

Google unveiled a new wearable operating system, teased 3D video calling, and set a timetable for quantum computing at I/O

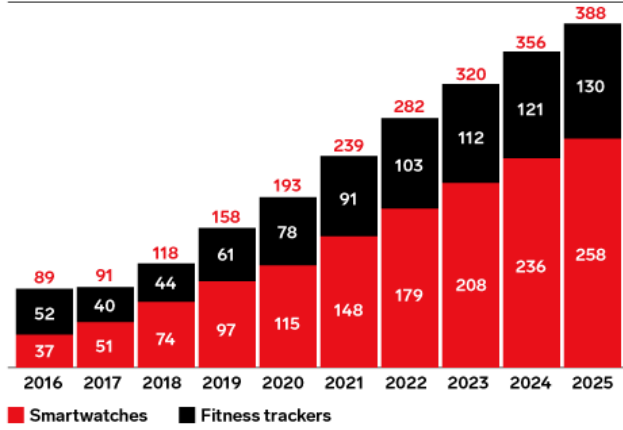
Article

Google's 13th annual I/O developer conference kicked off earlier this week and runs until Thursday. Here are the three biggest announcements from Day One likely to guide Google's long-term strategy.

- **Google **announced** a unified wearables platform that combines its Wear operating system (OS) with Samsung's Tizen software platform.** The new OS will include tools that make it easier for developers to create apps. Google claims the unified platform will allow for 30% faster app startup times, smoother animations, and the integration of customizable features from the Tizen OS, like Samsung's watch face designer tool. With the unified platform, Wear will now support all Samsung wearables devices. That's a huge win for Google since Samsung was the third-largest wearable company by shipments globally in Q4 2020, **according to** IDC. Incorporating Samsung apps will help Google tap into the growing global wearables market, which is expected to increase from 239 million users in 2021 to 388 million users by 2025, **per** CCS Insights.
- **Google **unveiled** Starline, a 3D video calling booth that creates the illusion of being in a room with another person.** Starline uses cameras and sensors to create 3D models of users from multiple perspectives and **uses** a 65-inch light field display to present the image in 3D. Pandemic-induced remote work has **increased** the use of video communication—and Starline signals that Google expects it to continue to feature in the workplace.
- **The company **revealed** its new Quantum AI campus in Santa Barbara, where researchers and engineers are working to create a “useful, error-corrected quantum computer” by the end of the decade.** Google claims its future quantum computer could be used to build more energy-efficient batteries and rapidly increase training for machine learning algorithms among other use cases, **per** The Wall Street Journal. Though still nascent, **IBM, Honeywell**, and a slew of **startups** are racing to advance the quantum computing market, which Prescient & Strategic Intelligence **forecasts** will be worth nearly \$65 billion by 2030.

Smart Wearable Device Shipments Worldwide, Smartwatch vs. Fitness Tracker, 2016-2025

millions



Note: numbers may not add up to total due to rounding
Source: CCS Insight as cited in press release, Feb 24, 2021

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