

Documentary Overview

We have all experienced the impact of technology on our lives. While everyone feels that they are somehow different than they used to be, there is very little empirical evidence strung together in a meaningful way that actually shows what technology is doing to us as a species. The reality is that technology is changing the way we think, how we learn, and how we communicate. And while those of us who were born 30+ years ago have had to adapt from an analog world to a digital one, the children of today have minds completely shaped by the technology they've inherited. The world is changing. Our species is changing. And technology is at the root of these changes.



Our primary window into the actual effects of tech will come from juxtaposing the children of today with those of past generations. By talking with the most respected authorities in neuroscience, inventing our own studies and questions for kids today, and going out into the field and hearing voices of the current generation, we will get hard evidence that shows how we have changed. Are we less empathetic? Do we remember less? Are we more anxious? Are we happier and freer? How is the human mind reprogramming itself to deal with multi-tasking and constant connection? Is our language changing?

To frame this information, we are talking with the greatest minds in the field of technology--inventive geniuses who have led us to this point. We are connecting with politicians trying to reinvent our educational system to incorporate this paradigm shift.

We are speaking with authors, activists, and artists who have foretold of a future resembling our present reality, who can offer perspectives on what's happening, and insight into where we may be headed. Will there be books in the future, and are they truly necessary? Is long-term memory actually important, or can we simply let the Internet be the shepherd of our collective knowledge?

The film is a tale of caution and optimism. It broadcasts the dangers of assimilation alongside the benefits of immediate communication. Technology has the potential to be our savior and our destroyer. Spending 12+ hours each day looking at monitors, dividing our attention, and existing in multiple places at once, all have real impacts. Just because we're all doing it, doesn't mean it's ok--or does it? Why are we all doing this, and is technology living up to the promise of making our lives easier? Are we more connected as a species, but simultaneously more alone as individuals? We need some answers.

Format and Funding

The style of Terms and Conditions will match the subject matter. Told in a fast-paced and commercial way, the film will stylistically bridge traditional documentary techniques with a visual language that speaks to digital natives. As such, the film is being designed for both 2D and 3D formats. The style of the film will convey one of its principal points: that the digital world and the real world are merging.

The documentary is fully funded with a release schedule set for 2012.

*Directed by Cullen Hoback
Produced by John Ramos*