log files.
stories from the internet of things

VISUAL COMMUNICATION
kunst universität linz

Design artefacts are always manifestations of inherent needs, wishes, anxieties and values of their creators, developers and future users. These projects investigate into the hidden values and needs of artefacts and propose an alternative visual narration.

A showcase of connected objects in different settings, dealing with possible, preferable and undesirable futures.

Imagine you live in the year 2030. The Internet of Things is in full swing and our world has developed into divergent social groups.

Eight student groups worked on future situations in which networked devices take action, depending on different scenarios about data control and ownership. We want to see how devices communicate with their users/owners in order to make decisions comprehensible and to reveal the hidden lives of such IoT black boxes. Log files deal with issues of privacy, transparency and participation. Each project provides a lens to examine the social, ethical, and aesthetic implications of the interdependence of society and technology in relation to a near-future era of connected things.

All scenarios are part of a thought experiment and open for discussion. We try to initiate a debate about future parameters of our work with connected objects. Choose a scenario and work with its implications!
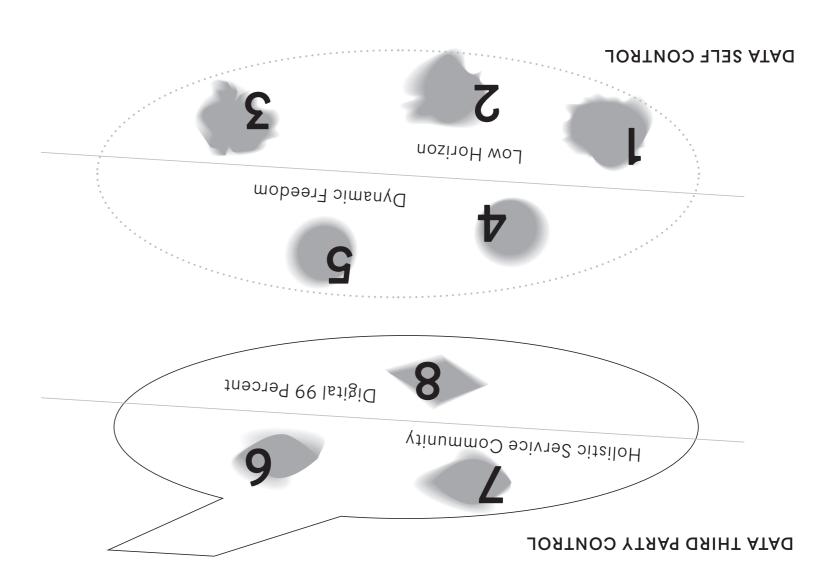
Data Third Party Control

These scenarios are dealing with questions about access and network quality: How can we create functional, fast and comprehensive networks? Will the real and virtual world become one? What new business models will emerge? Will everything be tailored to our needs? Will this apply only to those who can afford it? And will only a few large players rule the world?

Two divergent scenarios show how we can work with the data in the internet of things and how people will adjust to life in virtual worlds, either in escaping into gigantic data clouds of a near future or using them in new, productive ways.

«Digital 99 Percent»
Society is divided into a technical elite and the majority 99% of the population, who will work mostly in unqualified jobs and kept quiet with cheap entertainment.

«Holistic Service Communities»
People trust one big institution with all their data, which will guard them like a "Big Mother". Life will be totally transparent and secure, as long as no one tries to leave the system.

Data Self Control

These scenarios are dealing with questions about security and privacy: How can we protect our networks and ourselves from cyberwar and crime? Whom can we trust and why? How far should machines be able to decide in our name? And how can we guarantee data protection in a net of the future?

Two divergent scenarios show how we can use the control of our data to either enhance our skills and let us do things faster and better, or to escape to a disconnected world of an analogue past.

«Low Horizon»
People oppose new technologies and try to disconnect from digital information streams.

«Dynamic Freedom»
People and machines cooperate in the new, radically decentralised internet, and technology will regulate itself.

The internet of connected things introduces new conflicts in the digitalisation of all areas of life.

DATA SELF CONTROL

Low Horizon | Dynamic Freedom

Safetylog /1
Marco Langguth
Eva-Maria Schitter

The Bed /4
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Monitoring Memories /2
Theresa Korherr
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MOODIE /5
Julia Singer
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HEALTH SCAN /3
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Helena Kappelmüller
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Vera Tolazzi
Martina Jäger

DATA THIRD PARTY CONTROL

Holistic Service Community | Digital 99 Percent

Life of my pet /6
Jung Ui Lee
Daniel Huber

The Token /8
Lisa-Marie Witting

Care Ring /7
Hana Opresnik
Anna Eichhoff
Ana Dumitrache
Annette Valcic

8.0

1/
Safetylog

The installation S A F E T Y L O G visualizes the epicentre of a safety dome scenario, where vast amounts of digital data are detected, collected and converted into analogue, action-orientated information messages. These data translations are written in analogue form easy to read and therefore made understandable for humans. The safety screen protects its environment from any intruding matter—any transgression will trigger an alarm and activate action. We have chosen a scenario with a small but skilfull intruder: robotic locusts.

By contrasting the digital and the physical world, our system uncovers the antagonism of a world disconnected from the IoT. S A F E T Y L O G presents the massive amount of daily information produced by contemporary surveillance tools and security protocols and enables us to experience an expression of the vast dimension of connected things.

2/
Monitoring Memories

M O N I T O R I N G M E M O R I E S translates digital memories into an analogue object in the form of a postcard. Digital monitoring and data collection creates records, filters and displays according to the interests of its user. In order to leave our world to enter the digital world, the visitor will need a connecting element: "Connection Chips" help to cope with the digital world. They respond to the different needs of our inhabitants and protect them from total monitoring.

Three different types of "Connection Chips" have been developed:
    The "One-Day-Connection" allows the inhabitants to shop in the digital world. It works as a means of payment and protects them against unwanted connections. The chip records the digital history of the whole trip for analysis.
    For a vacation in the digital world, we recommend the "Holiday-Connection". It allows to pay in the digital world, to find one's way and to use the health care system in case of an emergency.
    To work in the digital world, there is the "Work-Connection". It enables to connect with the workplace so that you can continue working without restrictions. The chip establishes a means of payment, a salary account, and health insurance.

3/
HEALTH SCAN 8.0

We welcome anyone who is not a threat to us. In order to protect the values of our natural world, a body scan must be carried out before entering our country. H E A L T H S C A N 8 . 0 analyzes the mental and physical health of the prospective visitor. If there are too many negative results, they cannot enter our world. H E A L T H S C A N 8 . 0 transforms the most critical health values into a visual language. In the next step, these values are printed out and transmitted to the customs officer. Since we do not trust this technology 100 %, the human custom official has the final power to decide whether the person is allowed to enter our territory or not.

4/
The Bed

In our world where technology is accessible in abundance for everyone, economy and politics are being driven by individual customer choices. Every object turns into an intelligent assistant for your daily needs and wishes. Even everyday things like your bed collects, processes and transmits your personal data for the best possible support. It communicates with other objects, organizes your bedtime routine and makes decisions for you. It can measure and understand how you feel, what you need, and probably even what you think. According to your emotional and physical state it will adjust temperature, position, scent, air quality, light setting and many more parameters to make you feel good and find your much-needed rest.

5/
MOODIE

M O O D I E is the reason why our scenario is the most comfortable among all. It gives its wearer ultimate support in every situation by constantly changing its material qualities due to interpretations of collected data. Its surface and interlining layers change their physical and tangible qualities according to the user's needs, based on data measured on the body and the skin as well as outside parameters like temperature and air quality.
    We have chosen a stressful exam situation as an example to demonstrate the abilities of our dress in a stressful situation: The M O O D I E provides a nice warming of your whole back while it stays breathable, and it helps to stand straight by stiffening its structure in the spinal area. In addition, the shirt has the special 'love' feature which gives you emotional support: a feeling of nice strokes or a hug. The M O O D I E pursues the perfect comfort for the your body and soul, as a ready-to-wear fashion statement.

6/
Life of my pet

We provide full service for you and your dog. At the beginning of your pet's life, during its life and at the end; even at a new life... our wide learning AI helps you to communicate with your special friend. Your can play with your pet in real time, talk to it with our translator, analyze behavior patterns and find critical information about its life.
    Use I P E T to monitor your darling 24 hours, live, and collect important data and information for all its actions, movement, emotions, heartbeat, blood sugar, blood pressure, and much more.... You can see all the data visualized on the D O G C L O U D.

Switching to iPet designed for you. Smart!
– H O L O G R A M C A M E R A
Incredible hologram communication!
– I N F I N I T E L Y F U N C T I O N I N G S E N S O R S
Get information about pets. Extremely fast, accurate, and sensetive!
– W I D E L E A R N I N G A I
Automatic analysis and instant communication of critical information about your pet!
– U N L I M I T E D M E M O R Y
More storage. No more deleting photos and videos of pets. You can expand your D O G C L O U D.
– N E W T Y P E G E N T E C H N I C
Get a new pet which is the same as your previous one.

7/
Care Ring

C A R E R I N G is a conceptual exploration of health care in the future: A ring, unique to its wearer, gathers not only information like blood pressure, body temperature and more, but also becomes the direct connection between the customer and their health care provider.
    Instead of having to see a doctor in person the user is able to transfer collected health data and almost instantly receives an analysis, case history and diagnosis with a treatment. In a time where businesses take advantage of all personal data, health care is the last area of life where privacy is still valued and not easily given up for the sake of convenience. Data is always stored locally on Care Ring, until the moment the user gives permission to transfer information to medical personnel. The user is able to get insight into their wellbeing at any time by accessing the examination of their data—through graphs, charts, written text or spoken language. This bespoke analysis is tailored to the user's needs and medical knowledge, while the health care provider is able to see the whole picture with all necessary details.
    Misunderstandings are reduced as communication between patient and doctor no longer relies on a common language, and the user can receive information repeatedly from the ring, and at any given time.

8/
The Token

In a world where 1% of the population holds all the power we introduce a device which is apparently part of the consumer but allows total control of the people. T H E T O K E N not only categorizes and ranks its human user, it is the only authorized method of payment and identification. Worn on the wrist by the help of an implanted magnet, it is connected to contact lenses the user wears the whole day for communicating with his environment. Constantly collecting information, personal as well as from the outer world, T H E T O K E N advises and guides us through our daily life. Rating and saving everything you encounter, it tells you what to buy, what to eat and where to go, making the process of deciding and researching completely obsolete.