

THE HOTTEST TEN OF MWC 2019

MWC 2019 couldn't have come at a better time. Between 5G and foldable technology, there have been a lot many new innovations that took centre stage at the event. After two years of incremental upgrades and minimal changes to smartphone design, 2019 already feels like a new chapter in the landscape of smartphone designs and technologies and MWC 2019 was at the heart of this new revolution.

Energizer's Power Max P18K Pop

Energizer's Power Max P18K Pop comes with a whopping 18,000 mAh battery. The phone features a 6.2-inch LCD display, a pop-up dual camera for selfies, triple cameras at the back, and runs the latest Android 9 Pie. It's expected to have a standby time of 50 days and 90 hours talk time.



LG V50 ThinQ

What makes LG's new flagship unique is the dual screen folio case that will launch alongside it. The add-on will be sold separately and will act like a second screen for the V50. The main screen is 6.4 inch while the second screen is 6.2 inch on account of thicker bezels.



Huawei Mate X

The Huawei Mate X was one of the main feature acts of MWC 2019. Although the foldable phone will retail for \$2,600, there's no denying that its one-screen foldable form factor is the sleekest iteration of the foldable phone we've seen thus far. The Mate X is slated for a mid-2019 release.



Microsoft's HoloLens 2

The HoloLens 2 is directed towards more business side customers than being a consumer grade product. The wearable headset is a mix between VR and AR and will cost \$3,500. The HoloLens 2 which graced the halls of MWC 2019 was a peek into the future but the device isn't consumer ready yet.



Nokia 9

The Nokia 9 Pureview features five back cameras. While other phones have featured three or four cameras in the back, most of these devices switch between its lenses when taking a picture. To put it simply, all five camera lenses capture a picture and then the software merges all of them to show you the result.

LG G8

Although the G8 comes with last year's Snapdragon 845 and the notch, it does have a couple of quirks worth writing home about. Air Motion lets you control the volume and choose between applications, while Hand ID scans the blood flow in your hand to create a new biometric authentication.

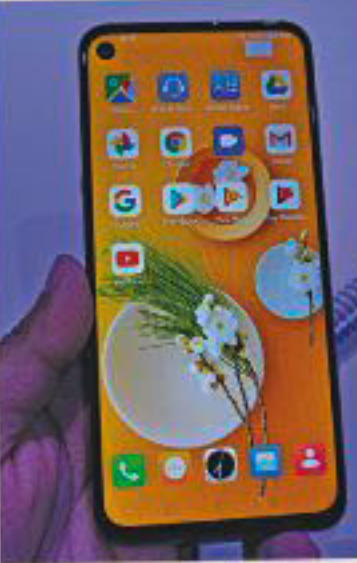


Nubia Alpha

The Nubia Alpha is a full smartphone device which is also a wearable. It's been dubbed the craziest device of MWC 2019 and for good reason. The rolled display curves over your hand to assume the form of a watch and you can do just about everything you'd be able to do on a smartphone.

Hisense U30

Although the Hisense U30 made its debut at CES 2019, MWC 2019 let users and journalists play around with the device and its impressive cameras. The dual-lens rear cameras consists of a 48MP main sensor and a 5MP depth-sensor lens, and the front comes with a hole-punch 20MP selfie camera.



Oppo's 10x lossless zoom

10x zoom is pretty common on DSLRs but to bring it to smartphones is a feat no one had imagined. But Oppo did and they brought their innovation along with to MWC 2019 leaving fans and enthusiasts in awe with what they had achieved. 10x zoom will roll out on Oppo phones from mid-2019.



Everything 5G

MWC was to be the launching grounds for 5G and 5G enabled devices and smartphone manufacturers did not disappoint. We got to see many devices unveiled at MWC which are slated to come with 5G network capabilities. Some of these devices are – XiaomiMi Mix 3 5G, LG V50 ThinQ, LG G8, Huawei Mate X.

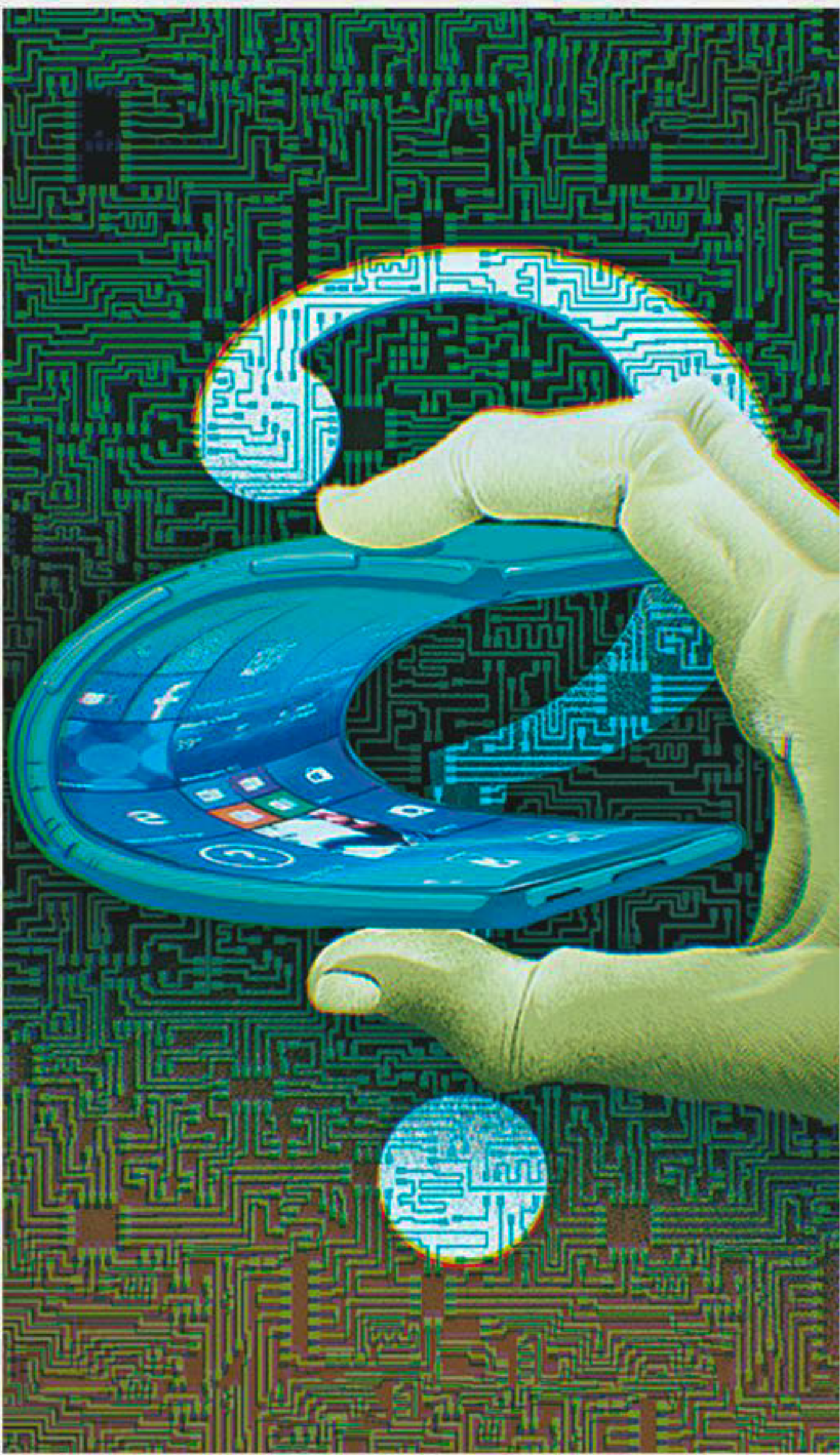
The future of foldable smartphones

Foldable smartphones, unlike other smartphone design overhauls, such as, the touchscreen, are having a relatively tougher time capturing the full attention of average consumers. And MWC was host to a lot of foldable devices with the Huawei Mate X being the standout device. With Samsung's Galaxy Fold making its way onto store shelves by April 2019 followed by other competing brands, what does the future hold for foldable smartphones?

So far, we've seen three foldable smartphones – Royole Flexpai, Samsung Galaxy Fold and the Huawei Mate X. These are three consumer ready devices but let's focus on Samsung and Huawei. These two companies were pegged to be the first to roll out foldable devices and each of their devices are designed drastically differently from the other. While Huawei's Mate X is one single screen which can fold itself into one display, Samsung's Galaxy Fold can fold onto itself to reveal the smaller screen. The current foldable phone scheme is to make consumers want the larger screen real estate that are found on tabs and give us the option to have a dual screen setup. But being the first generation implementation that these devices are, expect nothing less than jaw dropping price tags sporting these flexible bad boys.

But it's not just Huawei and Samsung who are getting in on the foldable action. Oppo showcased its version of the foldable phone at MWC 2019 and LG are planning to roll its TV- OLED technology onto its own foldable phone design. Xiaomi too have teased the prospect of a phone with a flexible display, dubbed the Xiaomi Mix Flex. And then there's the Motorola Razr, which has been teased and talked about for the longest time. All of these folding smartphones will change how we view smartphones as a gadget and how manufacturers approach making them.

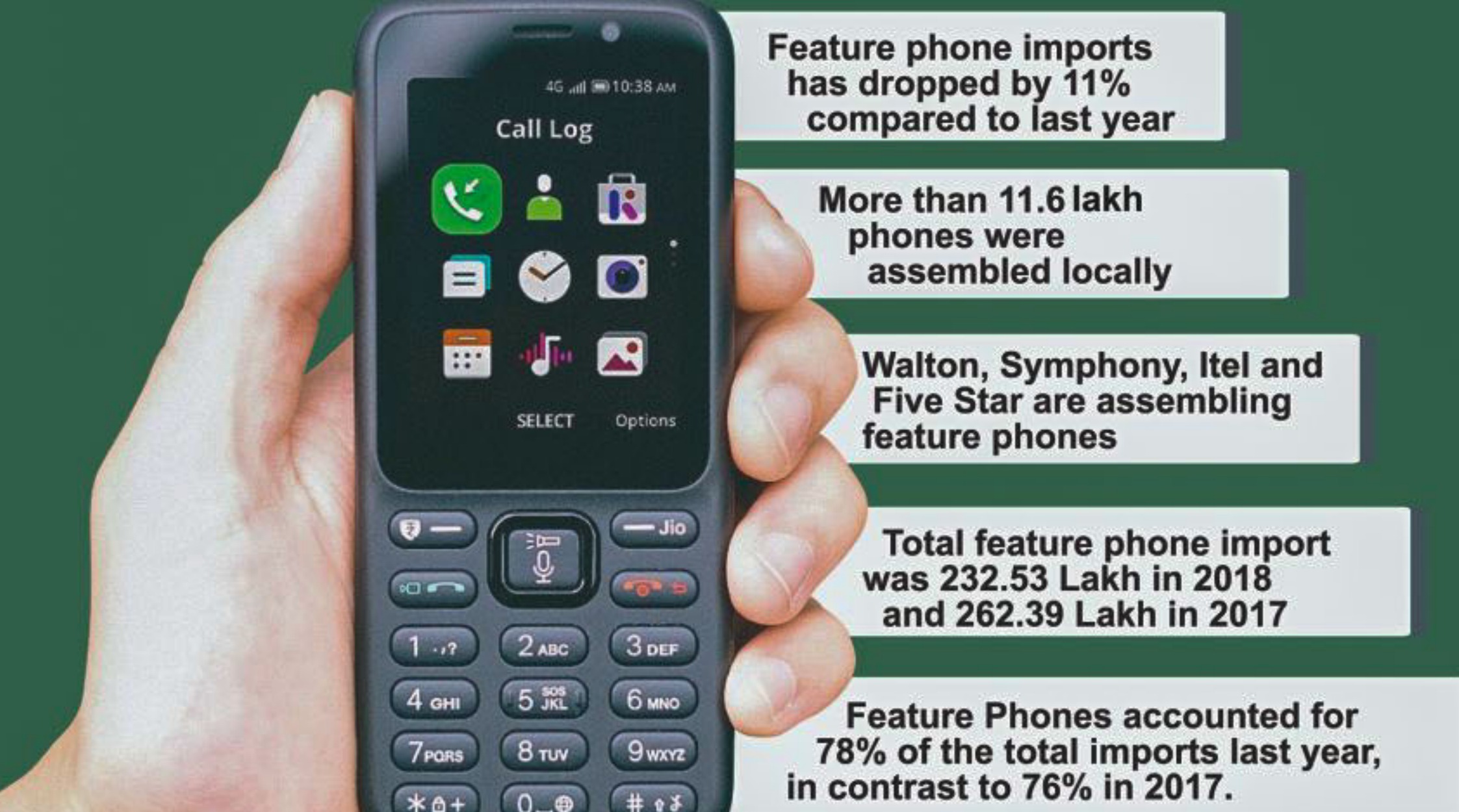
For one, this will bring the death of tablet devices, as foldable phones will double as a tablet and a smartphone. The competition over folding phones will allow smaller smartphone manufacturers to focus on making better smartphones, so don't be surprised if companies like Alcatel or Symphony make big moves in the coming years. But most importantly, folding phones or devices may ultimately become the be-all end-all multimedia device, maybe even replacing standalone desktops and laptops in the next twenty years. So, something which may feel like a gimmick now, might just become the one device you'd ever need in your life.



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