Cultural Implications of Technology

CS 340

Ch. 6

• P. 195
  – “Computing is transforming our sense of personal identity, affecting the meaning and significance of our interpersonal relationships...
  – Google and wikipedia are changing the way we construct knowledge...
  – Whether these changes are beneficial or detrimental is the subject of heated debate.”

Where do you get your news?
Early Networking Methods

• Before the semaphore, the fastest information could travel was by horse.
  – http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZxTdzsrcTw
• Next came electric-line telegraph service in US, 1840s.
• Telephone development, 1860s-1870s:
  – Initial adoption rates
  – Proliferation after patent expiration in the 1890s.

Opposing viewpoints on the value of Internet

• Spinello: “The rapid development of the Web and the entire Internet economy is not without its social costs.”
  • Great benefits... tool for freedom and connectivity
    (point of view of scholar Esther Dyson)
  VERSUS
  • A new avenue for introducing dangers
    (point of view of the religious group Council of Torah Sages)

Baase’s point of view

• A Gift of Fire: Often, technology merely places “old problems into a new context.”

• Example: The telephone
  – 1897 article, about NY Gov. Chauncey Depew.
    • “unwanted intrusion, unwelcome interruption”
  – Could now be used to describe cell phone & text messages.
Bullying → Cyber-bullying

- Compare and contrast
- Bullying & cyber-bullying cases:
  - Phoebe Prince (Jan '10)
  - Tyler Clementi (Sept '10)
- When adults engage in this kind of behavior it’s called harassment.

Stalking → Cyberstalking

- Compare and contrast

Oversharing to a few → the world

- Compare and contrast
- Fully read: US Army’s Social Media Roundup Week 4 handout
Distracted driving

- Does the Internet introduce new, unique issues and dangers?
  - What kind of statistics/facts have you heard?
  - Distracted driving:
    ![Distracted Driving Image]

- Impact of choices

The choice to adopt new technology in our lives

- Jewish Orthodox positions:
  - Banning reading certain blog
  - Banning use of unfiltered Internet
  - Israeli rabbis banning Internet use entirely in 2000, conceding to its use in 2007


Amish Ideals

- Principles:
  - Gelassenheit
    - Humility
    - Modesty
    - Patience
    - Conformity to goals and community activity
  - Ordnung
    - Other concepts:
      - No single governing body
      - Different groups: Old Order, Mennonites, Brethren
The Amish Viewpoint on Technology Adoption

- Central question: does it bring us together or draw us apart?
  - Ex. Gas grill

- Beliefs that contradict law:
  - Mandatory schooling
  - Traffic triangles
    - http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/01/02/amish-sects-buggies-traffic-burden-for-some-kentucky-residents/

Does this bring us together or draw us apart?

Skype  FaceTime

Morality and New Technology

Case: Kratos and Poseidon’s Princess

- Jamal felt disturbed by the Poseidon’s Princess scene.
  - Does that mean he is more moral than someone who was not disturbed by the scene?
  - Is Jamal more moral than someone who enjoyed the scene?

- In Chapter 1, we discussed Aristotle’s idea that we become virtuous by mimicking and repeating virtuous acts.
  - Why might Aristotle argue that Jamal should not let his sons play this game?
Virtual Two-timing

• P. 197 The Mitch and Meghan situation
  – Is it possible to cheat on a boyfriend/girlfriend with someone you have never met face to face?
    • Can you name some behavior that does not occur face to face that would be evidence that a person was being unfaithful?

• Class discussion on Manti Te’o

• Class discussion on Catfish

The Internet and the Self

• According to the Blackwell Dictionary of Sociology:
  • **Self:** a relatively stable set of perceptions of who we are in relation to ourselves, to others, and to social systems
  • **Self-concept:** the ideas and feelings that we have about ourselves

Internet and Self: Health Warnings

In the news:
• Facebook and Envy
  – Recent study of German college students revealed 1 out of 3 felt more dissatisfied with their life after visiting.
  – http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/facebook/9820910/Facebook-causes-envy-on-an-unprecedented-scale.html

• Case 6.3.1, pp. 198-9
  – Fashion photo digital image manipulation
  – See reflection #3.
  – How does this impact self-concept?

• Case 6.3.2:
  – Multiple online personas allows a person to maintain two (or more) mutually incompatible value systems
Sociopathic behavior on the Internet

- Dissocial personality disorder, definition p. 196
- Types:
  - Cyberbully: uses the Internet to harass a particular target, often using fake identities or public Web sites to enable harassment; often chooses targets known in real life
  - Troll: posts in a public forum or chat room, with the goal of either subverting the conversation or otherwise provoking an emotional response
  - Griefer: online version of a spoilsport; enjoys making other players not enjoy online games

Antisocial definition

Pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others ... as indicated by three (or more) of the following:

1. Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behavior as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest
2. Deceitfulness, as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure
3. Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead
4. Irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults
5. Rude behavior for safety of self or others
6. Consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations
7. Lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, demeaned, or stolen from another

Internet/Game Addiction

- DSM-5 revisions
- Pp. 206-7