INSIGHT

Anticipating the Future... Assessing the Impact

IPRO 341

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Problem

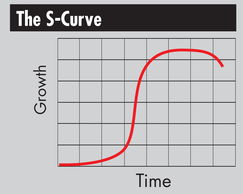
More new technologies are developing at a quicker pace with shorter intervals between their emergence. Are our current existing institutions and public policies capable of providing the infrastructure for these impacts that emerging technologies will bring with them? What is the general public's role and and what are they entitled to know? What should they know and they care about this accelerating change? This IPRO is the cornerstone for a continuing IPRO study that will examine these issues over future semesters.

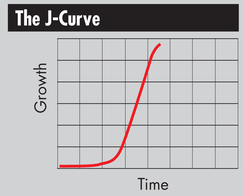
Process

- Review S and J curves
- Literature Survey of four pervasive technologies :
  - **Cellular Communications**
  - **Internet**
  - **Optical Storage Media**
  - **Video Games**
- Review Lifecycle models
- Compare and contrast societal impacts

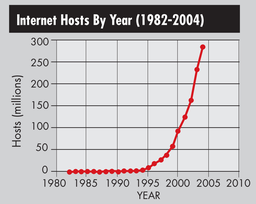
Conclusion

- Emerging Technologies will have intended and unintended impacts on every institution and most aspects of our lives
- Decentralization of information is a major driver
- New technologies will be introduced faster and more frequent
- Need to use complex system analysis skills vs. reductionist perspective
- The growth of technology is currently in transition toward the J-Curve model

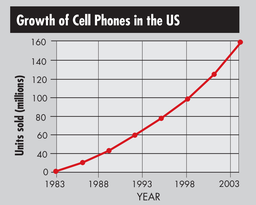


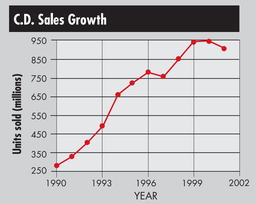


Lifecycle Models

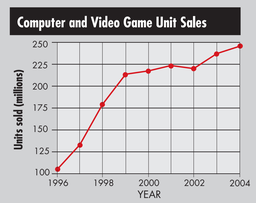


2005: PEW Internet & American Life
<http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/145/report_display.asp>





Source: http://www.azoz.com/music/features/0008.html



Source: http://www.theesa.com/facts/sales_genre_data.php
The NPD Group

Next Steps:

- Spring semester 2006 in-depth examination of nanotechnology
- Develop survey techniques to interview the public on understanding of nanotechnology
- Public outreach for education of impacts of emerging technologies
- Connect with Center on Nanotechnology and Society/Chicago-Kent College of Law and IIT

Future Study Areas

Nanotechnology

RFID

Biotechnology

Artificial Intelligence

Intelligence Augmentation

Genetically Engineered Foods

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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