Coming Out Of The Dark

Digital Citizenship

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Revolution

For 30 years Hosni Mubarak ran a dictatorship over the people of Egypt.

This is a true story of how Digital Citizenship is evolving culture in the twenty-first century.

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Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011 file photo, the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak sits during his meeting with Emirates foreign minister, not pictured, at the Presidential palace in Cairo, Egypt. (AP Photo/Amr Nabil, File)

Revolution

The uprising of digital warfare in Egypt.

From hieroglyphics to hypertext Egypt has been battling its people for thousands of years.

Some reports are calling the digital uprising a phenomenon that has upheaved Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after 30 years in office.

In 2011 Nebert posts, "According to U.N. statistics, Internet use in Egypt increased from less than 1 percent to 21 percent of the population during the past decade" (p.1, paragraph 4).

In 2008 a **digital meme** was born when the divergence of the World Cup and Facebook conceived a 45,000 fan base and Egyptians started to grasp a tool that gave them autonomy, and a real taste of freedom.

Revolution

Digital Citizenship
is an evolution.

"Knowing others is **wisdom**,
knowing yourself is Enlightenment."

- Lao Tzu quotes from BrainyQuote.com

Because nobody owns the internet, per se, it really is impossible to regulate it locally, let alone globally. There are very few common laws that would even apply to the internet, because each society has different beliefs, morals and laws.

Twenty-first century anthropologist believe that "wisdom is expansive consciousness: it considers the whole and it considers the future…"(pg 12-13).

In order for a society to become more civilized it must transform its behaviors from primitive (basic needs) to civilized (including ethics and morals).

At this point in time it is up the individual to apply critical thinking and high morals to the application of the internet and other digital tools such as cell phones, cameras, social media and the ability to read and write code.

Revolution

Lead by example.

As the importance of developing a civilized digital society is pressing upon cultures, it becomes necessary for common laws or practices to help govern ambiguity that harms.

According to Vincent Gozálvez's article *Education for Democratic Citizenship in a Digital Culture* "European Union [recommends] to promote media literacy...not only in technical and efficient applications of communication technologies but also in their civic and responsible use."

The idea is to create a digital democracy.

Many digital citizens share the belief that by governing or harnessing the internet could interfere with the progress of innovation and violet their rights.

For example when Mubarak attempted to stop the digital campaign against his dictatorship.

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Revolution

The digital meme takes full credit.

Like artificial intelligence the digital meme infects Egyptians.

Under Mubarak Egyptians have lived for years in a volatile country, and for years foreign countries have wondered when, how, where will all this oppression be abolished.

Shortly after the World Cup, the digital meme moves at the speed of light. According to Wolman, "activists Ahmed Maher and Israa Abdel Fattah [who] establish a Facebook page for a workers' strike…"within a week it had 70,000 members, soon to be known as "the April 6 Youth Movement" (p. 1, third paragraph).

It almost appears that the digital meme is preparing to revolt antiquated systems by using Egyptians to march into streets and literally upheave the source of contention.

Revolution

Digital meme strikes again.

As Egyptians begin to use digital media a hybrid society begins to emerge.

May 7, 2008

"May Ahmed Maher Is Detained and Tortured"

July 23, 2008

"A Demonstration Is Quashed"

June 6, 2010

"Khaled Said Is Killed"

Mr Said death becomes the catalyst for the upcoming revolt and upheaval of Mubarak

Revolution

A revolution is not a single event.

Some claim that the revolution started when two strangers plotted to use Facebook as a tool.

Wolman reports that "Mr. Ghonim... reaches out to the April 6 Youth Movement co-founder Ahmed Maher to partner on Facebook by '[attracting] many non-political people…[as] community.' The purpose was to expose "police brutality, human dignity, freedom — universal issues, not political issues" (p. 1, paragraph 8).

As they joined forces on Facebook they also used Twitter and cell phones, and went by alias names to protect themselves from being attacked.

Revolution

There are always two sides to a war.

Exploring the downside to digital citizenship is more obvious with breaking news everyday about application of the internet without using critical thinking, morals, ethics, laws and logic.

The Egyptian government realizes the growing threat of social media as citizens become more vocal and purposeful with their actions against the government.

Eventually in an attempt to reinforce dictatorship the government sieged communication by turning off the internet.

It was too late, the issues had gone global and other private and corporate sponsors were all to happy to jump in to help the people of Egypt.

Newbert goes on to say, "Protesters used proxy server and third party apps to be able to continue. Google even launched a voice-to-tweet around to help out" (p. 1 paragraph 7).

Revolution

There are always two sides to a war.

February 11, 2011 Mubarak begrudgingly was forced to resign from 30 years in office.

© Getty Images

After 18 days of massive protests against his rule, Mubarak is forced to resign. A council of military generals takes over Egypt's government. Mubarak is airlifted out of Cairo and stays in his private villa in the Red Sea town of Sharm el-Sheikh. He is later questioned for the first time by prosecutors.

Egyptian anti-government protesters celebrate under fireworks at Cairo's Tahrir quare after

Revolution

With power comes responsibility.

Egyptians have a long way to go before they become a functioning democracy but if they keep applying critical thinking through innovative technologies based on humanity principals they will find a way to be free and happy from oppression.

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"An Egyptian woman shows her inked finger after voting in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Nov. 28, 2011. Voting began on Monday in Egypt'sfirst parliamentary elections since longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak was ousted in a popular uprising nine months ago. Thevote is a milestone many Egyptians hope will usher in a democratic age after decades of dictatorship." (AP Photo/Bela Szandelszky)