

# R. David Edelman

Founder & Director, Project on Technology, the  
Economy, and National Security, MIT  
Former White House Tech Advisor

*Geopolitics of technology & new landscape of  
corporate risk*



## Biography

Dr. R. David Edelman is one of the world's leading authorities on the geopolitics of technology and the new landscape of corporate risk, helping U.S. Presidents, CEOs, and MIT's best-and-brightest glimpse into the future and make sense of what they see. From AI and data privacy to cybersecurity and nuclear fusion, Edelman combines uncanny insights with a unique clarity in explaining what's next for our world.

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## Topics

*Artificial Intelligence  
Technology*

A Yale- and Oxford-educated technologist, investor, and former policymaker now based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, his insights and analysis have appeared in print in *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, the *FT*, *Der Spiegel*, *WIRED*, *Fast Company*, and *Fortune*, and in broadcast on CNN, Bloomberg, CNBC, MSNBC, and NPR. For three years running, he has served as a judge for the Forbes AI 50 List which recognizes standout companies making the most interesting and effective use of artificial technology.

In government, Edelman served for over six years in the Obama White House, including as Special Assistant to the President for Economic & Technology Policy on the National Economic Council, Director for Cybersecurity on the National Security Council, and Senior Advisor in the Office of Science & Technology Policy. When appointed, he was the youngest-ever Director in the sixty-year history of the NSC. Prior to the White House, he began his career at the State Department in the George W. Bush Administration as a founding member of the Department's Office of Cyber Affairs, ultimately serving as the lead U.S. negotiator on cybersecurity and digital economy matters at the United Nations and later, the G-20.

In academia, Edelman is currently the IPRI Distinguished Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he founded the Project on Technology, the Economy, and National Security, co-chairs the AI Policy Forum, and holds dual appointments at the Computer Science & AI Lab (CSAIL) and Center for International Studies. He teaches Foundations of Internet Policy at MIT, a course designed to help students develop the technical, legal, and rhetorical skills to analyze and participate in the evolution of the global public policy environments that govern human behavior on the Internet. His forthcoming debut book is the highly anticipated *Rethinking Cyber Warfare*.

In the private sector, Edelman is the founder and managing partner of Catalyst•Wayfare, a boutique geopolitical advisory firm serving breakthrough technology CEOs. He previously built the public-sector and global strategy teams at multi-billion-dollar AI and clean energy startups and has been a venture investor in a range of deep-tech innovations. He is a sought-after counselor to and serves on several public and private corporate boards.

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