(Approx. 638)

TECH-NO-PHOBIA – are YOU a VICTIM YET?

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How did all this happen so quickly? Some days I feel like I am left in the dust behind the high-speed train technology. Yes, I am glad technology is progressing. We all benefit from the advances in health care, safety, entertainment, and portability. But there is a downside too. What do you find overwhelming about technology? Let's compare some everyday things from the past to today's latest internet-connected mega-optioned computer-controlled devices.

There were no real "couch potatoes" watching TV in the old days; we got our exercise by having to get up OFF the couch to change the channel or adjust the volume. Today in my living room, I have four device controllers for the TV (the TV itself, the internet TV box, an old DVD player, Apple TV, and a few more I can't identify) – and all of them have dozens of buttons to push. My daily challenge is to figure out which one I should use before I even try to guess which button. Unfortunately, I usually guess wrong the first two times.

The big thing for young kids in the past was being able to read the comics in the Sunday newspaper. Remember Sunday comics in color? My parents would encourage me to read them, and I would pretend I could -- but my mom and dad were so proud I was learning to read at the age of 7 or 8. Today parents shove an iPad or iPhone into their kid's hands to amuse them at one-and-a-half. By age two, the child knows more about the phone than their parents. And by age four, they are answering tech hotline questions.

Learning to drive when I was a teenager was a real adventure. I learned the gas, brake, clutch pedals, gear shift, and the two-gauge dashboard (speedometer and fuel). Radio was a luxury. Today cars have several computers to monitor all the "systems" on the vehicle and, hopefully, keep you safe. And don't forget the ever-bigger TV screen on the dashboard -- it gives you access to thousands of options and a nice view when you back up your car. In a few years, there will be no need for car windows (see predictions later in this article).

Going grocery shopping was fun years ago; there were different stores for different things. You would walk to the downtown or shopping street (before malls) and get meat at the butcher's, bread at the bakery, can goods and cereals at the market, and you had to hope fruits and veggies were available in season somewhere. Today it is all online, even fresh fruit and veggies. The downside is that you get what they deliver. Somehow, I find no enjoyment in ordering food online, where I see only a picture of what I may get.

So, what do you think the future will hold for our children or grandchildren with technology? Will you allow me to make some predictions?

All windows will be replaced with high-resolution TV screens (sort of like Disney's Star Wars hotel). So, you will see what you want or want someone else to see.

Food will be ordered based on your eating history and automatically delivered to you when you need it – even placed into your kitchen pantry or fridge by personalized food delivery services.

There will be no need for germ-spreading handshakes, touching, or personal contact.

All entertainment will be provided for you, including images for your sight, ears, nose, and nerve sensations by technology directly to your brain.

And shortly after all this, computers and robots will take over the world, and we will no longer be needed. So, I recommend we enjoy the technology we have while we can.

