Ted Nelson Quotes

Computer, People, Ideas, World, Cutting, Simple, Numbers, Paper, Graduation, Writing, Funny, Technology, Fool, Media, Inspirational, Use, Believe, Mean, Fields, Views

The good news about computers is that they do what you tell them to do. The bad news is that they do what you tell them to do.

~Ted Nelson

Learning to program has no more to do with designing interactive software than learning to touch type has to do with writing poetry

~Ted Nelson

So, what you can do in Microsoft Word is what Bill Gates has decided. What you can do in Oracle Database is what Larry Ellison and his crew have decided.

~Ted Nelson

Any fool can use a computer. Many do.

~Ted Nelson

I was very intensely concerned with all kinds of new media.

~Ted Nelson

Let me introduce the word 'hypertext' to mean a body of written or pictorial material interconnected in such a complex way that it could not conveniently be presented or represented on paper.

~Ted Nelson

If computers are the wave of the future, displays are the surfboards.

~Ted Nelson

The paperless office is possible, but not by imitating paper. Note that the horseless carriage did not work by imitating horses.

~Ted Nelson

History is fractal. The closer you look, the more complicated, yet always repeating patterns.

~Ted Nelson

The technicalities matter a lot, but the unifying vision matters more.
~Ted Nelson

I thought I was going to be a filmmaker but at the same time I was an intellectual and I felt that I could make a contribution to some field, as yet, not invented.
~Ted Nelson

Intertwingularity is not generally acknowledged - people keep pretending they can make things deeply hierarchical, categorizable and sequential when they can't. Everything is deeply intertwingled.
~Ted Nelson

What we now call the browser is whatever defines the web. What fits in the browser is the World Wide Web and a number of trivial standards to handle that so that the content comes.
~Ted Nelson

The four walls of paper are like a prison because every idea wants to spring out in all directions - everything is connected with everything else, sometimes more than others.
~Ted Nelson

So, that notion of hypertext seemed to me immediately obvious because footnotes were already the ideas wriggling, struggling to get free, like a cat trying to get out of your arms.
~Ted Nelson

Telling computer guys that they need to have permission to quote things is like having to tell little children about Death.
~Ted Nelson

Computers are hierarchical. We have a desktop and hierarchical files which have to mean everything.

~Ted Nelson

In my second year in graduate school, I took a computer course and that was like lightening striking.

~Ted Nelson

So in my uncertainty, I went to graduate school and there it all happened.

~Ted Nelson

Project Xanadu is essentially my trademark. It was originally, and has returned to my arms as that.

~Ted Nelson

So, I was always frustrated having to write and having to cut things. Why should you have to cut anything?

~Ted Nelson

The point is that these decisions they've made are partly for your convenience and partly for theirs and partly out of stereotypes that they carry with them from the conventions of the computer field.

~Ted Nelson

We live in media, as fish live in water.

~Ted Nelson

Power corrupts, and obsolete power corrupts obsoletely.

~Ted Nelson

The problem is not software 'friendliness'. It is conceptual clarity. A globe does not say, 'good morning'. It is simple and clear, not 'friendly'.

~Ted Nelson

They were saying computers deal with numbers. This was absolutely

nonsense. Computers deal with arbitrary information of any kind.

~Ted Nelson

Most people are fools, most authority is malignant, God does not exist, and everything is wrong.

~Ted Nelson

Everything is deeply intertwingled.

~Ted Nelson

Right now you are a prisoner of each application you use. You have only the options that were given you by the developer of that application.

~Ted Nelson

You can and must understand computers now.

~Ted Nelson

Any nitwit can understand computers, and many do.

~Ted Nelson

The objective of hypertext research is to save the planet.

~Ted Nelson

The Web is trivially simple - massively successful and its like Karaoke - anybody can do it.

~Ted Nelson

How is MS-DOS like MSG? Both raise your blood pressure and give you a tightening sensation around your forehead.

~Ted Nelson

The purpose of computers is human freedom.

~Ted Nelson

Making things easy is hard.

~Ted Nelson

A user interface should be so simple that a beginner in an emergency can understand it within ten seconds.

~Ted Nelson

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