The Unexpected Tech

A TUMBLOG on Technology Futures by Doug Ganss

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'Pre-social network' finds you friends in your hang-outs

IMAGINE a "pre-social" network - a bit like the "pre-crime" unit that figured in *Minority Report*. Such a network would predict where users will go, how long they will stay and who they are likely to meet there.

It may sound Orwellian, but a team which has developed technology that does this believes it could spawn a novel form of social network - one which tells its users where and when people with similar interests or habits are likely to congregate.

The system, named Jyotish after the Sanskrit term for Hindu astrology, was developed at Boeing's research centre at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Boeing needs it to predict the movements of work crews in its huge aircraft factories, but the system's developers, Long Vu and Klara Nahrstedt, reckon it can do a lot more.

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