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The best things in life come in small packages

Less than two years ago we wrote about the introduction of our portfolio valuation app for the iPhone and iPad. At the time some observers thought that the iPad, and an app of this nature, was something of a novelty, but we remarked that the use of tablets such as the iPad would go far beyond what anyone could imagine. We even said: "today's iPad will look very clunky in five years."

Yesterday, as Apple fans will know, the new mini iPad was unveiled, as well as lots of other Christmas wish -list hardware for people who can't live without Apple products. And there are a lot of them: Apple have sold over 100 million iPads in just two and a half years and 91% of all web traffic on tablets is via the iPad . A staggering 35 billion apps have been downloaded. As Tim Cook said in Cupertino yesterday, this is quite extraordinary for a new product in a new category.

But the greatest excitement – and one which bears out our comments two years ago - is the wide ranging use of this technology. This is not just about social media and games. It is taking business by storm, and education too. 470 of the companies which make up the Fortune 500 are either testing or actually deploying iPads and 80% of the United States' core curriculum text books are now available on the iPad. It is hard to see how this can do anything but continue to grow at a staggering pace, and embrace aspects of our lives that we have not yet thought could be influenced by technology.

If you haven't got one, it may be time to start writing that Christmas wish-list.



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