

(untitled as yet)

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Abstract

This article presents the computing/net commentary project entitled (untitled as yet). (untitled as yet) is an ordinary Macintosh Plus computer that vomits/ejaculates fondue chocolate as users surf on line pornography websites.

Introduction

The Internet is humanities amalgamation of knowledge in the new millennium – a giant database of historical records, art, ideas, and, of course, pornography.

By the end of 2004, there were 420 million pages of pornography, and it is believed that the majority of these websites are owned by less than 50 companies [1]

As people continue to invest more and more time online, it is important to keep the “utopia” that is the Internet in focus. Wikipedia defines “utopia” as “the human efforts to create a better, or perhaps perfect society “[2] Being a free area of expression, where anyone can publish a website, the Internet can be seen as a sort of Utopian world where everyone is an equal. We share ideas and culture, art and words, but, however, we also provide for our most basic needs. The Internet, like life, is not a clean, white on line community devoid of graffiti and red-light districts.

Background

Philosopher Karl Popper's philosophical concept of reality, Popperian cosmology, consists of three interacting worlds: World 1, World 2 and World 3. World 1 is the area of physical objects, physical events, and biological entities; World 2 is comprised of mental objects and events; and World 3 contains the products of the human mind.

The Internet, as we know it, exists within Worlds 1 and 2: human beings interact with physical computers in and share ideas. Interactions, naturally, take place between these Worlds such as, for instance, when a mouse click can yield a package in the mail. The Internet, as an idea and its impact upon society, resides within World 3: a product of our interpretation of the masses of data and connections too large to describe, much like life or divinity. [3]

The Internet allows us to form new identities within World 3 in order to engage in interactions between World 1 and 2. We can use this anonymity to yield to our base desires of sexual gratification, engaging in on line sex play, sharing in alternative lifestyle discussions and, of course, viewing pornographic pictures and films. Many people do not see this side of the online revolution because they cannot conceptualize the Internet beyond World 3.

Implementation

The implementation of (untitled as yet) will utilize commonly available technology. Users will interact with a seemingly ordinary computer, an iconic Macintosh Plus, that acts as a terminal to a modern laptop computer. A Carnivore client to CarnivorePE, the open source version of an FBI network packet sniffing application by the Radical-Software-Group, will identify pornographic web activity. [4] A micro controller, connected serially to the laptop, will control a pump system that will spray fondue chocolate out of the Macintosh Plus disk drive slot. Users can then dip prepared strawberries into the chocolate with available toothpicks.

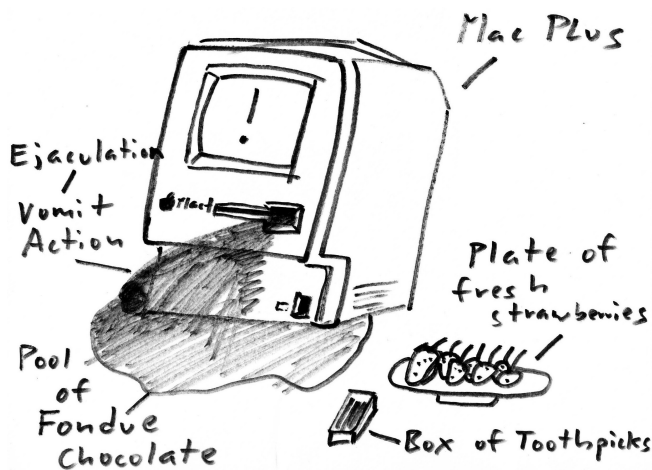


Illustration 1: Conceptual Drawing

Artistic Relevance

Various network art projects exist already that visualize network traffic, reorder data and present it in a new way, or create new on line communities. This project aims to remind people, in a new way, that the Internet is a product of human beings and, as such, contains an accurate portrayal of our wants and needs.

The Macintosh is chosen due to its availability, zero cost, and for the fact that, even though it is over 20 years old, it is still a strong symbol of graphical desktop computing. The physical acts of ejaculation and vomiting are referenced by the spray of chocolate from the disk drive- an orifice for the machine. Blending the repulsive act of vomit with the desirable elements of the chocolate and strawberries is meant to remind users that what may initially appear repugnant can turn out to be seductive. Chocolate and strawberries carry connotations to sexuality and, as such, refer to the sexuality that exists in a new form on line.

Closing

(untitled as yet) reminds users of the human side of the nebulous ideas and conceptualized technology that is the Internet. A computer, portal to this on line realm, reacts in a very physical and human way

when the user browses pornographic content. Thus, users are reminded that human sexuality is indeed a part of the Internet.

References

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