

Our Future May Look Bright but We Look REALLY TIRED in HD!

As speakers we have been thrust into a new technological world. Thrown across the digital divide. Forced to swim across the sea of social sites, gadgets and iPhone apps. And it's exhausting.

We are connecting, friending, tweeting, Skyping, and putting our entire life out there on video for the world to see...in HIGH DEFINITION no less! Do people really want to see the base of my pores as they eat their conference lunch? There really should be a law forbidding our images from being projected in anything over 600 dpi. A second law I would like to see written up is one stating no one shall make a Skype video call before 10am!

This past Monday, I knew it would be a late night since I spoke to a group over the lunch hour and still had a proposal to finish, a blog to get posted and two videos to edit before I could call it a day. It ended up being a VERY late night and I finally collapsed at 1:30am. I knew the next morning was a virtual day with a 7:30am client call and two virtual events that afternoon, so the fact that I got four and a half hours of sleep didn't bother me.

I arose to the thought of the smell of coffee, and realized I really should use the high tech feature of that coffeepot timer. I got the caffeine drip started as I threw on my sweat pants. I slammed the first cup of coffee and took Bob for a quick walk (he's my dog, not my son! Bob Barker). By 7am I was returning Facebook messages and Twitter replies. I figured I would shower sometime later. After all, we don't have smell-o-vision phones ...YET.

Suddenly my computer started ringing. Oh yea, this client and I decided on a Skype call, not a regular phone call. I threw my headset on and answered, not knowing Kelly had invited three other co-workers to the meeting and that they were all seated around a conference table excited to SEE me that morning. (Note to self and others: Next to appointment information write VIDEO CALL-GET DRESSED in large letters.)

When I answered the call, I could see 4 of them sitting around a small conference table, dressed and looking very professional. I panicked but did not hit the video button. As I greeted them all in my cheeriest voice, I flew up the stairs carrying my laptop with headset plugged in, trying not to sound winded as I went to my bathroom counter.

Before they could even tell me that they could not see me, I stuck my finger in a jar of moisturizer and rubbed it over the lens of my webcam and clicked the video button. I can see Kevin reaching for their computer “Hmm there must be something wrong with our connection. You look really blurry.” I joked that it was the latest in technological advances making everyone look better and then I told them I would trouble shoot a few things while we started on the agenda. The only thing I was troubleshooting was my hair and makeup!

Within 2 min I fluffed out the pony-tail, washed my face and put on glasses to give the illusion of bigger eyes, and only then was it safe to wipe clean that lens. I told them to turn off the video and click it back on. “WOW you fixed it” quipped Kevin. ‘You are crystal clear now. It looks like Skype in HD!’

I think I even looked younger thanks to the moisturized lens.

Gina Schreck is a technology enthusiast and professional speaker. She's the host of Getting' Geeky, a tech show making technology easy through byte-sized learning nuggets. She's also the author of Getting' Geeky with Twitter: Build Your Business and Manage Your Brand with today's Hottest Social Media Tool. Find Gina on Twitter @GinaSchreck or read her blog at www.Synapse3Di.com