1999

PREDICTION

Once the year 2000 (Y2K) hits, there will be major disruptions to computer networks that impact financial systems, utilities, transportation and more.⁸

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Due to investments in computer repairs and upgrades, as well as advance education by organizations like ISACA, **the clock turned to 1 January 2000 without major problems.**



2010

PREDICTION

CIOs will automate everything, everywhere.⁹



WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

The impact of AI is unquestionable, and this prediction was spot on. Today, automation is becoming a part of life and being integrated more and more into the workplace; in 60 percent of jobs, one-third of activities could be automated. However, **only 5 percent of current occupations can be entirely automated**, according to a November 2017 McKinsey report.

2017



PREDICTION

Ransomware has become a profitable business model around the world, and will continue to escalate.¹⁰

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

Ransomware attacks are actually down from last year, according to ISACA's 2018 State of Cybersecurity report. This could be due to increased preparedness by potential victims.

1 Science and Technology, "The Computer as a Communication Device," <https://www.britannica.com/topic/ARPANET>

2 <https://www.britannica.com/topic/ARPANET>

3 Fast Company, "Timeline of Failed Predictions (Part 1)," <https://www.fastcompany.com/1706712/timeline-failed-predictions-part-1>

4 Statista, "Percentage of households in the United States with a computer at home from 1984 to 2015,"

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/214641/household-adoption-rate-of-computer-in-the-us-since-1997/>

5 Response from the June 1982 Report of the Committee Regarding a Possible Change of Name from the EDP Auditors Association

6 1983 EDP Audit Journal article, "Audit Career Paths," Frederick Gallegos

7 1983 EDP Journal article "What EDP Auditors Will See in the Future," Steven J. Ross

8 Time, "Top 10 Failed Predictions," http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,2097462_2097456_2097487,00.html

9 ISACA Now blog post, "Six predictions for CIOs," <http://www.isaca.org/Knowledge-Center/Blog/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=99>

10 ISACA Now blog post, "2018 Predictions for Cyber Security," <https://www.isaca.org/Knowledge-Center/Blog/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=912>