

SMARTER INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES FOR SMARTER PEOPLE

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Abstract

The paper shortly presents some actual features of the development of smart devices and generally smart communication and information technologies (CIT), regarding their influence on people personality and behavior.

These features are addressing a diversity of applications fields, but maybe the most important is that our device- companion will be a real-time health assistant, monitoring the data of vital functions, connecting them to the expertise of doctors and providing personalized advices.

As the direct speech communications with the smartphone will be a default feature, our companion could be a surrogate for a baby sleep/breath monitor, a nurse, a teacher, a coach, a guardian and eventually an expert-adviser for children, young or old people.

The paper also presents the mechanisms of the influence of smart ICT on the economical, social, political, ethical, educational and medical factors, which further contribute to the global effect and the extent of deepness on people personality and people's creative potential.

The paper concludes that the smart devices and ICT have a strong influence on the people personality and way of life, as ICT is the main factor of the evolution of IS toward KBS. Also it is confirmed that people get smarter using the benefits of smarter devices, but the evaluation of all the influences of these devices on mankind needs a further and complex analysis, which can also reveal the negative or subliminal effects.

Keywords: *smartphones, smart information and communication technologies, information/knowledge based society.*

JEL Classification: C88, D83

1. The iceberg behind today's smartphones

There is no doubt that the peoples needs, as the Maslow pyramid also reflected them, represent a major factor of the society general development and this is very much confirmed when when we look to the information and communications technologies (ICT) products and services.

It is also an evidence that ICT have an amazing effect on mankind and Earth evolution, by their impressive and dynamic force to change the world we are living in.

All the above images, although far to be complete, are enough reasons to responsibly think about all the consequences of these evolutions, although it is sure that this goal is not simple.

Perhaps a relevant parallel we could choose in this case is the complex and dynamic evolution of global climate changes we have to think about as much (and as soon) as possible. It is important to recall that the complexity of this problem requests ... the future supercomputers (and ... more ITC)!

So we have to very much and very fast think about!

Then one could say: that is why we have all around more and more *smart devices*!

If the situation would be that simple!

Of course, who can deny that our precious *smartphones became smarter and smarter, although they are “young”*!

Who would have believed in the '90s that after 20 years we will have the power of that wonderful PC in our pocket and ... much more ?!

Coming back to our days, we have to deeply evaluate what we see on ICT market, where the smartphones, tablets and other smart devices certainly illustrate the state of the art and reveal the tendencies of the main area of ICT mass applications and social impact.

We see how, step by step, the smartphone plays, beyond its ubiquitous communication features, *a growing role of useful companion*.

Today there are common tools to have instant access to a clock, calculator, agenda-reminder, radio, camera etc.

Our smartphone started to be smarter than us when leading us everywhere on civilized Earth by its GPS navigator, but today on the same “route” it can bring us nearly any information through the infinite source of Internet.

As many analysts agree [1], these are only the beginning of a new era, the “childhood” of our companion.

That is why I think it is important to evaluate all could come after the top of the “iceberg”.

The first reason of doing that is to be sure how big it could be, but secondly it is for sure better to watch over all possible negative implications of a such phenomenon.

How big it will be the role of companion is a matter of power and pace of ICT development, but on the other hand we have to generally control, on a multicriteria basis, this “explosive” evolution of ICT on the road of the Information Society (IS) toward the Knowledge Based Society (KBS) [2].

We believe that only in this larger context, of IS and KBS, we have the chance to get a “right” balance of “explosion” in the multi-sized frame represented by the economic, social and ecologic Earth.

This way we see why the situation is not “that simple”.

Of course one could have a simpler approach, as all emergent features of smartphones seem to be useful and even leveraging for the quality of people’s life.

On this line, the today’s appearance of the “iceberg” is the top where we may remark a lot of features, growing with every new model in the context of a frenetic competition.

These features are addressing a diversity of applications fields, but maybe the most important is that our companion will be a real-time health assistant, monitoring the data of vital functions, connecting them to the expertise of doctors and providing personalized advices.

As the direct speech communications with our smartphone will be a default feature, although iPhone Sire is already available today, our companion could be a

surrogate for a baby sleep/breath monitor, a nurse, a teacher, a coach, a guardian and eventually an expert-adviser for children, young or old people.

More than these, the smart devices already started to be helpful for persons with handicap, including technological solutions of communication and social insertion for blind, speechless or impaired persons.

2. Smarter information and communications technologies for tomorrow's smarter people

The analysis of the global effects of the “explosive” development of ICT produces and services [1], including smartphones and all other similar devices, could have a diversity of approaches, but a systemic approach should consider the above mentioned context of IS towards KBS.

An even more general approach would consider the general context of the role of ICT as main factor of mankind evolution in Earth ecosystem [3].

The actual paper space and title are rather fitted for a partial approach only, regarding just the starting point of a further analysis of a fundamental problem: how could “smarter” ICT leverage the evolution of mankind towards “smarter people”.

At a first glance it is obvious that smarter ICT include the logical elements to educate people in sense of a smarter behavior, at least because they are promoting new and highly sophisticated elements of progress in all applications areas, although usually they are designed to be used as simple and friendly as possible by the people.

This way we can observe that the real influence of the way ICT is evolving “smarter”, on the mankind profile, is more complex and difficult to evaluate, because of the superposition of diverse factors with different weights, mechanisms and timing.

As a consequence we can include the influence of smart ICT on the economical, social, political, ethical, educational and medical factors, which further contribute to the global effect and to the extent of deepness on people personality and people's creative potential.

An other approach must be also considered, if we evaluate the short or long term influence of smart ICT on people behavior.

The most known influence is on short term, as hobbies, tools or toys are leading to a better life, understanding, efficiency or growing.

About long term one could speak of changes in the mental processes, as growing of logical and precise approaches.

A further and deeper analysis on long time should consider the above changes as an integrating process inside IS toward KBS, where the context is very complex due to the iterative actions of the mentioned factors.

For an accurate analysis, we must admit that a smarter man in KBS will be the result of the influence of the above factors, adding every time the specific and complicate mechanisms of iterative generation of the “new” refined “knowledge” where ICT has a major role, but not exclusively [4]. For example, that global result and every iterative refined knowledge are strongly influenced by the political, philosophical, ethical, educational and even genetic environment of the people.

3. Conclusions

The smart devices and ICT have a strong influence on the people personality and way of life, as ICT is the main factor of the evolution of IS toward KBS.

It is a matter of evidence that people get smarter using the benefits of smarter devices, but the evaluation of all the influences of these devices on mankind needs a further and complex analysis, which can also reveal the negative or subliminal effects.

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