

# You Are Not A Gadget Jaron Lanier

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The Wisdom of Crowds - James Surowiecki  
2005-08-16

In this fascinating book, New Yorker business columnist James Surowiecki explores a deceptively simple idea: Large groups of people are smarter than an elite few, no matter how brilliant—better at solving problems, fostering

innovation, coming to wise decisions, even predicting the future. With boundless erudition and in delightfully clear prose, Surowiecki ranges across fields as diverse as popular culture, psychology, ant biology, behavioral economics, artificial intelligence, military history, and politics to show how this simple idea

offers important lessons for how we live our lives, select our leaders, run our companies, and think about our world.

**The Cult of the Amateur** - Andrew Keen  
2008-08-12

Amateur hour has arrived, and the audience is running the show In a hard-hitting and provocative polemic, Silicon Valley insider and pundit Andrew Keen exposes the grave consequences of today's new participatory Web 2.0 and reveals how it threatens our values, economy, and ultimately the very innovation and creativity that forms the fabric of American achievement. Our most valued cultural institutions, Keen warns—our professional newspapers, magazines, music, and movies—are being overtaken by an avalanche of amateur, user-generated free content. Advertising revenue is being siphoned off by free classified ads on sites like Craigslist; television networks are under attack from free user-generated programming on YouTube and the like; file-

sharing and digital piracy have devastated the multibillion-dollar music business and threaten to undermine our movie industry. Worse, Keen claims, our “cut-and-paste” online culture—in which intellectual property is freely swapped, downloaded, remashed, and aggregated—threatens over 200 years of copyright protection and intellectual property rights, robbing artists, authors, journalists, musicians, editors, and producers of the fruits of their creative labors. In today's self-broadcasting culture, where amateurism is celebrated and anyone with an opinion, however ill-informed, can publish a blog, post a video on YouTube, or change an entry on Wikipedia, the distinction between trained expert and uninformed amateur becomes dangerously blurred. When anonymous bloggers and videographers, unconstrained by professional standards or editorial filters, can alter the public debate and manipulate public opinion, truth becomes a commodity to be bought, sold, packaged, and reinvented. The

very anonymity that the Web 2.0 offers calls into question the reliability of the information we receive and creates an environment in which sexual predators and identity thieves can roam free. While no Luddite—Keen pioneered several Internet startups himself—he urges us to consider the consequences of blindly supporting a culture that endorses plagiarism and piracy and that fundamentally weakens traditional media and creative institutions. Offering concrete solutions on how we can reign in the free-wheeling, narcissistic atmosphere that pervades the Web, **THE CULT OF THE AMATEUR** is a wake-up call to each and every one of us.

**Gilliam on Gilliam** - Terry Gilliam 1999

Terry Gilliam talks about the background and development of each of his films, including "Brazil," "Time Bandits," "Twelve Monkeys," "The Fisher King," and "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas"

**You are Not a Gadget** - Jaron Lanier 2010

A computer-age visionary argues that the Internet has failed to live up to its early promises, sharing cautionary perspectives on the Web 2.0 design concept while optimistically evaluating the Internet as a positive cultural vehicle.

*Whiplash* - Joi Ito 2016-12-06

This "brilliant and provocative" (Walter Isaacson) guide shares nine principles to adapt and survive the technological changes shaping our future from the director of the MIT Media Lab and a veteran Wired journalist. The world is more complex and volatile today than at any other time in our history. The tools of our modern existence are getting faster, cheaper, and smaller at an exponential rate, transforming every aspect of society, from business to culture and from the public sphere to our most private moments. The people who succeed will be the ones who learn to think differently. In **WHIPLASH**, Joi Ito and Jeff Howe distill that logic into nine organizing principles for

navigating and surviving this tumultuous period:  
Emergence over Authority Pull over Push  
Compasses over Maps Risk over Safety  
Disobedience over Compliance Practice over  
Theory Diversity over Ability Resilience over  
Strength Systems over Objects Filled with  
incredible case studies and cutting-edge  
research and philosophies from the MIT Media  
Lab and beyond, WHIPLASH will help you adapt  
and succeed in this unpredictable world.

*Who Owns the Future?* - Jaron Lanier  
2014-03-04

As you read this, thousands of remote computers  
are refining secret models of who you are, using  
the information to make huge fortunes for a few  
people. Does the future have to be this way?  
How can we change it? In this visionary book  
Jaron Lanier imagines an alternative, where  
economic power is given back to creators.  
Drawing on sources ranging from ancient  
philosophy to the latest technology, he proposes  
a radical system that truly rewards endeavour -

whether it's in the media or manufacturing - and  
ultimately preserves human dignity. 'Lanier has  
a poet's sensibility.' Financial Times 'A mind as  
boundless as the internet.' Evening Standard 'A  
tour d'horizon of what we'll have to cope with in  
the near future.' Independent 'An exhilarating,  
loveable book.' Scotland on Sunday 'Inspiring . .  
. intelligent and subtle.' Guardian

[Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media  
Accounts Right Now](#) - Jaron Lanier 2018-05-29

"You might have trouble imagining life without  
your social media accounts, but virtual reality  
pioneer Jaron Lanier insists that we're better off  
without them. In Ten Arguments for Deleting  
Your Social Media Accounts Right Now, Lanier,  
who participates in no social media, offers  
powerful and personal reasons for all of us to  
leave these dangerous online platforms"--

[What Technology Wants](#) - Kevin Kelly  
2011-09-27

From the author of the New York Times  
bestseller *The Inevitable*— a sweeping vision of

technology as a living force that can expand our individual potential In this provocative book, one of today's most respected thinkers turns the conversation about technology on its head by viewing technology as a natural system, an extension of biological evolution. By mapping the behavior of life, we paradoxically get a glimpse at where technology is headed-or "what it wants." Kevin Kelly offers a dozen trajectories in the coming decades for this near-living system. And as we align ourselves with technology's agenda, we can capture its colossal potential. This visionary and optimistic book explores how technology gives our lives greater meaning and is a must-read for anyone curious about the future.

**The Singularity Is Near** - Ray Kurzweil

2005-09-22

"Startling in scope and bravado." —Janet Maslin, The New York Times "Artfully envisions a breathtakingly better world." —Los Angeles Times "Elaborate, smart and persuasive." —The

Boston Globe "A pleasure to read." —The Wall Street Journal One of CBS News's Best Fall Books of 2005 • Among St Louis Post-Dispatch's Best Nonfiction Books of 2005 • One of Amazon.com's Best Science Books of 2005 A radical and optimistic view of the future course of human development from the bestselling author of How to Create a Mind and The Singularity is Nearer who Bill Gates calls "the best person I know at predicting the future of artificial intelligence" For over three decades, Ray Kurzweil has been one of the most respected and provocative advocates of the role of technology in our future. In his classic The Age of Spiritual Machines, he argued that computers would soon rival the full range of human intelligence at its best. Now he examines the next step in this inexorable evolutionary process: the union of human and machine, in which the knowledge and skills embedded in our brains will be combined with the vastly greater capacity, speed, and knowledge-sharing ability

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**Ten Billion** - Stephen Emmott 2013-09-10  
Deforestation. Desertification. Species extinction. Global warming. Growing threats to food and water. The driving issues of our times are the result of one huge problem: Us. As the population continues to grow, our problems will increase. And this means that every way we look at it, a planet of ten billion people is likely to be a nightmare. Stephen Emmott, a scientist whose lab is at the forefront of research into complex natural systems, sounds the alarm. TEN BILLION is a snapshot of our planet, and our species, approaching a crisis, and a stark analysis of where this leaves us. TEN BILLION is not another climate book. TEN BILLION is a book about us.

**Muse Sick: A Music Manifesto in Fifty-Nine Notes** - Ian Brennan 2021-09-21

*Close to the Machine* - Ellen Ullman 2012-02-28  
Originally published in 1997 by City Lights

Books.

*Thought Economics* - Vikas Shah 2021-02-04  
'Stimulating, intelligent and enjoyable discussions of the most important issues of our day.' STEVEN PINKER 'From entrepreneurs to athletes, and world leaders to entertainers, this is a fascinating collection of interviews with some of the world's most influential individuals.' MARK CUBAN 'Thought Economics is a fine rebuke to the soundbite culture; these interviews are driven by real curiosity, and there is a wealth of wisdom here.' EDWARD STOURTON \_\_\_\_\_ Since 2007, entrepreneur and philanthropist Vikas Shah has been on a mission to interview the people shaping our century. Including conversations with Nobel prizewinners, business leaders, politicians, artists and Olympians, he has been in the privileged position of questioning the minds that matter on the big issues that concern us all. We often talk of war and conflict, the economy, culture, technology and revolutions as if they are

something other than us. But all these things are a product of us - of our ideas, our dreams and our fears. We live in fast-moving and extraordinary times, and the changes we're experiencing now, in these first decades of the twenty-first century, feel particularly poignant as decisions are made that will inform our existence for years to come. What started out as a personal interest in the mechanisms that inform our views of the world, and a passion for understanding, has grown into a phenomenal compilation of once-in-a-lifetime conversations. In this incredible collection, Shah shares some of his most emotive and insightful interviews to date.

[The Hunt for Zero Point](#) - Nick Cook 2007-12-18

This riveting work of investigative reporting and history exposes classified government projects to build gravity-defying aircraft--which have an uncanny resemblance to flying saucers. The atomic bomb was not the only project to occupy government scientists in the 1940s. Antigravity

technology, originally spearheaded by scientists in Nazi Germany, was another high priority, one that still may be in effect today. Now for the first time, a reporter with an unprecedented access to key sources in the intelligence and military communities reveals suppressed evidence that tells the story of a quest for a discovery that could prove as powerful as the A-bomb. The Hunt for Zero Point explores the scientific speculation that a "zero point" of gravity exists in the universe and can be replicated here on Earth. The pressure to be the first nation to harness gravity is immense, as it means having the ability to build military planes of unlimited speed and range, along with the most deadly weaponry the world has ever seen. The ideal shape for a gravity-defying vehicle happens to be a perfect disk, making antigravity tests a possible explanation for the numerous UFO sightings of the past 50 years. Chronicling the origins of antigravity research in the world's most advanced research facility, which was

operated by the Third Reich during World War II, *The Hunt for Zero Point* traces U.S. involvement in the project, beginning with the recruitment of former Nazi scientists after the war. Drawn from interviews with those involved with the research and who visited labs in Europe and the United States, *The Hunt for Zero Point* journeys to the heart of the twentieth century's most puzzling unexplained phenomena.

*The Naked Future* - Patrick Tucker 2015-02-24

"A thorough yet thoroughly digestible book on the ubiquity of data gathering and the unraveling of personal privacy." —Daniel Pink, author of *Drive* Thanks to recent advances in technology, prediction models for individual behavior grow more sophisticated by the day. Whether you'll marry, commit a crime or fall victim to one, or contract a disease are becoming easily accessible facts. The naked future is upon us, and the implications are staggering. Patrick Tucker draws on fascinating stories from health care to urban planning to

online dating. He shows how scientists can predict your behavior based on your friends' Twitter updates, anticipate the weather a year from now, figure out the time of day you're most likely to slip back into a bad habit, and guess how well you'll do on a test before you take it. Tucker knows that the rise of Big Data is not always a good thing. But he also shows how we've gained tremendous benefits that we have yet to fully realize.

*Digerati* - John Brockman 1996

This is a collection of interviews with the leading figures in the digirati, who dominate the digital revolution, from Bill Gates to Esther Dyson, from John Perry Barlow to Jaron Lanier.

**The Circle** - Dave Eggers 2013-10-08

A bestselling dystopian novel that tackles surveillance, privacy and the frightening intrusions of technology in our lives—a "compulsively readable parable for the 21st century" (*Vanity Fair*). When Mae Holland is hired to work for the Circle, the world's most

powerful internet company, she feels she's been given the opportunity of a lifetime. The Circle, run out of a sprawling California campus, links users' personal emails, social media, banking, and purchasing with their universal operating system, resulting in one online identity and a new age of civility and transparency. As Mae tours the open-plan office spaces, the towering glass dining facilities, the cozy dorms for those who spend nights at work, she is thrilled with the company's modernity and activity. There are parties that last through the night, there are famous musicians playing on the lawn, there are athletic activities and clubs and brunches, and even an aquarium of rare fish retrieved from the Marianas Trench by the CEO. Mae can't believe her luck, her great fortune to work for the most influential company in the world—even as life beyond the campus grows distant, even as a strange encounter with a colleague leaves her shaken, even as her role at the Circle becomes increasingly public. What begins as the

captivating story of one woman's ambition and idealism soon becomes a heart-racing novel of suspense, raising questions about memory, history, privacy, democracy, and the limits of human knowledge.

Media Audiences - John L. Sullivan 2019-07-24

Whether we are watching TV, surfing the Internet, listening to our iPods, or reading a novel, we all engage with media as an audience. . Despite the widespread use of this term in our popular culture, the meaning of "audience" is complex, and it has undergone significant historical shifts as new forms of mediated communication have developed from print, telegraphy, and radio to film, television, and the Internet. *Media Audiences: Effects, Users, Institutions, and Power* 2nd Edition explores the concept of media audiences from four broad perspectives: as "victims" of mass media, as market constructions and commodities, as users of media, and as producers and subcultures of mass media. The goal of the text is for students

to be able to think critically about the role and status of media audiences in contemporary society, reflecting on their relative power in relation to institutional media producers.

*Dawn of the New Everything* - Jaron Lanier  
2017-11-21

Named one of the best books of 2017 by The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, & Vox The father of virtual reality explains its dazzling possibilities by reflecting on his own lifelong relationship with technology Bridging the gap between tech mania and the experience of being inside the human body, Dawn of the New Everything is a look at what it means to be human at a moment of unprecedented technological possibility. Through a fascinating look back over his life in technology, Jaron Lanier, an interdisciplinary scientist and father of the term “virtual reality,” exposes VR’s ability to illuminate and amplify our understanding of our species, and gives readers a new perspective on how the brain and body connect to the world.

An inventive blend of autobiography, science writing, philosophy and advice, this book tells the wild story of his personal and professional life as a scientist, from his childhood in the UFO territory of New Mexico, to the loss of his mother, the founding of the first start-up, and finally becoming a world-renowned technological guru. Understanding virtual reality as being both a scientific and cultural adventure, Lanier demonstrates it to be a humanistic setting for technology. While his previous books offered a more critical view of social media and other manifestations of technology, in this book he argues that virtual reality can actually make our lives richer and fuller.

Real Leaders Don't Follow - Steve Tobak  
2015-10-19

Leaders Lead. Followers Follow. You Can't Do Both. Acknowledging the great irony that most of today's inspiring entrepreneurs are following the crowd instead of doing what innovative leaders like Richard Branson, Mark Zuckerberg,

and Elon Musk did to become successful, Silicon Valley management consultant Steve Tobak delivers some truth: Nobody ever made it big by doing what everyone else is doing. Drawing upon decades of personal experience with hundreds of accomplished entrepreneurs, CEOs, and venture capitalists, Tobak provides a unique perspective on today's technology revolution, exposes popular myths that masquerade as common wisdom and shows you what it takes to become a successful entrepreneur and an exceptional business leader in today's highly competitive world.

*Truth, Technology, and the Visual/virtual World* - Jaron Lanier 2006

This work, edited by Bellamy Printz, of Cleveland Public Art, is a transcription of Spectrum, the Lockwood Thompson Dialogues at the Cleveland Public Library, two public programs held in 2005. Spectrum is a program of public conversations focusing on issues that impact visual and popular culture, presented by the

Library in partnership with Cleveland Public Art. The purpose of the forum is to generate innovative, unexplored, and provocative dialogues that will become part of Cleveland's cultural inventory. Jaron Lanier, computer scientist, composer, and visual artist from Berkeley, California was the moderator for both programs. In April he held a public conversation with Dr. Vilayanur S. Ramachandran, a scientist interested in art and the brain. The discussion topic was learning to appreciate the brain in new ways because of new technologies for looking at the brain. In October he held a second public conversation with Paul D. Miller, also known as DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid, talking about music and the implications of technology, internet, and digital media on contemporary culture.

*Which Side of History?* - James P. Steyer  
2020-10-13

*Which Side of History?* offers a collection of bold essays on how technology is affecting

democracy, society, and our future. Featuring prominent national voices such as Sacha Baron Cohen, Marc Benioff, Ellen Pao, Ken Auletta, Chelsea Clinton, Tim Wu, Khaled Hosseini, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Jaron Lanier, Willow Bay, Sal Khan, Sherry Turkle, Shoshana Zuboff, Vivek Murthy, Geoffrey Canada, and many more. The essays focus on the extraordinary impact of technology on our privacy, kids and families, race and gender roles, democracy, climate change, and mental health. This groundbreaking book challenges opinion leaders and the broader public to take action to improve technology's effects on our lives. Featuring notable journalists, engineers, entrepreneurs, novelists, activists, filmmakers, business leaders, scholars, and researchers, including: Thomas Friedman, Kara Swisher, Michelle Alexander, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Jenna Wortham, Cameron Kasky, Howard Gardner, and Tristan Harris. Explores the ethical behavior of Big Tech, or the lack thereof Offers

roadmaps for constructive change and thought-provoking perspectives. With the rise of cyberbullying and hate speech online, issues around climate change and technology, and the "move fast and break things" mentality of tech culture, Which Side of History? will urge readers to draw the line. This book will help shape the conversations we have around technology in our society and our future for years to come. A smart gift for anyone who approaches tech and the future with a healthy skepticism Edited by James P. Steyer, the CEO and founder of Common Sense Media. Add it to the shelf with books like Ten Arguments for Deleting Your Social Media Accounts Right Now by Jaron Lanier, The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains by Nicholas Carr, and The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power by Shoshana Zuboff.

Bridge of Waves - W. A. Mathieu 2010-12-14  
Music is, in one sense, merely a series of fleeting

vibrations that arise and subside. How could it be that something so insubstantial fills us, and calms us, and makes us weep? Because, says W. A. Mathieu, music bridges mind and heart, self and other, and affirms our place in the world. Everyone uses the bridge of music, from casual listeners to devoted professionals. Mathieu's delightful and trenchant prose asks you to question what music is, how it works, and how to understand its value in your life, in the life of your community, and in the evolution of the cosmos.

### **The Software Challenge** - 1988

Explains how computer software is designed and tested.

### **Who Owns the Future?** - Jaron Lanier

2014-03-04

Evaluates the negative impact of digital network technologies on the economy and particularly the middle class, citing challenges to employment and personal wealth while exploring the potential of a new information economy.

### *We, Robots* - Curtis White 2015-11-03

In the tradition of Jaron Lanier's *You Are Not a Gadget*, a rousing, sharply argued—and, yes, inspiring!—reckoning with our blind faith in technology. Can technology solve all our problems? Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, many of our most famous journalists, pundits, and economists seem to think so. According to them, “intelligent machines” and big data will free us from work, educate our children, transform our environment, and even make religion more user-friendly. This is the story they're telling us: that we should stop worrying and love our robot future. But just because you tell a story over and over again doesn't make it true. Curtis White, one of our most brilliant and perceptive social critics, knows all about the danger of a seductive story, and in *We, Robots*, he tangles with the so-called thinkers who are convinced that the future is rose-colored and robotically enhanced. With tremendous erudition and a punchy wit, White

argues that we must be skeptical of anyone who tries to sell us on technological inevitability. And he gives us an alternative set of stories: taking inspiration from artists as disparate as Sufjan Stevens, Lars von Trier, and François Rabelais, White shows us that by looking to art, we can imagine a different kind of future. No robots required.

**Hello Avatar** - B. Coleman 2011-11-04

An examination of our many modes of online identity and how we live on the continuum between the virtual and the real. Hello Avatar! Or, `{llSay(0, "Hello, Avatar!");` is a tiny piece of user-friendly code that allows us to program our virtual selves. In Hello Avatar, B. Coleman examines a crucial aspect of our cultural shift from analog to digital: the continuum between online and off-, what she calls the “x-reality” that crosses between the virtual and the real. She looks at the emergence of a world that is neither virtual nor real but encompasses a multiplicity of network combinations. And she argues that it is

the role of the avatar to help us express our new agency—our new power to customize our networked life. By avatar, Coleman means not just the animated figures that populate our screens but the gestalt of images, text, and multimedia that make up our online identities—in virtual worlds like Second Life and in the form of email, video chat, and other digital artifacts. Exploring such network activities as embodiment, extreme (virtual) violence, and the work in virtual reality labs, and offering sidebar interviews with designers and practitioners, she argues that what is new is real-time collaboration and copresence, the way we make connections using networked media and the cultures we have created around this. The star of this drama of expanded horizons is the networked subject—all of us who represent aspects of ourselves and our work across the mediascape.

**You Are Not a Gadget** - Jaron Lanier  
2010-01-12

A NATIONAL BESTSELLER A programmer, musician, and father of virtual reality technology, Jaron Lanier was a pioneer in digital media, and among the first to predict the revolutionary changes it would bring to our commerce and culture. Now, with the Web influencing virtually every aspect of our lives, he offers this provocative critique of how digital design is shaping society, for better and for worse. Informed by Lanier's experience and expertise as a computer scientist, *You Are Not a Gadget* discusses the technical and cultural problems that have unwittingly risen from programming choices—such as the nature of user identity—that were “locked-in” at the birth of digital media and considers what a future based on current design philosophies will bring. With the proliferation of social networks, cloud-based data storage systems, and Web 2.0 designs that elevate the “wisdom” of mobs and computer algorithms over the intelligence and wisdom of individuals, his message has never

been more urgent.

*You Are Not A Gadget* - Jaron Lanier 2011

Something went wrong around the start of the 21st century. Individual creativity began to go out of fashion. Music became an endless rehashing of the past. Scientists were in danger of no longer understanding their own research. Indeed, not only was individual creativity old-fashioned but individuals themselves. The crowd was wise. Machines, specifically computers, were no longer tools to be used by human minds ♦ they were better than humans. Welcome to the world of the digital revolution. Yet what if, by devaluing individuals, we are deadening creativity, endlessly rehashing past culture, risking weaker design in engineering and science, losing democracy, and reducing development ♦ in every sphere? In *You Are Not A Gadget*, Jaron Lanier, digital guru, and inventor of Virtual Reality, delivers a searing manifesto in support of the human and reflects on the good and bad developments in design and

thought twenty years after the invention of the web. Controversial and fascinating, *You Are Not a Gadget* is a deeply felt defence of the individual from an author uniquely qualified to comment on the way technology interacts with our culture.

*The American Jeremiad* - Sacvan Bercovitch

2012-04-19

When Sacvan Bercovitch's *The American Jeremiad* first appeared in 1978, it was hailed as a landmark study of dissent and cultural formation in America, from the Puritans' writings through the major literary works of the antebellum era. For this long-awaited anniversary edition, Bercovitch has written a deeply thoughtful and challenging new preface that reflects on his classic study of the role of the political sermon, or jeremiad, in America from a contemporary perspective, while assessing developments in the field of American studies and the culture at large.

[The Million Dollar Blog](#) - Natasha Courtenay-

Smith 2018-05-22

In a world where everyone wants to blog and blog posts are ubiquitous, how do you stand out? How do you blog your way from nobody to somebody? How do you make money blogging, how do you start your own blogging business, and how do you, as a business owner, use content to build your brand and drive your success? What do the world's most successful bloggers know that you don't know (yet)? No matter who are you - a mum at home, a budding fashion blogger, a lifestyle blogger, a food blogger, a big business owner or a small business owner - *The Million Dollar Blog* is about blogging the smart way. It is the ultimate guide to: \*Starting a successful blog \*Blog writing \*How to monetise your blog \*How to develop a personal brand that grows your blog \*How to blog for business \*How to write \*How take your existing blog to the next level Through a combination of practical advice and interviews with some of the world's most famous and

successful bloggers, vloggers and content strategists, including Seth Godin, Lily Pebbles, Grant Cardone and Madeleine Shaw and dozens more, entrepreneur and digital strategist Natasha Courtenay Smith shows you how to build a blog that will increase your profile, create new opportunities, earn money and change your life.

Automate This - Christopher Steiner 2012-08-30

The rousing story of the last gasp of human agency and how today's best and brightest minds are endeavoring to put an end to it. It used to be that to diagnose an illness, interpret legal documents, analyze foreign policy, or write a newspaper article you needed a human being with specific skills—and maybe an advanced degree or two. These days, high-level tasks are increasingly being handled by algorithms that can do precise work not only with speed but also with nuance. These “bots” started with human programming and logic, but now their reach extends beyond what their creators ever

expected. In this fascinating, frightening book, Christopher Steiner tells the story of how algorithms took over—and shows why the “bot revolution” is about to spill into every aspect of our lives, often silently, without our knowledge. The May 2010 “Flash Crash” exposed Wall Street’s reliance on trading bots to the tune of a 998-point market drop and \$1 trillion in vanished market value. But that was just the beginning. In *Automate This*, we meet bots that are driving cars, penning haiku, and writing music mistaken for Bach’s. They listen in on our customer service calls and figure out what Iran would do in the event of a nuclear standoff. There are algorithms that can pick out the most cohesive crew of astronauts for a space mission or identify the next Jeremy Lin. Some can even ingest statistics from baseball games and spit out pitch-perfect sports journalism indistinguishable from that produced by humans. The interaction of man and machine can make our lives easier. But what will the world look like

when algorithms control our hospitals, our roads, our culture, and our national security? What happens to businesses when we automate judgment and eliminate human instinct? And what role will be left for doctors, lawyers, writers, truck drivers, and many others? Who knows—maybe there's a bot learning to do your job this minute.

**Life in Code** - Ellen Ullman 2017-08-08

The never-more-necessary return of one of our most vital and eloquent voices on technology and culture, the author of the seminal *Close to the Machine* The last twenty years have brought us the rise of the internet, the development of artificial intelligence, the ubiquity of once unimaginably powerful computers, and the thorough transformation of our economy and society. Through it all, Ellen Ullman lived and worked inside that rising culture of technology, and in *Life in Code* she tells the continuing story of the changes it wrought with a unique, expert perspective. When Ellen Ullman moved to San

Francisco in the early 1970s and went on to become a computer programmer, she was joining a small, idealistic, and almost exclusively male cadre that aspired to genuinely change the world. In 1997 Ullman wrote *Close to the Machine*, the now classic and still definitive account of life as a coder at the birth of what would be a sweeping technological, cultural, and financial revolution. Twenty years later, the story Ullman recounts is neither one of unbridled triumph nor a nostalgic denial of progress. It is necessarily the story of digital technology's loss of innocence as it entered the cultural mainstream, and it is a personal reckoning with all that has changed, and so much that hasn't. *Life in Code* is an essential text toward our understanding of the last twenty years—and the next twenty.

**Anti-Computing** - Caroline Bassett 2021-11

The computerization of culture appears relentless and unstoppable. In response *Anti-Computing* deals in dissent. Engaging with

critical theory and media archaeology, working with rich and varied materials, it explores key moments when computer technologies, logics, techniques, imaginaries, utopias have been questioned, disputed, or refused.

**Distracted** - Maggie Jackson 2010-05

This is an important book...a harrowing documentation of our modern world's descent into fragmentation, self alienation, and emptiness-brought on, to a large extent, by communication technologies that distract us, dislocate us, and destroy our inner lives.--Alan Lightman, author of the bestselling Einstein's Dreams and National Book Award finalist The Diagnosis and MIT professorThis fascinating book on America's collective ADD is a wake-up call to all of us to take back our lives, turn off the technology, and focus on paying attention to what makes us human and fulfilled.--Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Harvard Business School Professor and author of America the Principled and ConfidenceWe have oceans of information at our

disposal, yet we increasingly seek knowledge in online headlines glimpsed on the run. We are networked as never before, but we connect with friends and family via e-mail and fleeting face-to-face moments that are rescheduled and interrupted a dozen times. Despite our wondrous technologies and scientific advances, we are nurturing a culture of diffusion, fragmentation, and detachment.In this new world, something crucial is missing: attention-the key to recapturing our ability to connect, reflect, and relax; the secret to coping with a mobile, multitasking, virtual world. How did we get to the point where we keep one eye on our Blackberry and one eye on our spouse-in bed? We can contact millions of people worldwide, so why is it hard to schedule a simple family supper? Most importantly, what can we do about it? Distracted vividly shows how day by day, our hyper-mobile, cyber-centric, interrupted lives erode our capacity for deep focus and awareness. The implications for a healthy society

are stark. Attention is the building block of intimacy, wisdom, and cultural progress. Jackson makes it clear that if we squander our powers of attention, our technological age could ultimately slip into cultural decline. And yet we are just as capable of igniting a renaissance of attention by strengthening our skills of focus and perception, the keys to judgment, memory, morality, and happiness. Jackson reveals the astonishing scientific discoveries that can help us rekindle our powers of attention in a world of speed and overload. She offers us a wake-up call, and reasons for hope. *Distracted* is an original exposé of the multifaceted nature of attention, an engaging and often surprising portrait of postmodern life, and a compelling roadmap for cultivating sustained focus and nurturing a more enriched and literate society. More than ever, we cannot afford to let distraction become the marker of our time. Maggie Jackson (New York, NY) is an award-winning author and journalist who writes the popular *Balancing Acts* column in

the *Boston Globe*. Her work also has appeared in *The New York Times* and on National Public Radio, among other national publications. Her acclaimed first book, *What's Happening to Home? Balancing Work, Life and Refuge in the Information Age*, examined the loss of home as a refuge.

**24/6** - Tiffany Shlain 2019-09-24

Winner of the Marshall McLuhan Outstanding Book Award Entrepreneur's 12 Productivity and Time-Management Books to Read "I'm won over to a day with people, not screens....I tried Shlain's idea. I highly recommend it." —The New York Times "Tiffany Shlain is a modern-day prophet, brilliant and incredibly funny in equal measure...24/6 is timeless and timely wisdom." —Angela Duckworth, #1 New York Times bestselling author This "wise, wonderful work" (Publishers Weekly starred review)

demonstrates how turning off screens one day a week can work wonders on your brain, body, and soul. Do you wish you had more time to do what

you love, think deeply, and focus on the people and things that matter most? By giving up screens one day a week for over a decade, Internet pioneer and renowned filmmaker Tiffany Shlain and her family have gained more time, productivity, connection, and presence. Shlain takes us on a thought-provoking and entertaining journey through time and technology, introducing a strategy for flourishing in our 24/7 world. Drawn from the ancient ritual of Shabbat, living 24/6 can work for anyone from any background. With humor and wisdom, Shlain shares her story, offering the accessible lessons she has learned and providing a blueprint for how to do it yourself. “Bolstered with fascinating and germane facts about neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, and the history of the concept of a day of rest” (Publishers Weekly), 24/6 makes the case for incorporating this weekly reset into our 24/7 lives, issuing a call to rebalance ourselves and our society.

*Experience on Demand: What Virtual Reality Is, How It Works, and What It Can Do* - Jeremy Bailenson 2018-01-30

“If you want to understand the most immersive new communications medium to come along since cinema... I’d suggest starting with Mr. Bailenson’s [book].” —Wall Street Journal Virtual reality is able to effectively blur the line between reality and illusion, granting us access to any experience imaginable. These experiences, ones that the brain is convinced are real, will soon be available everywhere. In *Experience on Demand*, Jeremy Bailenson draws upon two decades spent researching the psychological effects of VR to help readers understand its upsides and possible downsides. He offers expert guidelines for interacting with VR, and describes the profound ways this technology can be put to use to hone our performance, help us recover from trauma, improve our learning, and even enhance our empathic and imaginative capacities so that we treat others and ourselves better.

## **You Are Not a Gadget** - Jaron Lanier

2011-02-08

A NATIONAL BESTSELLER A programmer, musician, and father of virtual reality technology, Jaron Lanier was a pioneer in digital media, and among the first to predict the revolutionary changes it would bring to our commerce and culture. Now, with the Web influencing virtually every aspect of our lives, he offers this provocative critique of how digital design is shaping society, for better and for worse. Informed by Lanier's experience and expertise as a computer scientist, *You Are Not a Gadget* discusses the technical and cultural problems that have unwittingly risen from programming choices—such as the nature of user identity—that were “locked-in” at the birth of digital media and considers what a future based on current design philosophies will bring. With the proliferation of social networks, cloud-

based data storage systems, and Web 2.0 designs that elevate the “wisdom” of mobs and computer algorithms over the intelligence and wisdom of individuals, his message has never been more urgent.

## *Just Like Us! Crocs* - Bridget Heos 2019

Get the scoop on some of nature's most fearsome predators and discover the unexpected ways humans and crocodilians are similar in the sixth installment in the *Just Like Us!* series. Fun facts and a hilarious mix of photographs and full-color cartoon illustrations combine to captivate reluctant readers.

## *To Save Everything, Click Here* - Evgeny Morozov 2013-03-05

Argues that technology is changing the way we understand human society and discusses how the disciplines of politics, culture, public debate, morality, and humanism will be affected when responsibility for them is delegated to technology.