What Comes After The Death Of The Smartphone?

Elon Musk and Ray Kurzweil both foresee a hybrid cyborg future for mankind, where connectivity will be merged into the human brain. Cell phones will appear as dinosaurs. ⬚ TN Editor

One day, not too soon — but still sooner than you think — the smartphone will all but vanish, like beepers and fax machines before it.

Make no mistake, we're still probably at least a decade away from any kind of meaningful shift away from the smartphone. (And if we're all cyborgs by 2027, I'll happily eat my words. Assuming we're still eating at all, I guess.)

Yet, piece by piece, the groundwork for the eventual demise of the smartphone is being laid by Elon Musk, by Microsoft, by Facebook, by Amazon, and a countless number of startups that still have a part to play.

And, let me tell you: If and when the smartphone does die, that's when things are going to get *really weird* for everybody. Not just in terms of individual products, but in terms of how we actually live our everyday

lives and maybe our humanity itself.

Here's a brief look at the slow, ceaseless march towards the death of the smartphone — and what the post-smartphone world is shaping up to look like.

The short term

People think of the iPhone and the smartphones it inspired as revolutionary devices — small enough to carry everywhere, hefty enough to handle an increasingly large number of our daily tasks, and packed full of the right mix cameras and GPS sensors to make apps like Snapchat and Uber uniquely possible.

But consider the smartphone from another perspective. The desktop PC and the laptop are made up of some combination of a mouse, keyboard, and monitor. The smartphone just took that model, shrunk it down, and made the input virtual and touch-based.

So take, for example, the [Samsung Galaxy S8](#), unveiled this week. It's gorgeous with an amazing bezel-less screen and some real power under the hood. It's impressive, but it's more refinement than revolution.

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