Mixed Reality: AR, VR, IoT, the future of technology.

This is the most recent development in reality technologies that sometimes causes confusion, primarily because different experiences are called so. Without going too deep into science, let's look at two forms of reality technologies that are referred to as mixed reality (we've mentioned just one of them at the very beginning):

- *Mixed reality that starts with the real world* virtual objects are not just overlaid on the real world but can interact with it. In this case, a user remains in the real-world environment while digital content is added to it; moreover, a user can interact with virtual objects. This form of mixed reality can be considered an advanced form of AR.
- *Mixed reality that starts with the virtual world* the digital environment is anchored to and replaces the real world. In this case, a user is fully immersed in the virtual environment while the real world is blocked out. Sounds like virtual reality, right? In fact it does, but the digital objects overlap the real ones whereas in conventional VR the virtual environment isn't connected to the real world around a user. To experience this form of mixed reality, you can wear Windows mixed reality headsets.
- Augmented Reality: In augmented reality, users see and interact with the real world while
 digital content is added to it. If this sounds unclear think of Pokemon Go millions of people
 all over the world have been rushing with their smartphones in search for small virtual
 creatures. That's the most vivid example of augmented reality.

If you own a modern smartphone, you can easily download an AR app and try this technology. There's a different way to experience augmented reality, though — with special AR headsets, such as Google Glass, where digital content is displayed on a tiny screen in front of a user's eye.

• Virtual Reality: This technology immerses users in a completely virtual environment that is generated by a computer. The most advanced VR experiences even provide freedom of movement – users can move in a digital environment and hear sounds. Moreover, special hand controllers can be used to enhance VR experiences. You need to wear a special VR headset to experience virtual reality. Most VR headsets are connected to a computer (Oculus Rift) or a gaming console (PlayStation VR) but there are standalone devices (Google Cardboard is among the most popular) as well. Most standalone VR headsets work in combination with smartphones – you insert a smartphone, wear a headset, and immerse in the virtual reality.

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