

290COM - Technology and its Social, Legal and Ethical Context


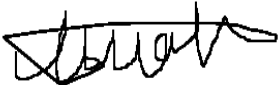
Due: 05/12/2016

| 60% Module mark

| Group – Asian Invasion 2.0

Assignment 1

Group Constitution form

Group Name:	Asian Invasion 2.0	
Member Name and student ID (Printed)	Signature	Area of contribution
Asis Rai Student ID - 6528683		50% - introduction, scope of argument, discussion of underlying principles/issues, preparation for counter arguments, closing statement and research.
Alamin Miah Student ID - 6330167		50% - introduction, scope of argument, discussion of underlying principles/issues, preparation for counter arguments, closing statement and research.

DISCLAIMER: References are displayed at the bottom of the page, stored as footnotes, labelled numerically accordingly and colour coded Red.

Introduction

- ^[1] A human microchip implant is an identifying integrated circuit device or RFID transponder encased in silicate glass and implanted in the body of a human being. A subdermal implant typically contains a unique ID number that can be linked to information contained in an external database, such as personal identification, medical history, medications, allergies, and contact information.
- Proposal to encode into a tiny chip into human skin has been put forward into many countries and in some it has already been implemented.
- Where is the data going to be stored? Who is receiving these data? Are those data safe? Are you safe? Are you being followed? Will it affect your health?
- Data is never safe. Examples such as contactless cards can easily be scanned and stolen from without the person noticing. This enforces and raises strong moral and ethical issues towards yourself and other people around you.

Scope of your argument

- The scope of this debate focuses on the negative impacts on society that the compulsory introduction of a microchip for each human on earth would have, with regard that it would strictly clash with numerous legislations which have been set in place as well as social, ethical and moral issues being affected, therefore I will be focusing on these areas as they will also affect the rest of the world and its societies within.
- I will mainly focus on reasons as to why microchip implants for humans will make the world worse by affecting the lives of billions of people daily and have a negative effect on society. Using government created and implemented legislations as well as articles, I will provide evidence to support the statements provided and the views of certain religious communities in general.

Discussion of underlying principles/issues

- People with these microchips inside them are more dangerous, they could damage expensive systems which have been in place for data protection and site security. ^[2] According to a British researcher called Mark Gasson, he was able to infect his own implant with a computer virus, which he then used to pass on to other computer systems in his place of work simply by using his implant. He ended up spreading the virus and corrupting the computer systems which then caused them to malfunction and prevent access to other colleagues. This would bring up concerns linked to legislation as computer viruses might be spread easily and could increase risks of data being corrupted. ^[3] ***Under the UK legislation of the Computer Misuse Act 1990, it prevents unauthorised acts with intent to impair, or with recklessness as to impairing, operation of a computer as well as unauthorised acts causing, or creating risk of, serious damage.***
- People with faith such as Christians and Muslims have moral and ethical issues when it comes to implanting a microchip into their body. In Christianity, people believe planting the chip into you is the fulfilment of the prophecy of the 'Mark of the Beast' - Revelation 13:16-17 King James Version ***"16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads, 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number***

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microchip_implant_\(human\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microchip_implant_(human))

² [http://uk.businessinsider.com/microchip-implants-in-healthy-people-2014-](http://uk.businessinsider.com/microchip-implants-in-healthy-people-2014-7?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+businessinsider+(Business+Insider)&r=US&IR=T)

[7?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+businessinsider+\(Business+Insider\)&r=US&IR=T](http://uk.businessinsider.com/microchip-implants-in-healthy-people-2014-7?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+businessinsider+(Business+Insider)&r=US&IR=T)

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/18/contents>

of his name”^[4] Similarly in Islam, it is called ‘*The False Prophet*’^[5]. *This raises many complications and disrupts the peace between societies because, as of 2016 there are 2.7 billion Christians and 3.1 billion Muslims around the world and the number is rising every year, compared to all other religions, these two religions are more than half the population on the earth within the current year of 2016, due to their prophecy this could cause tension between different societies* ^[6].

- Another concern that arises is the question whether the microchip implants are durable and shatterproof. ^[7]*We know that the implant itself is encased in a silicon glass casing.* As we also know, glass isn't very strong under a lot of pressure and will eventually shatter into pieces. If this glass is inside the human body and is allowed to travel through the veins to different parts of the body this could potentially cause severe injury or lead to death. People issuing the implants and the people who are allowing the implants to be put inside them are aware of these risks, this is also known as euthanasia as the implant is advertised over to someone else and immediately increasing their risks of fatal injury. In numerous countries including the UK there are strict legislations in place against assisted suicide also known as euthanasia. ^[8]In the UK, *Assisted suicide is illegal under the terms of the Suicide Act (1961) and is punishable by up to 14 years' imprisonment.* This is also seen as ethically wrong as some religious people agree that suicide is a sin, evidence to support this from the Quran, ^[9] *"A man was inflicted with wounds and he committed suicide, and so Allah said: My slave has caused death on himself hurriedly, so I forbid Paradise for him."* In the Quran, Allah says plainly, *"Do not kill yourselves."* This affects society because it changes people's behaviour towards each other as people become manipulative to harm others, also this will cause segregation between people who use a chip and people who do not.
- Today, we have phones which has eliminated the need to carry around bulky computers and numerous space reserving accessories such as calculators and notebooks. On top of this, we have various large companies such as Google and Apple which are now able to track our location and data on the go as we use the phone in our busy lives. Population tracking is also a possibility which could be implemented with or without explicit permission or could be a condition if someone wanted a microchip implant just to eliminate space reserving accessories like the phone eliminated but in this case, it would be removing the need for keys, passwords, cards etc. If phones can track our locations so easily then so could microchip implants. This would affect the social and moral aspects of people's perspective on life negatively, as their privacy would not be so private anymore. For example, without consent, in the US if data from someone is taken without permission, this would trigger the ^[10] *U.S. Code 2511 - Interception and disclosure of wire, oral, or electronic communications prohibited*, and in specific, *(1) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter any person who, (a) intentionally intercepts, endeavours to intercept, or procures any other person to intercept or endeavour to intercept, any wire, oral, or electronic communication.*

Preparation for counter arguments

Introduction of microchips could reduce infection of HIV. *This is a serious matter and potentially a crucial one as the number of HIV/AIDS cases per 100,000 people in Papua is nearly 20 times the national average in Indonesia, according to a government study in 2007.* ^[11]

⁴ <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+13%3A16-17&version=KJV>

⁵ https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=muslim+prohecy&rlz=1C1CHBF_en-GBGB717GB717&oq=muslim+prohecy+&aqs=chrome..69i57.4452j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#q=mark+of+the+dajjal

⁶ <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/04/02/397042004/muslim-population-will-surpass-christians-this-century-pew-says>

⁷ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microchip_implant_\(human\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microchip_implant_(human))

⁸ <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Euthanasiaandassistedsuicide/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_views_on_suicide

¹⁰ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/2511>

¹¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-aids-idUSTRE4AN3U620081124>

- This could be a breach of privacy and it could also be a breach of human rights if someone is forced to have a microchip implanted as this prevents their freedom of movement and speech, and they're being treated unfairly and different just because of their personal conditions. ***The Human Rights Act is a UK law passed in 1998. It means that you can defend your rights in the UK courts and that public organisations (including the Government, the Police and local councils) must treat everyone equally, with fairness, dignity and respect.*** ^[12]

Unlike cards, keys and other accessories, you can't lose a microchip which is inside you and in the same exact place -

- There are other methods which will help you not lose your accessories. Instead of keys and cards you can store card details and pay wirelessly from your phone, some phones now support apps which can unlock doors, cars and even start car engines. Phones have now become a large part of our life and are usually not misplaced or lost very often. If they are lost or misplaced, then there are services and security measures in place to lock the devices and transfer data as well as being able to replace the items. According to a source, ^[13] ***more than 70% of adults own a smartphone in the UK alone***, which shows how important these devices are, there are also smartphone locators which call the device even on silent mode if you lose it.

Some people may want to use the microchip implant as a form of storing their personal data such as medical history and blood type in case of emergencies –

- Other people may feel as if their human rights are being threatened if they are forced to store their information on a microchip. On the other hand, some people may also be worried about giving out their personal information to be stored on an external device, this would could lead to a new type of cybercrime. ^[14] ***Cybercrime has decreased by 6% compared to previous years*** however, data being stored on a new device may invite hackers to attempt to steal data and sell, which could cause data protection breaches if a loop hole is found through any security protocols found on the microchip implants.

Closing statement

Regardless of the positive aspects it may bring to the society, based on my research I can see that a large percentage of the earth's population are of religious believers which I have discussed in my debate, and don't approve of the microchip. Microchips increase the risks to someone's health negatively and by providing this microchip implant to be available to the public makes you responsible for any harm which may come to them in the future due to the microchip. From the famous quote, ^[15] ***"People fear what they don't understand and hate what they can't conquer."*** said by **Peter Andrew**, we can deduce that people will be afraid of new things which they don't completely trust nor understand, this will result in others having to persuade, sell and convince the idea that microchips are the future even though they may go against someone's beliefs and views morally and ethically.

Microchips may eliminate the need of extra accessories such as bank cards and keys, but our smartphones which most of the country already has, can support applications which can handle applications that can open doors, start cars and even make bank transactions which are equally as fast as if a microchip was used. The time saved using a microchip compared to a contactless bank card/phone would be insignificant. Microchips in humans may cause segregation and conflicts in future generations as it would separate the users from the non-users, which is extremely bad for society from every possible angle. The microchip can make people more selfish and cruel than they already are in today's society, it could lead to more deaths per year and more cybercrime, that is not the kind of society people want to live in or grow in.

¹² <https://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/human-rights/what-are-human-rights/human-rights-act>

¹³ <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/media/facts>

¹⁴ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-36854413>

¹⁵ https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/26810.Andrew_Smith

References (Harvard Referencing Format)

- "18 U.S. Code § 2511 - Interception And Disclosure Of Wire, Oral, Or Electronic Communications Prohibited". *LII / Legal Information Institute*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Andrew Smith Quotes". *GoodReads*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Bible Gateway Passage: Revelation 13:16-17 - King James Version". *Bible Gateway*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Computer Misuse Act 1990". *Legislation.gov.uk*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Euthanasia And Assisted Suicide - NHS Choices". *Nhs.uk*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Fast Facts - Ofcom". *Ofcom.org.uk*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Indonesia's Papua Plans To Tag AIDS Sufferers". *Reuters*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Microchip Implant (Human)". *En.wikipedia.org*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Microchip Implant (Human)". *En.wikipedia.org*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Muslim Prohecy - Google Search". *Google.co.uk*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Nearly Six Million Fraud And Cyber Crimes Last Year, ONS Says - BBC News". *BBC News*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "Religious Views On Suicide". *En.wikipedia.org*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- Spector, Dina. "Microchips Will Be Implanted Into Healthy People Sooner Than You Think". *Business Insider*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "The Human Rights Act". *Liberty Human Rights*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.
- "World's Muslim Population Will Surpass Christians This Century, Pew Says". *NPR.org*. N.p., 2016. Web. 4 Dec. 2016.