Stephen E. Arnold and Robert Steele on Information Existence...

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I'm recording, Steve. You know that I've been doing this answers on Osen for India with a, what appears to me to be a very talented officer that's thinking about things I've spent 30 years thinking about. And he's recently asked me, ah, an existential question, which is why is information available publicly? Why do people expose their information? Now, I think in terms of a tribe, so academics publish because they need to get promoted, even if they're publishing crap. Commerce publishes because it needs to do advertising and satisfy government regulation. Governments published because they need the light of the public and pretend they're doing something useful as well as published regulations. Um, what else comes after that the media publishes because they need to sell advertising or tell lies the military publishes because it needs to justify its extremely bloated budget, the law enforcement people publish to do crime statistics and put out wanted bulletins, the nonprofit's published because they need to attract donations and tell more lies. So that's kind of my existential answer. Where are you at this really great question?

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Well, I think, yeah, I would suggest there's one population that doesn't think of themselves as being producers of information.

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And that population is individuals using today's online systems,

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including Internet of Things devices,

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such as those available from Amazon and Google. So that is a very large population of publishers. And these individuals, quote, do it close quote, without knowing that they are generating extremely valuable data,

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what you are really saying, and you and I've talked about this before, when the product is free, you are the product. And what I hear you saying at a higher level, is that we have migrated from information is education, intelligence or decision support or research, we've migrated away from that. And we've now moved over to mass surveillance society in which the objective is total of observation of the individuals and total control of the individuals, the purpose of information has been flipped on its head.

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I agree. I think the thing that is fueling this explosion of unintentional publishing is one of the things that you have heard me call the laws of information. When an individual uses an online system, whether it's a phone, or a device in the home, and you are

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responding,

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essentially, with an unconscious honesty.

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And when the device provides feedback, such as an answer, or tic Tock video, it becomes addictive.

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And so the threshold to become an addict is extremely low. And what is happening is that the volume of content produced by these unintentional addicts far far exceeds what is available from the sources you've mentioned.

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The second thing that falls from this is that these unintentional data collectively have more value than almost anything produced by a nonprofit organization, for example, or an academic publisher. Well, that takes us into another question, which I want to get to, which is what is value but let's let's leave that for a minute. You're actually reminding me of my CIA roots, and mind control, because all of this information that is being collected from individuals and being aggregated and harvested is in fact leading into advertising and subliminal impressions, not only not only visual, but also audio, I just finished reviewing the music of time, which is about subliminal messages inside of audio, which is quite fascinating to me. And then you're pointing out that the aggregate cannot be processed. So what I hear you saying is we're moving from the era of enlightenment, to the era of

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addictive

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idiocy.

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Now, in that context, what you're telling me is that value lies in turning people into chickens that do what you want, rather than people who do farming and original things that create value. So the value is being extracted from humans, rather than being created by humans.

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I think the two go hand in hand. But I, I want to take one step back, that this addictive behavior creates a symbiotic relationship between the technologies of online and the humans, who both design and use these systems. And what happens is that as the information moves at an ever greater pace, through this symbiotic structure, it creates a gravitational pull. And it becomes almost impossible for an individual to break free of that, whether it's a teenager or someone like you or me. But it's also impossible for the companies to kick their habits. For example, a regulation is not going to change what Amazon, Facebook, Google do.

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And this is a very new construct. And as that gravitational power of information exerts more influence, things like value, the notion of traditional methods are pulled and torn apart by this online information, what I call data sphere.

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You know, Steve, this is not the conversation I would ever have imagined having. But I'm thankful to my officer in India for asking it because I think you and I are having a very, very good conversation. I'm reminded of the Amish, who tear out all of the electrical wiring from any house, and they've never had a vaccination, and they don't get sick.

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And so what I'm thinking about here is you're talking symbiotic. I'm thinking about artificial intelligence and vaccines, and part of artificial intelligence and vaccines is about eradicating the soul of the human, and basically turning the human into a beast of burden that does what they want, when they want. And when you talk about the pace, I'm immediately reminded of censorship. Now, YouTube just did me a favor, they just canceled my entire account. I may file a federal lawsuit against them. But the long and the short of it is I can live perfectly well without YouTube. And so Can everybody that dialogues with me through my website, and so forth, where I have purpose stuff. Now, you say that regulation no longer matters, because big tech is able to ignore government. And I agree with you. But I would also ask you what is a family to do that believes in values, what is someone to do, who, for example, believes that candidate a won the election and candidate B stole it and big tech is in league with the criminals? What do we do in that sense? Or are we to simply give up value in that in every sense of the word?

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I think the response to what do we do

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is the ad deputation of our behaviors and institutions, but those adaptations do not occur quickly. For example, is artificial intelligence, a cause or consequence or an enabler

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and depending on one's point of view, you can try to legislate machine learning and smart software that will have absolutely no effect on its use. On the other hand, you can choose to ignore it. And in that situation, the information one consumes is accepted as accurate and manipulation is not just possible, it is inevitable.

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And the notion of what do we do now comes back to the awareness of what is going on and the individual adaptations that we have to make

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without that awareness and adaptation, the online system will this drive forward in a manner that is not manageable, not

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governable and no one will have an incentive to change it. What I am seeing and there's this great movie called idiocracy, in which two morons from the present are catapulted into the future where they are immediate geniuses because everybody else has become so seriously stupid as to as to be real cause for concern. And when you talk about enabler, that's what I think of I wrote the first letter to the White House in 1994, sounding the alarm on cyber vulnerability, and particularly data integrity. And I called for with winch Martell and Bill Kiley in Australia and Jim Anderson the top and I say security engineer who was anonymous at the time, we call for the Center for computational authenticity, if you will. Um, and when I look at Wall Street, and I look at banking, and I look at fractional reserve banking, and I look at the way in which banks have been holding money overnight, one of my alert readers just calculated the banks have stolen 720 $5 trillion

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over the last quarter century by holding money and using it to do naked short selling, and other financial crimes. And now you're talking about the speed of all this information. I think what it's enabling is obfuscation and idiocy as a profit center. Um, are there any concluding comments that you might like to make? Because what I'm thinking about is, we're moving away you know, Thomas Jefferson said, a nation's best defense as an educated citizenry. And hangs Morgenthau and Hans Morgenthau in politics nation said that the strength of a nation is rooted in its public's fitness, and intelligence and integrity, I would add, and we seem to be moving if the left in the United States is any example. We seem to be moving towards serious dumb asses that don't know anything who are willing to believe whatever crap somebody gives them with a candy bar.

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I think the issue of awareness and adaptation require rethinking

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how individual families and individuals themselves approach online information. If it's just accepted, the way a goldfish accepts the water in witches swims, very little change occurs. And if you've ever had a fish, and watched it swim around every day, for a month or two, you pretty much understand that there is no capacity to modify behavior, it is in an environment and that environment defines it. And that is the online data sphere we now exist in. And that environment fosters monopolies. It fosters constructs that are more powerful than nation states. And it creates an environment where whoever controls the information flows, controls what the goldfish sees and eats.

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I don't have any quick solution to escaping the data sphere.

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And it is something that I think about frequently. But I have no band aid or short list of three things to do today, we got ourselves an environment that is completely new. And I think we're experiencing both social and cultural stress. And out of that will come adaptations. I have no idea what those adaptations will be. But short of pulling the power plug for all online. This is our environment for now.

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You know, as you're talking, I'm thinking of myself, not only you absolutely right, but we can extend this environment to include the electromagnetic pollution. There is a 17 page summary of an extraordinary book called The Invisible rainbow that associates most flus with radiation sickness with the origin of radar, the Spanish flu, telephones and so forth. And I think there's sound reasons why the Amish pull everything out of their, their houses. So essentially, we are now in an electromagnetic environment. And a, I can't even call it a knowledge environment, a data automation environment. I use the word data sphere. You're existing in your office within a complete electromagnetic binary data

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environment and it has

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not been studied, not just from the impact on the psychology of a human, but it hasn't been studied much in terms of the physiological impact. And this, this is the world. And when you get into a non data centric environment, like you're dropped off on a hillside, 40 kilometers north of Cusco, you suddenly understand that it is a very different world, time slows down.

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The mechanisms of communication are changed, that it's a standstill. So we have this very unusual environment for people who are highly connected, and companies that are dedicated to connectivity. And I think that this is a very stressful thing for both the human psychology and the human organism.

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Steve, I'm loath to end this because you you keep inspiring me, I mean, you are one of the smartest guys I know. And I love listening to you and interacting with you. I want to show the graphic that you sent me on the iceberg. And and then I'll show my own graphic on how we're actually working with 1% of 1% of 1% of 1%. And I'd like to just comment to everybody on this. So give me a second and people can find this a Phi Beta dotnet answers on Osen for India number 17. So here we have the Steve Arnold graphic, which shows the surface web the deep web, the dark web, and not index and it makes the point that 95% is not indexed. And then incorrectly say let me quickly say that a fella named Dr.

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Steven D. Gibson

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doesn't like that kind of generalization. Is this the Gibson that stole for Well, I don't can't say stole asst Gibson, that insulted me in his PhD thesis on Oh cent, which was very, very pedestrian. Well, he's insulted you and each of his subsequent books. Oh, I did not know that. Well, Mr. Gibson is not long for this world.

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The point is that

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a generalization?

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Like the one that that graphic I borrowed from the University of California, San Diego. Yeah, is that it simply calls attention to the small amount of information, which many people perceive to be the totality of information? No, you're right. Absolutely. Right. Let me show my graphic. But on Gibson, you know, I, I didn't quite puke when I read his thesis. But what I noticed about his thesis was he harvested the 800 people that I had brought forward and managed to never once credit me with having assembled 800 people over 20 years. So here's my, here's my next graphic Gibson is never going to contribute anything original to this world. So this graphic here I did for Thomson Reuters. And I drew on the Web of Knowledge that my friend Richard klavan, created. But essentially, we're doing we collect 1% of what's online, and very little of what's analog. And we process 1% of that. And what has been published is 1% of what's known. And so let's leave it there. Do you have any comments on the fact that we're actually living a world in which it's pay to play, people are buying the outcomes they want rather than doing evidence based decision making, when we have a new environment, which our

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heritage of adapting to avoid being consumed by a saber toothed Tiger doesn't equip us. And so the stresses that exist,

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are ones that are completely new. And I think we're going to see consequences of this digital information flow, which has been going on for about 50 years, became evident as a function in the late 1970s. But it is now reaching a pitch where the distorting factors just like high frequency sound waves can have a very, very big impact on a physical substance or a human. So this is a new time and I look forward to each day to discover

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What these digital flows are doing, not just to people, but to social institutions, discourse and other things. Let me bring up one more, um, information pathologies. You talk about information pathology. So here's one more for comment. And then we'll close out. This is answers on Osen for India, number 10, in which he asked me about disinformation and information pathologies. And so what I provide here is some of the books about information pathologies, fog, facts, propaganda ruled by secrecy weapons of mass destruction, and this is the one that concerns me most weapons of mass instruction, we are now teaching crap. And in fact, American universities are not being allowed by people in the Department of Education to teach Palestinian history accurately, or they'll lose their funding. Now, when I was when I was trained as a political scientist, which is an oxymoron, the field was changing from going out and doing field work, and actually learning foreign languages and talking to foreigners and visiting foreign countries. And it changed to being able to do what was called comparative analytics, which is code for being able to never leave your cubicle, and and just use data to understand countries. So I think what we've we've created for ourselves is a data cesspool, and we're all eating shit, and not realizing that it's shit, why don't you close us out on your thoughts about how we're eating shit today? Thank you Google Gestapo.

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I don't agree, I think we are consuming

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digital information. And the manifestations of that intake are the dysfunctions that we can identify. We can also identify some successes. I mean, I'm delighted that there are three or four tick talkers, who can command millions of viewers and earn hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. That's a wonderful upside. The downside seems to be an inability to think dispassionately about verifying information, the consequences of on limited data flows, and the incredible power that a handful of companies have over how people think, and what they accept as factual information. And these are difficult meta things to discuss. Because humans don't like to talk about meta. They want to know who won the football game on Monday night. And so meta questions in a digital environment, a new challenge, I wouldn't characterize it as waste. I think it is essentially the way it is going to be until the power and the lights go out.

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Let's stop there. On our next session, we'll think about answers. God bless you Steve at Arnold it.com forward slash WordPress, you are a genius. And I am honored to know you. Well, I thank you, but I don't think of myself as that way. I do it. I love you. Bye Bye. Goodbye.