# To Make Humanity Wireless, We Must First Make Wireless Human

*a report by*
**Anoto AB**

As electronics and computing devices migrate to wireless, the way in which users interact with these devices – and each other – will undergo a transformation. This transformation will be a renaissance characterised by the ability of new products to embolden users to communicate in a fashion that would not have been foreign to humanity's oldest ancestors.

Wireless electronics must take advantage of new technology by allowing people to work naturally, not forcing them to carry several different devices or learn new ways of inputting information. The wireless technologies that will succeed in the long-term are those that are bringing technology closer to natural human behaviour rather than those trying to achieve the opposite.

This fact is borne out by the nature of voice communications in the wireless age. Mobile phones do not fundamentally change the ages-old information technology of the spoken word, but instead amplify its range and scope.

Where the spoken word has succeeded, the written word still lags behind. Technology is clearly adjusting to traditional human behaviour, so what can we make of the prospects of stalwart replacements of handwriting, such as the mouse and keyboard, and the endless scrolling through letters on mobile phone handsets?

These advances are all relatively young and each forces users to learn new ways of inputting and recording information that are unnatural and counterintuitive. Conversely, what could be more natural to human communication than handwriting itself?

Handwriting, or manipulating words and images by hand, has been a communication tool for thousands of years. The ancient Egyptians communicated via hieroglyphs and ancient man painted and etched epics onto the walls of caves and the like.

Handwriting, as opposed to typewriting or other forms of recording text, is almost as simple and natural as speech itself. It is taught in schools, institutions and in the home and, to this day, it remains more natural for office workers to print out a document and edit by hand with a pen or pencil, then to do so directly from the keyboard.

Furthermore, handwriting is the only way in which some languages can truly be expressed. Keyboards are suitable for Western alphabets but Asian languages are picture-based and are not so easily pared down to fit those specifications.

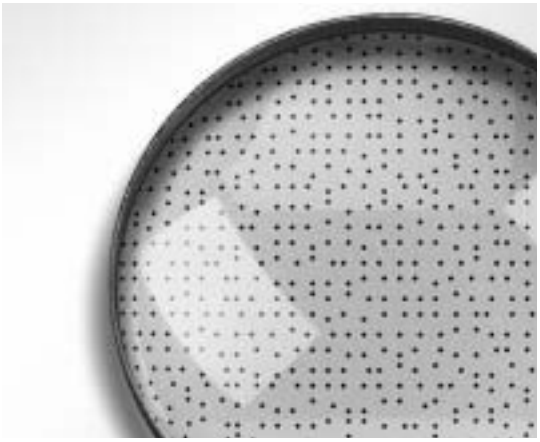
As wireless technology develops, the instincts that led human beings to record their stories on rock will need to be taken into account.

Wireless technologies need to rid themselves of the complicated machinery and systems that dehumanise written communications.

The Anoto functionality has answered this challenge with a paper-based computing system that enables computing functions and applications to be printed on ordinary paper while remaining near-invisible to the eye and a Bluetooth™-equipped digital pen enabling Anoto functionality is all that is required to take advantage of it.

***Figure 1***

*Figure 2*



Imagine being able to customise and personalise e-mails and text. Imagine a world where there is no delineation between the handwritten and type-written. Imagine not having to learn new ways of inputting information, but being able to take advantage of years of training in handwriting at school.

Computing based on pen and paper, the most intuitive and widely used interface in the book, will be the next great technology of the wireless era. ■

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