



Open Discussion #2

VALENCIA
March 2026

Theme

**Society Evolution and Human-
Machine Cohabitation**

InfoSys 2026 & InfoWare 2026



Coordinators

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- 1. Policy.** What happens if regulators or policymakers use GenAI tools to summarize or understand the content they are supposed to regulate?
 - Doesn't that mean that regulators are assessing the issues filtered by the lenses of tech companies' interests? **Is that the new definition of "neutrality"?**
- 2. Select GenAI human operators.** Who are they, what would they do, and what is their role in facing the digital divide?
- 3. GenAI "Licking" to future embarrassment?** 3-5 years from now (when the honeymoon ends), will people who relied heavily on GenAI tools look back at their public writings and feel embarrassment?
- 4. Slow response.** We are still focusing on AI literacy when way larger problems arise, such as: AI hygiene, cognitive debt, diminished time spent ruminating on questions, and GenAI licking cutting **healthy self-doubt.**
 - **Importance of** seeking growth and dealing with discomfort, ambiguity, and self-doubt instead of "feeling awesome" because a licking tool told you so.



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- 1. Situation Awareness.** My AI assistant prepares a report that I don't really review before it sends it to you. Your AI assistant reads it for you, and you don't really review it after receiving it.
 - Suppose it contains significant errors, omissions, or other anomalies that could get one of us in serious trouble. Where does the responsibility ultimately lie?
- 2. New Fitts' (HABA-MABA) List.** Designers, managers, workers, and private individuals need access to information about what functions AI agents are "better at", and what functions humans are "better at".
 - Can AI create and maintain the dynamic database needed to provide this?
- 3. New jobs.** In 3-5 years AI is expected to be capable of performing many of the tasks currently performed by white collar / information workers. New jobs will probably emerge – can we anticipate and prepare?
 - Managers, trainers, monitors, maintainers, and assistants of AI agents?
 - Will "full time" employment annual hours continue to shrink?



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1. Society Evolves With Technology, Not After It

- Every major communication shift, from the printing press to social media, has reconfigured power, identity, and participation.
- Today's AI-driven digital communication technologies (LLMs, recommender systems, synthetic media) are reshaping how knowledge is produced, validated, and contested.
- The question is not whether cohabitation will happen. It already has. The question is how we shape it intentionally.

2. Social Adaptation Requires Gradual Adoption

- Technological revolutions are rarely binary; they diffuse through institutions, norms, and practices over time.
- Gradual adoption allows for iterative learning, regulatory refinement, and institutional recalibration.
- Instead of banning disruptive technologies, we should pilot, test, audit, and refine them—especially in public-sector and civic contexts.

3. Co-Agency: Humans and Machines as Collaborative Actors

- AI systems increasingly participate in sensemaking, recommendation, moderation, and even creative processes.
- We are moving toward co-agency: hybrid environments where humans and machines jointly shape outcomes.
- The goal is not automation replacing human judgment, but augmentation enhancing human cognition, speed, and scale.



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4. Hybrid Decision-Making as the New Normal

- In governance, healthcare, security, and communication ecosystems, decisions are becoming hybrid—algorithmic inputs + human oversight.
- This requires clarity on accountability, explainability, and override mechanisms.
- Designing systems where humans remain meaningfully “in the loop” or “on the loop” is essential.

5. Digital Literacy as a Civic Imperative

- Digital literacy must evolve into *AI literacy* - understanding how algorithms curate information, recognizing synthetic content, and interpreting probabilistic outputs.
- In communication ecosystems, resilience to misinformation depends as much on social capacity as on technical safeguards.

6. Ethical Alignment and Guardrails

- Risks are real: bias amplification, misinformation at scale, manipulation, labor displacement.
- The solution is not technological retreat, but stronger guardrails - transparent governance frameworks, auditable AI systems, responsible data stewardship, and multistakeholder oversight.
- Ethical alignment should be embedded into system design—not retrofitted after harm occurs.



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7. Human-Centric Design as a Foundational Principle

- Technology should enhance human dignity, autonomy, and collective well-being.
- Human-centric AI prioritizes interpretability, accessibility, fairness, and participatory design.
- The most sustainable systems are those that align technological efficiency with social legitimacy.

8. Embracing Opportunity While Managing Risk

- AI and digital communication technologies can - democratize access to expertise, enhance civic participation, improve public service delivery, and accelerate scientific discovery.
- The societal choice is not “risk vs. safety”—it is *fear-based stagnation vs. responsible innovation*.
- Disruptive technologies should not be discarded; they should be governed, audited, and continuously improved.



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