

## "IT" Makes Sense

### The Touch, Taste and Smell of Technology

Technology leaps to life as virtual capabilities gear up for mass market production—breaking into touch, taste, and smell in addition to sight and sound. Virtual Reality (VR) is the latest digital frontier, creating experiences that redefine our expectations of technology and unlocking potential benefits across the board.

As digital reality becomes increasingly realistic, VR provides a way to experience our world in an entirely new way. Just like an IMAX 3D film, VR is now capable of delivering complete visual and audio immersion, creating the experience of touch and the sensation of motion. Advanced tech is even capable of delivering taste and smells.

Virtual Reality is used to train pilots and medical professionals and even create a collaborative workspace for architects. Back in 2014, Facebook shelled out nearly \$3 billion for the Oculus headset, and both Microsoft and Sony have been developing their own line of VR products to interface with their creative entertainment products and solutions. While entertainment and media industries are the primary adopters of VR; as tech companies continue to invest and develop competitive business-to-business solutions, VR is finding larger audiences across a variety of fields.

What about touch? Haptic technology creates an experience of touch by applying vibrations on the skin. This user interface recreates the sense of touch by sending data from gadgets straight to the body. So instead of hearing or seeing a message, you feel taps. People are being introduced to haptics thanks to devices like the Apple Watch...and we can expect to see much more of this technology in the future.

What about taste? Tech you can live and breathe doesn't stop with VR. Experimental technology is bringing imagination to life as things like 3D-printed food become possible. While it's still no replacement for real food, the possibility to create food for special dietary needs with custom nutrients presents a major benefit. Imagine printing your breakfast before work to supercharge your day—while it may sound like it's straight out of a sci-fi movie, it's now in the realm of possibility.

What about smell? Digital scent technology cartridges can now be used to simulate smell. The capabilities include next level entertainment experiences, like a movie that includes the smell of a grassy field or a cooking show where you can smell a gourmet dish. Scent is one of the most powerful senses and one that people respond to strongly. With the ability to simulate scent, a whole new world of therapeutic, entertainment, and research-based applications become possible.

As technology continues to augment reality, what we thought possible is redefined. This tech is changing lives... like helping color-blind people see color, printing highly

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### What's New

September 23

WEBINAR SERIES

10-Minute Tech Talk:

Teams Revisited:

Rev Up Your Teams Experience

[www.it-radix.com/webinar](http://www.it-radix.com/webinar)

Join us for Part 3 of our webinar series.

Starts @ 12:10pm sharp

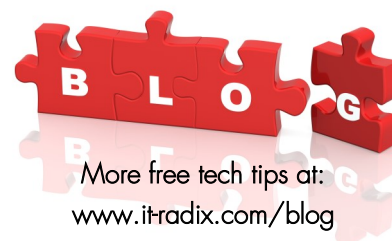
Get Disaster Ready

September is National Preparedness Month. Does your business have a "keep working plan" in the event of a disaster?

Office 2010 EOL

Office 2010 will reach its end of life on October 13. No time like the present to make plans to migrate to Office 365 before it's too late.

If you would rather receive our newsletter via email, sign up on our website or send an email to [resource@it-radix.com](mailto:resource@it-radix.com)



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## Touch, Taste, Smell

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advanced prosthetics for patients to regain control of their mobility, and providing new ways to learn and experience information in a simulated landscape. Tech you can experience, touch, taste and smell all come together for an experience that is truly amazing.

What about your business? Leveraging technology you can actually *feel* has utility for everyone. With VR you can create immersive experiences for your team to collaborate on projects or create demo environments for your clients to really dive into your world of solutions and services. Real estate and design work are a particularly good example—imagine being able to create and distribute a completely virtual tour of a custom interior design. Not only does experiential-technology provide a gateway to broader market access, it also provides an additional layer of comfort in a shifting landscape where “going remote” is the new standard.

Want to learn more about virtual tech or want us to cover a specific technology in a future article? Let us know! Just like tactile technology, we’re here to add value and demystify the latest trends, gadgets and features in the ever-changing world of IT.

## Face to Face with Technology

Most people think of the keyboard and mouse as the only means to enter information into a computer, but the list of input devices is surprisingly long. Inputs include voice, touch, optical, and even environmental (e.g., heat) and spatial technology. Are you taking advantage of all these potential methods to interface with your computer technology? Let’s take a closer look at a few.

**Voice dictation** has been around for quite some time, but the popularity of Siri, Cortana and Alexa prove that being able to do more than simple voice transcription is very useful and here to stay. If you haven’t already, we encourage you to give the built-in dictation features in Microsoft Outlook, Word and more a try. They allow you to easily dip your toe in the water of voice recognition. The ability to control your computer and IoT (Internet of Things) technology without your hands is beneficial not only for convenience but it is also opening pathways for persons with disabilities in new and exciting ways.

**Tactile inputs** have been around a long time, but the quality and functionality has dramatically improved over time. For example, the stylus or “pens” of today allow you to use your touchscreen computer or tablet like a piece of paper or a whiteboard, capturing real-time handwriting, drawings and so much more. If you use Microsoft Teams, you might want to check out Microsoft’s Whiteboard app or similar app. Being able to quickly draw a picture or capture handwritten ideas in real-time can be a huge productivity boost and increase comprehension and retention of information.

The options and uses for **optical inputs** have grown tremendously in recent years. From retina recognition for security devices to basic cameras on your smartphone or computer have made it possible to scan something using light and sound waves to “see” inside (think x-rays or ultrasound) or recognize, evaluate and authenticate features or gestures. For example, the facial recognition on your iPhone or Microsoft Surface’s “Hello” feature is amazingly accurate and allows you to unlock your device or machine without touching a thing!

With the escalation of COVID-19, we expect to see more of these touchless inputs in use for years to come. Need help getting started with new forms of input, give us a call today.



*Our Clients Speak Out!*

“I want to extend our sincere thanks to everyone at IT Radix for all their support in getting us ready to work remotely. Their team worked tirelessly to make sure we had everything we needed. Their upbeat, can-do personality has excelled in spreading cheer throughout this crisis.”

Annette von Bartheld, Chief Financial Officer — JBWS

JBWS is a private, nonprofit agency that provides safety, support and solutions for abuse for anyone who lives or works primarily in Morris County, New Jersey, and faces the issues of intimate partner abuse.

## A Taste for New Technology

"I want it so bad I can taste it!" Have you ever felt that way or said that? Most likely, the answer is "yes." Many people feel that way about new technology. The excitement of a new technology rollout causes many to stand in line for hours, even days, to be the first to purchase the latest iPhone or other new gadget. In our experience with our numerous business-owner clients, we find that about half of them are early adopters; they love to have the latest and greatest technology that eventually gets rolled out over months and years to their teams.

But when is the best time to succumb to your cravings for tasting new technology? Consumer Reports claims that the best deals can be found in September and April/May. But what about the timing relative to when new gadgets arrive on the scene? Sometimes being first in line isn't always the best way to go. To avoid getting a bad taste in your mouth, we recommend this: Do not be a pioneer! They take on the greatest risks since so many kinks need time to work themselves out, especially when it comes to new technology. Let others savor that taste.

Other questions to ask yourself before acquiring new technology include: Does this technology add value to my business? Does this technology make me more competitive or more productive? How easy will it be to learn the new technology and train my team to get maximum gain for the investment? A rule of thumb to consider is that technology hardware has a useful life of somewhere between 4 and 7 years. We recommend always budgeting yearly investments so that your firm is never too far behind. Finally, be aware of technology EOL (end of life) dates and plan on replacing well before then because waiting too long can often mean these items may become scarce or on allocation.

Craving some new tech? Let IT Radix satisfy your hunger for new technology!



"Only a total idiot would recommend blue chips.  
Everybody knows yellow chips taste better with salsa!"

## Envisioning Contacts



There is a fun feature in Outlook that allows you to set up Electronic Business Cards for your contacts. This is useful because it enables you to see a picture of your contact—putting a face to the name.

Adding a picture to a contact is easy:

1. Go to the Outlook navigation bar and click the "People" icon (the icon looks like two people standing near each other).
2. Under "Current View" click on the "Business Card" view.
3. Double click the contact that you would like to add a picture to (use the search feature if you have a lot of contacts).
4. Double click the picture placeholder and browse for a picture to add.
5. Click "OK" then "Save & Close."

Adding pictures will help you connect with your contacts... just wait and see!

Need help creating and customizing your contacts? We're happy to help!

**Thanks  
for the  
referrals!**

Referrals are the best form of compliment! We would like to thank the following for referring us to their friends and colleagues:

Andrea from SKC & Company CPAs  
Deirdre Wheatley-Liss from Porzio, Bromberg & Newman, PC  
Donna from C3Workplace  
Ina from Passion 4 People Consulting  
JoAnne from Dreifuss Bonacci & Parker, PC  
Mary Beth from the Catholic Community of St. Matthias

Visit us at [www.it-radix.com](http://www.it-radix.com) to learn more about our **Referral Rewards** Program!

**SPECIAL OFFER**

Book a meeting\* with IT Radix during the months of **July, August and September** to learn how to turn your home quarters into your new HQ and receive a free Work-From-Home Starter Kit—from cookies to webcam covers.

“Memories establish the past;  
Senses perceive the present;  
Imaginations shape the future.”

— Toba Beta

**tech TIP**

**Don't Download ANYTHING Unauthorized**

Check before you download. Why? When you have a file that is too large to send, contact IT Radix so we can install a secure, commercial-grade file-sharing application. Never download a free copy of Dropbox or other file-sharing software without telling us. These applications are known for security vulnerabilities. Plus, if we don't know about it, we can't manage or secure it. The golden rule is: NEVER download any software or application without checking.

Contact IT Radix for more tips on staying safe online!

**From the desk of Cathy Coloff**



Making sense of the world is different for everyone. We all rely on our five senses to supply inputs to our brains and assimilate them. It's amazing to see the advances in technology that make computer inputs that essentially mimic what we're born with. I recently read a book called *What the Dog Knows* by Cat Warren. The book explores the world of “working dogs” and the amazing things dogs can do with training and expert handling. Ms. Warren discusses the attempts of technologists to create devices to do drug or cadaver detection using a sensor device—so far, the dogs can't be beat. I recall reading this section with mild concern whether technology will supplant the working dogs and their handlers, who I love and admire in the book. Technology has the potential to make our world a better place but at what cost?

During this COVID-19 Pandemic, many people have returned to simpler pleasures—getting outdoors to explore Mother Nature, spending time with each other, doing puzzles, playing games, reading and more. As much as I love technology, I enjoy these types of pursuits as well. I enjoy taking time to walk my dog and loyal companion, Reid, and I usually allow him to stop and smell as much as he wants along the way. I'm not sure what he smells, but I do know that walking him will always be more pleasurable than walking with a device that detects the scents in our world.

I'm optimistic that we'll find the right balance between nature and technology, making the world a better place for all.

**The Scent of Things to Come**

Of all the senses in the human body, it can be argued that our sense of smell often evokes the strongest response in our minds. The wrong smell can keep us from entering a room or trying a new food, but the right scent can be aesthetically pleasing and can trigger memories, evoking an emotional response to our environment in a way that no other sense can replicate.

There have been many attempts to incorporate our sense of smell into entertainment, most notably, with the development of Smell-O-Vision in the late 1950s, which dispersed scents during the film *Scent of a Mystery*, corresponding with the environments on screen. Unfortunately, it debuted to little success and hasn't been discussed much since, until recently when Disney patented a new scent technology. It is rumored that Disney is working on incorporating their new technology to disperse scents to a participant inside an attraction, perfectly timed with a visual aspect to create a more immersive experience. The potential for success with this technology is arguably greater than past attempts, as Disney has full control of the environment around the attraction. This gives them the ability to construct the perfect space for this fully immersive experience dispersing the scents of food, nature, and all things Disney.

These are exciting steps into what the future of technology in entertainment could look, or perhaps, smell like!