

INF311: Information in the Cultural Imagination

This essay is a creative work with an analysis at the end. The creative work is a short story based on a fictional prototype I had created for a previous assignment in INF311. The fictional prototype, Memory Chip, is a microbot that someone injects in the form of a pill, and it acts like a flash drive for the human brain. Once consumed, this microbot will navigate its way to the user's brain and has the ability to manipulate the brain. Examples are downloading information into the brain or using it as expanded memory storage.

The prototype is based in the year 2098 so the short story has many fictitious and futuristic elements. The short story offers a glimpse at the possible lifestyles of the future through the lens of a middle class family with two kids. The increasing prices of technology is not corresponding with stagnating wages, so the story explores the possibility of a future where many people cannot afford necessary technology. I incorporate elements of 2020 controversies into the story to offer readers a glimpse of a futuristic world where 2020 problems were never defined and resolved by the tech company or legislative bodies. The short story explores many scenarios where profits were allowed to be prioritized over humans. Key concepts and themes that were included are legislation, technology, human rights, and accessibility.

The next part of the essay was a critical analysis of the concepts explored in the short story. Technology that becomes too influential leads to unethical corporations that can find ways to manipulate people, power, and politics. There were many concerns related to the power of technology and the companies behind them in the short story, and I elaborate on how the mythical elements in the short story may not be that far off in the future.