Top 15 Expert Tech Predictions for

2015

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1

The Future Looks Cloudier than Ever

As offerings like cloud-based Office 365 replace traditional software, the use of the cloud will continue to expand in 2015.

Businesses and consumers will turn to cloud-based solutions for services, storage, computing and applications. 75% of Forbes' survey respondents are already using cloud platforms, and additional studies predict that over 50% of information technology will move to the cloud in the next **5-10 years**.

2

Security Will Be a Top Priority

With the growth of the Internet of Things and cloud-based applications, the need for greater security will take center stage.
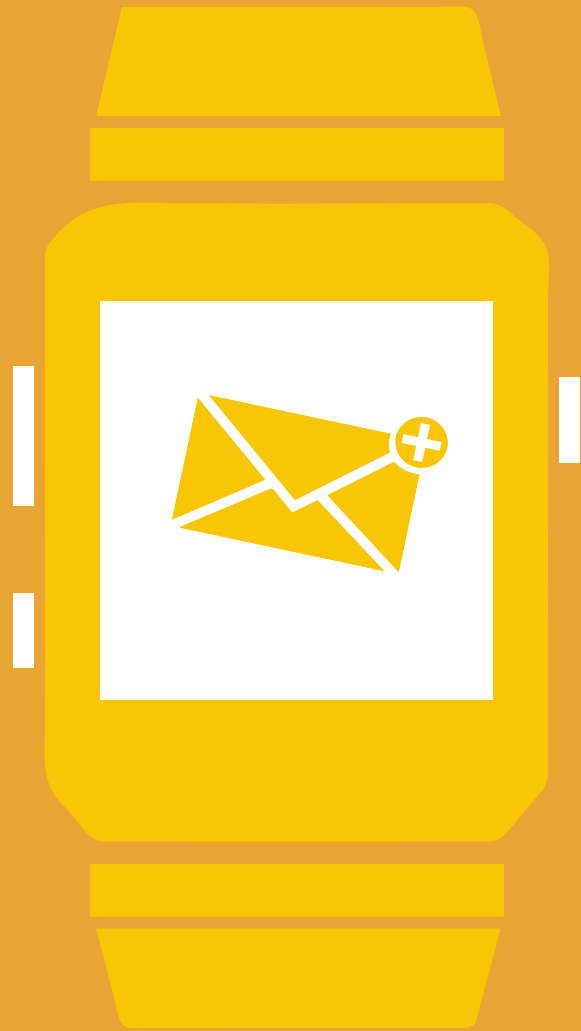
HP reports that 70% of the 10 most common connected devices contain **serious vulnerabilities**. Growing awareness and concern about data breaches will lead to software integration with devices, making them more secure but less flexible and harder to program.

3

Fashion Will Get a Tech Makeover

If you're not adjusting your smart jewelry or earbuds while looking at your Fitbit smartwatch through Google Glass, your wardrobe might need an update.
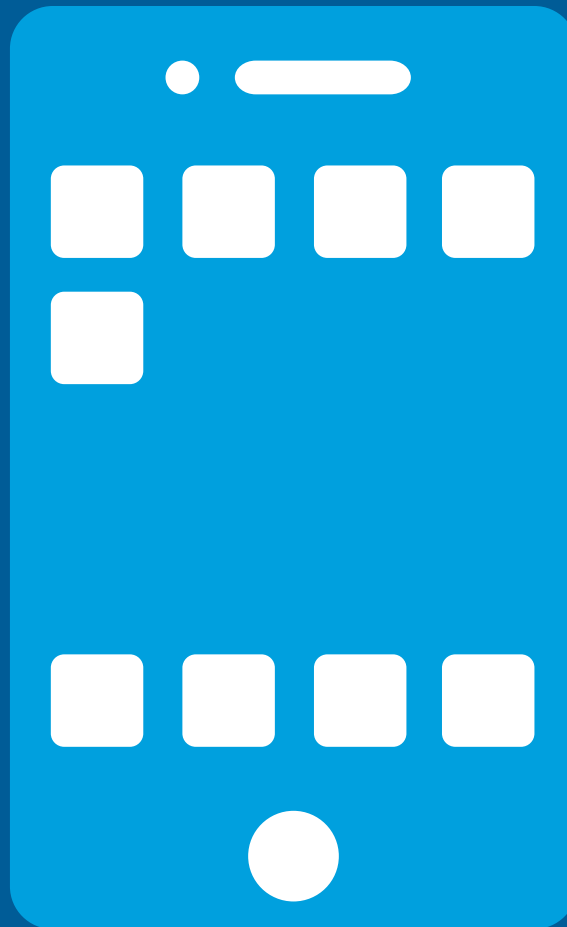
Consumers are looking for smarter accessories. In 2013, roughly 40% of Statista survey respondents were interested in buying a smartwatch . With the Apple Watch debuting in 2015, we can expect these numbers to grow. According to CMO Exclusives, worldwide spending on wearable technology will reach **$1.4 billion** by 2016.

4

The Year of the Adaptive Mobile App

There will be a higher demand this year for more localized apps and app development tools that can bridge gaps between devices.

With **58%** of American adults using a smartphone, and an average of 2 hours 19 minutes spent on mobile applications daily, expect smarter cross platform tools for development, such as c# and Xamarin. The trend toward localized apps will continue to grow as we rely on mobile devices to navigate.

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5

Big Data Will Be Replaced with Better Data

As Big Data gets bigger, there will be more pressure to sift through the myriad of detailed information in order to map out better marketing strategies for the future.

In 2015, companies from all sectors - from the stock market to health insurance - will be hiring data scientists using predictive technology to make sense of **enormous** amounts of data.

6

Welcome to Generation XaaS

This year, businesses will be able to find Anything-as-a-Service (XaaS)——as in software (SaaS), delivery (DaaS), platform (PaaS), infrastructure (IaaS), etc.

XaaS

IaaS is expected to achieve a growth of **41.3%** per year through 2016, making it the fastest growing area of public cloud computing as tracked by Gartner . On-demand services will transform the way we design, manage and run businesses.

7

Our Memory Will Improve

The long-overdue DDR4 upgrade in memory will replace DDR3 as consumers and businesses look to save energy and battery life while increasing their computer's performance.

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DDR4 requires 20% less energy than DDR3 and offers better efficiency in standby mode that will reduce power consumption by **40 to 50%**.

8

The Human Voice will be the Next Great Tech Driver

Advances in speech recognition and voice activation will transform technology and daily life.

Aside from the well-known software programs like Siri and Dragon, speech recognition and voice activation applications will grow with increased use in automotive, military, medical and other sectors, including **everyday** life.

9

Devices Will Blur the Line between Work and Home

The increase of BYO Device practices in the workplace will necessitate better Mobile Device Management to safeguard companies from security breaches and lost or stolen personal devices.
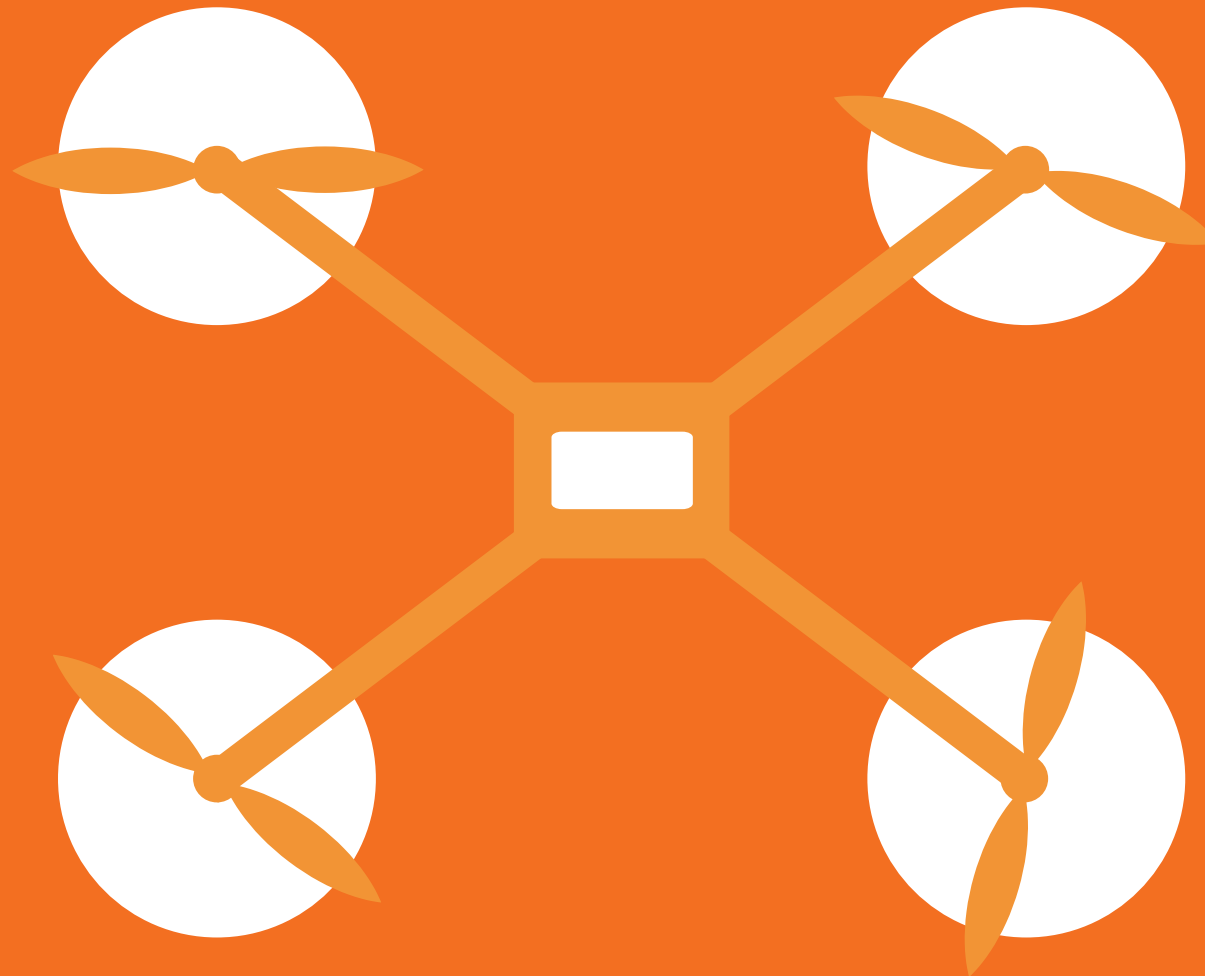
2015 will bring more mobile device security measures, including corporate security protocols for downloading content on our devices. Gartner predicts that by **2017**, 25% of enterprises will have an enterprise app store for managing corporate-sanctioned apps on PCs and mobile devices.

10

Drones Will Crowd the Airspace

Cheaper, easier to operate drones will lead to the increased adoption of UAV in a limitless number of sectors.

Last year, the FAA expected **7,500** commercial drones to be in the sky by 2018, and more than **30,000** by 2033 . Benevolent drone-supported efforts to save wildlife and consumer-driven startups such as the new Nixie drone for capturing better "selfies" will accelerate the development of unmanned aerial devices.

11

We'll Organize
Our Data Online

Instead of hiring programmers (or prolonging DIY headaches), businesses will look to online database builders in 2015.
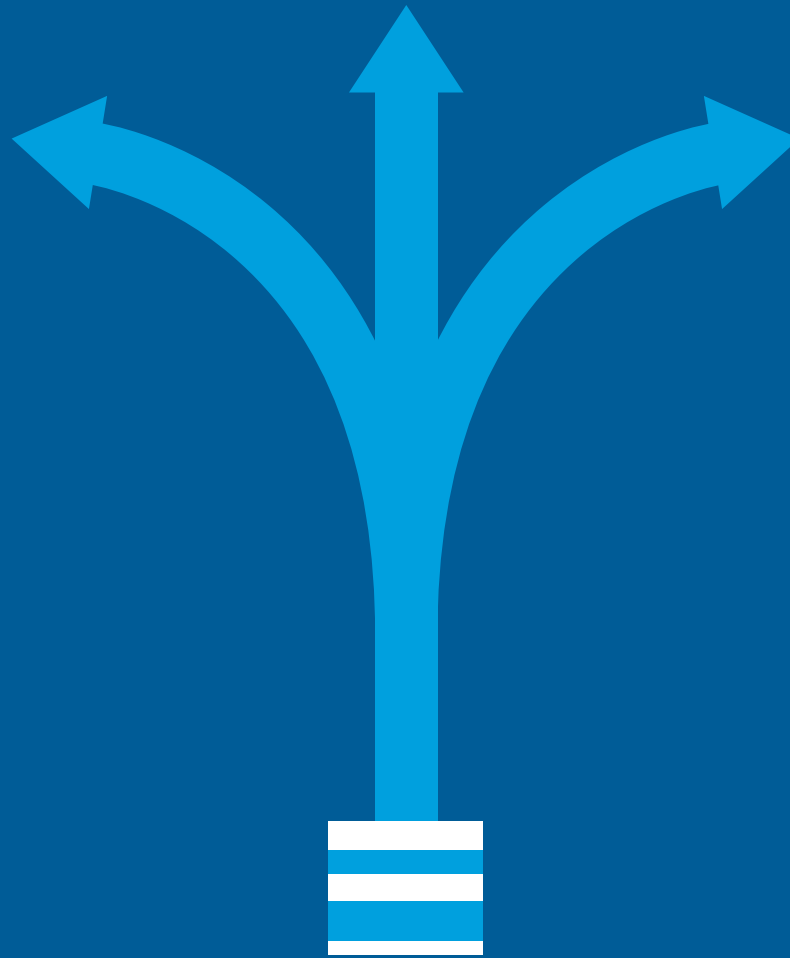
Just as Wordpress and SquareSpace gave consumers access to programming-free, user-friendly web development, online database builders like Intuit, Knack, Zoho and Caspio will offer **simple drag and drop solutions** for managing lists, projects, and other data.

12

Software Defined Networks Will Take Off

This year will see a revolution in networking, as defined by software.

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Cloud, mobile, social and Big Data trends will feed demand for more flexible network solutions and cause networking to **shift dramatically** from the status quo to a new era of software defined networks.

13

The Phablet Phenomenon is Here

With more consumers looking for devices that straddle tablet and smartphone functionality in 2015, phones will continue to get bigger.

Tablet sales are **decreasing** as smartphone sizes are **increasing** (the iPhone has grown by 57% since 2011) to meet demand for larger, still-mobile screens.

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14

Cash Registers and Credit Cards will become Antiques

A growing number of wireless and mobile payment applications will allow points of sale to take place anywhere.
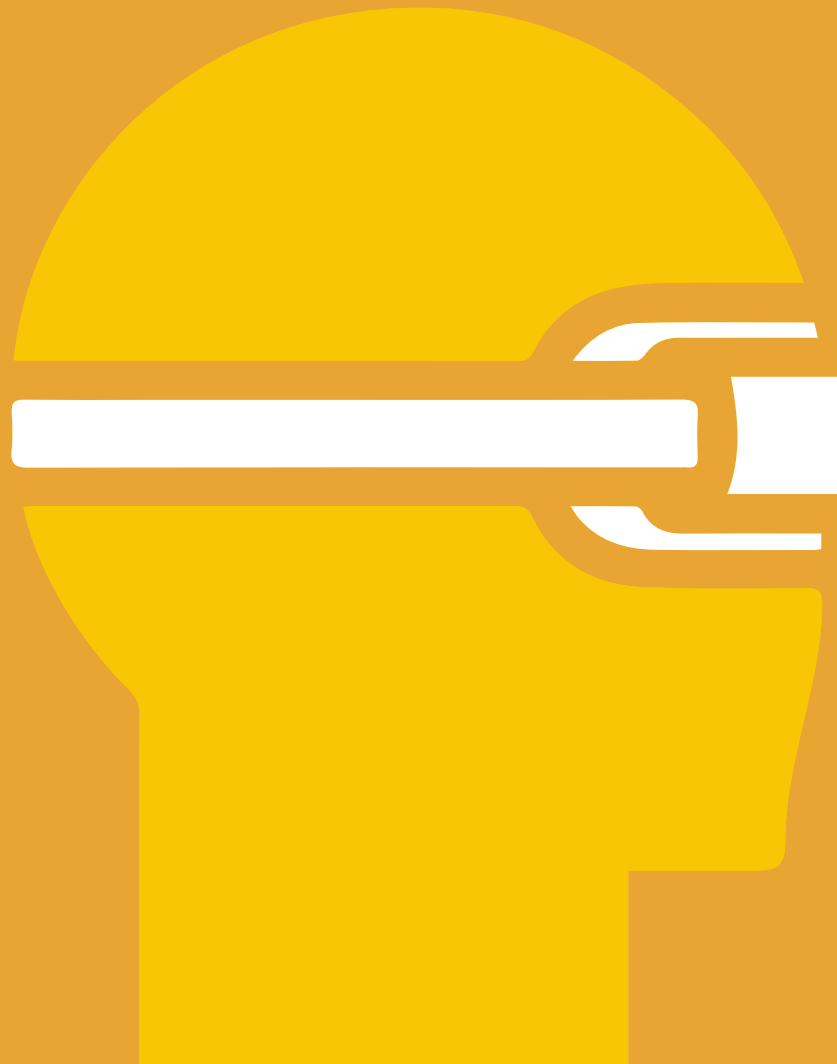
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Wireless payment solutions such as Square will continue to make transactions more convenient. Even newer, near field communications (NFC) mobile payment services like Apple Pay will turn phones into **virtual wallets** and make that pile of plastic cards obsolete.

15

We'll Take Virtual Vacations

New devices like the Oculus Rift and Samsung's virtual reality headset will abound in 2015, offering everything from gaming and movie watching to **virtual vacations** and advertising.

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According to Idea4Industry.com, virtual reality is now being considered one of the next **major** technological developments by large consumer brands, such as Facebook.

About Experts Exchange

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Survey Methodology

Predictions were submitted through a survey of Experts Exchange qualified Experts in December 2014.

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