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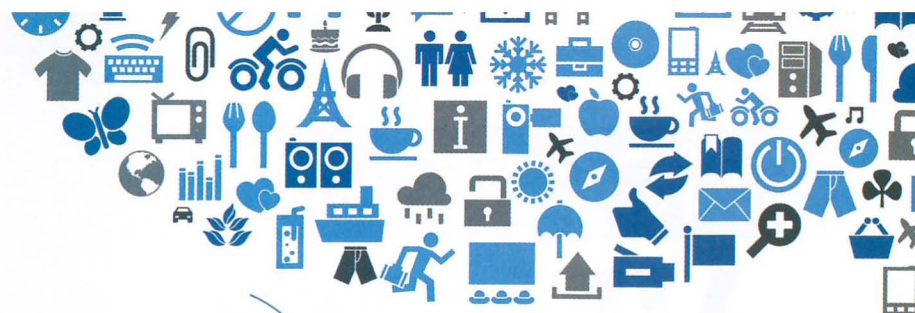
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FREE

ANGRA DO HEROÍSMO
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ONLINE AND DISCONNECTED

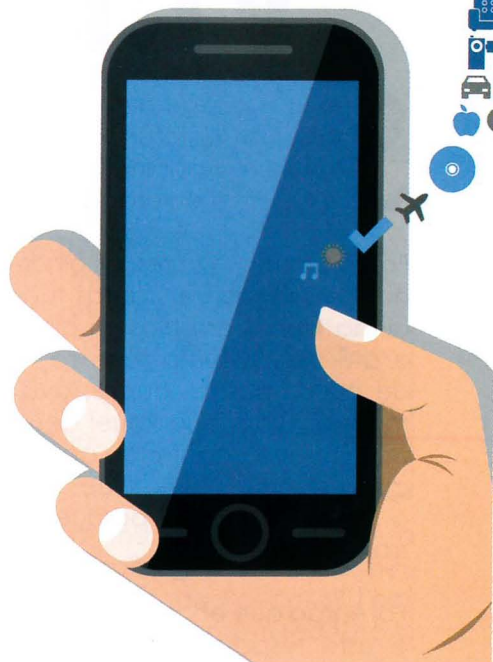
“Could you repeat the question?” is the request of students whose attention was hijacked by their electronic devices. These machines are physically between the students and their teacher. Blocking learning opportunities is only one of the many collateral consequences of laptops, tablets and smart phones. Perhaps saddest are the injuries and deaths from distracted driving. Walking into things and people while looking down has become common.

It is fascinating to think that most of these devices did not even exist ten years ago and now they play a substantial part of our daily lives. They are a dominant means for how we communicate and gather information. Clearly the employment of these devices has, in the briefest span of time, been inserted into the essentials of modern life. We give little thought to this huge change.

behavior regarding device usage? Will customs evolve to guide us as to when and where to refrain from checking our devices? Our lines of communication have become less direct. Should there be a return to more direct lines of communication?

As a measure of self-regulation, I leave my devices in the office when I teach. I leave my devices at home when I am out for an evening of entertainment and friends. To be able to move these devices from the center of interpersonal communications is a daunting challenge.

Although the advantages of network devices are obvious, the amount of time spent on the internet, deleting spam, checking the glut of facebook personal information, and a host of other online time eater activities is not always time well spent. This author feels more hands-on activities and in person communications have shifted to more secondary roles.



 Chris Menton
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Williams University

What of the collateral consequences? Most places have laws prohibiting hand held devices while driving. Laws are drastic measures to address public safety matters. Do we need to develop self-regulations on our social



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