

Homo-technicus: an interconnected evolution.

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Abstract

This paper considers how trends and fashion in computing technologies might influence a global system of computing ethics. We propose that a new evolution of the human-species, Homo-technicus, has occurred. An evolution spawned by the information and computing technology era that we now live in. We examine how Homo-technicians, across differing cultures and continents use fashionable technologies to facilitate their life-journeys. We also examine how this newly evolved human species is currently able to apply cultural and ethical systems to the use of computing technologies, with little or no training, either in the use of the technology, or of any computing specific ethic or code of practice. We also consider the convergence, if any, of cultural behaviours and value systems into a system of global computing ethics, and by doing so test theories of future computing ethical systems predicted by Deborah Johnson and Krystyna Górniak-Kocikowska and discuss both the relevance and desirability of their proposals. This paper concludes by proposing that it is not in the human interest for local and cultural ethical systems to converge in to a single, or global system of computing ethics. We, instead, propose that human 'being' is enriched by the acceptance of, and tolerance for, divergent cultures. Our future, as Homo-technicians, lies as a colourful and culturally-diverse cyber-society that solves computer-ethical policy vacuums using local ethical systems.