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Data & Information Trends in the Fast Age

Daphne Stanford · Wednesday, May 17th, 2017

Data is everywhere we turn, lately: from wearable technology to new smartphone apps to wireless access in unexpected places, the increasing access to information translates to a greater need for information systems professionals well-versed in cybersecurity, systems analysis, and efficient data sharing and management.

What does this abundance of information mean for the rest of us? First, we'll want to make sure our devices are secure and protected from potential cyber-thieves and hackers in the business of finding weak spots. Second, the expansion of data use and access offers expanded opportunities for networking and creative projects, and we should take advantage of these advances in technology by integrating our daily practice with new technology, in addition to traditional mediums. Third, it could be financially beneficial to take a few classes or even obtain a second degree in a field related to information systems, IT, or coding—especially if considering a career change or supplementary income.

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Mobile Security Basics

Now that everywhere we go has wireless capability, it's useful to know a few safety precautions to take whenever accessing the Internet via a public Wi-Fi network. First of all, always avoid open, unsecured networks that don't require a password. Most libraries and coffee shops require a password in order to gain access to the network, so that should be the first gauge of general safety and trustworthiness. Many hackers are known to set up open networks in public places that are not password-protected, in hopes they might lure unsuspecting victims into signing in to their network and steal sensitive information like passwords to bank accounts or email accounts.

It's best to avoid activities like paying bills and checking one's checking account balance online, while connected to public Wi-Fi. Always make sure that your laptop's file-sharing capabilities are switched to "Off," when utilizing shared Wi-Fi. Better yet, download VPN server software to encrypt your data and computer location; that way, your device will be even more secure than it was before. Lastly, use common sense and avoid leaving your laptop unattended in a public place, since hackers can install key-loggers to capture your keystrokes; and try to find a spot that affords plenty of screen privacy, so as to avoid tempting wandering eyes.

Networking & Productivity

We are living in a time that practically ensures continuous Internet connectivity, assuming we own a smartphone or other mobile device. However, one of the few remaining restricted arenas is air travel: in fact, the FCC frowns upon inflight cell phone calling to such a great extent that their new chairman, Ajit Pai, recently circulated a proposed order to block inflight calls. Although voice calls are frowned upon, however, some mobile carriers offer Wi-Fi services like texting and online access to flight passengers who prefer to stay connected. And some airports like Miami International now offer beacon-enabled apps with IoT location connectivity informing passengers of important flight information like arrival and boarding times.

Career Opportunities

Because of this growing demand for onboard passenger connectivity and communication systems, there will be a greater need for professionals, such as Aero IT Specialists, to help troubleshoot, repair, and install onboard networking systems that accommodate both passengers and flight crews. They'll need to install networks that don't interfere with communications between air traffic controllers and pilots, and they'll also need to address growing cybersecurity concerns, in the process.

Machine learning will also continue to become integral most aspects of IT, according to Ash Ashutosh, founder and CEO of Acitifio. Artificial intelligence will help not only B2C marketers but B2B marketers looking to understand the supply chain of a business. Hopefully, artists and writers will find a way to tap into this need by creating more virtual worlds with 360-degree views of potential buyers and their journey.

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What arenas do you predict will most greatly benefit from Information Systems and IT professionals over the next decade? Share your thoughts in the comments section, below!

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