

M2 Wk1 - Assignment 1

Having watched this video from TED TV about the influence algorithms have had on our society and on us personally, I have come to realize just how great an influence they have become. It's outstanding. I knew they were influential, but not to this degree. Algorithms are literally, everywhere. Though we can't see this binary, computer instruction, the world wouldn't function the way it does now without them.

It's actually somewhat scary how algorithms can influence Wall Street. I liked the part where Ted explains what humans can't comprehend Wall Street, and that a computer barely can, and it's thanks to algorithms. Also that computers are a lot less prone to making mistakes, like in the pharmacist example that a computer made no mistakes in all the orders placed to a pharmacy in California where if humans would have done it, they would have made at least 1000.

"When the bots know your personality they know the meaning behind your words." Does this idea have an impact on how you use social media?" Well, not really. I subconsciously knew this was going on, as well as calls being monitored and was okay with it. If we want to use their services, we abide by their terms and agreements. It's simple. If it bugged me that much, I wouldn't use the product. But, in today's day and age, it's almost necessary to utilize such tools.

Overall, the video caused me to think about the future and how much more these algorithms are going to influence our society and culture. Are jobs going to be replaced by computers? Well, they already are and I believe they will continue doing so. I think with the increase in technology every day, there's an ever-growing need to one-up the computers. I'm glad I'm taking a field where I will create the computers. Luckily, the computers can't create themselves. Perhaps a few machines compile the parts necessary to create a computer, but someone must create those machines and even develop them. To me, this video was a warning to some people that they need to go beyond their comfort zone and continue learning so they may continue to be an improving asset to society. If not them, then at least they're children. Computers will never develop ideas, they just take instruction. Our brains are the creative thinkers that give the computers their input and commands.