IBM's Top 5 Predictions for Next 5 Years

Written by Marco Attard
17 December 2010

Citizen scientists, 3D interactive holograms, static electricity harvesting, cities heated by data centers and better traffic control systems make up IBM's predictions for the next 5 years.

Through sensors already available in smartphones, cars and computers (all internet connected), people will be collecting data to be used by scientists, thus helping environmental research and more.

IBM predicts science-fiction style advances for holographic interfaces-- from 3D face-to-face conferencing to interaction with online 3D images, all in real-time.

Power is a big concern in the forecasts, with batteries "breathing" static electricity from the air or battery-free gadgets recharging through kinetic or static electricity. IBM also proposes making use the vast quantities of hot air generated by data centers to heat up water and buildings. Around 50% of current data center energy consumption goes into cooling.

The final prediction is better GPS systems improving commutes, predicting (and avoiding) traffic congestion and accidents by using real-time traffic data.

Go [IBM Next 5 in 5](#)