

Business Insight

Is technology taking over our lives?

There are many fields of science and areas of life where technology plays a crucial role and its development not only helps improve our lives but often saves our lives. Cars became safer with back cameras, computers track our time and productivity, and planes can be auto-piloted to get to safety. Medical science developed new drugs through discoveries of immune system molecules and genetics allows us to predict diseases and take steps into protecting some of us before a disease strikes.

I love looking at one of the Rembrandt's pictures showing the class of anatomy during the surgical procedure and bringing to my eyes a contemporary operating room I use every day. And how about all laser devices that let operate with no opening the body except for a tiny hole for a tool? The progress our science made is truly beyond human imagination except that it is human brain who developed unimaginable.

Unfortunately, technology and its progress have a lot of unintentional utilizations causing more harm than benefit.

When Steve Jobs introduced a new device called an iPhone in the famous 2008 presentation, he did not speak about the iPhone's computer-like features. His main intention was to develop a phone with extraordinary capabilities to communicate, easy to use, and very 'handy'. Jobs did not discuss using the iPhone for social media or stock purchase. He did not talk about on-line phone and mobile banking or watching movies. Yet, this is what the iPhone has become. It is as good as bad: convenient and practical, and useful, at the same time, it is distracting and easy to abuse. Employers have tremendously difficult time controlling time-wasting on the iPhone by employees constantly searching the social media, and the scientists now measure our time spent in front of the screen and its influence on health problems.

Unintentional and unregulated development of technology can go much



further and can literary destroy human ethics and life as we know it today. Last week, news communicated genes modifications by a Chinese scientist who manipulated DNA of fetus in utero, 'protecting' it from potential HIV virus. Artificial intelligence has unknown and dangerous consequences, with a possibility of turning against the human kind in general. And its development is impossible to stop and totally uncontrolled. Governments attempt to place some restrictions on its applications but truly, how can they if, for instance, members of governments do not know how to use email system or Twitter.

We live at truly intriguing unpredictable times. While it might be exciting for many, it is also unsettling and insecure for others. I wanted to bring those issues to you for self-awareness and discussion but also a reminder that we all belong to a human race and our human and old-fashion support of each other and daily in-person interactions can do more than the most of iPhone applications. So whether it is a hug or hallo, or a handshake, or a smile, lets not forget to share them every day with other members of our human race.

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