

# Howard Rheingold

## Quotes

*People, Technology, World, Thinking, Communication, Years, Media, Phones,  
Reality, Mean, Moving, Two, Together, Ideas, Talking, Teenager, Community,  
Civilization, Way, Games*

Its not a global village, but we're in a highly interconnected globe.

~Howard Rheingold

Democracy is not just voting for your leaders; it's really premised upon ordinary citizens understanding the issues.

~Howard Rheingold

Humans are humans because we are able to communicate with each other and to organize to do things together that we can't do individually.

~Howard Rheingold

Knowing of how to make use of online tools without being overloaded with too much information is, like it or not, an essential ingredient to personal success in the twenty-first century.

~Howard Rheingold

Whenever a technology enables people to organize at a pace that wasn't before possible, new kinds of politics emerge.

~Howard Rheingold

If, like many others, you are concerned social media is making people and cultures shallow, I propose we teach more people how to swim and together explore the deeper end of the pool.

~Howard Rheingold

A lot of people use collaborative technologies badly, then abandon them. They aren't 'plug-and-play.' The invisible part is the social skill necessary to use them.

~Howard Rheingold

If you depend on where the chestnuts are going to be, and where the deer are, you have to be attuned to the outside world.

~Howard Rheingold

People's social networks do not consist only of people they see face to face. In fact, social networks have been extending because of artificial media since the printing press and the telephone.

~Howard Rheingold

I think e-mail petitions are an illusion. It gives people the illusion that they're participating in some meaningful political action.

~Howard Rheingold

You can't pick up the telephone and say, 'Connect me with someone else who has a kid with leukemia.'

~Howard Rheingold

We must take responsibility for educating ourselves. Being part of a 'smart mob' doesn't guarantee that you're a responsible participant or collaborator.

~Howard Rheingold

Attention is a limited resource, so pay attention to where you pay attention.

~Howard Rheingold

You can't have an industrial revolution, you can't have democracies, you can't have populations who can govern themselves until you have literacy. The printing press simply unlocked literacy.

~Howard Rheingold

Craigslist is about authenticity. Craig has paid his dues, and people respect him.

~Howard Rheingold

When designers replaced the command line interface with the graphical user interface, billions of people who are not programmers could make use of computer technology.

~Howard Rheingold

Some digital natives are extraordinarily savvy.

~Howard Rheingold

Openness and participation are antidotes to surveillance and control.

~Howard Rheingold

We are moving rapidly into a world in which the spying machinery is built into every object we encounter.

~Howard Rheingold

I've spent my life alone in a room with a typewriter.

~Howard Rheingold

It's more important to me to get an e-mail that says, 'I saw your page and it changed my life,' than how many hits the page got.

~Howard Rheingold

Make your own fun. As opposed to consume fun like a package of Spam.

~Howard Rheingold

Humans are language machines, computers are language machines.

~Howard Rheingold

See technology used to be our friends. But now, nobody is quite so sure.

~Howard Rheingold

The world is restructuring, and all of the enemies that used to exist are kind of gone, so now they are looking out for new enemies.

~Howard Rheingold

I usually try to check quotes with people just to make sure things work out.

~Howard Rheingold

American families don't work. There is an illusion that they do.

~Howard Rheingold

It's quintessentially American to transform your family.

~Howard Rheingold

The neural network is this kind of technology that is not an algorithm, it is a network that has weights on it, and you can adjust the weights so that it learns. You teach it through trials.

~Howard Rheingold

We can design things that learn, so you can grow an intelligence by creating an environment and creating things that just do it a million time faster than we do.

~Howard Rheingold

Any virtual community that works, works because people put in some time.

~Howard Rheingold

It's too late by the way, with virtual reality. You can't put the genie back into the bottle.

~Howard Rheingold

There may be a jump on electronic LSD with virtual reality, and the problem just with saying LSD, enough time has gone by that there is no distinction between psychedelics and other drugs.

~Howard Rheingold

The two parts of technology that lower the threshold for activism and

technology is the Internet and the mobile phone. Anyone who has a cause can now mobilize very quickly.

~Howard Rheingold

We are taught what reality is in all kinds of ways.

~Howard Rheingold

Dinosaurs grew feathers for heat regulation, but the ones that started flying started becoming birds.

~Howard Rheingold

All you have to do is mate.

~Howard Rheingold

The entire human race faced a singularity when one small group discovered, ooh, technology. We can live a different way. Eventually, that spelled the death of the old way of life.

~Howard Rheingold

We've got a planet in which we don't want to have everybody having sex, and most people are lonely anyway.

~Howard Rheingold

What is it about sex? Is it the sensations, or is it the meanings and the communication game that's tied into that.

~Howard Rheingold

My mission is to try to get a lot more global view.

~Howard Rheingold

If 80,000,000 polygons per second is reality, what happens to you when you live in a world 160,000,000?

~Howard Rheingold

There is sort of a continuing problem of putting a moral template on the future that is based on the morality of today.

~Howard Rheingold

I think the one thing humans are is language wizards.

~Howard Rheingold

Technology is knowledge of how the universe works that enables you to change the world.

~Howard Rheingold

The manufacturing and packaging of homogeneous experience is what politics in America is about.

~Howard Rheingold

Essentially pursuit of happiness is saying, everything's allowed until we come down on it.

~Howard Rheingold

The Western model for a meeting is you have an agenda and you come in and everyone says things.

~Howard Rheingold

I guess music in general is the transportation business.

~Howard Rheingold

Everything is danger, but we pretend that it's not.

~Howard Rheingold

Everything is removed. You're actually doing something dangerous when you get in your car, when you're getting on an airplane, or having sex.

~Howard Rheingold

You wash the roots very carefully before you plant.

~Howard Rheingold

1947 America blasted off.

~Howard Rheingold

Kerouac was this kid who exemplified something happening.

~Howard Rheingold

Let's cut loose what you were given and find what you can seek.

~Howard Rheingold

The audience is a big part of the show.

~Howard Rheingold

A forecasting game is a kind of simulation, a kind of scenario, a kind of teleconference, a kind of artifact from the future - and more - that enlists the participants as 'first-person forecasters.'

~Howard Rheingold

Mindfulness means being aware of how you're deploying your attention and making decisions about it, and not letting the tweet or the buzzing of your BlackBerry call your attention.

~Howard Rheingold

You can't assume any place you go is private because the means of surveillance are becoming so affordable and so invisible.

~Howard Rheingold

It's kind of astonishing that people trust strangers because of words they write on computer screens.

~Howard Rheingold

When the Apollonian strain took over in Greece, they made them into



theaters and the original dramas.

~Howard Rheingold

A phone tree isn't an ancient form of political organizing, but you have to call every person.

~Howard Rheingold

Advertising in the past has been predicated on a mass market and a captive audience.

~Howard Rheingold

Any disease support community is a place of deep bonds and empathy, and there are thousands if not tens of thousands of them.

~Howard Rheingold

There actually are buildings that existed in cyberspace before they built it.

~Howard Rheingold

Pay attention to what you're paying attention to.

~Howard Rheingold

By the time you get a job, you know how to behave in a meeting or how to write a simple memo.

~Howard Rheingold

There are always a few people who are hyper-normal.

~Howard Rheingold

Mobile phones amplify human talents for cooperation.

~Howard Rheingold

Flash mobbing may be a fad that passes away, or it may be an indicator of things to come.

~Howard Rheingold

Maybe there is no objective experience, but there is a certain way of interacting with all the subjective experiences.

~Howard Rheingold

Humans have lived for much, much longer than the approximately 10,000 years of settled agricultural civilization.

~Howard Rheingold

I'm somebody who seems to stumble into things 10 or 20 years before the rest of the world does.

~Howard Rheingold

In the broad sense design means thinking about what the function or purpose of things or processes are, and translating that into action.

~Howard Rheingold

Like most modern Americans, I assume individuality is not only a fundamental value, but a goal in life, an art form.

~Howard Rheingold

One thing we didn't know in 1996 is that it's very, very difficult, if not impossible, to sustain a culture with online advertising.

~Howard Rheingold

The areas of the brain that have to do with speech are very connected with the same parallel processors that have to do with the kind of ballistic calculations you need to hit small game with a rock.

~Howard Rheingold

Technological civilization has now dominated the earth to the point where there is a big question what is going to happen next.

~Howard Rheingold

The industrial revolution took the father out of the home and put the kids in school. And then everyone had their own little scene.

~Howard Rheingold

We don't have a revolution, and we don't have the time for evolution, where does it come from? It must come from some kind of shared experience that everybody agrees with.

~Howard Rheingold

Inexpensive phones and pay-as-you go services are already spreading mobile phone technology to many parts of that world that never had a wired infrastructure.

~Howard Rheingold

The body is just the vehicle for something else.

~Howard Rheingold

Finding a name for something is a way of conjuring its existence, of making it possible for people to see a pattern where they didn't see anything before.

~Howard Rheingold

The AP has only so many reporters, and CNN only has so many cameras, but we've got a world full of people with digital cameras and Internet access.

~Howard Rheingold

The Amish communities of Pennsylvania, despite the retro image of horse-drawn buggies and straw hats, have long been engaged in a productive debate about the consequences of technology.

~Howard Rheingold

Personal computers were created by some teenagers in garages because the, the wisdom of the computer industry was that people

didn't want these little toys on their desk.

~Howard Rheingold

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