

Social sustainability and IT

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Is technology really social?

Why bother with social sustainability in relation to IT development?

Is Social Media Disconnecting Us From the Big Picture?



Social media

- Connecting – but also disconnecting?

Information Overload Helps Fake News Spread, and Social Media Knows It

Understanding how algorithm manipulators exploit our cognitive vulnerabilities empowers us to fight back

AUTHORS



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Credit: Nick Higgins

Consider Andy, who is worried about contracting COVID-19. Unable to read all the articles he sees on it, he relies on trusted friends for tips. When one opines on Facebook that pandemic fears are overblown, Andy dismisses the idea at first. But then the hotel where he works closes its doors, and with his job at risk, Andy starts wondering how serious the threat from the new virus really is. No one he knows has died, after all. A colleague posts an article about the COVID “scare” having been created by Big Pharma in collusion with corrupt politicians, which jibes with Andy’s distrust of government. His

Social in its use

For example:

Shared knowledge – Wikipedia

- Accessible knowledge for all (with internet connection...)
- Not always trustworthy?
- Bias?

Science · Analysis

Canadian Nobel scientist's deletion from Wikipedia points to wider bias, study finds



Physicist Donna Strickland's case wasn't unique: A new study suggests why women's profiles get erased

[Manjula Selvarajah](#) · CBC News · Posted: Aug 19, 2021 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: August 19



Social in the development

- Norms
- Group-think
- Unintended

consequences hard to predict

How groupthink hurts agile teams

Groupthink is a group dynamics theory developed by Irving Janus in 1971. Janus described it as the tendency of some groups to try to minimize conflict and reach consensus without sufficiently testing, analyzing, and evaluating their ideas. Janus's research suggested that the development of a group's norms tends to place limits around the independent and creative thinking of the group members. As a result, a group's analysis may be biased, leading to poor decisions.

The nature and dynamics of agile teams make them particularly susceptible to groupthink. The most common agile self-organized teams are cohesive units that are insulated from the mainstream of the larger organization. They learn to work together, learn to work together, and work to achieve their goals all at the same time.

OCTOBER 24, 2020

BLOG, SCIENCE POLICY, SPECIAL EDITION: SCIENCE POLICY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Racial Discrimination in Face Recognition Technology

Co-produced with society

Technological development and societal development is tightly connected.

MIT
Technology
Review

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Videoconferencing

As the coronavirus pandemic has changed the world we live in, forcing us to avoid contact with others and shelter in place, videoconferencing has exploded in popularity. A few months ago, this technology wouldn't have made our list, but now it's proving indispensable. Video telephony has been around in some form since the 1970s, but it wasn't until the web debuted that the technology took off.

See you soon!

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