

DIGITAL NATIVES OR SUPERFICIAL SURFERS?

11th October 2016

Abby Ewen

IT Director, BLM

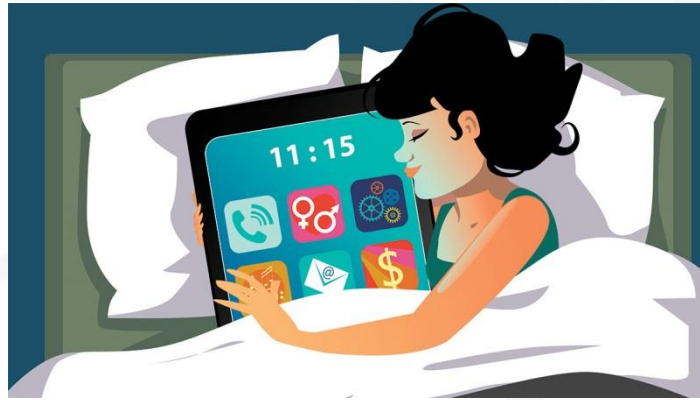
E: abby.ewen@blmlaw.com



TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANS



- ▶ Technology makes us think differently, feel differently and even dream differently
- ▶ It has the ability to affect memory, attention spans and sleep cycles
- ▶ This is owing to the brain's neuroplasticity – its ability to alter behaviour based on new experiences



FROM CYBORG ANTHROPOLOGY



TO REAL CYBORGS



DIGITAL NATIVES OR SUPERFICIAL SURFERS?



- ▶ Are we shaping technology or is technology shaping us?



WHAT MIGHT THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?



- ▶ How do we process facts and information?
- ▶ Are we creating a future generation who will have breadth of knowledge and no depth?
- ▶ 'By moving from the depths of thought to the shallows of distraction, the web, it seems, is actually fostering ignorance'. (Nicholas Carr, *The Shallows*)

THE FUTURE FOR BUSINESS - JOBS FOR BOTS?



- ▶ How much does this actually matter?
- ▶ Figures change on a daily basis about the number of jobs 'lost' to technology over the next decade
- ▶ Will jobs evolve to fit the new skills we have, or will our skills evolve to fit the jobs?

THE CHANGE CHALLENGE



- ▶ When everything is changing, never has change seemed so hard
- ▶ Does age (and plasticity) play a part?
- ▶ How plastic are Millennials?

REFERENCES



- ▶ [http://www.ted.com/talks/amber case we are all cyborgs now?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/amber_case_we_are_all_cyborgs_now?language=en)
- ▶ [https://www.ted.com/talks/neil harbisson i listen to color?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/neil_harbisson_i_listen_to_color?language=en)
- ▶ http://www.nicholascarr.com/?page_id=16



CLEAR ► CONCISE ► CONNECTED