

Reflection 04

The web's greatest minds explain how we can fix the internet

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In the article “The web's greatest minds explain how we can fix the internet” 6 experts explain the current problems with the internet and offer solutions to these problems.

Three notable opinions from the article are as follows:

Tim Berners-Lee, the founder of the internet, originally created the internet to be open which was meant to have positive outcomes. Now however, the ways that large companies use personal data is ethically questionable. To solve the personal data problem he proposes “decoupling applications from the data they produce”. He explains that companies such as Facebook own the data that you produce while you are using their particular app. If a consumer were to be able to choose where they want their data stored, independent from a particular company, there would be more security and less manipulation by companies.

Jaron Lanier, a computer scientist and writer sees the problem of the web in its primary business model which is advertising. For Lanier, advertising is ‘manipulation for pay’ and should not be allowed. Lanier believes that if we ban advertising on the web new business models would emerge and the web would be a much better place.

Eric Jardine, research fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation thinks we should think about what kind of a value system we want to imbue in the web. He argues that the web as it was originally conceived resembles what the dark web looks like now. Perhaps augmenting the dark web to reflect positive and ethical values, while still enabling privacy and anonymity could be a good place to start thinking about how to change the internet for the better.

Resource:

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/the-webs-greatest-minds-on-how-to-fix-it>