

More and more people feel completely lost in front of a computer

IT'S EASY TO SURF ON GOOGLE, BUT FOR THE REST

Now, the computer is everywhere. In stores, shopping centres, restaurants, banks, post offices. Since the last human post-office cashier retired last month, you can't give your parcel to a smiling employee, after discussing the weather. And it becomes harder to find a supermarket with human cashier and a simple trolley, without this computerised shop assistant fixed on the trolley's handle, helping you to choose the right ingredients for the pre-selected recipe, and calculating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account when you finish shopping. And even if you are used to surf on the internet, you might feel a little bit more perplexed in front of the new TTADM (Theatre-Ticket-Automatic-Delivery-Machine) that you can now find in front of the opera house, which will give you your ticket only if it recognises your fingerprints.

When you feel comfortable with a computer, it's not a problem to live a normal life. But if you are computer-illiterate, because you missed computing class or because your teacher was not patient enough with your "unawake brain", your life is more and more complex. And nowadays, there is no longer a division between the poor and the rich. No, the only division in the population is between the ones who knows how to use a computer, and the ones who don't.

And actually, there are two different problems. On one hand, there is the ability to use the operating system that runs the computer, to find your way into this three-dimensional workplace, understanding the difference between the hyperlinks, hypolinks and paralinks. And on the other hand, it's not necessarily obvious how to use the actual device to navigate into the system, the new spongy 'deep-pad', with the three-dimensional options, and the four buttons to click on.

And like in every free-trade economic model, some parallel solutions emerged. There are those students, who, for a few quid an hour, can help you in the technology jungle. And there are also the remedial classes, that crafty people didn't wait too long to invent. But these courses bring in a good income to the teachers, and there is no guarantee that you will move your mouse more quickly afterwards.

But State Education and other authorities shouldn't wait too long, because the longer we wait, the wider the gap becomes between the ones in the know and the others. And these others can easily feel rejected, and join those new hippy communities that try to recreate the original world, in the middle of the rain forest, very far from modern technology. But maybe they are happier ?

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