CS 407H: Assignment 5: Computers and the Future
Due: Wednesday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. (electronically)

Goals:
• Reflect on the influence of computers on personal habits.
• Speculate on future computing innovations and their possible impacts.

Part 1: Mind Habits [5 points]

Identify 5 "mind habits" (cf. Turkle paper titled "Technology and Human Vulnerability") that you observe in your own behavior that result from the presence of computers or computing technology in your life (e.g., how you shop, how you communicate, how you travel, how you meet new people, how you study, when you study, when you sleep). For each one, <u>describe the habit</u> and the <u>computing technology</u> that influenced it.

Note: This is not just reciting how you accomplish a specific task, but rather identifying the ways you *think* about a subject or *approach* a problem that have been modified by the presence of computing devices or technology. For example, "I make plans with friends using text messages" isn't a mind habit, but this is: "I know I can wait until the last minute to figure out what we're doing tonight because we can always text to coordinate." <u>This will be difficult</u>, and it requires some careful introspection and imagining how things would be (or were) different before the invention of different technology advances that you now use.

Part 2: The Future [5 points]

How will computers continue to shape and influence society, and your own life, in the future? Select one area (e.g., personal finance, politics, gardening, travel, fashion, productivity, education, transportation) in which you think computing innovations will cause changes in the next five years, or an area in which you *wish* computing would cause changes. Think science fiction! <u>Describe the area, the possible/likely/wished-for innovations, and the impact those innovations will have on 1) you and 2) society</u>.

How to submit your assignment:
• This assignment is due on Wednesday, November 23, at the start of class.
• Submit your assignment by email (to <u>wkiri@eecs.orst.edu</u>) in text or PDF format.
  • (Optional) I encourage you to also post your answers to the class blog.