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The Death of Distance: How the Communications Revolution Will Change Our Lives

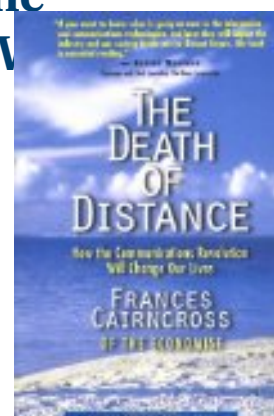
by: [Frances Cairncross](#)

(01 October 1997) Key: citeulike:206967

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Abstract

From the advent of electronic communications, there's been talk about how the world has been shrinking. Frances Cairncross, senior editor for the *Economist*, makes her case from an economical

standpoint: The growing ease and speed of communication is creating a world where the miles have little to do with our ability to work or interact together. Cairncross predicts that it won't be long before people organize globally on the basis of language and three basic time shifts--one for the Americas, one for Europe, and one for East Asia and Australia. Much work that can be done on a computer can be done from anywhere. Workers can code software in one part of the world and pass it to a company hundreds of miles away that will assemble the code for marketing. And with workers able to earn a living from anywhere, countries may find themselves competing for citizens as people relocate for reasons ranging from lower taxes to nicer weather. Cairncross discusses about 30 major changes likely to result from these trends, including greater self-policing of businesses, an unavoidable loss of personal privacy, and a diminishing need for countries to want emigration.

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