Institute for
SECURITY+
TECHNOLOGY

Outpacing Emerging Global Security Risks

There once was a time when technological developments were driven by the United States government. Over the years, the driver's seat has shifted position, with corporations now indisputably responsible for accelerating the world's most advanced tech growth.

What happens when policy makers are no longer in the rooms where rapidly changing technology advancements are pushed out? And what are the risks of tech companies not understanding the security implications of their innovations?

The stakes for government and corporate entities are increasingly high. Technology advances and creates wealth as concurrent breaches, compromised privacy, and a variety of emerging security threats put our country at risk at an alarming rate. In the meantime, the gulf between policy makers and technologists is intensifying.

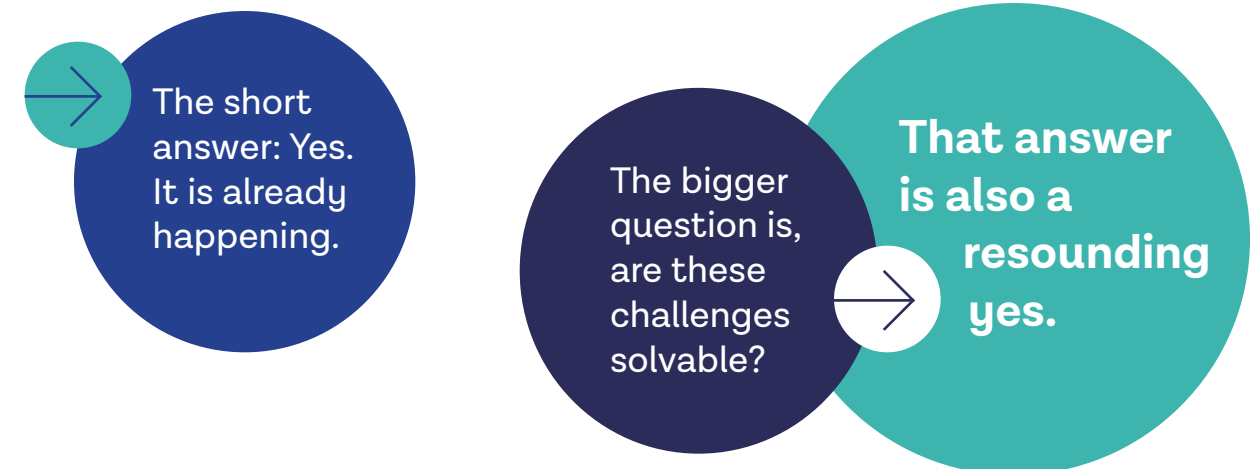# And yet, the Institute for Security and Technology (IST) is optimistic.

We are hopeful because bridging this gap is what we do: IST solves emerging security threats by connecting industry and national security policy leaders. With a network of experts in Silicon Valley and influential policy makers in national capitals, we are the preeminent West Coast institute positioned to outpace security risks and facilitate solutions before they become catastrophic to society.

Will you join the conversation?

Your support of IST will make the world, this country, and your own home safer.

Innovations have improved lives while becoming irrevocably integrated into Americans' daily routines, and it is easy to forget the myriad risks that online activity invites into our homes. Without a passing thought, we scroll through Facebook before rolling out of bed; we conduct Zoom meetings with colleagues around the world; we exchange sensitive medical information via online portals; our kids pass entire afternoons getting lost down the social media rabbit hole.

As more and more business and personal transactions move online, is the convenience of the internet negatively impacting our ability to make informed judgements? Is our Facebook use costing our families' safety? Could online trends and social media tools be more powerful than we realize—potentially sparking a nuclear war?

The short answer: Yes. It is already happening.

The bigger question is, are these challenges solvable?

That answer is also a resounding yes.

IST does not shy away from daunting challenges—rather, we seek them out. And we invite you to join us.

Our success is built on strong networks of trust that allow us to customize problem-solving approaches that bridge distinct communities and propel action.

With the help of industry and government partners, we identify and prioritize emerging security threats: digital threats to democracy; internet security; nuclear weapons; cyber warfare; and information operations. We tailor a distinct problem-solving process for each project by applying three unique, yet interconnected, pillars of activity:

→ *The Policy Lab* conducting and analyzing dynamic research; translating results into action in order to shape security policies in government and industry

→ *The Tech Works* designing real-world tech solutions for emerging security threats by bringing technologists, product managers, venture capitalists, and policy makers under one umbrella

→ *The Network for Global Security* expanding trusted relationships through deep national security and entrepreneurial roots

By integrating these three pillars, IST accelerates policy and tech solutions to emerging security threats and propels their implementation through research, tools, and robust international collaboration.

Problem solving
BY DESIGN

Bringing together diverse voices—a strategy that has gained heightened value in the current political and cultural environment—has always been integral to our business model. Purposefully incorporating disparate perspectives and creating trusted spaces for these experts to meet, we forge critical relationships across disciplines that would not have otherwise developed.

IST is uniquely positioned to facilitate conversations between agile, risk-taking companies and less-agile, risk-averse governments. Whether it is a multi-day Zoom workshop for 100 to brainstorm futures-based scenarios about democracy, a six-person clinic with an international cybersecurity expert, or tabletop exercises that work through nuclear threat scenarios via gaming, our novel and evolving approach to convening introduces key leaders, breaks down silos, and facilitates the tough conversations that are essential to solving security threats.

IST INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

+ **The impact of emerging capabilities on nuclear security and strategic stability**

+ **Cognitive technologies and their role in international security**

+ **Integrated exercises that promote trust and strengthen public-private relationships**

+ **Digital threats to democracy and human rights**

+ **Challenges posed by cyber security and the information environment**

Action at the
HIGHEST LEVEL

IST operates with a bias towards action, setting us apart from the traditional think tank.

Much of our success is found "behind the scenes" through our exclusive conversations and the new relationships they form. Tangible outcomes include:

- Creating the CATALINK project, engaging 50+ global experts to build a reliable, secure communications device for the event of an escalating crisis between countries.

- Publishing outcomes on how digital technology can impact democracy in the future and what citizens can better protect themselves against viral misinformation.

- Uniting researchers, technical experts, and government leaders to anticipate the challenges of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into military applications.

- Helping companies understand the unintended consequences of tech innovations, thus shaping safer end products.

- Reducing DDoS (distributed denial-of-service) risks by broadening access to research through multi-language translations, and data sharing facilitation to combat malicious activity.

- Facilitating new relationships between leaders from social media platforms and national security policymakers so they are connected before a crisis arises and sharing predicted outcomes of emerging threats.

Your support is needed *now*

Due to the ever-evolving security environment and power of disruptive technologies, the work to solve security concerns never ends... and we cannot stand still. You are invited—and needed—to support our initiatives that will continue to change the trajectory of these emergent threats.

IST has already proven nimble and adept at minimizing costs wherever possible, thereby maximizing our limited resources to engage experts that drive change. But in order to maintain and scale the effectiveness of our initiatives to tackle these critical security issues, we need your help.

Your commitment to the Institute for Security and Technology will directly support the work of project researchers, facilitators, and consultants who are committed to making the world a safer place for all. This includes:

- *Launching a campaign to combat future digital threats to democracy*
- *Initiating crucial conversations about the impact of AI on cyberwarfare and society*
- *Hiring a technical lead for the CATALINK project*
- *Recruiting and training up-and-coming leaders to fill and exceed cyber security policy needs*
- *Expanding the number and magnitude of our projects by 20% over the next two years*

Together, we can advance our work for a more secure tomorrow. Thank you for sharing in our hope for the future.