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“How was digital culture imagined in the 1990s?”

In the 1990s, the concept of digital culture was often envisioned with a sense of excitement and optimism. It was seen as a transformative force that would revolutionize various aspects of society. It discusses the emergence and growth of the internet, referred to as the information superhighway, and its various applications in the early days. (NBC NEWS) The promise of digital culture included visions of enhanced connectivity, global networking, and expanded access to knowledge and entertainment. (NBC NEWS) Overall, the 1990s portrayed digital culture as a powerful and liberating force with the potential to reshape the way people interacted, worked, and lived.

“How might you define digital culture as it exists today?”

Digital culture today refers to the collective impact and influence of digital technologies on various aspects of society. It encompasses how people engage, communicate, and create in the digital realm. Digital culture is characterized by the pervasive use of digital devices, platforms, and online communities, shaping behaviors, norms, and values. (Herring, Susan) It encompasses diverse forms of digital expression, such as social media interactions, online gaming, streaming platforms, and digital art. It also includes the exploration of virtual reality, augmented reality, and artificial intelligence. (Herring, Susan) Digital culture today is marked by the rapid exchange of information, the democratization of content creation, and the interconnectedness of individuals worldwide. (Herring, Susan) It continues to evolve and shape our identities, relationships, and modes of participation in an increasingly digitized world.

“Are any of the predictions or fears from the 1990s true today in the 2020s?”

Several predictions and fears from the 1990s have become true or have materialized in some form in the 2020s. One that came true was what would be capable of a phone. “It was projected that a cell phone could have internet capability, you can call and look at a calendar, you’re going to be able to pay your bills” (*US NSF*) The prediction of cell phones having internet capabilities and becoming multifunctional devices has become a reality. In the 2020s, smartphones have become ubiquitous, offering internet access, communication, and a wide range of features such as calendar management, mobile banking, and various apps for various purposes. (*US NSF*) Another prediction was privacy concerns. With the growth of the internet and digital technologies, concerns about privacy and data security have become more prominent. (*US NSF*) Issues such as online surveillance, data breaches, and the misuse of personal information have raised valid concerns among individuals and organizations. (*US NSF*) While not every prediction from the 1990s has come true in anticipated result, the influence of technology and digital advancements on society in the 2020s is undeniable.

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