

# Technology is Not a Substitute for Critical Thinking

By: David W. Tetzlaff, Esq.

<http://commercialcounselor.com/>

Technology is central to our daily lives. We rely on it. We embrace it. Many of us can't live without it. Businesses employ new technology, often as early adopters, in an attempt to increase productivity, stay ahead of the curve, and compete effectively.

But business should remain vigilant and take care to avoid the risks that come with the territory. Technology, after all, can be a crutch. A tool of avoidance, the culprit of lost focus, an excuse for not taking care of other things. The addictive nature of technology is such that some workers seem unable to function without it, their ears and eyes tied to mobile phones, their minds firmly fixed on endless streams of content, their fingers scrolling, swiping, typing until they clench and ache.

The challenge for businesses is to ensure that workers use technology in a manner that permits the organization to gain the benefits available from its deployment, while preventing it from clouding judgment, distracting attention or diverting from the true achievement of goals.

One of the major ways that technology impedes business is the effect it has on the ability of workers to think clearly and critically. We get so wrapped up in the technology itself, in the allure of clever tools and snazzy graphics, the immense power at our fingertips, the awe-inspiring endless data stream, that we forget that in the end technology is just a tool. A useless one at that, unless we add to it one crucial ingredient: our own judgment.

Put simply, technology needs the personal filter of our minds, and the questioning skeptical nature of human intellect if the full promise of its presence is to be realized for the benefit of the individual, the company, the organization.

Technology does not think for us. It may provide information (sometimes reliable, sometimes not), and help us on the way, but in the end it is the user who brings to bear the unique circumstances of a personal or professional situation. Critical thinking employees are required to make technology yield to the desires and needs of your organization, transforming brilliant devices and stunning displays into valuable engines of progress and purpose.

Take heed businesses and remember: Technology is your slave, not the other way around.

Link to original article: <http://commercialcounselor.com/technology-is-not-a-substitute-for-critical-thinking/>

For over 35 years small businesses, major corporations, public entities, individuals and insurance companies have depended on Tharpe & Howell, LLP, to deliver pragmatic, innovative, cost-effective civil litigation and transactional solutions. For more information, please contact us at (818) 473-5720 or email your request to [cabusinesslawreport@tharpe-howell.com](mailto:cabusinesslawreport@tharpe-howell.com).