



# Perspective

## NEW SCHOOL



Change: it's one of the most difficult things in life. You've got a system, an efficient way of working honed to perfection over the process of many years. Now, something comes along that challenges your mastery, and you have to adapt.

"We haven't taught anything new here in a hundred years," a Princeton theologian famously remarked, proudly and unironically, when challenged with the rising tide of progressive intellectualism in the late nineteenth century. When you're the best at doing something a certain way, the monkey wrench of upheaval—whether it be the revelations of Charles Darwin or the growing efficiency of high-bandwidth IP networks—can be particularly jarring. Nevertheless, there inevitably comes a time when resistance to the waters of change becomes futile, and you start to look ridiculous in your opposition. And the longer you wait to learn to swim, the harder it will be to stay afloat.

As a reader of *AV Technology*, you're someone who knows his or her way around tech—and likely someone who family and friends turn to with support issues for their computers and gadgets. You pride yourself on maintaining an authority, and it's difficult to imagine a technological landscape that has left you behind. But change is something that can sneak up on you if you're not assiduous.

Over the years, I watched my father metamorphose from the whiz who taught me to use our family's first PC, an IBM PS/2, to a full-blown tech grump who's constantly frustrated by seemingly obvious tasks his iPhone. I sometimes wonder whether I'll ever find myself in those shoes. Though I like to think it impossible, there have been some seeds of doubt: a few years back, I downloaded Snapchat to see what all the fuss was about. After a couple days casually playing around with it, I gave up. I found the interface unintuitive, and without labels or instructions, I didn't have the patience to figure it out. Worse yet, I abandoned my effort with the dismissal that it wasn't worth my time, because I was too old for it.

Sure, this was just a time-sucking social app. But as an early adopter of MySpace and Facebook, I once took pride in being a social media master. Is my disdain for the tools of Gen Z the start of a slippery slope? Only time will tell. But I can somewhat relate to the position that AV professionals are finding themselves in as their prowess in signal distribution is made increasingly irrelevant by the rise of IT-based transport.

In this issue, we aim to help stem this tide and bring you up to speed with the latest advancements in the capabilities of AV over IP. From our monthly lesson on networking fundamentals, to this edition's special guide, we hope these pages aid you on your journey of adaptation. Happy learning!

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