

MiniTrends 2012 Conference

October 17-18, 2012, Austin, Texas

Expert Panel Two: Taking the Plunge:

What you can learn from those who have initiated or helped initiate new ventures.

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My “WHAT NEXT?”

At IBM 30 years

- Operations
- Programming
- Systems Engineering
- Marketing
- Strategy
- Enterprise > Consumer

Some Favorite Books

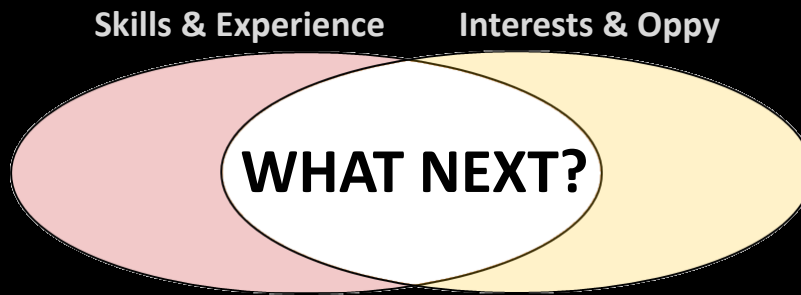
- Being Digital
- Megatrends
- Crossing the Chasm
- Innovators Dilemma
- Minitrends

After IBM

- CAZITech Consulting
- Dell
- Homeowners of Texas

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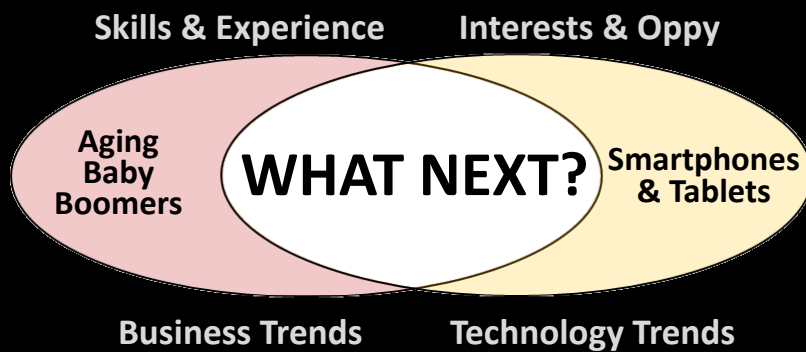
Searching for MY Next Big Thing



Looking for "Intersections"

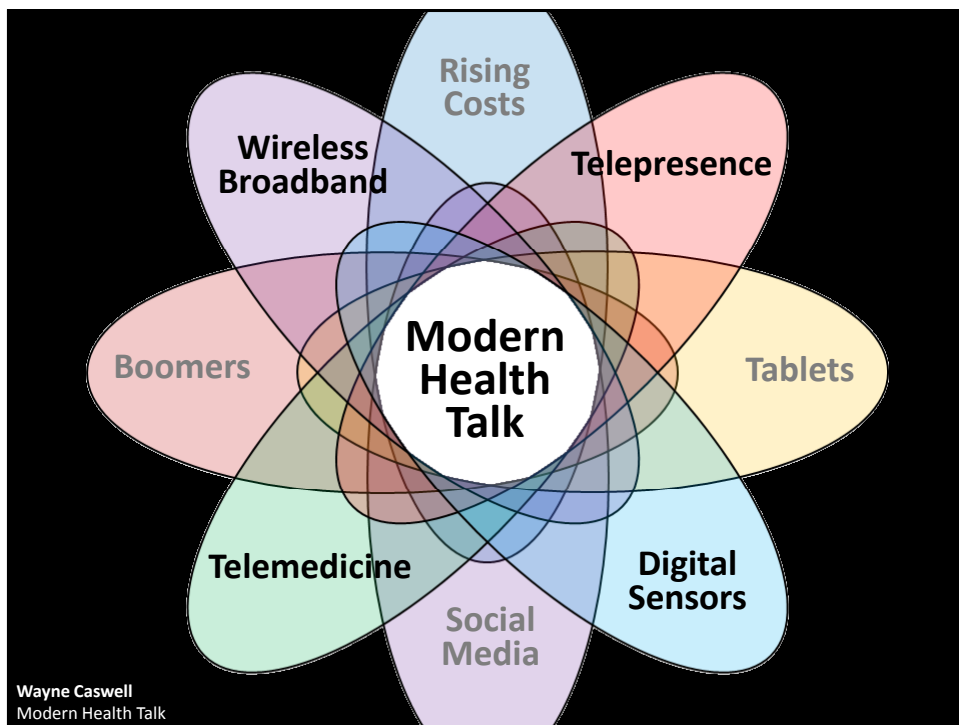
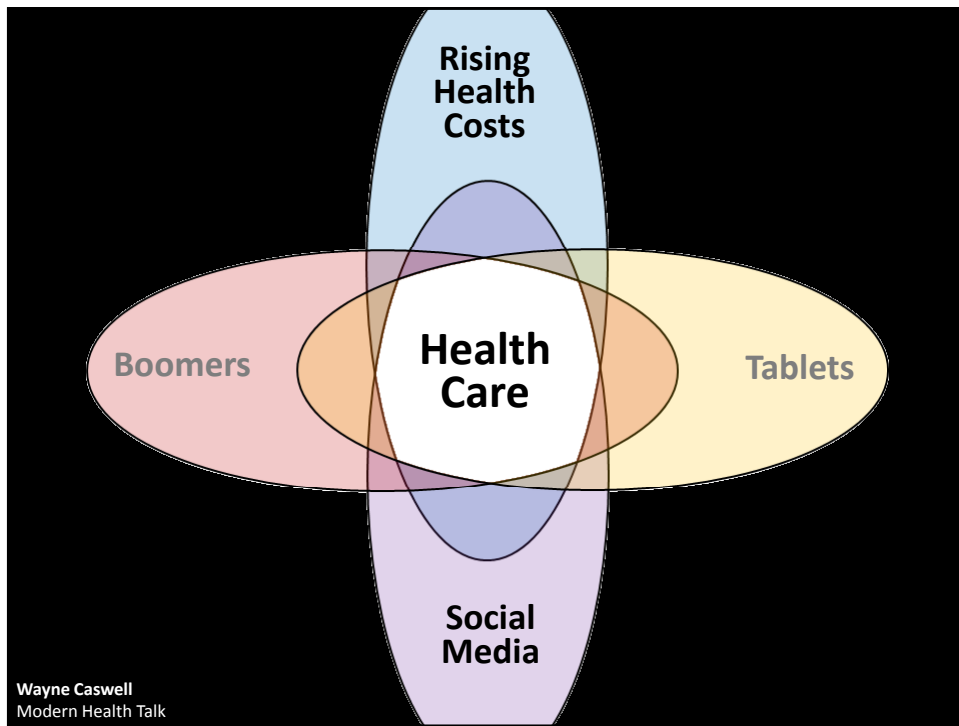
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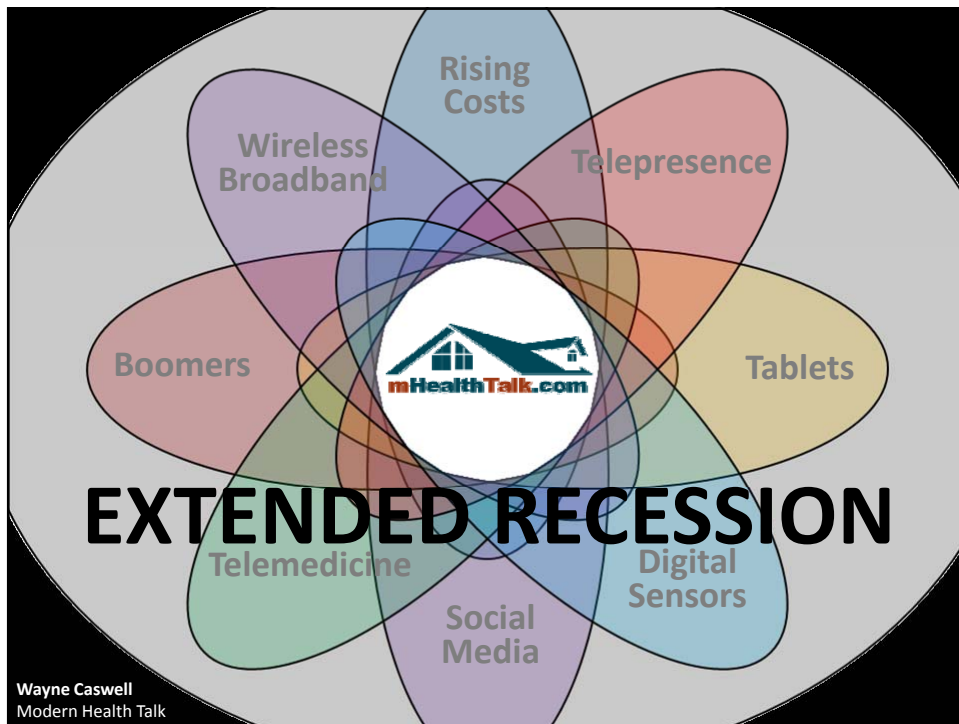
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Looking for "Intersections"

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Reforms to Medical Care Delivery & Payment Systems



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300+ Reference Links

AARP Caregiving
Includes information on Nursing Homes, Alzheimer's Disease, At-Home Care, Caregivers, Caring For Parents, Assisted Living and more

AARP Long Term Care Calculator
Fill in this form to calculate the cost of institutional medical care

AbleBody
This news & media website serves the 54 million Americans and 20 million families touched by physical or mental disability. It's a place where consumers can read the latest disability-related happenings in technology, workplace, design and life/culture.

AdultDayCare.org
They offer a nationwide directory of adult day care centers that you can search by zip code or city, in addition to a



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Singer – More than Accessibility

A great hand-held shower makes the right note in any bathroom.

EDITOR: Last September I posted an article on [Universal Design Living Laboratory](#). Well now the home is finished and its occupants have moved in. I want to write about, including universal bath & kitchen designs and landscaping. You'll understand later.



Singing in the

by Rosemarie Rossetti, PhD

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How to Avoid Contractor Scams

09/05/2012

“Modern Health Talk is recognized this month for submitting the most articulate response to an eLocal.com poll on *How to Avoid Scams after a Storm*, which also applies to home remodeling and modifications for aging in place too.”

We're into Hurricane season, and Isaac just slammed into New Orleans, so this reminder about potential scams is timely, especially since local laws often favor builders, remodelers and contractors rather than homeowners (at least in Texas). Here's some advice when hiring a contractor to fix your home or replace your roof.

- Avoid "storm chasers," those unscrupulous contractors that show up after disasters to prey on people in a hurry to fix their homes. You can recognize them by the magnet signs on their trucks and their temporary offices and phone numbers, and you may also notice yard signs popping up everywhere to promote their services.
- Deal only with local contractors, because if a problem occurs, it's easier to resolve. Local businesses are also more concerned with protecting their reputation, so make sure they have a physical address and ideally a local address (not a P.O. Box). You can verify that it's a real address with the Street View feature of Google Maps.
- Contact the Better Business Bureau to check contractor status, but pay particular attention to how long they've been listed with a local address. Storm chasers can register themselves and get a AAA rating until complaints are reported.
- Angie's List is another good reference, because it has both good & bad consumer comments. Although there's a small fee, it's probably worth it.
- Ask your insurance adjuster for contractor references.



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U.S. Should Make 'Life-Long Homes' A Priority

08/16/2012

U.S. Should Make 'Life-Long Homes' A Priority – Henry Cisneros

By Judith Graham (original article at [Kaiser Health News](#))

What will it take for Americans to age successfully in place? This question has immediate importance for policymakers and families as an estimated 10,000 Baby Boomers turn 65 years old every day. It's the subject of a new book, *Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America*, authored by more than a dozen leading aging and housing experts and co-edited by Henry Cisneros, a four-term mayor of San Antonio and former secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Cisneros, who now runs a company specializing in urban real estate, spent an hour discussing his thoughts about aging in place with reporter Judith Graham. That interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q. You start this book talking about your elderly mother. Tell me about her.

A. My mom and dad bought the home across the alley from her mother's home in 1945. It was a lower-middle-class neighborhood of civil service workers – all Latinos. It had the feeling of a Norman Rockwell picture, only all the faces were brown.

My dad passed away in 2006 at age 89, having had a stroke some years before. But my mom, 87, lives there still. The house is essentially the same as it was, with some adjustments. We put a ramp on the side of the house leading to a deck. We raised the toilet, lowered the sinks, created a walk-in shower. Changed the lighting in the den so my dad could read. Put in window guards, an alarm, and outdoor lighting for my mom because the neighborhood is somewhat in decline.


Q. Do you see her often?




Former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros speaks at the Center for American Progress in Washington in 2009 (Photo by Pablo Martinez Monsivais/Associated Press)

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Automation, Robots and The Pink Collar Future

08/23/2012

Editor's note: Last night I participated in "I Am Robot. Hear me roar," an online discussion hosted by HuffPost Live and using [Google+ Hangouts](#) to support several people connected via webcam. The discussion questioned how automation can make human workers obsolete. Will robots make your own job as a caretaker obsolete? I was asked to participate because of my interest in tech futures that include [Healthcare Robots](#). [Jamais Cascio](#) also participated and offered some quite interesting insights. He shared the following article with the audience and gave me permission to republish it here.

Different perspectives: Following the article are two videos. First is a [PBS report](#) that looks at robots and automation as replacing human workers. It's what many Democrats worry about, and many unemployed workers complain about. Second is a heart-warming movie trailer from [Robot and Frank](#), which opens in theaters this month and gives a rosier view of technology that's more like a friendly assistant than a job killer. This optimistic view is similar to the picture Republicans paint, but with no worry about those left behind and unemployed. So which is it? Just as futurists consider different scenarios and what may lead to their preferred version of the future, you too can decide which version you like and either help make it happen for yourself, or prevent it from happening to others. As you think about this, realize that technology won't slow down, but its impact on society can be controlled with smart policy decisions. Add your own perspectives below.



Personal robots



IMAGES FROM:
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Understanding Obamacare

10/12/2012

Healthcare became a hot potato during this political season, even though the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Affordable Care Act is constitutional. Governor Romney wants to repeal "Obamacare," but what's actually in the law and why was introduced in the first place? To address these common questions, I'm reposting one of my first articles on the topic.

This article describes a great presentation by Dr. James Rohack on Health System Reform. Rohack is a practicing cardiologist and Director of Scott & White Center for Healthcare Policy. He is also a professor at Texas A&M Health Science Center and was the president of the American Medical Association from 2009 to 2010 during debates over Obama's Healthcare Law.

The presentation was held in Sun City, a planned community north of Austin for retirees with active lifestyles. It didn't include handouts, but I was able to find some of Rohack's slides online and offer them below with my notes.

[Understanding the Health Care Law, by Dr. James Rohack](#)

Dr. Rohack established a base line with a brief history of healthcare and insurance dating back to before the Great Depression.

A Quick Look at History


During the Depression, FDR called for Universal Coverage Act.	1934 - FDR's New Deal.	1950s - Growth of employer-sponsored insurance, unions push for first dollar coverage, NIH	1978 - Attempts to control costs. Enacted PMQ Act, ERISA.	1997 - SCOP, SGR Formula Payments on CMS.	Child Health Insurance Plan
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As Our Health Goes, So Does Our Economic Recovery


09/26/2012

It's the Health Care, Stupid:

As Our Health Goes, So Does Our Economic Recovery

By Peter Abadi, M.D., Chronic pain specialist
(original on Huffington Post)

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”
- Albert Einstein





As we head into the final stages leading up to election day, expect the fight over whom and what is best for our economy to rage on. Debating how best to stimulate the economy has been anointed as the *de facto* topic of importance heading into our upcoming election, but let's not forget that the health of Wall Street and Main Street is inextricably linked to the health of our citizens. As I have written here in the past, I am no economic expert, but I do work in the trenches every day in a profession that impacts our nation's budget like no other.

The fact that doctors like me seem to drive the spending of tax dollars more than other occupations like teachers, governors, and generals tells you right there that health care is the elephant in the room of any debate on our economic future.

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A Proposed Hybrid, Public/Private Model of Health Care

08/28/2012

“*Occupy Healthcare* is a movement to influence and impact the future of healthcare, as well as an online community to discuss healthcare issues. Recently they invited me to submit my perspectives, and below is what I sent.

Occupy Health Care -- a proposal from Wayne Caswell, Modern Health Talk

Historically, the biggest impact in health outcomes has come from public health initiatives such as clean water, sewage systems, and immunization programs. But that success is minimized by a “sick care” system that is profoundly broken, with perverse incentives to view patients as customers, treat symptoms, and pay practitioners for each test, drug and procedure.

ACA is meant to fix that, with more emphasis on positive outcomes and overall health & wellness, both to minimize the need for medical care in the first place and thus reduce costs, and to maintain a healthy and productive workforce that contributes to a vibrant economy. ACA is a good start, but there's still more work to be done, and it won't come from private industry or the insurance model, because natural incentives prevent it.



Contrasting Incentives

I believe that the key to health reform is getting the incentives right, and that means getting private insurance companies out of BASIC health care entirely. Their profit motive gives them an incentive to increase costs, knowing that higher costs = more insurance customers paying higher premiums. What I propose instead is a hybrid public/private model that capitalizes on contrasting incentives, eliminates the need for health insurance, and saves

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Take our free, fun & easy assessment to find out. As you anonymously answer questions about your home, health and safety, we'll show how you compare with others, suggest ways to make your home safer and reveal patterns that can help you and your doctor make better choices.

The survey also contributes to The Future of Healthcare by collecting anonymous health information to help medical researchers find unanticipated correlations and new treatments.

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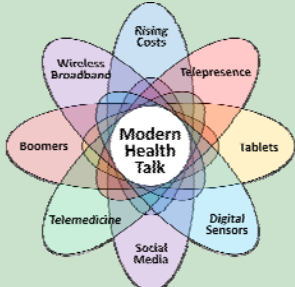


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