

# National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

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WEEK 3

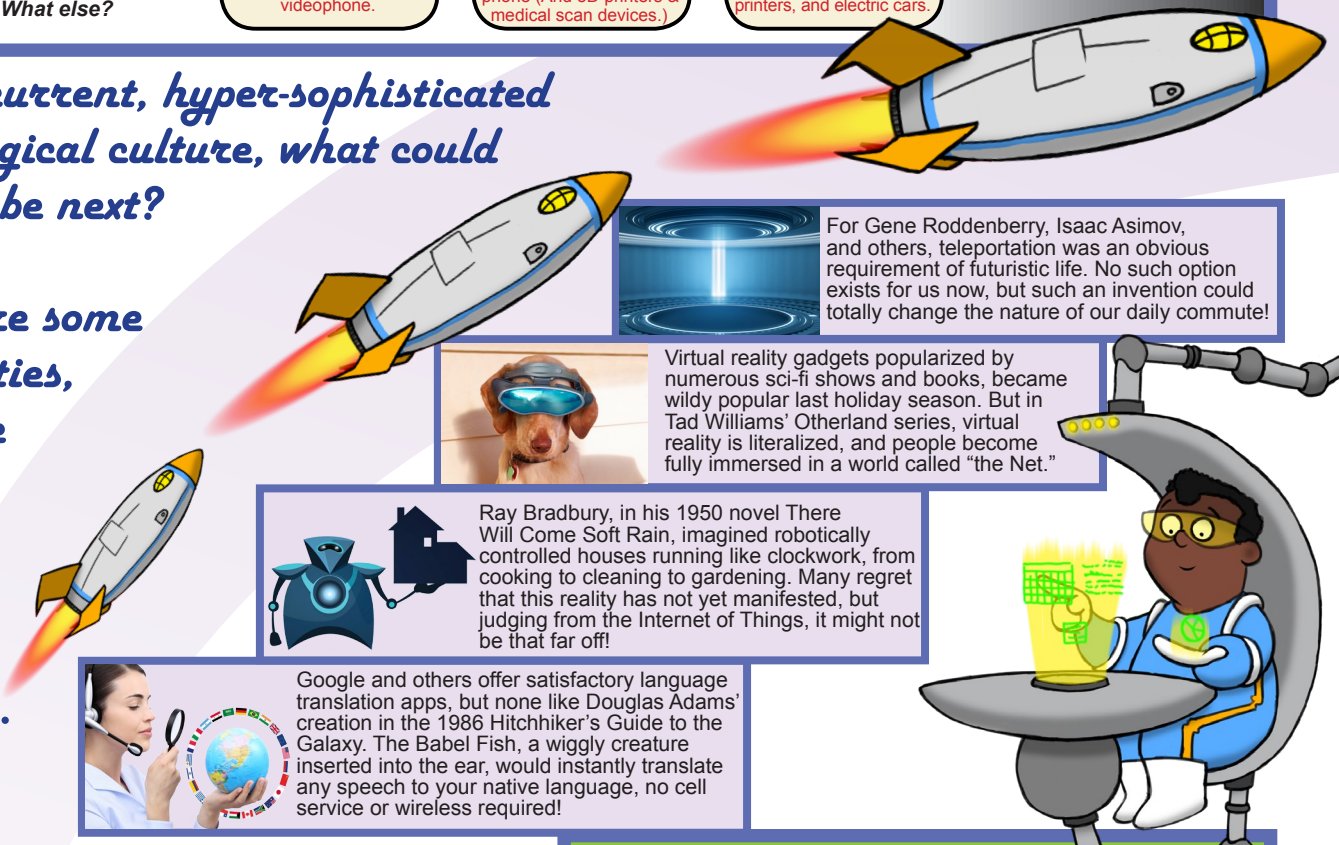
## The Cyber-Future is NOW... But Wait, There's More!

Sci-Fi writers envision a future of goods and technologies that has often hit the mark. We've already seen the invention of waterbeds (Robert Heinlein 1961) and satellite broadcast communications (Arthur C. Clarke 1945). **What else?**

<p><b>Looking Backward</b> Edward Bellamy predicts ubiquitous use of credit and debit cards.</p>	<p><b>Fahrenheit 451</b> Ray Bradbury invents ear buds.</p>	<p><b>The Space Odyssey</b> Arthur C. Clarke imagines iPads and tablets.</p>	<p><b>Kaleidoscope Century</b> John Barnes thinks about voice-activated laptops.</p>			
1887	1911	1953	1966	1968	1969	1995
<p><b>Ralph 124c</b> Hugo Gernsback predicts the advent of the videophone.</p>	<p><b>Star Trek</b> Gene Roddenberry gives Capt. Kirk an awesome flip phone (And 3D printers &amp; medical scan devices.)</p>	<p><b>Stand on Zanzibar</b> John Brunner gives us on-demand satellite TV, laser printers, and electric cars.</p>	<p><b>2020: The Cyber-Future is NOW!</b> What's in store for the future of the Internet?</p>			

*In our current, hyper-sophisticated technological culture, what could possibly be next?*

*Here are some possibilities, from the minds of more science-fiction writers...*



For Gene Roddenberry, Isaac Asimov, and others, teleportation was an obvious requirement of futuristic life. No such option exists for us now, but such an invention could totally change the nature of our daily commute!

Virtual reality gadgets popularized by numerous sci-fi shows and books, became wildly popular last holiday season. But in Tad Williams' Otherland series, virtual reality is literalized, and people become fully immersed in a world called "the Net."

Ray Bradbury, in his 1950 novel *There Will Come Soft Rain*, imagined robotically controlled houses running like clockwork, from cooking to cleaning to gardening. Many regret that this reality has not yet manifested, but judging from the Internet of Things, it might not be that far off!

Google and others offer satisfactory language translation apps, but none like Douglas Adams' creation in the 1986 *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. The Babel Fish, a wiggly creature inserted into the ear, would instantly translate any speech to your native language, no cell service or wireless required!

There have been dozens if not hundreds of visions of the future of the Internet. Among the most relevant were William Gibson's in 1984, when personal computers were just beginning to hit the stage. *Neuromancer* (attributed with inspiring "The Matrix") told of a future society immersed in cyberspace and, more startlingly, the computer hackers who had the power to wreak catastrophic havoc.

Bad guys aren't just the stuff of FICTION, and you don't have to take the red pill to see them! As our daily lives become more interconnected and more accessible online, remember to stay alert and practice secure online behavior.

It is impossible to know what the cyber future holds, but the following actions will help you "live long and prosper" in the cyberworld:

- Monitor accounts for strange activity.
- Be cautious of what you share on social media.
- Back up data regularly, and keep antivirus software updated.
- Beware of email attachments and links.
- Never leave your devices unattended.
- Practice good password management.
- Be conscientious about what you plug into your computer.
- Don't give unvalidated callers/emailers sensitive information; call the company directly to confirm they're legitimate.

For more tips on combatting cybercriminals, contact your local ISSO.  
Or, email the Cybersecurity Team at [cybersecurity@ihs.gov](mailto:cybersecurity@ihs.gov).  
To report a phishing attack or any other cybersecurity incident, email [CSIRT@ihs.gov](mailto:CSIRT@ihs.gov).

