

Technology Trends 2013

This is not about the latest cell phone, gaming system, or the latest even flatter flat screen TV, but trends that will impact our lives in a broader sense.

1. Analog Sunset

Digital transmission of audio and video is the new norm. Regular cablevision TV is decreasing in importance; YouTube, Netflix, On-Demand Services, and Angry Birds are here to stay. All of this impacts your computer network; your trusty old router or wiring which may not be up to the task. Newer services and equipment have different wiring needs and your old equipment may not work with the new equipment.



2. Energy

Information helps us make better decisions, including the use of energy. We can display energy use on devices like the iPad, smart phones and at a low cost. There are lots of technologies for smart heating and cooling controls, and they can be installed very cost effectively. We routinely add an economy mode which will dim lights, set back the thermostat, drop the blinds and more, automatically or by pressing the “green” button.

3. Remote Access

Security, cameras, remote control door locks, door bells that ring our cell phones are all available now and at low cost.

4. Anytime, Anywhere, Anyhow

We all expect everything to work 24/7 until the end of time. Brand new electronics products frequently do not work all that well, especially when they first come out. You combine a bunch of these products into a “system” and you are lucky if it works at all. It rarely is simple to operate or a pleasure to own...

5. The Cloud

Store your digital information – photographs, documents, music and data where it can be retrieved easily anywhere in the world and has little chance of disappearing. Scan your passport and other ID just in case. Imagine how you’d be if you did lose your wallet and everything was already backed up securely.

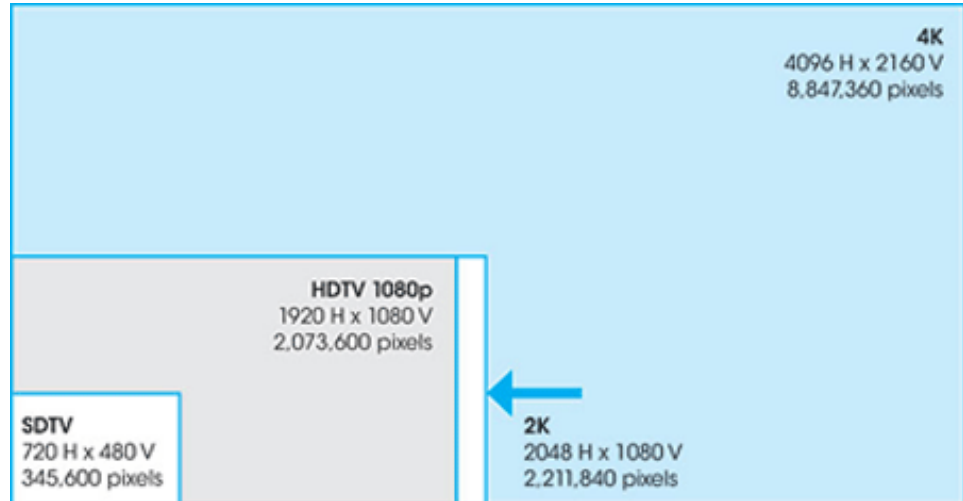
We can now log into your system remotely, re-boot things if needed or diagnose a problem. The industry-leading equipment actually sends us an email BEFORE it has a problem! This means lower maintenance costs, lower service costs, and faster service.

6. Open Curated Systems

Clients do not understand about the latest Java, Flash, Firmware or restrictions on use - they simply expect things to work.

We work with companies that have done the legal work and the technical engineering to make sure their systems will work properly and over time. Believe it or not, Blue Ray player functionality can be turned off by Hollywood lawyers. Yikes!

7. Better Video



Just like 3D, vastly higher resolution video is coming whether you want it to or not. To look at this chart, you would think that your life has been a giant, low-resolution mess up to this point with all the extra detail that you've been missing.

Still a few years away from full implementation, but if you are paying someone to wire your house, they should know what to do today as we will all expect this in all of our homes a few years from now.

As I was writing this, an email came in from a supplier touting a brand new video distribution system costing thousands. It is woefully out of date and virtually useless; you cannot even plug in the latest Apple TV or Xbox system. Amazing... We declined...

If you are building, renovating or considering a large ticket electronics purchase, you should use a professional electronic systems designer. I don't mean the electrician or the nice guy who happened to stop by the jobsite, or your friend's cousin who is "into computers". This stuff costs real money and systems are harder to do properly than it appears at first.

Here is a link to a Ted Talk on the genomic revolution
http://www.ted.com/talks/richard_resnick_welcome_to_the_genomic_revolution.html

4K Video
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/4K_resolution

*"I wish all of the trades were as on point as Beyond Audio".
Matthew Comber, Hollingsworth Architects, Vancouver*