

Welcome to the future of Government e1984

e1984 is a world in which the promise of Big Data is realized; economic, geopolitical and cyber threats are omnipresent; and collective solidarity is a core societal value.

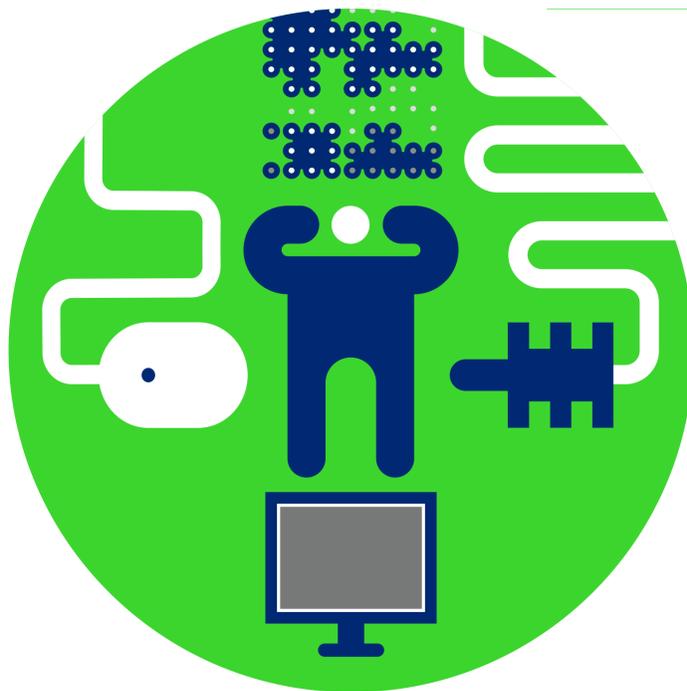
How did we get here?

Amid economic volatility, geopolitical instability and the rise of cyber security concerns, there is an upsurge of nationalism. People are willing to trade in some freedoms and privacy for an increased sense of collective security.

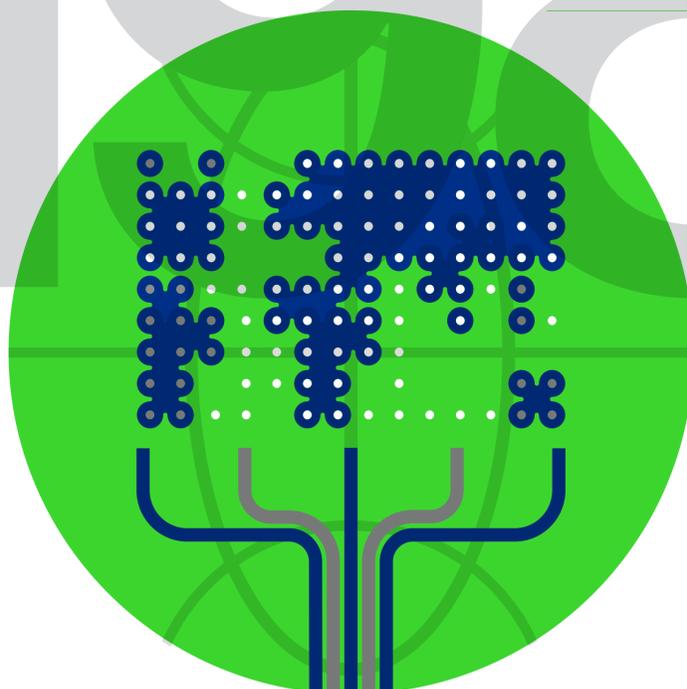
Fatigue around politics, the trade-offs caused by plurality of interests and the desire for efficient provision of public services lead citizens to seek traditional governance systems that emphasize efficiency.

Power is entrusted to technocratic governments: Power is centralized at a national level as citizens trade individual preferences for collective security.

Big Data defines policy design and delivery: The trust citizens put into the government allows for the harvest and analysis of Big Data. In this way governments can effectively and efficiently assess citizen behaviour, values and interests, thereby creating and implementing targeted policies and services.



Physical borders are extended into the virtual world: Guarded State Intranets are created as cyber-attacks become increasingly sophisticated.



People trade privacy for security: Citizens are increasingly complacent and lack motivation for personal involvement in traditional political institutions.

What could you be asking yourself in e1984?
 Will Big Data lead to better policies?
 What policies could be implemented effectively and efficiently?
 Will citizens let their data vote on their behalf?
 What will be the role of the private sector?
 How will innovation be supported?
 How are individual rights protected?
 Does democracy function in this world?
 How do societal values change in a world of ubiquitous surveillance?



Setting the Scene
 The future can be imagined in different ways. The World Economic Forum's Strategic Foresight team and the Global Agenda Council on the Future of Government have developed three scenarios on how the world of governance could evolve by 2050. The scenarios aim to support strategic dialogue on the options we have in the present to shape desired governance systems of the future.

Through its Strategic Foresight activities, the World Economic Forum aims to support stakeholders in better understanding and addressing the complex problems and turbulence that societies are increasingly facing.
wef.ch/foresight

The World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Government consists of 15 of the most innovative experts and leading practitioners considering the new demands, new expectations and a fast-growing array of new technologies and tools facing governments around the world.
wef.ch/futgovgac