



TECH IT OUT

WITH
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I am having trouble with my spellcheck in Microsoft Word — How can I change a word so it does not autocorrect?

— Bill, Pacific Pines

Go to file, options and proofing and select "autocorrect options". This will allow you to change the autocorrect.

Time to face up to the future

REMEMBER detective Dick Tracy's watch which allowed the square-jawed comic book hero to communicate by two-way radio?

It's now a reality — and if sales are any indication, the fictional private-eye's most famous device is now in the tech mainstream.

It has been less than a year since smartwatches entered the technological mainstream and went on sale and already predictions are that the new technology will be an everyday accessory within four years.

These new watches look and feel like any standard time piece but a tap on the screen reveals a device which is cap-

able of bluetooth, video calls, SMS or MP3 player functions.

A *Business Insider Australia* forecast suggests that one in 20 smartphones will be paired with a watch by 2018.

It comes on the back of strong sales of the Samsung Galaxy Gear and Pebble smartwatch, which has already sold more than 400,000 devices. The devices retail for more than \$300.

Competition is growing, with Google's Moto360 watch expected to be released as early as next month while Apple has signalled the release of its own watch at the end of the year.

This means surfing the web



The Samsung Gear2 smartwatch — expect to see a lot more of these wearable devices in the near future.

and reviewing text messages on your watch rather than having to pull your phone out of the pocket will become commonplace.

It sounds great but are locals buying it?

Harvey Norman Bundall's Eden Merriman-Willard said sales of the devices rising.

"The Sony and Samsung devices have exploded in popularity in the past year and are among the highest-selling items of their kind," he said.

"Apple's plans to release a watch later this year are expected to drive sales higher and the interest in wearable technology is certainly strong

given the build up to the Google Glass coming out later this year.

"As more people use it, the more it becomes mainstream and now software developers creating new apps and programs for them."

The latest generation of smartwatches have come a

long way since the technology was first developed in 1999.

Major phone developers including Samsung and LG tried to create interest in the market in the early 2000s though neither succeeded at the time.

But will they succeed now when past attempts have failed? Time will tell.