Telecosm: How Infinite Bandwidth Will Revolutionize Our World

George Gilder
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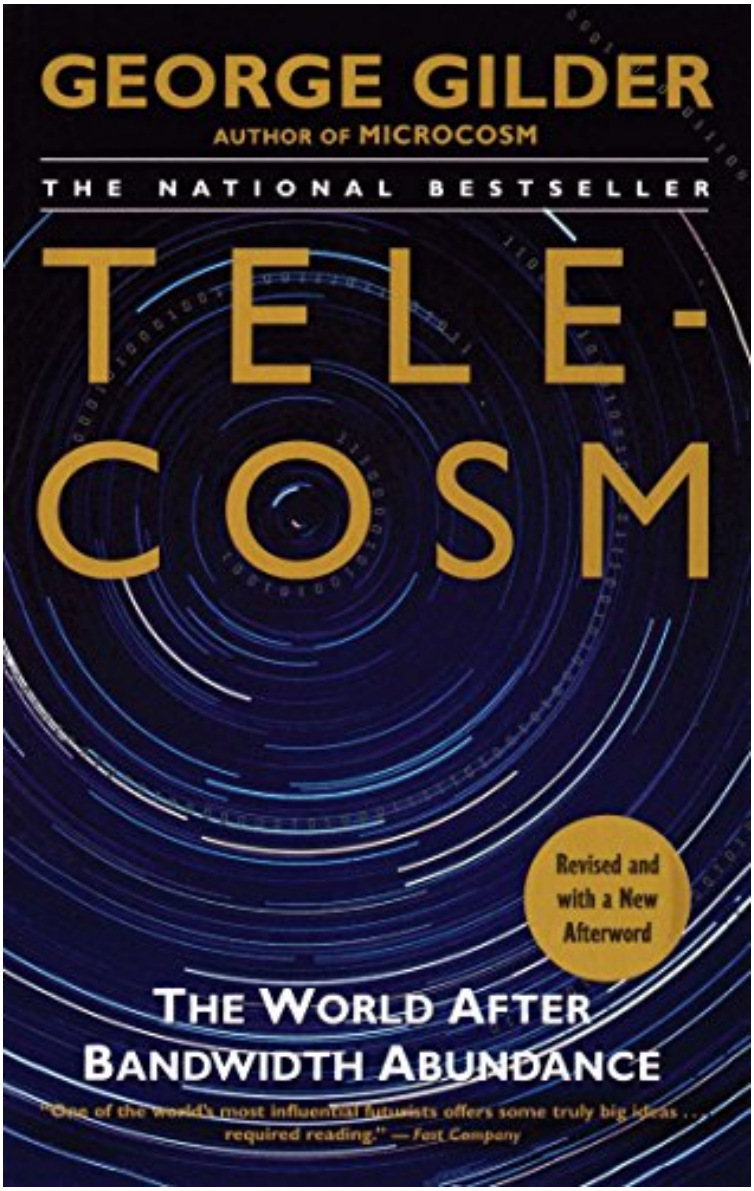

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George Gilder : Telecosm: How Infinite Bandwidth Will Revolutionize Our World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Telecosm: How Infinite Bandwidth Will Revolutionize Our World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Telecommunication history - now you will understand how we got here.By JohnIf you would like to understand the history of Telecommunication industry this is a must have. Wow.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting AnalysisBy K. Scott ProctorWhile "Telecosm" is now a bit

dated, the analysis laid out in this book is interesting and sheds light on the potential for the world at large in an era of ubiquitous bandwidth. Gilder offers readers technical and business perspectives on a world of unlimited bandwidth, and does so in an engaging a readable manner.Things in the world in general, not to mention in the business and technical spheres, have changed dramatically since "Telecosm" was published in the year 2000. Despite the facts that bandwidth might not be as ubiquitous as projected and bandwidth availability might not have had the magnitude of the effects projected in this book, it is still worth a read.Well-research and logically-conveyed, "Telecosm" offers a unique historical viewpoint of a potential future.1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The pessimist's reviewBy Victor BlakeFrom where you read this it will look like I have missed the bubble. After all, wasn't the Telecosm a phonemena of the now historic Internet bubble ? With change moving at the speed of light I am just starting to catch up on the products of the bubble era.In fact I was so caught up during the era that I think I made the transition from being an engineer to being a production line laborer in the manufacture of the Internet economy. So is Telecosm a product or even cause of the hype that has now deflated? It may seem so, but that's because no one saw the invisible hand (1) that really popped the inflated bubble.If there was a bubble, I think I was in it or near it. From 1997 through 2000 I was at first a Network Architect and later the Manager of Network Architecture at America Online. From the day that I first arrived at AOL I was caught up in the explosive growth of building the network. And later even my own personal life was affected as I found that being an engineer changed status when our culture not only accepted technology but openly admired it. This revelation first occurred to me when one of my best friends from college toasted me at his wedding rehersal dinner. He was thanking my colleagues and I at AOL for the service that was the medium for meeting his soon to be wife. It was called the nerds revenge. But it seems closer to what Gilder described. What was once witchery became not only accepted, but admired.I spoke at two Telecosm confences and had the priviledge of sharing the stage with Mr. Gilder at a Merryl-Lynch conference as well.I not only share Mr. Gilder's views, but dare say that at least my own views were solidified in my discussions either in person or over email with both him and the many people of the Telecosm that I met directly or indirectly through him.Although I completely agree with the vision of the Telecosm, I am probably the telecosmic pessimist. I am not the devils advocate, but just a pessimist. I believe in the same forces of change that he describes in Telecosm, but I suspect that instead of being used for the social good that the forces will be pushed to the worst extremes of capitalism. In hindsight this seems easy to explain the likes of Global Crossing and Enron.I would go even further to say that some of the service providers that surive today continue these practices. In fact it is they more than any others that contributed to the expansion of the bubble beyond the obvious capital potential of the Internet and telecommunications. Entrepreneurs, engineers, marketers, investors, and people in every other occupation associated with the Internet made money from stock options of their Internet economy employers. The biggest difference between the engineers and other visionaries, and profiteers, can be determined by examining what they did with those profits. Profiteers held on and diversified. The engineers and visionaries believe (we still do) in the Telecosm. So we invested the profits back into new ventures. The rest is the modern history of Wall Street.Technology doesn't have to be complicated. Our best technologies are made easy to use. That's what engineers strive to do. But across the Telecosm are overly complex technologies. Particularly wireless technologies. If one can criticize the flow of an IP packet across the Internet, then the progress of a telephone call on a wireless system is truly an act of complexity and waste. As things stand today the escapees from ATT, Lucent, et. al have fled to start-ups where they are making optics and IP not only more complicated, but even worse. Added to their complete misunderstanding of the simplicity of optics and the Internet is their need to want to "control" every pack on the Internet as if it were a telephone call. The result could be a system 1000 times more complex than the PSTN even though it should be 1000 times cheaper.The Telecosm is still here. The best is yet to come, but it is either a slow revolution or an evolution. Even though there are those of us who can stand the rate of change that it brings, we must battle those who resist. And that alone will make the difference between a revolution and an evolution.1. Smith, Adam. The Wealth of Nations.

The computer age is over. After a cataclysmic global run of thirty years, it has given birth to the age of the telecosm -- the world enabled and defined by new communications technology. Chips and software will continue to make great contributions to our lives, but the action is elsewhere. To seek the key to great wealth and to understand the bewildering ways that high tech is restructuring our lives, look not to chip speed but to communication power, or bandwidth. Bandwidth is exploding, and its abundance is the most important social and economic fact of our time. George Gilder is one of the great technological visionaries, and "the man who put the 's' in 'telecosm'" (Telephony magazine). He is equally famous for understanding and predicting the nuts and bolts of complex technologies, and for putting it all together in a soaring view of why things change, and what it means for our daily lives. His track record of futurist predictions is one of the best, often proving to be right even when initially opposed by mighty corporations and governments. He foresaw the power of fiber and wireless optics, the decline of the telephone regime, and the explosion of handheld computers, among many trends. His list of favored companies outpaced even the soaring Nasdaq in 1999 by more than double. His long-awaited Telecosm is a bible of the new age of communications. Equal parts science story, business history, social analysis, and prediction, it is the one book you need to make sense of the

titanic changes underway in our lives. Whether you surf the net constantly or not at all, whether you live on your cell phone or hate it for its invasion of private life, you need this book. It has been less than two decades since the introduction of the IBM personal computer, and yet the enormous changes wrought in our lives by the computer will pale beside the changes of the telecosm. Gilder explains why computers will "empty out," with their components migrating to the net; why hundreds of low-flying satellites will enable hand-held computers and communicators to become ubiquitous; why television will die; why newspapers and magazines will revive; why advertising will become less obnoxious; and why companies will never be able to waste your time again. Along the way you will meet the movers and shakers who have made the telecosm possible. From Charles Townes and Gordon Gould, who invented the laser, to the story of JDS Uniphase, "the Intel of the Telecosm," to the birthing of fiberless optics pioneer TeraBeam, here are the inventors and entrepreneurs who will be hailed as the next Edison or Gates. From hardware to software to chips to storage, here are the technologies that will soon be as basic as the air we breathe.

.com And he said, "Let the computer age be over." And so it was. George Gilder, the tech-friendly author of the well-received chip treatise, The Meaning of the Microcosm, and publisher of the Gilder Technology Report, has brought forth Telecosm: How Infinite Bandwidth Will Revolutionize Our World, another work of technical prose that's sure to appeal to both techheads and nontechnical folks alike. Telecosm predicts a revolutionary new era of unlimited bandwidth: it describes how the "age of the microchip"--dubbed the "microcosm"--is ending and leaving in its wake a new era--the "telecosm," or "the world enabled and defined by new communications technology." Speaking like a prophet of the bandwidth deity, Brother Gilder lays down the telecosmic commandments--the Law of the Telecosm, Gilder's Law, the Black Box Law, and so on. He describes the gaggle of industry players--from cable and satellite to telephone and computer--who populate the telecosm arena. Books about telecommunications rarely are quotable, but Telecosm at times is a brilliant example of magical and (believe it or not) mystical prose. Gilder's philo-techno perspective makes for interesting and thought-provoking musings: "Wrought of sand, oxygen, and aluminum, the three most common substances in the Earth's crust, the microprocessor distills ideas as complex as a street map of America onto a sliver of silicon the size of a thumbnail. This gift of the quantum is a miracle of compression." And, finally, he describes precisely what the telecosm will create among its congregation: "The gift of the telecosm is a miracle of expansion: grains of sand spun into crystalline fibers and woven into worldwide webs." What happens when we become blessed with the miracle of infinite bandwidth? Gilder writes, "You can replace the seven-layer smart network with a much faster, dumber, unlayered one. Let all messages careen around on their own. Let the end-user machines take responsibility for them. Amid the oceans of abundant bandwidth, anyone who wants to drink just needs to invent the right kind of cup." And what of unlimited bandwidth? No mere contradiction in terms, unlimited bandwidth is what we strive for--"we" meaning those of us who suffer bravely through the contradictions of Moore's Law and Metcalfe's Law, as we increase our RAM and decrease our Net access time. While it seems too simple to describe Telecosm as a telescopically written book of cosmic proportions, it is that and more. Gilder's political rants and raves for infinite bandwidth boldly foretell the age of the telecosm and its dramatic impact on all of us--of our metamorphosis from users who found ourselves bound by the limits of our networks to "bandwidth angels" who compute in the "Promethean light." --E. Brooke GilbertFrom Library JournalGilder, a highly respected and widely read technology analyst (Forbes, the Economist, the Wall Street Journal), predicts an impending "bandwidth blowout" that will reshape the way we do business and organize our lives. The author's The Meaning of Microcosm (1997) described a world dominated by the Microsoft- and Intel-based PC. In his latest work, a world enabled and dominated by new telecommunications technology will make human communication universal, instantaneous, unlimited in capacity, and free to all. Gilder explains the science and engineering trends of his predictions, who is fighting them, who will ride them to victory, and what it all means. He weaves together a number of rich and complex stories to back up his claims and provide readers with the necessary components toward understanding the pending telecosmic revolution. This book will be of interest to technologists, investors, and general-interest readers. Recommended for public and academic libraries.DJoe Accardi, Northeastern, Illinois Univ., Chicago Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistMillions of day-traders are now hazarding huge sums on uncertain guesses as to how the latest technology will reshape the American economy. Gilder offers much more than guesses. As one of the nation's premier analysts of technology-driven enterprises, he makes his predictions based on a thorough knowledge of how scientific breakthroughs are rewriting the ancient economic rules of scarcity and abundance. The wizards of fiber optics and wireless transmission are conjuring up an undreamed-of plentitude of electromagnetic spectrum bandwidth, kindling what Gilder dubs a "telecosmic revolution." And as the miracles of communication eclipse those of computation, computer-age profligacy in using silicon and power is fast giving way to frugality in the use of these resources in newly designed teleputers. Gilder rises to poetic transports in contemplating the mysteries of a globe-unifying network of laser light, yet he remains firmly tethered to the dark world of economic struggle, where corporate executives give no quarter in the struggle for market share. And it is this darker world that will draw by far the greater number of readers, who will skip Gilder's metaphysics and go straight to his investment advice. Bryce