COMPUTER NEWS from the

Be careful, The thought police may be looking !   Welcome to the brave new computer world!

Is AI judging your Personality?

Forget 'surveillance capitalism.' AI-based social media monitoring could cost you a job, college admission, rental property and more – and you'll never know how it happened.

By Mike Elgan in "idginsiderpro.com".

Getty Images

AirBnB wants to know if you have a "Machiavellian" personality before renting you a beach house.

The company may be using software to judge whether you're trustworthy enough to rent a house based on what you post on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

They'll turn the systems loose on social, run the algorithms and get results. For the people on the other end of this process, there will be no transparency into the process — no knowledge whatsoever — and no appeals process.

The company owns a patent on technology designed to rate the "personalities" of prospective guests by analyzing their social media activity to decide if they're a risky guest who might damage a host's home.

[Inside AI ebook: Artificial intelligence in the enterprise]

The end product of their technology is to assign every AirBnB guest customer a "trustworthiness score." This will reportedly be based not only on social media activity, but other data found online, including blog posts and legal records.

The technology was developed by Trooly, which AirBnB acquired three years ago. Trooly created an AI-based tool designed to "predict trustworthy relationships and interactions," and which uses social media as one data source.

[Don't miss: Mike Elgan every week on Insider Pro]

The software builds the score based on perceived "personality traits" identified by the software, include some you might predict -- conscientiousness, openness, extraversion, agreeableness -- and some weird ones – "narcissism" and "Machiavellianism," for example. (Interestingly, the software also looks for involvement in civil litigation, which suggests they may now or in the future ban people based on the prediction that they may be more likely to sue.)

*(Link goes to the paid publication **Insider Pro**, which I highly recommend that you*

Windows 10 Updates Could Get Big Change

By John Lister on December, 27 2019 in "Infopackets.com".

Microsoft may be planning to change the way it issues updates for Windows 10. It could help break the cycle of updates fixing previous problems and introducing new ones.

Windows 10 represents a shift in the way that Windows Updates are applied. In addition to frequent updates to fix bugs and add features, the biggest changes are saved for two major updates
each year. The idea is that Windows 10 will be updated indefinitely, rather than introducing a totally new edition.

This replaced the previous model of each edition of Windows getting a "Service Pack" of updates every year or two and then eventually being phased out as a completely new Windows was released.

Windows 10 Updates Problematic

It's fair to say the new system hasn't always gone smoothly, particularly with how updates are tested before they are rolled out to the public. This is particularly an issue with multiple versions of Windows 10 in use, often on overlapping schedules.

That's been blamed for the almost comical situation where each new update aims to fix a problem created by the last, only to bring its own new problems. In turn, it makes it difficult to get around major bugs by simply rolling back to a previous update.

New Features Could Be Optional Download

The Windows store recently got a new entry of an app named "Windows Feature Experience Pack." At the moment it's just a dummy app that's effectively a placeholder. However, since first appearing it's now represented by a "download" icon.

While it's totally speculation at the point, analysts believe it's a sign Microsoft is splitting the development process so that updates to the basic code

of Windows itself are treated separately to the addition of new features.

That could mean Windows Update is used simply to deliver the code updates and plug any security bugs. Meanwhile new features would instead be downloaded individually, perhaps in a similar way to installing applications. (Source: techradar.com)

Windows Could Become "Freemium" Product

The most immediate effect would be that it would be easier to set a computer to automatically run the latest Windows code, which would ideally have any known problems or security plugs fixed, without automatically getting extra features that might introduce compatibility problems.

More cynical analysts suggest it could also pave the way for a new pricing structure in which "Windows 10" itself always remained free to keep up-to-date but new features could carry a fee.

What's Your Opinion?

Does this sound like a smart move from Microsoft? Would you use a "system updates" only setting if it was available and then decide manually about new features? Do you trust Microsoft to introduce these changes without further disruption?

From "Gizmos freeware>

All the Windows 10 Tutorials You'll Ever Need

Posted: 27 Dec 2019 10:32 PM PST

Whether you already use Windows 10 or are making the switch from Windows 7 or 8.1, this extensive list of tutorials will show you how to do almost anything in Windows 10.

This treasure trove of Windows 10 tips and tutorials covers most areas of Windows 10. It's a great resource for anyone new to Windows 10, and Windows 10 users can find things they didn't know about or look for something specific. The tutorials are clear and easy to follow, often with more than one option to get something done.
The tutorials cover these categories:

• Network and Sharing
• Installation and Upgrade
• General Tips
• Browsers and Mail
• Gaming and Xbox
• Apps and Features
• Customization
• Virtualization
• BSOD (Blue Screen of Death)

- System Security
- User Accounts
- Hardware and Drivers
- Updates and Activation
- Backup and Restore
- Performance and Maintenance
- Mixed Reality
- Phone

In addition to the web page, the tutorial index is available on Google Sheets and can be downloaded as a PDF or an xlsx spreadsheet. Downloading the index makes it easier to peruse because there are many tutorials - the PDF file contains 127 US letter size pages. The tutorials and index are updated on a regular basis to keep up with Windows 10 changes.
Read More

'Police Web Browser Scam' Dupes Users into Paying Thousands

by John Lister on January, 10 2020 in "Infopackets.com".

An old Internet scam has got a new twist. The new scam makes it appear as if local police have taken over the web browser in order to "fine" the user for "illegal activities".

The "police browser locker" scam is an example of what's dubbed scareware by preying on a user's paranoia (or guilt). It involves popup window from within the web browser, or an unexpected web page appearing and giving a bogus message demanding payment.

A common form of this scam is the infamous Microsoft tech support scam stating that the computer has been infected with malware and the user needs to pay for a security solution. This

follows with the similar Indian tech support scam we've reported on many times, including ones currently being perpetrated by netpcexpert.com and easynetexperts.com.

Victims Told To Pay 'Fine'

The "police browser" scam instead appears to be a website for local police, and claims that the user has conducted illegal activity online. Often this involves bogus allegations of copyright infringement, though in this case the claim is that the user visited pages with illegal adult material. The message then claims the user's browser will be locked until they pay a fine via credit card. Sometimes this is an eye-watering amount, while in other cases it's kept low as the real goal is to get the user's credit card details and sell them on the black market.

Full Screen Image Aims To Deceive

Normally the scam simply involves creating a red screen background alerting users that their systems are infected with a virus. In this case the mouse is also disabled from working normal, which means that the user cannot close the browser window.

The new version of the scam actually displays a full-screen image including a fake taskbar and other Windows desktop elements.

The idea here seems to be that if the user clicks on the (fake) Start Menu, nothing will happen, because they are simply clicking on an image. This could then fool users into thinking their computer really is locked up.

The good news is there's a simple solution. Pressing CTRL + ALT + DEL will bring up task manager, or by pressing ALT + TAB will let the user cycle through to the normal desktop. At this point, the browser can be closed. (Source: bleepingcopmputer.com)

What's Your Opinion?

Have you come across such scams? Should real law enforcement put more effort into stopping such attacks? Or is the risk of the average person being fooled too low to make it worthwhile?

A TRUISM!

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.