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## **Data Gardens Assignment 5 Proposal**

For my final project, I would like to write a series of short stories (as a collection) which each explore a facet of data and indeed the elements we have discussed this semester.

Picking my brain as to what I wanted to explore for this final project, I had initially considered extending my simulated robot analyzing text project. The facet of pseudo code as a bridge between the technical and the traditional I am very much interested in (and I indeed do plan to explore in these short stories), but I couldn't find enough of a desire at this point in time to warrant doing an entire project about it. Rather on a different front, more recently I have been wanting to get back to my poetry and prose roots. With the wild variety in stories that crop up around data, namely sharks eating communication cables and raid clouds inside server rooms, I feel that data itself is a very valuable font of inspiration for prose.

With this in mind I have thought up 5 short stories which I feel all explore a different facet of data, some more speculative than others.

### Diving toward humanity:

Abstract: A deep sea diver who is hired to repair a deep-sea cable.

Focus: Taking [the shark eating the undersea cable](#) as the inspection point, I wondered about the individuals whose job it is to repair these cables and whether or not they contemplate the significance of their careers in the digital age.

Extending this, I couldn't help but obsess on the image of a diver diving toward one of these deep sea cable thinking on this notion of civilization through the digital.

What does this explore: What Data is to us, how we value it, how we are it

### Exquisite Data Corpse:

Abstract: [More Sci-Fi-y] People are given the option to remove all data relating to them when they die, tale of a child whose parent does so and the repercussions that causes/how their data manifests in a none digital sense

Focus: For me this largely stems out of a book I am currently reading about the mortuary industry in America.

What does this explore: How we live on in our data, this in parallel with the ways in which we manifest in systems other than the digital

### Stranding:

Abstract: A person as sneaker net whose career it is to recover and leave data in extreme places. (Personal data store)

Focus: So I started playing Death Stranding and haven't stopped thinking about the philosophical implications of walking/moving through space, this in combo with a recent viewing of The Dawn Wall (a documentary about the climbing of El Capitan's Dawn Wall), and in combo with our discussions about sneaker nets gave birth to the idea for this story.

What does this explore: Data as enabler, physical manifestations of data, making data truly personal, the systems with which we entrust our data

### A job named data:

Abstract: Document the daily life of a data center worker using what we learnt from our tour. (Unsure: have an entirely unexpected element occur to disrupt the operations, how would they react?)

Focus: The mundane is a literary element I've wanted to tackle for a while, and I found this idea to be a perfect example to attempt. I find the sentiment of the employees having thought out every eventuality of things that could go wrong very curious, so much so that in my mind they essentially managed to produce the mundane from the extreme. (I am uncertain about this second element, largely due to lack of knowledge as to what exactly would occur)

What does this explore: the mundane elements of data, how data is largely all stored in the same fashion, and stored with ever possible thing that could go wrong in mind

Gods live in the Mountain:

Abstract: Humanity finds some mysterious data store in a mountain and hails it as a shrine. Figure tries to access said data to much resistance.

Focus: I could help but ask myself after watching a segment from Ghost in the Shell in my animation class whether data had a spiritual dimension. With the history of mountains as places of natural worship (and inspiration from Werner Harzog's Into the Inferno), I wondered about how these data stores in mountains like Iron Mountain could manifest as contemporary versions of temples or shrines.

What does this explore: the spiritual dimension of data, does data manifest itself as the spirit of the age of technology, protection of data