Week One: High Tech Impact

Class Notes

A) Introductions and plan for the class

B) Moore's Law

> Processing power doubles every 2 years. Within a few decades, this results in thousands of times more powerful computing, for no more money. This becomes a powerful engine driving change.

C) Aside: Background Concerns

> Globalization – It's practically forcing us to use the latest and greatest technologies
> Pace of Change – We may not have the time needed to adjust to the pace of change

D) McKinsey – Disruptive Technologies

1. Mobile Internet
2. Automation of Knowledge Work
3. Internet of Things
4. Cloud Technology
5. Advanced Robotics
6. Autonomous Vehicles
7. Next-generation Genomics
8. Energy Storage
9. 3D Printing
10. Advanced Materials

E) Kranzberg's Laws

- Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral
- Invention is the mother of necessity
- Technology comes in packages, big and small
- Although technology might be a prime element in many public issues, nontechnical factors take precedence in technology-policy decisions
- All history is relevant, but the history of technology is the most relevant
- Technology is a very human activity – and so is the history of technology

F) Possible Topics for Week 2 & Week 3

> Social Impact, Cognitive Impact, Community Impact, Employment Impact, Family Impact, Education Impact, Global Impact, Economic Impact, Ethical Impact, National Impact, Privacy Impact, Personal Impact, Health Impact, Professional Impact, Urban Impact, ??? Impact

The website LIFEcourses.ca will contain copies of all the material that I present in class. There's no need to take notes, … unless you prefer to take notes.

If any of you have material that you would like to share with the rest of the class, get me an electronic copy and I'll post in on the website.

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