

I really enjoyed this full deep dive into the social aspects of our designs, which has been slightly in the background of all of our previous chapters. I found the discussion Ge presents regarding what should and should not be automated of course very topical for our current times. It makes me very sad to see that we are using AI to create music and paintings. I don't feel there is any purpose to this other than to show what a smart machine we've made, that it can steal from all of us and reconfigure what it found.. In a sense, I feel most modern designs do not follow the mantra of Principle 7.8: Design "Anti" Social Network Networks nor Principle 7.3: Technology should strive to get out of the way of human interaction. When I think of the most popular design online right now, the infinite scroll of TikTok or Instagram Reels, I could not think of anything more "in the way." It grabs your attention and doesn't let go of it. I might be paranoid, but I feel like the absolutely omnipresence of these designs has made people far less social even in the real world. I have never lived in a world where people on trains didn't all just stare at their phones individually. In a sense I feel many of these designs make the case that we don't *need* social interaction with others anymore. We can just be in our own worlds and get as much stimulation as we want. Furthermore, Principle 7.10 and its subline, "some tasks are naturally hard for computers but easy for humans," I feel like is unfortunately very optimistic for now in our current world. Computers seem to be catching up to us in everything we do. I know Ge wrote this before the explosion of AI capabilities and I wonder how this chapter would look if he had written it this year. I definitely can sense and relate to a much more somber vision of things from his lecture last Thursday. I am fascinated by the proposed idea of a familiar stranger. I don't know that it's something I have experienced much in my own life, especially being online so often. Even when I was abroad in Berlin for a quarter, my commute never really brought about familiar faces that I just happened to run into. The closest I can relate it to is the lady who sold coffee in the U-Bahn station who I'd run into occasionally. Sometimes I think the world has just gotten too big. Anyway, I love that Ge is pushing for designs to encourage the happening of these familiar stranger relationships. We could all use some increase in community right about now.