

2012: The year that netbooks DIED

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Netbooks ? those compact, underpowered, inexpensive notebook PCs once hailed as the future of mobile computing ? are set to disappear from retailer shelves in 2013, as the last remaining manufacturers of the devices prepare to exit the market.

According to Taiwanese tech news site DigiTimes, Acer and Asus are the only two hardware makers still producing netbooks, and they are mainly doing so to sell them to emerging markets such as South America and Southeast Asia.

Even that won't last long, DigitTimes reports. Acer has said it has no plans to develop any further netbook products, while Asus announced in September that it planned to discontinue its Eee PC netbook line by the end of 2012.

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