magazine

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Free speech and American conversations are happening on social media platforms, and those companies need to take their responsibility seriously. These companies need to set some limits, and you don’t want a place like Instagram where people can be bullied to the point of suicide. You can also overreact. You can set up systems where things you disagree with disappear, or things that are slightly offensive disappear. There’s a way to strike the balance, and I think we will find that path.

Blockchain’s impact appears to be skyrocketing. How can businesses take advantage of this trend? People should put a lot of time into this. You can use blockchain as a public ledger of transaction history—customer identity, all kinds of elements of security, etc.—and build that into your infrastructure. It can make your company more secure or faster than before.

AI is rapidly expanding into the stock business. Will the growth of proprietary AI investment technology give certain companies and investors an unfair advantage? I would be worried that there will be companies that can manipulate the markets. They’ll have super intelligent computers making super intelligent decisions. There will be algorithms making decisions and we won’t know why. The potential power and lack of transparency of such systems is frightening.

Which raises an important legal question: if someone writes code that unintentionally leads to a computer doing something illegal, is the person who wrote the code at fault if they did not intend harm? Where does the responsibility take place?

What do you see as the industry’s obligation to balance the Internet of Things and privacy? I think that we need to enter a period of more transparency of the data we’re collecting and how it’s being used. I think people will start caring more than they did in the past. The negative public reaction to Silicon Valley will lead to requirements that force more competition into the marketplace by requiring companies to share that information with competitors.

In my opinion, the companies won’t change this voluntarily; they want complete data capture and zero transparency. Futurists are predicting 3D printing could be used for organ transplants by 2024. Do you think 3D printing’s medical advancements will be its greatest impact on our society? I do know one of 3D printing’s advantages is it gives incredible precision, so I think that makes sense. But I don’t know enough about the medical applications in that field to know.

The car-sharing economy is shaping how our society views and values individual ownership. Do you think the sharing economy will have as significant an impact on the housing or other markets? Yes, we’re just beginning to see this evolve. For example, I think it will transform the way young people and particularly those over 65 work in a way that is surprising. For the seniors in particular, they have a certain amount of guaranteed income but often lack savings. They could use additional income but also flexibility. The sharing economy makes a lot of sense for people in that scenario.