

Title: Unplanned Obsolescence: Older Generations' Struggle to Adapt to New Technology
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American computer scientist Alan Kay once said, “technology is anything that wasn’t around when you were born.” Kay’s statement can be regarded as accurate since throughout generations, a variety of cutting-edge technology has been introduced to the general public. Newer generations have necessarily adapted to technological advancements because those advancements were evolving throughout their developmental years. However, the ease of use of technology hasn’t been the same for those who originate from older generations. Older generations, specifically those who didn’t mature with the modern advancements of technology, have been noted to be “typically slower to acquire new skills than younger adults and generally require more help and ‘hands-on’ practice” (Cambridge University). The primary explanation to this complication can be justified because of the generational gap and lack of familiarity. The primary explanation of this complication is the generational gap and lack of familiarity with new advancements that are constantly being introduced to the world. This may not be the case for the entire population of older generations, but research shows that a majority of the generation find difficulty in keeping up with constant hardware and software advancements. Once they have learned one device or operating system, an upgrade is released. Thus, older generations can be forced into isolation from the modern world and may experience job loss or missed opportunities for career promotions. Offering free training or slowing the release of upgraded technology can help ease the strain on this older but valuable population.

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