

- **Designing Agency and Autonomy: Connected City | Connected Home | Connected Body**

- a. **What constitutes the digital built environment?**
  - i. Digital layer of physical space: “physical web (beacons)”, “internet of things”, ICT networks
  - ii. Relevant traditional gsd built environment literature???
  - iii. How does it relate to the digital (quantified, digital-social-network-entangled) self?
- b. **Affordances in the digital built environment**
  - i. Seen vs unseen, usable to designers/planners vs usable to citizens
  - ii. Afforded to whom?
- c. **Where is agency contested?**
  - i. Well designed environments obviate reflection/agency (Heidegger, Greenfield here)
  - ii. “Human” work (discovery and decision) increasingly mediated by machine agents
    - 1. Self-knowledge (my body, my place in my personal/professional network)
    - 2. Attention-management
    - 3. Wayfinding
    - 4. Who do we know, how did we meet them, why are we likely to meet again?
- d. **Opt-in / Opt-out of tools**
  - i. A third way? Present-to-hand? A Negotiated Engagement?
- e. **Individual vs Collective Agency**
  - i. Does increasing individual agency come at a cost to collective agency?
    - 1. Polarization/Isolation, inability of large groups to mobilize and sustain momentum
    - 2. Center, Margins, Power, Atomization, Porosity (Zuckerman, Sloterdijk, Pan?)
  - ii. Connectivity is eating moderating social friction (Deb Roy)
  - iii. Radical transparency and Adaptation (Deb Roy, Dan Dennett)
- f. **Trust between humans and objects**
  - i. Different in AI age, why? (Who?? Auditability? Cathy O’Neil? Moral Machines?)
  - ii. When is an object an agent: Non-deterministic, non-linear behavior? Latour, others? Cybernetics? Rasmussen?
  - iii. What kinds of agent-objects? Whence do they originate? Latour here for sure
- g. **Agent-objects as partners/conspirators, Ulysses’ crew, synthetic willpower**
  - i. What interfaces or infrastructure are required to underwrite the kind of open flexible, trustworthy, fruitful partnerships that are possible between humans? (Lessig here)
  - ii. What are the contexts in which we (do/may/should not) negotiate with machine agents?

**Design for  
Agency in the  
Digital Built  
Environment**

*"One has to become a cybernetician to remain a humanist"*

*— Peter Sloterdijk*

## **Provocations**

The Agora is gone, conceptually obliterated. If you built one, its use would depend entirely on its digital presence and identity.

Where we go, what we do, who we meet, what we pay attention to, how we discover and incorporate new knowledge, and even how we experience physical space are all mediated by the digital layer of the built environment *prior* to being mediated by the physical built environment. The digital layer is ready-to-hand and it filters the mind, therefore interactions with physical things are necessarily experienced *posteriori*.

For better or worse, responsibility for the design of public life and the urban experience in the 21st century is in the hands of HCI designers, software engineers and network architects.

When the pendulum swings back, when the information revolution has been yolked to the cultural plow and the primacy of the tangible can finally reassert itself, it will be operating in a different world, one defined by porous borders and pointillist community.

The domain of the academic field of design is uniquely-suited to reclaim the mantle of master-thinkers of public space and the urban experience in the 21st century (even by 2017, it's become quite clear that the [Chaos Monkeys](#) in Silicon Valley are making a mess of things), but the relationship between the primacy of the design of physical objects and that of digital objects must change.

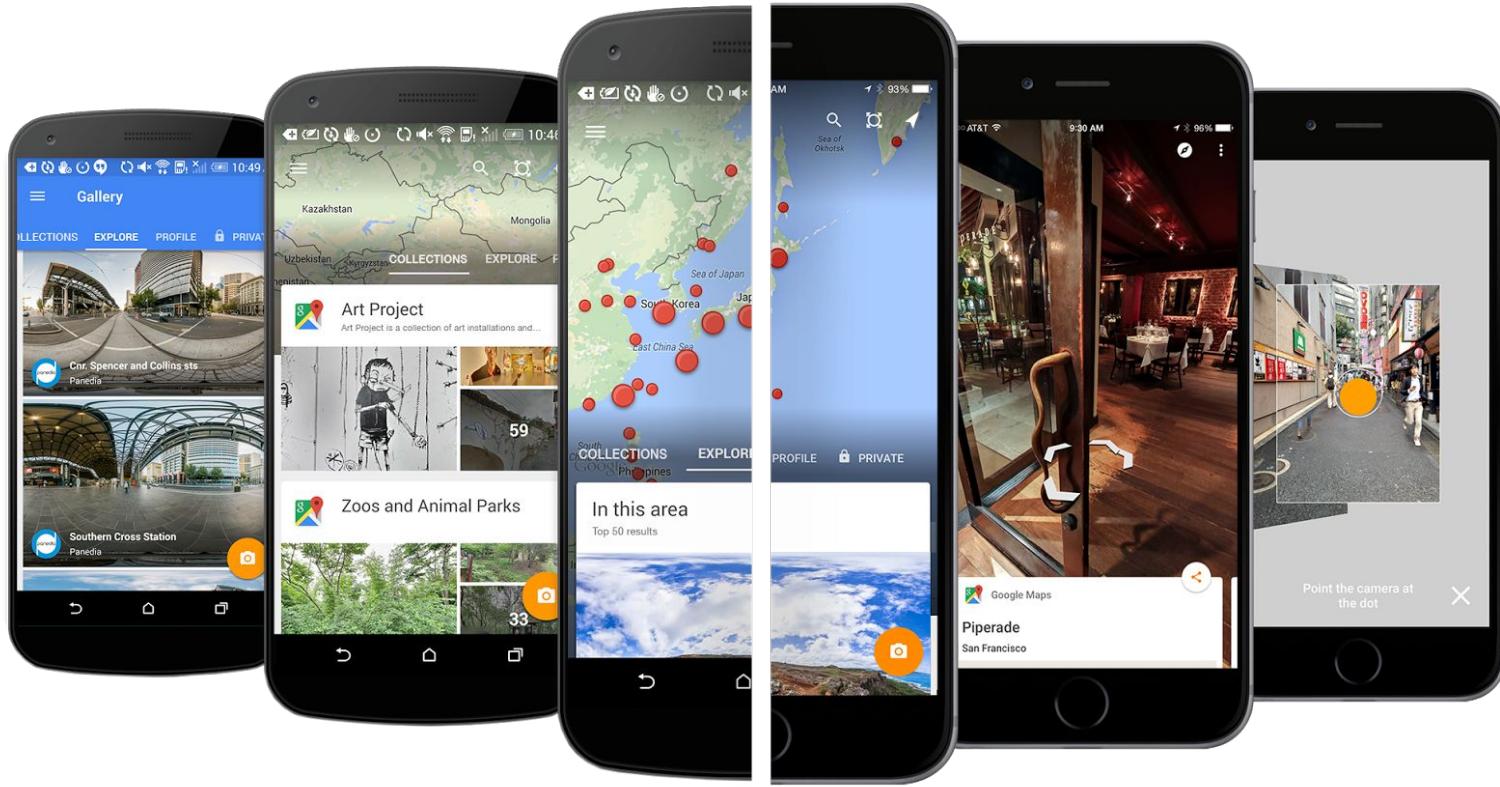
**"The individual networked in this way is no longer the autonomous subject enshrined in liberal theory, not precisely ... Our very selfhood is smeared out across a global network of messy nodes and links; all of the aspects of our personality we think of as constituting who we are —our tastes, preferences, capabilities and desires— we owe to the fact of our connection to that mesh."**

— Adam Greenfield

**What  
constitutes the  
digital built  
environment?**

"In social science, the term **built environment**, or built world ... has been defined as 'the human-made space in which people live, work, and recreate on a day-to-day basis.'"

-Wikipedia



## A Borgesian Maneuver

For 87% of us, the smartphone is the object we touch last thing at night and first in the morning. It is the most intimate object of the digital built environment and the gateway to many others.

## 1 TRANSPORTATION CONGESTION SENSORS

Smart transportation systems use sensors to detect congestion and bottlenecks in traffic patterns. They also rely on cameras to enforce speed and traffic infractions. In doing so, these tools gather real time information that can be used by city DOTs to make mobility networks safer and more efficient.

## 2 WATER AND WASTEWATER MONITORING

Monitoring devices can detect leaks as well as changes in water pressure to determine whether water infrastructure is working properly.

## 3 PARKING APPS AND KIOSKS

Apps coordinate with smart parking meters to inform drivers of where there is parking availability.

## 4 BRIDGE INSPECTION SYSTEMS

Sensors monitor the structural soundness of bridges and inform city engineers of any issues. Drones are used to inspect hard to reach areas.

## 5 SELF-DRIVING CARS

Self-driving cars shuttle people in and out of the city, providing rides for others and making deliveries while their owners are occupied with work or other activities.

## 6 WASTE MANAGEMENT SENSORS

Sensors detect the amount of garbage in receptacles around the city so that sanitation workers can maximize efficiency in their routes.

## 7 LIGHTING

LED lights are weather adaptive and communications are automatically sent to the Department of Public Works when the bulbs need to be changed.

## 8 FIRE DETECTION

Sensors monitor conditions in public parks and wooded areas that might be prone to fire. Sensors can also detect fires in buildings and initiate a call to the fire department in an emergency.

## 9 ENERGY MONITORING

Power plants can be monitored for safety and city officials can be informed of any influx in radiation levels.

## 10 SOLAR PANELS

Solar panels can be monitored to determine how much energy they are providing and whether they need maintenance.

## 11 SMART LOGISTICS/FREIGHT

Platooning trucks carry freight efficiently from the port to their final destination. Smart inventory systems inform operators about when freight is moved between different locations.

## 12 VEHICLE FLEET COMMUNICATION

Public transit and city fleet vehicles communicate with their home agency when it is time for maintenance or replacement.

## 13 DRONES

Drones can be used for law enforcement and firefighting, as rural ambulances, for infrastructure inspections, and for environmental monitoring. Commercial uses include precision farming, aerial photography, and in the near future, package delivery.

## 14 SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

Cameras ensure security by monitoring activity in areas that are not frequented by public safety officers. Areas that are not open to public access can be monitored to keep unauthorized personnel out.

## 15 BODY CAMERAS

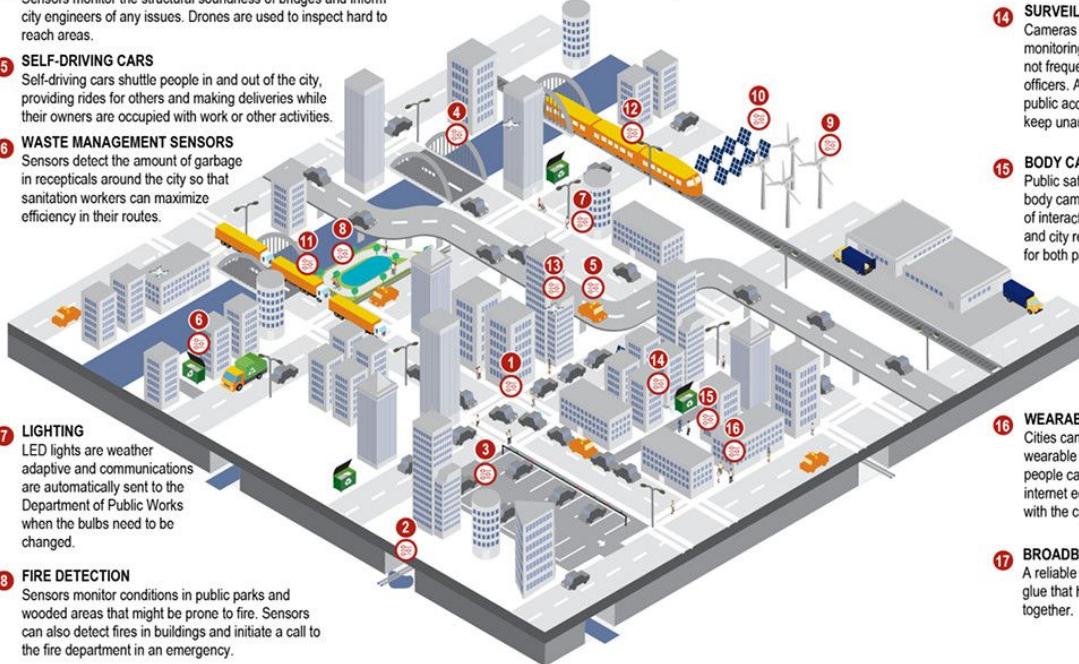
Public safety officers can wear body cameras that capture footage of interactions between themselves and city residents to ensure safety for both parties.

## 16 WEARABLE DETECTION

Cities can build in smartphone and wearable detection sensors so that people can be an active part of the internet ecosystem, communicating with the city, and with each other.

## 17 BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

A reliable internet ecosystem is the glue that holds the internet of things together.



CCIV cameras

Load cells

Pneumatic traffic sensors

Gunshot-detection audio  
arrays

Biometric sensors deployed in  
buildings, advertisements,  
buses, trains, vending  
machines, public service  
offices

Micropositioning beacons

Cell phone towers

WiMax towers

Thermometers

Barometers

Particulate sensors

Chromatographic sensors:

Nuclear

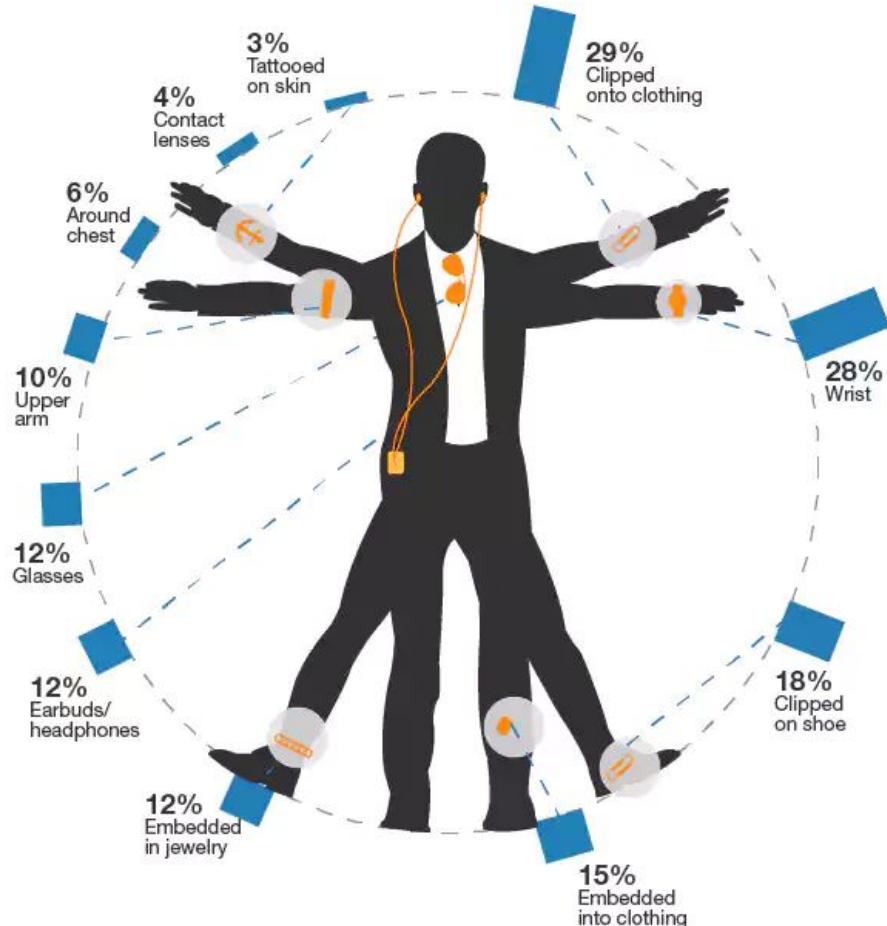
Toxic Chemical

Banned Substance

Soil moisture PH

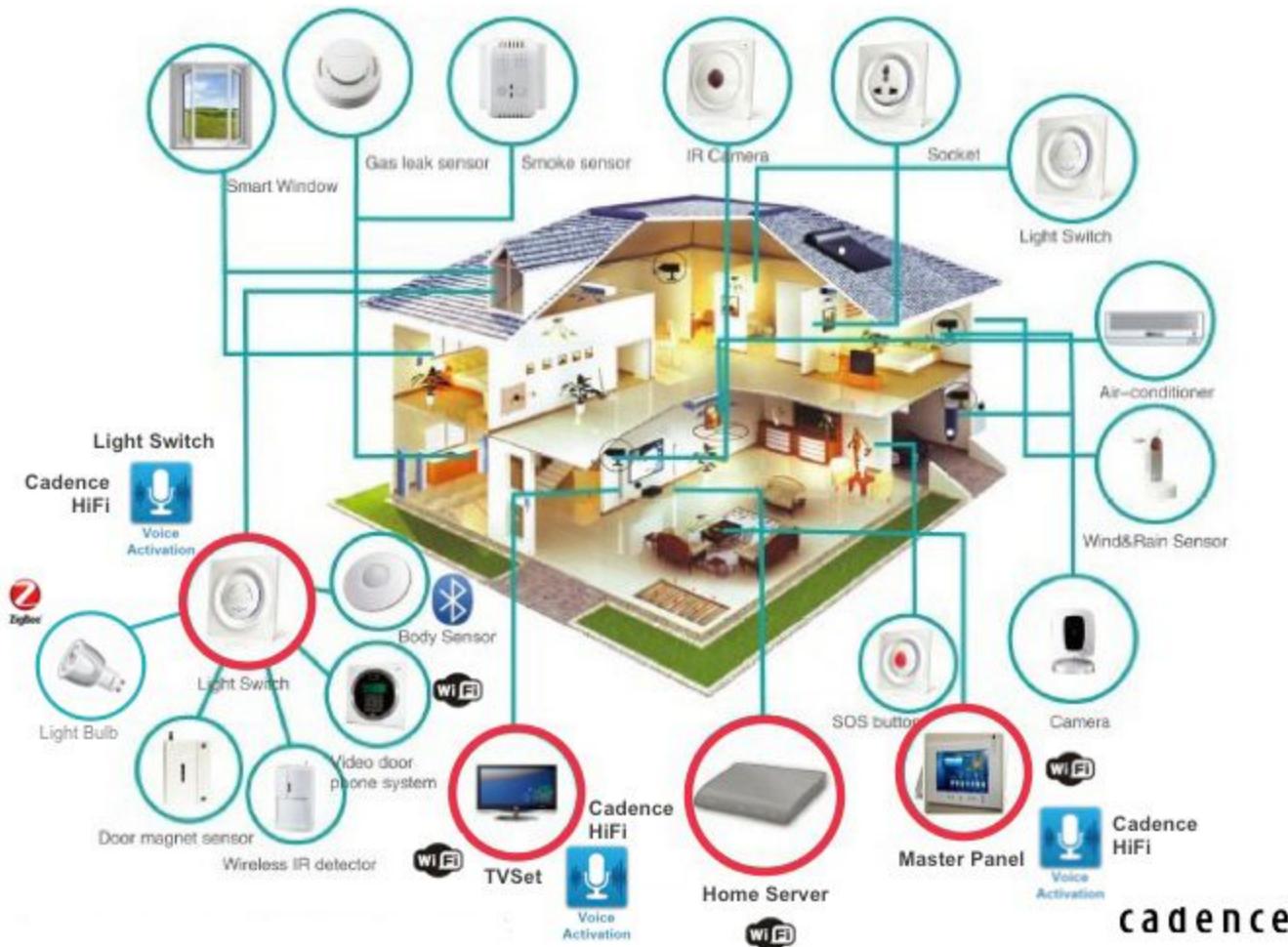
# The periodic table of wearable technology

<b>1 S</b>	<b>See what I see</b> Most commonly found element	<b>2 W</b>	<b>Work and help series</b> Foundation for high quality, efficient work
<b>3 T</b>	<b>Communication series</b> Real time access to expert help	<b>4 V</b>	<b>Navigation series</b> Fuse the digital and physical world
<b>11 Oc</b>	<b>Document and share series</b> Harness the power of multimedia and computer vision	<b>12 Ci</b>	<b>5 Pi</b>
<b>19 Au</b>	<b>Platform group</b> Extend, configure and support a wide range of business activities	<b>13 Ca</b>	<b>Secure Pairing</b>
<b>37 Cl</b>	<b>20 Ct</b> Timelapse images	<b>14 Se</b>	<b>Text Messages</b>
<b>55 Sc</b>	<b>21 Ch</b> Compliance checklist	<b>15 St</b>	<b>Interactive questions</b>
<b>87 Cg</b>	<b>22 Ey</b> Two eyes on job	<b>16 No</b>	<b>Notifications</b>
<b>88 Td</b>	<b>23 Ov</b> Overlay guides	<b>17 R</b>	<b>Radar</b>
<b>89-103</b>	<b>24 Md</b> 3d Models	<b>18 He</b>	<b>Help videos</b>
<b>104 OF</b>	<b>25 Tg</b> Hands-on Training	<b>19-29</b>	<b>Dashboard and Collaboration group</b> Connected workforce between glasses and remote users
<b>105 En</b>	<b>26 MI</b> Machine learning	<b>30-40</b>	<b>Data feed series</b> Continuous, contextual data from many sources
<b>106 Ad</b>	<b>27 Po</b> Performance optimize	<b>41-50</b>	
<b>107 Ic</b>	<b>28 Bd</b> Capture best practices	<b>51-60</b>	
<b>108 Vm</b>	<b>29 Tr</b> Materials tracking	<b>61-70</b>	
<b>109 Ev</b>	<b>30 Gu</b> Task specific guidance	<b>71-80</b>	
<b>110 Ar</b>	<b>31 Ms</b> Media list stream	<b>81-90</b>	
<b>111 P</b>	<b>32 U</b> User dashboard	<b>91-100</b>	
<b>112 O</b>	<b>33 Pt</b> Points web page	<b>101-110</b>	
<b>113 Co</b>	<b>34 Cx</b> Context tracking	<b>111-120</b>	
<b>114 Im</b>	<b>35 Ro</b> Routing directions	<b>121-130</b>	
<b>115 Vi</b>	<b>36 Tp</b> Task progress	<b>131-140</b>	
<b>116 Cc</b>	<b>37 Nt</b> Send task to nearest	<b>141-150</b>	
<b>117 Ge</b>	<b>38 Pf</b> Performance feedback	<b>151-160</b>	
<b>118 Ex</b>	<b>39-40</b>	<b>161-170</b>	
<b>Hardware series</b> Powerful, practical, affordable, available	<b>57 G</b> Google Glass	<b>58 Mo</b> Yuzix M100	<b>59 Bt</b> Epson Moverio
	<b>60 Sg</b> Solix Smartglasses	<b>61 J</b> Recon Jet	<b>62 Ho</b> Microsoft HoloLens
	<b>63 Sh</b> Shared devices	<b>64 Ss</b> Safety shields	<b>65 Mk</b> Motion trackers
	<b>66 Le</b> Bluetooth beacons	<b>67 Sp</b> Smartphone integration	<b>68 Aw</b> Apple Watch
	<b>69 Ad</b> Android Wear	<b>70 Ht</b> Head tracking	<b>71 Vc</b> Voice control
<b>Industry series</b> Where the hands-on workforce has a big impact	<b>89 At</b> Automotive	<b>90 Ae</b> Aerospace	<b>91 Dc</b> Data centers
	<b>92 MF</b> Manufacturing	<b>93 Re</b> Repair and maintain	<b>94 Ph</b> Pharma
	<b>95 Ut</b> Utilities	<b>96 Tl</b> Telecom	<b>97 Cp</b> CPG
	<b>98 Rl</b> Retail	<b>99 Hc</b> Health care	<b>100 Eg</b> Engineering
	<b>101 Og</b> Oil & Gas	<b>102 Me</b> Metals and mining	<b>103 Ps</b> Public sector



Base: 4,657 US online adults (18+)  
(multiple responses accepted)

# Smart Home – Different levels of Portals



What does the  
digital built  
environment  
afford?

## **Affordance**

**The affordances of the environment are what it offers the animal, what it provides or furnishes, either for good or ill.** The verb to afford is found in the dictionary, the noun affordance is not. I have made it up. I mean by it something that refers to both the environment and the animal in a way that no existing term does. It implies the complementarity of the animal and the environment.

— James Gibson, An Ecological Approach to Visual Perception, 1979

"...the term **affordance** refers to the perceived and actual properties of the thing, primarily those fundamental properties that determine just how the thing could possibly be used ... Affordances provide strong clues to the operations of things. Plates are for pushing. Knobs are for turning. Slots are for inserting things into. Balls are for throwing or bouncing. When affordances are taken advantage of, the user knows what to do just by looking: no picture, label, or instruction needed." (Norman 1988, p.9)

— Don Norman, The Design of Everyday Things, 1988



TUESDAY SEP. 19, 2017

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71°



Blue Sky Innovation / Technology

# Wisconsin company holds 'chip party' to microchip workers



ADVERTISEMENT

Tony Danna, left, vice president of international development at Three Square Market in River Falls, Wis., receives a microchip in his left hand at company headquarters on Aug. 1, 2017. (Jeff Baenen / AP)

By **Jeff Baenen**  
Associated Press

AUGUST 2, 2017, 7:32 AM

**A** brief sting is all employees of a Wisconsin technology company said they felt Tuesday when they received a microchip implant in their hand that will allow them to open doors, log onto computers or buy breakroom snacks by simply waving their hand.

## TECH

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# Apple and Aetna hold secret meetings to bring the Apple Watch to millions of Aetna customers

- Apple and Aetna held meetings late last week to discuss bringing Apple Watch to the insurer's 23 million members.
- Senior officials from Apple, Aetna and hospitals were in attendance, according to three people familiar.

Christina Farr | Jeffrey McCracken

Published 1:13 PM ET Mon, 14 Aug 2017 | Updated 6:10 PM ET Mon, 14 Aug 2017



### MOST POPULAR

**1.**

[Don't doubt Elon Musk, says astronaut who spent a year in space](#)

**2.**

[Why a millionaire NFL player still drives a 26-year-old car he bought for \\$2](#)

"Against the backdrop of late capitalism, wearable biometric monitoring can only be understood as a disciplinary power that Frederick Taylor never dreamed of and that Foucault would have been laughed out of town for daring to propose."

-Adam Greenfield



**"The clear aim of the smart home is to as nearly as possible short circuit the process of reflection that stands between one's desires and their fulfillment by the market ... The ability to channel a nascent barely-articulated desire into certain highly predictable, profitable outcomes bears some scrutiny."**

-Adam Greenfield

# Talk or type to your Assistant.

MANAGE TASKS

PLAN YOUR DAY

ENJOY ENTERTAINMENT

MAKE MEMORIES

GET ANSWERS

CONTROL YOUR HOME

Remember I parked on floor  
1, spot 345 of the parking  
garage



Ok, I'll remember that.

Where did I park?



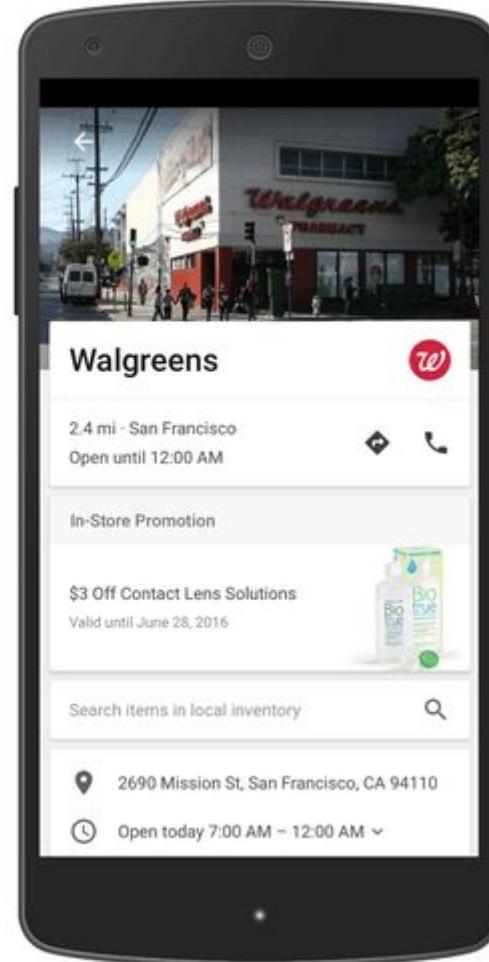
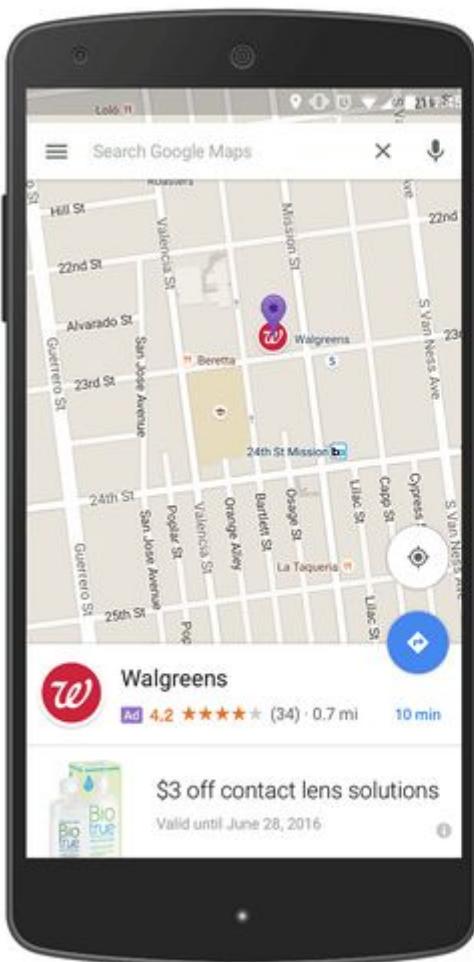
You parked on floor 1, spot  
345 of the parking garage.

## MANAGE TASKS

Send a text, set reminders, turn on  
battery saver and instantly look up  
emails.

Sponsored pins

Sponsored rides





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**Connectivity**

# Your Roomba Is Also Gathering Data about the Layout of Your Home

The CEO of iRobot is pushing the company toward a broader vision of the smart home. It could soon sell maps of the interiors of people's houses.

by Michael Reilly July 25, 2017

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The intimate, trivially shared.

If I buy your location data, I  
know whose bed you slept in last  
night.

We're all living in glass houses  
of one kind of another, so it's  
fair to ask if it's making us  
more hesitant to throw stones.



# Political Polarization, 1994-2015

See results for:

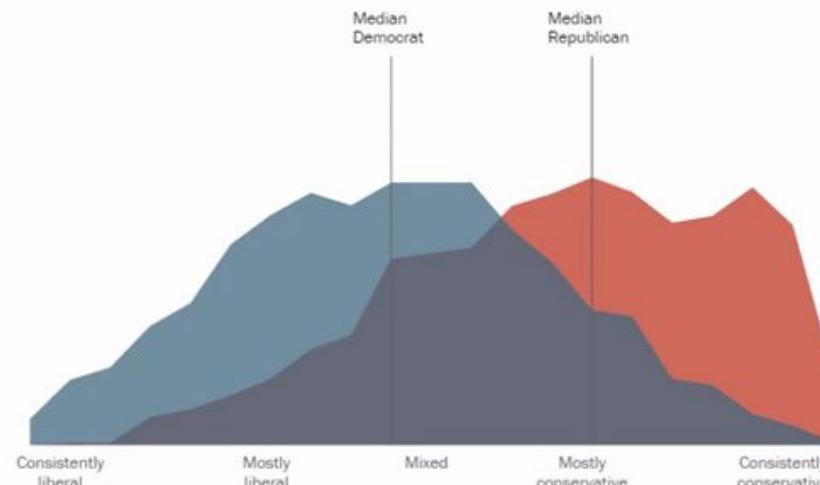
GENERAL POPULATION

POLITICALLY ENGAGED

[Animate data from 1994-2015](#)

1994

Year shown:

**1994** Democrats    Republicans    Total

## "A Honeypot For Assholes": Inside Twitter's 10-Year Failure To Stop Harassment

For nearly its entire existence, Twitter has not just tolerated abuse and hate speech, it's virtually been optimized to accommodate it. With public backlash at an all-time high and growth stagnating, what is the platform that declared itself "the free speech wing of the free speech party" to do? BuzzFeed News talks to the people who've been trying to figure this out for a decade.

Posted on August 11, 2016, at 8:43 a.m.



**Charlie Warzel**

BuzzFeed News Reporter



**On May 22, 2008**, Ariel Waldman ran out of options. Waldman, then a community manager and blogger, had signed up for Twitter in March 2007 and in months had become one of the platform's 100 most followed accounts. She was, by her own account, "addicted" to the service.

But soon after, the abuse began — for no reason other than that Waldman was a woman writing articles that occasionally touched on sex and technology. In June 2007, a stalker posted some of her private information in a string of threatening tweets. Waldman contacted Twitter, which banned the user in question from the public timeline. But over the next eight months, the

Where is  
agency  
contested?



Oficinas cercanas

3366 - DIAGONAL-TREBALL	242m
4398 - RAMON TURRO ...	265m
630 - BAC DE RODA...	268m
1161 - PARC CENTRAL P...	456m
5868 - DIAGONAL MAR-L...	525m
3261 - LLULL-LOPE DE ...	560m



3366 - DIAGONAL-TREBALL 242m

Dirección: AV. DIAGONAL, 72  
Teléfono: 932299730  
Cajeros: 2

1/2

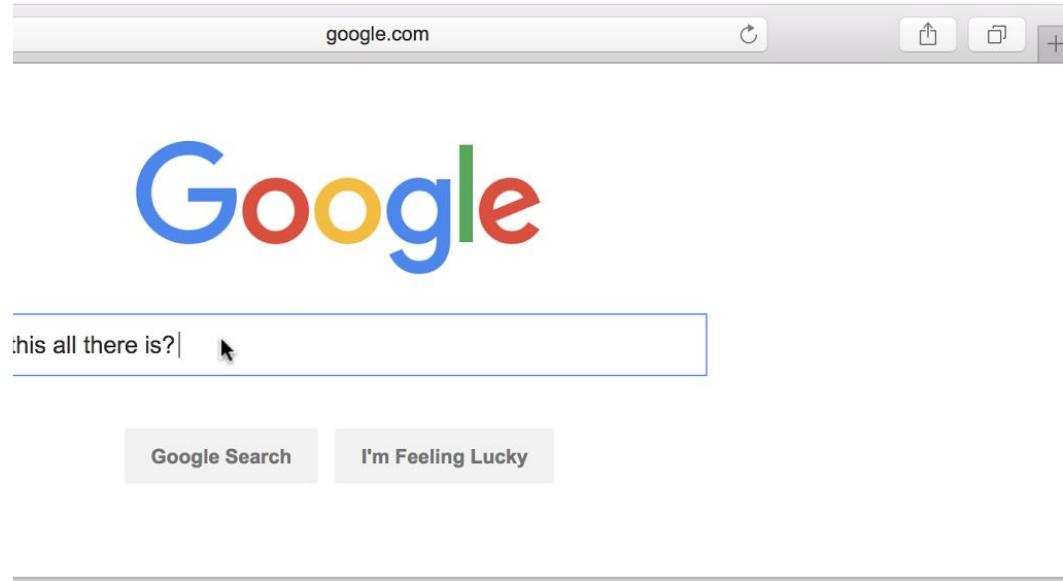
Cropped windows

Cropped wayfinding

Cropped knowledge

Cropped relationships

Cropped behavior



The things we are most likely to ‘like’ and most certain to engage with are, by definition, the things we least need to see if we desire to change or to better understand those who are unlike us, yet these are only things that the attention-economy is designed, at an infrastructural level, to provide.

**Justin Rosenstein,  
engineer of the like  
button, Facebook**

**...tweaked his laptop's operating system to block Reddit, banned himself from Snapchat, which he compares to heroin, and imposed automated limits on his use of Facebook.**

**...asked his assistant to set up a parental-control feature to prevent him from downloading any apps.**

**...Facebook “likes”, which he describes as “bright dings of pseudo-pleasure” that can be as hollow as they are seductive.**

**Loren Brichter,  
designer of ‘pull to refresh’, Twitter**

**...has blocked websites, turned off push notifications, restricted his use of [messenger apps] to message only with his wife and two close friends**

**...charges his phone in the kitchen, plugging it in at 7pm and not touching it until the next morning.**

**I have two kids and I regret every minute that I'm not paying attention to them because my smartphone has sucked me in.**

**Leah Pearlman,  
Product Manager, Like Button, Facebook**

**...confirmed via email that she, too, has grown disaffected with Facebook “likes” and other addictive feedback loops.**

**...has installed a web browser plug-in to eradicate her Facebook news feed and hired a social media manager to monitor her Facebook page so that she doesn't have to.**

“never get high on your own supply”

– Eric Lee Alter, Irresistible

“It is revealing that many of these younger [tech company product managers] are weaning themselves off their own products, sending their children to elite Silicon Valley schools where iPhones, iPads and even laptops are banned.”

– Paul Lewis, Guardian, 10/05/17

In late 2010, Jobs told *New York Times* journalist Nick Bilton that his children had never used the iPad. “We limit how much technology our kids use in the home.” Bilton discovered that other tech giants imposed similar restrictions. Chris Anderson, the former editor of *Wired*, enforced strict time limits on every device in his home, “because we have seen the dangers of technology firsthand.” His five children were never allowed to use screens in their bedrooms. Evan Williams, a founder of Blogger, Twitter, and Medium, bought hundreds of books for his two young sons, but refused to give them an iPad. And Lesley Gold, the founder of an analytics company, imposed a strict no-screen-time-during-the-week rule on her kids. She softened her stance only when they needed computers for schoolwork. Walter Isaacson, who ate dinner with the Jobs family while researching his biography of Steve Jobs, told Bilton that, “No one ever pulled out an iPad or computer. The kids did not seem addicted at all to devices.” It seemed as if the people producing tech products were following the cardinal rule of drug dealing: never get high on your own supply.

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FREE

# Brain Drain: The Mere Presence of One's Own Smartphone Reduces Available Cognitive Capacity

Adrian F. Ward, Kristen Duke, Ayelet Gneezy, and Maarten W. Bos

ONLINE: Apr 03, 2017

[Abstract](#)[Full Text](#)[Supplemental Material](#)[Cited by](#)[PDF](#)[Go to ▾](#)

## Abstract

Our smartphones enable—and encourage—constant connection to information, entertainment, and each other. They put the world at our fingertips, and rarely leave our sides. Although these devices have immense potential to improve welfare, their persistent presence may come at a cognitive cost. In this research, we test the “brain drain” hypothesis that the mere presence of one’s own smartphone may occupy limited-capacity cognitive resources, thereby leaving fewer resources available for other tasks and undercutting cognitive performance. Results from two experiments indicate that even when people are successful at maintaining sustained attention—as when avoiding the temptation to check their phones—the mere presence of these devices reduces available cognitive capacity. Moreover, these cognitive costs are highest for those highest in smartphone dependence. We conclude by discussing the practical implications of this smartphone-induced brain drain for consumer decision-making and consumer welfare.

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## ARTICLE CITATION

Adrian F. Ward, Kristen Duke, Ayelet Gneezy, and Maarten W. Bos, "Brain Drain: The Mere Presence of One's Own Smartphone Reduces Available Cognitive Capacity," *Journal of the Association for Consumer Research* 2, no. 2 (April 2017): 140-154.

<https://doi.org/10.1086/691462>

## MOST READ

*Of all published articles, the following were the most read within the past 12 months*

**Brain Drain: The Mere Presence of One's Own Smartphone Reduces Available**

# Technology is hijacking our minds.

Advertising-fueled technology companies are trapped in a race to get our attention.

We as individuals can try to use our devices more responsibly, but it's our willpower against hundreds of engineers who are paid to keep us glued to the screen:

- YouTube **autoplay**s more videos to keep us from leaving.
- Instagram shows **new likes one at a time**, to keep us checking for more.
- Facebook wants to **show whatever keeps us scrolling**.
- Snapchat turns conversations into **streaks we don't want to lose**.
- Our media turns events into **breaking news** to keep us watching.

These are not neutral tools.

They are part of a system **designed** to keep us hooked.

But it's changing the fabric of society.

It's changing political discourse.

It's changing our children.

The answer isn't to abandon technology.

The answer is to change the technology industry to put our best interests first.



60 Minutes: "Brain Hacking" with former Google design ethicist Tristan Harris.

# Download apps and extensions that can help you live without distraction.

## Sleep better



### [Flux](#) (Mac, Windows)

Reclaim 15 mins of quality sleep by cutting the blue light from our screens.



### [Turn on NightShift](#) (iOS)

Blue light from screens late at night tricks our body into believing it's still daytime, which disrupts our natural ability to sleep.

## Stay focused



### [AdBlock Plus](#) (Chrome, Safari)

Reclaim 30-40% of your attention with every article you read.



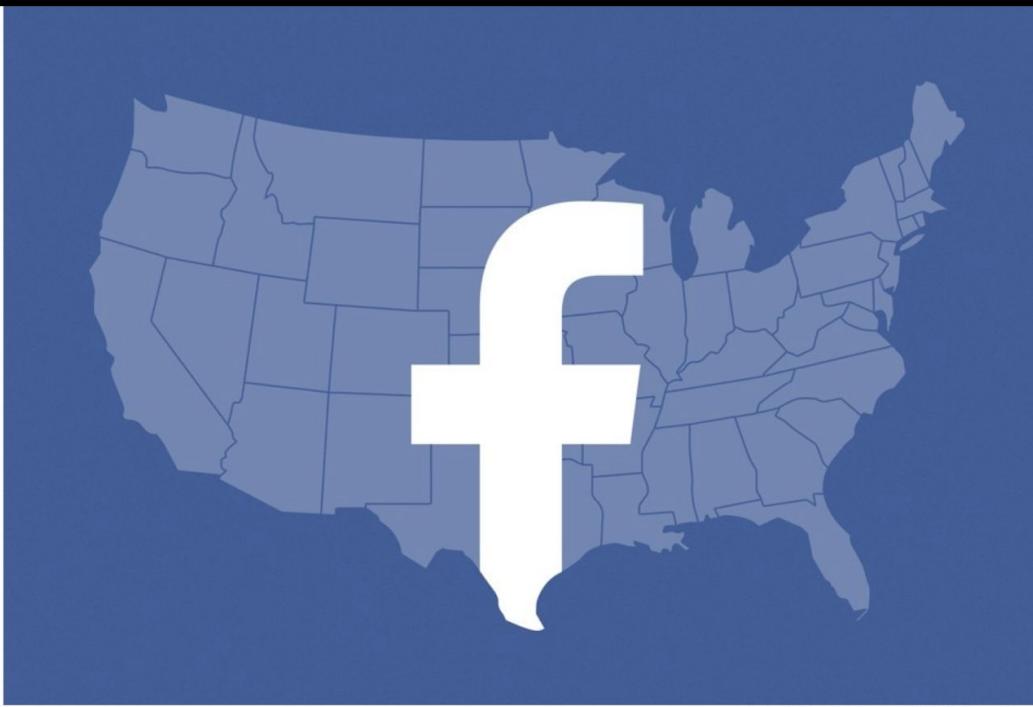
### [InboxWhenReady](#) (Gmail)

Focus your inbox by only showing messages when you click "Show Inbox" instead of getting distracted as new emails arrive.



### [Freedom](#) (Mac & Windows)

Temporarily block specific websites or apps on your desktop, tablet and phone for set periods of time.



Luchenko Yana / Shutterstock / Zak Bickel / The Atlantic

# What Facebook Did to American Democracy

And why it was so hard to see it coming

ALEXIS C. MADRIGAL | OCT 12, 2017 | TECHNOLOGY

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TEXT SIZE

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## **Social Sustainability**

Attention is a natural resource that is toxic when mishandled.

Attention is a limited resource and its rate of renewal cannot be increased.

Designers of technology have plundered this resource and burnt it openly, resulting in a heavily polluted public sphere that requires a great deal of remediation.

Designers of the digital built environment must be cognizant of the demand and disposal of attention.

**Individual or  
Collective  
Agency?**

# V viewpoints

DOI:10.1145/2818992

Manuel Cebrian, Iyad Rahwan, and Alex "Sandy" Pentland

## Viewpoint Beyond Viral

*The proliferation of social media usage  
has not resulted in significant social change.*

THE GOLDEN AGE of social media coincides with a worldwide leadership crisis, manifested by our seeming inability to address any major global issue in recent years.<sup>32</sup> These days, no one—be they a charismatic leader or a nameless crowd—seems to be able to make issues popular for long enough to mobilize society into action. As a result of this leadership vacuum, social progress of all sorts seems to have become stymied and frozen. How can this happen precisely in a time when social media, praised as the ultimate tool to raise collective aware-



**Adam Smith**

4 hrs ·



“Whatever praise or blame can be due to any action, must belong either, first, to the intention or affection of the heart, from which it proceeds.”

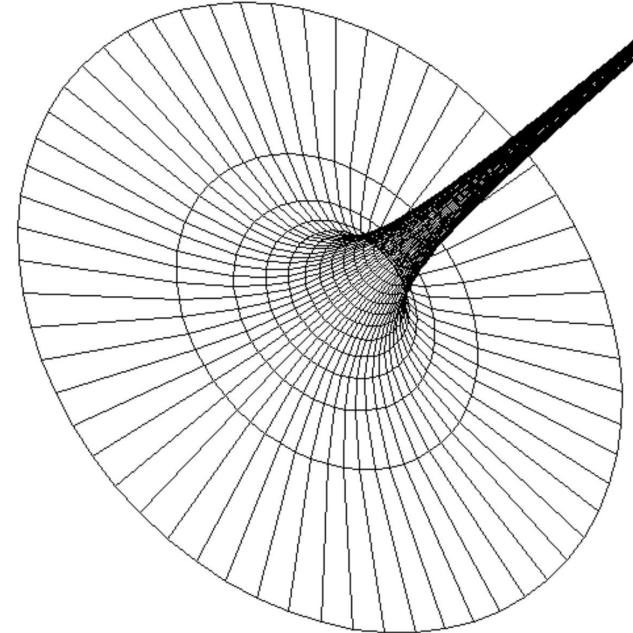
—Adam Smith,  
*The Theory of Moral Sentiments*

"The greatest minds of our generation may no longer be thinking about how to make people click ads (as Hammerbacher famously said in 2013),<sup>15</sup> but they have only progressed to thinking about how to make people click 'share' and 'like'."

— Manuel Cebrian, Sandy Pentland

*"The overriding quality of our era is porosity . . . work invades our personal time, private leaks into public, the intimate is trivially shared, and the concerns of the wider world seep into what ought to be spaces of recuperation and recovery. Above all, horror finds us wherever we are."*

*— Adam Greenfield*



**Opt-in or  
Opt-out?**

**Ready to hand  
Present to hand**

*"The blind man's cane has ceased to be an object for him, and is no longer perceived for itself; its point has become an area of sensitivity, extending the scope and active radius of touch, and providing a parallel to sight. In the exploration of things, the length of the stick does not enter expressly as a middle term: The blind man is rather aware of it through the position of objects than the position of objects through it. The position of things is immediately given through the extent of the reach which carries him to it, which comprises besides the arm's own reach the stick's range of action."*

— Maurice Merleau-Ponty

HEALTH

# A New, More Rigorous Study Confirms: The More You Use Facebook, the Worse You Feel

by Holly B. Shakya and Nicholas A. Christakis

APRIL 10, 2017

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**Don't get distracted by Facebook!**

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3 events this week

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**The impact on our organizations and institutions will be profound.** Governments, armies, churches, universities, banks and companies all evolved to thrive in a relatively murky epistemological environment, in which most knowledge was local, secrets were easily kept, and individuals were, if not blind, myopic. When these organizations suddenly find themselves exposed to daylight, they quickly discover that they can no longer rely on old methods; they must respond to the new transparency or go extinct. Just as a living cell needs an effective membrane to protect its internal machinery from the vicissitudes of the outside world, so human organizations need a protective interface between their internal affairs and the public world, and the old interfaces are losing their effectiveness.

— Deb Roy & Dan Dennett, Our Transparent Future, 2016

**Trust and  
cooperation  
between humans  
and objects?**

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Empathy via  
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Blockchain and IoT-based  
tools for creating  
contracts between oneself,  
objects and others



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November 7th, 2017 All Day

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Make contracts with yourself, on terms you set, in order to gain control over your future behavior