

COMMENT

It's tough to admit to being an addict

By Ted Brown
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A Ted Bit

I'm driven by habit. Most folks are creatures of habit. Even though they don't like to admit it, we know it's true.

The Sidekick isn't near as driven as me, but she does have moments.

Last Sunday, as we headed to church, I realized how driven I am.

Half-way there, I said "I forgot my Blackberry."

"I've got mine with me," The Sidekick replied, and put her hand in her purse to confirm. "Oh, I left mine at home too," she remarked.

Now I won't say we were 'upset' without our links with the rest of the world— you know, Facebook, email, the ability to Google a piece of info from the internet, or simply have a timepiece at your fingertips— but I it was a teeny tiny bit unsettling.

Topping it off, we were about 10 minutes late, (I know, I know, but I'm not driven by habit— yeah, right.)

"There's a clock on the radio of the truck," I said, "So we know what time it is."

The Sidekick agreed but both of us knew it was going to be a long hour at church, before we once again could feel that familiar vibration in our pockets.

During the church service, I ran the digital projector, which projects the order of worship, hymns, scriptures and all sorts of other things on the wall in the church, so members can follow along.

Sitting at the laptop, I had the time display on the laptop, (whew!) so I knew what time it was.

(Of course, I had no internet access, and no way of checking my schedule on my Outlook calendar.)

Honestly, I felt downright naked and blind!

The Sidekick seemed better, handling the separation from her Blackberry without much of an issue.

Church was over, and we had our usual cup of coffee (two sugars, and a couple of those really good cookies from the plate on the table in the front entrance— no habit there....) I could sense a feeling of peace flowing over me— I knew we'd soon be going home, to that warm fuzzy place where my Blackberry was resting, waiting for me to once again hold in my hot little hand...

"We need some groceries," said The Sidekick, shattering that moment of peace, "Let's just drive there now, and pick 'em up on the way home?"

I'm pretty certain I managed to hide the twitch in my eye, but I'm not sure if she noticed the catch in my voice, as I said, "Oh, sure, we can do that..."

In spite of picking up about five items, it was THE longest shopping trip I've endured in recent memory. I could feel the sweat on my brow as the final item was scanned by the cashier.

Back home, I rushed to my smart phone, and after a quick check of messages (there were none) it slid back into the sanctuary of my pocket.

All was well in the world.

The Sidekick retrieved hers as well, and placed it beside her, like some cute little security blanket.

You know, it's tough to admit when you have an addiction— and a smart phone is addictive as hell.

I felt ashamed that I'd let a little communication device control me, particularly when my wife didn't seem to have any indications of withdrawal.

But as I watched her sit down and spend the next hour, posting on Facebook, and texting back and forth, I suddenly realized something.

She's just as addicted to her smart phone as me. She just hides it better.

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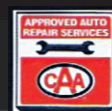
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