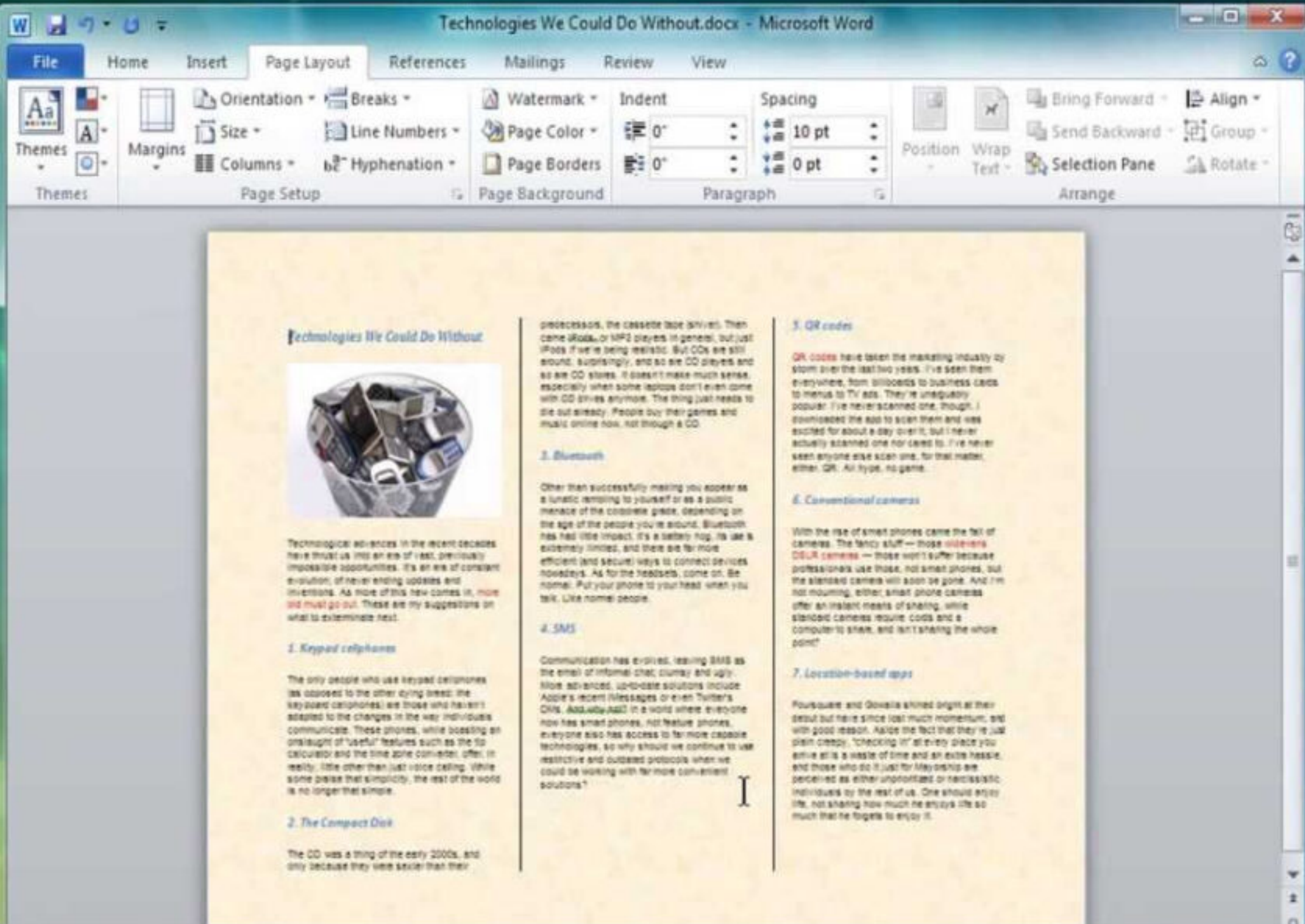




Technologies We Could Do Without



Technological advances in the recent decades have thrust us into an era of vast, previously impossible opportunities. It's an era of constant evolution, of never-ending updates and inventions. As more of this new comes in, *more old must go out*. These are my suggestions on what to eliminate next.

1. Keypad cellphones

The only people who use keypad cellphones (as opposed to the other dying breed: the keypad cellphones) are those who haven't adapted to the changes in the way individuals communicate. These phones, while boasting an onslaught of "useful" features such as the flip calculator and the time zone converter, offer, in reality, little other than just voice calling. While some praise that simplicity, the rest of the world is no longer that simple.

2. The Compact Disk

The CD was a thing of the early 2000s, and only because they were sexier than their

predecessors, the cassette tape (driven). Then came iPods, or MP3 players in general, but just iPods if we're being realistic. But CDs are still around, surprisingly, and so are CD players and so are CD stores. It doesn't make much sense, especially when some laptops don't even come with CD drives anymore. The thing just needs to die out already. People buy their games and music online now, not through a CD.

3. Bluetooth

Other than successfully making you appear as a lunatic ranting to yourself or as a public menace of the corporate grade, depending on the age of the people you're around, Bluetooth has had little impact. It's a safety hog, its use is extremely limited, and there are far more efficient (and secure) ways to connect devices nowadays. As for the headsets, come on. Be normal. Put your phone to your head when you talk. Like normal people.

4. SMS

Communication has evolved, leaving SMS as the realm of informal chat, clumsy and ugly. More advanced, up-to-date solutions include Apple's recent iMessages or even Twitter's DMs. *AddawayAdd* in a world where everyone now has smart phones, not feature phones, everyone also has access to far more capable technologies, so why should we continue to use restrictive and outdated protocols when we could be working with far more convenient solutions?

5. QR codes

QR codes have taken the marketing industry by storm over the last two years. I've seen them everywhere, from billboards to business cards to menus to TV ads. They're undeniably popular. I've never scanned one, though. I downloaded the app to scan them and was excited for about a day over it, but I never actually scanned one nor cared to. I've never seen anyone else scan one, for that matter, either QR. Air type, no game.

6. Conventional cameras

With the rise of smart phones came the fall of cameras. The fancy stuff — those *video cameras* — those won't suffer because professionals use those, not smart phones, but the standard camera will soon be gone. And I'm not mourning, either, smart phone cameras offer an instant means of sharing, while standard cameras require cords and a computer to share, and isn't sharing the whole point?

7. Location-based apps

Foursquare and Gowalla shined bright at their debut but have since lost much momentum, and with good reason. Aside the fact that they're just plain creepy, "checking in" at every place you arrive at is a waste of time and an extra hassle, and those who do it just for Mayorship are perceived as either unimportant or narcissistic individuals by the rest of us. One should enjoy life, not sharing how much he enjoys life so much that he forgets to enjoy it.