



The View from 1987

My journey in technology started back in 1987. It wasn't part of some grand plan — it was simply me realizing that tech was a path to opportunity. And honestly, gaming was becoming cool. From there, I watched technology evolve from the analog world of the late 70s to the hyper-digital reality we live in today.

Looking back almost forty years, one thing is clear: the pace has been too fast. The acceleration hasn't just changed our tools — it has outpaced our biology.

The Hardware–Software Gap

My perspective isn't a sudden revelation. It comes from a multidisciplinary background — religion, social sciences, human behavior, psychology, biology — and a lifetime of observing how people and societies adapt. When you study history and anthropology, you see the same pattern over and over: humans learn slowly, make mistakes, and adapt across long arcs of time.

But today, we're not giving ourselves that time.

We're trying to run 21st-century “software” — AI, social media, constant connectivity — on 50,000-year-old “hardware.” Evolution moves slowly; technology moves at the speed of light. My view is simple: technologically, we've grown too fast, and our brains haven't caught up.

The Cost of the Mismatch

A few weeks ago, I watched Dr. Jared Cooney Horvath (PhD, Neuroscientist) testified before U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation about this exact issue. His testimony echoed what many of us have sensed for years: younger generations are showing declines in core cognitive skills — literacy, numeracy, attention, and higher-order reasoning. He explained that today's learning environments, shaped heavily by digital technology, are

interrupting the development of deep, focused thinking. We're offloading basic cognitive tasks to devices before we've fully learned them ourselves.

As Dr. Horvath emphasized, technology is a tool that helps experts streamline skills they already possess — it is not a substitute for the foundational learning novices need. By saturating our lives with screens and constant digital input, we're overwhelming the very systems in the brain responsible for building strong cognitive foundations.

The Power Play: Lessons from the Fossil Fuel Era

This connects directly to a broader point: AI is likely to follow the same pattern we've seen with every major scientific breakthrough. It won't just be used to innovate — it will be used to protect entrenched interests.

We've seen this before. For decades, fossil-fuel giants used technology and PR to discredit scientists who exposed the environmental damage caused by oil. They didn't need to win the argument; they just needed to create doubt.

AI is the new frontier for that doubt. Just as oil companies used advertorials in the 80s, today's power structures can use AI to generate "synthetic uncertainty" at scale. AI doesn't automatically elevate humanity — it amplifies whoever controls it. And right now, control is concentrated in the hands of those who benefit most from maintaining the current economic status quo.

Motives from the Gilded Age

The truth is, we're building tools that can "think," but we're still funding them with motives that haven't changed since the Gilded Age. The goal is rarely to uplift the working human being — it's to preserve revenue streams and expand power.

You can see this in "fossil-fuel solutionism," the idea that we can use AI to optimize efficiency just enough to justify continuing the extraction of old resources. It's a narrative built to stall, not to solve.

The Bottom Line

Across every era I've lived through, the conclusion is the same: it's about power and money, not the impact on the working human being.

But understanding this gives us a choice. If we know the human brain needs space to survive this transition, then we have to intentionally create that space — in our designs, our policies, and our daily lives.

Technology is a mirror. It reflects the intent of whoever holds it. If we choose to protect the "human" in the equation, we can ensure that as the machine moves forward, it carries our best values with it.

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