

## Technology Quotations

All of the biggest technological inventions created by man - the airplane, the automobile, the computer - says little about his intelligence, but speaks volumes about his laziness.

--Mark Kennedy

America's technology has turned in upon itself; its corporate form makes it the servant of profits, not the servant of human needs

--Alice Embree, 1970

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

--Arthur C. Clarke

Before we work on artificial intelligence why don't we do something about natural stupidity?

--Steve Polyak

By his very success in inventing labor-saving devices, modern man has manufactured an abyss of boredom that only the privileged classes in earlier civilizations have ever fathomed.

--Lewis Mumford, 1951

Concern for man and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavors . . . Never forget this in the midst of your diagrams and equations.

--Albert Einstein, 1931

Everything that can be invented, has been invented.

--Charles H. Duell

For a list of all the ways technology has failed to improve the quality of life, please press three.

--Alice Kahn

For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled.

--Richard P. Feynman

Give me a firm place to stand, and I will move the Earth.

--Archimedes (c. 287-212 BCE), Greek mathematician, "On the Lever"

However far modern science and technics have fallen short of their inherent possibilities, they have taught mankind at least one lesson: Nothing is impossible.

--Lewis Mumford, 1934

Humanity is acquiring all the right technology for all the wrong reasons.

--R. Buckminster Fuller

I believe in standardizing automobiles, not human beings.  
--Albert Einstein

I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.  
--Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931)

I just invent, then wait until man comes around to needing what I've invented.  
--R. Buckminster Fuller

I think computer viruses should count as life. I think it says something about human nature that the only form of life we have created so far is purely destructive. We've created life in our own image.  
--Stephen W. Hawking

I think there is a world market for maybe five computers.  
--Thomas J. Watson

I want to emphasize in the great concentration which we now place upon scientists and engineers how much we still need the men and women educated in the liberal tradition, willing to take the long look, undisturbed by prejudices and slogans of the moment, who attempt to make an honest judgment on difficult events.  
--John F. Kennedy, 1962

If it's green, it's biology. If it stinks, it's chemistry. If it has numbers it's math. If it doesn't work, it's technology.  
--Unknown

If there is technological advance without social advance, there is, almost automatically, an increase in human misery, in impoverishment.  
--Michael Harrington, 1962

If we continue to develop our technology without wisdom or prudence, our servant may prove to be our executioner.  
--Gen. Omar N. Bradley

If we had a reliable way to label our toys good and bad, it would be easy to regulate technology wisely. But we can rarely see far enough ahead to know which road leads to damnation. Whoever concerns himself with big technology, either to push it forward or to stop it, is gambling in human lives.  
--Freeman Dyson, 1979

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.  
--Albert Einstein

It is only when they go wrong that machines remind you how powerful they are.  
--Clive James

It is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the day's toil of any human being.

--John Stuart Mill

It troubles me that we are so easily pressured by purveyors of technology into permitting so-called "progress" to alter our lives without attempting to control it -- as if technology were an irrepressible force of nature to which we must meekly submit.

--Hyman G. Rickover, 1979

Many people have found success in spite of technology.

--Anonymous

Men are only as good as their technical development allows them to be.

--George Orwell, 1940

Men have become the tools of their tools.

--Henry David Thoreau

One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

--Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915)

Our inventions are wont to be pretty toys, which distract our attention from serious things. They are but improved means to an unimproved end.

--Henry David Thoreau, 1854

Our way of life has been influenced by the way technology has developed. In future, it seems to me, we ought to try to reverse this and so develop our technology that it meets the needs of the sort of life we wish to lead.

--Prince Philip, 1984

Ours is the age which is proud of machines that think and suspicious of men who try to.

--Howard Mumford Jones

People are the quintessential element in all technology... Once we recognize the inescapable human nexus of all technology our attitude toward the reliability problem is fundamentally changed.

--Garrett Hardin, 1976

Presumably, technology has made man increasingly independent of his environment. But, in fact, technology has merely substituted nonrenewable resources for renewables, which is more an increase than a decrease in dependence.

--Herman E. Daly, 1977

Science and technology multiply around us. To an increasing extent they dictate the languages in which we speak and think. Either we use those languages, or we remain mute.

--J.G. Ballard, 1974

Science can amuse and fascinate us all, but it is engineering that changes the world.

--Isaac Asimov, 1970

Since we have no choice but to be swept along by [this] vast technological surge, we might as well learn to surf.

--Michael Soule, 1989 [about the Internet]

Technological progress has merely provided us with more efficient means for going backwards.

--Aldous Huxley

Technology feeds on itself. Technology makes more technology possible.

--Alvin Toffler, 1970

Technology is a gift of God. After the gift of life it is perhaps the greatest of God's gifts. It is the mother of civilizations, of arts and of sciences.

--Freeman Dyson

Technology shapes society and society shapes technology.

--Robert W. White, 1990

Technology was developed to prevent exhausting labor. It is now dedicated to trivial conveniences.

--B.F. Skinner

--Technology, when misused, poisons air, soil, water and lives. But a world without technology would be prey to something worse: the impersonal ruthlessness of the natural order, in which the health of a species depends on relentless sacrifice of the weak.

--New York Times, 1986

Technology... is a queer thing. It brings you great gifts with one hand, and it stabs you in the back with the other.

--Carrie P. Snow, 1971

Technology... the knack of so arranging the world that we don't have to experience it.

--Max Frisch

That great, growling engine of change -- technology.

--Alvin Toffler, 1970

The best way to predict the future is to invent it.

--Alan Kay

The machine does not isolate man from the great problems of nature but plunges him more deeply into them.

--Antoine de Saint-Exupery

The most important and urgent problems of the technology of today are no longer the satisfactions of the primary needs or of archetypal wishes, but the reparation of the evils and damages by the technology of yesterday.

--Dennis Gabor

The newest computer can merely compound, at speed, the oldest problem in the relations between human beings, and in the end the communicator will be confronted with the old problem, of what to say and how to say it.

--Edward R. Murrow

The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.

--Arthur C. Clarke

The real danger is not that machines will begin to think like men, but that men will begin to think like machines.

--Sydney J. Harris

The real problem is not whether machines think but whether men do.

--B. F. Skinner

The robot is going to lose. Not by much. But when the final score is tallied, flesh and blood is going to beat the damn monster.

--Adam Smith

The system of nature, of which man is a part, tends to be self-balancing, self-adjusting, self-cleansing. Not so with technology.

--E.F. Schumacher, 1973

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty, and all forms of human life.

--John F. Kennedy

There are three roads to ruin: women, gambling and technicians. The most pleasant is with women, the quickest is with gambling, but the surest is with technicians.

--Georges Pompidou

There is a demon in technology. It was put there by man and man will have to exorcise it before technological civilization can achieve the eighteenth-century ideal of humane civilized life.

--Rene Dubos, 1972

There is unquestionably a contradiction between an efficient technological machine and the flowering of human nature, of the human personality.

--Arthur Miller

We have become a people unable to comprehend the technology we invent.

--*Integrity in the College Curriculum*, quoted in *NY Times*, 1985

We've arranged a civilization in which most crucial elements profoundly depend on science and technology.

--Carl Sagan

What one man can imagine, another man will someday be able to achieve.

--Jules Verne

Whether or not it draws on new scientific research, technology is a branch of moral philosophy, not of science.

--Paul Goodman

Why does this magnificent applied science, which saves work and makes life easier bring us so little happiness? The simple answer runs: Because we have not yet learned to make sensible use of it.

--Albert Einstein, 1931