

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN WELFARE

Hossam S. Sharara

# Current State

- ▣ Tremendous amount of information is available for human access
- ▣ Are our brains capable to digest these amounts of information to help us reach better decisions?
- ▣ Are we able to get the right piece of information, in the right place, at the right time?

# Pulling vs. Pushing

- ▣ People used to search for the information they need (Pulling)
- ▣ Do we actually know what we want? Where to find it? How to get it?
- ▣ More successful technologies are the ones that push information to the users

# Decision Support Systems

- ▣ “If I knew the traffic is this heavy, I would have taken a detour”

*Live Traffic on GPS*

- ▣ “The weather looked fine in the morning, I never saw that storm coming”

*Weather Forecast*

- ▣ “I wonder what Mike is doing now”

*Twitter on Cell Phone*

Let's Take it a bit further...

# Personal Assistant

- ▣ Integrates many “Smart” systems
- ▣ Learn Personal behavior
- ▣ Decision Support
- ▣ Higher Processing power

# Possible Outputs

- ▣ “You have an interview at 8, but the traffic is real heavy, so wake up now to get on time”
- ▣ “Considering your grocery list, Shop1 this week’s offers will save you more”
- ▣ “The movie you were waiting for is now showing, it seems like 7 pm is free, should I book a ticket?”

# Possible Outputs

- ▣ “You haven’t called your parents in a while...”
- ▣ “Adam and Fred are going hiking this weekend”
- ▣ “Don’t take this exit as there’s an accident on the local road, take the next one”
- ▣ “Slumdog Millionaire won the Oscar ”