Cell Phone Etiquette

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History

- First phone
  - 1876
- First Cell phone
  - 1973

- Today
  - Cell phones can do email, internet, directions, music and press reports

Cell phones

A short review of some abstract concepts which I believe are relevant to the background of cell phone etiquette

Future vs. Now

People are naturally inclined to weigh the here and now above the future.

- The future is an imagined thing

- The present is a rich and real experience

Conclusion:

The present gets more attention

The future is a cognitive construct

The present is:

   seen, heard, felt, and experienced....

Present/Future Metaphor

- If the future and the present were each a political campaign:

  - The Here-and-Now is advertising on the radio, the tv, the internet and the sides of school boxes.

- …

The imagined world of Tomorrow

...

(Written somewhere in an academic article)

Minimal Premises

- The present has a systematic advantage in most contests for human consideration

- It is likely that this advantage will manifest itself frequently in the way we make choices.

Urgency

Constraint

Etiquette

Urgent

- To demand immediate (present) attention

  - Too much urgent stuff decreases the role of history in human decision making.

  - Turing machine: Uses lots of history
  - DFA: has no history

Constraint

- Anything that imposes a limitation
  - Dereference NULL pointer

  - Distance from computer to Fridge

  - Any means of synchronization between modules or agents….

Etiquette

- A self-imposed constraint
  - <u>Being courteous</u>

  - Permits us to be liberated from both natural constraints and Urgency thru personal choice.

  - Leaves us subject to the choices of others

Cell Phone Etiquette (conclusion)

- Convenient inventions like cell phones free us from previously natural constraints

- With new freedom, we are likely to be able to behave in new and exciting ways.

- This liberation on behavior will BOTHER people who have to share an hour-long train ride with you.

Cell Phone Etiquette (conclusion)

- Shared domain:
  - Querying and changing records in a database
  - process threads sharing main memory elements

  - 150 people crammed into public transit having to listen to eachother's cellphone conversations

  Need a system of restraint to help them work together and avoid constant conflict.

Cell Phone Etiquette (conclusion)

- By limiting behavior by choice we are making other people's world a function of our own liberation and quality

- Its generally better not to make other people regret your liberty

- When in public, always show your neighbor that your liberty is exercised with respect to their ears.

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