

MAKERS The New Industrial Revolution CHRIS ANDERSON

CHRIS ANDERSON is editor-in-chief of *Wired* magazine. He previously worked for *The Economist* and for *Nature* and *Science* magazines. He is the author of *The Long Tail: Why the Future of Business is Selling Less of More* and *Free: The Future of a Radical Price*. Mr. Anderson is also one of the cofounders of 3D Robotics, a manufacturer of aerial robots, and DIY Drones, a Web site dedicated to aerial robotic technologies and unmanned aerial vehicles. Mr. Anderson is a graduate of George Washington University and the University of California at Berkeley.

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MAIN IDEA

A new industrial revolution is already underway and taking shape.

Mass manufacturing – harnessing huge economies of scale – is now being superceded by Internet-enabled micro-manufacturing techniques which will change the world of physical things in much the same way as the personal computer has revolutionized the digital world. Do-it-yourself manufacturing using



tools like open-source design, desktop 3-D printing, digital fabrication, crowdfunding and the capacity of the Internet to allow buyers to find sellers will completely revolutionize how things get made in the immediate future.

In just the same way as the Web ended the monopoly of mass media, in the next ten years it will also end the monopoly of mass manufacturing. The cumulative result of the efforts of countless micro-manufacturers using open-source design and DIY manufacturing will drive the next big movement in the global economy which will be "the Long Tail of Things."

"The history of the past two decades online is one of an extraordinary explosion of innovation and entrepreneurship. It's now time to apply that to the real world, with far greater consequences. The idea of a "factory" is, in a word, changing. Just as the Web democratized innovation in bits, a new class of "rapid prototyping" technologies, from 3-D printers to laser cutters, is democratizing innovation in atoms. You think the last two decades were amazing? Just wait."

Chris Anderson

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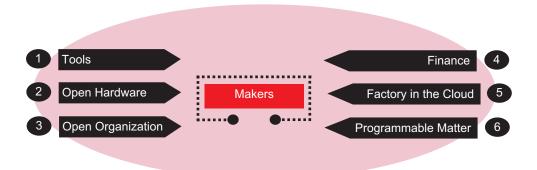
Over the past ten years, the Web has enabled people around the world to discover new ways to create, invent and work together using computers which amplify and magnify human potential. In the next ten years, those lessons will start to be applied more widely in the real world. The foundation concepts of this new industrial revolution are:



2. What the future holds for the Makers Movement

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All of the building blocks required for a new industrial revolution based around the Makers Movement are already in place. The one-size-fits-all products which defined the mass-production era are going to be replaced by niche products designed by regular folks who harness global factories to make stuff for those who share their interests, their passions and their unique needs.



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