

Second Philosophy

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INTRODUCTION

It occurred to me just how much we take technology in our lives for granted – so much so that it is now very much a given. I wonder what people 500 years ago might have made of the internet, of sound activated light switches, of pacemakers!

This makes me wonder where humanity will be in 100 years, even 10,000 or more.

The internet for example, has succeeded in breaking down borders between people quite dramatically, computing advances allow us to work in entirely different ways, learning new ways of living and experiencing the world, and we have adapted more smoothly than perhaps we realise.

I wonder where it is going.

My first inclination was to consider what the nature of humanity really is and the prevailing inclination seemed to be ‘to progress’. Of course not all people are this way inclined, but most are, and the ones that are leading the way technologically most certainly are.

So, we have this drive to progress, to become more efficient, to improve ourselves and make the world around is more convenient.

Thinking ahead, where does this leave us as a species – how far are we going to integrate –will there come a time where we will need to draw a line and re-evaluate direction? Is humanity even capable of that, considering our nature to improve, to advance? Will future generations be concerned about this? Will humans still be human?

Second Philosophy

DISCUSSION:

Shak: I think it's a great question, Marya.

Marya: Thank you, Shak - do you have any thoughts on where we are going with this?

Rasecel: well first of all we have to decide whether or not we follow the whig philosophy that we are ultimately progressing to a better place.

Marya: sure, since our goal is towards betterment

Squish: we should also consider what we mean by "better"

Rasecel: Marya are we sure about that?

Rasecel: Squish, good point

Marya: I'm not sure Ras - I'm thinking ahead to where it may end up - and what will become of humanity ultimately

Oswy: Marya presumably we involve ourselves in Technology to make life easier?

Marya: Yes Oswy - to make life easier, more convenient - I think this is an important point

Shak: I think we intuit, feel, what is better. Knowledge is power and power - to control our own lives and share with others - is better.

Simulat: I think that it's very hard to define progress in the long term

Rasecel: Marya but it's really only easier for those who can keep up with how technology is constantly changing so rapidly

Dimitrios: In my opinion, the problem is what do we mean saying "better or more convenient life"...

Simulat: It seems to me that in the long term you get evolutionary change and I'm not sure that that is really progress - more of a random walk

Shak: Sim, isn't progress just adding to the store of human knowledge.

Marya: also true Ras

Oswy: Simulat if you take an area like medicine then it seems clear we are making progress

Rasecel: simulat Darwin didn't think so lol

Squish: lol Rasecel - that invokes images of elderly people shaking their fists at touch-dial telephones

Rasecel: oswy in some ways yes. But it is still just an art as much as it is a science.

Simulat: Ras - Darwin did think that evolution was a random walk

Marya: I think Sim's point is also very important - if we think about how we have already evolved cognitively - where may that lead - is it possible that we will evolve away from being human as we see ourselves now for example

Rasecel: LOL squishy I was actually referring to people like me who don't truly know what to do when their computer does something unusual.

Simulat: We may become cyborgs - is that progress?

Rasecel: hrm...that's an interesting point Marya and Sim.

Oswy: Marya is this the transhuman issue?

Rasecel: Simulat I wouldn't think so.

Squish: Marya - you asked what people 500 years ago might have thought about our modern technology. I think many would've condemned the internet for witch craft or something ;) But pacemakers - those might be appreciated and lauded with wondering approval

Marya: not necessarily Oswy - I'm just considering possibilities

Rasecel: I would hate for us to lose our humanity

Squish: I think technology brings us both hope and apprehension

SeanBrian: but Rasecel - is that any different from 20 years ago when people didn't know what to do when their video or car did something unusual?

Marya: Yes indeed Squish :)

Dimitrios: This is what I said as well... Does evolution help us to be better as humans?

Second Philosophy

Simulat: Reflection Freenote says that we are cyborgs now - have been since agriculture and language was developed

Rasecel: Sean is what any different? Sorry.

Squish: evolution just makes us more adapted to our particular environments; again it's hard to determine what "better" really means

Simulat: Is that progress from what went before?

Rasecel: Dimitrios that is not what evolution was meant to be.

Marya: Dimitrios, the thing with evolution is that we now have the power to determine our own evolution - thanks to technology

Marya: that's interesting Sim

Dimitrios: Marya, are you sure for this?

Simulat: Squishy - yes - that is exactly what evolution does

SeanBrian: Rasecel humans seem to always have problems understanding technology - from the printing press to television to computer - perhaps there is no evolutionary difference?

Marya: Yes Dimi, we can or will soon have the capacity to alter genetics

Shak: OK, here's an example. We currently kill people we disagree with if they live in another country, because we don't relate to them as human beings. We recently passed the point at which the number of mobile phones is greater than half the world population. Surely increasing contact and empathy will change our attitudes to other people?

Simulat: and we are changing our environment a lot - which changes the selection pressures

Squish: people have used artificial selection for a LONG time

Oswy: Squishy isn't better something to do with the fact that we have more control over our environment we are not so subject to chance events?

Squish: they're just a hubbub now b/c we can do it so finely

Rasecel: Marya but at some point the power is taken away from us. Like Robespierre during the French revolution the machinery we put into action will eventually grind us into dust. If you recall Robespierre inspired people to overthrow French ruling class and he himself was eventually killed by those he revved up.

Marya: Shak yes, I was thinking about that yesterday - those that are 'more advanced' do seem to dominate those that are not

Squish: Oswy - I don't know what exactly "better" ought to mean, but I can understand the "more control, less randomness" view of it

Dimitrios: From this point of view yes... But we can't live for ever, we can't determine when we will die, we can't determine the characteristics of the new born babies

Rasecel: Sean that is a good point.

Squish: Dimitrios - what if modern technology can make us immortal?

Squish: and we can determine the characteristics of new born babies

Marya: Ras yes, one might hope that 'the people' in this sense find their way but I wonder still if, considering how far it could, if that would be possible

Squish: to a limited extent...and presumably to greater and greater extents

Dimitrios: Evil, I think, this is the ultimate point of life control...

Simulat: Oswy - do we really have better control - we are way more powerful - but maybe that increases the danger - sort of like how a moped isn't as dangerous as a bike with 1000cc's

Shak: Marya, I'm thinking that those who dominate won't be geographically based for much longer. That's the big change.

Rasecel: Shak we have always killed people in other countries. and killing them for disagreeing with us has been going on since ... what? Roman times perhaps?

Marya: yes indeed Shak

Squish: Dimitrios - yes, perhaps. I do wonder though whether it's actually desirable *shrug* Somehow I wouldn't want to live forever. Control for me = choosing when to die

Second Philosophy

Marya: Squish, I think that's an important point - can technology make us immortal and what would the implications of that be

Chazz: I'd be all for it

Oswy: Simulat I don't think we are as subject to accident or nature as our ancestors. We have more control over diseases etc than before.

Dimitrios: Haha, I think that it is a rule; none of us really wants to die although we know that this will happen one day...

Simulat: Marya - if we become immortal then we will need to move into outer space - if only to get enough room and resources

Squish: Dim: none of us wants to die now, when we're still curious and wondering about life, and wanting more experiences

Squish: I believe that eventually we would tire of it

Steve: well we would lose our humanity as we know it which is being finite if we became immortal

SeanBrian: if we were immortal we would no longer be human...or animal....

Marya: yes indeed Sim - I wonder if looking for immortality is wise though - I don't see that humans would turn away from it though :/

Shak: Steve Jobs recent launched an iPhone developers kit. He ended the launch by bring on a partner in an investment company who was prepared to put up \$100m to support developers. He said, '*We think this is big. Bigger than the personal computer.*'

Simulat: Interesting to see how we evolve in outer space

Steve: there are those who are working on this project

Rasecel: Sean I wouldn't want to be immortal.

Squish: Me neither, Ras

Squish: esp. if the times have changed, and everything I once cared for is now gone

Marya: Squish - what if you didn't have the capacity to care anymore?

Squish: Marya, that would destroy me utterly

Simulat: Which presents an interesting issue - if we keep on having babies, but are immortal - then the nature of selection pressure changes a lot

Rasecel: so once again we have to consider that--if technology will make us non-human and immortal--are we truly whigs after all?

Marya: Sim, yes it would be interesting to see how we might develop in outer space

Dimitrios: Yes, I agree, being immortal seems terrifying but believe me, there will be no moment in our life that we will prefer to die...

Squish: deep down I desire passion above all other things

Rasecel: ..if that is "better" or we think it is better

Squish: feeling numb is the most uncomfortable feeling I experience - if I could no longer feel, somehow I imagine that would kill me - at any rate, if I no longer cared for anything, I would no longer care to live either

Marya: Squish yes, but you may not have the capacity to 'feel' anything - and this is why I have been wondering about where we might draw the line - if we are so inclined to draw a line at all

Rasecel: Dimitrios but wouldn't we rather concentrate on living in this mortal life than when is the best time to die?

Oswy: Presumably immortality would involve us in machine like bodies with an immortal mind?

Squish: if I couldn't be motivated to live, what are the chances I would survive?

Shak: The reason the iPhone (and like devices) is so big is it puts people in touch with each other and with the internet from a device which is always in their pocket, wherever they are on the earth's surface.. The world won't ever be the same again.

Rasecel: squish good point

SeanBrian: emotion or sensation evil?

Second Philosophy

Alaya: I don't see all development with technologies as progress for better world, at all, but in some case people, did use them to improve, some aspect in our life, that needed .. I just remember when the first crisis was created when they just replace many workers by machine and how alienating work are in factories today....and its not tracing for me a good, way how human was fitting , with his social life , in that...something was lost there - and it didn't came back....

Marya: Oswy, maybe we would have the capacity to generate new brain cells as well as the body - so we may not necessarily have to be cyborg

Squish: Hmm Marya - that's interesting indeed! If we generated new brain cells, we might lose our memories

Rasecel: Alaya I agree.

Simulat: Marya - it might be that the biggest pressure to be cyborg just comes from the need to occupy new environments

Marya: Alaya yes, something was lost, but it was still progress in the sense of productivity, efficiency

Oswy: Marya I don't see it as frightening to continue the expansion of my mental capacities

Marya: I agree with that, Sim

Marya: Sure Oswy, I would be all for some nanotech implants to improve my memory :D

Alaya: the philosophy backing that was not including human really but machine aren't the cause but the way it was design and why... to come into our life this way

Dimitrios: I think that most of the new developments could improve the life of most people but for many it could worsen it...

Steve: well life extension through stem cell research is happening

Marya: Dimi, how will it make it worse?

Squish: there are helpful and detrimental consequences to technology - I think there's no need to argue over this particular point

Marya: also true - it seems that all things have a good and bad side ...

Rasecel: I was telling Alaya that as they warned us technology would put us in touch with the greater world yet we would lose touch with interpersonal relationships and that is exactly what has transpired.

Dimitrios: I refer to the example of the new machines in the factory... It helped the productivity but many people lose their jobs...

Marya: thanks for the example Dimi

Steve: well is that happening here Rasecel?

Rasecel: Dimitrios and remember that the industrial age also spawned such things as Marxism and socialist movements.

Rasecel: Steveo my point exactly.

Alaya: Marya, I can say that if we count the time pass in a human life sitting in front of a immobile machine, after 3 generation.. Sickness comes ...into the chain of life of those families

Oswy: Squishy I agree and that means there are two parallel issues here one is the ethical limits we might want to put on technology and the other is how we politically control technological developments. Surely the real danger is that the technology is left in the hands of the capitalists?

Rasecel: I am talking to people from around the globe and yet I don't know who my neighbours are.

Marya: Sure Alaya, there are consequences - this is why I am interested in exploring this subject :)

Squish: lol Oswy - I suppose anything left the hands of capitalists will eventually pose a threat

Shak: Hey, everybody, we know that people make right and wrong choices, but surely making choices is good? And if technology empowers choice-making, sure T must be good?

Simulat: But Ras - I have lots of interpersonal relations with people here - its a very important part of my life that would be unavailable with out machinery

Rasecel: shak but is the choice always in our hands now?

Dimitrios: Rasecel, I think that there is not a black and white in all things... We are not sure if any development is good or bad,

Marya: Oswy, that is an interesting perspective and I wonder if it is possible to keep it out of the hands of capitalists, probably not :/

Second Philosophy

Rasecel: Simulat yes but I am talking about relating to flesh and blood people who are close by

Dimitrios: A great evolution is to generate new human lives... Is it good?

Oswy: Dimitrios, so we need firm political control over technology eg stem cell research genetic engineering GM crops?

Alaya: communication is a big essential thing in human life... it is sure not created by machine, but it is corresponding

Shak: Rasecal, isn't technology putting more choices in everybody's hands?

Rasecel: Shak not everyone.

Steve: not sure it has to be an either/or Ras

Rasecel: Steve I doubt that villagers in "primitive" cultures have access to the internet.

Dimitrios: Oswy I don't think that control has really helped... But there should be limits in some things...

Oswy: Raescel But when they learn about it they want it.

Marya: Shak, yes I agree that having the capacity to make choices is a good thing

Rasecel: Oswy maybe they don't.

Shak: Rasecel, everybody, not yet. But more and more people have more and more choices through technology?

Alaya: I think since internet is existing, people in office are having a better communication life but still sitting most part of their life...over communicating now

Rasecel: Shak it depends on where they are. I think the technology we take for granted is not everywhere. And maybe it shouldn't be. I mean it causes just as many problems as it solves.

Simulat: If political control was prudent then it might be useful in the short run - but political control is not prudent

Squish: Many people are fiercely resisting what modern technology has to offer. For example, genetically-modified rice, which helps prevent blindness in many 3rd world countries - people here are going crazy with the new "organic food" revolution

Oswy: Dimitrios there are conventions international ones to control some features of technology so its a start. We are not helpless as a species in face of Technological change?

Shak: Marya, if that's the case, the technology which gives people greater powers to choose must be a good thing too

Steve: Ras what are you saying about "primitive" cultures?

Simulat: legislatures can't do a good job at deciding whether to allow a tech or not

Rasecel: Steve I am saying that they live a more natural life.

Steve: ahh

Rasecel: maybe they shouldn't be offered technology and maybe they wouldn't want it if they were given the option.

Oswy: Simulat why not do you prefer a free market?

Squish: I think people are not helpless against technological developments. They often choose to reject developments created to make their lives more efficient.

Marya: Shak, I think so - but of course there are dangers there too which brings us to Oswy's point about capitalist involvement

Rasecel: squishy example?

Dimitrios: Oswy I hope that these conventions really work for the good of human race and not for some individuals...

Alaya: evil, the so-called prevention in poor country is a big lies, that was used but the genome human, I have paper from then right here, promoting this kind of market, and saying that they will use poor people to test their merchandise, telling them they will survive because of this

Squish: Ras - like the organic food resistance against GMOs

Shak: Squish, when technology becomes available, it doesn't necessarily have to be used. It's the decision to use it that might be wrong, not the technology?

Squish: agreed Shak

Rasecel: squishy but isn't that view anti-technology?

Second Philosophy

Alaya: they are use squishy as a human map to test the consequences of the product

Squish: Ras - what view?

Squish: I'm not against technology, just noting that many people do choose to resist it

Steve: I think Marya's question still holds - the "world" can not resist the power of technological advance

Oswy: All - The example of GM crops is a good one its in the news with Prince Charles blasting off about it. GM is here it can bring benefits but who should control its introduction governments or the companies?

Simulat: Oswy - I guess with politics like we know that I do prefer markets - but I'd reserve the right for legislatures to punish people who screw up

Steve: do not see how even if it were thought desirable how limits could be put

Rasecel: Steve in some parts of the world they do, and are better off for it.

Steve: sure, agree

Alaya: Squish the question is , is every vendor, are telling the complete reason of the so called response they are bringing as promises to our misery...

Dimitrios: Politics, markets... Unfortunately they share interests with the few...

Squish: lol Oswy - sorry it's a bit funny here in Cali to think about Prince Charles blasting something and trying to take him seriously

Steve: still the world as we know it will not become Luddite

Marya: Ras, are they better off for it? Isn't there a good and bad side to all forms of living?

Squish: Alaya - I think that's the point Oswy raised, about capitalists getting involved

Steve: so called 1st world countries and China

Dimitrios: Marya, this is what I said earlier, I agree!!

Marya: Yes Dimi - just raising it again :)

Alaya: many opportunists will use the misery to use you as a market

Squish: nonetheless, it's true that vitamin A - enriched rice has saved the vision of many children in southern Asia

Oswy: All, doesn't this seem to be an area where we need world wide conventions and doesn't that seem to imply that in the future with a one world technology we need more and more world type government? This could be a good outcome of tech advance?

Steve: is now in this category

Squish: oh Oswy - of course there could be a good outcome

Rasecel: Marya what I mean is that I would be hard-pressed to live without my computer now for example, but what if I had never had one? I wouldn't be a slave to it.

Marya: Ras, are we slaves to it though really? Is it not simply a new or different way of living - are we not evolving towards integration with technology?

SeanBrian: Squish, the issue is as a much pro organic as anti GM - it takes 3 - 5 years to get organic certification - a GM crop blow can wipe out a business plan - both are allegedly "premium" crops - and an irresistible force against an unmoveable object

Squish: Ras - that's an interesting thought. Would you want to have been without it, and hence never a slave, but also without the conveniences it provides?

Rasecel: Marya I think in a way we are. So much in our technological societies are dependent upon computers.

Squish: or would you prefer to have the computer, enjoy its benefits, yet become a "slave" to it?

Marya: Oswy, I think your point is important - it is the direction / controls that are applied to technological development that will be the key

Shak: Talking about food, could technology be bringing is into close enough contact that we're not prepared to see others starve to death when we could be feeding them?

Alaya: evil, this was made up to make you believe, that ogm is good, vitamin a isn't technology at all, food supplies can be given without ogm run-up poison, and do you know that the result where tested not because of the blindness to measure , but to measure the consequences on them of the pesticide ingestion, with result they will never reveal

Second Philosophy

Rasecel: squishy I think that if something happened to computers tomorrow i would go back to doing things the way I used to before I ever had one in my household.

Dimitrios: we are not slaves of the computer when we use it as a tool, to live better

Rasecel: Dimitrios but we had other tools before computers.

Rasecel: the problems is that everything is done on computers now.

Dimitrios: Rasecel, I didn't say that we can't live without computers,

SeanBrian: still uses a slide rule - partly stubbornness but it helps keep my mind sharp

Marya: but is that really a problem Ras? Or is it part of our development?

Oswy: Shak I think one consequence of tech on a world scale is that it makes us focus on the issue of world inequality. How do we share he benefits of technology..

Squish: Alaya - I think we've read different reports on the issue. I can tell you don't believe the ones I've studied, and I am probably skeptical of the ones you've read. I think that modern food technologies has great potential in alleviating starvation and malnutrition around the world. But, of course, there are potential dangers too.

Rasecel: my fiancé got into a situation once where a check he wrote was no good even tho he had funds in his bank account b/c their computer said that he and thirty other customers said otherwise. The gas station manager called the cops. So is it always a benefit? No.

Dimitrios: but the real purpose is to be used at our services

Shak: Oswy, this is the most important potential benefit, for me.

Alaya: they so called project about ogm isn't a progress, and the so called measurement on deficient population, is only them using laboratories to gather the consequences of the product on human testers.. because there's was never anybody that had result and being able to make law for the potential danger of the run up at a international level... yet; I have this into a report right here

Marya: No indeed Ras - as Dimi mentioned earlier, there is good and bad in all things - I don't know that it would be possible for us to ever be perfect - not without losing what it is that makes us human

Squish: Alaya - there are a lot of politics involved, no doubt, and I think that's where most of the nasty things come into play

Rasecel: if we weren't dependent on computers things like that would not happen.

Squish: the science itself is not trying to hurt anyone

Alaya: I have this into a report right here from the human genome itself, evil; its no outside opinion

Squish: oh I believe you have reports, Alaya - not doubting your sources - just saying there are also official sources which say the opposite too

Oswy: Shak I think with the shrinking of the planet we have to get beyond dog eat dog nationalism and take world inequality seriously. After all if we applied the technology we have we could feed most of the world comfortably stop climate change and save millions from disease. But we remain blinkered.

Alaya: its from the inside story of how they can lie to people about progress, they are talking into this report how they will do it

Chazz: Do you have a link to these documents Alaya?

Squish: I also think that there's a huge difference b/c the reports coming from a political stance and those coming from a scientific stance

Alaya: I can make a scan of some, but I have them from a neighbour that work there

Squish: I think this technology can work wonders, but, as Oswy hinted earlier, it can be manipulated for devious reasons

Rasecel: Squish and therein lies the dilemma

Squish: Sorry Chazz - I only know how to get the papers by logging into PubMed

Rasecel: b/c not everyone working with technology is benevolent.

Alaya: its really shocking to see what they tell from I the inside.. How they will pretend it is for our health and how they will lie to all.

Squish: Ras - that is true of pretty much every entity in life

Marya: Ras, yes that is true - and Oswy made the point about regulation which is of course incredibly important

Second Philosophy

Alaya: they wrote, thing as, we can tell it like that, let them believe this or that, yes let make it appeal like it will cure them

Shak: Oswy, I hope we wouldn't let people in our street starve to death, presumably because we empathise enough to help. The hope is to extend this caring when technology brings us close to people who are geographically distant.

Rasecel: squishy indeed. But as people at the outset of the industrial age worried this sort of thing allows the malevolent among us just as much freedom to wreak havoc as those who are benevolent among us to.

Rasecel: Marya yes I saw that and it was a good point.

Oswy: If we let technology roll over us it will be a disaster but people are on the alert and there are already fierce arguments about these issues. Look at the debate on climate change it has led to action not enough but better than nothing.

Alaya: this is about marketing something before knowing the consequences on human health here

Rasecel: shak but unfortunately not everyone does have the empathy to help.

Squish: well I don't think we should "let technology roll over us" - we need to actively promote human welfare

Marya: Shak, yes indeed - think about how using the internet and interacting with people from around the world has changed our perspectives on people - opening up more empathy on our part

Rasecel: Marya but I think that was possible before the internet.

Dimitrios: We come close to the same conclusions... Not all developments are good for all the human race...

Squish: and providing more avenues for perverts too

Alaya: but Canadian farmers did have reports already, in veterinarian they have a lot or reports that prove that technologies aren't sold to people for good... but told as it would... as a publicity; its all a matters of who do it and why....

Rasecel: I mean I learned about those other cultures before the internet; in middle school. Or at least before the WWI. I'm not sure that technology makes a person who is not empathetic more empathetic.

Shak: Rasecel, I prefer to think some people find it easy not to see the suffering of others, if remoteness gives them pretext. I'm hoping technology will take away the pretext.

Squish: Alaya - I'm willing to believe all that. I also think it's a separate issue from the "goodness" of the technology itself, if you will

Alaya: technology isn't the cause but human using them and created them....

Marya: Yes Ras, but for many it probably wasn't interesting - many are not interested in culture or history :)

Rasecel: I mean this is extreme but would Hitler have been more empathetic if he'd had the WWI? Or would he have found a faster way to get his word out?

Shak: Rasecel, don't you think we're all empathic, to some extent?

Squish: but how much culture can you learn out of a book? And how can you even be sure it's accurate?

Rasecel: Shak but then there are sociopaths like Ted Bundy who kill without remorse.

Squish: the internet lets you interact directly w/ people from another culture

Rasecel: Shak no. See above.

Steve: Hitler rose to power through the radio

Marya: yes Squish

Rasecel: Steve right. Imagine if he'd had access to the internet!

Alaya: it is not separated really since the question is ask this way because we were spam to believe this publicity this way by people that produces technologies that aren't for our good

Squish: ah yes, Steve - yet another ominous thing to ponder

Rasecel: the point is that someone like Hitler and Ted Bundy will never have empathy no matter how much technology you throw at them.

Squish: and yet...perhaps the internet is its own cure - for all the propaganda a man like Hitler could put out there

Shak: Rasecel, I guess there will always be sociopaths. The trick is, to limit their behaviour through public information and disapproval?

Squish: there is equal opportunity for others to counter it

Second Philosophy

Oswy: all, I think it will be more a matter of economic necessity as we see our global interests more and more then we will see the need to cooperate. IT technology will help to get people working on a global scale.

Alaya: and by saying that I separate people that do produces tech and technology itself

Squish: and all this information would be universally accessible

Rasecel: Shak the only way to limit the behaviour of someone like that is to destroy them. Their brains simply do not work the way ours do.

Rasecel: good point squishy

Dimitrios: Internet itself cannot exclude sick people doing crimes...

Oswy: All on the issue of sociopaths there is the Facebook example. It's run by some very right wing people does this mean we should not use it?

Squish: but the internet can also help counter sick crime

Rasecel: Dimitrios true. Political circumstances also play a part.

Simulat: Shak - it might be that soon we will be able to detect psychopaths and sociopaths at birth - what should we do about them if we do?

Squish: you can go look up child molesters in online registries

Rasecel: as in Hitler's case.

Rasecel: Squishy well this is another topic but child molesters should not be allowed out of prison.

Squish: Sim - I really can't agree with that. A sociopath is as much a product of his environment as his genetics

Alaya: magic,, do you know how many layer of information people will never get.... there are pages on the web for inner market and the one for the consumers that really don't reveal same, so the bad users of tech and the producers are informed as quick as us.. and performing with this to used ,, if they are badly exploiting people....

Dimitrios: Squish, do not forget, internet itself is nothing... It becomes powerful depending the way you use it...

Shak: Hey, Rasecel, we can't go around saying people should be destroyed. Bad guys need help to carry out their evil plans. If they don't get help, they're pretty limited.

Squish: lol Ras - not saying they should be running around freely. But you can check who has been convicted of this and that

Marya: Sim, that's VERY interesting question

Oswy: All does the danger of developing extensive personal databases mean we should never develop them? This is a live issue in terms of the technology to develop identity cards.

Rasecel: squishy yes but if you put me in the same circumstances that Charles Manson grew up in I wouldn't go out and convince kids to kill people.

Squish: Agreed Dim

Rasecel: LOL shak

Rasecel: I'd hate to be the one to tell those girls' families that though shak

Rasecel: squishy you said that sociopath behaviour is as much a product of environment as genetics.

Squish: but my point is still that you can't designate newborns as sociopaths

Simulat: Squishy - my question was conditional - if we find that we can detect sociopaths then should we do anything about it?

Alaya: so I think firmly that technologies as anything, is neutral... in itself.... only the people behind the use or the creation of them make all the differences.. about if its good and evolutive or nothing as this but only product to buy and have bad consequences

Rasecel: squishy no but you can when they kill their first animal like Jeffrey Dahmer did.

Squish: I suppose if we could - but I think it's dangerous to try to pin everything to genetics

Oswy: Squishy, of course we should

Shak: Ras, we don't need to destroy a sociopath to stop him doing bad things. He can be locked up, surely?

Rasecel: Shak i am saying that the only way to stop them is to kill them.

Marya: ah Shak, another interesting question therein - locking people up is inefficient isn't it? Costs a lot etc

Shak: Ras, and it might not be a good idea to base our social rules on the assumption that everyone is a sociopath

Rasecel: they can go after their fellow inmates just as much as they can people on the outside.

Second Philosophy

Squish: Ras - I think that if we find a child w/ dispositional genes towards aggression, our course of action should be to foster healthy feelings in him, to prevent psychosis

Rasecel: shak that was not what I was saying.

Rasecel: squishy, psychosis is a medical condition.

Shak: Ras, OK, I misunderstood. Sorry.

Squish: Ras - I know

Rasecel: you can't diminish it with fostering good feelings.

Squish: You know you can prevent schizophrenia from manifesting if a child with all the genes is given a healthy upbringing?

Simulat: Squishy - I wasn't necessarily pinning it all on genetics - it might be entirely an environmental thing - but it might be found that there are early indicators that are very reliable

Rasecel: now you may be able to diminish what someone with psychosis DOES...

Alaya: the genes stuff is a big lie for me.. and was made up.. by those that mutilate our genetic luggage with bad product....so the gene questions is closed for me

Squish: yes Sim and Ras - I think technology is making it much more fluid

Rasecel: Alaya in what sense? I mean where do you draw the line on that?

Alaya: cause I got information from those companies

Rasecel: Alaya which companies?

Squish: companies with a vested interest?

Rasecel: Alaya so you're saying that Marquis de Sade would not have been the way he was if not for companies? Because I don't think those companies existed back then.

Oswy: All are we not getting off the point here. Let's forget about the actual cause of these thing sits very controversial but if we could hypothetically identify a cause of violent anti social behaviour why is not a good thing to cure it. Like a disease. If we can't cure it can't we use tech to identify it and prevent violence?

Alaya: the main one is the genome human.. that as many branches , and show to the public only something that from inside you will never know... as the cigarette scandal that was made with the media chain in us before about cancer...stuff in it

Rasecel: Alaya so where do you draw the line on genetics then?

Rasecel: I still don't think you can prevent the violent behaviour with technology alone.

SeanBrian: but this is how we handle technology rather than evolution

