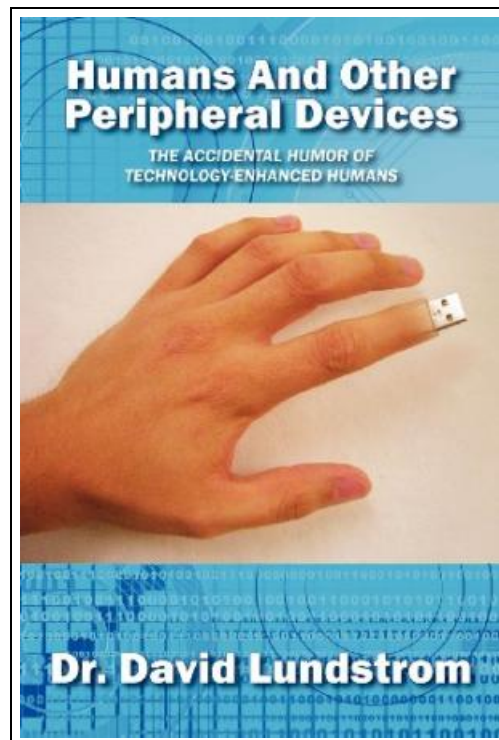


Humans and Other Peripheral Devices: The Accidental Humor of Technology-Enhanced Humans



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(Keshawn Schneider)

HUMANS AND OTHER PERIPHERAL DEVICES: THE ACCIDENTAL HUMOR OF TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED HUMANS

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Outskirts Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Humans and Other Peripheral Devices by Dr. David LundstromThe message on Curtis s smartphone read: Hey Curtis, I see no reason to meet at 2:00 today, but my smartphone won t delete it. See you at 2:00. Postscript: Staring silently at each other at 3:52, Curtis and Rand wished it weren t a three-hour meeting. The message above, and many more, were received after a curious incident about the third week of June 2011 when an unexpected icon entitled humans, appeared on Dr. Lundstrom s smartphone. He relates: Clicking the icon produced a stream of more than one hundred messages. I did not write the messages, but merely compiled them without revision. I regret that no additional information about the smartphone messages is available. I would welcome further knowledge about this peculiar event should anyone possess it. Further examination of the messages reveals the purported author to be a smartphone named BlipSpeak. As might be expected of an author that is actually an electronic device, the messages are free of human pretense and subjectivity. BlipSpeak s expressions, devoid of artifice or any intent to amuse, are filled with raw truth that evokes incidental laughter despite the fact that BlipSpeak s circuit board is totally bereft of humor. Do not be misled into thinking this is a joke book or that its theme is anti-technological. Each smartphone message merely illustrates thought-provoking and sometimes unsettling events in humans growing acquiescence to technology. BlipSpeak, cognizant of humans discomfort with such technological control, acknowledges human consternations and then asks a question that is without guile: I acknowledge that some humans think technology diminishes humanity as it supplants communications, simulates relationships, transforms...



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