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User Unfriendly: Consumer Struggles with Personal Technologies, from Clocks and Sewing Machines to Cars and Computers

By Joseph J. Corn

Johns Hopkins University Press. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, User Unfriendly: Consumer Struggles with Personal Technologies, from Clocks and Sewing Machines to Cars and Computers, Joseph J. Corn, We've all been there. Seduced by the sleek designs and smart capabilities of the newest gadgets, we end up stumped by their complicated set-up instructions and exasperating error messages. In this fascinating history, Joseph J. Corn maps two centuries of consumer frustration and struggle with personal technologies. Aggravation with the new machines people adopt and live with is as old as the industrial revolution. Clocks, sewing machines, cameras, lawn mowers, bicycles, electric lights, cars, and computers: all can empower and exhilarate, but they can also exact a form of servitude. Adopters puzzle over which type and model to buy and then how to operate the device, diagnose its troubles, and meet its insatiable appetite for accessories, replacement parts, or upgrades. It intrigues Corn that we put up with the frustrations our technology thrusts upon us, battling with the unfamiliar and climbing the steep learning curves. It is this ongoing struggle, more than the uses to which we ultimately put our machines, that animates this thought-provoking study. Having extensively researched owner's manuals,...

Reviews

Completely one of the best publication I have actually read. Indeed, it is perform, nonetheless an interesting and amazing literature. Your lifestyle span will likely be transform when you complete reading this book.

-- **Mrs. Agustina Kemmer V**

It is great and fantastic. It can be writter in easy phrases and never hard to understand. You will not really feel monotony at at any time of your respective time (that's what catalogues are for concerning if you request me).

-- **Michel Halvorson**