

The 0-Phone

So there is little doubt that I am a technoklutz, or whatever the current word is to describe anyone who participates but peripherally in today's IT world.

The other day I was again required to explain that I did not own a smart phone and that I wasn't interested in getting one. The only concession our household has made in that direction thus far is the acquisition of a pay-as-you-go flip phone which is supposed to be adequate for emergency use such as running into car trouble on a long trip or in the middle of the night, if you can ever find it, remember how to turn it on and the battery is charged.

But I am getting weary of justifying all of this to wide-eyed unbelievers who cannot imagine living without their cellphones, so I have adopted a new approach

Now, when confronted with the necessity to do so, I simply say that I use the very latest state-of-the-art equipment, the **0-Phone**. It requires no batteries, relies on no supplier, works night and day with-out fail, integrates nicely with old technologies and, having no contract terms, costs absolutely nothing. This is usually met with gasps of surprise and wonder, and a flurry of requests as to where one can acquire such a marvel.

This is when a sly curl of the lip comes in handy when I go on further to tell my listeners that if they cannot reach me with their technology, it is their technology that is failing, not mine. My ears work as well as they ever have (Well, almost!) and all anyone has to do to be in touch with me is to be near enough to do so. If anyone wishes to do so from a greater distance, then the technology they are using must be improved, and its users are patently and insultingly presumptuous in assuming that I am somehow obliged to carry with me some extension of it just so that I may be at their beck and call.

So I tell those who want to know that I carry the **0-Phone**, as in **Zero Phone**, as in **No-Phone**. (Thank-you, **I-Phone**, for the inspiration!)

Whoever you may be, you have no right to take for granted that I want you to be able to contact me. If I need to contact you, I certainly know how to do so, and if you really wish to communicate with me, that is entirely possible without technology.

I'm all ears.