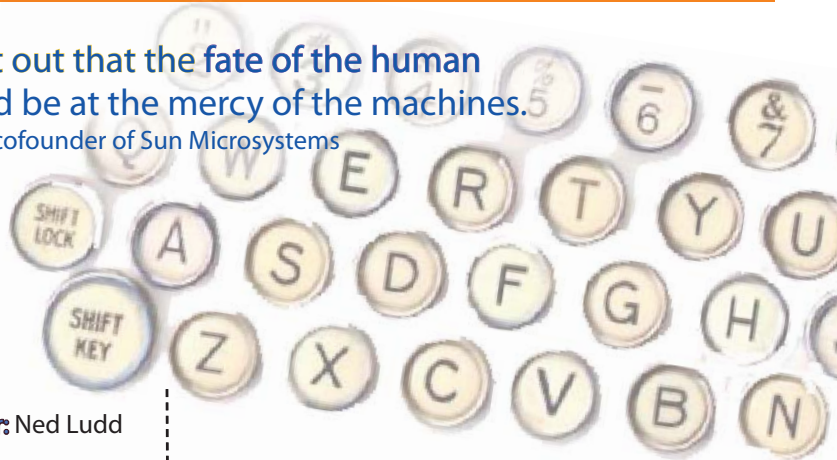


# DEFINITION: LUDDITE



We only point out that the fate of the human race would be at the mercy of the machines.

- Bill Joy, cofounder of Sun Microsystems



**L**uddite is a term that has been associated with opposition to technological change since coming to fruition in the early 19th century. Often used as a derogatory term, it is a label that is intended to dismiss an individual's arguments against a specific technological change as being archaic and ridiculous.

Opposing viewpoints state that Luddites are actually opposed to negative social, cultural and economic effects resulting from technological change.

## HISTORY

The official Luddite movement began in 1811 as British textile workers battled against the technological changes brought on by the industrial revolution. They destroyed several factories and machines throughout England, signing their letters with the name of "King Ludd" in tribute to a man whose actions were seen to be inspirational towards their cause.

After several "Battles" with the British army, followed promptly by executions, the industrial revolution was able to carry on in full swing.

## The Modern Luddite

Neo-Luddism is a contemporary manifestation of technological skepticism. Not to be confused with technophobia, this ideology states that technology does not improve all things and should be implemented with due caution.

## Bibliography

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- Gibson, W., & Sterling, B. (1991). *The difference engine*. New York: Bantam Books.
- Webster, F., & Robins, K. (1986). *Information technology: A luddite analysis*. Norwood, N.J.: Ablex Pub. Corp.
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**Unofficial Founder:** Ned Ludd

**Year:** 1811

**Quick Definition** Individuals opposed to technological change. Based upon English workers that protested technology by destroying machinery in the early 1800's.

**Luddites Executed:** 17

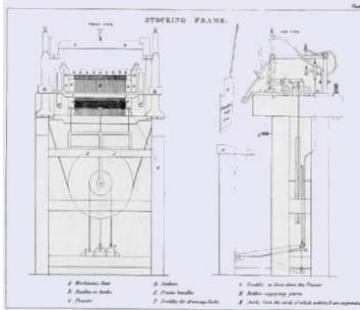
**Synonym:** Technophobe or reactionary

**Antonym:** Technophile or progressive

**Terms Associate with Luddite:** Laggard, technophobia, Frame Breaking Act, Neo-Luddite, King Ludd, Luddite Fallacy

**Cultural Associations:** Amish, Labor Disputes

**Technological Nemesis:** The Stocking Frame



TIME **WARP** TIME  
OLD AND COOL



## COUNTERCULTURE STEAMPUNK

What happens when punk rockers mix their dystopian ideals with a flair for Victorian lace? Enter the **Steampunks**. A subculture seen more focused upon fashion and entertainment than countercultural rebellion. Their activities might be described as roleplaying an alternate reality where technology followed a more romantic and fashionable path.

## LITERATURE

Luddites inspire the romantic and the adventurer alike. Since taking on the British Empire, authors have been inspired by their courage and fatalism. Famous works include:

**Shirley** by Charlotte Brontë

**Through the Fray** by G. A. Henty

**The Difference Engine** by Gibson and Sterling

## Video Games

Final Fantasy! Enough Said.



by Matthew A. Williams