

Anatomy of an AI system

SHARE Lab & AI Now

As Artificial Intelligence becomes increasingly centralised behind closed silos created by Google, Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook, it is becoming harder to hold these systems to account. Whether it is a developer wanting to integrate AI services in new product development or a consumer wanting to know what data an AI will be harvesting from them, there is very little information available.

In this work, we wanted to uncover what is currently being covered up in AI. We used a process of 'investigative artworks' to explore the 'black box' AI at the heart of Alexa. Once we started we realised that AI has a very physical presence - servers require physical materials that are dug out of the ground by mining companies that employ people to do the work.

In this work what we're attempting to do is make available systems and tools for rigorously interrogating racial, gender and geographic bias that is known to be inherent in AI today. We will be able to have ways in which to hold closed AI to account in legal and social systems. The poster image overleaf is a work in progress - we'll be revealing more of this collaboration, between SHARE Lab and Kate Crawford from AI Now, in 2018.

- Vlada Joler, SHARE Lab

<https://labs.rs/en>



moz://a

Open IoT Studio

July - Dec 2017

Unbox Day: Future of Human Ecologies

Bangalore, India

We were delighted to be hosted in Bangalore by Quicksand and the Unbox Festival folks where we were joined by Sarah Allen as a follow up from MozFest, Shannon Dosemagen from Public Labs and a whole crew brought together by Bas Rajmakers of STBY and students from Design Academy Eindhoven. Together we set out to explore a more decentralised internet - posing the question that if we are to look at the health of the internet perhaps the answer is going to come from somewhere radically outside the digital circles we all mix in. With that in mind we explore the future of human ecologies....

The world of the future seems to be a smart, fast, connected digital world and it is easy to get seduced by the potential it promises. There is a lot of hype around data-driven futures that will make everything, including our relationships with each other and the places that we live in, smarter and more efficient. However, it is also important to focus on our shared humanity and the diversity of our complex lived experiences in our conversations about the future. How can we find expression and meaning in a world shaped by technology, data, and algorithms? How can we think of technology that can manifest our shared culture and values that are also unique to place and context? How can we be educated participants in our own future? This edition of UnBox hosted conversations about the role of technology in our society, and about how we can continue being human in a digital world.

- Unbox Team

<http://unboxfestival.com/>

https://issuu.com/helloqs/docs/unbox_futureofhumaneologies

Welcome!

Open IoT Studio at Austin 2017

Hello!

What a year! When we started out we were broadly looking at healthy practices across the internet of things. However, one of the big 'ah-ha' moments for us was when we started to focus on the voice-enabled internet through our Rockefeller Bellagio summit in June. Since then, we've been going deeper into what this means for the studio and what it means for the health of the internet.

Our thinking has very much been influenced by working with SuperFlux on the short film Our Friends Electric which helped to bring our values and way of working into a very accessible format. Something that working with Quicksand and the Unbox crew in Bangalore really helped with. We were lucky to have spent time with them in India during March and November exploring the deeply human nature of IoT and what it could mean to both India and the wider world. You can see this in our first issue of DING - and especially the hand of the master designer/crafter Pete Thomas in its stunning visual presence.

Thank you to everyone for everything in 2017. We are so looking forward to working with you all in 2018.

Lorraine, Michelle, Pete, Nick, Martin and Jon!



DING

Distributed globally November, 2017

DING is a magazine about the Internet and things. We founded this magazine because we saw a gap in the practice of slow, considered making and the breakneck speed of technology. We wanted to anthologize the sprawling online conversations and provide a place of reflection for people interested in crafting technology in more responsible ways. It is our place of refuge to discuss internet health and emerging technologies - slowly, sustainably and in print. Our inaugural issue focuses on craft, providing an in-depth look at how craft might help us understand decentralization.

<https://www.mozillapulse.org/entry/438>

Tiny Rolling IoT Home

On a road near you, 2018

The Tiny Rolling IoT home is an experiment into off-grid living and decentralised IoT. It questions our perceptions of home and 'smart' living spaces. The van is a home, an exhibition and a learning space, it's been fitted out with self made, open source, IoT technologies. You may have had a seat in the van and spoke with Rachel during MozFest, if you missed it don't worry the van will be touring further afield in 2018 - find her on social media @rachelrayns. #vanlife

- Rachel Rayns

Collaborating on Our Friends Electric

London & Dundee, UK

Our Friends Electric is a collaboration between the Open IoT Studio and Superflux. The project came out of a network convening in June with academics, technologists, designers and internet activists at Rockefeller's Bellagio Centre focusing on the current state of the voice enabled Internet. The purpose of this was to question what a healthy voice enabled internet could look like.

We then worked with Superflux to create three speculative concepts that brought discussions and themes to life from the workshop - personalisation, transparency, complexity and trust. The collaboration was interesting in exploring the value of physical prototyping when creating conversational 'agents'. The interactions had to look compelling so we integrated some technology to hint at the agents' behaviours, but none of the objects could actually process speech or connect to the internet. This allowed us to create the props quickly, shoot the films and exhibit them both at MozFest and London Design Festival. Having physical objects in front of you when discussing voice is useful for posing questions about interactions but when combined with the short films to elaborate on possible scenarios and use cases it creates a fascinating dialogue with members of the public.

- Martin Skelly & Loraine Clarke

<http://superflux.in/index.php/work/friends-electric/>

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Extended anatomy and human labour within machine intelligence systems

Case of Amazon Echo

