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The Effects Age Has on Attitudes Towards Aviation Related Technology

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The Effects Age Has on Attitudes Towards Aviation Related Technology

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Advancements in technology have come a long way for the aviation industry. Companies often times seek to introduce new upgrades and technology in order to make their operations more efficient. Efficient operations lead to economic savings, and better task management. This in turn reduces the cost of each flight as well as reducing the human dependence factor. No research has been done to see how the passengers onboard the planes feel about these changes. To fill the gap in the scientific literature, 191 participants were asked how they felt about more or less human interaction required when flying an airplane. By using a five point Likert scale, the participants were asked how comfortable they would be with either a more computer based or human based flight system in the aircraft. The computer based flight system consisted of a computer that monitored and controlled most of the avionics for the aircraft during a flight. The human based flight system relies heavily on the pilots to monitor and control the avionics. The results were then separated into age groups to see what they preferred. The data suggests that the older participants preferred the human pilot having more control and less reliance on electronics, while the younger participants preferred more computer integration and less human reliance. This data is of importance to airliner companies when acquiring new passengers. If certain passengers are not comfortable with the balance of human and technology on a particular airliner, then they may choose a different company that meets their expectations.