Government in the age of the “Social Machine”

2014 Solomon Lecture
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

T.S. Eliot
1714 - the Longitude Act
1814 - Australia’s first official currency
1914 – Commencement of WW1
Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red
The Western Front

One of the largest man made structures on earth
1914 - The birth of ANZAC
1989 - Information Management: A proposal
1989 – birth of the World Wide Web

the largest “information construct”
in human history
2014 - EU “Right to be forgotten”
2014 - Teaching coding in schools

• By September coding will be mandatory in British schools

• The UK government has ordered coding become compulsory for every child aged 5-16 years old
ALL IS INFORMATION ...

- as navigation and survival
- as currency
- as power and conflict
- as a way to connect
- as empowerment
- as a fundamental literacy
Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

Arthur C. Clarke
Internet Growth - Usage Phases - Tech Events

- Read Only Web
- Read/Write Web
- Social Web

- Dot com bubble
  - Dot com boom
  - Internet Explorer
  - Amazon.com
  - Streaming media
  - SSL encryption
  - Netscape Navigator
  - Mosaic
  - WWW introduced
- Broadband introduced
- Wifi introduced
- Google
- Firefox
- Facebook
- Web 2.0
- Broad wifi use
- 600m broadband subs
- 480m broadband subs
- Mobile Web exceeds desktop
- iPhone
- Twitter
- Enterprise 2.0
- iPad
- 6.8 bn mobile connections
- 600m broadband subs
- 480m broadband subs
- Google Glass

Note – events shown relate to the time axis only.
Real life is, and must be, full of all kinds of social constraint – the very processes from which society arises. Computers can help if we use them to create abstract social machines on the Web: processes in which the people do the creative work and the machine does the administration. ... The stage is set for an evolutionary growth of new social engines.
The rise of the Social Machine
Characteristics of the social machine

“Nobody knows everything, but everyone knows something”

1. problems are beginning to be solved by very large scale human participation via the Web
2. there is access to, or the ability to generate, large amounts of relevant data using open data standards
3. there is increasing confidence in the quality of the data, and
4. human-computer interfaces are becoming far more intuitive and seamless
Early social machines
We are data
**BIG DATA**
1. Non-public data for marketing, business analysis, national security
2. Large public government datasets (e.g., weather, GPS, Census, SEC, healthcare)
3. Large datasets from scientific research, social media, or other non-government sources
4. Public data from state, local, federal government (e.g., budget data)
5. Business reporting (e.g., ESG data); other business data (e.g., consumer complaints)

**OPEN GOVT**
2. Citizen engagement programs not based on data (e.g., petition websites)

**OPEN DATA**
Welcome to life in the panopticon
Web Science
The theory and practice of social machines

An emerging discipline which aims to understand the deeper structure of the social Web and how people are using it, not only now, but potentially in the future.
The Web Science community
Purposeful Human Interaction on the Web
Research into methods of supporting purposeful human interaction on the Web. Read more
The Web of Observatories

• to understand web evolution through
• observation
• experimentation

Thanassis Tiropanis – University of Southampton
The Web of Observatories
Levels of Sharing

- Open Datasets
- Shareable Datasets
- Private & Organisational Datasets

Thanassis Tiropanis – University of Southampton
What if data were a person?
What if we designed for data the way we design for people?
Governments need information to govern
Citizens need information to hold government to account

Brendan O’Connor OAIC Conference, November 2011
Government is, at bottom, a mechanism for collective action. Government 2.0 is the use of technology … to better solve collective problems at a city, state, national, and international level.
Welcome to GOV.UK
The best place to find government services and information
Simpler, clearer, faster

Services and information

**Benefits**
Includes tax credits, eligibility and appeals

**Births, deaths, marriages and care**
Parenting, civil partnerships, divorce and Lasting Power of Attorney

**Business and self-employed**
Tools and guidance for businesses

**Citizenship and living in the UK**
Voting, community participation, life in the UK, international projects

**Crime, justice and the law**
Legal processes, courts and the police

**Disabled people**
Includes carers, your rights, benefits and the Equality Act

**Driving and transport**
Includes car tax, MOT and driving licences

**Education and learning**
Includes student loans and admissions

**Employing people**
Includes pay, contracts and hiring

**Environment and countryside**
Includes flooding, recycling and wildlife

**Housing and local services**
Owning or renting and council services

**Money and tax**
Includes debt and Self Assessment

**Passports, travel and living abroad**
Includes renewing passports and travel advice by country

**Visas and immigration**
Visas, asylum and sponsorship

**Working, jobs and pensions**
Includes holidays and finding a job
Data Indonesia dalam satu portal

Temukan data-data berbagai sektor instansi pemerintahan yang dapat anda gunakan secara bebas

Cari Data, Tema, Instansi...

TOPIK

Ekonomi dan Keuangan
Pendidikan
Kependudukan dan Ketenagakerjaan
Energi dan Sumber Daya Alam
Kesehatan
Pengadaan

Blog
Open Data: Potential Source for National Empowerment >>
Laporan Implementasi Gerakan Open Government Indonesia 2013 >>

Featured
Bank Indonesia
Belanja Pemerintah Indonesia Berdasarkan APBN
Pemerintah Kabupaten Bojonegoro: 117 Dataset

Statistik
700 dataset
24 instansi
14 grup
We shape our technologies and forever after they shape us.

Marshall McLuhan
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Useful Genetics Part 2
The University of British Columbia, Jan 3rd
Taught in English

Drugs and the Brain
California Institute of Technology, Jan 4th
Taught in English

Information Theory
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Jan 6th
Taught in English
Punggol Northshore district, Singapore
A Government Web Observatory

Research Questions

1. How do we build a “social machine” to better observe the workings of government?

2. How can this Government Web Observatory better inform the creation of public policy?

3. What are some of the key challenges which governments will face as a result of being armed with a Web Observatory?

Building a Social Machine in order to observe the Social Machine” of government in action
Oh, ICYMI, this is how many people were discussing the data retention bill allowing govt to retain all your metadata
pic.twitter.com/q7jUIESWK4
Digital Literacy

- Functional Skills
- Creativity
- Critical thinking and evaluation
- Cultural and social understanding
- Collaboration
- The ability to find and select information
- Effective communication
- E-safety
A revolution doesn’t happen when a society adopts new tools, it happens when a society adopts new behaviours.

Clay Shirky
Is this the new emerging currency?
Is this the ultimate “social machine”?

“I DON’T SEE DISABILITY. I SEE BAD TECHNOLOGY.”

-Hugh Herr, Bionic Man
Or perhaps this?

Watson needs you.
Jobs for Watson?
In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves beautifully equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.
A driving future (or present)?
Are we heading to a “Wall-e” future?
We are still cavemen in the digital world
Thank you

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