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By Jasen Stine.

"If someone from the 1950s suddenly appeared, what would be the most difficult thing to explain to them about life today? – I possess a device, in my pocket, that is capable of accessing the entirety of information known to man. I use it to look at pictures of cats and get into arguments with strangers."

This was a joke that floated around social media channels over the last few years. It lightheartedly mocks how we misuse today's technology, while illustrating the true

power we hold. The creation of the internet transformed the way we live our lives

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relationships over the longer term than you might realize. On top of that, the same tool that is guiding you step-by-step to your destination is also a dictionary, encyclopedia, therapist, group of friends to consult, and just about anything else you might need in the process of having these kinds of discussions.

Incredible, right? Now just think about how technology will continue to advance and what that will do to further transform our lives. It has the power to connect us to others in a way that could not have been imagined. Think about how you can now call clients, or vendors, or staff while in your car or how you transitioned from inperson to Zoom meetings during covid.

How you can pull up an app that lets you accomplish a client task when you are grocery shopping, when previously you might have had to wait until you got to your office. And with the advancement of collaboration tools, your clients can work with you more easily as well, while still allowing for your own flexibility. All of these changes let us enhance our relationships with our clients – fostering trust in our ability to work around their schedule, creating new ways to engage from anywhere, and more.

And by the way, keep in mind that technology will not just continue to advance. It will accelerate in a compounding pattern for at least the next 5-10 years. Perhaps longer. What will be the next big advancement to connect us to others, to our clients? It's hard to say. But one thing we do know for sure, is that technology has opened up the opportunity to deepen current client connections and even create new relationships that would never have existed without these tools.

I, for one, intend to continue to use my phone to look at pictures of cats and argue with strangers. But because technology has shown me how to better appreciate advancements and connect with those around me, I hope those cat pictures are more robust with 3D projection so I can enjoy it with my family, that my arguments with strangers are productive and contribute to the betterment of society as a whole, and

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