



Technology for the REST OF US

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Created 19th April, 2012

For the Westminster Institute



What We'll Cover



- * Technology Overview
- * Watching TV
- * Watching / Recording TV
- * Making Home Movies
- * Taking Pictures
- * Showing Pictures

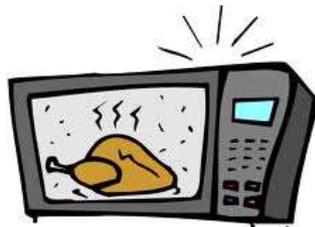
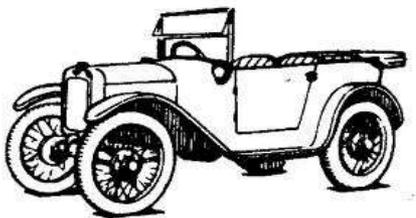
- * Listening to Music
- * Talking on the Phone
- * \$%&#\$ Computers#^&@
- * Surfing the Internet
- * Integrating Technologies
- * Answering Your Questions 😊



Technology Overview

Over the past 30 years, the “evolution” of the way we do things has evolved much faster than any time in recent memory. This is due to the advent and perfection of a little device called a silicon chip. This little device took computers OUT of the server rooms of only the biggest companies and put computers into pretty much everything we interact with, from Microwaves to Telephones, from Automobiles to Washing Machines!

Our goal today in this class is simple, we’ll go through the evolution of “how we do things” and, at the end of each section, we’ll also give a breakdown of the current technology and what it means to us.



Watching TV



Through the YEARS

Televisions have evolved over the years, and so has watching them!

From old cathode ray tubes that were lined with lead, to the first color sets in the 60's, to the stereo tv's of the 80's to the LCD tv's of today, there's been quite a lot of change!

Many TV's today come with a vast number of selections, HDTV, Streaming Content, CRT/LCD/Plasma/LED.

On the next slide, we'll give you the "skinny" on what you need to know when it comes to TV's.

Watching TV



Need to Know

- * HDTV – for the video and gaming folks that need GREAT pictures on their TV.
- * LCD – GREAT pictures without using the power of a TUBE or PLASMA and without the cost of LED.
- * LED – GREAT pictures and very low power, but expensive.
- * Streaming Content – GREAT for folks that regularly use services such as Netflix to download and watch movies. You can even watch many streaming offerings on your smart phones!
- * 3D – Just starting to see these on the market ... many channels have yet to start offering a 3D signal, so, your choices are limited and the TV's are still rather expensive.
- * Bottom Line – if all you're wanting to do is watch the news and your normal cable channels, I dare say you'd be very well off with ANY TV that's on the market today ... Remember, the bigger the TV, the better the quality needs to be ... An inexpensive 32" TV will look 100 times better than an inexpensive 45" TV!

Watching / Recording TV



Through the YEARS

When TV first started, everything was LIVE and most things weren't even recorded and kept to be rebroadcasted again later! In the 70's, a new avenue for TV distribution was born, "syndication", where shows that were already aired live would be resold to be rebroadcast at a much more frequent rate.

It's hard to believe, but, when Cheers and Magnum PI came out on TV, most folks still had 3 choices, either make sure they were home to watch the show, wait for the re-run, or ask their friends about it later. Thanks to the VCR, and today our DVR's, entertainment has definitely changed.

Even the ratings systems now take into account "Live+24" and "Live+1Week" ... because they KNOW that many of us now watch the shows we WANT to watch on our OWN schedule.

Watching / Recording TV



Need to Know

- * On-Demand – free for cable subscribers that have a cable box ... Allows you to pick many different shows to start watching when YOU want to watch them
- * DVR – Digital Video Recorder – has all but replaced most VCR’s today. You can set it up to record shows that you can then watch on your own schedule. Depending on the services you have, you may even be able to set your dvr and watch shows straight from your smart phone!
- * TiVo – The next generation of DVR ... It will allow you set up to record shows, but, at the same time, will also “learn” your viewing patterns and when you’re NOT recording things, it will record shows it thinks you may like!
- * Bottom Line - If you’re on basic cable and wish to record shows, a VCR is still the best way for you to go. If, however, you have a cable box, look for the “on demand” channels and see if the shows that you had planned on recording happen to be available on demand, if so, then you don’t need a DVR. If not, then, a DVR or a TiVo would be a wonderful compliment to your home entertainment system.



Making Home Movies



Through the YEARS



50 years ago, home movies were pretty expensive and pretty rare. I cherish the videos my father took of me in my childhood, and would have LOVED to have had sound with them, but, alas, that was “after my time.”

As the computer chips got faster and smaller, camcorders that allowed for both audio AND video made it to the market, and, since then, the world has never been the same. Everyone can be a director nowadays.

Technology has continued to evolve with the home movies to the point where MOST cell phones today will take video of some sort, and many will take videos that are actually better than the videos shot by camcorders built only 10 years ago!



Making Home Movies



Need to Know



- * Camcorder – still takes the best video and is made to be viewed on a big screen. Recommended for anyone who takes a LOT of video.
- * Tape –vs- Chip – camcorders that use tape can record for up to 3 hours at a time, where as most chip recorders are limited to less than an hour, but, the tapes are typically more expensive and can't be reused many times, whereas a chip can be reused over and over.
- * Digital Cameras – most cameras built today give you the ability to record video OR take pictures. This has become the most popular choice for many that wish to have a separate device (besides their phone.)
- * Camera/Video Phone – allows you to have your video camera with you all the time! The newer ones take video that is “broadcast quality.”
- * Bottom Line – unless you're making videos for a living, a digital camera or your cell phone would be sufficient nowadays as a home movie maker.

Taking Pictures



Through the YEARS

Remember our first polaroid camera ... WOW, in only 2 minutes you could view a picture that you'd just taken and you didn't have to go to the photo mat !!!

How times have changed, over the years, the optics in the camera have gotten better, but, at the same time, with the computer revolution, taking pictures has become something that isn't so expensive! With digital cameras and computer hard drives, you can take almost an infinite number of pictures without having to pay a single penny for developing!

Taking Pictures



Need to Know

- * Digital Cameras take JUST AS GOOD, if not BETTER, pictures as the “film” cameras today, and are much more economical to own and operate!
- * Most cell phones take EXCELLENT pictures nowadays, with the higher end phones taking pictures that can be blown up into posters!
- * Anything above 2MP (Mega Pixel) is NOT NEEDED for printing picture quality up to 8x11, more mega pixels allow you to either blow up the picture (to, let’s say, wall size) OR allow you to select PART of your photograph and print it as an 8x11
- * Bottom Line – While not all digital cameras are created equal, for about \$100 you can buy a camera that will take excellent pictures and video, or, for about the same money (with signing a contract) a cell phone will do just as good!



Showing Pictures



Through the YEARS

Ok ... you've got your pictures, now what to do with them ???
In the past, if you had prints, you'd put them in photo albums
and pass them around OR had them turned into slides that
could be projected on the wall (or a screen) for all to see at
once ...

Today, there's hundreds of different computer programs that
allow you to create your own "slide shows" of pictures, and,
you guessed it, for carrying around your favorite pictures, you
need look no further than your cell phone!



Showing Pictures



Need to Know

- * With digital pictures, you can take 1000's of pictures and only print the ones you wish to create the perfect scrapbook pages.
- * There are 100's of different photo programs on the market, many are free. Windows Live Photo Manager, Picasa, and iPhoto are three of the best free ones you can get.
- * For many, cell phones have replaced wallet prints as a way to keep photos of loved ones with them all the time.
- * Bottom Line – don't pay much (if any) money for a photo program for the computer.



Listening to Music



Through the YEARS



If you ask a kid today what a record is, they'll say it's something in the Guinness book! From having stereos that took up a large portion of the room to today's iPhones and mp3 players is a world apart, due in large part to the Sony Walkman (proving that people really DO want to take their music with them everywhere they go!)

In addition, with digital cable, you can even turn on your TV and tune into your favorite music!



Listening to Music



Need to Know

- * PodCast and Streaming – digital music delivered (and saved in some cases) to either a computer or a music player capable of handling it. WBTS Sermons are podcasted every week for all of those folks that can't make it to church!
- * MP3 – digital format for a music file (M4A is another one).
- * Bottom Line – don't let the size fool you! A very small MP3 player can hold, literally, 1000's of music titles.



Talking on the Phone



Through the YEARS

I don't think Alexander Graham Bell had any idea what his invention would lead to ... heck, when I started working for BellSouth Mobility in 1996, I would never have guessed what the phone would be used for in 2012 !!!

Many folks are completely forgoing their "landline" phones due to the reliability and low cost of cell phones today. Over the years, not only have the cell phones gotten smaller and smaller, they've added more and more features and become much more reliable.



Talking on the Phone



Need to Know

- * You can now switch phone companies and even go to a cell phone and keep your same number (PORT is what it's called)
- * Cell phones today are much more reliable than they were even 5 years ago.
- * Many cell phones have additional functionality and features that can really come in handy.
- * Bottom Line – unless you're talking on a “landline” phones today aren't the same as they were even 10 years ago. It's possible today to have a video chat across the world while driving down i95!



#%&#\$ Computers#^&@



Through the YEARS



It's hard to believe, but, computers (the way we define them today) have only been with us for 70 years! As the "rule of 18" has firmly taken hold (computer processing power will double every 18 months) for the past 40 years, computers have continued to evolve to become more and more interwoven in almost everything we do. Many of the technologies we've talked about today are made possible by, and powered by the computer.

The processing power in a small digital watch today is more than the entire processing power on the Apollo command modules that went to the moon. The first generation iPhone had MORE computing power than all of the computers at NASA during the Apollo program.

As computers continue to evolve, the push has become for them to be more and more user friendly. Don't be afraid to try the new ones out!



#%&#\$ Computers#^&@



Need to Know



- * More Money does NOT guarantee better quality with computer software.
- * Remember the Rule of 18 ... Don't buy any new hardware or software for your computer after your computer is 18 months old.
- * Computers are meant to enhance your life and increase enjoyment, please don't get frustrated!
- * Laptops are now so low in price, unless you've got a specific need for a desktop, they're now the preferred and recommended computers for most folks.
- * Bottom Line – computers today can do many more things than the computers built even 10 years ago. If your computer is more than 7 years old, it's most likely time to start looking for a new one!

Surfing the Internet



Through the YEARS

The internet was originally designed to allow for communications should WW3 happen, and was also given to colleges to allow them to share information back and forth easily. It wasn't until the 80's that companies such as AOL, Prodigy, and CompuServe came on the scene and allowed the average Joe to connect to the internet using their home computer and a modem connected to a phone line.

Thanks to the rule of 18, computers got faster and smaller, while throughput pipes became bigger and bigger. No longer did folks need to have a "big brother" to hold their hand on the internet, but, could surf all by themselves by the mid 90's!

It's hard to believe that in 15 short years, the internet has went from something that "some folks may try" to the interwoven fabric of today's society. Many people use their "smart phones" to stay connected to the internet even when they're away from home.

Surfing the Internet



Need to Know

- * It's imperative that you have GOOD VIRUS PROTECTION on your computer if it's connected to the internet, PERIOD.
- * The internet offers a wide variety of information and entertainment, be careful allowing “little eyes” to go browsing the internet without supervision (it's awful hard to “un see” something that should have never been seen!)
- * Internet search engines are not all created equal. Google is a great choice for those that have experience with the internet, BING is a great choice for those learning.
- * Bottom Line – the internet is an amazing achievement of the human race. It has brought us together in ways that couldn't have even been dreamed about 100 years ago. The internet also tends to isolate people if they let it ... It's awful easy to point, click, and buy something rather than drive down to the store and pick it out for yourself ...



Integrating Technologies



Going through this walk down techno memory lane today has been great! I hope that you've enjoyed it as much as I have ... Something that I hope you've noticed throughout this presentation is the recurring smart phone on all of the different slides. This is not an ad for apple 😊 ... it's just there to show you that today many of the things that have been created through these technologies are being combined in ways that folks had never thought of before! With a smart phone (either Android or iPhone) you have the ability to watch tv or a movie, take a picture, take a home video, show that video to others, e-mail it to a friend, use Skype and video chat with your cousin from Wisconsin, and even buy tickets to go and visit them ... It's an amazing world we live in with the technology we have today. It's up to us, the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles of the world to ensure that the children of today are able to USE this technology without becoming SLAVES to it.

Now, let's all go OUTSIDE AND PLAY !!!!

Questions ???

