I'M DROWNING

BY KEVIN LOHAN

Is it just that I'm getting older? Really, you can tell me. When I was younger it was easy to watch older people struggle to keep up with technology and blame it on the fact that they are old and their feeble little minds just can't cope with change as well as we younger, mental giants are able to.

Now that I find myself having trouble keeping up with technology I start to wonder if I am just getting old.

Personally, I refuse to accept it.

I've thought a lot about it and I've decided it's not my age.

So, that's a relief isn't it?

I am convinced that the reason I have trouble keeping up is that there's simply too much technology.

I am being swamped with the choice and variety of technology. I can't possibly learn it all. Sometimes I feel like I can't even learn the ones that might actually be helpful to me.

There just aren't enough hours in the day even to know what is out there in the form of technology. Let's just look at software alone and never mind the plethora of hardware developments that keep trying to attract our attention. The Apple Watch for example.

Technology in the form of software is not growing exponentially. I think we need to invent a new word for the speed of technology growth as it is growing so fast that we have no definition to describe it.

For decades we've been helping people become better learners and to be empowered to take on their own development.

By setting them free though, we've given them the power to fill the world with new ideas and many of them are building technological solutions to all manner of things.

Let's look at the growth of apps. There's an app for everything. I can't ever know them all or learn how to use them all. For all I know there are apps out there that would help me in dramatic ways but I don't even know they exist. Until someone tells me.

A couple of weeks ago after advice from my son-in-law, I downloaded an app that tells me what bin I have to put out this week.

Can you believe that? So there it is. My whole point boiled down to garbage.

We unleashed a generation of empowered learners. It seems like every one of them learned how to develop apps and they're out there now quietly designing apps about everything you can dream about and all the while making it harder for us older folks to keep up.

The good news is that what you do keep up with does seem to be helpful. I mean, who couldn't use some help remembering which bin to put out?

I wondered if there was an app that would improve my life. I found one. It boldly claims more than 50 ways to improve my life. 'Wow', I thought. That could come in handy. My life could use some improving. How about you?

It helpfully suggests that to improve my life it might be worthwhile knowing for example that: You can use Doritos as kindling or that chalk can be used to remove grease stains from my clothing.

My life is, as advertised, instantly improved.

Do you see what I mean? There is just too much technology for me to possibly keep up and to sort out what is helpful and what is not.

I'm drowning in technology and I blame every L&D professional who empowered learners to 'go out there and make the world better'.

Maybe we shouldn't have empowered them. Maybe we should have kept them all nicely quiet and compliant and unable to develop apps at a whim.

On the other hand, maybe Google or Facebook or someone is working on an algorithm that will be able to sort out for me personally, exactly what technology I need. Like an app to sort your most useful apps.

That way, I could wake up to a useful notification of the kind that might say to me: "Good morning Kevin. Today's recommended apps have been sorted for you and are available now for you to download. May I suggest you begin with the new breakfast app?"

"Oh, and by the way. You should have put out the yellow bin last night."

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