ISSUE 20: SPRING 2013

Welcome to The Weekly Geek

This is a new e-newsletter from the Information & Instructional Technology Departments at Dakota County Technical College. Each week will have a different technology related topic.

For those of you disappointed by the lack of The Weekly Geek issue for last week…there was a good reason. Of course The Weekly Geek did not forget to do it, but rather was observing the **National Day of Unplugging.**

The National Day of Unplugging is a day where participants pledge to spend 24 hours completely tech free. You know, like Gilligan's Island.. "No phone, no lights, no motor cars, not a single luxury, like Robinson Crusoe, as primitive as can be…". Well, maybe not to that extreme but it is a day when participants pledge to not use the internet, cell phones, computers, some even TV for 24 hours as a chance to re-connect with others.

This article discusses the health benefits of "unplugging".

The Weekly Geek asks could you "unplug"?

_____

Now onto the current week's issue…how do you think technology will change in the future? Honestly, your guess is as good as mine. But don't despair, a lot of experts' predictions were wrong and downright funny in retrospect.

"It would appear that we have reached the limits of what it's possible to achieve with computer technology, although one should be careful with such statements, as they tend to sound pretty silly in five years." **--John von Neumann, 1949**

"I predict the Internet will soon go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse." -- **Robert Metcalfe,** founder of 3Com, inventor of Ethernet, 1995.

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers." -- **Thomas Watson**, chairman of IBM, 1943

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication." -- **Western Union** internal memo, 1876

"There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home." -- **Ken Olsen,** founder, Digital Equipment Corp., 1977, in a speech to the World Future Society

"Two years from now, spam will be solved." -- **Bill Gates,** 2004 World Economic Forum

"This antitrust thing will blow over." -- **Bill Gates,** at a meeting of Intel executives, 1995

"Apple is already dead." -- **Nathan Myhrvold,** former Microsoft CTO, 1997

"There is practically no chance communications space satellites will be used to provide better telephone, telegraph, television, or radio service inside the United States." -- **T. Craven,** FCC commissioner, 1961

"Nuclear-powered vacuum cleaners will probably be a reality within 10 years." -- **Alex Lewyt,** president, Lewyt Corp vacuum company

Computer World article

Tech Radar article

"For this invention will produce forgetfulness in the minds of those who learn to use it, because they will not practice their memory. Their trust in writing, produced by external characters which are no part of themselves, will discourage the use of their own memory within them. You have invented an elixir not of memory, but of reminding; and you offer your pupils the appearance of wisdom, not true wisdom."

What do you think this author was referring to? The Internet? Google? Computers?

Nope – it was written by Plato in 400 BC referring to writing.

Questions or Topic Suggestions: Weekly.Geek@dctc.edu

An archive of The Weekly Geek: http://blogs.dctc.edu/WeeklyGeek