

Turbulence, the extreme future and the necessity of a new type of “Angel” investors club

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Roots of high tech turbulence

- ❑ Social - high level education, talent, creativity
- ❑ Economic – localized clusters of growth
- ❑ Technological – rapid changes

Human creativity as our ultimate economical resource

Human creativity is the ultimate economic resource. Each of us has creative potential that we love to exercise and that can be turned in valuable ends."

Richard Florida,
"The rise of the creative class"

Causes of high tech turbulence

- ❑ Unrelenting pace of rapid technological change
- ❑ A business value increasingly is related to innovation – “the ability to take risks and create fundamentally new ways of doing things”
- ❑ The high degree of difficulty of a successful organization to continue to surf the wave of change
- ❑ The turbulence exacerbated by the ongoing globalization
- ❑ Growing uncertainty due to geo-political instabilities and global conflicts

High tech leadership in crisis

- ❑ Leading an organization through turbulence is neither simple nor straightforward
- ❑ Main responsibility is to ensure long term survival
- ❑ Exploit random opportunities that exist in the midst of crisis
- ❑ Continuously identify and address potential threats to long term survival
- ❑ People, people, people: battle for talent and expertise
- ❑ Achieve equilibrium between survival culture and the right amount of tension in the organization
- ❑ Use threats to survival as a stimulus for innovation

Turbulence and opportunities

- Turbulence creates more random opportunities
- Difficulty of identifying opportunities and taking advantage of them
- Rapid changes may create sudden disruptions that can present unforeseen possibilities
- Opportunities are difficult to recognize in the middle of a threatening crisis
- A high tech organization must be trained to excel in leveraging random opportunities
- Antithesis to strategic planning? Different logic and skills
- Improvisation may be as important as planning

Leading against the current

“Leading against the current can be an excellent way to mobilize an organization”,

Dov Frohman, “Leadership the Hard Way”

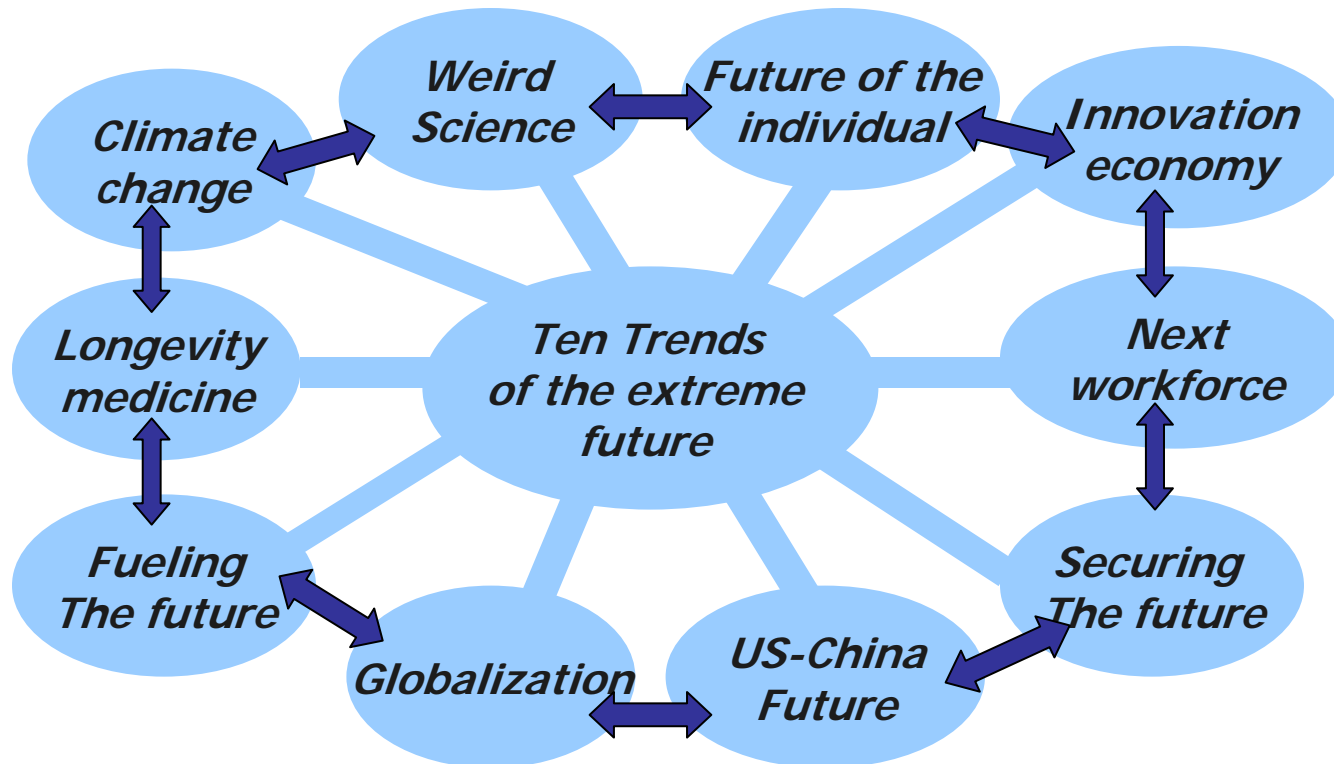
How to take advantage of random opportunities

- Possess a long term vision
- Require openness and awareness
- Stay true to your passion
- See connections that at first glance do not appear to be there
- Try to recognize the opportunity at the center of every problem
- Seize the moment and commit to act without necessarily having a clear solid plan
- Manage the delicate balance between taking the time to understand a situation and move quickly to take advantage of new developments

Should we embrace turbulence?

- Recognize random opportunities that exist in the midst of crisis
- Cultivate special qualities in order to leverage random opportunities
- Accept complete responsibility for organization's survival: "survival through success"
- Find equilibrium between survival culture and tension in the organization
- Encourage innovation and risk taking when survival is threatened
- Recognize continuously key risks and uncertainties
- Learn how to turn a crisis situation inside out and "reframe a threat as an opportunity"

The top ten trends of the extreme future



James Canton, Ph.D., "The extreme future"

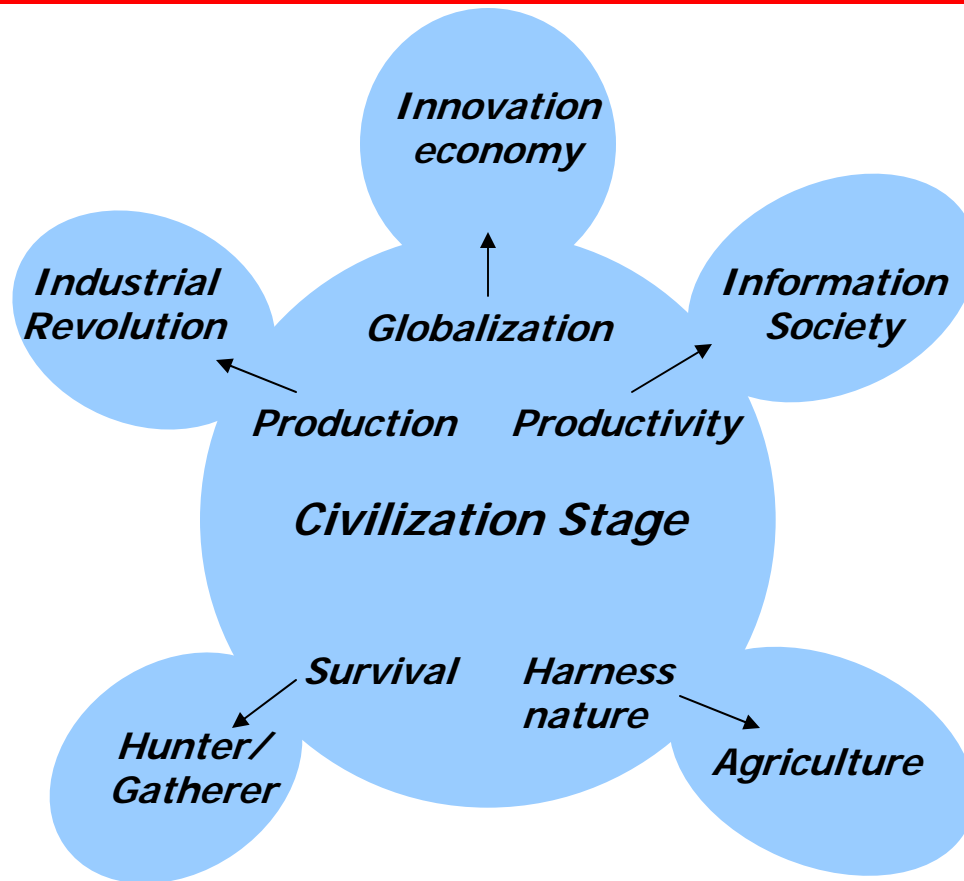
Some past forecasts by Dr. Canton

- Information technology, especially the Internet and wireless, will become a strategic competitive weapon in business.
- Energy terrorism will emerge.
- U.S youth will lack future-readiness to compete in the global economy.
- DNA will be used for predictive health care, longevity, and security.
- There will be a decline in petro-reserves, leading to energy innovations and global conflict.
- China will rise as a competitive global leader hungry for energy, capitalism and global conflict.

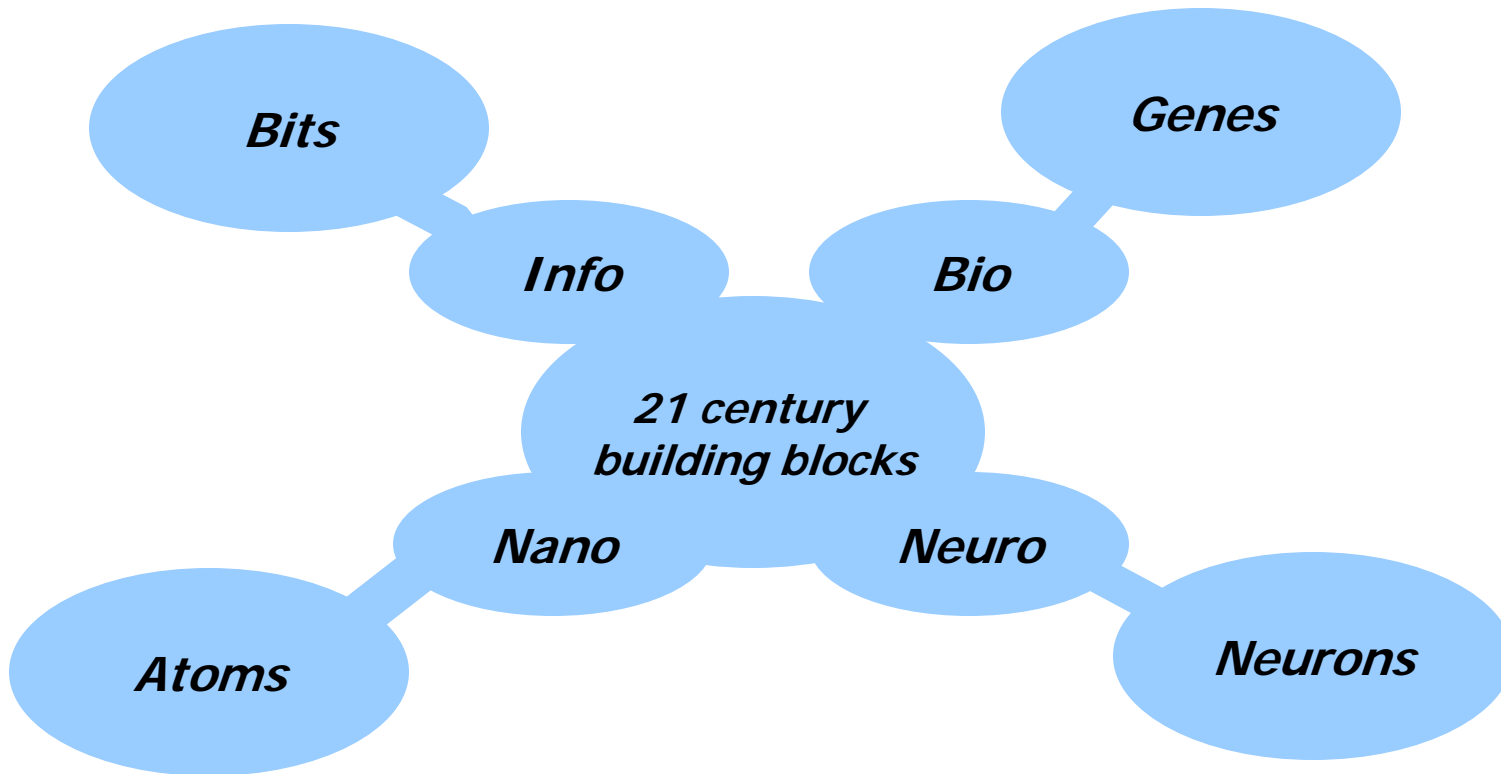
Some past forecasts by Dr. Canton

- There will be a revolution in molecular manufacturing – known as “nanotech”.
- Products that think will emerge.
- Human performance enhancement will drive health care’s transformation.
- There will be an explosive growth of the personal security market.
- The convergence of nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and neurotechnology will drive innovation in future markets.
- The “Clean Tech” market will emerge, promoting social responsibility and profit.
- Knowledge talent must compete in a global innovation-based economy free from borders.

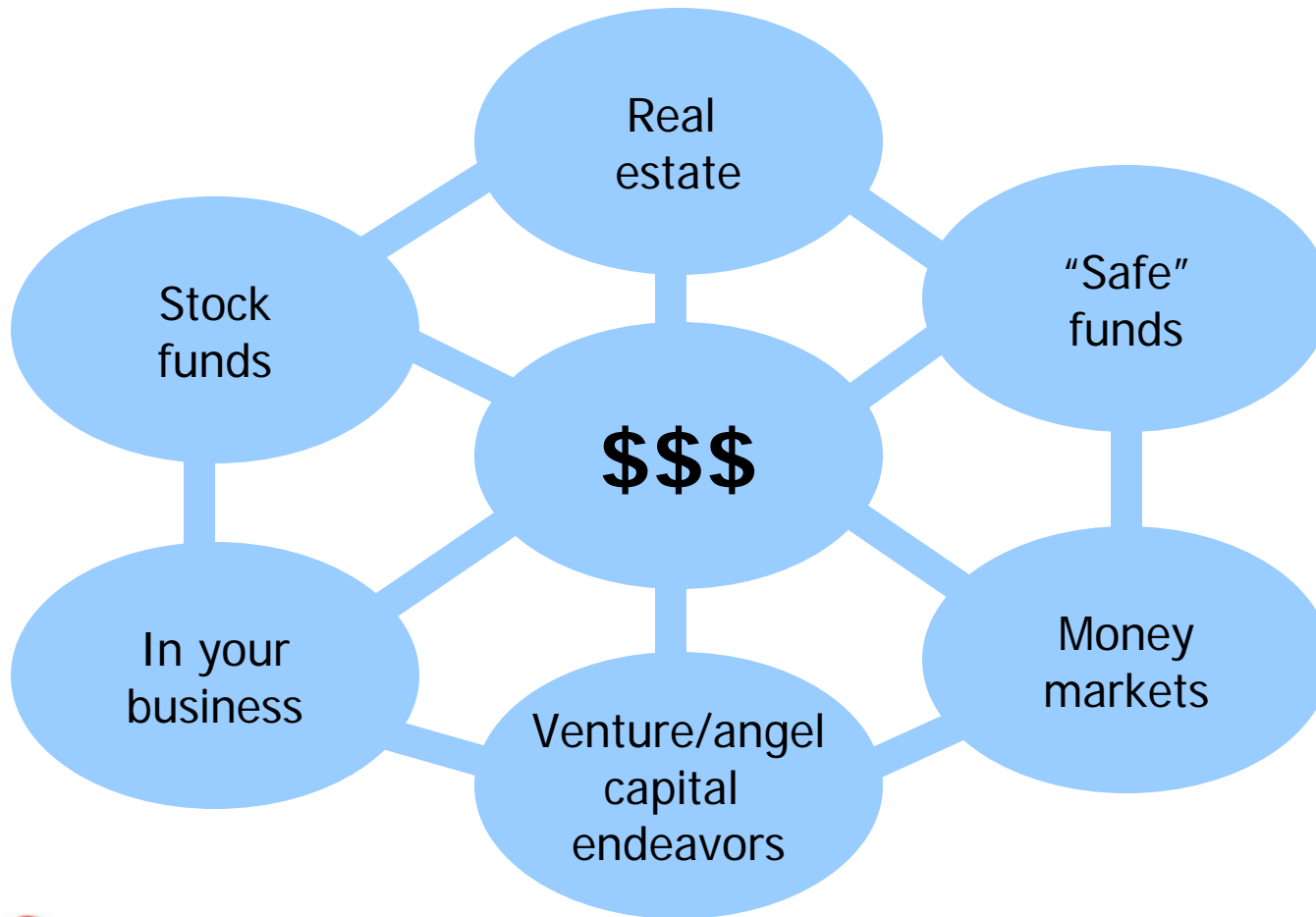
The great socio-economical transitions



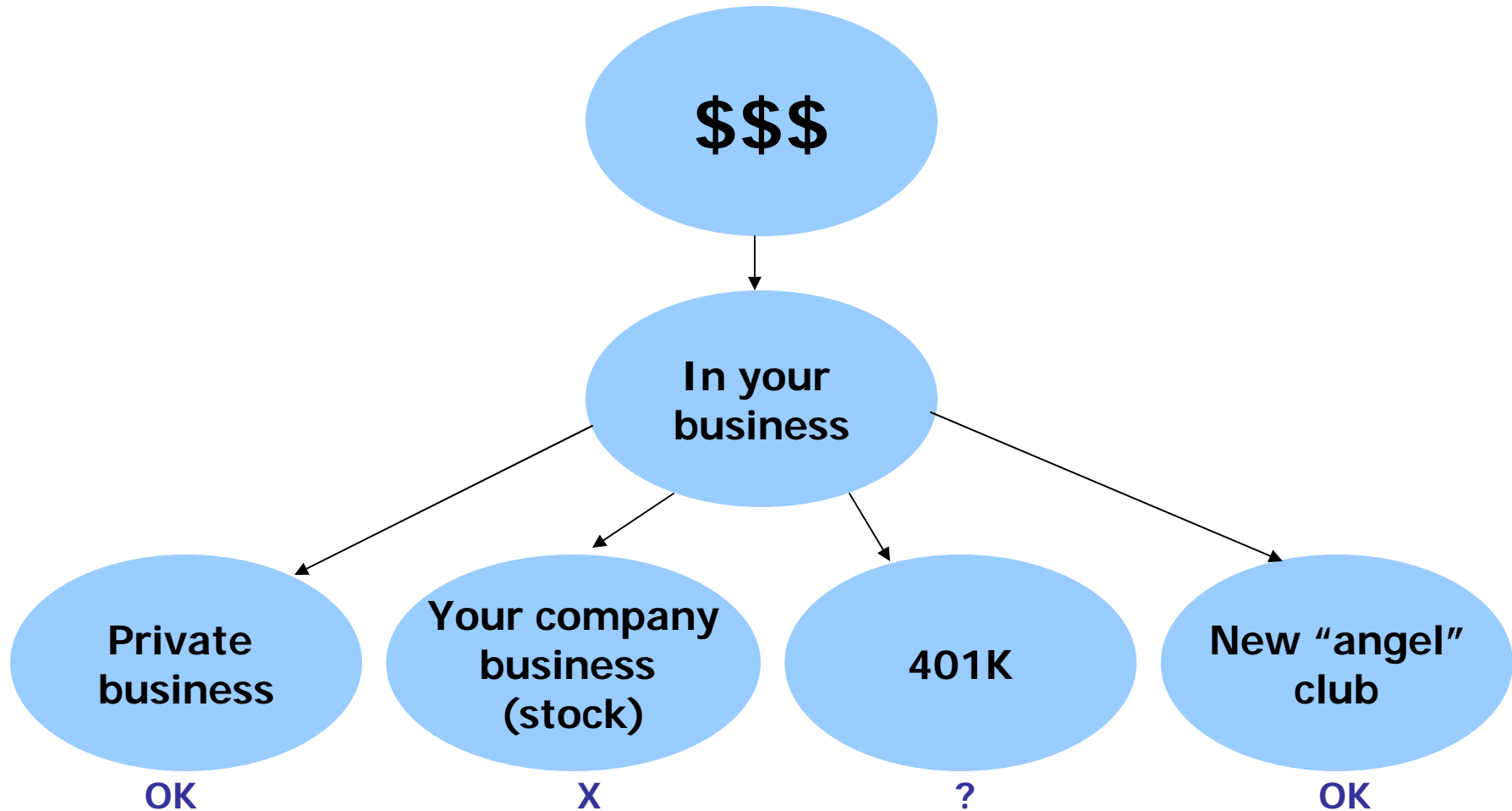
21 century building blocks



Personal wealth creation



Where “High Tech Buffs” (HTB) will invest in the future



Who are the HTBs that might become “angels”?

- Have affection for science and high tech
- Desire to keep abreast with technology and new developments
- Desire to mentor a new generation of entrepreneurs
- Wealthy professionals with strong social awareness
- Make their own decisions about personal investments
- Savvy searchers for accurate and valuable information
- Consider investing up to \$100K a “no-risk” event
- Value community well-being over monetary return
- Desire to network in a professional environment
- Desire to socialize with their peers
- Possess management skills and have important contacts

Wealthy HTBs will invest in the future with social responsibility

- With knowledge (people, IP, markets, business)
- With pleasure
- In control
- In the right social setting
- Through intellectual stimulation
- Through cultural exchange
- Through scientific / technical exchange
- Small \$ amounts, low risk, high return
- No pressure, no obligations
- Rewarding

Formula of the innovation economy

Innovation + Creativity + Capital + Democracy

=

Inspiration + Prosperity + Peace

$$IC^2 + D = IP^2$$

(Inspired by Dr. Canton)