Smart Home Ambient Intelligence: a new limit for our freedom?

ethical concerns about voice assistants

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Presentation Outline

Smart Home Ambient Intelligence: a new limit for our freedom? ethical concerns about voice assistants

Introduction

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Technological mediations further limiting our freedom
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Technological Mediation

While fulfilling their function, technologies do much more: they give shape to what we do and how we experience the world. And in doing so they contribute actively to the ways we live our lives (Verbeek 2011)

- Technologies are not neutral intermediaries
- Technologies play an actively mediating role
- Artifacts are bearers of morality (Latour 1992)
- Morality is a matter of human-technology associations
- Two perspectives of mediation:
 - Perception
 - Action: I will focus on human freedom

Definitions I

Ambient Intelligence

Ambient Intelligence is an approach that combines two major technologies: Ubiquitous Computing and Intelligent User Interfaces (Brey 2005)

Voice Assistant

A voice assistant is a digital assistant that uses voice recognition, natural language processing and speech synthesis to provide aid to users through phones and voice recognition applications (WhatIs 2017)

Definitions II

Freedom

Two forms (Brey 2005, 2006):

- Negative Freedom:
 - act without obstruction or interference by others
 - ▶ absence of limits and external constraints

example:

- Positive Freedom (Human Autonomy): I will focus on this
 - mastery over your own life
 - think freely and make your own decisions

Case Study: Google Home - Google Assistant Actions



Google Assistant Actions

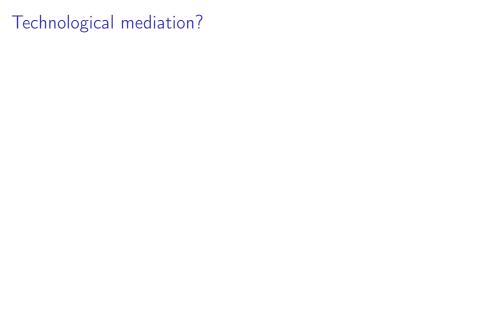
Script



Behaviour Steering

Moral Laziness

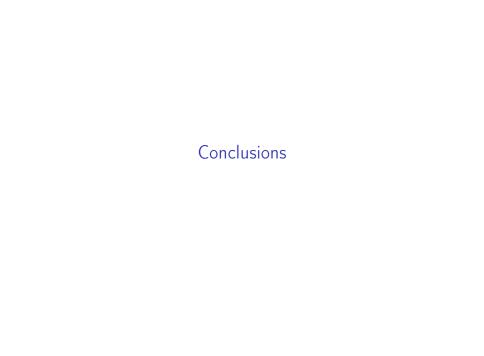
Technocracy





Possible Remedies

Possible Remedies



Conclusions

Bibliography I

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