Research Managers as Cyborgs
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#RMAcyborgs
#EARMAAC2016
Research Managers as Cyborgs

*Risks and opportunities in extending our human capabilities with software and machines*

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21/06/2016, Luleå
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“A cyborg is an organism to which exogenous components have been added for the purpose of adapting to new environments.”
We are all cyborgs...
This screen is an exogenous component that is making me a cyborg. It actually increases my capacity to deliver a message to a large audience within a conference room. But there is nothing to gain if I use it in the wrong way. For example, the use of long text should be prohibited on slides. Text takes time to read and is boring to look at. Even worse, people tend to read a text as soon as it is presented. By focusing on the reading activity, they lose the thread of the message conveyed by the voice of the speaker. Hey! Are you still listening to me?
This screen is an exogenous component that is making me a cyborg. It actually increases my capacity to deliver a message to a large audience within a conference room. But there is nothing to gain if I’m using it the wrong way. For example, the use long text should be prohibited on slides. Text takes time to read and it is boring to look at. Even worse: people tend to read a text as soon as it’s presented. Focussing on the reading activity, they are loosing the thread of the message convey by the voice of the speaker. Hey! Are you still listening to me?

WRONG use of technology:
Not taking into account human behaviours and context.

VS

Better use of technology:
Providing a way to accelerate the speed of reading (with training).
Julia is a 43-year-old research administrator working for a medium-sized university in Europe. She is mum to two daughters.

Her job is stressful*. She tries not to bring work home but she has to do so regularly since she is constantly working under pressure and is committed to respecting strict deadlines.

Sometimes she takes a short break by attending a conference away from her day-to-day work (but she still has to reply to urgent emails...).

* See the session “How stressful is the life of a research administrator?”
Basic Human Needs

- **Self-actualisation**: Creativity, Problem solving, Authenticity, Spontaneity
- **Esteem**: Self-esteem, Confidence, Achievement
- **Social Needs**: Friends, Family
- **Safety and Security**: Air, Shelter, Water, Food
- **Physiological Needs**: Air, Shelter, Water, Food
Basic Cyborg Needs

- **Self-actualisation**: Creativity, Problem solving, Authenticity, Spontaneity
- **Esteem**: Self-esteem, Confidence, Achievement
- **Social Needs**: Friends, Family
- **Safety and Security**: Air, Shelter, Water, Food
- **Physiological Needs**: Connective Obligation
- **Wifi**: Extended cognitive self
- **Battery**
Level of intimacy

Private Software  Own developed Software  Corporate Software  Pirated Software
Collaboration

Some collaborative notes for all EARMA sessions?
Productivity

We are far more productive when we perform tasks one at a time.

Empirical research shows that the most productive people work for 52 minutes then take a break of 17 minutes.

It takes an average of 23 minutes to refocus after being interrupted.
focus n point

- accepting (word)
- article
- converging rays or light,
- heat, waves of sound, meet;
- centre of activity or
- intensity; pl focuses, foci; u
- adjust; cause to converge;
- concentrate; a focal
- pertaining to focus

insect;
- in the ointment
- idm fly on the
- ret observer; idm no
sb sb is not easily
- a flyblown
- maggoty; n fly-
- bird;
#DONOTDISTURB
Could you please send me the minutes of our last meeting?

Cecile • Now
Automatic reply:

I am attending a conference. I cannot read your email. Your email is being deleted. Please contact Hervé if it's really important, or send the email again after I'm back in the office.

Thank you very much.
Legality

• Reading the privacy policies you encounter in a year would take 76 working days.
• The median time users spend on terms and conditions pages is only 6 seconds!
Security
Take-home message

• Your choices and behaviours as RMA cyborgs are as important as the ones you develop as a human being, if not more so...

• We are only just starting to experience the new phenomena that are being derived from our close interactions with software and machines. We should develop terminology for them, attempt to understand their global impact and call for better-designed solutions.

• NEVER forget the man / woman in the cyborg!
Related webography

- [Cyborg Anthropology](#) (including dictionary of terms)
- [Design for time well spent](#) (including the manifesto)
- [Who’s downloading pirated papers? Everyone](#)
- [The secret of the 10% most productive people? Breaking](#)
- [How technology hijacks people’s minds](#)
- [Social Engineering: Password in exchange for chocolate](#)
- [Public Domain Calculator](#)
- [Spritz reading technology](#)