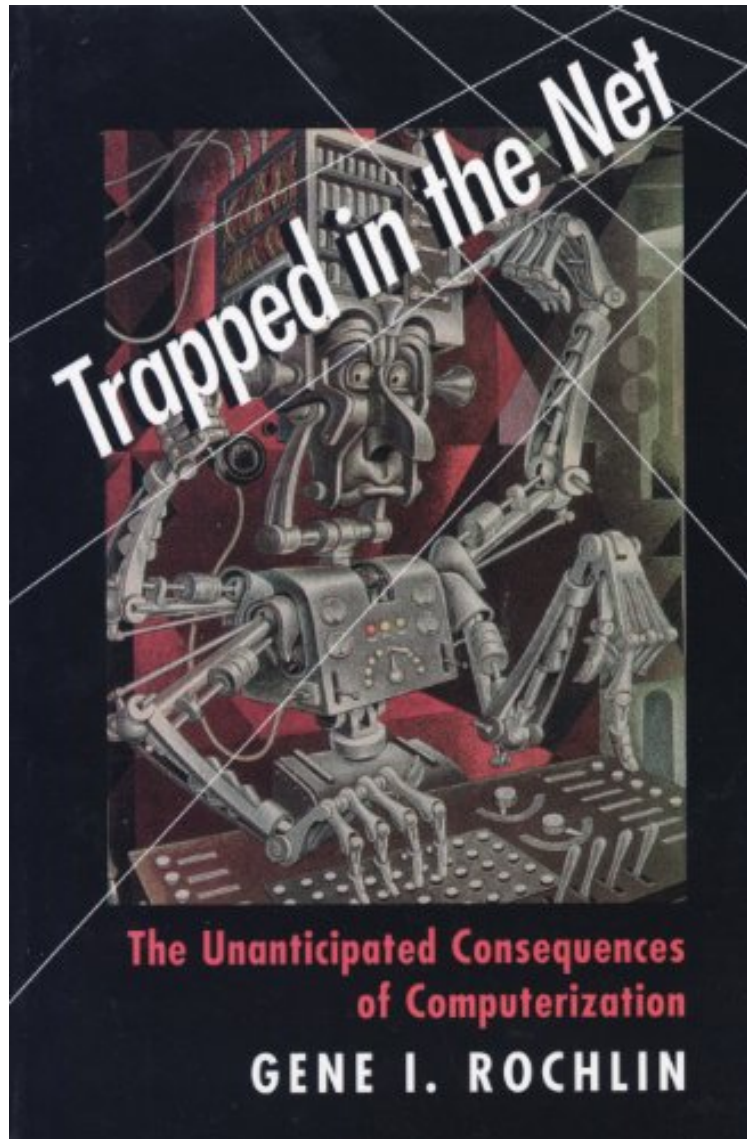


(Read free ebook) Trapped in the Net: The Unanticipated Consequences of Computerization

# Trapped in the Net: The Unanticipated Consequences of Computerization

Von Gene I. Rochlin

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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2012-08-23Erscheinungsdatum: 2012-08-23File Name: B0090EMQF4 | File size: 69.Mb

**Von Gene I. Rochlin : Trapped in the Net: The Unanticipated Consequences of Computerization** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trapped in the Net: The Unanticipated Consequences of Computerization:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A

grouch book with no solutions  
Von Ein Kunde  
This book belongs in the genre of what I call Grouch Books: extensive laments about costs and consequences of technology, but with no attempts at syntheses or solutions. At every turn, the author paints a "no exit" vision of the internet: if it's freewheeling and unregulated, it's "chaotic" and "disorganized"; where it's centralized, it is overbearing and freedom-robbing. The author makes it seem as though the people concerned with hardware and software development are thoughtless, greedy, naive, or some combination. Any hint of libertarian ideals in the shakers and movers of digital culture is dismissed by Rochlin as naive and illusory, and every tendency of this culture is, in his vision, toward loss of humanity and the replacement of art with artifice. This book is single-track thinking at its worst. And to anyone who has experienced the benefits of digital culture and design, the complaining tone grows tiresome and monotonous. On those very rare occasions when he begrudges some possible benefits of the internet, Rochelin immediately qualifies them out of existence. The increased information made available by the internet, for example, is seen as all right for those who use it for "social development," but not for "conversation and entertainment" -- as if mere conversation had nothing to do with social development. If readers want to read about the costs and consequences of technology, they would be far better advised to go through a book such as Neil Postman's *\*Technopoly.\** While just as grim in his assessment of the current state of affairs, Postman has a much greater range, and at least has the intellectual stamina to propose a solution.  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Curiously surprising.  
Von Ein Kunde  
Although the title causes one to think of certain films involving certain speedy actresses, the subtitle, "The Unanticipated Consequences of Computerization," sets a tone more like that of the book itself. Working from the perspectives of both the natural and social sciences, Rochlin proposes the interesting idea that our great reliance upon computers and computerized artifacts has significant consequences outside of equipment failure or the deskilling of labor. Although the organization of the book is somewhat poor, I consider the text a must for anyone interested in the overall relationship between technology and human life

Kurzbeschreibung  
Voice mail. E-mail. Bar codes. Desktops. Laptops. Networks. The Web. In this exciting book, Gene Rochlin takes a closer look at how these familiar and pervasive productions of computerization have become embedded in all our lives, forcing us to narrow the scope of our choices, our modes of control, and our experiences with the real world. Drawing on fascinating narratives from fields that range from military command, air traffic control, and international fund transfers to library cataloging and supermarket checkouts, Rochlin shows that we are rapidly making irreversible and at times harmful changes in our business, social, and personal lives to comply with the formalities and restrictions of information systems. The threat is not the direct one once framed by the idea of insane robots or runaway mainframes usurping human functions for their own purposes, but the gradual loss of control over hardware, software, and function through networks of interconnection and dependence. What Rochlin calls the computer trap has four parts: the lure, the snare, the costs, and the long-term consequences. The lure is obvious: the promise of ever more powerful and adaptable tools with simpler and more human-centered interfaces. The snare is what usually ensues. Once heavily invested in the use of computers to perform central tasks, organizations and individuals alike are committed to new capacities and potentials, whether they eventually find them rewarding or not. The varied costs include a dependency on the manufacturers of hardware and software--and a seemingly pathological scramble to keep up with an incredible rate of sometimes unnecessary technological change. Finally, a lack of redundancy and an incredible speed of response make human intervention or control difficult at best when (and not if) something goes wrong. As Rochlin points out, this is particularly true for those systems whose interconnections and mechanisms are so deeply concealed in the computers that no human being fully understands them.  
.de  
Computers have opened up vast opportunities to millions of people, but dependence on computers has taken away options as well. Our means of living and working become restricted by the way we have our computer systems designed. Gene Rochlin takes a thoughtful look at the unexpected trade-offs that come with a wired society, such as the inability of many customer service and reservations people to correct simple problems because of the way their computers force them to work, or some airplanes where electronics provide more safety and precision but at the cost of losing a pilot's manual override should the system fail. Rochlin raises a convincing warning about both over-reliance and the loss of basic operational options in our lives.  
Pressestimmen  
Rochlin's straightforward argument should be apparent to those managing and promoting increasing computerization: that greater dependence on computers implies greater disaster when they fail. . . . Rochlin ends with an exploration of the new cyberized military and continues to pinpoint the unintended consequences that computer enthusiasts rarely think about, but should.  
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