

THE FUTURE OF THE SMART CITIES

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Abstract

In a survey of 1,000 people in the UK in 2019, we see that 68% of people do not know about the term smart cities, while 26% of remaining individuals have concerns about smart city projects (hepburn). One of the biggest reasons for these concerns was the violation of privacy. The idea of being on the record all the time puts a lot of pressure on people. Some people argue that these smart city projects are against the law and should not be implemented in real life. Some people think that it is a necessary project for the salvation of human life and the world, and they do not care about being recorded all the time. In addition to these two groups, there is also a part of society that is uncomfortable with being recorded all the time, but will turn a blind eye to it for the future.

Fast forward to 2021 and Canada. In Toronto Google supported a company called Sidewalk Labs that wanted to create the world's first smart city [1]. They wanted to develop 12 acres of land along Toronto's waterfront. Sidewalk Labs intended to use artificial intelligence to decrease traffic congestion, preferring to use autonomous vehicles to transport people. They also wanted to install thousands of cameras to monitor the streets, stores and parks. What the skeptics of smart cities called "surveillance capitalism" [1]. Yet, Torontonians seemed to ignore or dismiss affordability, sustainability, and environmentally friendly design. The fear and panic revolved around the idea, project, that wanted to use heavy technology to record every aspect of personal life in what the public referred to as surveillance capitalism, that would be necessarily only about making profit through the continuous tracking of public data.



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