



TECHNOLOGY AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

We can all say without any doubt that COVID-19 has turned our world upside down practically overnight. It's a terrifying and uncertain time for everyone.

But there is one silver lining -- leveraging technology to an even greater degree and using this crisis as a push for innovation in healthcare, education and consumer services. Increased digitalization of processes throughout our society minimizes the risk of the disease spreading while maintaining some level of normalcy in our lives.

Many sectors will benefit from these changes, but these five areas have seen significant growth in technology reliance. They will likely continue to grow in a post-COVID-19 world.

1. Remote work.

Remote work relies on technologies like VPN, VOIP, collaboration tools, and others. Employees benefit through increased flexibility while employers through cost savings on leasing space. However, remote work comes with challenges such as collaboration, lack of work-life balance, and loneliness for remote workers.

2. Distance learning.

With schools worldwide closing to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, students have had to adapt to learning online. Relying on the same technologies as remote work, schools have also leveraged technologies like augmented

and virtual reality, 3D printing, and even artificial-intelligence-powered robot teachers.

3. Robotics and drone deliveries.

COVID-19 has exposed the areas where we rely on labour-intensive and close contact jobs as the most vulnerable to virus spread. In these sectors, it is especially interesting to test robots to minimize the risk to humans, for example, using robots or drones to deliver food to people who are in quarantine.

4. Digital and contactless payments.

For any business that can provide the means, cashless transactions are preferred because cash poses some risk for virus transmission. Now more than ever, there is benefit in paying bills online, using cards and e-wallets to pay for groceries, and order goods online.

5. Supply chain 4.0.

The current global supply chain has been significantly affected by this pandemic. The future of the supply chain employs Big Data, cloud computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT) to create a more robust system more immune to future crises. Supply chain 4.0 is also focused on predicting and nimbly serving demand. Its goal will be to drive growth, going away from a purely cost savings approach.

Source: World Economic Forum, weforum.org



Strategies for adapting to a changing Business Environment



Change is always hard especially if it involves the way one earns. Adapting to the changing business environment can be quite challenging, therefore Below we share 4 steps for making this process a little easier.

Study and research

Great way to keep on track is to study the changes happening in your business environment



When it comes to challenges in business, research is your best friend. Stay current on margins, industry trends, and costs.



Ask around

Don't limit yourself to what you can read or learn online. Being informed means staying in touch with the business community by attending industry events and connecting with those in a similar position as you.

Take things positively

Taking things slowly and positively is a great way to deal with change.

Change happens for a reason. It is important to approach change constructively and eventually think about how its benefits may last beyond your time and into future generations.



Stay calm and focused



It is critical to stay calm in the face of adversity triggered by change.



Staying calm will ensure that you are looking at things logically and with a cool head, helping you stay focused on your long-term goals.

Source: <http://www.wikihow.com/Adapt-to-Changes-in-a-Business-Environment>