What I’ve Learned About Computing

CS 101. Computers: Applications and Implications

Table of Contents

1 Introduction 1
2 Prepare to Succeed! 3
3 How the Internet Works 5
4 How Search and Digital Knowledge Works 7
5 How Privacy and Security Works 8
6 Wellness and Making Computing Changes 9
7 How Software Development Works 11
8 How Hardware Manufacturing Works 14
9 The State of Computing 18
10 How to Finance your Greatest Dream 20

Bibliography 23

© 2019 Van Londen
1 Introduction

Hello! I reside in Oregon of the USA.

I am your instructor for this course as well as Gender & Technology, Web Design, Web Management, and Ethics in Computer Science courses. I have two grown children and a scruffy, noisy dog. I have a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, which includes Art, Computer Science, and Instructional Technology. I've been teaching courses at OSU since 2004.

I like to use my phone to listen to web pages and audiobooks when I am riding the bus or it is too hot to use my computer. On my Chromebook, I use the Chrome’s SpeakIt extension to listen to articles I want to add to course materials. Adding an extension to Chrome is easy...I use the 3-dot menu to locate the More Tools > Extensions screen, then scroll to the bottom to add a new one. Once I search for listening, I have a few options to install. These options show up next to the Address bar of the browser so I can just click when I want to listen.

I set up Canvas Notifications for all my courses so I am immediately notified when students have written to me via the Inbox or Assignment Comments. The first deadline is easy to find in the Coming Up list, the Assignment/Module list, or the Calendar.

Because I have so many Canvas Discussions to score each week, I use the expand/contract icons, the search, and the reveal arrow to narrow down the amount of scrolling. Because I make a lot of typos, I use the Edit thread menu to fix problems. I use the link, image, media, and list editing icons to improve the way the threads look. To quickly get to Canvas, I just type part of the word 'oregon' and Chrome remembers my options. I choose the correctly spelled URL to get here.

At home, I use a 14" Acer Chromebook computer with a 1080px resolution high definition display. The keyboard is compact and the trackpad is big. The Chrome OS operating system is "edgar" version 10176.72.0 (Official Build) stable-channel and the browser is Chrome 64.0.3282.167, which I found by typing: chrome://system/ into the Chrome browser address bar. This screen loads slowly for some reason. I also found it by clicking on the system settings icon clicking the Device option. The Random Access Memory (RAM) holds 2gb of data. Read-only Memory (ROM) is harder to locate. I used a Google search to locate articles that tell me I have 8Mb. The system settings tell me there is an Intel(R) Celeron(R) CPU number N3160 running at 1.60GHz. The computer comes with an internal Solid State Drive (SSD) which holds 32Gb of data. I can plug in two USB devices, one MDMI, and one pair of headphones. It also has a security cable port.
My hard drive (SSD) is not well organized because it is mainly a downloads folder, which I delete periodically after moving the files to folders on my two Google cloud drives. I made folders for each class on the drive and within them, add term-specific folders, then I add ShortCuts (aliases or favorites) to the system menu. All other projects I'm involved in have folders inside folders so I can quickly locate and backup multiple items. Using search is the fastest way to find a file, however. The Chromebook does not have a 'desktop' area, so I can't overrun that area with all of my files, which would slow down processing.

Since I learned to use an Apple IIe computer in 1985, I have been typing with keystrokes. I started with Save, then Open, then close the Window, select All, Bold...and many others.

I use the Grammarly for Chrome grammar checker because I am an inaccurate typist. I described above how I added an extension for SpeakIT and the process is the same. Google Docs does have spell checking but it isn't as helpful as Grammarly. It also works well in Wordpress, where I spend a lot of time. I forget to add items to the personal dictionary, which would save me time in the long run.

Extra Credit: I see my Canvas calendar inside my Google Calendar, but it doesn't sync often enough to be helpful. It is there by default when I am logged into my OSU Google account. I can change the settings and activate notifications if I like.
2 Prepare to Succeed!

The Writing Samples article shows four ways to write but demonstrates the required style for this course. In general, the paragraphs must be written in the third-person and state who said what with lots of detail. The titles of articles should be hyperlinked to their sources, and keywords must be bolded. There is no need to introduce each article beyond stating the title and what it says. And the writing must be in our own words rather than copied from the textbook.

The Modern Learning article mentions several ways that teaching and learning have changed recently. Learning may include searching for definitions, tutorials, detailed explanations, and interactive media to increase knowledge and skills. Learning can also occur without lectures or books and often takes place when students interact with each other around a shared concept, which some call ‘open source’ or ‘crowdsourced’ or ‘crowdlearning’. Kapur says that when groups come up with ideas together, they often begin to understand the structure of solutions so they can solve big problems. Mitra suggests that we don’t need teachers when students can teach themselves if they just have access to devices that connect to knowledge banks like a search engine or video channel.

The Obligations article notes that this course is for lower division students from any college. EECS and OSU expect up to a 12-hour per week commitment, though in the summer, it could be more due to the shorter time-frame. Students are expected to write like professionals after using the instructions, videos, and criteria. When research is required, it is a good idea to consult with the Librarians at OSU or Answerland. Students should ask for help using the Canvas Inbox. When students have questions about scores, then they should ask in the Assignment Comments.

The Cyberbullying article mentions that 70% of students have been bullied online and that schools may not take the issue seriously. This could be because the incidents happen outside of classroom communications tools like Canvas. Social media like Facebook and Twitter are the main places and some people have been prosecuted for causing psychological harm and even death. Some people will not only harass in writing, but by hacking, tricking, flaming, excluding, stalking, outing, trolling, catfishing, and masquerading. Some are chronic perpetrators never get caught because they hide behind their anonymous account name. Facebook and other sites provide a way to report bullies or to block them. Campus security or local law enforcement can help victims to take action other than blocking. The Civil Rights Act and Title IX Act have provisions for prosecution. Social sites will sometimes help by providing details about removing offending materials from websites.

The Avoiding Plagiarism article mentions how plagiarism, cheating, and copyright infringement are three separate problems to avoid. Quotation marks must be placed around any text that is copied from someone else’s writing. Quote only
a few items in a section/chapter. Students must write in their own words otherwise. Students should use a **bibliography tool** to keep track of each source they mention in their writing so that they can easily make inline citations for quotes and other ideas, laws, statistics, etc. If displaying an image or movie, then students need to add a **copyright statement** that uses a symbol, year, and copyright owner’s name. In some cases it is OK not to ask for permission to use other people’s media because of the **Fair Use** provision of the USA Copyright law. Cheating by collaborating, using other student’s sources, using work from other class projects, or purchasing finished work isn’t allowed unless specifically stated.

**Checking Originality in TurnItIn** diagrams a comparison of **plagiarized versus synthesized text** with **inline citations** that use a combination of hyperlinked titles and parenthetical references after sentences/paragraphs. The colored **flag icons** with percentages are not as reliable as looking at the Originality report. If the report shows any **highlighted** text, then it can be corrected and resubmitted before the deadline. Highlighting of cover pages, common phrases, and bibliography entries can be ignored.
3 How the Internet Works

Internet: Wires, Cables, and Wifi describes undersea cables that connect each continent and country to other continents and countries. They span across oceans and contain high-speed fibre optic wires that can send bits of data at the speed of light, which is faster than electricity or copper. Radio waves are the frequency that wifi signals are sent on from our devices to a router. That router often connects with a modem that uses Ethernet/copper cables to connect to an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

The Internet: Encryption & Public Keys and HTTP and HTML says that Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is the language that one computer uses to talk to another computer over the Internet. A computer will use HTTP get requests to ask the other computer for some data. Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) is an encrypted version of that data transfer. Modern encryption uses 256 bits to secure a transfer, which would take trillions of years to decrypt. The internet makes use of asymmetric keys and digital certificates between one device and another to create an additional level of security, which is also called Secure Socket Layer (SSL) or Transport Layer Security (TLS). When you see https:// in the browser it means that SSL or TSL is active.

The Internet: Packets, Routing, and Reliability mentions that information (data) sent from one device to another doesn’t stay together or follow a straight path...it is sent in packets, or chunks, of binary code, to various web servers as if in a maze. The maze contains many other web servers that send and receive packets. Some of the packets have cookies attached which the browser can use to speed up logging in or other preferences. Routers send and receive packets via wi-fi signals to the modem, which connects to the ISP’s physical cables in the wall of a building. Those cables connect to ISP web servers which reassemble the packets so the entire message can viewed.

The Internet: IP Addresses and DNS says that Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) is the name given to the process explained above...the sending and receiving of packets via signals and cables to display web pages. It is the World Wide Web (WWW). Domain Name Servers (DNS) host the names of websites that point to specific Internet Protocol (IP) addresses on web servers. Web servers are large computers designed to store huge amounts of data so humans can view and interact with web pages or stream media.

The Internet: HTTP and HTML explains that browsers are designed to display web pages that humans request from their devices. Browsers read Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), which is a set of tags (or marks) added to text and images to display them with style, functionality, and links.
Images, Pixels, and RGB describes how HTML pages can include images and movies, however they are requested separately than the HTML pages and may load slower than the text. Images are recreated with pixels, which are one dot of red (R), green (G), and blue (B) light on a screen. The resolution of a screen is the height and width dimension of pixels it has. Density of pixels on the screen allows even more detail. The RGB values for a color are stored in eight bits (a byte) up to 255. Instead of representing color with binary, hexadecimal code is often used because it reduces the complexity of a long set of ones and zeros. Photo filters modify these RGB values.

Here is a diagram illustrating how the Internet works:
4 How Search and Digital Knowledge Works

This content is provided in a shared presentation file, which anyone at OSU can view.
5 How Privacy and Security Works

This content is provided in a shared presentation file, which anyone at OSU can view.
In *Benefits of Play Revealed in Research on Video Gaming*, Peter Gray says that video gaming may lead to **improved cognition** because it requires complex **multitasking** and **strategy flexibility**, the meeting of **goals**, and the building of **spatial awareness**. Strategy role playing and problem solving at a fast pace appears to exercise the mind. People have to devise creative solutions to solve problems, especially when working in teams. The **Kovess-Masfety study** in 2016 says that playing video games for 5 or more hour per week increases intellect, academics, peer relationships, and mental health. Video gaming children tend to be **open** to new experiences and **motivated** by the meeting of goals. Kids also improve their **emotional regulation** because they are practicing getting out of stressful situations.

In *The Internet Has Become the External Hard Drive for Our Memories*, Daniel Wegner, et al, describes how Google and the Internet are changing our brains. We no longer **delegate** the memory of who can help us with a task, but how to search for that task. In general, people **off-load memories** to others to free up space in our brains and provide depth of collective knowledge, which experts called **distributed**. This **transactive memory system** whereby personal interactions build memory is being depleted because we are now offloading memories to a computer cloud rather than into our own DNA. People now tend to make little effort to remember details unless specifically asked to and think first to consult the Internet if their memory is challenged. They also may feel less smart if they do not consult the Internet, as the **instant gratification** it provides is motivating, which tends to create a feeling of **false superiority**.

When I first tried the *Are You Addicted to the Internet? Quiz* a few days ago, I scored low. Today, I scored 12, which is on the borderline between addiction and not. The quiz questions seem relevant to determining addiction, though I am not an expert. The results did edify my expectations, as I do consider myself addicted to computer use, which nearly always includes use of the Internet. The questions are a good reminder that I could get out of my chair and do more physical or creative work or more socializing. I may have a slight addiction to the internet but not an addiction to something specific; I don't gamble but do watch a lot of TV online. In *Internet Gaming Disorder vs. Internet Addiction Disorder*, Mark Griffiths says that Internet Gaming Disorder is more about **impulse control**, which is different from Internet Addiction Disorder, which is more about **behavior**. Social networking may fall into both categories.

John Suler, describes in *The Online Disinhibition Effect* the concept of **disinhibition**, which is when people do or say things online that they would not normally do or say. Sometimes what people reveal, where they visit, or how they act is benign but sometimes it is considered toxic. Sometimes their interactions are
therapeutic and sometimes malicious. They might want to dissociate from their real self by acting anonymously and invisibly. **Solipsistic introjection** can skew a person’s perception of other people’s messages/interactions. The Internet does afford the ability to delay responses, but some people react quickly, without thinking, which can alienate others and the feedback loop tends to reinforce this problem. (Suler 2004)

Our bodies react poorly to all the physical changes that happen when using computers. According to [From neck problems to hearing loss: How technology might affect your health](https://www.betterhelp.com), seven major physical problems can occur. **Tech neck** occurs when we hang our 12-pound head down to see the phone or laptop screen for many hours per day. **Sleep deprivation** can occur when we are hyper-vigilant about answering the phone and looking at a bright screen at night when our bodies are expecting darkness. **Blackberry thumb** occurs when we write text messages too many hours in the day. Our grip becomes claw-like after holding the phone or texting. **Hearing loss and ringing** in the ears occurs when we frequently listen to devices at high volumes. Young adults frequently listen to music at more than 89 decibels, which is over the recommended limit. **E-mentia**, occurs when we offload our transactive memory system to computers rather than try to remember it based on relationships in the physical world. **Laptop laziness** can create obesity. When we are too lazy to get up and do other activities and slump at our computers for long periods of time, we tend to gain weight. **Computer vision syndrome** occurs when we spend too many hours each day in front of a bright screen. This can include strain, double-vision, and short-sightedness.

In the 1980s, the first college course that required me to use a computer, also taught me to use **copy, cut, and paste** from the keyboard to reduce muscle fatigue in the dominant hand. Now, I can use the keyboard for making screenshots, saving, opening, closing, switching tabs, tabbing backwards, finding, selecting, bolding, and undoing. I especially take advantage of the zoom in and out keystroke because my eyes get tired of trying to read tiny text!

After 33 years of computing, I can say that the cost of using a computer more than 8 hours per day has been high. I’ve spent nearly $10,000 at massage, chiropractor, and acupuncturists offices trying to fix my neck and back when I know that if I stopped computing 11+ hours each day, I would not be in pain. Two physical therapists demonstrate [3 Quick Ways to Relieve Gamer's Neck Pain or E-sport](https://www.betterhelp.com) which are simple sitting exercises that I will try! Normally, I stretch my neck side to side several times per day. I am now stretching my hips and arm sockets at 6:45am every day to unlock my tired joints (the phone is set to remind me). I also walk the dog three times per day. She is sometimes not as fast as I am, but it helps.
7 How Software Development Works

Crash Course’s #11 video, The First Programming Languages reviews the history of software. Computers speak in binary...with zeros and ones. So that programmers can instruct computers using a more natural language, they use Machine Language (ML) to organize the instructions, which is then converted to binary. Assembly language goes a step further to combine chunks of reusable code and jump addresses then convert them to native ML. These instructions used to take place on punch cards, which were fed into a large reader. Dr. Grace Hopper applied another level of abstraction to develop A-0 that could compile large segments of code. She went on to define industry guidelines via the Committee on Data System Languages, which resulted in the COBOL language, which made programming consistent from computer to computer. John Backus of IBM developed a similar language, FORTRAN. Python and many other modern languages rely on variables and pre-defined functions to reduce the time to program and afford even non-professionals a way to create solutions.

Crash Course’s #12 video, Programming Basics: Statements & Functions describes programming concepts. Statements are complete thoughts and actions written with specific syntax. A series of variables and computations that make up a series of statements become a computer program (or application). Variables get initialized then can change as needed. Conditional statements allow if/else instructions. While loops allow some statements to run and rerun based on conditions. A for loop will repeat the statement a specific number of times. Libraries of functions (also called methods, subroutines, and modules) allow easy reuse of code to reduce coding and bug-fixing time by hiding the complexity with a defined name. Functions can call functions to return complex results.

Crash Course’s #13 video, Intro to Algorithms describes more programming concepts. Algorithm is another term for a set of instructions which tell a computer what to calculate. Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi, the father of algebra, is said to be responsible for the concept (though, Ada Lovelace also played with the concept, which is not mentioned in the video). Algorithms are the foundation of the field called Computer Science. Decades of devising and testing different sorting algorithms have resulted in several types which reduce computation time and resources. Selection sorting uses a for loop and \( n^2 \) to swap rows in an array until the desired sort is achieved. If the array is huge, then the computing time takes too long. Merge sort saves computation time by comparing two items at a time in a separate arrays using logarithms, then merges them afterwards. Graph search, developed by Edsger Wybe Dijkstra, compares the weight of two or more items (or nodes), chooses the least weighty of the two, and loops again up the graph to compare more nodes until the least weighted path is chosen. Adding logarithms to Dijkstra’s equation speeds up the computation tremendously.
Crash Course’s video #16 Software Engineering describes more modern programming conventions. The term of Software Engineering, coined by Margaret Hamilton, is the study of tools and practices for devising computer technologies to prevent problems before they begin. So that many programmers can work simultaneously on thousands of lines of code, hierarchies, or packages of objects (sets of functions and variables), are nested into parent and child objects. This object oriented programming (OOP) style hides low level instructions in high level components. Each programmer can work on a specific object without breaking other objects. Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) are objects which are either public or private. Public objects allow other objects to use them without causing harm. A private object could be dangerous if called by other objects. Integrated Development Environments (IDE) allow programmers to write, debug, and compile their code with the help of color coding, spell-checking, code libraries, and organization. When code is reused by another programmer, the documentation in read-me files or source code comments will provide context. Large teams of programmers rely on source control to ensure they do not overwrite another person’s version of the code. Versions of code objects are stored in a repository and can be checked in and out to avoid duplication of work. This allows simultaneous editing of the entire project’s components. Final code is committed to the program. If bugs are found then it is easy to see who worked on the code last and make updates without disturbing the rest of the program. Quality Assurance (QA) teams will test all the functions to ensure the program works as intended.

Crash Course’s #18 video, Operating Systems, describes OSs as programs that run other programs. They launch first when a computer is turned on then process batches of code simultaneously to launch other programs. Driver API software communicates between computers and input/output (I/O) peripheral devices such as printers, allowing computers to be used for multiple purposes, even while other programs are running. Older operating systems, like Atas, allowed just one program or driver to run at a time but modern ones can run simultaneously, which is referred to as multitasking. As long as there is enough memory and CPU processing power and each application is allocated a protected location on the hard drive, then multitasking can take place and one program can’t accidentally damage another. Dynamic memory allocation uses virtual address to run programs simultaneously and more efficiently. A mainframe computer allows many people to share programs and memory of the computer simultaneously via terminals in a time-sharing arrangement; one computer for many users. UNIX, the most popular mainframe OS, was developed to separate the core memory allocation, multitasking, and I/O functions, called the kernel, from programs and libraries. This allows a program to be rebooted if it crashes while not damaging other programs. Other languages like BASIC and MS-DOS had poor memory protection. Modern OSs like OSx, iOS, Android, and Windows all have virtual protected memory and multitasking.
Modern computing has created solutions as well as problems, many of which are named with buzzwords, such as Cyberpsychology, Crowdfunding, Crowdsourcing, Open Source Software, Mobile Justice, Blockchain, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Association for Computing Machinery, Net Neutrality, Digital Divide, Disruptive technologies, Unconscious bias in computing, Circular Design Model, and Citizen Science. **Unconscious biases** take place when people make snap judgements about people or situations based on the previous experiences and existing prejudices. Algorithms can take on the unconscious bias of the programmers due to their assumptions about their users. Programmers must consider their users’ abilities to define computing boundaries, rather than judge ideas and people based on their own personal experiences, which may have gaps. Those gaps in experience with other cultures, for example, may bias their hiring decisions as well as programming decisions. Programmers ask themselves, “How can we leave bias out of a set of data and how can we leave bias out of hiring given a set of people?”

**Citizen Science** is the notion that anyone with a computer can participate in research and data gathering with the guidance of academic or government agencies. The USA, for example has a set of projects that need the public’s help to create large and accurate datasets, located at CitizenScience.gov. They provide tools and community building to help scientists and citizens work together. We can filter their list of projects related to the economy, conservation, learning, engagement, advancement, etc. One project, called 2016 National Parks Bioblitz in American Samoa, asked residents to identify and classify local organisms to improve protection and education. (NPS 2016)

**Circular Design** is the notion that technologies can be designed without creating or resulting in waste. And to go beyond that, perhaps they even add value at the end of their lives by becoming something else. In general, products with circular design can be reused, refurbished, remanufactured, or recycled. (Understand Circular Flows 2018)

Over the last decade, I have learned and relearned how to write with JavaScript. I can create simple statements within HTML or combine JavaScript libraries to get web page’s to behave the way I like. Writing JS in an object-oriented drag and drop interface, such as at Code.org, was a fun experience and seemed easier than writing from scratch for some instructions. I created the Star Wars game using Code.org’s Hour of Code tutorial.
8 How Hardware Manufacturing Works

The development of integrated circuits (IC) started in the 1940s with thousands of discrete components, such as transistors, soldered and wired together. Crash Course’s #17 video Integrated Circuits and Moore’s Law, explains that in the 1950s transistors provided six times the speed and were smaller and more reliable than vacuum tubes. In the 1960s, all the discrete parts were built as one in an integrated circuit. Silicon wafers became the material of choice for the circuits due to its availability and stability. Noyce became known as the father of ICs. Then in the later 1960s, engineers printed all the circuits on boards (PCB) to eliminate wiring and soldering in favor of etching, photoresist, photomask, doping, and metalization. Moore’s Law is the phenomenon that ICs reduce in size by half and increase by 2 in computer power every 2 years. These smaller ICs took less time to calculate, less power to run, and generated less heat. Moore teamed with Noyce to found Intel, the largest IC maker worldwide with the ‘microprocessor’. By 2010, engineers could fit 1 billion transistors in one Integrated Circuit! An iPhone processor includes more than 3 billion transistors. To get that many on an IC, VLSI software is used to design the circuits before they are printed. Quantum tumbling is occurring on micro-sized components, which will mean that future high-powered processors will need some other technology to double current computing speeds.

Many high-tech appliances and gadgets are replaced every 2 years and the European Union would like to reduce the wasted energy and/or raw materials that occurs with such high production turnover. In Planned obsolescence: Why things don’t last, proponents of the EU discuss how smartphones get replaced faster than most other gadgets. One solution is a modular phone which users repair themselves. Well-designed machines are built to last, but cheap ones are designed to be replaced, which is called planned obsolescence. EU members want to set minimum resistance criteria to increase the life of devices and ban all parts that cannot be removed without breaking. They also want users to be informed about each device’s intended lifecycle. Currently, it is too expensive for users to pay someone to fix an appliance or device but 77% would rather go that route than replace their devices. Ninety-two percent want to know the lifecycle before buying. A circular economy where devices are repaired, shared, and/or recycled is EU’s goal. The repair industry could create more jobs and raw materials would not go to waste.

CBS News finds children mining cobalt for batteries in the Congo. Cobalt is used in batteries for many smart devices around the world. High-tech companies sometimes do not realize or do not care that they’ve purchased cobalt from artisanal mines in Congo where children do most of the dirty and dangerous work. They are often abused if they do not work fast enough. Apple and other companies now claim that
their battery raw materials are mined only by adults. Car batteries require at least a bucket full of cobalt so engineers are trying to develop them without such a high need.

**Circular design** is a system whereby materials retain their utility and quality so that they may be reused or recycled. Recycling is the last resort. Understand Circular Flows explains how labor and raw materials have greater value, which gets wasted when recycled. Remanufacturing is restoring it to new condition. **Reuse** is when a product is resold and used again, so it contributes to the economy again. **Maintenance** is a first resort. **Regenerative recycling/reuse** of biological materials allows them to be returned to their natural state for reuse. Feedback from the biological part of the system feeds the technical part of the system. Some companies want to build reuse into their product life cycles to save energy and raw materials.

CNN reports in China - World's dumping ground for Electronic Waste that China is the largest exporter of electronic gadgets and largest importer of e-waste smuggled in from other countries, even though it is illegal there. The town of Guiyu is built around recycling e-waste. Families dissemble the parts and plastics are mixed with water (or burned). The resulting plastic is sold to Foxconn, the largest iPhone factory assembly company. Without the careful and proper disposal, the mercury and other harmful chemicals get into the air and water, which affects farm animals, crops, and the health of humans.

Amazon is one of the first to roboticize the shopping experience. Their Go stores don’t use human cashiers. Instead, a set of sensors detect customers and the products they pick up, which are added to a receipt on their phone. If you don’t have a smartphone, then you cannot partake in this elite experience. It creates another level of digital divide. In Robots will take our jobs. We’d better plan now, before it’s too late, the author states that resisting another industrial revolution may be futile, but even as some jobs are eliminated others are created. Some experts recommend a robot tax which could slow down the pace of innovation, which isn’t always a good idea. More automation has created more need and improved the economy. Programs to reskill, improve education, and create a stronger social safety net might improve the lives of workers who lose their jobs due to automation. Some of these programs did not happen because governments did not fund them. Without adequate training, too many people will be left without the skills needed to participate in the growing high-tech economy. Some suggest that the owners of highly profitable high-tech companies need to share the wealth with the workers or pay higher taxes which support the greater population. Some European countries have played around with the notion of Universal Basic Income where everyone gets a paycheck regardless of their job.

According to Robots and AI to make, not steal, jobs, 84% percent of people surveyed in China feel that robots will not replace their jobs but create more innovative jobs. They expect to have more leisure time which also creates service jobs. Entry level jobs may suffer the most when creative and technical jobs rise. Robot-related
jobs compliment other jobs. China expects to lead the world in “AI theory, technology, and application by 2030.” (Jing, 2018) In addition, they expect to import workers from other countries due to the current lack of enough experts in China.

Crash Course’s #40 video, The Singularity, Skynet, and the Future of Computing, says that computing experts expect to improve life on earth through ubiquitous computing, where computing technology is embedded into everything, so that it is invisible and more natural than the bulky and unhealthy devices we use now. While AI might replace some mechanical functions, its main function will be to tackle problems. Come functions will continue to remain mechanical due to safety concerns. Determining ‘intelligence’ is difficult. Even if current Artificial Intelligence (AI) is roughly as intelligent as a mouse, it isn’t intelligent enough to do what humans can do, like fold laundry. Human brains can calculate 100,000 times that of a current computer [really?]. AI is expected to be more powerful than the human brain (singularity) by the end of the century. Paul Allen expected there will be a complexity break on the way to singularity. Technological unemployment could occur initially, as it has done in previous revolutions. Jobs can be manual or cognitive, routine, or non-routine. Some routine and manual jobs have already been replaced by robots. Non-routine cognitive jobs will probably always be done by humans. Currently, about 40% of American jobs fit this category. That leaves 60% of jobs in a vulnerable position which may leave people with enough free time to pursue more interesting work. The singularity could also allow humans to transcend their bodies to fully understand the universe. Humans merging with robots (cyborgs) could enhance our abilities. Ascension could also happen...the body is forsaken while the brain’s knowledge is uploaded for eternal consciousness. Perhaps computers will become a benevolent support system. Or maybe computers will take over the world and populate the nearby galaxies.
Timeline Addition: Ada Lovelace invents Computer Programming in 1843. Lovelace interprets the notes of Charles Babbage related to his Difference Engine, an early computer. She explains its complex potential and writes detailed instructions for its use a century before they are realized in modern computer programming. Programming is the devising of algorithms to calculate complex sequences of actions. Computers eventually impact the carbon footprint of nearly everyone on earth by increasing mining of precious metals and data center energy usage. Social communication styles eventually change from face-to-face interactions to online interactions and robots take the place of human workers. Autonomous features in modes of transportation begin to phase out human drivers. Computer scientists begin work on quantum computing and the singularity is in sight.

https://www.biography.com/.image/ar_1:1%2Cc_fill%2Ccs_srgb%2Cg_face%2Cq_auto:good%2Cw_300/MTE4MDAzNDEwODQwOTQ2MTkw/ada-lovelace-20825279-1-402.jpg

An intriguing topic found in the History of Disruptive Technologies timeline, is the concept of deep learning, which was coined by Rina Dechter in 1986. The concept relates to artificial intelligence (AI) and a computer’s ability to teach/learn from itself. When a computer can do that, it has the potential to come up with innovative solutions to real-world problems. Some AI systems are modeled after human neural networks. Deep Learning systems use large amounts of data to improve visual, voice, and language interpretation. The energy needed to run such a system is profound, so some corporations in this industry use renewable energy to power their factories.
9 The State of Computing

Freedom House's Freedom on the Net 2018 report goes into depth about the rise of digital authoritarianism around the world. Key findings of the study reveal that 12 countries’ elections were affected by online manipulation and disinformation. China once again lead the world in online censorship. And 18 governments passed laws related to personal data due to abuse of by third parties. And 198 millions users around the world had their personal data leaked through malicious breaches.

Many countries are implementing more censorship modelled after the Great Firewall of China, which includes censoring website content. In addition, China is supplying poor countries with surveillance and phone hardware, facial-recognition tools, and data analytics tools such as big data public-opinion management systems. These advances can undermine rather than improve the human condition. In some cases, abuse takes the form of website blocking, content removal, restricting access, online attacks, and arrests. Several countries restricted mobile service, live video, and VPNs. In Eastern countries, including India, false information incited violence between ethnic groups. Through social media fake news, manipulation of search algorithms, and malicious bots from Russian cyber attacks, elections around the world were affected. Some high-tech companies are now updating their user agreements and algorithms to help deter and detect problems but end up censoring. Some countries are fast-tracking laws that punish the spreaders of fake news and require website permits, but journalist and bloggers want to slow down the process so they are not prosecuted for minor offenses. The European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation was enacted to help citizens gain better control over their data. In the USA, Congress reauthorized the ability for law enforcement to surveill citizens in search of terrorism targets. Some governments require high-tech developers to leave an encrypted back door in the software so they can spy on users.

In the USA, the current regime rolled back important net neutrality protections, so large high-tech corporations may charge more for more services, reduce privacy, or throttle data speeds. Consequently, some states enacted their own laws to protect citizens’ access to the same internet speeds as wealthy companies.

Countries with little access to the internet were also hindered by mobile shutdowns, reducing their access to information, education, services, and financial gain, which contributes to the digital divide. Countries with poor fixed-line telephone or TV infrastructure rely on mobile service, but are silenced when their mobile networks are shut down. India had the most shutdowns in 2018. Some shutdowns coincide with elections, special events, and riots. In other areas, apps were restricted, speeds throttled, and prices increased to keep groups from mobilizing. Increased digital literacy education will help citizens protect themselves, their data, and draft better laws.
One way for people to **mobilize** and enact **justice** against oppressive regimes is to share live video during protests. If citizens are the journalists (when journalists are being jailed) then freedom of information can continue. Some governments use new laws to jail journalists for spreading factual news under the guise of it being fake news. Some governments shutdown services to keep live streams from reaching outside their borders and creating more unrest. They might also take down websites that advocate for rights, arrest protesters, and add spyware to protesters’ computers.

**Spreadsheets** are simple, flat, tables of rows and columns of data. These tables can be represented in numbers (data) or visually, with color and dimension. **Databases are relational** in that one table can interact with another. Some data from a table can be shared via a key with another table. A list of government representatives in a table, for example, can import data from a list of related counties and their districts, creating a relationship between the tables, or a database. Examples of Spreadsheet and database manipulation are provided at the end of this document.
10 How to Finance your Greatest Dream

My dream is to go to Mexico City to visit art museums which house Frida Khalo and Diego Rivera paintings and murals. Khalo’s work was so influential that she and her iconic portraits are known to most Americans. Her relationship with Rivera was fascinating and I am interested in studying her influence on him.

Khalo’s work could influence my own painting and to study it close-up and in person would make a bigger impact on the future of my style. Not only is the art of Mexico City alluring, but there are many gardens, canals, ruins, and street vendors to visit while there, which would inspiration my work a great deal.

Other people have taken tours of the city and have written about it. Viator tour company lists 5 different tours of Khalo’s blue house/museum. Some tours include canal transportation. The best time to go is off season mid week. Laura Bronner, AKA the Eternal Expat, recommends Xochimilco and Coyoacan tours on her blog.

Obstacles to booking this trip include time and finances. I expect to pay off all credit card debt by Spring 2019 but still owe too much on my home to go on a major vacation. However, by 2020, I should have enough room in my budget to take a trip! The only times I have available for travel are at Christmas break and Summer break mid August to mid September.

With my upcoming increase in pay, I’ll be able to eliminate debt and start saving. I am comfortable using online banking systems to see my monthly expenses and bills, as well as merge all financial accounts together at Mint.com. It allows me to download and categorize income and expenses from all my financial accounts, including checking, savings, mortgage, and credit. I then clean up any wrong information in Google Sheets and move major itemized expense categories to separate worksheets, which helps me complete my tax returns. If I were a student, monthly income and expenses might look like the following table. Most students have a job where they earn wages, some family support, some financial aid, and sometimes gifts or loans from other sources:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job</td>
<td>$2,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>$1,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,075</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; fees</td>
<td>$833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>$763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water/Sewer</td>
<td>$23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone service</td>
<td>$103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV and Internet service</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries, dining, drinks</td>
<td>$399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car payment</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas and oil changes</td>
<td>$52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car insurance</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair Cuts</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,161</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Discretionary</strong></td>
<td><strong>$914</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following table compares three spending scenarios for the dream. The first scenario uses inexpensive airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and misc expenses. The second spends more on airfare and lodging, primarily, and the third is first class all the way! I'll go alone unless I can find a friend to travel with me.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Least Expensive</th>
<th>Moderately Expensive</th>
<th>Most expensive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passport</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$110</td>
<td>$140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airfare</td>
<td>$429</td>
<td>$519</td>
<td>$1,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground transportation</td>
<td>$33</td>
<td>$33</td>
<td>$280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodging</td>
<td>$147</td>
<td>$448</td>
<td>$994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attractions</td>
<td>$91</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dining</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$154</td>
<td>$189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinks</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>$54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tips</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$84</td>
<td>$84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Int'l Call fees</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expected Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,073</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,714</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,429</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monthly Savings for 1 year</th>
<th>Monthly Savings for 2 years</th>
<th>Monthly Savings for 3 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expected Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,073</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,714</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,429</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$89</td>
<td>$143</td>
<td>$286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$71</td>
<td>$143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$48</td>
<td>$95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion**: I see now how easily I can save for this trip. Less than $100 per month of savings for a year will do the job if I choose the first scenario! If I wait two years then I can still do the job with less than $100 per month in savings.

I can make adjustments to my finances by selling more paintings and eating out less. I can also choose less expensive options when I travel, such as spending less on gifts and choosing non-alcoholic drinks in the evenings.

Mexico City, here I come!
Bibliography


