

# [PDF] Hamlet's Blackberry: A Practical Philosophy For Building A Good Life In The Digital Age

**William Powers - pdf download free book**

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## **Books Details:**

Title: Hamlet's Blackberry: A Practi

Author: William Powers

Released: 2010-09-27

Language:

Pages: 288

ISBN: 1921640782

ISBN13: 978-1921640780

ASIN: 1921640782



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## **Description:**

**From Publishers Weekly** Our discombobulated Internet Age could learn important new tricks from some very old thinkers, according to this incisive critique of online life and its discontents. Journalist Powers bemoans the reigning dogma of digital maximalism that requires us to divide our attention between ever more e-mails, text messages, cellphone calls, video streams, and blinking banners, resulting, he argues, in lowered productivity and a distracted life devoid of meaning and depth. In a nifty and refreshing turn, he looks to ideas of the past for remedies to this hyper-modern

predicament: to Plato, who analyzed the transition from the ancient technology of talking to the cutting-edge gadgetry of written scrolls; to Shakespeare, who gave Hamlet the latest in Elizabethan information apps, an erasable notebook; to Thoreau, who carved out solitary spaces amid the press of telegraphs and railroads. The author sometimes lapses into mysticism—In solitude we meet not just ourselves but all other selves—and his solutions, like the weekend-long Internet Sabbaths he and his wife decreed for their family, are small-bore. But Powers deftly blends an appreciation of the advantages of information technology and a shrewd assessment of its pitfalls into a compelling call to disconnect. (*July*)

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**Review** “Powers mounts a passionate but reasoned argument for ‘a happy balance’ . . . [He] is a lively, personable writer who seeks applicable lessons from great thinkers of the past. . . . Lucid, engaging prose and [a] thoughtful take on the joys of disconnectivity.” (Heller McAlpin, *Christian Science Monitor* )

“In this delightfully accessible book, Powers asks the questions we all *need* to ask in this digitally driven time. And teaches us to answer them for ourselves.” (Maryanne Wolf, author of *Proust and the Squid* )

“Always connected. Anytime. Anyplace. We know it’s a blessing, but we’re starting to notice that it’s also a curse. In *Hamlet’s Blackberry*, William Powers helps us understand what being ‘connected’ disconnects us from, and offers wise advice about what we can do about it.... A thoughtful, elegant, and moving book.” (Barry Schwartz, author of *The Paradox of Choice: Why More Is Less* )

“[An] elegant meditation on our obsessive connectivity and its effect on our brains and our very way of life.” (Laurie Winer, *New York Times Book Review* )

“Benjamin Franklin would love this book. He knew the power of being connected, but also how this must be balanced by moments of reflection. William Powers offers a practical guide to Socrates’ path to the good life in which our outward and inward selves are at one.” (Walter Isaacson, author of *Einstein: His Life and Universe* and *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* )

“A brilliant and thoughtful handbook for the Internet age—why we have this screen addiction, its many perils, and some surprising remedies that can make your life better.” (Bob Woodward ) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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