



Attending Microsoft's #FutureDecoded event at Excel, London 31st Oct – 1st Nov 2018

In Conversation with Julian Green, our lead Technical Design Authority

2nd November 2018



Amicus ITS TDA Julian Green back in the office, sharing his take on the Future Decoded sessions

Julian, have you attended Future Decoded in previous years?

Yes, I went two years ago to Excel – at that time, the main thinking was around Cloud First.

Why did you attend Future Decoded this year?

To see what is upcoming and new. It was a lot bigger this year, with 12,000 tickets sold and also a lot busier - there were 140 breakout sessions on offer. I wanted to go to every one of them. For a techy like me, it's like being in a sweetie shop!

What did you get out of this year's 2018 event from a personal point of view

I would say it was a renewed interest in the possible, versus continuing with the mundane of what we essentially deliver technically on a D2D basis.

From a commercial/MSP point of view, how do you think this accelerates the direction of travel in IT for our customers as we look ahead?

There has been a shift to using data, AI and automation as a set vs independent thinking on each. The idea is that by doing this it can remove the mundane tasks from the workforce, releasing them so they can do higher intellectual parts of their job.

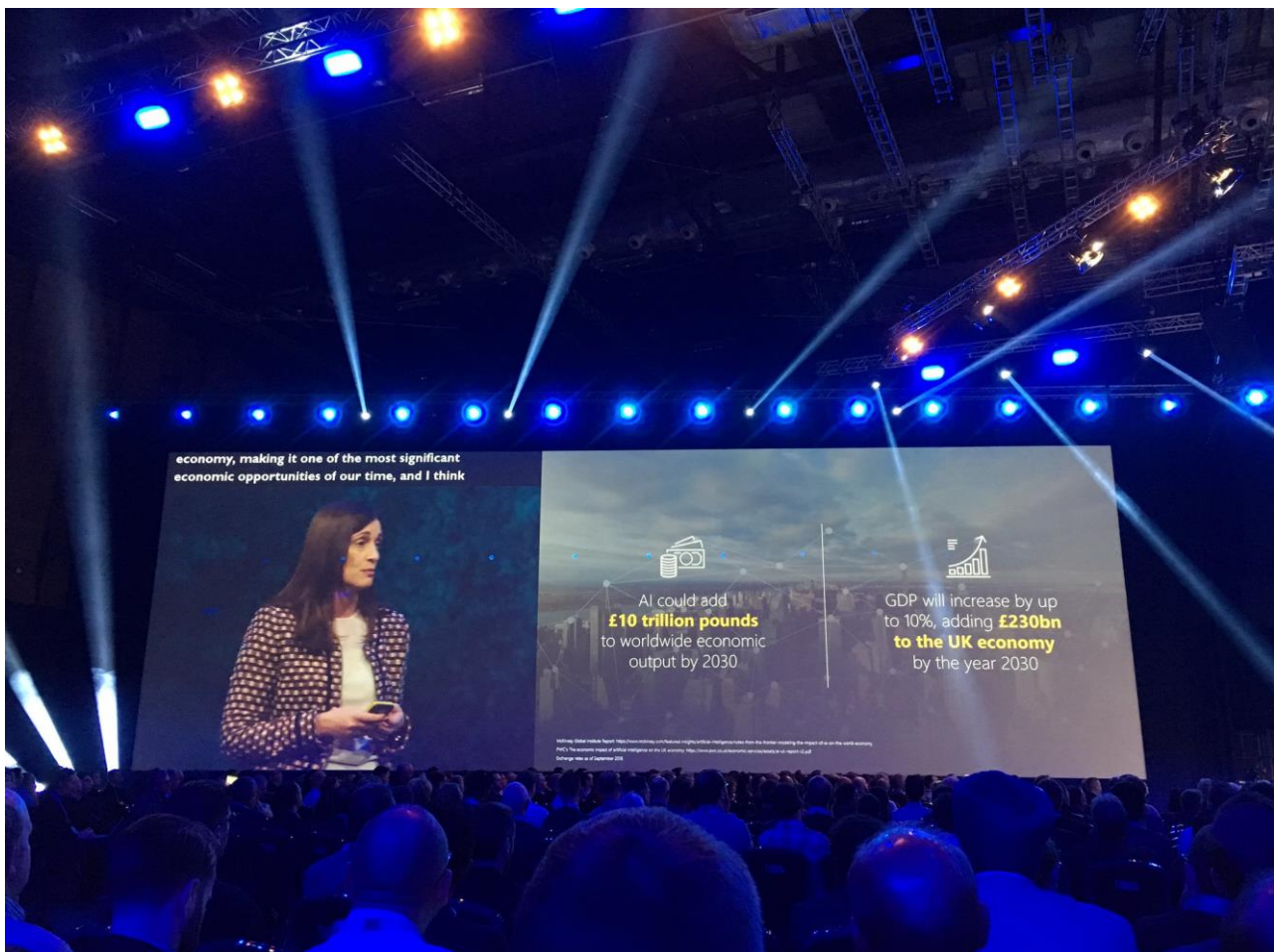
People continue to be so bogged down doing the same, simple things over and over again, ie. taking a document from one system and re-typing it into another IT system – so those sorts of tasks can so readily be dealt with by integrated AI. It's about advancing business processes as much as IT processes.

Can you highlight for us your selected interesting speakers or sessions - and why?

On the first day, I would say the big hitters sharing thoughts on the future were Microsoft UK's CEO Cindy Rose, plus Michael Wignall (MS UK CTO) and finally Jason Zander, EVP of Azure.

*I also really enjoyed listening to some separate panel sessions. One on 'Using Data, AI and Intelligent Automation to transform your Customer and Citizen experiences' brought together Microsoft execs with public sector AI consumers and software partners through Wiltshire Council's Interim Director of Digital Transformation & IT, **Paul Day** who spoke with **Phil Sheen** from [Thoughtonomy](#) (Head of Public Sector). This highlighted the evolution of applying virtual assistants in business vs what we have traditionally called been 'Bots' – and the journey to make savings and be prepared to make the bot utilise its intelligence to create increased functionality and usefulness. It was a very good case study.*

In addition, I enjoyed a talky session 'Microsoft Teams Power Up – moving workloads to MS Teams and extending capability' which was another great illustration of how to make much more of collaborative working methods as the way forwards for efficiency and positive experience.



Keynotes from #Day 1 –31st October

*Evening keynote highlight I'd say was from **Margaret Ebinoluwa Aderin-Pocock** aka **Dr Maggie** – a highly respected space scientist, evoking the base reasons why you should be the best you can be, inspired by *The Clangers*! Sounds obvious, but you have to work hard at the possibilities.*

Press Release

Keynotes on #Day 2 – 1st November

Satya Nadella focused on Artificial Intelligence and the shape of things to come as well as a sharp focus on accessibility (which he promoted at October's Ignite conference in Seattle). We also had **Esther McVey** Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. She was there to thank the UK IT community for innovation around accessibility in IT services to support disabled communities.

And Michael Caine made an appearance...?

Yes, a very dry, very funny man. Obviously there to promote his new book, but it brought a smile to everyone's lips. A man who delivers from the hip, but with words around motivation, just delivered from the hip.

So, did you get your hands on anything high tech whilst you were at Excel?

No, but on the Expo side of the event, I had some fun with a medical VR toolset from [Touch Surgery](#) and managed to do a few 'armless bits of digital arm surgery to see and understand the move to minimising risk and increasing accuracy in day-to-day surgical procedures.

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Post script: Key takeaway for all industries, Microsoft research on AI reveals that UK companies are at risk of falling behind due to a lack of AI strategy. So let's start the conversation together.

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Amicus ITS will share more from the event as Microsoft release their slides and we can share further conversations around using these emerging applications and technologies.

For further details about Amicus ITS and our services, please go to www.amicusits.co.uk or contact us on **02380 429429** or email: enquiries@amicusits.co.uk