

Technology Generation Gaps

As this chart shows, information technology changes so fast that the life experience of executives in their 40s and 50s is very different from the experience of younger folks. I originally started each vertical age line at 21, the year you start working, but a very smart editor suggested I bring it back to 1 year old since so many people have been plugged in more or less since birth.

Year	Technology Milestones	Age (US Median 36.5)						Tech-Cultural Milestones
2010	iPad / HTML5 / Kinect / Foursquare	55	45	40	36	30	25	Gulf Spill / Haiti / Wikileaks / PPACA
2009	Windows 7 / Groupon / Virtualization	54	44	39	35	29	24	ARRA Stimulus Spending
2008	Adobe AIR / Blu-Ray / Android / OpenID	53	43	38	34	28	23	Pres Obama / Wall Street Crash
2007	iPhone / Twitter / Kindle / Hulu / Vista / Gmail	52	42	37	33	27	22	Iraq Surge/ IPCC AGW / Health 2.0
2006	HDTV Crossover / Facebook / LinkedIn / AWS	51	41	36	32	26	21	US pop 300 mil
2005	Video iPod / Skype / Google Maps / YouTube	50	40	35	31	25	20	850 mil iTunes
2004	Phone Cams / Net Neutrality / Ubuntu / Web 2.0	49	39	34	30	24	19	DVD ripping / Prius hybrid
2003	DRM / DTV / Windows XP / MySQL	48	38	33	29	23	18	Iraq War / Weblogs / iTunes
2002	Tech Crash	47	37	32	28	22	17	Human Genome
2001	MP3 players / Semantic Web	46	36	31	27	21	16	WTC Attack / iPod / Digital video
2000	Internet Boom / Y2K Frenzy / Windows 98 / TiVo	45	35	30	26	20	15	Reality TV / Pres Bush II
1999	Streaming media / Embryonic stem cells	44	34	29	25	19	14	Napster
1998	DVD	43	33	28	24	18	13	HDTV
1997	Windows 95 / MSIE / Flash / JavaScript	42	32	27	23	17	12	Fuel cells / <i>Grand Theft Auto</i>
1996	Amazon.com / Real Audio / MSN / PHP	41	31	26	22	16	11	Monica Lewinsky scandal
1995	Netscape / GPS / W3C / VRML	40	30	25	21	15	10	Ebay / Amazon.com
1994	Pentium / MPEG-1 / CD-R	39	29	24	20	14	9	Yahoo!
1993	Windows 3.1 / Newton PDA / Linux	38	28	23	19	13	8	Leno & Letterman
1992	1 million IP hosts / RAID disks / .JPEG	37	27	22	18	12	7	Pres Clinton
1991	Java / PhotoShop	36	26	21	17	11	6	"Information Superhighway"
1990	100,000 IP hosts / Lotus Notes / .GIF	35	25	20	16	10	5	SUVs / <i>Law & Order</i>
1989	10BaseT / IRC	34	24	19	15	9	4	Tiananmen Square massacre
1988	10,000 IP hosts / VGA	33	23	18	14	8	3	Challenger crash / Pres Bush I
1987	Prodigy / Hypercard / Windows 1.0	32	22	17	13	7	2	Iran Contra
1986	MS Excel / Intel 386	31	21	16	12	6	1	Nintendo
1985	Apple Macintosh / C++	30	20	15	11	5		Cell phones / AOL
1984	MS Mouse	29	19	14	10	4		"cyberspace"
1983	Compaq / Sun / Novell	28	18	13	9	3		Minivan / Final M*A*S*H episode
1982	IBM PC / PC-DOS	27	17	12	8	2		ATMs
1981	dbase II	26	16	11	7	1		Space Shuttle / MTV
1980	VisiCalc / First Comdex	25	15	10	6			Mt. St. Helens / Pres Reagan
1979	WordStar / Xerox laser printer	24	14	9	5			CD Player / Digital Music
1978	Apple][/ TRS-80	23	13	8	4			The Source
1977	CP/M / VAX	22	12	7	3			
1976	Microsoft founded / Telenet	21	11	6	2			Pres Carter
1975	Intel 8080 / Zilog Z-80	20	10	5	1			Viet Nam withdrawal
1974	Ethernet	19	9	4				Nixon Resigns
1973	HP Calculator	18	8	3				
1972	Microprocessor / Floppy Disk	17	7	2				Atari Pong
1971	PDP-11 / IBM 370	16	6	1				
1970	UNIX	15	5					CompuServe
1969	Data General Nova	14	4					Moon Landing
1968		13	3					Summer of Love
1967		12	2					
1966		11	1					
1965	PDP-8	10						
1964	IBM 360	9						Pres Johnson

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