# W18: High Tech Impact
## Week Four

**Introduction**

This last session is really about the possible impact of technology on our lives. The plan is to introduce an open discussion about the technologies we find helpful, and those that are the opposite. The end point is to pose the open question about what should be done to encourage and support "good" Third Age technologies, and discourage inappropriate use of technology.

**Topics**

1. Third Age
   Percentage of 65+ population is growing. There is a parallel growth in the Third Age. Difficult questions about purpose become more urgent in the Third Age. Evidence that a purpose reduces impact of dementia. One view is that contribution to community is a fit purpose. And, we have great freedom to focus on well-being, not wealth.
   *Concern: Is the existence of the Third Age category harmful?*

2. Technology
   Technology can allow and support continued $3^{rd}$ Age activities. Technology can also be deny and frustrate $3^{rd}$ Age activities. Should technology aim at "As good as new", or "As good as possible"? Growing body of technology for in-home nursing support, and almost science fiction like in-home possibilities. What needs to be in place for successful $3^{rd}$ Age use of technology? For all the good it can do, technology can also be a major source of frustration. How to achieve effective use of technology?

3. "Computers"
   There is now a full range of devices that operate as "computers". The list could include (beyond standard Windows machines): Smartphones, Tablets, Special Purpose Computers, Cloud Computers, and don't forget Apple. Parallel concern about computer software, with AbiWord offered as a simpler and often more appropriate word processor.

4. Personal Examples
   Everyone is invited to identify a good, and a not so good, technology they have experienced. After that discussion, the open question is posed about what should be done to encourage the right use of technology.
   Personal Position: In my case, my hearing aid is a clearly positive technology, and Twitter a not so positive technology. And I wonder about whether we should be offering local computer support for $3^{rd}$ Age members.

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