Cacluating the Hackett Ratio

Thanks to listener Mike for sending this in!

Think of the Hackett Number as a unit of measurement. Specifically, designed for measuring large collections of computing devices in a household. The number is normalized to take into account how many people are in the household.

1 Hackett (20.6, the Hackett constant) is defined as 103 Computing devices in a 5 person household, or 20.6 Computers per person. It is calculated as:

- [Total # Computing Devices] / [Total Members of Household]

To determine how many Hacketts are in any given household, use the equation above to determine the ratio of all computing devices to total members of the household, and then divide by the Hackett constant (20.6).

For example:

- Suppose Myke and Adina have between them 17 computing devices.
- We first calculate: [17] / [2] = 8.5 computers per person
- Then we divide: [8.5] / [20.6] = .41 Hacketts (rounded to the hundredths place for simplicity)
- Thus, in this example, the Hurley household contains .41 Hacketts. This can be read as the Hurley household possessing 41% as many computers per person as the Hackett household did on April 22, 2020 (The date which the original Hackett constant was defined)

Should Stephen's collection grow (which is a given), he will calculate using the same method as above. For example:

- Suppose there are now 130 Computers in the Hackett household.
- We divide [130] / [5] = 26 Computers per person
- Then divide [26] / [20.6] = 1.26 Hacketts
- This would indicate the collection has increased by 26% relative to April 22, 2020.