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# Growing Up in a Digital World: Benefits and Risks

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**Abstract:** Digital technologies have profoundly changed childhood and adolescence. The internet and the means to access it, such as tablets and smart phones, along with social media platforms and messaging apps, have become integral to the lives of youth around the world. They have transformed their education and learning, the way they make and maintain friendships, how they spend their leisure time, and their engagement with wider society.

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## Introduction

The world is changing! It's definitely not what it used to be. Today, technology is an inevitable part of our everyday life. It's everywhere! In our homes, hospitals, schools. Most of our work depends on it, and it's even changing the way we grow up.

You might say there are many drawbacks to technology, and you could be right. We used to play outside as kids; now it seems everyone is stuck behind a laptop or smart phone. Addiction to social media, cyber-bullying, watching too much television, and exposing youth to profanities are all but a few. This begs the question: is it truly inhibiting the proper growth and development of the minds of our youth? Or could it be enabling them to become even smarter?

The fact remains, technology has also brought about countless improvements to our way of life:

## Click of a Button

Knowledge has become free and easily accessible to anyone and everyone. Whether you're a student or an at home grandparent, technology has made anything you want to learn easier by simply going online. Even young children are learning words, colors, and numbers faster after the invention and introduction of smart boards and educational video games that engage their cognitive abilities.

## It's a Small World Now

Moving to another country or a far away university has become easier with technology. In the old days, our only means of communication with distant friends and family was through expensive phone calls, or writing letters that arrive days, if not weeks later. Today, it's as simple as picking up your smart phone and chatting with them in real-time. You can even see them live!

## Less Worrying

Remember when our parents used to worry sick when we didn't come home on time? Those times will never be over, but at least now parents can easily pick up the phone and call their children. There are even apps that help them track where they are at all times. Sure, this might seem like a major nuisance to many youth, but in unsafe times and untrusted areas, it's proven to be indispensable.

## Meeting People

The days of 'only being able to meet new people in person' are over. Today, with the help of technology, you can easily meet and make new friends. Whether those friends are in the vicinity, or even on the other side of the planet, that doesn't matter. Today, we find plenty of married couples who actually met online. With the rise of social media, you can even select and get close to people with your same interests and passions, as well as showcase and

highlight your achievements. This is exactly where Aimee enters.

These are but a few of the benefits that technology has brought to us, and there's no telling what it will continue to bring. One thing's for sure, just like too much sugar is not good, misusing and heavily relying on technology is also not good. It's easy to let our youth succumb to it, but in order for technology to enable them instead of inhibiting them, we need to guide them through it.

The key is to help these young minds understand how technology could help them, and how it could hurt them if they misuse it. In return, we'll come to see them teaching us a thing or two.

The younger generations are lucky. As digital natives, they live in a world where within seconds they can call up any fact that they want. They can have instant access to the latest songs, films and photos with little effort. They have the ability to interact with friends across the globe within seconds both by typing and talking. They can get help on homework from friends and experts without even leaving the house. They can easily create impressive media such as music, movies and images and publish it for everyone to share and comment on. And, they do. They are digital natives. They do not know life without the ability to do these things.

It has been argued by Prensky (2001) that because of their connected upbringing, digital natives brains are "wired" differently than the brains of digital immigrants. At the minimum, they demonstrate unique characteristics such as:

- ✦ they are more creative, multimedia-oriented,
- ✦ they fear failure less,
- ✦ they are more social,
- ✦ they are more likely to be actively involved,
- ✦ they are expressive,
- ✦ they have electronic friends,
- ✦ they multi-task more,
- ✦ they have developed and share a common language (do u no it?),

- ✦ they are more comfortable operating with different kinds of inputs (visual, audio, kinesthetic) rather than with text-only,
- ✦ they are more global,
- ✦ they are risk takers,
- ✦ they want to modify, create and produce,
- ✦ they want to be flexible and responsive to opportunity,
- ✦ they are striving to be independent.

### Risks

Taking account of risks in enterprise structures (organization, IT systems) and in the design and execution of business processes is an essential task of company management.

A key step here is establishing transparent operational structures and processes. What risks could arise in an organization and where? A "risk inventory" provides the basis for deciding how to best handle risks.

A combination of a top-down risk inventory, with central risk catalogs, and a bottom-up inventory with employees' active involvement in surveys, is ideal. Software AG's solution enables both approaches and thus offers the highest level of flexibility.

Risk-relevant events and any losses are documented and risks are assessed by category (financial, reputation, etc.). Direct quantitative and/or qualitative assessments are used as well as indirect methods such as surveys. The results serve as a basis for deciding if mitigation measures need to be taken. Modification or definition of controls, communicating policies, documenting damage, losses or irregularities and initiating audits provide interfaces with other GRC use cases.

Digital Transformation offers new approaches for documenting risks when they arise. One such use case is a mobile app that lets users identify and describe a problem, including a photo, and forward it to those responsible. This type of "risk-catcher app" enables users to recognize the need to act quickly and simply and take the necessary measures.

There are also valuable approaches when it comes to the hot topic of “customer journey.” Risks associated with the relationship between companies and their customers can be recognized and handled early. The explicit allocation and assessment of risks while planning customer touch points enable the ideal customer journey.

Thanks to digitalization companies can implement new business models more quickly, adapt their processes and react early to new risks or damaging events.

Furthermore, with Complex Event Processing (CEP) and big data, organizations can recognize behavior patterns among customer transactions or indicative trends from machine data and social networks. This helps make use of valuable time before risks arise.

The foundation for successful risk management is providing all stakeholders with a joint transparent platform where correlations are visible. Target group-specific evaluations of joint data resolve complexity issues. Collaborative measures resulting from different use cases optimize GRC management.

Only by involving all of an organization’s relevant stakeholders from controlling, process and IT management as well as all types of risk managers will the relationships between risks and the business ecosystem is visible.

Only the integration of GRC and business perspective can ultimately establish the necessary transparency. It allows the business expert to see the risk information relevant to him or her and the GRC specialist to understand the operational correlation between business process and resources, documents and systems.

### Conclusion

The world would become a very powerful digitally connected. This would lead to a good architecture for electronic delivery of service. The Digital world project provides a huge opportunity to use the latest technology to redefine the paradigms of service delivery. A digitally connected world can help in improving social and economic condition of people living in rural areas through development of non-agricultural economic activities apart from providing access to education, health and financial

services. However, it is important to note that anyone alone cannot directly lead to overall development of the country. The overall growth and development can be realized through supporting and enhancing elements such as literacy, basic infrastructure, overall business environment, regulatory environment, etc. Further, Security should be the most important area at all level of operation for the digitally empowered knowledge economy of the world.

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