

Five ways to future-proof your IT career



| IFS assyst



Contents

The background features a dark blue gradient with several overlapping, wavy, organic shapes in shades of purple and dark purple. The shapes are layered, with some appearing more prominent than others, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is modern and abstract.



Think like a futurist

In an era of rapid technological advancements and shifting economic trends, the landscape of the job market is constantly evolving. The various trends we've seen: The Great Resignation/Reshuffle, Quiet Quitting, and massive layoffs in the tech industry, indicate that nothing is concrete. As the future becomes increasingly uncertain, it's essential to adopt a proactive mindset to futureproof your career. This is where thinking like a futurist comes into play.

Whether you're just starting your career or have been in your industry for years, adopting a futurist mindset can help you stay ahead of the curve and prepare for what's to come.

In this eBook, we'll explore five strategies to futureproof your career. From keeping your skills up to date to building strong professional relationships, these strategies will help you stay relevant and in demand in the years to come. By adopting a futurist mindset and implementing these strategies, you can ensure that your career remains futureproof, no matter what changes lie ahead.

The state of work that can impact your IT career

The nature of work is changing rapidly, and this will undoubtedly impact your IT career. Understanding the current state of work and how it's evolving is essential to staying relevant in your field. Here are some statistics and trends to consider:

By anticipating these changes and adapting your skills and knowledge accordingly, you can stay relevant and in demand in the years to come.



81%

Hybrid working is expected to grow to 81% by 2024

Remote/hybrid work

According to a 2022 Gallup survey, 8 in 10 people are working remotely or hybrid¹ and a recent AT&T study found that hybrid working is expected to grow to 81% by 2024.² As organizations recognize that full-time onsite work doesn't necessarily produce the best results, it's understandable more will adopt this practice.



39%

Freelancers make up 39% of the US workforce

Gig economy

The gig economy, which includes freelance and contract work, is on the rise. For example, according to a survey by Upwork, freelancers make up 39% of the US workforce, contributing approximately \$1.35 trillion in annual earnings to the US economy.³ This trend is particularly relevant for IT professionals, as many companies are turning to freelance workers for specific projects or skills.



85m

Automation will disrupt 85 million jobs globally by 2025

Automation

Automation and artificial intelligence (AI) are becoming increasingly prevalent in the workplace. A report by the World Economic Forum stated that automation will disrupt 85 million jobs globally by 2025.⁴ This trend will undoubtedly impact the IT industry, as we've already seen many routine tasks being automated using AI and machine learning.



\$92.5bn

The global outsourcing market was already valued at \$92.5 billion in 2019

Globalization

Globalization has transformed the job market, with many companies outsourcing work to other countries. According to a report by Statista, the global outsourcing market was already valued at \$92.5 billion in 2019.⁵ This matters to IT professionals, as many companies outsource their software development or IT support to other countries.



5 strategies to guarantee your IT career is future-proofed

1 – Keep your skills up to date

In the fast-paced world of IT, keeping your skills up to date is essential. According to a survey by CompTIA, 91% of employers believe that IT certifications are valuable in validating skills and expertise⁶, so while not always necessary it's worth considering formal training/education in the field you're looking to grow.

Types of skills that are high in demand

To stay ahead of the curve, it's important to focus on developing skills that are high in demand. Here are some of the highly sought-after skills in the IT industry:

Cybersecurity

With the rise of cyber threats and attacks, cybersecurity has become an essential skill for any IT professional.

Cloud computing

As more and more companies move their operations to the cloud, the demand for professionals with expertise in cloud computing has skyrocketed.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning

With the growing use of AI and machine learning in various industries, professionals with expertise in these areas are in high demand.

Data science and analytics

The ability to collect, analyze, and interpret data is becoming increasingly important for businesses, making data science and analytics a valuable skill set.

Software development

With the continued growth of technology, the demand for skilled software developers remains high.





Tips for learning new skills

Learning new skills can be daunting, but it's essential to stay competitive in the IT industry. Here are some tips for learning new skills:

Identify high demand skills

Identify the skills that are in high demand and align with your career goals.

Develop those skills

Look for training and certification programs that will help you develop those skills.

Online courses, webinars, and tutorials

Take advantage of online courses, webinars, and tutorials to supplement your learning.

Online communities and forums

Join online communities and forums to connect with others who are learning the same skills and share resources and tips.

Practice, practice, practice

The best way to develop new skills is to apply them in real-world scenarios.

2 – Network and build relationships

No one ever succeeds on their own. Networking and building strong professional relationships are critical in building a solid IT career. According to a LinkedIn study, 80% of professionals consider networking to be important to career success.⁷

How to network effectively – online and offline

Networking can take many forms, whether that's through the internet or in person. Here are some effective strategies for networking:

Attend industry events and conferences

This is a great way to meet other professionals in your field and stay in the know with the latest industry trends.

Join professional organizations

This can provide networking opportunities as well as access to valuable resources and training.

Utilize social media

Social media platforms like LinkedIn and Twitter can be great tools for networking and connecting with other professionals.

Volunteer

Volunteering for industry events or organizations can help you meet new people and build relationships while also giving back to your community.





Tips for building strong professional relationships

Building strong professional relationships requires time and effort, but it can pay off in the long run. Here are some tips on how you can forge these solid connections:

Be authentic

Be genuine in your interactions with others and focus on building real relationships.

Provide value

Look for ways to provide value to others, whether it's through sharing information or offering to help with a project.

Follow up

After meeting someone, follow up with a thank you email or message and look for ways to stay in touch.

Be a good listener

Listening to others and showing interest in their work and ideas can help you build strong relationships.

Be patient

Building relationships takes time, so be patient and persistent in your efforts.

3 – Specialize in a niche area

Specializing in a niche area can be a powerful way to differentiate yourself in the IT industry.

Tips on identifying a niche and becoming an expert

Identifying a niche area can be challenging, but it's an important step in developing specialized skills and expertise. Here are some tips for identifying a niche and becoming an expert:

Consider your interests

Start by identifying areas that you're passionate about and have a natural aptitude for.

Research the market

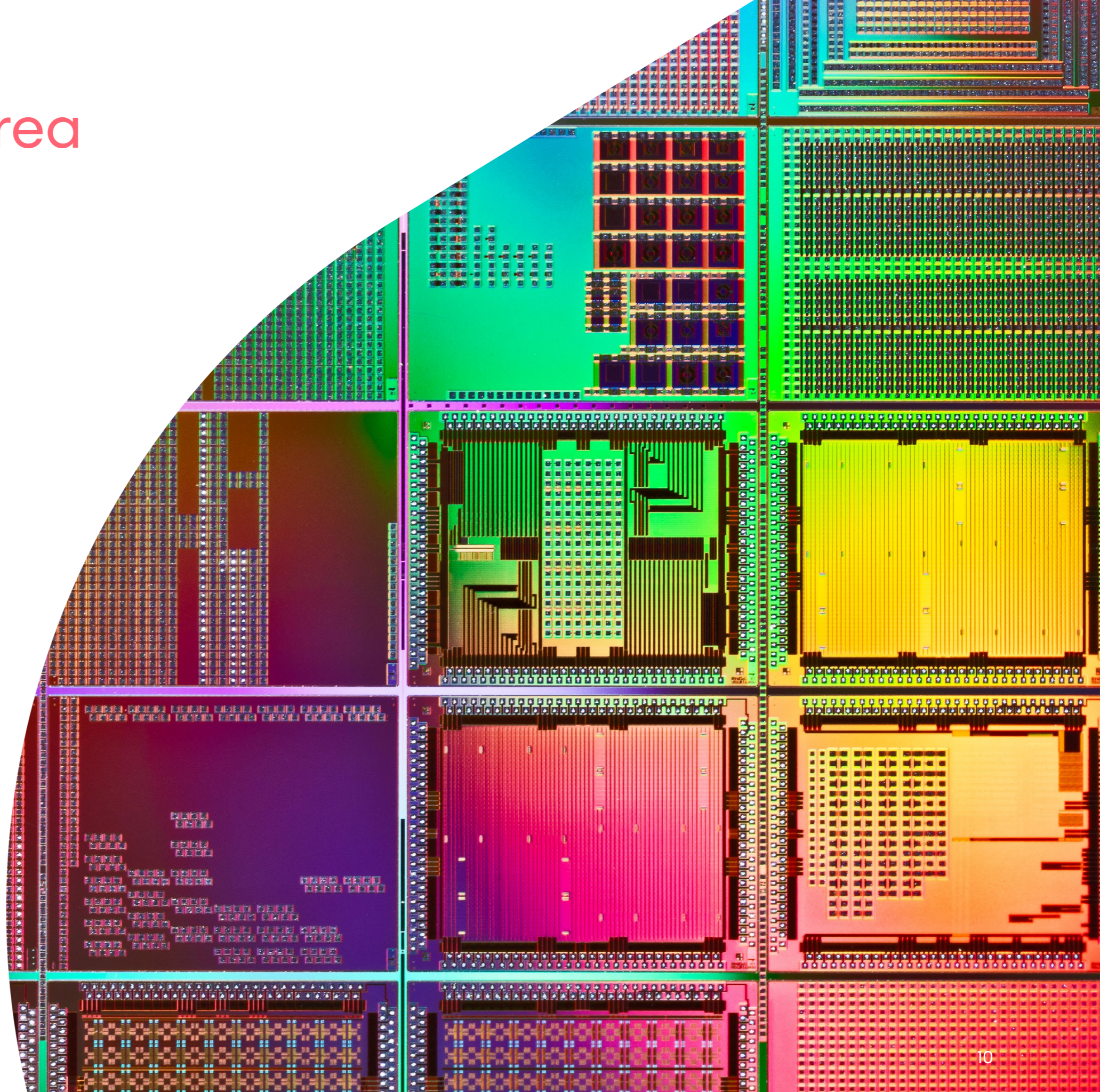
Look for areas where there is a growing demand for specialized skills and expertise.

Seek out training and certification

Consider pursuing training and certification in your chosen niche area to develop your skills and establish your expertise.

Keep updated with industry developments

Stay informed about the latest trends and developments in your niche area by reading industry publications, attending conferences, and networking with other professionals.





How to market your niche expertise

Once you've identified your niche area and developed your expertise, it's important to market yourself effectively to potential employers and clients.

Develop a strong personal brand

Establish a strong online presence through your website, social media, and other channels to showcase your expertise.

Create a portfolio

When appropriate, create a portfolio of your work to demonstrate your skills and knowledge to potential clients or employers.

Network with other professionals

Build relationships with other professionals in your niche area to understand industry developments and discover potential job opportunities.

Seek out speaking opportunities

Look for the chance to speak at conferences or events to showcase your know-how and establish yourself as a thought leader in your niche area.

4 – Develop soft skills

Soft skills are personal attributes that enable individuals to interact effectively and harmoniously with others. Developing strong soft skills can help IT professionals build better relationships with colleagues and clients, improve their communication skills, and become more effective leaders. In fact, research by America Succeeds found that 91% of management jobs desire soft (or durable) skills.⁸

Most valuable soft skills

Here are some of the most valuable soft skills for IT professionals:

Communication

The ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, is essential for success in the IT industry.

Problem-solving

IT professionals can face complex problems on the daily. In such cases, the ability to think critically and seek solutions is paramount.

Time management

Knowing how to manage time and make the most of it is essential for meeting deadlines and delivering quality work.

Leadership

If you want to advance your IT career and move into senior leadership positions, the ability to lead and motivate others is incredibly important for IT professionals.

Adaptability

With new technologies, changing work environments, and shifting roles, being able to adapt is crucial so as not to get swept away by the waves of change.

Stress management

There will always be people who are responsible for sticking to deadlines and are under constant pressure to deliver, especially when things don't go as they should. So, having the ability to deal with their own stress, as well as their team's is crucial.





Tips for developing and improving your soft skills

Developing and improving soft skills takes time and effort, but the rewards can be significant. The great thing about having strong soft skills is that you can leverage them wherever your career takes you. Here are some tips for developing and improving your soft skills:

Practice active listening

Focus on listening actively to others, rather than simply waiting for your turn to speak.

Seek feedback

Ask for feedback from colleagues and mentors to identify areas where you can improve.

Take courses or workshops

Look for formal or structured learning that can help you develop specific soft skills, such as communication or leadership.

Practice empathy

Try to understand others' perspectives and show empathy towards their experiences and feelings.

Find a mentor

Seek out a mentor who can help you develop your soft skills and provide guidance and support throughout your career.

5 – Stay current with industry trends

The world of IT is constantly evolving, with new technologies and trends emerging all the time. Staying up to date with what's happening in your industry is essential for IT professionals who want to remain relevant and competitive in their careers.

Most important trends in IT

Here are some of the most important trends in the IT industry:

Cloud computing

Cloud computing continues to be a major trend in the IT industry, with more and more organizations adopting cloud-based solutions for their data storage and computing needs.

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning

AI and machine learning technologies are becoming increasingly important in the IT industry, with applications ranging from data analytics to cybersecurity.

Internet of Things (IoT)

The Internet of Things refers to the growing network of connected devices and sensors, which are being used to gather and share data in new and innovative ways.

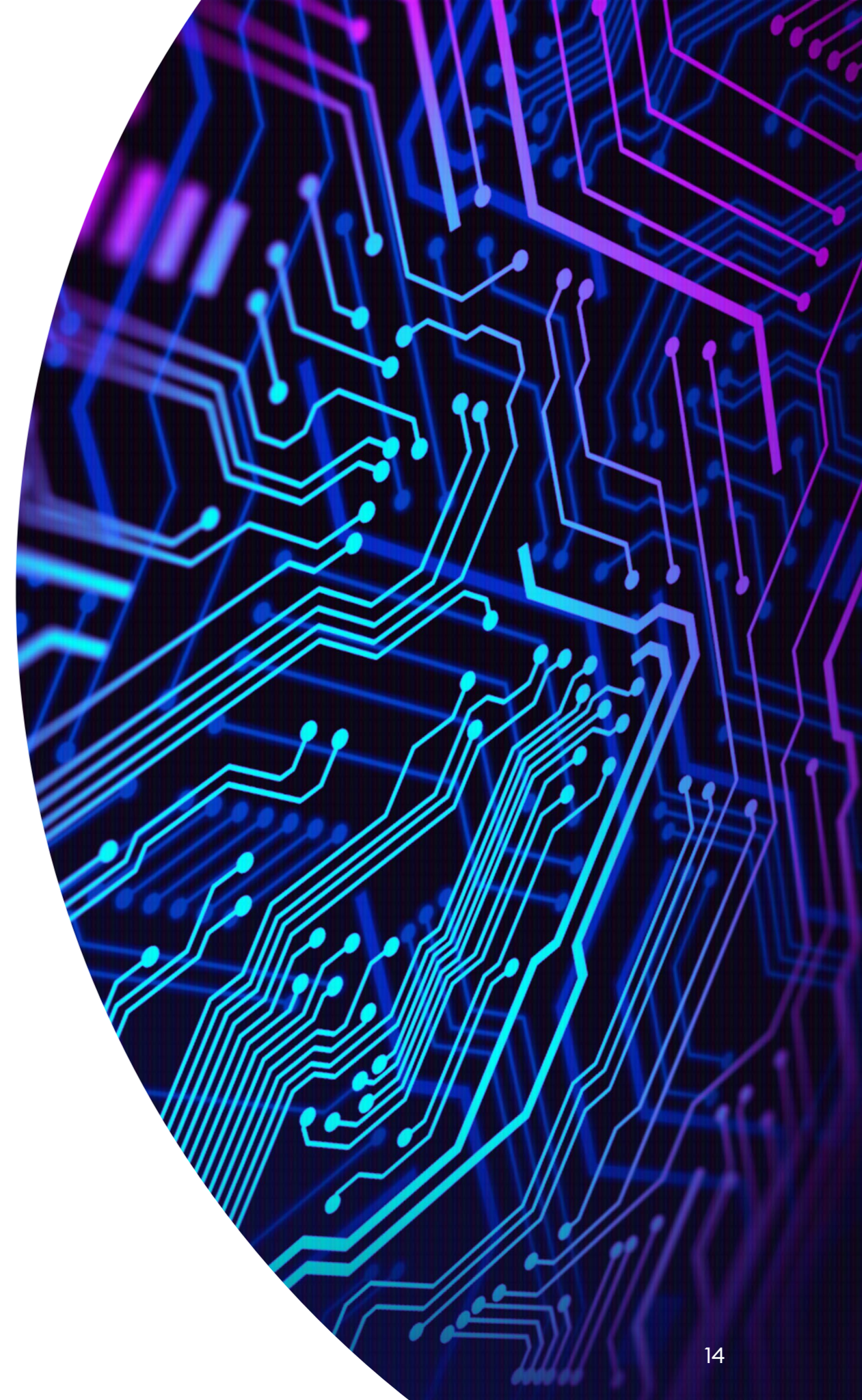
Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity continues to be a major concern for organizations of all sizes, with new threats and vulnerabilities emerging all the time.

Edge computing

Edge computing involves processing data closer to the source of its generation, rather than sending it to a central data center, which can help to reduce latency and improve performance.

Want to know more relevant IT trends? Check out our [eBook](#) on the top enterprise tech trends that matter.





Tips for staying current with industry news and developments

The wealth of information telling you what the future looks like can be overwhelming. Here are some tips for staying up to date with industry news and developments:

Read reputable industry publications and blogs

So many well-known publications and blogs focus specifically on the IT industry, which provide reliable information and help you stay informed.

Attend conferences and events

This can be a great way to network with other IT professionals and learn about new technologies and trends directly from the knowledge experts.

Follow industry thought leaders on social media

Following the right people on social media can help you stay informed about the latest news and developments in the IT industry.

Join professional organizations

This provides access to valuable resources and networking opportunities.

Participate in online forums and discussion groups

Online forums and discussion groups can be a great way to connect with other IT professionals and exchange knowledge.

Futureproof your IT career with IFS assyst

Remember, it's essential to stay proactive and up-to-date in the fast-paced and ever-evolving field of IT. By thinking like a futurist, you can anticipate industry trends and keep your skills and knowledge relevant.

As you continue your career journey, consider the benefits of enterprise service management (ESM) and IT service management (ITSM) solutions, which can help organizations streamline their IT operations and drive business success.

If you're looking for a comprehensive ESM/ITSM platform, IFS assyst is the answer. With its powerful capabilities, including incident management, problem management, change management, and more, IFS assyst can help you deliver superior service to everyone.

[Click here to learn more about IFS assyst.](#)



About IFS assyst

Global brands trust IFS assyst to automate complex business processes easily without fuss. We deliver frictionless customer and employee experiences, one intelligent workflow at a time. Our modern service management technology lets you automate service delivery and support so your customers get what they need fast, and you can focus on building the future of your organization. IFS assyst is uniquely easy to buy, set up, use, and upgrade. Whether you're in IT, HR, Facilities, Finance, or any other team that provides services to customers and employees, IFS assyst puts service management technology within your reach.

Our process automation takes the boring out of everyday tasks, allowing you to focus on work that matters.

Everyday we assyst!

About IFS our Parent company

IFS develops and delivers enterprise software for companies around the world who manufacture and distribute goods, build and maintain assets, and manage service-focused operations. Within our single platform, our industry-specific products are innately connected to a single data model and use embedded digital innovation so that our customers can be their best when it really matters to their customers – at the Moment of Service. The industry expertise of our people and of our growing ecosystem, together with a commitment to deliver value at every single step, has made IFS a recognized leader and the most recommended supplier in our sector. Our team of 4,000 employees every day live our values of agility, trustworthiness and collaboration in how we support our 10,000+ customers.

Find out more

For further information, e-mail assystme@ifs.com, contact your local IFS office or visit our website.

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