

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TO: ANTI-VIGILANTE TASK FORCE (GROUP)
FROM: DIRECTOR JAMES DOYAN
DATE: AUGUST 29, 2019
SUBJECT: The computer and you

Today, we add a new tool to our proverbial utility belt of crime-fighting equipment and discard some others in the process.

The machine currently holding your attention is an IBM NetVista X41. You will be using the computer to access the profiles once contained in your blue book, which you will notice is no longer on your desk. They are now located in the application labeled “Vigilante Database.” Please take the day to become familiar with its research functions. If you need assistance, contact Agent Dale Petey, who’ll be serving as our Information Technology Administrator in addition to performing his usual duties. You should not hesitate to call him. He is eager to help you.

The computer also marks a new way of reporting to your superiors and sharing information with fellow agents. Please use the electronic mail (“El-Mail”) function to file case summaries or status updates. Department memos should now be produced using your computer’s word processing tool. Share them by placing them in a designated group folder. You may no longer use the copier to reproduce case material or other assets unless you have been given authorization to do so. Instead, use the scanner to create virtual copies and distribute them via group folder.

I know all of you well enough to know that none of you share the old technophobia that still persists in some sectors of society. However, federal policy requires that I present you with the following assurances, disclaimers, and orders:

- + This electronic device has been deemed SAFE by the Food, Drug, and Technology Administration as defined by the Tech Recall and Reintroduction Act of 1993.
- + This electronic device does not contain Manhattan-made components and does not emit D.I.E.-grade radiation. Surgeon General Oz maintains you will not get cancer by being exposed to this device and you will not damage the (hypothetical) dimensional membrane by using it.
- + The Tech Recall and Reintroduction Act of 1993 grants the president of the United States authority to draft federal employees into the work of reintroducing technologies once deemed unsafe or illegal back into the public space according to the 30-year, five-stage plan outlined in TTR93.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

+ Your department of government has been drafted to participate in the reintroduction of STAGE FIVE technologies.

+ Agreeing to use this electronic device in the course of your duties represents a commencement of draft service. In performing this service, we ask you to model confidence in this device to the public and refrain from behavior that might subvert confidence in the type of technology this electronic device represents. You are permitted to opt out of draft service only if the device in question has been deemed unessential to the performance of your duties.

+ This device has been deemed ESSENTIAL to the performance of your job duties. Failure to use this electronic device in the performance of your duties may result in demotion, reassignment, or termination.

On a personal note, I've been around long enough to remember the first time that computers were used to revolutionize the business of police work. It was 1984. I was a major crimes detective in Chicago. We were overwhelmed with unsolved cases and we had lost the trust of the city. Our commander thought technology could make us more effective; a computer, he believed, would help us organize and analyze all the information these cases were producing. One day, I came to work, and there it was, a DEC VAX 2500 with M-class chips. It looked like something from a science fiction movie. Many of my colleagues were resistant. They were old school "Marlboro Men" cops (this was before tobacco was listed as a controlled substance) and using "nerd toys" didn't fit into their conception of what it meant to be a detective. And because I was stupid, I was one of them. My partner wasn't, though. He took to the computer like a duck to water – and within six months, he had cleared twice as many cases as anyone else. Within a year, he was our boss, and it was abundantly clear we were analog remnants of an oncoming digital wave. Then the squid dropped. New technology seemed the most likely cause for whatever opened up the door that allowed such a horrific monster to pass through it. The DEC VAX was junked by Christmas and that was the end of that. Back to the stone age. Back to drowning in cases. Back to a city that hated us for failing to protect it.

The computers, the phones, the towers that would have provided communications without wires —we destroyed it all, hoping it would save us. And yet, baby cephalopods still rain from the sky.

Our fear of technology was for naught.

Don't be like me. Don't be stupid. The future is here again. Don't fear it. Embrace it.

Godspeed,



James Doyan

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation