

## Are you a Victim of Technoism?

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Technoism is defined as suppressed skepticism and blind compliance with regards to the technology revolution in our lives. Take the assessment below and find out if you are a victim of Technoism. Be completely honest when responding.

1. List the last *five* technological gadgets or tools you have purchased in the top row of the assessment below.
2. For each technological gadget, give yourself a point for every yes answer for the questions listed in the left column.
3. Total your points at the bottom and across for your final score.
4. Discover if you are a victim of Technoism by reading the assessment results below.

<b>Last Five Technology Purchases:</b>	1	2	3	4	5
You purchased it only to keep up with technology and/or others					
You purchased it and have never used it or never learned how to use it to its full intent					
You purchased it as a tool to manage the technology you already own					
You purchased it because you felt pressured by work, family, or friends					
You purchased it as an impulse buy and still wonder why and/or regret it					
You purchased it and put it a yard sale within two years without getting your money's worth					
Your purchased it, could not understand the instructions and/or got poor customer service and finally gave up on it					
**Add one more point for above if you did not complain to the company					
You feel a sense of importance and a sense of techno-savvy when using this technology and hope for others to see you using it					
You purchased it, never fully used it to its full potential yet ridiculed others for not having one "yet"					
You purchased this technology because the previous technology of its kind is now outdated and/or you need it to function with the older technology you own					
**Add one more point for above if you did not complain to the company about the short life of your purchase					
<b>TOTALS</b>					

**Grand Total:**

**0-20 Points** There is Hope!! You purchase technology for what seems to be all the right reasons. You may be more likely to complain about poor quality products and poor customer service. If you score closer to the 20 point range, you need to be aware of Technoism in your life by practicing analysis and assessment in your personal life and the workplace (it may help to read below). If you scored closer to the 0 range, it may be you are a secret technophobe and may consider utilizing a bit of technology. The right techno-decisions, carefully considered, will offer you tools to benefit certain areas of your life. While it may be true that our society is becoming more and more dependent on technology, it may be your wish to avoid this trap. This is commendable; however, the future will require some level of technological knowledge and therefore some level of involvement for future participation.

**21-49 Points** You appear to be a victim of Technoism. Ask yourself why you demonstrate the assessment behaviors. Are you afraid to speak against the negative implications of the technology revolution? Are you afraid to be labeled “old-fashioned,” “behind-the-times,” or “Luddite?” You may wish to practice waiting before purchasing the latest and greatest techno-toy. Listen to others and their assessment of the technology, determine if it would be a good fit for your lifestyle, and deliberately lessen your dependence on technology. Question your fears and concerns about fitting into the technology revolution. If you understand your motives and thought processes, you will make intelligent decisions, demand higher quality and customer service, and speak against unnecessary technology dependencies at home, at work, and in our society. These things are necessary so you can reap the benefits of technology without becoming a victim of technology marketers either directly or indirectly through others.

**50 + points** You are living a technology marketers dream. You are prone to purchase techno-gadgets before they are proven, never question poor quality, and accept high prices. You do not question or admit to questioning the need for more technology to utilize or manage technology previously purchased. There is no such thing as a “Technoism” doctor so looks like you are going to have to cure yourself. Go on vacation and leave all technology at home. Phone someone and talk to them without multi-tasking, reconsider that job offer that would require you to be on-call 24/7, go for a walk and leave you cell phone at home, assess your personal life and work life before purchasing every new technological gadget. Ask yourself if it fits your lifestyle, if it will distract from relationships, if it will make you more reliant on technology rather than lessening your dependence on current technology in your life. Remember, technology is a means to an end, not the end itself. Refocus! Technology can be a gift if you put it in its place and understand its limitations. You will not, I repeat, will not, gain control over your chaotic life by adding more technology. In fact, you must eliminate some of your dependence before you begin to feel control again.