

# Introduction

Dr. Alex Williams

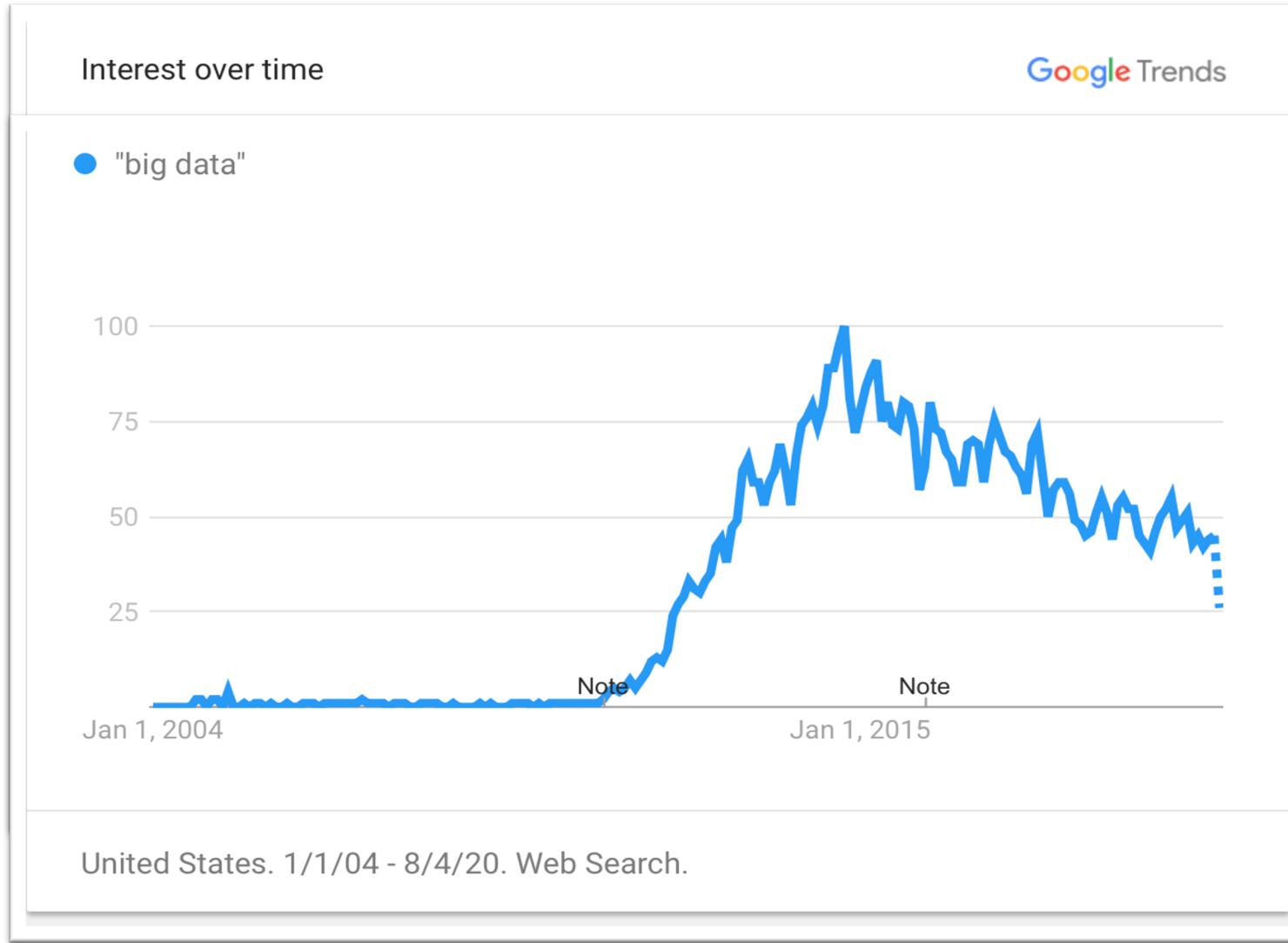
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COSC 425: Introduction to Machine Learning  
Fall 2020 (CRN: 44874)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

# Welcome!



## Learning representations by back-propagating errors

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We describe a new learning procedure, back-propagation, for networks of neurone-like units. The procedure repeatedly adjusts the weights of the connections in the network so as to minimize a measure of the difference between the actual output vector of the net and the desired output vector. As a result of the weight adjustments, internal ‘hidden’ units which are not part of the input or output come to represent important features of the task domain, and the regularities in the task are captured by the interactions of these units. The ability to create useful new features distinguishes back-propagation from earlier, simpler methods such as the perceptron-convergence procedure<sup>1</sup>.

There have been many attempts to design self-organizing neural networks. The aim is to find a powerful synaptic modification rule that will allow an arbitrarily connected neural network to develop an internal structure that is appropriate for a particular task domain. The task is specified by giving the desired state vector of the output units for each state vector of the input units. If the input units are directly connected to the output units it is relatively easy to find learning rules that iteratively adjust the relative strengths of the connections so as to progressively reduce the difference between the actual and desired output vectors<sup>2</sup>. Learning becomes more interesting but

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more difficult when we introduce hidden units whose actual or desired states are not specified by the task. (In perceptrons, there are ‘feature analysers’ between the input and output that are not true hidden units because their input connections are fixed by hand, so their states are completely determined by the input vector: they do not learn representations.) The learning procedure must decide under what circumstances the hidden units should be active in order to help achieve the desired input-output behaviour. This amounts to deciding what these units should represent. We demonstrate that a general purpose and relatively simple procedure is powerful enough to construct appropriate internal representations.

The simplest form of the learning procedure is for layered networks which have a layer of input units at the bottom; any number of intermediate layers; and a layer at the top. Connections within a layer or from layers are forbidden, but connections can layers. An input vector is presented to the states of the input units. Then the states layer are determined by applying equations connections coming from lower layers. All have their states set in parallel, but different states set sequentially, starting at the bottom upwards until the states of the output units

The total input,  $x_j$ , to unit  $j$  is a linear function,  $y_i$ , of the units that are connected to  $j$  and on these connections

$$x_j = \sum_i y_i w_{ji}$$

Units can be given biases by introducing an unit which always has a value of 1. The w input is called the bias and is equivalent to opposite sign. It can be treated just like the

A unit has a real-valued output,  $y_j$ , which function of its total input

$$y_j = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x_j}}$$

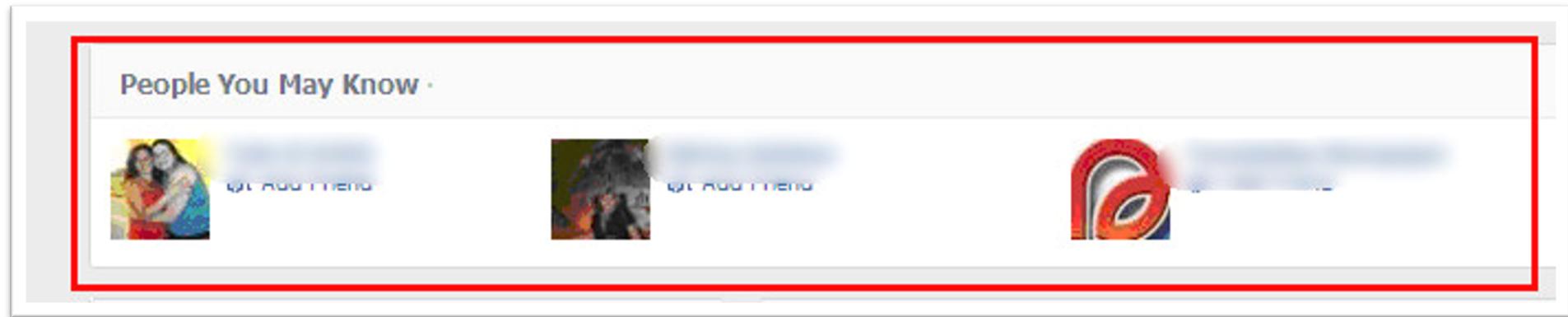
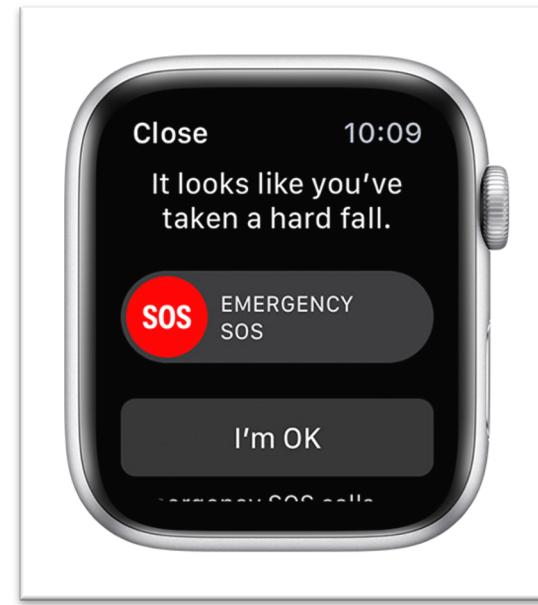
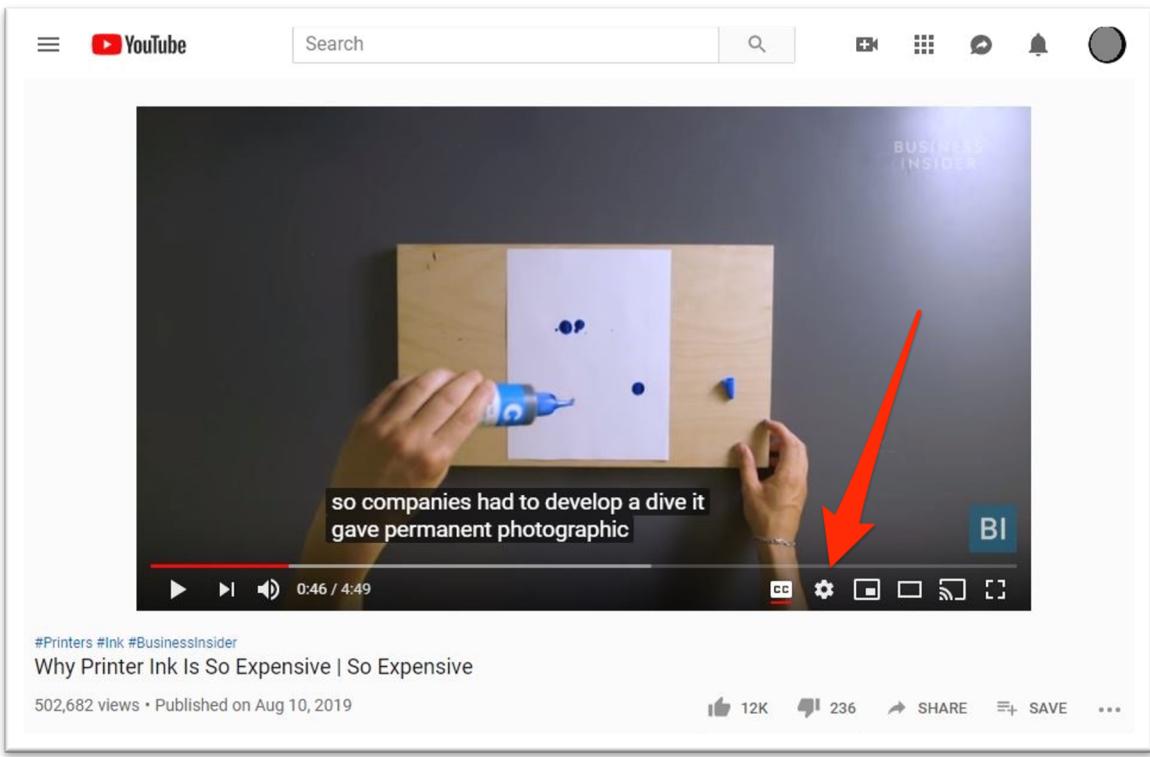
## WHY IS SO MUCH MEMORY NEEDED FOR DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS?

Written by  
Jamie Hanlon

Posted  
4 years ago

**M**emory is one of the biggest challenges in deep neural networks (DNNs) today. Researchers are struggling with the limited memory bandwidth of the DRAM devices that have to be used by today's systems to store the huge amounts of weights and activations in DNNs. DRAM capacity appears to be a limitation too. But these challenges are not quite as they seem.

Computer architectures have developed with processor

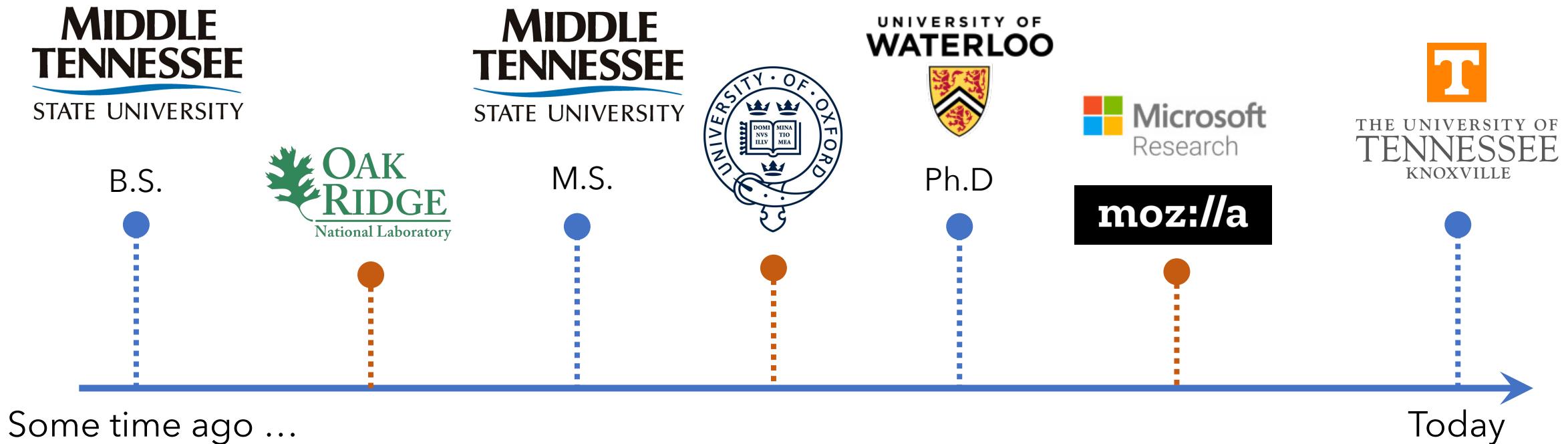


# Today's Objectives

By the end of this video, you should:

1. Have a clear vision of expectations for COSC 425.
2. Understand the breadth of COSC 425's syllabus.

# Who am I?



# What do I do?

How can we build interactive systems that fundamentally make the nature of work **better**?

# What do I do?

**Supporting Workplace Detachment and Reattachment with Conversational Intelligence**

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Anne Loomis Thompson<sup>4</sup>, Shamsi T. Igba<sup>4</sup>, Jaime Teevan<sup>4</sup>

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**ABSTRACT**  
Research has shown that productivity is mediated by an individual's ability to detach from work during the day and reattach when they return the next day. In this paper we explore the extent to which structured dialogues, focused on individuals' work-related tasks or emotions, can help them with the detachment and reattachment processes. Our inquiry is driven with *SwitchBot*, a conversational bot which engages with workers at the start and end of their workday. After carefully designing a series of detachment and reattachment dialogues from in-situ 14 days with 108 crowdkworkers, we study *SwitchBot*'s use in-situ for 14 days with 34 information workers. We find that workers send fewer e-mails after work hours and spend a larger percentage of their free time working using productivity tools than they normally would without *SwitchBot*. Furthermore, we find that productivity gains were better sustained when conversations focused on work-related emotions. Our results suggest that conversational bots can be effective tools for aiding workplace detachment and reattachment and help people succeed with their time on and off the job.

**Author Keywords**  
Detachment; reattachment; resumption; productivity; bot.

**ACM Classification Keywords**  
H.5.m [Info. Interfaces and Presentation (e.g., HCI)]: Misc.

**INTRODUCTION**  
Adequate recovery from work is vital for replenishing resources depleted during work hours and maintaining good psychological health and well-being [71]. Among the many influential factors that promote recovery, the ability to psychologically detach from work is recognized as particularly important for its core role in facilitating mental rejuvenation and refreshment in subsequent workdays [14,63]. Recent

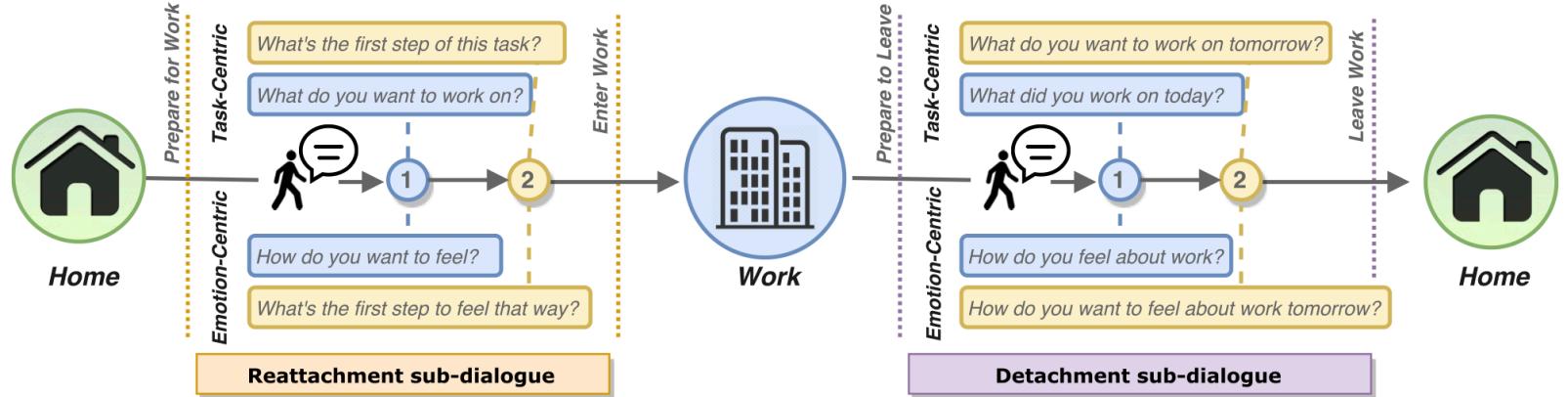
research has posited that rebuilding a mental connection with one's work before the start of the workday (i.e., reattaching with work) is equally as important for ensuring workplace engagement and productivity, particularly in the morning [64]. A variety of approaches, ranging from brief training to extensive therapy, have been proposed and studied in support of these goals. The efficacy of these techniques ranges with much variation, making this an active and open area of research for novel interventions.

In this work, we study the extent to which structured dialogues, focusing on individuals' work-related tasks or emotions, can help them with the detachment and reattachment processes. We draw from user-based studies to online surveys, an array of possible intervention types exists for administering such dialogues to individuals. Prior work, however, emphasizes the importance of social support that individuals may receive from others during the detachment process [27,61]. While this constraint belies many types of technology, we believe that conversational intelligence embraces these scenarios with prior research demonstrating their ability to provide such social support through active listening and guided conversation [31,70] as shown by systems such as ELIZA [70] and ALICE [31]. Further, conversational systems have known potential to be effective for inducing feelings of accountability in individuals when setting goals [7], a process that generally occurs during both the detachment process and the reattachment process.

We present and study *SwitchBot*, a conversational bot that helps workers detach from and reattach with their work. By identifying similarities between interruption and task resumption with detachment and reattachment, we leverage prior research on detachment and reattachment to design *SwitchBot*, one that is task-centric and the other emotion-centric. We validated the practical value of each dialog via an online study with 108 crowd workers, and then conducted an in-situ study for 14 days where 34 information workers used *SwitchBot* as they began and concluded their workday. Our results show *SwitchBot*'s dialogues serve as an effective intervention for supporting detachment from and reattachment with the workplace. In particular, we find that:

- Participants felt more productive and engaged during the first hour of their work when using *SwitchBot*;

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<https://doi.org/10.1145/3173574.3173602>

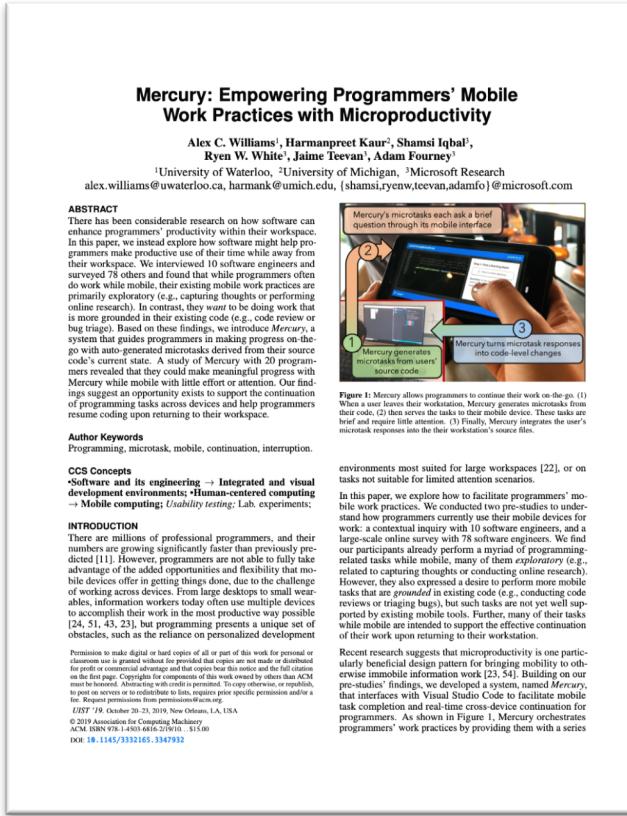


SwitchBot (CHI '18)

## Conversational Agents for Work

Additional Information is available online.

# What do I do?



## Mobile Programming



## Mercury (UIST '19)

Additional Information is available online.

# What do I do?

**The Perpetual Work Life of Crowdworkers: How Tooling Practices Increase Fragmentation in Crowdwork**

ALEX C. WILLIAMS, University of Waterloo, Canada  
GLORIA MARK, University of California at Irvine, USA  
KRISTY MILLAND, University of Toronto, Canada  
EDWARD LANK, University of Waterloo, Canada  
EDITH LAW, University of Waterloo, Canada

Crowdworkers regularly support their work with scripts, extensions, and software to enhance their productivity. Despite their evident significance, little is understood regarding how these tools affect crowdworkers' quality of life and work. In this study, we report findings from an interview study (N=21) aimed at exploring the tooling practices used by full-time crowdworkers on Amazon Mechanical Turk. Our interview data suggests that the tools used by full-time crowdworkers (1) largely contribute to the fragmentation of their work by enabling task switching and multitasking behavior; (2) facilitates the fragmentation of crowdworkers' work-life boundaries by relying on tools that encourage a 'work-anywhere' attitude; and (3) aids the fragmentation of social ties within worker communities through limited tooling access. Our findings have implications for building systems that unify crowdworkers' work practice in support of their productivity and well-being.

CCS Concepts: • Human-centered computing → Computer supported cooperative work

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Crowdwork; Tooling; Work Practice; Interview; Fragmentation.

**ACM Reference Format:**  
Alex C. Williams, Gloria Mark, Kristy Milland, Edward Lank, and Edith Law. 2019. The Perpetual Work Life of Crowdworkers: How Tooling Practices Increase Fragmentation in Crowdwork. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 3, CSCW, Article 24 (November 2019), 28 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3359126>

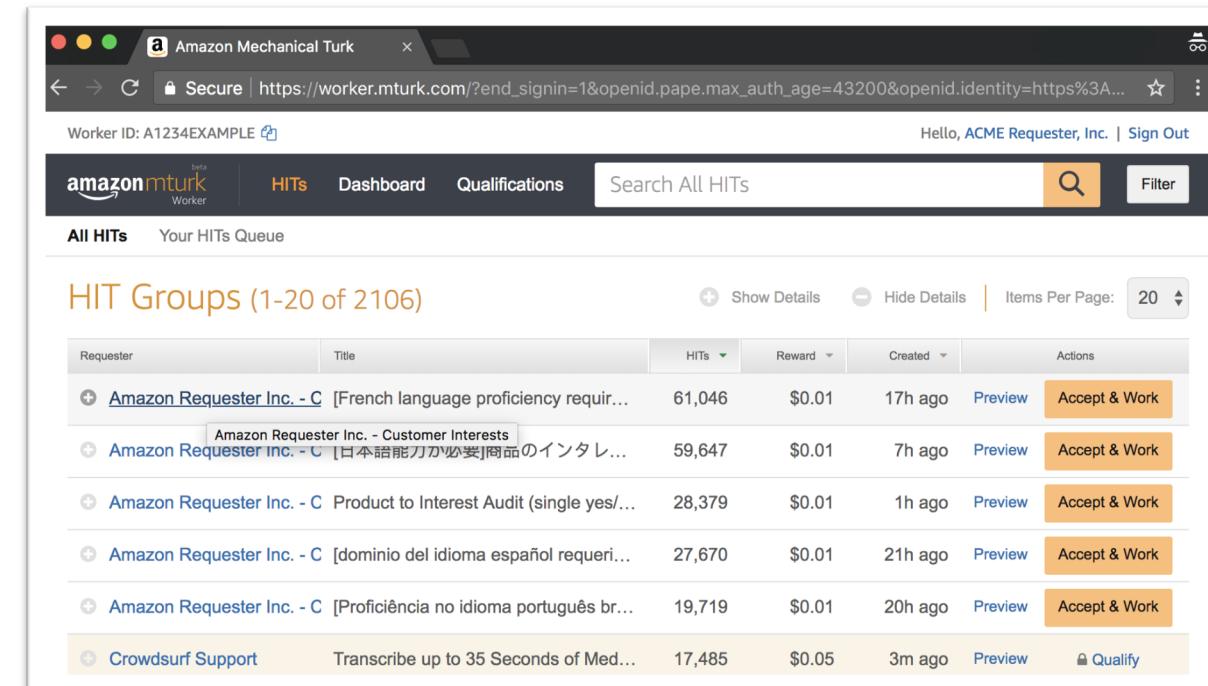
**1 INTRODUCTION**  
Over the past decade, crowdwork has risen as an established and thriving work practice for thousands of people across the globe [20]. In a 2010 survey of US-based Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) workers, less than 5% of the participants identified as spending 40 hours or more on crowdwork [42]. Recent data-driven analyses of long-term worker activity on MTurk found that the population of crowdworkers on the platform is generally stable, but that "tens of thousands of new workers that arrive on the platform each year" to replace workers that abandon the profession [21, 61]. Beyond MTurk, a 2016 survey found that more than 5 million individuals in the UK are actively engaged in crowdwork [39], and 53% of a 2017 survey's respondents with crowdworkers in Switzerland reported the profession as their full-time job [40]. Spurred by the changing nature

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<https://doi.org/10.1145/3359126>

Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact., Vol. 3, No. CSCW, Article 24. Publication date: November 2019.

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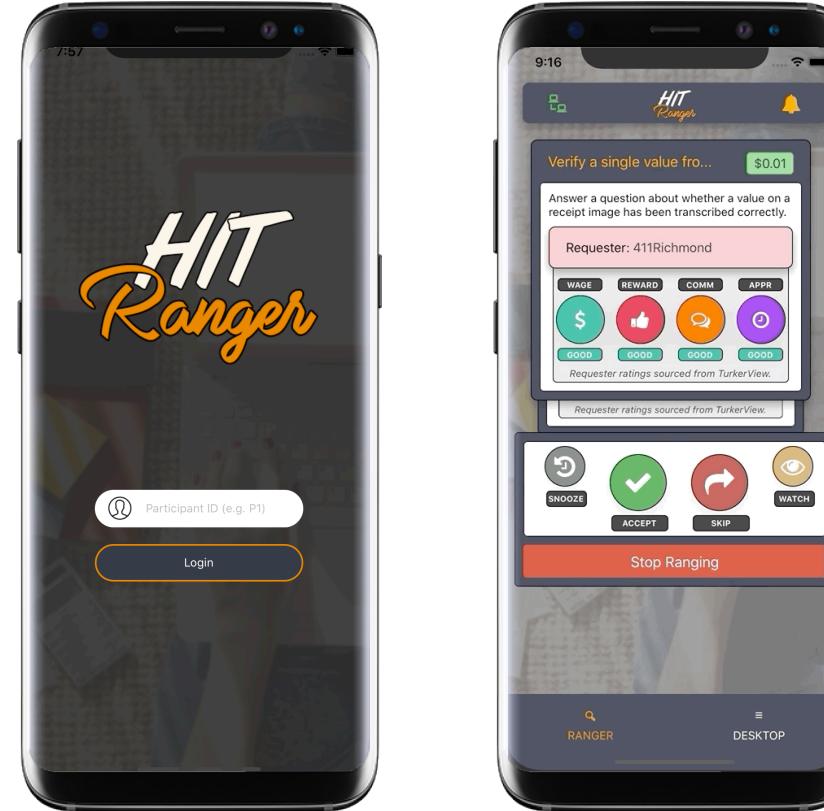
The screenshot shows the Amazon Mechanical Turk worker interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for 'HITs', 'Dashboard', and 'Qualifications'. A search bar says 'Search All HITs'. Below that, it says 'All HITs' and 'Your HITs Queue'. The main area is titled 'HIT Groups (1-20 of 2106)'. It lists several HITs with columns for Requester, Title, HITs, Reward, Created, and Actions. Some HITs are from 'Amazon Requester Inc.' and others from 'Crowdsurf Support'. Each row has a 'Preview' button and an 'Accept & Work' button. The 'Accept & Work' button is highlighted in orange for the first few rows.

Requester	Title	HITS	Reward	Created	Actions
Amazon Requester Inc. - C	[French language proficiency requir...]	61,046	\$0.01	17h ago	Preview <b>Accept &amp; Work</b>
Amazon Requester Inc. - C	[日本語能力が必須]商品のインタレ...	59,647	\$0.01	7h ago	Preview <b>Accept &amp; Work</b>
Amazon Requester Inc. - C	Product to Interest Audit (single yes/...	28,379	\$0.01	1h ago	Preview <b>Accept &amp; Work</b>
Amazon Requester Inc. - C	[dominio del idioma español requiri...	27,670	\$0.01	21h ago	Preview <b>Accept &amp; Work</b>
Amazon Requester Inc. - C	[Proficiência no idioma português br...	19,719	\$0.01	20h ago	Preview <b>Accept &amp; Work</b>
Crowdsurf Support	Transcribe up to 35 Seconds of Med...	17,485	\$0.05	3m ago	Preview <b>Qualify</b>

## The Future of Work

Amazon Mechanical Turk

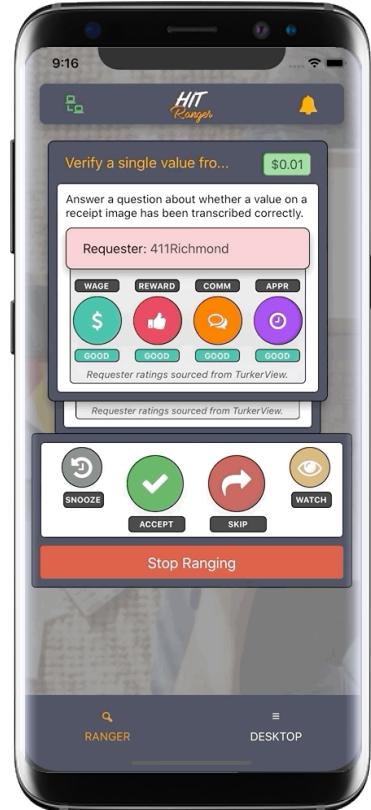
# What do I do?



The Future of Work

HIT Ranger (CHI '21)

# A Future of Intelligence



1. How can SwitchBot disengage proactively?  
→ Sensing the user getting in a vehicle.
2. How can Mercury route a relevant microtask?  
→ Understanding IDE context at the desktop.
3. How can HIT Ranger identify "happy" work?  
→ Knowing work that makes the user happy.

**Solution:** Collect data → Learn trends.

## COSC 425: Introduction to Machine Learning

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Fall 2020 (CRN: 44874)

Instructor: Dr. Alex Williams  
E-mail: acw@utk.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment.  
(Reserved Time: T/R @ 2:00-4:00pm)

Course Webpage: [tiny.utk.edu/cosc425](https://tiny.utk.edu/cosc425)

Teaching Assistant: Zhuohang Li  
E-mail: z1968vols.utk.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Tuhin Das  
E-mail: tdas10vols.utk.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment.

### I. Course Description

Machine learning is concerned with computer programs that automatically improve their performance through experience. This course covers the theory and practice of machine learning from a variety of perspectives. We cover topics such as clustering, decision trees, neural network learning, statistical learning methods, Bayesian learning methods, dimension reduction, kernel methods, and reinforcement learning. Programming assignments include implementation and hands-on experiments with various learning algorithms.

**N.B.:** COSC 425 is not in the Graduate Catalog. Graduate students are therefore unable to take COSC 425 for graduate credit. (See COSC 522: Machine Learning for graduate credit).

### II. Required Materials

This course does not have a required textbook. However, this course does have two general requirements: (1) Students should have access to a computer for completing the course assignments; and (2) Students should have access to a working Internet connection that allows you to engage with the course's material. Students should contact the instructor immediately if they are unable to satisfy either of these requirements.

### III. Course Prerequisites

To enroll in the course, students must have completed: Electrical and Computer Engineering 313 or 317 or Mathematics 323; Mathematics 251 or 257. This is a 400-level computer science course, and it is taught at a level appropriate for seniors in computer science. You will be expected to have the background knowledge of senior CS students and, of course, to be competent, efficient, and effective programmers. In this course, you will be expected to complete programming assignments in the Python programming language.

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# Course Website + Syllabus

<https://tiny.utk.edu/cosc425>

# Course Objectives

This course has three main objectives:

1. to develop an understanding of the fundamental concepts of modern machine learning;
2. to provide first-hand experience with implementing a breadth of learning algorithms; and
3. to empower students with the ability to evaluate, deploy, and critique learning algorithms.

# Course Structure

## Lectures

- Asynchronous unless specified otherwise.
- Available at 12:01am each “class day”.

## Office Hours

- Reserved Time: 2:00 - 4:00pm T/R)
- Book online via Course Website.

# Course Structure

## **50% Programming Assignments**

- Up to 5 assignments related to implementation.
- Must use Python.

## **20% Homework**

- Up to 6 assignments related to ML articles.
- Written responses, brief questions, etc.

## **30% Final Team Project**

- Create a machine learning solution for a “real” problem.  
*Final report* → Purpose, Approach, Evaluation, Limits

# Course Topics

- Decision Trees
- Instance-based Learning
- Perceptron
- Linear Regression
- Probabilistic Modelling
- Linear Methods of Classification
- Support Vector Machines
- Performance Evaluation
- Feature Construction / Selection
- Ensemble Learning
- Interpretable Machine Learning
- Active Learning
- Semi-Supervised Learning
- Unsupervised Learning
- Neural Networks
- Deep Learning
- Adversarial Generative Models
- Structured Prediction
- Reinforcement Learning
- Human-Centered Machine Learning
- The Future of Machine Learning

# Course Scope



Biologically-Inspired  
Computation



Introduction to  
Machine Learning

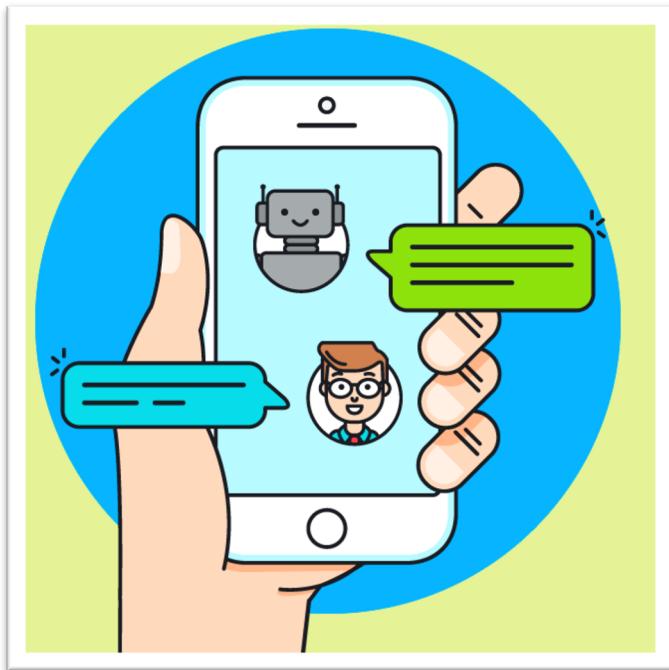


Computational  
Cognitive Neuroscience



Machine Learning

# Spring 2021



## Special Topics: Human-AI Interaction

What is “Interaction”?

→ Where HCI meets AI.

Designing Intelligent Interactivity.

→ Challenges and opportunities.

Evaluating Intelligent Interactivity.

→ User studies, walkthroughs, etc.

# Course Policies

Communication Policy \*

→ E-mail + Canvas

Attendance Policy \*

→ No policy. (You are responsible adults!)

Assignment Submission Policy \*

→ Hand-in via Canvas by 11:59pm on the due date.

Late Submission Policy\*

→ 1 Day Late = 10%; 2 Days Late = 20% , etc.

\*See Syllabus for details.

# Course Policies

## Academic Integrity & Plagiarism \*

- See Hilltopics Student Handbook.
- Do not plagiarize, copy, etc.

## Civility Policy \*

- I reserve the right to dismiss you from Zoom.

## Accommodations for Disabilities\*

- Contact Office of Disability Services
- (865-974-6087)

\*See Syllabus for details.

# Course Policies

Accommodations for Change Related to COVID-19

→ **Personal Change:** Consult with me immediately.\*

→ **University Change:** I will try to keep you informed.

**Other concerns (e.g. "absences"):** Consult the Dean of Students (<https://dos.utk.edu>).

\*See Syllabus for details.

# Next Time

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What is  
Machine Learning?

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Friday, 2:15pm. @  
<https://tennessee.zoom.us/j/6294683300>