**Technology Reflection**

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DS 100: Introduction to Technology and Innovation, Past, Present, and Future

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Technology-reflection

* 1. **Can you share on why you are/were interested to study in this technology discipline (taking this DS 100 class or pursuing a major, minor, or certificate)?**

I have always been interested in a technology-based discipline. Growing up with technology, I have been accustomed to utilizing it in various forms and have been able to witness its rapid development and increasing power and place in society. In my personal life, I have seen how technology can enhance the quality of living when used correctly, ethically, and in moderation. I have used technology at home, at school, socially, and in the workplace. In all of these instances, I have found navigating technology to be highly interesting, and knew that I could use this skill in my career to benefit humankind in some way. Especially in this age, technology is continuing to grow and expand, and has evolved into a necessity in everyday life and function. Specifically, I made the switch to the technology industry once I took my first coding class. I found it very interesting and intellectually challenging. What I enjoyed the most was problem solving and finally figuring out how to make the code properly execute. Working through frustration to reach accomplishment I found to be very fulfilling and satisfactory. I also learned how much math is in the industry, and with this being one of my strengths, I realized that this industry is my perfect fit. I now have the long-term goal to help provide safe, reliable, and sustainable energy to society, which through my internship, I found myself very passionate about.

* 1. **Do you believe technology drives society or does society drives technology? Please explain your thoughts.**

In a sense, I believe that both of these statements are interconnected. During the first stages of technology creation, I believe that society drove technology. Humans were in complete control of creation of technology. Knowledge was applied to create, and there were not any existing applications. Over time, I believe that technology took the reins and started to drive society. I believe that this is primarily due to the gradual reliance on technology, and the use of existing technologies to create new technologies. This transition took place dating all the way back to the Stone Age and the development of stone tools. (Cataliotti, 2023). We now live in a society that we believe we run, yet do not realize how much power technology actually has over our lives. In short, I think that in our modern era, technology drives society but before we become heavily reliant on technology, society drove it. At this point in technological evolution, I do not believe that we can return to the point of time where society drove technology.

* 1. **Is it possible to live a life or lifestyle without technology? Please explain your thoughts and provide any examples.**

At one point in the past, humans were fully capable of living a life without technology. It is important to note that their lifespans were shorter than those of humans today, but overall, countless lives have been lived without the usage of technology. As previously stated, as a society we are currently very deep in technological evolution and reliance. Thus, I do not believe that in the modern age it is necessarily possible to live a lifestyle without technology. This is primarily due to the formal definition of technology. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, technology is defined as “the application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of human life”. Due to this broad and distinguished definition, technology covers objects from roads, medicine, and clothes, all of which do not usually come to mind when thinking of technology. Even food and water use technology to kill bacteria, ensuring safety for human consumption. Humans have developed a multitude of scientific applications for human life, where it is nearly impossible to live without any object that is categorized as technology.

* 1. **In your opinion, what is the next innovation or era in technology after this data-driven era?**

After this current data-driven era of technology, I believe that the next era in technology will be predominantly Artificial Intelligence based. I can see the normalization of AI in various industries such as medicine, education, and transportation. Specifically, I can see the subset of machine learning, “deep learning” continue to advance and develop. Deep learning is “essentially a neural network with three or more layers. These neural networks attempt to simulate the behavior of the human brain” according to IBM. With giving technology this substantial amount of power similar to the human brain, comes dire consequences unless properly regulated. Thus, I see an outbreak of technology laws, regulations, and policies in the next era of technology. I think that there will be a significant amount of debate and ethical dilemmas in the creation of a legal structure for technological development but will provide an overall benefit to society in deciding how much power to give technology.

References

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