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Any fairly advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic, the British writer and futurist Sir Arthur Clarke once remarked. If so, there is a lot of magic in today's wired world, from smartphones that can tell jokes to machines that can tell you why they are faulty. As these technologies turn into essentials, technical stocks can prove surprisingly magical, too. It's a big sector to invest in, says Bernie Williams, chief investment officer of USAA's money management division. He's got something for everyone. Whether you're looking for a stable dividend from a giant like Apple or Microsoft, or if you want to bet on a fast-growing upstart, there's plenty of room. Here are eight stocks worth a look at. (The shares are listed in order of market value.) Headquarters: Cupertino, CA.Price: \$94.25 Market capitalization: \$568.3 billion52-week range: \$55.55 - \$95.05Consizable sales: \$176.0 billionEstimated profit growth: 11.1% in the fiscal year ending September 2014; The 8.9% year that ends in september 2015 the death of Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO and creative genius, in October 2011 put investors on the brink. When Apple's profits fell last year, Wall Street thought its worst expectations were confirmed, and Apple's stock (the AAPL symbol) went into a tailspin. But with new iPhone models out and more coming, earnings and earnings are climbing again. Apple executives are known to be closely associated with the product launch, but Jobs' successor as CEO Tim Cook hints that new products, including possibly iWatch, are in development. Meanwhile, Apple is raising dividends and buying back billions of dollars worth of shares. In addition, on June 9, Apple implemented a seven-to-one split, the first split since February 2005. Splits do not affect the value of investors' shares or the value of shares. But companies tend to share their shares when their executives are optimistic about the future. Apple shares sell 14 times the forecast profit and give 2.0%. Headquarters: Redmond, Washington Price: \$41.11 Market capitalization: \$339.6 billion52-week range: \$30.84 - \$41.66In this year Sales: \$83.3 billionEstimated profit growth: 6.5% in the fiscal year ending in June 2015; The 9.8% year that ends in June 2016Change was good for Microsoft shareholders (MSFT). Shares have risen 15 percent since February 4, when the company announced that Microsoft veteran Satya Nadella would replace longtime CEO Steve Ballmer. Nadella, who previously led the firm's cloud and corporate group, promised that under his leadership Microsoft would revive the innovative spirit that put the company at stake. UBS Securities analyst Brent Till is particularly encouraged by the fact that Nadella was refreshingly optional about continuing to spend money on operations that failed to gain significant market share - a problem that weighed on Microsoft's profits over Decades. By cutting costs, Till says, Microsoft will be able to significantly increase profits. The shares sell 15 times the forecast profit and boast an ultra-average dividend yield of 2.7%. Headquarters: Redwood City, Calif.Share Price: \$42.66 Market Capitalization: \$190.3 billion52-week range: \$29.86 - \$42.88In this year Sales: \$37.9 billionEstimated profit growth: 9.7% in the fiscal year ending in May 2015; The 8.3% year that ends in May 2016Wall Street has been treating software giant Oracle (ORCL) as if it were too long in the tooth. However, cloud competitors gained momentum from the 37-year-old database management program specialist, and Oracle's growth was cool. However, it's too early to write off Oracle, says Mark Landecker, co-manager of the FFA Crescent fund. Given the nature of Oracle's business model, customers stick to the company; about 90% re-by every year. Now that Oracle is making its own intrusion into the cloud, profits should be nonsense up, analysts say. Meanwhile, Oracle is sitting on the \$34 billion in cash it uses to buy back shares. And while the stock has risen 29% over the past year, it's not particularly expensive, selling 14 times the estimated profit. Headquarters: Eindhoven, NetherlandsPrice: \$64.40 Market Capitalization: \$16.2 billion52-week range: \$29.03 - \$64.69In this year Sales: \$5.0 billionEstimated profit growth: 33.7% in December 2014; 14.1% in December 2015, you may not know about it, but you'll most likely use products made by NXP Semiconductors (NXP) like you should use an Apple Microsoft office or iPhone. This is because NXP makes a wide range of components that go into everything from smartphones and smart credit cards to cars and eco-friendly light bulbs. The company says that big trends that require better safety and energy efficiency in an increasingly interconnected world are driving its profits. USAA Williams notes that NXP makes chips for smart credit cards, which should see rapid growth as a result of credit card data leaks to Target and other companies. NXP also sells chips that go to cell phones, allowing consumers to buy products just by waving their phone at the checkout. For a company that is expected to generate a 30% rise in profits this year, NXP shares look unusually cheap at 14 times projected earnings. Headquarters: Pleasanton, Calif.Price: \$79.83 Market capitalization: \$14.6 billion52-week range: \$59.87 - \$116.47The sales: \$468.9 million.Revenue growth: no sense (company loses money) Case for Workday (WDAY) based on a future, not on current profit, which is not. Workday is a consulting firm that helps companies manage their human resources and finance departments. But unlike most human resource software companies that sell corporate systems that need to be updated periodically, Workday software is sold as needed and constantly updated through the cloud that provides it. This makes the software more accessible and user-friendly. Income from the working day is growing rapidly; Analysts see their growth of 60% in the fiscal year, which ends in January 2015 and 46% next year. The company's first profit is expected only in 2017. This makes the stock more speculative than most on this list. However, the stock is a better bet today than it was in February, when it sold for \$115. The drop was simply due to a change in market sentiment, said Steve Ashley, an analyst at Robert W. Baird and Co. He believes the stock will hit \$95 over the year. Headquarters: Santa Clara, CA Price: \$55.97 Market capitalization: \$8.0 billion52-week range: \$35.90-\$71.80Vey sales days: \$477.8 million Revenue growth: It doesn't make sense (the company loses money)What workday does to manage human resources, ServiceNow (NOW) makes for the Technology Department. Analyst for Baird and Co. Ashley believes the company's software is changing the rules of the game. It is able to consolidate fragmented and redundant systems and provide better performance tracking and performance priority. Better yet, it can do it all at a lower price than traditional IT software. As with Workday, ServiceNow delivers a startling revenue growth - analysts estimate growth of 54% this year, and the company is expected to deliver its first quarterly profit in July-September. Profits have not yet materialized, but analysts believe serviceNow will break into the black next year. After that, profits are expected to grow rapidly. But stocks sold at an expensive 107 times the estimated 2016 earnings, so if you buy stocks, be prepared for a wild ride. As with Workday shares, ServiceNow shares took a hit in March when investors got skittish about high stock growth estimates. But Ashley believes ServiceNow will recover up to \$65 within a year. Headquarters: San FranciscoPrice: \$43.85 Market Capitalization: \$5.1 billion52-week range: \$39.35-\$106.15Anth sales: \$302.6 million which involves digging into caves, Splunk (SPLK) dives into the huge and often murky performance data produced by corporate machines. By capturing the continuous machine error clamor and electronically sorting through and identifying the ones that are meaningful, Splunk software effectively gets corporate hardware to tell them to yell when something is broken. This drastically reduced the time it takes to find and fix system errors, said Derrick Wood, an analyst at Susquehanna Financial Group. And that made Splunk one of the hottest properties on Wall Street. The company is now using its technological know-how to figure out when hackers are trying their customers' computer networks. Splunk has fantastic technologies that help customers solve real problems, says Morningstar analyst Norman Young. Like many other hot hot Splunk is not yet profitable, but analysts expect the company to produce black ink in the quarter that ends in October 2014. Splunk shares have fallen 57% since the end of February. While Young believes the stock is worth \$54, he suggests that investors are waiting for the stock to hit \$30 before pouncing. Headquarters: Westford, Mass.Price: \$41.33 Market capitalization: \$1.7 billion52-week range: \$22.71 - \$41.86Ann sales: \$396.6 million Revenue growth: 16.0% in the fiscal year ending in March 2015; 15.4% in the year that ends in March 2016At 23 times expected profit, NetScout (NTCT) is slightly more expensive than technology behemoths, but nowhere near as expensive as upstarts. NetScout provides software and services that allow the customer to detect technical problems by watching traffic progress through their computer network. For years, NetScout's core service has alerted corporate technology administrators to bugs and glitches with servers, switches, and software. Last year, NetScout introduced a product that helps companies improve network performance, not just detect problems. The company has also started using its data analytics recently to find cyber criminals trying to scale corporate firewalls. Matt Robison, an analyst at Wunderlich Securities, believes this winning combination of products and services will help fuel sustained double-digit profit growth. NetScout shares took a soft hit during the share sell-off in March and early April, but are now trading at record highs. Highs.

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