

THE NetworkGuy

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What Can Going Back in Time Tell Us about the Future?

Did you mom pour you a glass of Tang when you came home after a full day of riding your bicycle with a banana seat through the neighborhood? If so, you may be a child of the 1970s.

Are Saturday morning cartoons, an Atari 2600 joystick, Cabbage Patch Kids, Fruit Roll-Ups, and Hi-C Ecto Cooler core parts of your childhood? If so, you probably grew up in the 1980s.

No matter what decade defined your childhood, do you remember a time before the Internet? If you do, you probably couldn't imagine how being "connected" would change the world. Likewise, none of us fully knows what innovations will change our lives in the next few decades.

(continued)

Learn from The Network Guy

What's the difference between generative and agentic AI?

The Network Guy:

Unlike traditional AI models which operate within predefined constraints and require human intervention, Agentic AI exhibits autonomy, goal driven behavior, and adaptability. In short, Agentic AI is an Artificial Intelligence system that can accomplish a specific goal with limited supervision. Its machine learning models mimic human decision-making to solve problems in real-time. In a multiagent system, each agent performs a specific task to reach the goal. Their efforts are coordinated through AI orchestration.

The Network Guy Quiz Challenge

PenTeleData is giving one lucky winner a \$150 Amazon Gift Card. Just visit www.ptd.net/quiz by **September 30, 2026** to answer the contest question. We will select a winner at random from all correct entries. **Good Luck!**

Click the **Quiz Challenge** link and and choose which type of A.I. exhibits autonomy and accomplish a goal with limited supervision.



Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

Abraham Lincoln is the only president to have held a patent. It was granted in 1849 for an inflatable device meant to lift boats over sandbars.

On August 16, 1858, the first transatlantic telegraph was sent from Queen Victoria to the President of the United States, James Buchanan. It took over 16 hours to transmit her message. Less than a month later, that cable was rendered useless because the high-voltage current burned through the poorly designed insulation.

Thomas Jefferson invented a cylindrical wheel-based encryption device in the 1790s for secret diplomatic correspondence. It was forgotten and independently rediscovered a century later when the US Navy was designing the M-94 cipher device that saw use through WW2.

On February 23, 1936, an unofficial rocket mail test sent two rocket-load mail bags about 2,000 feet across a frozen lake from Greenwood Lake, New York, toward the post office in Hewitt, New Jersey. The rockets crash-landed on the ice, and the local postmaster stayed true to his postal oath and dragged the mail the rest of the way.

On June 8, 1959, the U.S. Navy submarine USS Barbero launched a Regulus I cruise missile carrying 3,000 letters over 100 miles to Mayport, Florida in 22 minutes. Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield predicted global missile mail delivery before humans reached the moon, but extreme costs ended the concept.

Amazon's late 2016 patent for "controlling access to digital items based on a user's time outside" allows a "primary account user" (read: parent) to establish weather constraints on access to digital items. So when it's sunny and nice outside, the "secondary account user" (read: digitally addicted child) can't use the screens and has to go outside and play.

The patent for a 3D printer in 1986 was ahead of its time, but the document outlines the basic technology used by most 3D printers today: stereolithography, or light-solidification of resin. A moving platform takes inputs from a computer and positions the base under a nozzle. Liquid resin from the nozzle forms the object, layer by layer, which is solidified by UV light.

Network Fun Fact

Although regular mirrors lose a small amount of light with every bounce, fiber optics use total internal reflection which is 100% efficient. No light is absorbed or scattered. One fiber can carry a signal across an ocean with less loss than bouncing a light off a mirror several dozen times. It's perfect physics!

PenTeleData is Proud to Serve Waymart, PA

Waymart is a borough in Wayne County, Pennsylvania. The first settlers located in Waymart around 1790; however, the borough was not incorporated until 1851. The Borough included an area of approximately 1920 acres.

This Pennsylvania Heritage Community in the Pocono Mountains boasts the last remaining Delaware and Hudson Gravity Railroad Depot, once a site where coal was stockpiled during winter months before being weighed and shipped on the canal in Honesdale in the spring. The community, then known as "weight-market," became Waymart. In addition to its rich railroading and Coal Country roots, Waymart proves a great jumping-off point for a multitude of outdoor recreational activities throughout the Pocono Mountains region.

The Delaware and Hudson Gravity Railroad Depot on South Street in Waymart sits about 150 feet from where it was originally built in 1875. It was placed on the Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places in 1976. After the Gravity System was disbanded in 1899 to be replaced by a steam locomotive railroad, the D&H sold the building to the Borough of Waymart for \$125. The depot was used after its acquisition in 1900 as a Borough Hall until the 1940's when because of its condition it was relegated to use as a garage. The depot was the site of Plane No. 7 of the Gravity Railroad.

Early 1900's industry included an ice plant, sweater factory, creameries, a sawmill, lumbering, farming and a grist mill.

Today, Waymart offers local history, outdoor recreation, and small-town dining along Route 6 in the Poconos.

(Sources: <http://www.waymartborough.org/>, <https://www.northernpoconos.org/history/>, and <https://paroute6.com/heritage-communities/waymart-pa/>)





Patriotic Fun Fact

The oldest public school in America is Boston Latin School, founded in 1635. As a classical grammar school, it focused on preparing boys for university and civic leadership. The school still operates today, making it a remarkable link to the earliest days of American education.

During this era, boys often received more formal instruction, while girls were typically taught basic reading, household skills, and moral instruction. It wasn't until the 1800s that coeducational public schools became more common, expanding opportunities for girls.

By the 1700s and 1800s, simple "common schools"—often just one room with one teacher—became widespread. Students of all ages learned side-by-side, and lessons centered on reading, writing, arithmetic, and community values. These schools became symbols of early American education and remained in operation in many rural areas well into the 20th century.

Compulsory school attendance didn't fully become law until 1918. Massachusetts was the first state to pass the law in 1852, and in 1918 Mississippi was the last state to do so.

Tech Myth Buster

MYTH:

Using "In Private" or "Incognito" mode in your browser makes you invisible.

FACT:

That's not true. Plenty of data is collected and stored while you're browsing in private mode. Only your past searches are hidden. To be "invisible," consider using a Virtual Private Network (VPN).

What Can Going Back in Time Tell Us about the Future? (continued)

Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, often uses a "100 years" framework to put technological change into perspective. He reflects on how hard it is to predict the future by comparing the past and sets ambitious goals for the next century.

In one example, when addressing a crowd, he asked attendees to imagine going back a hundred years, when almost everyone was a farmer. If you'd have told those farmers that in 2018 there would be a job called "massage therapist," they wouldn't have believed you. Then a friend took it a step further, mentioning, "There are dog psychiatrists."

The room laughed, but the laughter wasn't funny. Every time a major technology shifts, we tend to do the same thing. We count the jobs it will destroy. But we sometimes forget to count the ones it will create...because we can't. They don't have names yet.

Bezos explained, "The fear is always specific. AI will replace accountants. AI will replace radiologists. AI will replace drivers. The fear has job titles and timelines and projections. The opportunity has none of those things. Because you can't name what doesn't exist yet. A farmer in 1920 could understand losing his job to a tractor. He could not understand gaining a career as a social media strategist. Not because he lacked intelligence. Because the entire chain of inventions between his world and that job hadn't been built yet. Radio. Television. The Internet. Smartphones. Social platforms. Creator economies. Every single link in that chain had to exist before "social media strategist" could even be a sentence. That's where we are with AI right now. Everyone is staring at the tractor. Nobody can see the thing seven inventions away that doesn't have a name yet. The fear is loud because it fits inside language we already have. The opportunity is silent because it doesn't. Every technological revolution in history created more jobs than destroyed. Every single one. Not because anyone planned it. Because human needs expand faster than machines can fill them. We didn't need massage therapists when we were breaking our backs on farms. We needed them after machines freed our backs and stress replaced labor. The demand didn't disappear. It migrated somewhere no one was looking. That is exactly what's happening right now.

"The jobs AI creates won't make sense to us yet. They'll sound as absurd as 'dog psychiatrist' would've sounded to a farmer in 1920. Until someone is running a \$200 hourly practice with a six-month waitlist. The entire conversation right now is about what we're about to lose. Nobody is talking about what we're about to gain. Because the gains don't have vocabulary yet. A hundred years from now, someone will stand on a stage and describe the jobs we couldn't imagine today. And the audience will laugh. The same way we just did."

