People always ask me, “What do you think will come or change with the future of technology?” I try to stay up to date with the changes but the world of technology these last couple years have been a blink of an eye. If you look at the past 5 years, we have smart phones that can pretty much do everything, GPS, Printers that can print actual 3 Dimensional items. Just look how even the movie industry has changed from now doing 3D movies. I remember when I was kid we didn’t have any of these gadgets and things. We didn’t even get a computer until I was in my teens and I think the cost was almost $2000. Now some people these days have a computer, laptop, iPhone, iPad, etc. Times have changed and are always changing (especially in technology).

Now the big question is what is forecast to come within the next 5 or 10 years. I have compiled a list of things that may or may not happen but very interesting. Enjoy the read and Thanks for a great year of change. ☺

[**The Mars Science Laboratory**](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/msl/index.html) – By August 2012, the next mission to Mars will reach the Martian surface with a new rover named Curiosity focusing on whether Mars could ever have supported life, and whether it might be able to in the future. Curiosity will be more than 5 times larger than the previous Mars rover, and the mission will cost around $2.3 billion — or just about one and a half New Yankee Stadiums.

[**The paralyzed will walk**](http://www.walkagainproject.org/)**.** But, perhaps not in the way that you’d imagine. Using a machine-brain interface, researchers are making it possible for otherwise paralyzed humans to control neuroprostheses — essentially mechanical limbs that respond to human thought — allowing them to walk and regain bodily control. The same systems are also being developed for the military, which one can only assume means this project won’t flounder due to a lack of funding.

[**The Rise of Electronic Paper**](http://youtu.be/oq_2LiTxhls) – Right now, e-paper is pretty much only used in e-readers like the Kindle, but it’s something researchers everywhere are [eager to expand upon](http://www.patentlyapple.com/patently-apple/2011/04/apple-devising-smart-hybrid-e-papervideo-ios-displays.html). [Full-color](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VmCrblDMlc) video integration is the obvious next step, and as tablet prices fall, its likely newspapers will soon be fully eradicated from their current form. The good news: less deforestation, and more user control over your sources.

[**4G will be the new standard**](http://www.droid-life.com/2011/05/20/verizon-looks-to-end-3g-service-go-all-4g-lte-by-2013/) in cell phone networks. What this means: your phone will download data about as fast as your home computer can. While you’ve probably seen lots of 4G banter from the big cell providers, it’s not very widely available in most phones. However, both Verizon and the [EU](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703989004575652013636881230.html) intend to do away with 3G entirely by 2013, which will essentially bring broadband-level speeds to wireless devices on cell networks. It won’t do away with standard internet providers, but it will bring “worldwide Wi-Fi” capabilities to anyone with a 4G data plan.

[**The first around-the-world flight by a solar-powered plane**](http://www.solarimpulse.com/) will be accomplished by now, bringing truly clean energy to air transportation for the first time. Consumer models are still far down the road, but you don’t need to let your imagination wander too far to figure out that this is definitely a game-changer. Consider this: it took humans quite a few millennia to figure out how to fly; and only a fraction of that time to do it with solar power.

[**$100 personal DNA sequencing**](http://www.technologyreview.com/read_article.aspx?ch=specialsections&sc=tr10&id=22112) is what’s being promised by a company called BioNanomatrix, which the company founder Han Cao has made possible through his invention of the ‘nanofluidic chip.’ What this means: by being able to cheaply sequence your individual genome, a doctor could biopsy a tumor, sequence the DNA, and use that information to determine a prognosis and prescribe treatment for less than the cost of a modern-day x-ray. And by specifically inspecting the cancer’s DNA, treatment can be applied with far more specific — and effective — accuracy.

[**Personal 3D Printing**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ew7ZZWP9J78) is currently reserved for those with extremely large bank accounts or equally large understandings about 3D printing; but by 2015, printing in three dimensions (essentially personal manufacturing) will become a common practice in the household and in schools. Current affordable solutions include do-it-yourself kits like [Makerbot](http://www.makerbot.com/), but in four years it should look more like a compact version of the [uPrint](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt3EGgtSAUc&feature=player_embedded). Eventually, this technology could lead to technologies such as [nanofabricators and matter replicators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molecular_assembler) — but not for at least a few decades.

[**The sunscreen pill**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/aug/31/sunscreen-pill-coral-five-years) will hit the market, protecting the skin as well as the eyes from UV rays. By reverse-engineering the way coral reefs shield themselves from the sun, scientists are very optimistic about the possibility, much to the dismay of sunscreen producers everywhere.