# Typing a Disruption

By Claire Teegen

When you hear the word technology what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Technology is the tools we use in our lives to help make things easier. It can be anything from a toaster to an iPhone. The most common form of technology would be computers. Almost everyone uses computers daily. Computers have become such a  common part of our daily lives it is rare to see someone without some kind of one. They are the technology that has disrupted our lives the most in recent years and will probably continue to disrupt our lives forever. Technology has disrupted our lives by giving people a voice in matters they normally wouldn't, and in ways they normally wouldn't. It has done this by allowing people to share their stories, giving them a place with no censorship, and by allowing people to share their thoughts and opinions in seconds.

Many people have faced and overcome some insane challenges. Technology gives them a place to share their stories so they can hopefully make a difference. In late 2017 women started to share their stories of sexual harassment using technology. It started off as one story, then it became a moment, and then a movement was formed. An article by New York Times said, "It was the fastest moving social change we've seen in decades." and that is because of technology. It has helped make a difference in so many peoples lives and changed the way we view those kinds of situations. There has been many natural disasters recently, from hurricanes to wild fires. With social media, people have been able to share their stories which has allowed others to see what's going on and be able to help. There have also been many shootings recently and because of social media everyone has heard about them. With        all this coverage on the shootings people have learned just how awful events like these are and have decided they are going to try and make a difference, which they can do using technology. Average people have used to technology as a place to use their voice to spark a change about events that matter. Technology has made it able for normal people to reach huge audiences and share their stories, which has made a huge difference in our society. It is great that technology allows people to share their stories but sometimes people share things that aren't very positive.

Many forms of social media have specific guidelines of what you can and can't post and will remove any content that doesn't follow those guidelines. There are other forms of social media that have no guidelines and no censorship. For example twitter has no censorship. In the book by Cory Doctorow, *Little Brother,* they have all of their technology strictly monitored by the government so they have to be careful what they post. Many people feel they need a place with no censorship so in the book they created the X-Net which gave people a place to share whatever they wanted, which is very similar to twitter. This has allowed people to use their voice in positive ways but also in many negative ways. Bullying is more common then ever because technology allows you to say whatever you want. Places like twitter allow bullying to happen because no censorship means they can't remove anything, even if it is severely hurting someone. Many people want to there to be more censorship so there is less bullying. Even if they did add censorship, there is such a huge grey area as to what is and isn't bullying that it would be impossible to completely eliminate it. Censorship is important because people often don't think before they post.

With the technology we have now, it takes seconds to post anything. You can have a thought and share it with the world faster than you could say it to a friend. Twitter is the most common website that people use to charge their thoughts. In the book *Hatching Twitter,* they said that the original purpose of twitter was to share what you were doing at that moment with

some of your friends. It was supposed to make you feel less lonely because you would always be connected to your friends. Twitter became extremely popular very quickly and the original purpose was lost. The use of twitter now is to share your thoughts and daily events with as many people as possible and that can sometimes be very bad. People don't post stuff to feel connected, they post stuff to become popular. Donald Trump, the President of the United States, uses twitter to share his opinions and many people disagree with them. Because twitter allows you to share your opinions so quickly he often doesn't think of the consequences of what might happen if he posts. This is very dangerous because once something has been posted, it is out there forever. It is even used as an official record now. As great as it is to get to share your opinions instantly, you have to be very careful what you say on social media because you can never take it back.

Technology is a huge disruption in our daily lives. It has given many people a voice in matters they normally wouldn't. People are finally able to stand up and use their voice to try and make a difference.  This is possible because using technology people can share their stories, they have a place with no censorship, and they can share their thoughts and opinions in seconds. This has both changed our world for better and for worst. As long as people use technology in positive ways it can be great, but people often use it negatively which isn't good for anyone. Technology is going to continue to disrupt our lives so we have to do everything we can to make it as positive as possible. Disruptions, such as technology,  can be amazing things if we are prepared for them and we are smart in how we use them.