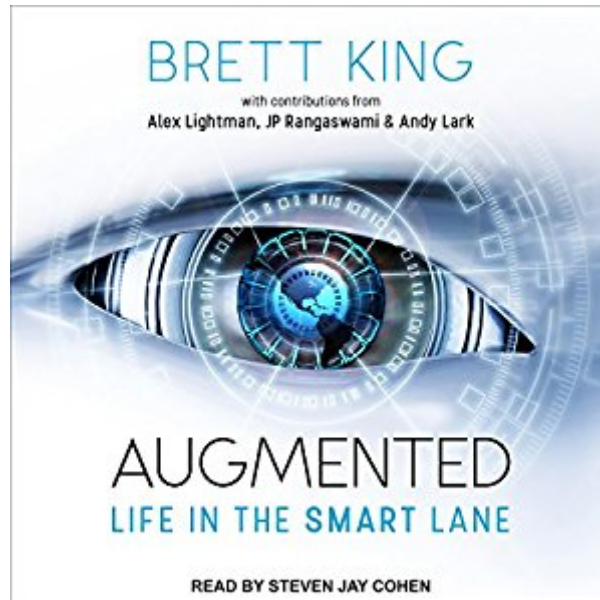




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Augmented: Life In The Smart Lane



Synopsis

The Internet and smartphone are just the latest in a 250-year-long cycle of disruption that has continuously changed the way we live, the way we work, and the way we interact. The coming Augmented Age, however, promises a level of disruption, behavioral shifts, and changes that are unparalleled. While consumers today are camping outside of an Apple store waiting to be one of the first to score a new Apple Watch or iPhone, the next generation of wearables will be able to predict if we're likely to have a heart attack and recommend a course of action. We watch news of Google's self-driving cars, but don't likely realize this means progressive cities will have to ban human drivers in the next decade because us humans are too risky. Following on from the Industrial or Machine Age, the Space Age and the Digital Age, the Augmented Age will be based on four key disruptive themes - Artificial Intelligence, Experience Design, Smart Infrastructure, and HealthTech. Historically, the previous "ages" brought significant disruption and changes, but on a net basis, jobs were created, wealth was enhanced, and the health and security of society improved. What will the Augmented Age bring? Will robots take our jobs and AI's subsume us as inferior intelligences? Or will this usher in a new age of abundance? Augmented is a book on future history, but, more than that, it is a story about how you will live your life in a world that will change more in the next 20 years than it has in the last 250 years. Are you ready to adapt? Because if history proves anything, you don't have much of a choice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Brett King's "Augmented" is the most engrossing book on "the future" I have read is a very long

time, and as illuminating as "Guns, Germs, and Steel". He deftly breaks down many of the overall themes and technologies that will affect our future (AI, Automation, Robots, Human Augmentation, etc...) and details what is happening now, and how we will most likely expand and integrate these into our everyday life. It isn't a book about theoreticals and a wide-eyed "Jetsons" futurescape, but how the technologies we are using and developing today will extrapolate into massive disruptions that you need to be prepared for. As one line in the book states, "You'll be paid in the future based upon how well you work with robots." Substitute "robots" with "computers" 25 years ago, and you'd be just as correct. I recently met Brett and heard him speak at a technology conference. He knows what he is talking about and I have encouraged everyone I know, and especially those with children, to read this book. This is THEIR future, and I wish I was 25 years younger to participate and grow with it even more...PS: Thanks Brett for signing my book!

This book by Brett King I have found to be an exciting read, and an eye opening view of the world we live in, and to come. A perfect balance throughout the book of thought-provoking, visionary, balance and scary! For an age that is already upon us this is a book that states the nature of our time. To borrow a line from someone who quoted in the foreword, "makes me glad I'm in technology".

By @SimonCocking. We recently interviewed Brett King about his thoughts on FinTech, the future of banking and his views on a range of topics (see interview parts I and II). Meanwhile Brett has been keeping himself busy writing, and launching, on May 6th his fifth book "Augmented: Life in the Smart Lane", which we now review below. Firstly the book is a good read and easily readable. It manages to straddle that tricky challenge of being informative for the tech audience at the same time as being interesting and appealing to a wider general audience too. In the time we had it to review it, the book was picked up and read by a range of other interested people. From 13 year old tech geeks, to managers of major cultural institutions, looking to future proof their own organisations. Which indicates this is a topic that interests a wide range of people. The book begins by taking you through a quick review of the last 250 years of technological innovation, with increasingly shorter cycles of relevance and then obsolescence for different inventions. Moore's Law, Ray Kurzweil's predictions of a coming Singularity, and other key trends are all referenced. If you are not familiar with these points of reference they are all explained in a way that again treads carefully between keeping the general reader on board and yet also informing the more tech savvy among the audience. His analysis of the imminent arrival of

ubiquitous renewable energies is refreshing and positive. Coming at it from the perspective that cost will drive it – a mass adoption rather than needing to appeal to ecological considerations. King approaches the growth of AI (artificial intelligence) technologies from a similar perspective, namely that adoption will be driven by the fact that machine to machine transactions will simply be more effective and less error prone than human based interactions. Naturally this will have significant implications in terms of what sectors still need to employ humans and which won't. These parts of the book are well worth reading to future proof your own potential career decisions! Drawing on current trends and their likely implications for the future King also analyses the impacts on transportation. Driverless cars are already with us, but in the future it could also free up large amounts of our time, in our third place – after home and work. Similarly with AI related quality of life improvements there are some very positive future scenarios for humanity in terms of increased time to pursue what interests us and what we care about, rather than merely living to work. Naturally Skynet and other robot distopias are always a possibility and Brett doesn't shy away from looking at these possibilities too. Roadmap_AugmentedAge Road map to an Augmented Future, page 434 Without wanting to give too much away this is a good book as it presents an interesting and thought provoking look at our near and further off future. Much of it is plausible, and as he says, he's not looking to get it all 100% right, but rather to make us aware of the general direction in which our global societies are heading. Well worth a read, and one that you may find other family members reading too. If you would like to have your company featured in the Irish Tech News Business Showcase, get in contact with us at Simon@IrishTechNews.net or on Twitter: @SimonCocking

Wow, what an amazing read, really inspiring. Great work BK, this looks like a real game changer in the way people will see their future and the way we will live in the very near future. Keep up the great work.....

An great addition to the excellent work that Brett has done with his preceding books. The forethought and attention to detail regarding not only the current changes but future expectations is very well researched. I am very please with how my eyes are opened to new systems and technologies that Brett is following. A good and productive read. Olin

I'm 35 and worry about falling behind on technology. This book is a great reference on where to focus your effort if you want to be in the right place technologically in 10-20 years. It was a real eye

opener for me! I was recommended this book by my boss and very happy to have read it.

Powerful. Insightful. Meaningful. Read it or or get left behind. Brett is smart and makes you smarter in just one book.

Brett King has already proven his brilliance as an innovator in finance. In this excellent book, he writes about how innovation and technology will affect almost every other aspects of life as well. I was left inspired, uplifted and optimistic about the exciting opportunities of living life in the Smart lane. Great read!

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