Technology can be good or bad depends on itself

Yifan Yang 40038814

A gun can hurt people and it can also protect people. When it comes to technology, a lot of people hold a firm belief that it cannot define technology good or bad because it depends on how individual uses it. However, some technologies can be inherently bad or limited to do bad things. From the macro side, technology can also be defined as good or bad depends on its overall result. Sometimes it is hard to eliminate the bad effect of technology completely no matter how people use it because the bad effect is decided by technology itself.

Technology can be inherently bad to some extent. Like the same logic as Langdon Winner's idea: some technologies are inherently political, there is a kind of technologies that are inherently harmful to human health or be inherently unethical, which means that these technologies can be bad in a special perspective no matter how people use it. People still choose to use these technologies because advantages overweigh disadvantages. Take big data for example (example reuse from my mini-assignment2), it is a technology that can deal with huge data sets that human can never process. While big data saving huge manpower, users' privacy is also being violated inevitably. Junior big data developer can collect your data and predict your behavior in percentage based on a mass of data. Even worse, Experienced big data developer can analyze your data instead of simple probability distribution. Your data will be tracked over time and curated into a very personal profile, including your interests, shopping habits, political views, which is creepy for most people [1].

The usage scenarios of some technology can be limited to only do bad things. The main reason that technologies cannot be defined as good or bad because their effects can be changeable depends on how people use it. Different people may use the same technology in different ways and lead to different consequences. However, this opinion ignores the fact that the usage scenario is a property of technology itself. For example, the usage scenarios of Swiss Army Knife are wider than the usage scenarios of plastic ruler. Usage scenarios of technology are dependent on technology itself, and people are the decider to use the technology appropriately. When the usage scenarios of technology are very limited and the technology is designed to do bad things, it is hard for people to use it in good way. Take cheat engine in multiplayer online game for example, it's a technology that allow users to get unfair advantage over an opponent [2]. And people cannot use cheat engine to kill cheaters in game because cheat engine can easily make cheaters invincible (god mode). It is hard to say cheaters use cheat engine inappropriately. Cheaters use this technology precisely in the situation that the technology is designed for and can only produce bad and unethical results. Obviously, game cheat engine is a bad technology because its usage scenario is just cheating.

For technologies that are used on a large scale, it will finally make a good or bad impact to our society since individual choice is relatively faint. Take nuclear weapon for example, though it maintained balance between the great powers, the balance is so delicated because humans are sometimes short-sighted. On 20 October 2018, [Donald Trump](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Trump) announced that he was withdrawing the US from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty due to supposed Russian non-compliance. The US formally suspended the treaty on 1 February 2019, and Russia did so on the following day in response [3]. Nuclear weapon can be defined as bad technology from the point of view of the human species.

In conclusion, the viewpoint that *technology cannot be good or bad because people can decide how to use it* overemphasizes the subjective intiative of people. Technology can have its inherent property. The using scenarios of technology is dependent on technology itself. Individual choice cannot decide technology effect in the long run. To use technology more appropriately, people must learn how to treat technology carefully because they can not control the technology completely.

References:

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