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Title: THE EFFECTS OF THE USE OF COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Date: 1st June, 2018

Course: COMP 391

INTRODUCTION

In this research proposal I will be looking at the effects of the internet and the use of computers in the 21st century. In this research I will provide some of the evolving technologies (In the computing arena and in the internet) and discuss their implications to society.

The information age or the computer age according to Wikipedia is a 21st century period in human history characterized by the rapid shift from traditional industry that the Industrial Revolution brought through industrialization, to an economy based on information technology. Computers have come a long way since the first computer back in 1946 that occupied a whole room to what we have today. The internet on the other hand was made simply for communication purposes in 1983 and remained that way till 1990 where its true potential started to show and the World Wide Web was invented by computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee. Back in 1995, Bill Gates published his first book, *The Road Ahead*. It was easy to understand and full of wisdom. People regarded it, at the time, as the best primer on what life would be like in the 21st century. In the book, Bill Gates summarized the implications of the personal computing revolution and described a future profoundly changed by the arrival of a global information superhighway. In the 20 years since, an information superhighway has been realized, and to some extent, today's world has developed even further beyond what Bill Gates had imaged. We can foresee that the next stop on this information superhighway will be a new era dominated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

These machines help us in our day to day processes and are attributed to many breakthroughs in the field of science, industry and many other areas; and recent trends show the number of computer users increase as days pass. This thus makes it important to seek what impact it has to the society in this generation or century and others to come. The base of my research will dwell on both the positive and negative effects that come with the use these essential tools. My research will not only look at the impact to social life but also how computers and the internet have affected the world of business and economics, transportation, gaming, farming and communication. Previously developed for highly specialized tasks, the scope of AI is broadening and becoming more relevant to the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, transportation, and more. As such, the relationship between people and their machines is now a vital topic for exploration. The internet is so popular nowadays that almost anyone uses it. It is accessible by almost any person who tries to connect to one of its central, main networks. Moreover, it can be accessed by users of any age and condition. But what are the positives and negatives aspects of the internet?

My hypothesis is "Does the use of computers and the internet have any effect in the 21st century?"

RESEARCH METHODS AND SOURCES

I will rely on observation as the main method of collecting information for my research since I am a computer user first and foremost and I will interact with fellow computer user daily in my line of work – My own views and expectations will not be included in the data I will collect thus making it unbiased. I will also conduct personal interviews with persons who rely on the use of computers and the internet for their daily bread and other purposes. This will ensure that I get as much information as possible from as many people as I can. I might employ the use of a focus group to get more information from a particular perspective. Those I will chose to collect information from will not only be professionals, but I will also include some who use computers and the internet for leisure purposes irregardless of age.

Books and literature properly written in this area of research are limited and I will be using a book by Nusrat, Haq, and Professor Cedric Cullingford . *"Computers, Schools and Students: The Effects of Technology".* Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 28 Dec 2012. I will also visit various websites such as

http://thecomputersimpact.weebly.com/the-positive-and-negative-effects-of-the-internet.html ,
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0099133305000819 ,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_effects_of_Internet_use ,
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/event/computing-in-the-21st-century-2017/ ,
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/event/computing-21st-century-2016/ ,
https://www.atarimagazines.com/compute/issue113/p20_21st_CENTURY_COMPUTING.php
and https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-negative-effects-of-the-internet . These are sites where the community have contributed their knowledge and experiences for other readers to view. I picked these because of their ease of accessibility and also becausse they are free.

TIMELINE

I expect my research to take one and a half months at most, starting from 2ND July, 2018.

Start Date	Topic / Task	End Date
2ND July, 2018	• Research Start • Literature Review • Explore Sites	6th July, 2018
6th July, 2018	• Conduct Interviews and observation	8th July, 2018
8th July,2018	• Organise findings	12th July, 2018
12th July	• Narrow down Sources • Write notes.	14th July, 2018
14th July, 2018	• Draft findings	24TH July,2018
24th July, 2018	• Fill in gaps if any • Revise draft • Edit revised copy	12th August,2018
• Submit paper		ON DUE DATE

CONCLUSION

Science fiction has given us what it would look like if machines manifested our worst fears. The 21st century has brought with it new light that can no longer be just science fiction but reality what once seemed magical is becoming reality, with self-driving cars, autonomous appliances, and all kinds of bots.. Billions people use the internet and computers for various purposes and this thus makes this an essential topic to discuss and cast light on. I encourage readers to take this proposal seriously because the age of computing is upon us and most of the things we do today might be done by computers in the near or distant future thus the importance of their effects to us as humans and generations to come. This research addresses the issues brought about by the use of computers and the internet in this century and might provide clarity for what to expect in future generations if these trends continue.

ABOUT AUTHOR

Charles Brian Bett was born on 2nd November, 1996 in Chemilil Sugar Hospital, Kisumu County, He currently lives in Kitale, Trans- Nzoia County. He went to several schools in his childhood including Kitale School (Kitale), Kilimani Primary (Nairobi) and Prudence Academy (Nairobi); he finally completed his secondary level studies at St Anthony's Boys High School in Kitale. Charles is a twenty one year old computer scientist who is in his third year of study at the university and is undertaking this research for credit purposes and to ensure that concepts of research are well grasped. Charles is passionate about computing and is looking forward to embark on research on the problem area. Charles has had experience in the field of computing being a computer user since he was thirteen years of age and this places him in a position of great understanding in the topic at hand. Also being a computer scientist he interacts with other users of computers and the Internet. Charles will take this research alongside his coursework and other extra- curricular activities.

CITATION

"Computers, Schools and Students: The Effects of Technology: The Effects of Technology. – Ashgate Publishing, Ltd"

<https://books.google.co.ke/books/about/Computers_Schools_and_Students.html?id=caprNpee2xkC&redir_esc=y>

Computing in the 21st Century 2016

< https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/event/computing-21st-century-2016/>

"The Social Impact of Computers-Book by Richard S. Rosenberg"
https://www.elsevier.com/books/the-social-impact-of-computers/rosenberg/978-0-12-597130-0