

Is Civilisation better off because of the internet?

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Introduction

This presentation will weigh the positive and negative impacts on society since the popularisation of the internet and the World Wide Web.

On one hand civilisation is better off as it allows everybody to be connected and up to date with what is happening around the world and people who could not once communicate can now communicate very easily.

However, on the other hand, stalking cases have increased rapidly due to this easy connection. Also, data collection and misuse is only now beginning to be controlled and regulated.

People can be up to date with news around the world in real time



News can be spread live as it happens to any device with an internet connection allowing people to be informed about the world around them.

Lots of people even get their news from social media despite possibility of misinformation. The most followed news outlet on Twitter is the New York Times with over 54.7M Followers. (Twitter, 2022). Social media allows its users to share the news with their friends and get others opinions on certain topics in the comments.

Preserving information that could otherwise be forgotten

Archive.org estimate around thirty-eight million books and texts, fourteen million audio recordings and seven million videos are currently being archived on their servers.^[7] This number is increasing and more physical mediums for storing data are being archived each day.

Data archiving can allow more people access to information that may have once been not widely available in print or almost lost entirely.



IoT (Internet of Things) are making life easier



IoT allows the connectivity and communication of internet connected smart devices, devices like these are being used to help people, who would otherwise struggle, to make their lives easier by allowing hands free communication with technology.

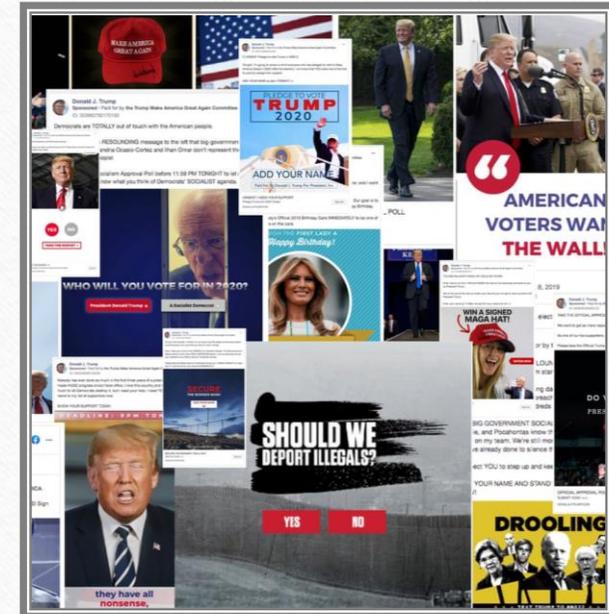
In healthcare IoT advancements are easing automatic drug administration. Wearable or implantable body trackers are being used patents and doctors can track health without the need for routine checks at a GP.^[4]

Data Collection and Misuse

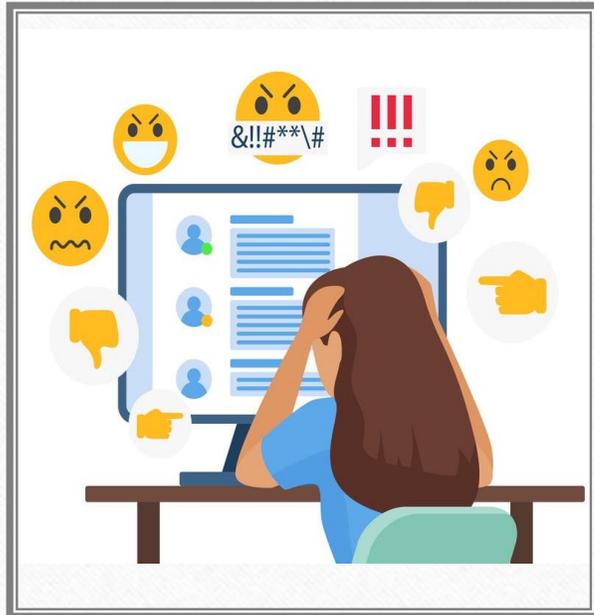
In 2013 Researches at the University of Cambridge were able to find a correlation between volunteers online activity and their political opinions.

Cambridge Analytica were able to then use this researched to create “5,000+ data points on 230 million US adults.”^[1] This was then used to show targeted adverting for the 2016 Trump campaign.

Other data misuse has included similar Right wing radicalisation in order to spread more far right ideologies, these can be life threatening to some people.



Online Stalking



The internet allows anyone, even someone who you do not know, to monitor your online presence.

Usually online harassment is targeted towards Women, Men are more likely to think of stalking behaviours as romantic strategies^[3]

Conclusion

The internet, in its short life, has changed how the world works and communicates. Laws and attitudes to the internet are constantly changing as it and the people that use it change.

People around the world are only a few clicks away and news can spread in seconds. However the web can be used for selfish gains, such as shown with Cambridge Analytica or internet users who choose to stalk others.

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