***SOFTWARE STUDIES***

*Synopsis*

The main issue that I want to address is how there is a change in the way we manage our time using the computer as an extension of our minds – and particularly what sort of impact this has on our personal relationships. Computers are such a huge part of our daily life today; as result of new technologies constantly being developed, our daily life is made easier, leading to a general optimization and efficiency in managing tasks of our everyday life (on the surface, at least). A very simplistic comparison, just to start reflecting upon the subject that I want to address, would for instance be how our trusty paper-planners have been replaced by the digital calendar. The digital calendar keeps track of everything for us; the iPhone calendar can both be synchronized across several Apple devices and also with calendars from different originators on the web (e.g. Facebook events, AU timetables and iCal) – and this is probably something that most digital calendars today feature.

Now, the need for synchronized digital calendars gives us a hint that there is a lot for us to keep track on. We are living in a fast-moving world, which is both highlighted but also in some way generated through the web that constantly refreshes with new sources of information. With this fast-paced society follows an increased focus on productivity for the individual who often has to manage several plans and appointments during the time-span of a single week. We need the computer as an extension of the mind to be able to navigate successfully in our daily life. And we do use it, this extension of the mind, particularly the web also, to such an extent that when we happen to be in a situation where there is no roaming or Wi-Fi access (for instance when travelling) or our cell has shut down (maybe due to cold weather) – we almost feel disabled.

What I basically want to take a look at is how our computers, having this role of a mind-extender, change our perception of time, the way we manage our time, and how this in effect changes our relations to other people. How has, for instance, Facebook Messenger changed the way we interact with each other? I think there are lot of topics regarding the Messenger app that would be interesting to dig deeper into. One of the main feratures of the app is that it registers when we are online and displays it with a green icon to all of our Facebook friends. In the past year, Facebook has introduced many new features to the Messenger app, such as a bar in the top showing some of your friends that are active; most of the time, in my experience, it shows people you talk to a lot. Does this affect the relationship we have with the people whom we do not keep in contact with every other day? Do we forget someone because Facebook will only display a bunch of people to us, and due to the heavy load of information in our everyday life, we trust an app like Facebook Messenger to be responsible for who we should remember to keep in contact with. This statement might be taking it over the edge, because obviously the ideal thing would be for you to be able to remember all of the people you want to keep in contact with. This is another interesting issue though, because social media like Facebook provides for us the opportunity to create and maintain a large network to a very high degree. The entry page that Facebook has used for many years shows some dotted lines connecting people from different places all over the world. The slogan says, “Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life”. The way we network and interact with other people has changed because it is now so much easier to keep in touch with a lot of people. Is it not fantastic that we have the possibility to keep in touch with as many people as we’d like, no limitations? There are definitely positive sides to this development, it makes a lot of things easier (again, the mind extender) – however, I believe that for many people, this, in the end, might end up becoming stressful to them; that there is always this guilty conscience when you’ve left a message unopened for a while, or if one of your friends write to you more than you do in return, and so on – because it really is just so easy to actually access and keep in contact with other people through Facebook and the Messenger app.

These are just examples of how our personal perception of time (and how much time is actually “available” to us) are affected by computers extending our mind. It should be easy and effortless to keep in contact with your network through Facebook (compare it to writing letters and sending it across the country, or scheduling coffee appointments with all of your long-distance acquaintances), however when it gets this easy, I personally think we tend to overestimate ourselves and our time, which leads to stress.

Obviously, what I have written so far are mostly just assumptions that I make based on my own experience – I need to have some sources and look into some research and some opinions that can back up the stuff that I am proposing. I am planning on doing a wide search for articles and e-books with a variety of key-words that have a connection to the subject that I want to investigate. I’ve listed some key-words and -sentences in point format below. I already have a couple of articles that I have quickly skimmed through, each of them containing something more or less relevant to the subjects I am addressing. These are found using the AU Library search engine which I think is the one that I am mainly planning on using for information gathering

* The computer: an extension of the mind?
* Time in software
* Time management – less planning, more opportunities
* Ex. Facebook events, Facebook messenger, Google maps
* Does it change our perception of time?
* How does for instance Facebook Messenger change the way we interact with each other?
* Real-time web and fast streaming: how long do we chose for something to load today contra a couple of years ago
* Real-time web = Facebooks newsfeed. Benefits: increased user engagement (“flow”) and decreased server loads
* How real-time web and real-time computing changes the way we interact with each other.

Literature:

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Real-time_web>
* <https://www-cio-com-au.ez.statsbiblioteket.dk:12048/article/610552/google-maps-will-now-tell-how-busy-place-real-time/>
* <http://web.b.ebscohost.com.ez.statsbiblioteket.dk:2048/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=8be5f1d5-c7af-4c3b-9e97-3a93e92bf951%40sessionmgr102&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=112673498&db=bth>
* <https://www.statsbiblioteket.dk/au/?locale=da#/search?query=recordID:%22summon_FETCH-LOGICAL-a844-9ba35967118beaaae2c28a354a5cae2c48e02caf259b0132a134e47b7a436e343%22&recordId=summon_FETCH-LOGICAL-a844-9ba35967118beaaae2c28a354a5cae2c48e02caf259b0132a134e47b7a436e343>
* <http://web.b.ebscohost.com.ez.statsbiblioteket.dk:2048/ehost/resultsadvanced?vid=10&sid=830cc09d-829c-4b14-bf23-e1374467ab7e%40pdc-v-sessmgr01&bquery=planning+social+media&bdata=JmRiPXNiaCZkYj1hbnQmZGI9YWZ0JmRiPXJmaCZkYj1idGgmZGI9YzhoJmRiPXVmaCZkYj1ubGViayZkYj1laGgmZGI9ZXJpYyZkYj1oaWEmZGI9aWJoJmRiPWxucCZkYj1seGgmZGI9bWFoJmRiPXJ2aCZkYj1vYWgmZGI9YndoJmRiPXJpaCZkYj1ycGgmZGI9cnNtJmRiPXMzaCZkYj10cmgmZGI9YnJpJnR5cGU9MSZzaXRlPWVob3N0LWxpdmU%3d>