

Andrew Johnston

Which single technology has most helped changed my life?

Without doubt, internet access. The 53 years on which I have been on this planet has been the time of the greatest and most rapid change in the history of mankind. I have had the advantage of living in parallel with an explosion of inventions, developments and discoveries.

However, the revolution that has transformed the scope to achieve everyday tasks at a level that would have been beyond conception just a few short years ago is the availability of the internet. I use it for communication, information retrieval and entertainment. I use it for research to earn a living, to pursue hobbies or simply for amusement like attempting the Sunday Times, 'Where Was I ' quiz. It is also relatively user -friendly. I fall into that large majority that Heather Rabbatts describes as having 'a basic understanding ':I scored 3 on the 'Dongle' quiz. But I can click the mouse button that drives the search engines that unlock the doors of that greatest reference library locked up in the small box on the top of my desk. If human society is about communication, then the internet is on its way to becoming a universal membership card.