

4 Tech Dinosaurs That Will Finally Die in 2015

By Kelli Richards

In recent years, technology has changed the way we view work, entertainment, media, and even our workout habits. While most people are focused on what's next for wearables, cloud computing, and syncing gadgets, few have taken the time to consider the tech we're going to be sending into retirement in the coming years.

Here are the tech trends that are coming to an end in 2015.

1. The Revolution Will Not Be Televised

With cable-cutters everywhere^[1], cable and satellite providers across the country are scrambling to lock consumers into their tiered contracts. Millennials, however, aren't as attached to their TV sets as older generations. Netflix, Hulu, Apple, and Amazon already provide great streaming options, while cable favorites like HBO and ESPN are moving to mobile devices.

By 2015, content providers will have much more control than cable companies. Cable companies won't go down without a fight, though — the majority of them also provide digital cable, DVR, and Internet services. However, with lightning-fast Google Fiber expanding^[2] into more major cities, it's only a matter of time before these services will need an upgrade, too.

2. Home Entertainment Is Entering a New Dimension

Your television set won't end up a nostalgic antique like your grandfather's eight-track cassette player, but the TV industry is upping the ante in the age of high definition.

- While Nintendo focuses on integrating its content into mobile platforms, Sony and Microsoft are pushing forward with ways of integrating their gaming consoles into your entire home, allowing for interactive entertainment options we've never seen before.

- Glasses-free 3D and curved screens are changing the way studios create and release both theatrical and home content.
- Set-top boxes and streaming options by Apple, Google, and Roku even further blur the line between our TVs and computers. By 2015, there will be little (if any) difference between your television set, mobile phone, and computer as cloud computing creates a seamless web experience.

3. Call Somebody Who Cares

Millennials have come of age with cell phones. Gone are the days when you couldn't get reception unless you were directly underneath a cell tower. These days, landlines are used strictly for emergencies such as Hurricane Sandy, and most are Internet-based VoIP services.

The days of Ma Bell and her Baby Bells are a distant memory, as those former communications giants struggle to maintain the outdated infrastructure of their phone lines. Cell phones are as likely to drop a call as a landline, and less than 10 percent of households in the country have only a landline phone. As current generations age, landline telephones will disappear altogether.

4. Goodbye, Gutenberg

When Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press, the machine made it possible to put magazines on every shelf, books on every desk, newspapers on every porch, and Bibles in every hotel nightstand.

We all know the newspaper and magazine industries are struggling, but 2014 looks to be the year when we drive the final nail in the coffin and bury these struggling industries for good. After J.K. Rowling authorized the release of the Harry Potter series on Amazon's Kindle, the publishing industry essentially crumbled. Major magazines and newspapers started shutting down, and the only holdouts seemed to be textbook publishers.

Apple took this market by convincing McGraw-Hill, Pearson Education, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt to create iBook textbooks^[3] to integrate the iPad into schools, while Dynamic Books^[4] allows instructors to create customized textbook content for their SMART Boards.

It's not just books, either. The whole world has gone paperless. Your tablet and smartphone allow you to travel without a boarding pass, publish your own e-books, attend concerts without a ticket, and even pay without cash, a credit card, or coupons. Gutenberg must be rolling over in his grave.

Much like video killed the radio star, the Internet is demolishing them both. Every innovation we come up with disrupts another. Nobody knows where we'll be in 2015, but I'm sure we'll have our smartphones in hand, ready to check in on Foursquare to prove it.

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