

Assignment 3 – COSC-3325-01, Due Date: March 26, 2012

(Book selection) You may choose a book that will be useful for your term paper, or you may choose an entirely different topic for the book report. See Book list for a long list of suggested books (listed in APPENDIX).

Guidelines: Your book report should be roughly 1000 words. Do not try to summarize the whole book. Give an overview of what it's about, then pick a few critical themes or issues and discuss how the author presents them. Analyze and comment; do not just summarize. Tell which points you think are valid and which you do not agree with, and why. Add your own examples, counterexamples, or arguments, if appropriate.

Some books on the book list are general evaluations of computers or technology. Some take one side (pro or anti-technology) and argue it strongly. Read critically. Think about and include counterarguments.

If you choose a book that is NOT on the list of suggested books, include the following information: title, author, date of publication, and a sentence or two on what it is about if not obvious from the title. Each student should prepare a distinct book.

Warning: The campus library may have some of these books, but in many cases, only one copy. You can get some from Lamar University Interlibrary Loan, which may take a week or more (and you may have to return them after only a week or two). Some of the books are available in local libraries or bookstores. Start early.

APPENDIX: LIST OF BOOKS

1. Floyd Abrams, *Speaking Freely: Trials of the First Amendment* (Viking Penguin, 2005) How do the principles in this book apply to controversies about content on the Web?
2. Robert M. Anderson, Robert Perrucci, Dan E. Schendel, and Leon E. Trachtman, *Divided Loyalties: Whistle-Blowing at BART* (Purdue University, 1980). This book describes the efforts of several engineers to get computer-related safety problems fixed during the construction of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit System.
3. Frederick Bennett, *Computers As Tutors: Solving the Crisis in Education* (Fabien, 1999). Proposals for productive ways to use computers in education (a controversial topic).
4. Sven Birkerts, *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in An Electronic Age* (Faber and Faber, 1994). Birkerts is a critic of computers; he writes his books on a typewriter.
5. Anne Wells Branscomb, *Who Owns Information?* (Basic Books, 1994).
6. Frances Cairncross, *The Death of Distance: How the Communications Revolution Is Changing Our Lives* (Harvard Business School Press, 2001).
7. Dorothy Denning and Peter Denning, *Internet Besieged: Countering Cyberspace Scofflaws* (ACM Press, Addison-Wesley, 1998)
8. Peter J. Denning, ed., *The Invisible Future: The Seamless Integration of Technology Into Everyday Life* (McGraw Hill, 2001).
9. Peter Denning, *Talking Back to the Machine: Computers and Human Aspiration* (Copernicus Books, 1999).
10. Peter Denning and Robert Metcalfe, *Beyond Calculation: The Next Fifty Years of Computing* (Copernicus, 1997).
11. Michael Dertouzos, *What Will Be: How the New World of Information Will Change Our Lives* (HarperEdge, 1997). How accurate were his predictions?
12. Whitfield Diffie and Susan Landau, *Privacy on the Line: The Politics of Wiretapping and Encryption* (MIT Press, 1998).

13. James A. Dorn, ed., *The Future of Money in the Information Age* (Cato Institute, 1997).
14. Hubert Dreyfus, *What Computers Still Can't Do: A Critique of Artificial Reason* (MIT Press, 1992). A report on this book should include some discussion about how well Dreyfus's arguments have held up over the past decade. (Can computers now do some of the things he said they could not do?)
15. David H. Flaherty, *Protecting Privacy in Surveillance Societies* (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1989).
16. Samuel C. Florman, *Blaming Technology: The Irrational Search for Scapegoats*, (St. Martin's Press, 1981). A report on this book should include some discussion of how his ideas relate to computer issues.
17. Bill Gates, *The Road Ahead* (Viking Press, 1995). Gates made some predictions in this book. How accurate have they been?
18. Neil Gershenfeld, *When Things Start to Think* (Owl Books, 1999).
19. Mike Godwin, *Cyber Rights: Defending Free Speech in the Digital Age* (Times Books, 1998).
20. Jack Goldsmith and Tim Wu, *Who Controls the Internet?* (Oxford University Press, 2006)
21. Peter Huber, *Law and Disorder in Cyberspace* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1997). Criticizes FCC regulation of telecommunications, showing examples where regulations have delayed introduction of new technologies.
22. Merritt Ierley, *Wondrous Contrivances: Technology at the Threshold* (Clarkson Potter, 2002). Looks at expectations for and attitudes about many earlier technological devices.
23. Joel Kotkin, *The New Geography: How the Digital Revolution Is Reshaping the American Landscape* (Random House, 2000).
24. Thomas K. Landauer, *The Trouble With Computers: Usefulness, Usability, and Productivity* (MIT Press, 1995).
25. Anthony Lewis, *Freedom for the Thought That We Hate: A Biography of the First Amendment* (Basic Books, 2008). How do the principles in this book apply to controversies about content on the Web?
26. Steven Levy, *Crypto: How the Code Rebels Beat the Government---Saving Privacy in the Digital Age* (Viking, 2001; paperback 2004).
27. Steven Levy, *Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution* (Doubleday, 1984).
28. Stan Liebowitz and Stephen Margolis, *Winners, Losers, and Microsoft* (Independent Institute, 1999).
29. Jessica Littman, *Digital Copyright: Protecting Intellectual Property on the Internet* (Prometheus Books, 2001).
30. Jerry Mander, *In the Absence of the Sacred: The Failure of Technology and the Survival of the Indian Nations* (Sierra Club Books, 1991). Mander is a strong critic of technology. Read at least Parts 1 and 2. Parts 3 and 4 are interesting but not much related to this course.
31. Joel Mokyr, *The Gifts of Athena: Historical Origins of the Knowledge Economy*, (Princeton University Press, 2002).
32. Joel Mokyr, *The Lever of Riches: Technological Creativity and Economic Progress* (Oxford University Press, 1990).
33. Glyn Moody, *Rebel Code: Inside Linux and the Open Source Revolution* (Perseus, 2001).
34. Alan Murray, *The Wealth of Choices* (Crown Business, 2000).
35. John Naisbitt, *Global Paradox: The Bigger the World Economy, the More Powerful Its Smallest Players* (William Morrow and Company, 1994).
36. Peter Neumann, *Computer-Related Risks* (Addison Wesley, 1995). Neumann is the founder and moderator of the comp.risks forum on Usenet.
37. Donald Norman, *The Invisible Computer: Why Good Products Can Fail, The Personal Computer Is So Complex, and Information Appliances Are the Solution* (MIT Press, 1998).
38. Donald Norman, *Things That Make Us Smart: Defending Human Attributes in the Age of the Machine* (Addison Wesley, 1993).
39. Andrew Oram et al., *Peer-to-Peer: Harnessing the Power of Disruptive Technologies* (O'Reilly, 2001).
40. George Orwell, 1984. Orwell's dystopian novel in which the totalitarian government controlled the people via ubiquitous telescreens. (Orwell introduced the term "Big Brother" for the government.) Tell how realistic Orwell's view of the future turned out to be. What did he foresee accurately, and what did he miss?
41. Ivars Peterson, *Fatal Defect: Chasing Killer Computer Bugs* (Times Books, Random House, 1995).
42. Henry Petroski, *To Engineer Is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design* (St. Martin's Press, 1985). This book is more about engineering in general, not computer systems design, but the principles and lessons carry over. In your report, tell how the book is relevant to computer systems.
43. Neil Postman, *Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1992). Another critic of technology.

44. Virginia Postrel, *The Future and Its Enemies: The Growing Conflict Over Creativity, Enterprise, and Progress* (Free Press, 1998).
45. Douglas S. Robertson, *The New Renaissance: Computers and the Next Level of Civilization* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1998).
46. Gene Rochlin, *Trapped in the Net: The Unanticipated Consequences of Computerization* (Princeton Univ. Press, 1997).
47. Jeffrey Rosen, *The Unwanted Gaze: The Destruction of Privacy in America* (Random House, 2000)
48. Kirkpatrick Sale, *Rebels Against the Future: The Luddites and Their War Against the Industrial Revolution: Lessons for the Computer Age* (Addison Wesley, 1995). A vehement critic of computers. You can skim the first part of the book, about the original Luddites.
49. Scott Shane, *Dismantling Utopia: How Information Ended the Soviet Union* (I. R. Dee, 1994).
50. Ithiel de Sola Pool, *Technologies of Freedom* (Harvard University Press, 1983). About communications technologies and government policy. Although it's a little old, this book has a lot of relevance to issues about the Internet.
51. Bruce Sterling, *The Hacker Crackdown: Law and Disorder on the Electronic Frontier* (Bantam Books, 1992).
52. Clifford Stoll, *The Cuckoo's Egg: Tracking a Spy Through the Maze of Computer Espionage* (Doubleday, 1989).
53. Clifford Stoll, Siobhan Adcock, ed., *High Tech Heretic: Reflections of a Computer Contrarian* (Anchor Books, 2000).
54. Charles Sykes, *The End of Privacy* (St. Martin's Press, 1999)
55. Adam Thierer and Clyde Wayne Crews Jr., eds. *Who Rules The Net? Internet Governance and Jurisdiction* (Cato Institute, 2003). Laws and culture vary among countries. How should cyberspace disputes, especially international disputes about free speech, intellectual property, privacy, etc., be resolved?
56. Adam Thierer and Wayne Crews, eds., *Copy Fights: The Future of Intellectual Property in the Information Age* (Cato Institute, 2002)
57. Linus Torvalds and David Diamond, *Just for Fun: The Story of an Accidental Revolutionary* (HarperBusiness, 2001).
58. Eugene Volokh, *Freedom of Speech in Cyberspace from the Listener's Perspective: Private Speech Restrictions, Libel, State Action, Harassment, and Sex* (Univ. of Chicago Legal Forum, 1996). You may have to get this from a law library.
59. William Wresch, *Disconnected: Haves and Have-Nots in the Information Age* (Rutgers Univ. Press, 1996)