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Tech Terms You Need to Know

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One big challenge of technology is simply knowing what people are talking about. Words and acronyms are always trying to keep up with the latest tech advances. Let’s take a look at a few terms YOU need to know –

Digital Navigators – People who help others use the internet and technology. This “title” refers mainly to those who help others use the internet to fill out forms, submit applications, and otherwise take advantage of the internet. There are still many people who do not have a computer or internet access. A Digital Navigator would step a person through the use of a computer app or technology to help them apply for a job, get some needed benefits, or submit an application.

AI or Artificial Intelligence – The ability of a computer to learn on its own. This can be a little frightening because you cannot predict what the computer will be interested in learning, and you only hope you can shut it down before it learns more than it should. For example, suppose an AI computer decides to learn all it can about transportation and safety. Then, with all the computers connected to the internet, it will take only seconds to know that it should shut down all transportation to save lives from accidents, etc. Can you think of other catastrophic results of AI?

The Cloud – This term has been around for a few years now, but it is important. The “cloud” uses computer memory and apps that exist on the internet and are not stored on your computer. Google Drive is just one example – you can store any data you wish and use a spreadsheet or word processor app for free without having that data or app on your computer. The big advantage of the “cloud” is that you can do your work and access data from any device in the world that is connected to the internet and share it with anyone.

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) – an app that can take a scanned document and “translate” the image of the characters it sees to actual characters, words, and text that you can edit in a word processor. For example, you found a printed article that you wish to convert into a Word document. You SCAN the article (many printers have a scanner) and use an app to convert that image (or photo) of text into actual text characters as if you entered them from the keyboard. Not all printers/scanners have this capability, but if yours does, you have a great time saver for getting printed text into a word processor document you can edit.

Upload and Download – When you “upload” a file, you send it from your computer device UP to the cloud. When you “download,” you are copying a file from the cloud DOWN to your computer. Downloaded files usually (in Windows) appear in your “Downloads” folder on your C drive.

Shutdown – Doing this completely turns off your device so that it no longer has an active display or is monitoring the internet. After a “shutdown,” your device battery is not being used (although it still could slowly lose a charge just from sitting doing nothing). Usually, when you “turn off” your device, it may still use a little power to keep connected to the internet or cellular network, so it is not entirely off.

Well, I think knowing the above terms will help you. I don’t think they will ever stop coming up with new terms and acronyms with technology. And some old tech terms are just not used anymore. Do you remember some of these terms?:

Dial a number, light the pilot light, coal bin, getting steam up, butter churn, lead pipe, inkwell, and dunce cap! Well, I still wear my dunce cap a lot with new technology!





