

## A Nerd and the Internet of Everything

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Both things and people are getting more and more entangled through networking: Internet of Everything. From the trend of Apps on and sensors in Bring Your Own Devices, it becomes more and more obvious that the measurability of people's actions is part of the big (monetary worth) data that can be analysed and interrelated by machines:

*Not everything that can be measured counts, and not everything that counts can be counted (William Bruce Cameron).*

Furthermore any algorithmic representations and theories are not reality. Niels Bohr describes this aspect of physics theories:

*It is wrong that the task of physics is to find out how nature is. Physics concerns only what we can say about nature. (N. Bohr)*

Or

*Concepts initially formed by abstractions ... acquire a life of their own (W. Heisenberg)*

This algorithmic interpretation is used for personalising search results; and personalising feels initially as something great. And people and organisations rely on it:

*Microsoft: sorry for racist robot. (Algemeen dagblad)*

*Wrong house gets torn down based on a Google Maps error. (engaget)*

*Belgian woman blindly drove 900 miles across Europe as she followed broken GPS instead of 38-miles to the station. (MailOnline)*

Combining this with the possibility that a car decides not to open the doors, and thus people are drowned:

*'Save my baby': An Irish father's dying words as five perished in sinking car. ... But the jeep's waterlogged electronics had jammed, and the doors wouldn't unlock. (The Washington Post)*

Of course one could say these examples are children illnesses of this Internet of Everything. And partially it is the case, but not all! These devices give a kind of security and it might even not support all people equally in society and thus increasing the digital divide.

Another aspect is that this algorithmic personalised interpretation by machines can remove the interesting, uncertain, scary, learning, random aspects of life if people rely in this

interpretation. And people might want to rely on such automated advice; as it gives a kind of security feeling.

*All is surface, all is no depth (A. Huxley)*

Of course social media, which are based on snippets of data generated by people, can make people feel part of social structures. But it will also change our way how we set: our norms, our expectations and the way of approaching other people:

*If you are not part in the gossip network, you are not part of the group. (J. Barkow)*

*Sharing is caring. (Salvation Army)*

*Advertisement by mobile broadband provider: sterile corridor -> a room with pictures of someone travelling around to makes other aware where she is -> another room with a life size doll representing someone in a virtual/imagined world. (Meteor)*

It is also important to recognise that humans are by definition very closely coupled with technology (more or less from the start of their existence). Humans and technology influence each other, and thus people will be influenced and changed by the technology they make. Due to that is it essential that we keep being critical to the technology we make and that we make deliberate choices about technology.

*Railway got their separate and guarded tracks.*

*Banded the atomic bomb and the peaceful use (health) of atomic energy.*

*Stopped the use of DDT and started using sustainable alternatives.*

I have no advice on particular choices, but we can't not say we have no influence. So it is essential to keep alert for make these choices in a timely manner.

*Transcription of last concluding of my speech at MScEng graduation ceremony (1983).*