

CASE STUDY: MOBILE DEVICES

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Ethics and Social Responsibility in Technology

Introduction/Selection of Technology: Mobile Devices

This case study is about mobile devices, more in particular the cell phone, tablet or mobile watches with communication software installed. Mobile communication technologies can be used for both personal and professional purposes. Self-responsibility and self-restraint (Arnaldi & Bianchi, 2016) are key elements to balancing the amount of use we allow ourselves to use this technology. Our time could be spent wholly on devices from the time we wake until we sleep. I have not found any writings or journals to suggest a specific entity or person is more responsible than we are personally responsible for our own judgments.

Technology Case Study

Background

Mobile devices have come a long way in the past 47 years. From the first Motorola cell phone in April of 1973, we have been astonished with the opportunities it brought to now having a non-stop communication device in almost any location we can imagine venturing to.

Use of Technology

These devices are now made to act just like a computer and can do anything a computer can do, but it is on the move. It can call like a phone, view documents and store files on the cloud, capture video, be a camera, take notes by typing or voice command. With the use of software you can program actions to play the radio, play the lotto, turn on the lights, connect with your home security system and even find a date for you as well as setup delivery, a movie and transportation for that date. No wonder why everyone is glued to it. It replaced the television and the phone, the books and newspapers and any other item you could imagine. We complain that everyone is on their device today just as people complained about other hobbies or technologies using too much of our time. My stepfather would have even played cards on it if he were here with us today.

Positive Effects

Constant communication has created a very efficient way to keep in touch with friends, loved ones and making new friends. It has been wonderful for crowd funding, educational and research efforts to gather more influence and contributions. Gaming has become a wonderful experience that cost much less. We have been able to hunt on the Oregon trail for over 30 years without the expense of buying the hunting gear.

Negative Effects

The negative effects of mobile devices are that everyone is on them without knowing the consequences of the frequencies we use to connect them. We forget about educating the persons in far countries that are not able to purchase, since we simply want to move forward with the most advanced. This leaves others behind. We are so consumed in the software that we forget that we could be advancing our careers.

Unintended Consequences

Unintended consequences include lack of physical activity, the safety because everyone is now our and our children's friends, safety of our private information and we are now paying an even higher phone bill than we ever would have agreed to otherwise. Prior to mobile devices, we would have never agreed to pay \$300 for entertainment or communication systems for 3 people in our homes.

Ethics and Social Responsibility Analysis

Ethical Responsibilities

As a collective whole, I believe our current state was caused by the people wanting more advancement in technology. Due to COVID 19 and many of us being isolated, we are now even more out of tune with progress other than entertainment. Essential workers are working on survival needs leaving the non-essential thinkers home on social media and gaming. Technology kept us busy, but did it keep us informed. During this down time some of us decided to take

advantage of the situation and went back to school. Some took advantage of the opportunities to begin businesses in essential roles. It is our responsibility to educate our children. The technology is there to do so. It is our responsibility to overcome challenges regardless of sickness. Most positions can work from home. Some people were not able to go to work, but it is our ethical responsibility to continue to make progress for our future.

Social Responsibilities

The people who can help bring the rest of our world forward have the social responsibility to mentor those who want to follow on how to use mobile devices and the applications being ran on the technology into forward thinking positions. We can reinvent the world using this technology and create new technology for the employment positions and share knowledge to instructors who have never taught online classes. As instructional designers, It is our responsibility to not look at how much money we can make right now, but how we fit into this new isolated society we live in. Responsibility is relational and belongs to us all at this time. With the use of digital media and mobile devices, anyone could bring around change (Arnaldi & Bianchi, 2016).

Responsibilities of Intended and Unintended Consequences

If we were discussing one piece of technology or application and it's intended and unintended consequences, I would suggest it be the developer's responsibility to create awareness and changes of these consequences, but this report discusses all media devices. The responsibility lies with all people to stop debating about presidents, fake news and other subjects that will be debated for centuries to come and instead work together to find our needs to continue and then find how we will get there. The largest consequences fall to the responsibility of the users.

Risks

The risks at this time have taken their toll. We as a total Earthly population are suffering with lack of trust, lack of finances and lack of purpose. If society does not take technology and science more seriously, the risks will be even greater (Gonzalez, 2015). Society itself can reform and “government” technology on its own. We do not have to wait for others to do this.

Conclusion/Role of the Practitioner

Practitioner Actions

As practitioners we must share the idea of “how” to move forward and make a shift to satisfy our needs. We have many bright people with time on their hands. The movement to make money. The movement to show we have all we need. We just need to use it. This has been done many times before in history during times of agricultural needs (Waelbers, 2011) and other disease outbreaks. The next thing we could do is let it be known that therapy can help people with addictions who are leading to psychological issues from overuse of technology in ways it is hurting them (Das et al., 2017).

My personal Actions

Personally, I have decided to begin my PhD program to have a better understanding on how to use technology and how to research other documented studies. In the short term, I have taken classes in conflict resolution and mediation (Kiran, 2016) which could be essential to introducing and working with parties who are struggling with multiple ideas on creating new unique ways to move forward. My next goal is to find how to get in the doors of these companies to work with them on these issues. I have to believe we will figure out how to use technology to get us back up and running. We have to act on this and not just talk of it. I cannot sit idle and wait for others.

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?” (King James Bible, James 2:14).

References

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