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CIS

Since preschool we have been taught to share and help others. It is the nature of humans, and it is instilled in us since youth. At that age there are even consequences when not sharing or helping one another, usually known as time out. However, with age people become less conscious about executing those values and culture. With time not only do people changed but so does technology. This leaves the elderly with generation gaps. At this point in society, a computer is considered a necessity for daily use. Since the barrier, lack of tech skills and health difficulties, comes in way of seniors being able to operate the computers efficiently and effectively and there are other options. One of the biggest technological developments catering to the needs of the elder generation is the Telekin PC.

Though there are different options on a computer such as magnifying the font, changing the colors to adjust to different needs, it is not solely based on catering to the specific needs of a senior. On the other hand, Telekin PC provides for most needs as designed to do so. With the feature of touch screen on the Telekin, you can access any program easily by just a touch on an icon. The Telekin allows you to surf the web, video chat, e-mail, local and international news, shopping and games, including 500 features and options in total. These applications are pre loaded onto the PC, soo no hassle setting up (Seifer and Vughn).

Though the Telekin has many advantages I think it may have a reverse opinion from someone of a younger generation. Being accustom to a regular PC and then using the Telekin can be challenging. The sensitivity of the touch screen is far different from a mouse. When teaching off a device which you are no familiar with yourself was not very easy. However using the Telekin is very manageable and pretty self explanatory. With large picture icons, large font and easily accessible icons makes this PC much more feasible for such group of adults.

Adjusting and providing for someone else’s needs can be difficult at times. The generation gap is quite ample. And when dealing with technology that gap becomes more evident. Advancements in technology are so rapid that with such age difference the computer lessons were not as easy as assumed. The truth of the matter is, though these seniors are learning with an open mind and trying their best, it really will be a difficult goal to achieve of them master the computer compared to someone of this generation. But, with practice, and hard work they will be able to use to computer efficiently and effectively, some better than others.

With baby boomers being a target audience for this particular PC, research and development have been closed looked at for the past 5 years. As Dr Coppola stated, “With its intuitive and structured menu of applications and clear cut user interface, Telekin is the first computer truly made for baby boomers and older(Nita).” Not only have 5 years have been put into research closely but numerous computers have been tested, Pace University is highly involved with the support this product.

According to Telekin there are more than 46.5 million consumers over the age of 60 in the United States. The company is expecting sales to exceed one million dollars by 2012 as a social networking among Internet users who are at the age of 50 and older( Nita). Also the users of this age have approximately doubled from 22% in April 2009 to 42% in May 2010 (Nita).

Just because of technological advancements and generation gaps, no one should be hindered from learning how to use the same technology as today’s generation would. With such a large population of these baby boomers it is great to see new breakthroughs targeting a different age group than what is usually targeted when creating new products to be introduced to the market.

There are many products that are available or will soon be available which resemble the Telekin. Many may see the Telekin as a larger version of a tablet. However it varies quite a bit from that. All in one computers known as AIO will be sold by Dell and HP , they are similarly designed to a Telekin computer or any other tablet, but are not designed specifically to help seniors. AIO are targeting convenience for consumers that are found in notebooks (Kyrnin). However like Telekin they don’t offer the same flexibility and ability of a regular PC or desktop.

Service learning is a very humbling experience for one to go through. It is a great way for individuals to learn and develop in a very unique way. There is nothing more special and touching than a personal experience, which is usually cherished for life. Through service learning both participants learn. Confidence, leadership, communication, reflecting, and learning to cope with other people’s needs and feelings are attained while performing community service. These are fundamental qualities that are used to bring success to ones future. It has been proven in several fields of study that service learning is beneficial. It is also believed to help prevent violence in communities, having students involved with more positive activities in the community. Now not only being responsible for themselves, but now these students are responsible of carrying out their duty to serve and provide for others. In the past the term service – learning never had a definite meaning.

It has been a struggle for researchers to determine how to best characterize this tool. Robert Sigmon in 1979 defined service learning as “ an experiential education approach that is premised on “reciprocal learning” (Furco). He also suggested that because learning flows from service activitied, both those who provide service and those who receive it learn from the experience. So basically according to Sigmon’s view, service learning only occurs when both the providers and recipients of service benefit from the activities. However, 32 years later the term’s meaning has changed. Service-learning is now characteriszed based on experience, volunteer and community service projects dealing with education and internship programs. Also it is very common for different schools to vary in their representation of what service learning means.

Service – learning can be distinguished from the goals you attain after using the tool. Some of the goals that should be accomplished are, “ Learning goals primary; service outcomes secondary, service outcomes primary: learning goals secondary, service and learning goals completely different, service and learning goals of equal weight and each enhances the other for all participants (Furco). “ The most important thing when evaluating service- learning it is to be made sure that both the provider and recipient equally benefit. It is to be ensured that both the service enhances the learning enhances the service (Furco).

In engineering education it is believed that service learning is a solution to a widespread of problems such as teaching students practical knowledge instead of having students “memorizing” knowledge of engineering rather than focusing on only the basic science. Some other positive effects service learning has shown are the efforts of violence prevention in communities. “Service learning has the potential to engage students in a real life application of the theoretical engineering models they learn in the classroom, to introduce engineering to students who may not have initially been drawn to engineering, and to reinforce models of learning that will be useful to engineering students as they enter the professional workforce ( Vaughn and Seifer).”

Service –Learning not only gives you an opportunity to learn and gain knowledge but opens up a whole new door of careers and opportunities for your future in that field. Mayor Bloomberg is requiring New York City schools grades K-12 to take part in a service plan for which can be offered to students. Bloomberg states “A sustained culture of service can be created by developing programs that encourage young New Yorkers to think about volunteering as a core part of their lives (Brown).” Among middle and high school there are 1.1 million students in New York City with 1,500 different schools. This is a great plan to be implemented in the school systems, not many young students are aware of the different service learning, if they are exposed to this it will only further encourage them to take part in such services (Brown).

Studies also show that the college students have the best long term as well as short term benefits from participating in service- learning. Grades have been compared between two groups of students who did participate in service learning plan had the higher grades (Strage). Studies based upon individual work but also considred an instructional tool. Certain areas of service learning have not been focused on and how long this effect of one’s behavior lasts is questionable (Strage).

Helping my two adults was not only was this learning experience for them but for me as well. They were not the only students, and the use of computers was not the only thing being learned, patience kindness and wisdom was definitely attained by me. Teaching them how to access the internet and better their skills with the computer is in fact very beneficial. Since leaving the facility may not be the best option at all times, the computer will help the adults stay in touch or reconnect with family and friends. When helping others, different people call for different needs.

Being a junior at Pace University, a service learning class was necessary in order to graduate. Being able to acquire these new skills and values is truly a great advantage for my future. With this experience of giving back to the community while attain such wisdom and knowledge, the Telekin computer was also introduced to me. Being a Pace University student taking a service –learning class is required in order to graduate. Being offered this class was actually inspiring and truly eye opening. Others as well as I can say we are all guilty of forgetting to help others. I would now say I am an advocate for not just helping others and doing community service, by helping the elderly with computers and other technological devices.

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