

Brain Gain: Technology and the Quest for Digital Wisdom

Marc Prensky



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"In an age where the answer to every question is at your fingertips, where does the human brain fit in?"

In one hand-held object, we are able to manage all of our calendars, documents, and interpersonal relationships with such ease that many people are lost when forced to do perform these tasks without the aid of electronics. Often heard are the calls for less technology and more face-to-face interaction, for fear that the use of all this artificial intelligence is dampening our own ability to think.

Author Marc Prensky has a different idea. In this controversial and well-argued treatise, Prensky offers the idea that rather than stunting the mind?that most essential aspect of an individual's intelligence and sense of self?smart technology (and smart *use* of technology) enhances our humanity in ways that the brain on its own never could. Through scores of fascinating examples, Prensky shows that the symbiotic combination of the human brain and technology?from marrying the brain's strengths such as sense-making and complex reasoning abilities with technology's strengths like storing and processing large amounts of data?has great benefits for our own cognitive functioning. How should we best combine the strengths of mind and machine for maximum benefit? Prensky's call is for digital wisdom?a new interconnectedness between human and technology that is already enabling *Homo Sapiens* to begin the journey into the next stages of cognitive evolution.

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