

Sam Franklin

*The digital divide: 'A mindset not an age thing'*

Silver-surfers are a wonderful sight to behold. For those of you unfamiliar to the term, it is used to describe those of a more seasoned aged, happily emailing gap-year grandchildren in New Zealand, or selling MG spare parts released from the prison of the shed on ebay. There is certainly no linear relationship between increasing age and the being increasingly marginalized by the so called 'digital divide'.

I believe the root of the divide is a mindset, borne of a lack of inquisitiveness. I would describe myself as a tech-literate early twentysomething. However I am acquainted with a surprising number of anti-digital similarly aged individuals who are certainly not enthused by file-sharing and googling, let alone stimulated to the sheer diversity of environment awaiting them online. They distrust e-commerce for the card-detail snatching Russian e-crooks and are fearful of 'slimy' online-dating for the threat of a cyber Jack the ripper.

These myths are dated and damaging, and through a lack of interest not to join the growing tech-ranks, are going to be left thoroughly disenchanted by the information revolution. The internet will grow and evolve until it's fully integrated into most facets of life, however the ones that have their eyes wide shut now will be leading the neo-luddite revolt in years to come.