
Closing Keynote: Computers, Automation and the Human Future

Nicholas Carr
Writer



Permission to make digital or hard copies of part or all of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear this notice and the full citation on the first page. Copyrights for third-party components of this work must be honored. For all other uses, contact the Owner/Author.

Copyright is held by the owner/author(s).

CHI'17 Extended Abstracts, May 06-11, 2017, Denver, CO, USA

ACM 978-1-4503-4656-6/17/05.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3027063.3056456>

Abstract

Nicholas Carr, author of such celebrated books as *The Shallows* and *The Glass Cage*, will offer a lively and provocative examination of how digital technologies are shaping our jobs, lives and society. Drawing on examples ranging from doctors' offices to airplane cockpits to the recent presidential campaign, Carr will argue that prevailing software and systems design philosophies end up eroding skills, diminishing contextual and critical thinking, and creating a culture of distraction and dependency. He will make the case that only by shifting our assumptions about technology and its personal and social consequences will we be able to forge a future fit for human beings rather than robots.

Biography

Nicholas Carr writes on technology and culture. He is the author of such influential books as *The Big Switch*, *The Glass Cage*, *Utopia Is Creepy* and the Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Shallows*. His books have been translated into more than 25 languages. Carr's essays, including "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" and "The Great Forgetting," have been collected in several anthologies, including *The Best American Science and Nature Writing*, *The Best Technology Writing* and *The Best Spiritual Writing*. In 2015, Carr received the Neil Postman Award for Career Achievement in Public Intellectual Activity from the Media Ecology Association.