

Jaron Lanier

Quotes

*People, Technology, Thinking, War, Way, Ideas, Information, Real, Design,
Class, Culture, Brain, Writing, Reality, Progress, Musician, Cancer, Giving,
Trying, Self*

Services like Google and Facebook only exist because of the social acceptance of a mass amount of distributed volunteer labor from tons and tons of people.

~Jaron Lanier

A real friendship ought to introduce each person to unexpected weirdness in the other.

~Jaron Lanier

It is impossible to work in information technology without also engaging in social engineering.

~Jaron Lanier

Books are really, really hard to write. They represent a kind of a summit of grappling with what one really has to say

~Jaron Lanier

An economy where advertisers thrive while journalists and artists struggle, reflects the values of a society more interested in deception and manipulation than in truth and beauty

~Jaron Lanier

Create a website that expresses something about who you are that won't fit into the template available to you on a social networking site.

~Jaron Lanier

We already knew that kids learned computer technology more easily than adults, It is as if children were waiting all these centuries for someone to invent their native language.

~Jaron Lanier

I think seeking perfection in human affairs is a perfect way to destroy them.

~Jaron Lanier

Humans change themselves through technology.

~Jaron Lanier

Mobs and dictators were made for each other, and when mobs appear, dictators will soon flourish.

~Jaron Lanier

Style used to be an interaction between the human soul and tools that were limiting. In the digital era, it will have to come from the soul alone.

~Jaron Lanier

Advertisers and marketers should be looking to bring new experiences to different parts of the brain. It's a more profound idea than just dropping a billboard into a video game.

~Jaron Lanier

I think most of the dramatic new ideas come from little companies that then grow big.

~Jaron Lanier

I think complexity is mostly sort of crummy stuff that is there because it's too expensive to change the interface.

~Jaron Lanier

A digital sound sample in angry rap doesn't correspond to the graffiti but the wall.

~Jaron Lanier

When you have a global mush, people lose their identity, they become pseudonyms, they have no investment and no consequence in what they do.

~Jaron Lanier

We're losing track of the vastness of the potential for computer science.

We really have to revive the beautiful intellectual joy of it, as opposed to the business potential.

~Jaron Lanier

External reality is sort of an affectation of the nervous system.

~Jaron Lanier

If we allow our self-congratulatory adoration of technology to distract us from our own contact with each other, then somehow the original agenda has been lost.

~Jaron Lanier

An intelligent person feels guilty for downloading music without paying the musician, but they use this free-open-culture ideology to cover it.

~Jaron Lanier

My parents were kind of like me in that they had tons and tons of weird, amazing stuff.

~Jaron Lanier

A remarkable thing about the Silicon Valley culture is that its status structure is so based on technical accomplishment and prowess.

~Jaron Lanier

Musicians and journalists are the canaries in the coalmine, but, eventually, as computers get more and more powerful, it will kill off all middle-class professions.

~Jaron Lanier

Linux is a superbly polished copy of an antique - shinier than the original, perhaps, but still defined by it.

~Jaron Lanier

Why do people deserve a penny when they update their Facebook

status? Because they'll spend some of it on you.

~Jaron Lanier

There is no difference between machine autonomy and the abdication of human responsibility.

~Jaron Lanier

It's as if you kneel to plant the seed of a tree and it grows so fast that it swallows your whole town before you can even rise to your feet.

~Jaron Lanier

Information doesn't deserve to be free. It is an abstract tool; a useful fantasy, a nothing. It is nonexistent until and unless a person experiences it in a useful way.

~Jaron Lanier

Individuals achieve optimal stupidity when they're given substantial powers while being insulated from the results of their actions.

~Jaron Lanier

If you're old enough to have a job and to have a life, you use Facebook exactly as advertised, you look up old friends.

~Jaron Lanier

People try to treat technology as an object, and it can't be. It can only be a channel.

~Jaron Lanier

You have to be somebody before you can share yourself.

~Jaron Lanier

Facebook says, 'Privacy is theft,' because they're selling your lack of privacy to the advertisers who might show up one day.

~Jaron Lanier

The network by itself is meaningless. Only the people were ever meaningful.

~Jaron Lanier

People have to be able to make money off their brains and their hearts. Or else we're all going to starve, and it's the machines that'll get good.

~Jaron Lanier

Funding a civilization through advertising is like trying to get nutrition by connecting a tube from one's anus to one's mouth.

~Jaron Lanier

The interesting thing about advertising is that the things that annoy us sometimes about it are really human. It's us looking at ourselves - and like all human endeavors it's imperfect.

~Jaron Lanier

After my mother's death, I had such difficulty relating to people.

~Jaron Lanier

Writing and thinking is not economically sustainable.

~Jaron Lanier

Our times demand rejection of seven word bios.

~Jaron Lanier

I fear that we are beginning to design ourselves to suit digital models of us, and I worry about a leaching of empathy and humanity in that process.

~Jaron Lanier

The nerd flavor of masculinity has overwhelmed the macho kind in real-life power dynamics, and therefore in popular culture.

~Jaron Lanier

The great thing about crummy software is the amount of employment it generates.

~Jaron Lanier

At a minimum if we can just have enough distribution of clout in society so it isn't run by a tiny minority, then at the very least it gives us some room to breathe.

~Jaron Lanier

I do real paintings, you know. I'm a little messy in the studio, so I'm a bit of a danger. But I just adore it.

~Jaron Lanier

We have repeatedly demonstrated our species's bottomless ability to lower our standards to make information technology look good.

~Jaron Lanier

There will always be humans, lots of them, who provide the data that makes the networked realization of any technology better and cheaper.

~Jaron Lanier

Spirituality is committing suicide. Consciousness is attempting to will itself out of existence.

~Jaron Lanier

Chemotherapy is a good thing even though it kills healthy cells. But we still hope for something better. We'd like to prevent cancer in the first place.

~Jaron Lanier

In fact, one reason I am interested in developing things in virtual reality is that they're so fascinating. I can come up with problems that are harder than warfare to take up people's time.

~Jaron Lanier

I think that one can seek a way to eliminate war, and still agree that fighting the Nazis was a good thing.

~Jaron Lanier

Google's thing is not advertising because it's not a romanticizing operation. It doesn't involve expression. It's a link. What they're doing is selling access.

~Jaron Lanier

I'm an advocate of human nature.

~Jaron Lanier

If you get deep enough, you get trapped. Stop calling yourself a user. You are being used.

~Jaron Lanier

Siren Servers are narcissists; blind to where value comes from, including the web of global interdependence that is at the core of their own value.

~Jaron Lanier

I'm hoping the reader can see that artificial intelligence is better understood as a belief system instead of a technology.

~Jaron Lanier

What does it mean to not be alone? I've approached that question through music, technology, writing and other means.

~Jaron Lanier

I've occasionally been wrong about certain things, which is in a way more delightful than being right.

~Jaron Lanier

I'm not in any sense anti-Facebook.

~Jaron Lanier

Software breaks before it bends, so it demands perfection in a universe that prefers statistics.

~Jaron Lanier

Criticism is always easier than constructive solutions.

~Jaron Lanier

One good test of whether an economy is humanistic or not is the plausibility of earning the ability to drop out of it for a while without incident or insult.

~Jaron Lanier

Our willingness to suffer for the sake of the perception of freedom is remarkable.

~Jaron Lanier

Evolution has never found a way to be any speed but very slow.

~Jaron Lanier

Information is alienated experience.

~Jaron Lanier

Governments oppress people, but so do mobs. You need to avoid both to make progress.

~Jaron Lanier

Web 2.0 ideas have a chirpy, cheerful rhetoric to them, but I think they consistently express a profound pessimism about humans, human nature and the human future.

~Jaron Lanier

Eliminating wickedness is a different project from eliminating violence.

Eliminating violence - the destruction associated with wickedness - is a practical program that I'm very willing to pursue.

~Jaron Lanier

Emphasizing the crowd means de-emphasizing individual humans in the design of society, and when you ask people not to be people, they revert to bad, mob-like behaviors.

~Jaron Lanier

To me, to say that war isn't evil is to say that nothing is evil.

~Jaron Lanier

It's possible, without taking sides or playing the statesman game, to reduce destruction simply by reducing the development of technology of destruction.

~Jaron Lanier

Of all the things you can spend a lot of money on, the only things you expect to fail frequently are software and medicine.

~Jaron Lanier

The most important thing about a technology is how it changes people.

~Jaron Lanier

A market economy cannot thrive absent the well-being of average people, even in a gilded age.

~Jaron Lanier

People degrade themselves in order to make machines seem smart all the time.

~Jaron Lanier

I mean, you can't have advertising be the only official business of the information economy if the information economy is going to take over.

~Jaron Lanier

If you love a medium made of software, there's a danger that you will become entrapped in someone else's recent careless thoughts. Struggle against that.

~Jaron Lanier

There is nothing more gray, stultifying, or dreary than life lived inside the confines of a theory.

~Jaron Lanier

Advertising is the edge of what people know how to do and of human experience and it explains the latest ways progress has changed us to ourselves.

~Jaron Lanier

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