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"Cyberspace" Is Dead

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START|neologisms

Well, the word anyway. Twenty years after William Gibson coined the term *cyberspace* in his novel *Neuromancer*, we live in a world of smart objects, always-on devices, and perpetually open information channels. The Internet feels less like an

alternate world that we "go to" and more like just another layer of life. Besides, doesn't *cyberspace* sound kind of played out? Clearly, we need a better word. The Institute for the Future asked a virtual roundtable of leading thinkers to coin a term for our new new reality. Here's what they came up with. - *Alex Soojung-Kim Pang and David Pescovitz*

William Gibson
Science Fiction Writer
If I had that word, it would be the title of my next book. I think *cyberspace* is past its sell-by, but the prob□lem is that everything has become an aspect of, well, cyberspace.

Steve Jurvetson
Venture Capitalist
Augmented reality. In competition with virtual worlds and AIs, we will coevolve and internalize□ technologies to augment reality and our intelligence.

Vint Cerf
Internet Evangelist, Google
I still like [Xerox PARC researcher] Mark Weiser's term ***ubiquitous computing***. It's a world in which the computer would melt into the walls and furniture.

Paul McFedries
Author, *Word Spy*
The combination of ubiquity and necessity makes the Net analogous to an atmosphere. I think the replacement word ought to be a play on that: ***infosphere***.

Katy Börner
Director, InfoVis Lab,
Indiana University
A ***global brain***, dominated by implants that merge biological creativity with digital resources and speed.

Neil Gershenfeld
Director, MIT's Center
for Bits and Atoms
I'd vote for calling it ***the world***. Information technologies are finally growing up, so we can interact with them in our world instead of theirs.

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