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BEYOND THE HYPE OF INDUSTRY 4.0: SEPARATING REALITIES FROM MYTHS

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Industry 4.0 in historical perspective: Defining the 'field'

Industry 4.0 building blocks

- I. Technology trends of Industry 4.0
- II. Design principles of Industry 4.0
- III. Industry 4.0 archetype

Benefits of Industry 4.0

- I. Economic-productivity impacts
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Industry 4.0 in historical perspective: Defining the 'field'

- The first reference to Industry 4.0 occurred in 2011, yet, it is misleading to assume that Industry 4.0 is a sudden revolution utterly unaware of the industrial and technological revolutions that arose earlier. In reality, Industry 4.0 builds entirely upon the foundations of previous industrial revolutions. However, Industry 4.0 is expected to deliver the highest degree of digitalization, automation, virtualization, and decentralization across all industries, when coming to its maturity.
- The earlier studies tend to narrate Industry 4.0 as the digitalization of manufacturing processes, limiting it to factories, mainly in the form of implementing advanced digital manufacturing technologies such as 3D printing, modeling, simulation, virtualization, and data management technologies. More recent perspectives regard Industry 4.0 as the **digital transformation** of industrial value chains, a paradigm shift across various industries.



Industry 4.0 in historical perspective: Defining the 'field'



Nowadays, the scope of Industry 4.0 spans well beyond manufacturing sector, involving related concepts such as Healthcare 4.0, Construction 4.0, Energy 4.0, and Transportation 4.0, among many others.

Article categorization		Publication year						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Article published	3	3	16	37	109	195	382	
Article providing Industry 4.0 definition	2	1	7	22	48	96	143	
Manufacturing digitalization-oriented definition	2	1	6	15	27	47	65	
Value chain digitalization-oriented definition	0	0	1	7	21	49	78	

Industry 4.0 building blocks

To address the elusive nature of Industry 4.0 and the underlying digital transformation, the literature commonly characterizes Industry 4.0 based on its building blocks; a wide variety of underlying **technology trends** and **design princip**les.

- Technology trends of Industry 4.0 are advanced digital, information, and operations technologies that are indispensable to shaping the undergoing digital industrial transformation.
- Design principles are desirable conditions that enable industrial entities to achieve digital transformation success and unlock the potential benefits of Industry 4.0 technology trends.



The framework of digital transformation success under Industry 4.0

Technology trends of Industry 4.0

Industry 4.0 could be categorized into two clusters, termed core technologies and facilitating technologies.

- The core technologies of industry 4.0 are the modern technological innovations that have been in development within the past few decades but have matured enough to become commercially available within the last decade.
- The facilitating technologies of Industry 4.0 are the more traditional, prevailing, and mature information and operations technologies that enable the core technologies of Industry 4.0 to deliver their intended functions.



Core technologies

Facilitating technologies

Technology trends of Industry 4.0



Internet of everything



Industry 4.0 design principles





Benefits of Industry 4.0



There are different perspectives on the possible benefits of Industry 4.0 that drive the digital industrial revolution.



Economic-productivity impacts





(b) Industry 4.0 opportunities for manufacturing productivity

(c) Industry 4.0 opportunities for business competitiveness

Environmental and social sustainability impacts





(d) Social benefits of Industry 4.0

(e) Environmental benefits of Industry 4.0

The negative impacts of Industry 4.0



- Inventions often create more opportunities, and with that, jobs. Nevertheless, Industry 4.0 may very well lead to
 mass unemployment, at least in the short run.
- Industry 4.0, if governed and managed poorly, will lead to the polarization of the labor market. A skilled elite group of
 people who can use technology to be more productive tend to replace the labor of others and are paid accordingly,
 substantially resulting in income inequality.
- The digital transformation under Industry 4.0 is hugely resource and knowledge-intensive. Industry 4.0 leaders are usually the overpowering mega-corporations. The difference in Industry 4.0 transformation competency could increase the technological gap, hence inequality between corporations and even countries.
- More affordable, smarter, and personalized products, thanks to the advantages of Industry 4.0, mean shorter product lifecycle and overconsumption and rebound effect. A prolonged pattern of overconsumption and rebound effect, in turn, leads to environmental degradation and the eventual loss of resource bases.



Best practices for digital transformation success



Industry 4.0 Transformation

I. Separating hype from reality



- Industry 4.0 technologies are being adopted across the Industry. The adoption rate is increasing, but the overall rate is still very low. There is a massive discrepancy in the level of Industry 4.0 digital transformation across various industries, businesses of various sizes, and countries.
- The scope of Industry 4.0 spans beyond focal firms. Industry 4.0 is also transformative, as it completely changes the rules of business. However, the digitalization journey under Industry 4.0 can be started in the form of smaller digitalization projects at the corporate or value chain levels. When it comes to Industry 4.0, businesses need to have a clear picture of the digital transformation and its underlying requirements, current risks, and opportunities. Businesses also need to understand what their peers and competitors are currently doing and plan to do in the future to drive value and capture competitive advantage under the digitalization scenario.
- Many of the manufacturing-productivity benefits of Industry 4.0 is empirically proven. Nonetheless, the majority of the socio-environmental implications of Industry 4.0 are theoretical speculations.
- The majority of Industry 4.0 technologies have been available for industrial use during the past few decades. However, they have become more mature and commercially viable during the last few years. Digital transformation is not merely about purchasing and implementing these technologies. Without developing and materializing the core design principles of Industry 4.0, these technologies cannot deliver the intended benefits.





Thank You

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