

Technology and human relations

- Technology gives and takes away
- In light of technical progress
 - function follows form
 - Each tool has an embedded ideological bias
 - Bias to hammer is nails, to computer is data
- Tool creates language that cements bias
 - Mindset becomes part of culture
 - Concepts of human worth, value change
 - New definitions continue to redefine life as things progress in a given technological direction

Fragmented diversity without systematic unity

- Technology has shrunk our world
 - Concepts of time and locality transformed
 - As locality moves from local to global, information becomes instant, context and local pertinence disappear
 - Wealth and diversity of information can be accessed in seconds, but devoid of context
 - Meaningless and fragmented, diversity without unity, no way to systematize
 - Information without context to make it meaningful
- No Renaissance man. No one can understand everything.
- Technology is incomprehensible, awe-inspiring, powerful
 - With no context, technology becomes reference point for itself
 - Makes technology the new god, the new religion, the new magic
 - Explains life, answers the world's problems
 - Old ways of reaching heaven replaced by new technological ways
- Devaluation of humans, elevation of machines

The credulity tautology

- Information glut causes credulity
 - Paper made from skin of pickled herring
 - Light that is simultaneously waves and particles
 - Curved space
 - Relative time
 - Light speeds that keep one young
- Can prove that people will believe anything
 - Some things we do not believe are true
 - Some things we do believe are false
 - Therefore, we will believe anything
- A first order predicate proof shows this to be a tautology

First order predicate proof people will believe anything

- First order predicate statement to be proved
- $[Ex \sim B(x) \wedge T(x)] \wedge [Ex B(x) \wedge \sim T(x)] \rightarrow Ax B(x)$
- First order predicate proof
- 1 $Ex \sim B(x) \wedge T(x)$ P
- 2 $Ex B(x) \wedge \sim T(x)$ P
- 3 $\sim B(s) \wedge T(x)$ 1, EI (Existential Instantiation)
- 4 $B(s) \wedge \sim T(x)$ 2, EI (Existential Instantiation)
- 5 false (empty clause) 3,4 R (Resolution)
- 6 $false \rightarrow Ax B(x)$ Substitution in antecedent
- 7 true Definition of ($false \rightarrow anything = true$)
- QED 1-6, CP (Conditional proof)

Elevating data over wisdom and common sense

- Relying on experts, data
- Sir Bernard Lovell -
 - Computers have stifled scientific creativity. Dramatic decrease in great discoveries because computerized generation does not engage in the free exercise of serendipity.
- Wisdom, art, common sense, diagnostic skill and creativity, in their subordination to technology are being lost.
- We elevate computer data while we discredit human ability to use common sense and wisdom
- Technological totalitarianism transforms people to consumers, meaning to data, culture to economics – no checks or balances

Inundated with meaningless information

- Information with no context to make it meaningful
 - Information for the sake of information, meaningless, not serving a specific function
- We are currently inundated with information, so much so that it is treated as garbage
- We fight against junk mail and spam, and what we do consume is usually not useful for answering basic fundamental questions or providing coherent direction
- Information is revered in our society, and has even achieved godlike status
- Yet promise of technology and true progress envisioned by Bacon remains unfulfilled.
 - Throw information at poverty, starvation, and disease, it is not eradicated
 - Fragmented thinking is exacerbated by the information glut, and data has no way to systematize fragmented thinking
 - information, or data, gives no inherent meaning for life

Data dehumanizes people

- Information treats people like numbers or data
- One can look at data objectively, without empathy or compassion, and pull a trigger for a bomb, or move Jews to an extermination camp
- When data is used to replace the human component, one is simply left with a technical problem that requires a technical solution
 - No guilt or compassion is required for mere numbers
 - This also removes one from the context of reality, and no responsibility is required for one that has no context

Conclusion

- The categorical imperative
 - Since each person wants to be treated with dignity and elevated as persons of value and worth, then our actions and fruit of our actions should result in the same for others.
 - This will serve to balance the promise of technology with the dignity of humanity
- Arnold Toynbee
 - A culture will decline without narratives of transcendent origin and power
- By making technology a framework for itself, a society cannot guard against eventual domination by that technology
- Technology has been deified and a new social order has arisen.
 - We have no defense over what we deify.
 - Technological totalitarianism puts emphasis on progress without limits, rights without responsibilities, and technology without cost
- Only a framework bigger and more personal than technology can encompass it and give it meaning.
- This encompassing framework will then enable humanity to contain technology as a tool rather than allowing technology to encompass us as a master.