



Stephen Northcutt's Emerging Trends in IT and Security 2012 - 2014

3D Printers. Will begin to do to sculpture what giclees did to painting.

Anonymous takes it to the next level. It may be by a different name, lulzsec, Antisec, or whatever, but a worldwide, skilled, interconnected, hacktivist group will make their past exploits, which are already impressive, look like child's play. Don't believe me? Just ask Stratfor, the California Police Union, Specialforces.com, Westboro Baptist, Sony, or NATO for starters.

Gambling. NADEX filed to allow binary options on the upcoming presidential election, but Business Insider says the CFTC is icing the proposal for 90 days. Binary options would pay \$100 if you win, \$0 if you don't, so it feels like gambling. It looks like online gambling will be legal in the United States in 2012. While Harvard Medical School has released a report that gambling is not increasing, I have a contrarian prediction: gambling will increase worldwide, with a significant part of the growth based on mobile apps.

Geolocation records used inappropriately. You load an app on your mobile device and it uses GPS, location of 802.11 etc., to determine your position and phones that data home. Sometime soon, probably in the elections, you are going to see geolocation records used to discredit some politician showing they went to some seedy location. This will be 2012's version of the video rental records used to discredit Robert Bork, a Supreme Court nominee, and will cause Congress to pass a law similar to the Video Privacy Protection Act.

Hacking Cars. Proof of concept car hacks have made the news for a couple years now. Before 2014 ends, you will see one of these techniques used for carjacking.

India. This country's economy will continue to grow largely based on advances in IT and information processing. This is not to suggest that holding the ETF EPI will prove to be a wise idea, it will lag behind the country's rate of growth.

IPv6. Companies will have to start taking v6 seriously when devices they buy from China only have a v6 stack. By 2014, even the US will have companies implementing it; badly, or to do it right. Network attacks, largely a solved problem today, will come roaring back.

Robotics. Will continue to be a growing part of industry, especially in manufacturing and medicine. If you are an investor, do yourself a favor and take a look at Robotreport, Robotstocknews, Business Insider, Stockpickr, my favorite is ISRG even though it went down today when almost everything else went up.

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SPOTLIGHT

Tech Stocks. According to Searchengine land, 22% of searches in 2012 will be from mobile devices. Experian hitwise says Google had 66% of searches (mobile or not) in July 2011. They also state that Bing is increasing to about 15%. Many pundits claim the laptop is dead, but I love the computerworld article talking about the laptop of 2015. Unwired says Apple has sold 200 million IOS devices, 25 million are iPads. If you don't have an iPad, it makes sense to get one. My first prediction is that it probably makes sense to hold shares of Google (GOOG), Microsoft (MSFT) and Apple (AAPL). Last year I also suggested IBM, EMC, DELL and HPQ. Needless to say, it looks like Hewlett Packard (HPQ) might be in a bit of trouble, and there is insider selling at EMC, but the others are worth looking at and making your own wise decisions.

Big Data. For years I have been saying that investing in companies that manufacture disk drives or focus on data warehousing makes sense. The disaster in Thailand will slow this down a bit, but as we process and collect more data and improve algorithms for search and storage, people will actually successfully monetize the vast amounts of data that have been collected. Scott McNealy will be proven right, "you already have zero privacy - get over it".

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