

Having read this paper prior, I was initially worried I would end up fixating on the same points again from my first year. The idea of the memex machine as early computation and keyword-based search functions that would allow abstract concepts to be bridged together through association is the very foundation of modern search engines. The author even goes as far to present the memex machine as an extension of human senses, a sentiment that would be supported by Marshall McLuhan when he described technology as an extension of ourselves. I will mention that much like I did the first year, I forgot to check the date of this piece and became immensely confused why they were describing Google in such old-timey terms. I'm all for whatever "The Jetsons" aesthetic Vannevar Bush is making an argument for with computer design (such as levers and more analog based interfaces), but he initially sounded like a front-end developer experiencing ego death while building what would go on to become Ask Jeeves.

Approaching the end of the article, I did notice a quote that gave me pause. In Bush's outro where he examines the relationship technology has with people, he states,

*"(Man) has built a civilization so complex that he needs to mechanize his record more fully if he is to push his experiment to its logical conclusion and not merely become bogged down part way there by overtaxing his limited memory."*

In my first semester of school, I had read this same quote (from this same paper) and found the suggestion of relying more on computers to offload our own memory a solution to a learning disability I have.

A drawback to having ADHD is committing new thoughts to long term memory because sensory input overwhelms short term memory. To translate this to computer terms, I don't have enough RAM (short term memory) to let my brain save memories to the hard drive (long term memory) before experiencing data degradation, loss, or corruption. This is all to say I decided to take Bush's suggestion of relying more on computers to access bulk info seriously and began trying to remember things more as

keywords. I've been putting this style of memorization into practice since the fall of 2020 and the effects have been so noticeable, I can't recall how I was getting by before. Having modern technology in our pockets at every moment means that I can now spend more time stringing together abstract concepts to form new ideas rather than dwelling on details too early.