All Technological Change is a Trade-Off

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Technology, just the word itself can bring a lot of different perspectives to people. For centuries, many concepts in ordinary everyday life have been replaced with technology. Ranging from a simple refrigerator, up to complex inventions such as space ships or automation systems, the constant changes in technology bring some people joy, and for others pain. What could be the cause? Why is it that a simple piece of technology can give two people completely mixed feelings? One might say that the cause is that some people don’t realize the simplicity that the technology might change. At the same time another side would say that other people don’t understand the memories and joy that simple traditions can bring. What if in the end it isn’t just one side or the other that has the right understanding, but that the two can go hand in hand? Even though technology is constantly changing, in the end all technological change results in a tradeoff. Technological changes do bring simplicity and innovation but at the same time take away something valuable that the past had to offer to us.

One example is a simple automobile today. Driving a car has become not just a luxury today but even a necessity to some. Many are even willing to spend a long hour in traffic just to stay away from having to walk to their destination. But the same automobile that is making travel easier is also increasing the amount of pollution (Postman). Along with the pollution, automobiles have also greatly increased the amount of deaths. Yes, the faster and luxurious ways of getting from one place to another are awesome, we have lost many wonderful aspects of life that we had in the past. The clean air and safety of transportation must be traded in exchange for the speed and luxury.

A second example would be computers and servers. The ability to store a lot of information on computers and servers has greatly impacted many lives today. It has decreased the amount of physical paper necessary for files and gives humans a much easier way to not only organize their files but be able to find them in a split second. Meanwhile the same computers and servers have also increased a security risk. Before someone would have to physically be where the documents are held in order to steal or forge them but with the technological advancements the same documents can be viewed and edited from across the globe as long as the user gains access. The simplicity is amazing, but it has also increased the about of work and money owners are willing to put in just to keep their information secure. The safety of storage locations must be traded for the simplicity and speed of digital information.

Despite the consequences, technology continues to change day by day. Simple advances that we thought were impossible ten years ago are now being implemented with no issues. As all of these changes continue to come it is important to be able to ask two questions: What will new technology do? and What will new technology undo (Postman)? Asking these two simple questions will give humanity the full picture of the gain vs the sacrifice before making the final decision. There is nothing wrong with new technology coming in day after day, but the dangers can come when we are quick to accept the gain from the technology without first looking at loss that it will result in. The full picture will help decide if the trade of is worth it and how to proceed in the future.

Works Cited

# Neil Postman. “Five Things We Need To Know About Technological Change”. Mar 28 1998. UNC Charlotte. Oct 31 2018. https://uncc.instructure.com/courses/79595/files/4161790?module\_item\_id=1458957