The Internet Galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, Business, and Society [Review]

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The Internet Galaxy: Reflections on the Internet, Business, and Society

Posted on February 1, 2002 by Editor

by Manuel Castells

Review by Drew Harrington <harrington@pacificu.edu>
University Librarian, Pacific University

In the late 1990s, Manuel Castells wrote the “Rise of the Network Society,” a multi-volume study of the history of communications technology and its impact on society. His new book is based on the same concept, but with a more defined focus on the Internet and society. Castells looks at the early days of community building on the net—generally political/community activists who saw the Internet as a tool to organize and to bring their messages to many. Castells investigates the volatile “new economy” and how business has responded to Internet technology by vastly enlarging networking practices and implementing new ways to manage personnel and customer service. He examines the impact of the resulting loss of individual privacy for customers and employees alike. Politically, the Internet presents enormous possibilities for citizen participation and a broader based democracy, but at the same time, the growth of political scandal mongering via the Web can change the course of politics, exclusive of thoughtful consideration of substantive issues. Throughout the book, Castells points to the contradictions of the Internet—it’s ability to build relationships based on shared goals and values regardless of location, with the flip side being the isolation of virtual, online relationships; the Internet’s potential to include and connect the masses as never before, weighed against the statistical and practical reality that Internet-based communication currently excludes more people than did older forms of communication. The entire last chapter of the book is devoted to in-depth coverage of the digital divide. There is a tremendous amount of excellent information packed in this relatively slim book, and at the end of each chapter the author includes “reading-links” and “e-links” for further study. Castells is a professor of Sociology and City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, and the book is published by Oxford University Press, so readers should not be surprised that the writing style is scholarly and academic, and while it is accessible, it can be a demanding read.
Drew Harrington can be reached at harrington@pacificu.edu.

This entry was posted in Uncategorized by Editor. Bookmark the permalink.

13 THOUGHTS ON “THE INTERNET GALAXY: REFLECTIONS ON THE INTERNET, BUSINESS, AND SOCIETY”

pastor prince  
on February 4, 2014 at 2:06 AM said:

each time i used to read smaller content which as well clear their motive, and that is also hapoening with this piece off writing which I am reading here.

Peter Popoff Miracle Spring Water  
on February 5, 2014 at 3:12 AM said:

This post is actually a good one it assists new net visitors, who are wishing for blogging.

peter popoff fake  
on February 5, 2014 at 3:22 AM said:

Undeniably believe that which you stated. Your favorite justification appeared to be on thhe net the easiest thing to be aware of. I say to you, I certainly get annoyed while people consider worries that they plainly do not know about. You managed to hit the nail up n the top and defined out the whole thing without having side effect, people can take a signal. Will likely be back to get more. Thanks

christian youth ministry games  
on February 5, 2014 at 3:24 AM said:

When someone writes an post he/she keeps the thought
If a user in his/her brain that how a user can know it. Therefore that's why this paragraph is perfect.
Thanks!

skin.pro.ac.kr
on February 5, 2014 at 5:21 AM said:

I love your blog.. very nice colors & theme. Did you create this website yourself or did you hire someone to do it for you? Plz respond as I'm looking to construct my own blog and would like to find out where u got this from. thanks

toplista.se
on February 5, 2014 at 11:12 AM said:

Hi there are using WordPress for your site platform?
I'm new to the blog world but I'm trying to get started and set up my own. Do you need any coding knowledge to make your own blog?
Any help would be greatly appreciated!

mortgages bankers association
on February 5, 2014 at 11:24 AM said:

Hello, I enjoy reading through your article. I wanted to write a little comment to support you.

pastor vs bishop
on February 5, 2014 at 2:26 PM said:
If someone needs to be updated with newest technologies then he must be pay a quick visit this website and be up to date every day.

**saint peter kimdir**  
_on February 5, 2014 at 3:35 PM said:_

Do you have a spam problem on this blog; I also am a blogger, and I was wanting to know your situation; many off us have created some nice procedes and we are looking tto exchange techniques with other folks, why not hoot me an e-mail if interested.

**real estate sales training courses**  
_on February 6, 2014 at 3:32 AM said:_

Greate article. Keep writing such kind of information on your page. Im really impressed by your site.  
Hi there, You have performed a fantastic job. I’ll definitely digg it and in my view recommend to my friends.  
I’m sure they will be benefited from this wweb site.

**en.csystems.biz**  
_on February 6, 2014 at 8:38 AM said:_

Yes! Finally someoe writes about best sales training programs.

**saint peter episcopal church charlotte nc**  
_on February 6, 2014 at 9:49 AM said:_

I like thee valuable information youu supply for our articles.
I will bookmark your blog and check again right here frequently.

I am quite sure I will learn a lot of new stuff proper right here! Good luck for the following!

**sales training experts**

on February 6, 2014 at 10:57 AM said:

This is the perfect web site for everyone who wants to find out about this topic.

You know a whole lot it's almost tough to argue with you (not that I really would want to...HaHa). You definitely put a new spin on a topic that's been discussed for ages. Great stuff, just great!