2022 Consumer Technology Trends
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This is one of a series of articles provided by the Oakmont Technology Learning Center on the use of technology by seniors.

In January every year, Las Vegas hosts the huge Consumer Electronics Show (CES) to give us a peek at new tech trends. The pandemic has brought hybrid work into the mainstream, with people working from home either full- or part-time. With this hybrid work comes innovation in consumer electronics. After reading various articles about CES, these seem to be the trends for 2022.

Smart Homes. These products are already integrated into many homes now with doorbell cameras, hubs, thermostats, and more. We can expect more highly-integrated products, such as camera, doorbell, locks, sensors, and lights from Yale. The company Matter introduced a platform that will integrate smart home products of different brands.

Metaverse. The term "metaverse" is becoming more common. It is a virtual-reality space in which users can interact with a computer-generated environment and with others. With the metaverse are coming wearable products to simulate real life in a multisensory way. Apple, Google, Meta (formerly Facebook), and Microsoft are all developing products. Companies such as Samsung, Proctor & Gamble, and Hyundai are developing products for retail uses such as testing out products or driving cars virtually before buying,

Audio. Tech companies are innovating audio to improve listening experiences, some examples being music therapy healing apps, delivery of over-the-air in-ear audio, and introduction of mind-controlled headsets to answer calls or play music.

Display Technology. Larger TVs will become more affordable and are becoming the center of the home due to more time at home with the pandemic. TVs will be used more for fitness classes and school. Non Fungible Tokens (NFTs, a unique digital asset) will be integrated into TVs.

Tech-Accessibility. Biped introduced a wearable harness using artificial intelligence (AI) that works with cameras for the blind and visually impaired to identify obstacles. OrCam won an award for cameras that attach to glasses to assist visually impaired in facial recognition and reading out text and products, with the ability to search for specific information.

Automotive. Autonomous cars, electrification, digital cars, connected cockpit, infotainment, and futuristic design or CASE (Connected, Autonomous, Shared/Services and Electrification)

Laptop Design. Foldable screen and dual screen laptops are in development.

Silicon (new computer processors). With worldwide chip supply chain issues, there is a lot going on in this area. All the manufacturers are touting improved products and with work-from-home, there is more demand for mobile and laptop processors. Apple's new processor is challenging the market share that Intel had a lock on.

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