Technology in my life

The service industry

Server
As a server at various restaurants in various places that I have lived, I had to master various technology tablets, computer POS systems, and portable payment processors to take orders, monitor order progress, and assist customers in paying for their meal. I also used these programs to declare my cash tips.

Bartender/Manager
I managed and bartended a diner in Austin, Texas for about six months. As a manager, I had to manage Yelp and Open Table reservations, along with using their associated systems to seat customers. While bartending, I had to master beer tap technology and replace kegs.

Barista
I managed a coffee shop in Flagstaff, Arizona for two years. This service industry job had Toast for ringing up orders, keeping track of customers' rewards, and I also had to master the espresso machine. When I moved to Las Vegas, I also worked at a coffee shop for about six months that also used Toast, but it used a semi-automatic espresso machine which added another level of tech to the job. Additionally, when managing, I had to place orders through Sam's Club on the app.

The education industry

Teach For America
TFA has had countless required meetings and assignments, all conducted online except for our summer practicum and a brief two days that we all finally met each other in person. Especially our pre-work, this was probably put in place to accommodate the fact that we all would be moving to Las Vegas from different places across the country.

CCSD
We have required New Teacher online classes through the school district and various professional development courses, many options of which are online.

Jim Bridger Middle School
My school placement has various required online tools such as Canvas and Infinite Campus that I had to become proficient with. I have to use these programs as they monitor student progress, behavior concerns, and are how we post student grades.

Recreation

Ticketmaster
I have used Ticketmaster to get tickets for many concerts, but was one of the individuals who waited in the queue for a very long time without tickets in 2023.

Driving

Traffic signals
I noticed as I got older that traffic signals have really advanced. Especially in the west, things like pedestrian crossings and school zones have flashing lights along with signage.

Vehicles
Cars and public transportation methods have really advanced since I was young. Tesla cars especially with the big doors that open look like something from a super hero movie. I grew up in a community of excessive poverty, so tech like that just wasn't something I saw or ever thought I would see in my lifetime.

Growing up in Baton Rouge, LA

High school
My high school had absolutely no technology in the classroom. The closest thing I had to technology was probably the beakers that I used in AP Chemistry. I wrote a few papers on a very old Dell laptop, but many of my peers wrote papers by hand. I remember learning how to layout a resume in my senior English class and we went to the very small computer lab for that lesson. Southern Louisiana has a lot of poverty and that shows itself in the public schools as well.

Home
My dad and sibling played a lot of video games on our PlayStation 2. I also grew up writing short stories on our family computer. I thought I wanted to be a writer like my dad for a long time. I also would play WebKinz and Club Penguin in middle school. We also had a microwave and toaster oven.

Going to college in Memphis, TN

Analog classrooms
My professors did not use technology in their classrooms, but most of my classes at one point or another required a paper, which I wrote on my laptop. I took notes by hand on paper and pencil. I also took various lessons on instruments, so played piano and harp quite often.

Music Technology
I took music technology for two semesters in college. I became proficient in Ableton and in Audacity. I still remember How to cut music and put in basic lines using MIDI tracks (my professor always said that MIDI was "just information" because rather than an audio recording, it was programed pitches for programmed lengths of time, that various synthetic sounds could be applied to.) but many of the more advanced topics I learned too long ago. While in the class, I also learned how to record various instruments, use autotune, edit tracks, add effects, and overall blend what I had put into Ableton in a seamless manner.

Grad School

NAU (Flagstaff, AZ)
My grad program used Canvas to distribute practically every assignment that we had to complete and every class I had had numerous, long papers to write. I also invested in an iPad and Apple Pencil to take notes with to try to reduce how much paper I used for school.

CSULB (online)
All of my classes in this program were online on zoom. I also used a lot of research databases like JSTOR and became skilled at finding applicable research papers.

UNLV (Las Vegas, NV)
My UNLV classes so far have been very similar to my classes at NAU. They have showed me a few useful websites for education like Blooket, Kahoot, 3-Act Math, and Math Antics.