

Goodbye to 2022, Hello to 2023

This is one of a series of articles provided by the Oakmont Technology Learning Center on the use of technology by seniors.

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As 2022 draws to a close and we get ready for 2023, here are some technology things to think about.

Google Searches in 2022. A recent NPR article itemized Google's recap of the most popular online searches in 2022, showing what we were interested in throughout the year. The overall ten most popular searches, in most-to-least-searched order, were: Wordle, Election Results, Betty White, Queen Elizabeth, Bob Saget, Ukraine, Mega Millions, Powerball Numbers, Anne Heche, and Jeffrey Dahmer. To see the Most Searched People, Events, Movies, TV Shows, Songs, and Word Definitions, go to <https://www.npr.org/2022/12/08/1141485540/top-google-searches-2022>.

New Year's Resolutions. Most of us have some sort of New Year's resolution(s) every year so it was interesting to Google "2023 New Year's Resolutions". Of course, there's the usual "lose weight", but it was interesting to see creative others: give one compliment a day, see more of friends and family, do random acts of kindness, read one book a month, go someplace you've never been, drink more water, move more/sit less, make eco-friendly choices, and on and on.

Tech Trends to Watch in 2023. As technology marches along, there are new concepts you'll hear more about. A search on "2023 tech trends" will yield a lot more information, some of it obscure to non-techies. Here are a few of the trends and buzzwords you'll see more of in 2023:

- Green technology - technology whose use is intended to mitigate or reverse the effects of humans on the environment.
- Sustainability - the push toward more sustainable technology. Where are the components, such as rare earth metals, coming from to manufacture our favorite gadgets?
- Robots - used for menial tasks that humans don't want to do.
- Quantum computing - focus on the development of computer technologies centered around the principles of quantum theory, the nature and behavior of energy and matter on the atomic and subatomic level.
- Merge of digital and physical - 3D printing and twin technology (digital "twins" to simulate processes or products in a virtual world).
- Metaverse - some believe it is the next iteration of the internet, where humans experience 3D life in ways they cannot in the physical world.
- Artificial Intelligence - it's everywhere now, augmenting almost every job and business process.
- 5G, 4G, LTE, WiFi 5, 6, 7 - the wireless world is evolving, and all of these will play a role in our lives.

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