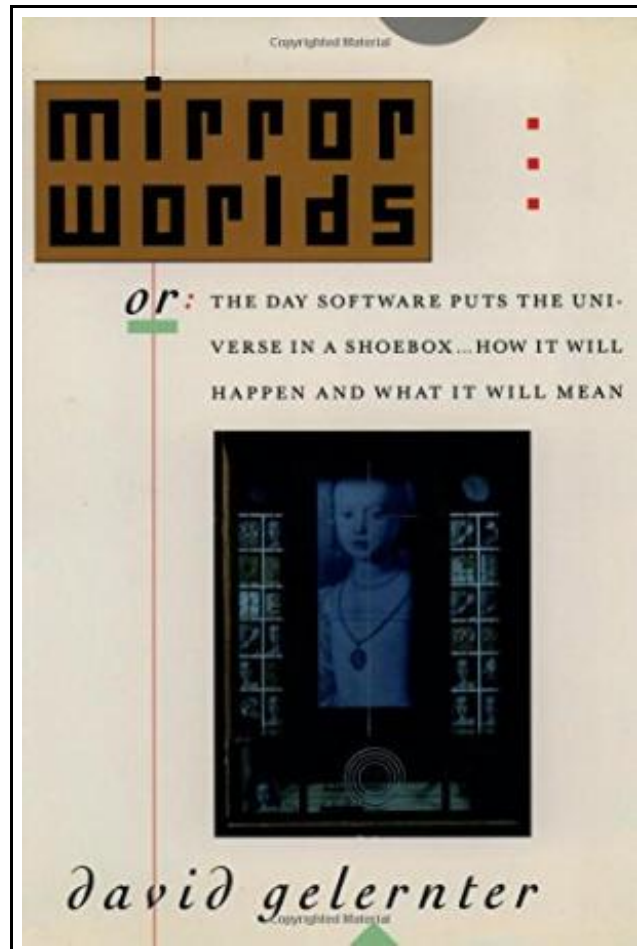# Mirror Worlds: Or the Day Software Puts the Universe in a Shoebox.How It Will Happen and What It Will Mean

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Reviews

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MIRROR WORLDS: OR THE DAY SOFTWARE PUTS THE UNIVERSE IN A SHOEBOX.HOW IT WILL HAPPEN AND WHAT IT WILL MEAN

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Oxford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 256 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in.Technology doesnt flow smoothly; its the big surprises that matter, and Yale computer expert David Gelernter sees one such giant leap right on the horizon. Todays small scale software programs are about to be joined by vast public software works that will revolutionize computing and transform society as a whole. One such vast program is the Mirror World. Imagine looking at your computer screen and seeing reality--an image of your city, for instance, complete with moving traffic patterns, or a picture that sketches the state of an entire far-flung corporation at this second. These representations are called Mirror Worlds, and according to Gelernter they will soon be available to everyone. Mirror Worlds are high-tech voodoo dolls: by interacting with the images, you interact with reality. Indeed, Mirror Worlds will revolutionize the use of computers, transforming them from (mere) handy tools to crystal balls which will allow us to see the world more vividly and see into it more deeply. Reality will be replaced gradually, piece-by-piece, by a software imitation; we will live inside the imitation; and the surprising thing is--this will be a great humanistic advance. We gain control over our world, plus a huge new measure of insight and vision. In this fascinating book--part speculation, part explanation--Gelernter takes us on a tour of the computer technology of the near future. Mirror Worlds, he contends, will allow us to explore the world in unprecedented depth and detail without ever changing out of our pajamas. A hospital administrator might wander through an entire medical complex via a desktop computer. Any citizen might explore the performance of the local schools, chat electronically with teachers and other Mirror World visitors, plant software agents to report back on interesting...

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