Record Nr. UNISA996465344703316 Autore Cortada James W Titolo Living with Computers [[electronic resource]]: The Digital World of Today and Tomorrow / / by James W. Cortada Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham:,: Springer International Publishing:,: Imprint: Copernicus,, 2020 **ISBN** 3-030-34362-6 Edizione [1st ed. 2020.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource 303.483 Disciplina Soggetti Computer science Computers and civilization Popular Computer Science Computers and Society Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction: Why Listen to Me? Why You Should Take Seriously Your Own Knowledge of Computers -- What Is Computing? -- How Did We Get Here? -- Early Views of Computing -- How People View Computing Today -- How We Might See the End of the Information Age -- Life in a Post-Information Era -- Is It the End of Our World? How to Think About Implications and Challenges -- How to Live with Computers. Sommario/riassunto The computing technology on which we are now so dependent has risen to its position of ascendency so rapidly that few of us have had the opportunity to take a step back and wonder where we are headed. This book urges us to do so. Taking a big-picture perspective on

risen to its position of ascendency so rapidly that few of us have had the opportunity to take a step back and wonder where we are headed. This book urges us to do so. Taking a big-picture perspective on digital technology, Living with Computers leads the reader on a whistle-stop tour of the history of information and information technology. This journey culminates in a deep exploration into the meaning and role of computers in our lives, and what this experience might possibly mean for the future of human society – and the very existence of humanity itself. In the face of the transformative power of computing, this book provokes us to ask big questions. If computers become integrated into our bodies, merging with the information processing of our very DNA, will computing help to shape the evolution of biological life? If artificial intelligence advances beyond the abilities

of the human brain, will this overturn our anthropocentrism and lead to a new view of reality? Will we control the computers of the future, or will they control us? These questions can be discomforting, yet they cannot be ignored. This book argues that it is time to reshape our definition of our species in the context of our interaction with computing. For although such science-fiction scenarios are not likely to happen any time soon – and may, in fact, never happen – it is nevertheless vital to consider these issues now if we wish to have any influence over whatever is to come. So, humans, let's confront our possible destiny! James W. Cortada is a Senior Research Fellow at the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota. He holds a Ph. D. in modern history and worked at IBM in various positions for 38 years, including in IBM's management research institute, The IBM Institute for Business Value (IBV). He is the author of over a dozen books on management, and nearly two dozen books on the history of information technology. These include the Springer title From Urban Legends to Political Fact-Checking: Online Scrutiny in America, 1990-2015 (with William Aspray). .