

## **The Future of Communication in a Society**

Fifty years ago, the tools we rely upon to communicate today were only science fiction. Today, you can purchase a Smartphone and make calls, surf the Web, play games, run applications and accomplish more than most speculative fiction initiators dared to dream. So what's next?

In the short term, I'll likely see basic cell phones slowly fade away. As Smartphone become more common and less expensive, more people will adopt them. The process is gradual. As with most new technologies, a group of enthusiastic adopters lead the way. Sometimes, the general population will follow the early pioneers -- the compact disc is a good example of such technology. In other cases, the early adopters end up owning technology that becomes obsolete without ever finding wide acceptance.

The Internet will continue to play an increasing role in communication. Voice over Internet, already plays a large role in several communication products and services. Sites like Facebook and Twitter allow users to communicate with networks of people. With the rise of the Web, people now have a platform from which they can address the world. In the past, only celebrities and politicians could address so many people at one time. Now, anyone with an Internet connection can do the same thing.

This may lead to changes in everything from entertainment to politics. Using the Web as a communication tool, people with aspirations may be able to find an audience more easily than ever before. It may not be long until a relatively unknown person uses the Internet to win enough support to be elected president of The Republic of Ghana.

So far we've looked at some fairly mundane advances in communication. But what about the distant future?

These days, technology has evolved to the point where imagination is the only thing slowing the gadget world down. Yet it seems like even our imaginations are running more and more rampant. The result: Smartphone.

In the give-it-to-me-now world of communications, Smartphone's have replaced cell phones, MP3 players, global positioning systems (GPS), personal data assistants (PDA) and in some cases, even computers. That's because phones like the Apple iPhone can do it all.