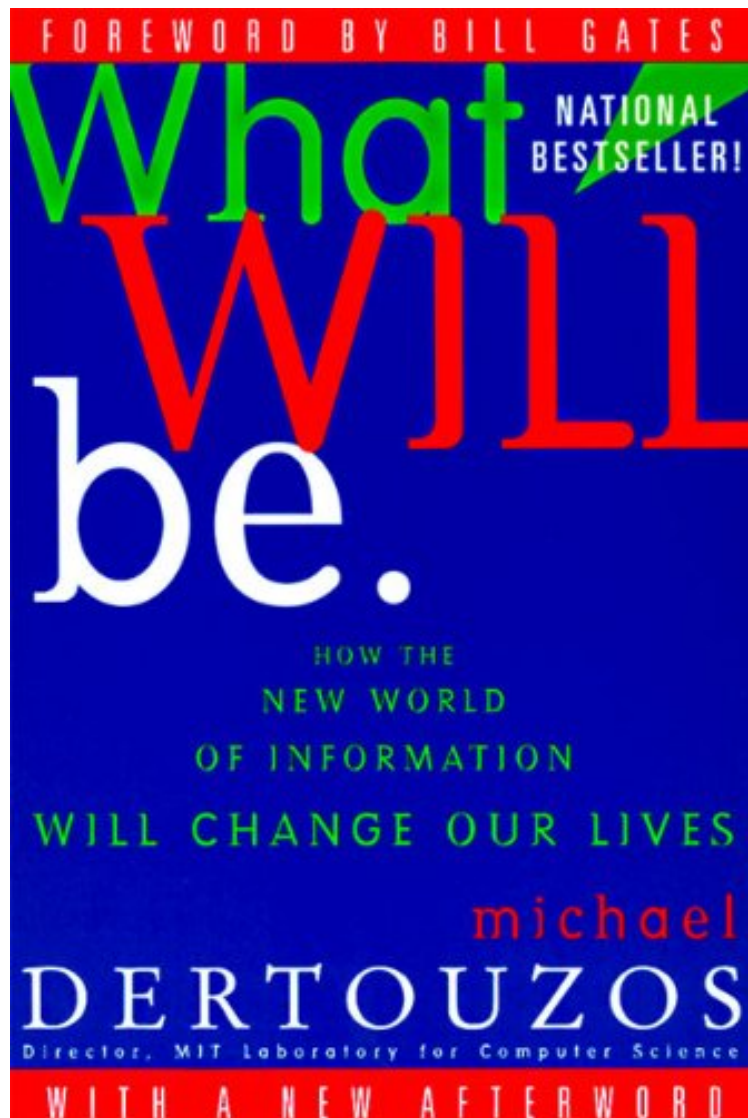


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## What Will Be: How the World of Information Will Change (How the New World of Information Will Change Our Lives)

*Michael L. Dertouzos*

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**Michael L. Dertouzos : What Will Be: How the World of Information Will Change (How the New World of Information Will Change Our Lives)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Will Be: How the World of Information Will Change (How the New World of Information Will Change Our Lives):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Really no news to experienced technology buffs.By A CustomerThis

really is for people "trying to make sense of this Internet/computer business." There is little new or insightful here, especially when the author strays from his field of expertise-- the technology itself. The beginning to intermediate reader will find his thoughtful explanations of current technology helpful and unbiased. The extrapolations into how the technology will affect our lives and institutions are far less convincing or believable. Take the sociology and politics with a grain of salt-- and ask your self simple questions on the extrapolations of technology that he provides. For example, in one futuristic scenario he has a computer check the weather, a company database and a database containing the contents of clean clothes in a commuters closet to determine what outfit the person should wear that day. Would you pay for this? Would you even allow this to happen in your home?

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A book about OUR future. By David Jenkins In the early 1980s, Dr. Dertouzos boldly predicted a place where people could freely exchange information and services using a personal computer. Today this place is widely known as the Internet. Dr. Dertouzos, head of the MIT Lab for Computer Science, uses this book to share more of his ideas and predictions of "What Will Be" in the future. His book, without getting too technical, explains how society will be changed by a new revolution he calls the Information Marketplace. His examples of new networked technologies that will simplify our lives opened my eyes and got me excited about what lies ahead in the future. His idea of a 'Bodynet,' a personal mobile network which enables you to make phone calls, watch the news, and mingle with strangers as you stroll down the block is realistic. But other ideas, such as a database that keeps track of your clean clothes in your closet to help you decide what to wear seems farfetched and even useless. Overall I was satisfied with the content of Dr. Dertouzos' book. It was clear and concise and provided some humorous examples of how the new technologies will be used. I would recommend this book to anyone that has an interest in how technology will shape society's future.

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Everyone needs to know What Will Be! By Dino Mavridis I didn't know anything about Michael Dertouzos prior to discovering and reading this book. It's a presentation of a man's visions of our world's digital future. However, he is not just any man. Dertouzos has been director of the MIT Computer Science Lab for several decades, and has been a leading party in many discoveries and innovations that took place in MIT, or with collaboration to it. He has for many years been a most active participant in the evolution of computers, networks and the Internet itself, thus being the most suitable one to try to envision a picture of our networked world as it will be in the near future. Dertouzos presents quite interesting aspects about how our future will be shaped by all networked electronic equipment, be they computers, TVs, or mobile devices. He shows how more and more uses of the Net will gradually evolve, uses that most of us have not even imagined possible. He calls the Internet a global "Information Marketplace", since he shows how it will grow to include all human activities, not necessarily linked to computers as we know them today. The only hitch I can find in Dertouzos's reasoning, is the time he is talking about. While he says that most of the innovations he talks about will start showing up and rapidly evolve in the next 10 to 20 years, I believe that this time is short. My opinion is, it will take quite some more time for all of Dertouzos's dreams and aspirations to come to life and full use. I wouldn't like to reveal anything more about what's mentioned in this book. I'm not a good summary-writer, so I wouldn't want to spoil your experience of learning What Will Be!

Michael Dertouzos has been an insightful commentator and an active participant in the creation of the Information Age. Now, in *What Will Be*, he offers a thought-provoking and entertaining vision of the world of the next decade -- and of the next century. Dertouzos examines the impact that the following new technologies and challenges will have on our lives as the Information Revolution progresses: all the music, film and text ever produced will be available on-demand in our own homes; your "bodynet" will let you make phone calls, check email and pay bills as you walk down the street; advances in telecommunication will radically alter the role of face-to-face contact in our lives; global disparities in infrastructure will widen the gap between rich and poor; surgical mini-robots and online care will change the practice of medicine as we know it. Detailed, accessible and visionary, *What Will Be* is essential for Information Age revolutionaries and technological neophytes alike.

Many have predicted what emerging technology will mean for society. Michael Dertouzos, an Internet pioneer and Head of MIT's Laboratory for Computer Science, has been among the few who've been pretty much right so far. Now he reaches into the coming century to paint a compelling, rationally developed picture of what's ahead. Dertouzos' fluid freedom from the pollyanna-ism or paranoia that afflict so many of his contemporaries brings to his visions the ring of both conviction and plausibility--and excitement as well. His crystal explanations and fascinating examples are irresistible. The result is a book as enjoyable as it is important. From *Library Journal* Dertouzos's vision, modeled on the Athens flea market, is the Information Marketplace, where people and their computers will buy, sell, and freely exchange information. Dertouzos, head of the MIT Laboratory for Computer Science, sees the Internet as just part of this marketplace's infrastructure and culture; it also will have powerful human-machine interfaces with great potential for medical applications. New software tools termed electronic bulldozers will increase human productivity, and electronic proximity will increase in the manner of a global business market and virtual community (cf. Howard Rheingold's *The Virtual Community*, Addison-Wesley, 1993). In his scenarios, Dertouzos presents both

"techie" and "humie" elements, seeking balance and unification. Recommended for public and academic libraries. Laverna Saunders, Salem State Coll. Lib., Mass. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. Michael L. Dertouzos' new book refreshingly attempts a return to basics, eschewing hype and spectacle. He envisions the emerging world of information as a "21st-century village marketplace where people and computers buy, sell and freely exchange information and information services." . . . Mr. Dertouzos winces at the kind of sweeping predictions we expect from latter-day futurists. He asserts that the information marketplace "will be just another manifestation of ancient humans expending their ancient human lives in search of ancient human goals through new human tools and artifacts." There are highly readable explanations of "bodynets," virtual reality and electronic commerce. His utopia is a plausible, neighborly place, not so far from where we are now; that is the great prognostic value of his book. -- The New York Times Book Review, Rick Prelinger