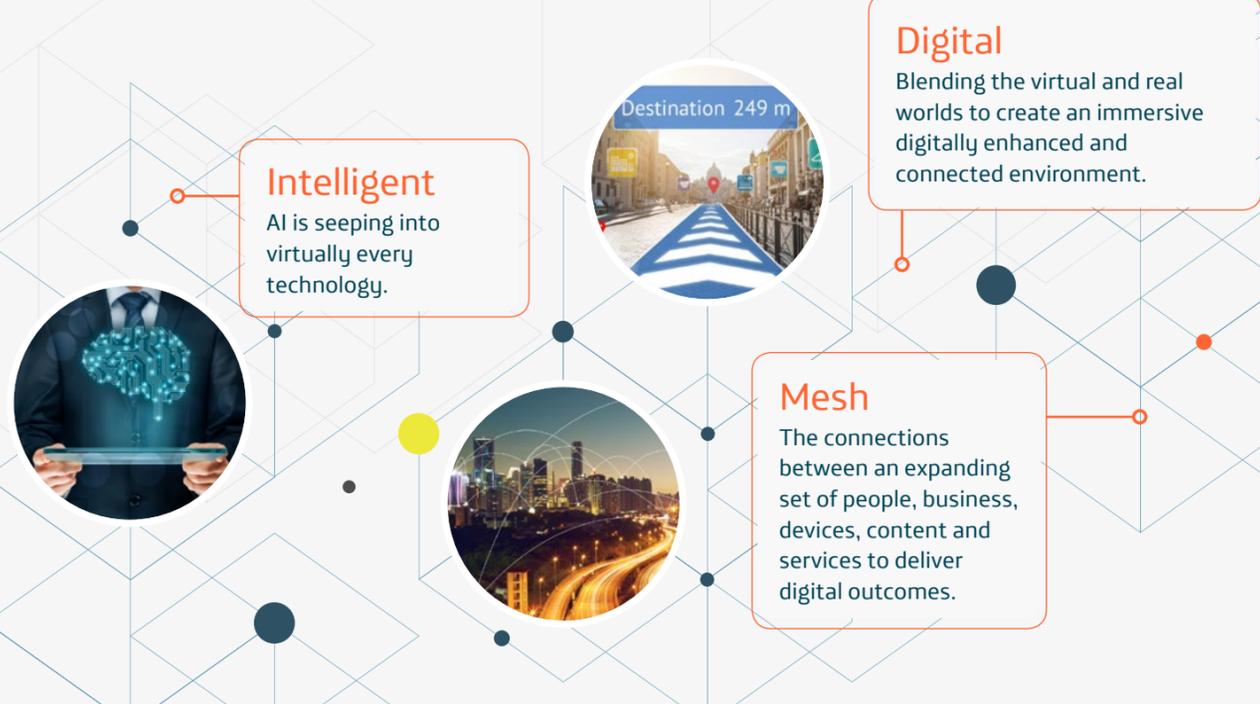


A snapshot of some of the headlines for ICT in 2018

'The Intelligent Digital Mesh'

Gartner calls the entwining of people, devices, content and services the **intelligent digital mesh**.



> Gartner's top 10 strategic technology trends for 2018_

- #### 1. AI Foundation

The rise of AI will continue through 2018 as it enhances decision making, reinvents business models and ecosystems.
Interest in AI has grown 500% in the last 12 months.
- #### 2. Intelligent Apps and Analytics

Over the next few years every application and service will incorporate AI at some level. AI will run unobtrusively in the background of many familiar application categories while giving rise to entirely new ones.
- #### 3. Intelligent Things

Use AI and machine learning to interact in a more intelligent way with people and surroundings. These things operate semi-autonomously or autonomously in an unsupervised environment for a set amount of time to complete a particular task.
- #### 4. Digital Twin

A digital representation of a real-world entity or system. In the context of IoT, digital twins are linked to real-world objects and offer information on the state of the counterparts, respond to changes, improve operations and add value.
- #### 5. Cloud to the Edge

Edge computing describes a computing topology in which information processing and content collection and delivery are placed closer to the sources of this information.
- #### 6. Conversational Platforms

Will drive a paradigm shift in which the burden of translating intent shifts from user to computer. These systems are capable of simple answers or more complicated interactions.
- #### 7. Immersive Experience

Augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and mixed reality are changing the way that people perceive and interact with the digital world. Combined with conversational platforms, a fundamental shift in the user experience to an invisible and immersive experience will emerge.
- #### 8. Blockchain

Is a shared, distributed, decentralized and tokenized ledger that removes business friction by being independent of individual applications or participants.
- #### 9. Event Driven

By 2020, event-sourced, real-time situational awareness will be a required characteristic for 80% of digital business solutions, and 80% of new business ecosystems will require support for event processing.
- #### 10. Continuous Adaptive Risk and Trust

Allows for real-time, risk and trust-based decision making with adaptive responses to security-enable digital business.

Source: <https://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/gartner-top-10-strategic-technology-trends-for-2018/>

> Cloud trends_

2018 SaaS most highly deployed cloud service and will account for 60% of all cloud-based workloads.



Source: <https://www.networkworld.com/article/3233134/cloud-computing/5-cloud-computing-trends-to-prepare-for-in-2018.html>

> Security trends_

- A 'zero trust' approach to cyber security will return in 2018*
Cloud security becomes a top priority in 2018
- Worldwide spending on information security products and services will increase by >8% to reach
\$93 billion in 2018**
- Network security is the overriding priority for enterprises: **59% see it as one of their top three priorities for 2018*****

*Source: <https://www2.dimensiondata.com/it-trends/cybersecurity-2018>
**Source: Gartner
*** Source: <https://www.networkcomputing.com/networking/7-enterprise-networking-trends-2018/1081393934>

> Digital workplace_

62% of organisations expect virtual assistants to have a place in their companies in the next two years.*



*Source: <https://www2.dimensiondata.com/en/it-trends/digital-workplaces-2018>
**Source: Gartner