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IDT 510: Discussion 2

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"What is your impression of the biggest opportunities and challenges you think Information Technology will face in the years ahead?"

The opportunities in Information Technology are literally endless. The field not only has the second fastest job growth rate in the U.S., but IT also has the opportunity to improve our lives in so many areas. The possibility of what advances might be ahead in medicine, research, and in education are truly beyond our wildest imaginations. Who would have dreamed, only a decade ago, of the tremendous amount of accessibility to content that we have today; access that we almost already take for granted. Wireless and cellular devices provide us with access to content anytime, anywhere. Most homes in the U.S. now have the ability to send and receive email, exchange music, photos, and videos, and access a multitude of content on the Internet. Many automobiles offer navigation systems that utilize satellite GPS and real-time traffic. Television programs, concerts, and movies-on-demand are now streamed into our lives at the mere press of a button.

My own personal interest is in the advances that are possible in the field of education. As digital communication technologies, and educational research and design are forwarded and conglomerated, the ability to have just-in-time instruction on any topic or skill at your fingertips, again anytime, anywhere, becomes more and more plausible. An important goal, in my opinion will be to insure that pedagogically sound principals are being applied to the technologies that are being utilized to enhance the learning process. In addition, the ability to reach a populace that is physically or learning impaired in some way should be increased dramatically to make our society a more inclusive one. Being able to adapt learning methods to student's preferred learning styles will also most certainly make education more effective and more valuable to advancing our civilization's knowledge base, giving our populace the ability to make smarter choices and thereby becoming more productive in the long term.

The biggest challenge IT has comes from the U.S. government in two main areas 1) congress is actually considering legislation to censure content on the Internet 2) the I.R.S. is trying to figure out how to tax its usage. On the IT management side storage and distribution will continue to be big challenges. Not only the number of files, but also the size of files generated by rich media content, are increasing by geometric proportions, the ability to store, locate, and distribute will this ever-growing myriad of content will continue to be some of the biggest challenges to overcome in the coming decades.