

Reflecting on the theme, input for brief for the exhibition

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As a brief for the exhibition, I would emphasise that we are still early in this particular S-curve. There is opportunity to shape the future. So I would urge them to explore the MIGHT and SHOULD of the AI x hardware future, not the default “probably will.” Give us vision, be the Cambrian explosion you want to challenge us to be.

What I mean is that your phone should be aware that it being utilised in a way which is borderline not ok.

Perhaps it uses AI to hear and understand it is at a gig. Perhaps it uses a built-in radar chip to understand it's in a crowd, or the accelerometer to detect it's on public transport, whatever.

Then, when you go to play a video of your friend's screaming kid at top volume at the next table without turning the volume down, again and again and - honestly unbelievably - again, a notification would pop up, and you would have to tap the specially-added People Will Look Hardware Action Button to do it anyway.

A sense of shame is purely algorithmic here.

It would have to vary by region I guess. When you travel, your phone would have to norm switch.

I say shame, I mean your devices have politics.

There are two ways to deal with the problem of noisy tiktoks on the bus.

EITHER, as I say, we say it's your problem: Apple and Google and Samsung and all the rest have to put some kind of social inhibitor in the operating system, a catch that you have to override, and that has to be required by society, legally or by media pressure or something.

OR, alternatively, it's my problem: if I don't like it then it's my job to do something about it. And in this case we could propose that I wear AirPods with a special kind of transparency mode – all devices should advertise to other devices, using Bluetooth or something, that they're being noisy, and my AirPods can preferentially filter that out. A more independent and individualist approach.

Do you see that we're essentially talking politics here?

Devices - phones, headphones, whatever - devices are negotiating the conflicting rights of individuals. How that is done is what we call politics.

I'm not saying that we should build politics into devices.

I'm saying that devices already embody a certain politics.

Perhaps this should be debated.

(taken from <https://interconnected.org/home/2024/10/03/shame>, chosen by Iskander)

An example of a generative thing, Matt created:
<https://poem.town/>