

Will My Job Be Replaced by a Robot? And is there anything I can do about it?

Feb 20, 2018, by Ric Edelman

The simple answer to the first question is: Yes, very likely. And the answer to the second question... yes, there is.

But you have to get informed, stay informed and prepare.

According to a study at Oxford University, about 47 percent of total US employment is **at risk of being replaced by computerization**— machine learning or robots. These predictions are echoed by studies from McKinsey & Company, a global advisory firm, and the Rand Corporation.

Automation could transform work as we know it for everyone—including senior management. Yes, it's great when it makes your job easier... but **what if a robot replaces your job?** Not so great.

Most of us know how automation has replaced many warehouse workers, with robots. They're cheaper, faster and more dependable than humans. Think big retailers and ecommerce companies.

And we know about the military's drones and the wide use of robots in pharmacy because they're more accurate than humans. And now there's "Flippy," the robot that flips burgers. So bye-bye fast food workers.

And what about the **self-driving cars and trucks**... think about all the truck drivers out of a job, if this technology becomes widely accepted.

There's already a start-up company, hauling refrigerators 650 miles from El Paso, Texas to Palm Springs, California. For now, a human is in the cab to monitor the computer chauffeur, but the plan is to ditch him in time. Some major players, like Volvo and Daimler, are working on their own robo-truckers and some other startups are popping up.

I recently talked to a truck driver, personally. My wife, Jean, and I were at a wedding this past summer, and I met a young man in his 20's—a cousin of the groom—who was a long-distance truck driver. I asked him if he had concerns about **self-driving vehicles**? And he said, "It's all we talk about."

He said he hadn't gone to college, but realizes that in just a few years, he won't have a job. So he's going back to school to learn a new skill.

And he's not alone. A 2016 Pew Research survey, "The State of American Jobs," found that **87%** of workers believe it will be essential to get training and **develop new job skills** throughout their work life, just to keep up with technology disruptions in the workplace.

This same survey noted that employment is much higher among jobs that require average or above average interpersonal, management and communications skills—and also higher levels of analytical skills, like critical thinking and computer skills.

So clearly, **lifelong learning and re-inventing yourself** has become the new norm in these days of constantly-evolving automation. This means that thousands and thousands will have to go back to school or get new training at work.

Will Colleges and Workplace Training Keep Up With Demand?

The Pew Research Center and Elon's Imagining the Internet Center, conducted a large-scale survey in the summer of 2016. They asked experts to weigh-in on whether "formal and informal learning structures will evolve to meet the changing needs of people, who want to fulfill the workplace expectations of the future."

The survey included scholars, technologists, strategic thinkers, practitioners and education leaders, sharing their expanded views on what will likely evolve by 2026. Here's their question:

"In the next 10 years, do you think we will see the emergence of new educational and training programs that can successfully train large numbers of workers in the skills they will need to perform the jobs of the future?"

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The good news is that 70% of the respondents said “yes.” But 30% said “no.”

The 70% believed such programs would emerge and be successful. And 30% did not believe adaptation in teaching environments would sufficiently teach new skills at the scale necessary to help workers keep abreast of all the technology changes that will eliminate millions of jobs.

Not a very rosy picture on the negative side, is it? Let’s hope the majority got it right... and if your job or profession is in danger, you’ll need to **reinvent yourself** to snag one of the new jobs created!

You can find out if YOUR job is one of the 700 professions I list that will be eliminated over the next 10-15 years, due to exponential technologies. It’s all in my new book, *The Truth About Your Future*.

But Americans are not the only ones, feeling the stress and anxiety of the tumultuous overhaul that technology is creating.

IT Professionals in India Are Rocked by the Tectonic Shifts in Technology

McKinsey & Company said in another report last year that nearly half of the entire IT workforce in India will be irrelevant in 3-4 years. That means about two million people will have to be re-trained, out of 3.9 million employees in India.

Man, you know technology is exploding when even the Indian IT industry is threatened by it.

In fact, due to massive layoffs in the IT industry in India, techies are so distraught over losing their jobs that they’re turning to robo therapists for comfort.

Hmmm, so they’re turning to the very thing to help them that’s caused their anxiety and stress in the first place. What is that... un-poetic injustice or something?

What this portends for the future is that you will soon be able to talk to an automated therapist on your smartphone anytime you feel stressed out. Be on the lookout for a new app for that.

But the first step to take is to find out if your profession is on the list of 700 that are destined to give way to robots and artificial intelligence--like robo-therapists. Yes, truth is stranger than fiction!

Many professions on the list won't surprise you, but others may shock you—like some prestigious, white collar professions. My book's on our website, or at your favorite book seller.

And if you have questions about this article or any other financial issue, we're happy to answer them. Just give us a call at 888.PLAN.RIC.

Or visit us at EdelmanFinancial.com

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