

Homework 1 – CS 3162 – Fall 2022

An Analysis of Bill Joy's "Why the Future Doesn't Need Us"

DUE: Sunday, August 28, 2022 – by midnight



Please read Bill Joy's paper, "*Why the Future Doesn't Need Us*", *Wired* 8.04 (April 2000). I've uploaded a copy of his paper to eLearning. I've also uploaded a couple of other summary or critique documents that you might find interesting, but I am not requiring you to read those; they are simply additional reference materials for you to explore and utilize. You can find many others on the web.

Think carefully about what Joy is telling us and what some of the major implications are; then write answers to the following questions. The questions below are all suggestions; feel free to add questions of your own to your response instead of using mine, but then make them good, thoughtful questions. However, please answer at least 7 of my questions.

I don't care what format you use for your references.

Overall, I want a good solid analysis of Joy's highly controversial paper. Make your answers meaningful; no fluff. Include several references in your essay, too.

Preferred Length: at least 500 words (not counting your title, name, or references), double-spaced, 11-point font size. Make sure you include your name at the top of your paper or lose 10 points! (Yes!)

Upload your answers in PDF format to eLearning when you're done.

Name your file like this:

CS3162-HW1-F22-firstname-lastname.pdf

Why the Future Doesn't Need Us

1. Who is Bill Joy? What authority does he have to write on technology?
2. Who is Ray Kurzweil? What did Joy learn from him?
3. Does Joy agree or disagree with Kurzweil's basic claims? Explain.
4. Why, in Joy's opinion, is humility necessary in developing technology? Do you agree?
5. What is Joy's dilemma, with respect to knowledge? How does he view it, compared with Oppenheimer?
6. Summarize Joy's main thesis. Argue with it, if you want, or support it. But do one or the other.
7. On what ethical principles would you say Joy bases his critique of technology?
8. Joy believes that "we must find alternative outlets for our creative forces, beyond the culture of perpetual economic growth ..." What should we say to future generations who will face prospects of less prosperity than their parents if we curtail the technological development that drives economic growth?
9. "Each of us has our precious things," Joy says, "and as we care for them we locate the essence of our humanity. In the end, it is because of our great capacity for caring that I remain optimistic we will confront the dangerous issues now before us." Do you share his optimism? Will this eventuality come about without our efforts to ensure it? Are we on track to do what Joy believes we will do? Explain.
10. Are you more in agreement with Kurzweil or with Joy? Why?