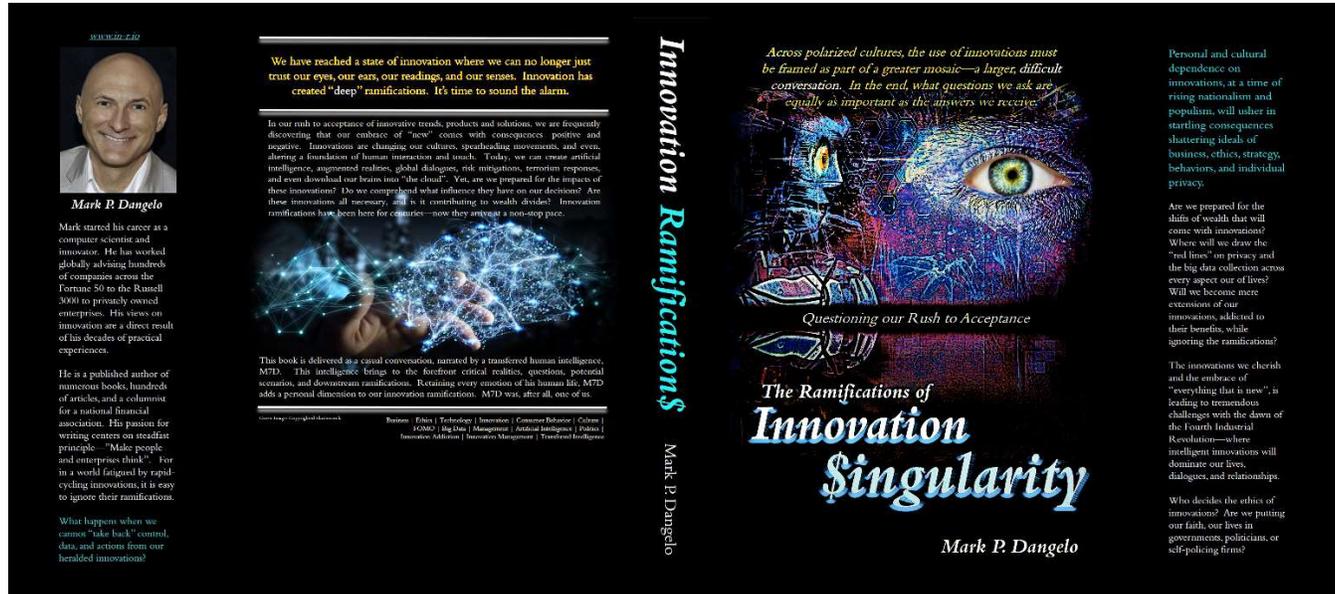


The Ramifications of Innovation Singularity

Questioning our Rush to Acceptance

Questions and Answers



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Q: What is Innovation Singularity?

A: The book adheres to a blended definition that knits together the ramifications of innovation singularity—“*A future point in time at which growth becomes uncontrollable and irreversible resulting in unfathomable changes to human civilization.*” Innovations are arriving at hyper-accelerated cycles, and a result is that with the unquestioning adoption of “everything new”, the impacts on human life in an age of synthetic intelligences is unknown and fraught with pitfalls.

Consequently, either we (the collective “we”) understand the ramifications of our innovations, or we need to accept the consequences of ignoring them across every aspect our human existence. The impacts of innovation singularity are reinforced, questioned against multiple principles contained within the book by a fictional human who has transferred its entire life, thoughts, and memories into “the cloud”.

Innovation singularity is unlikely to ever stop, but if we do not account for their ramifications, the results could negatively impact generations, or worse, entire species.

Q: Haven’t humans sounded the “bell” regarding the fear of innovation’s previously?

A: Indeed, singularity has been around since the Romans and Egyptians. However, today we are creating artificial beings, adjusting our genetics, compiling data on every person on the planet, and using them to change

our species existence. The pitfalls of using, relying upon, and integrating synthetic intelligences into our lives is we have no model to gauge impacts. We cannot merely just “hope for the best” and plunge blindly into the abyss.

The book is a blend of fiction and non-fiction designed to make us think cohesively about our innovations, and how we readily accept them into every aspect of our lives. If we fail to think through our innovations, their biases, and their deployment, then the fault resides with us—not just their creators.

This book’s accumulation of thoughts and insights represent not a call to action, but a call to thought, a call to principles, a call to a recognition that thinking big is as equally important as implementing discrete solutions. This book is not designed to be a solution guide, but to generate thought, challenge acceptance.

Q: Why address nationalism and populism in a book about innovation singularity?

A: Our societies are conflicted due to the rise of nationalism and populism especially within and across our political dialogues. Innovations are giving individuals and groups greater voice to spread their messages, while reaching individuals, providing differing viewpoints, and being able to deliver voices which once were restricted or ignored.

We live in times where nationalism has risen to levels of political polarization dividing countries, communities, and even families. We live in a time where financial differences between rich and poor are chasms—not mere trenches. We live in a time where crisis is self-inflicted, and surprised when a rush to assist is muted. We live in a time where the individual reigns supreme, and the “we the people” are secondary, or even vilified. We live in a time where technological advancements have increasingly become sovereign weapons to use for and against domestic populations, international competitors, or as a means of retribution against our “enemy list”.

Therefore, and stating the obvious, innovations are generally positive—but they can also be used to shame, ridicule, and malign those who merely disagree with us. Taken to the next level, the innovation tools of accessibility illegally prying into personal information, assets, or even individual preferences is now a tactic to silence opposition. It happens at an individual level, at a group level, politically and of course by state-sponsored activists.

Q: I keep hearing about M7D, a transferred intelligence. What does this have to do with innovation?

A: To help frame the discussion rather than prescribe some arcane option or drone on in business speak, I introduce a heroine or hero (let’s use the pronoun for s/he, “**Ze**”) identified as M7D. M7D is the narrator presented within the multitude of callout boxes. Ze is a transferred human intelligence designed bring to the forefront critical realities, questions, potential scenarios, and downstream ramifications. Retaining every emotion of human life, M7D adds a personal dimension to our innovation singularity ramifications. Ze (i.e., M7D) was, after all, one of us.

Additionally, and in support of M7D’s narration, the structure of the book has each chapter beginning with underlying principles and realities, which often are overlooked, misunderstood, or simply inconvenient truths getting in the way of adoption. Each chapter will end with summary on what this could or will mean. The lessons learned only you can help answer, in a book format that is as much about contemplation and discussion as it is learning and understanding trends. As a tangential note, don’t forget the endnotes—they underpin the conversations.

Q: Why include ethics and privacy in a discussion about innovation?

A: This book started out as a discussion on the current state of ethics, politics, and the treatment of vast amounts of data being captured on every individual in the world—7.7 billion and counting. As research sometimes does,

there was a shift towards the acceleration of intelligent innovations, which can benefit humans, comes with a downside. The privacy of data associated with ethical conduct are now linked. When nationalism and populism take center stage across cultures and within geographic boundaries, the impact on ethics and privacy can result in unexpected and often unseen breaches.

These voids not only harm the individual and society, but as innovations progress, those who adopt and adapt to their complex layering fail to understand the ramifications buried within. These vacuums are created by lagging personal protections leading to a loss of confidence in the innovations. As confidence wanes, new entrants take their place resulting in new cycles of adoption, yet the protections are not NextGen but PostGen.

Innovation firms, to combat adaptation fatigue and placate potential overseers, have become increasingly sycophantic when they are found to be violating their own privacy terms of use and operating principles. As innovations become highly complex, often orchestrated and layered, the discovery of violations is found to be pervasive and deep when it comes to use and dispersion of data.

Q: Why do you address a topic within the book that many people seem unconvinced that it is real, almost unbelievable—innovation addiction?

A: Today, we are outwardly addicted to technology. We feed our addictions from commercials, targeted data streams to our personal devices in our possession, and even our homes. The innovation demand reaches into our bathrooms, our personal styling devices, our toilets, our water usage, and our AI devices.

Innovations are usually highly positive, progressive, and meet the needs of a vast swath of global populations. Whereas, some of these innovations are lifesaving, some are entertaining, some are informative, some are communicative, and some are all the above.

Innovation addiction is a growing with insidious ramifications. Addiction does not discriminate against age, gender, social class, or geography. Innovation addiction has escalated with the perception that “self” is important to the quality of human life. As big data expands, a hard thing to wrap your mind around, so will the intrusions and messaging which will feed innovation consumption and conformance to perceived “normative” behaviors. Innovation singularities are linked to addiction.

Individuals are not the only ones suffering from innovation addiction. Firms that develop innovations, partners that license innovations, and governments that seek insights into their citizens, all will be consumed by the lure of innovation and innovative solutions. Nationalism and populism will promote acceptance of social innovations, reporting on “fake news”, social conformance, and broadcasting of themes and agendas that further the ideal of what it means to be a “good” supporter.

Innovation addiction is real. Innovation addiction is growing. Innovation addiction is debilitating. Innovation addiction is here to stay, and its impacts will likely be measured and mitigated over generations. Innovation addiction is a ramification of the human condition ingrained to reshape environments. Addiction is a ramification—likely the most unknowable of an early industrial revolution framed by intelligence multipliers.

Q: What summary conclusions and questions did you leave the reader with after 11 chapters??

A: The determination of innovation singularity ramifications is not about some prescriptive approach which is taken off a shelf, defined by a consultant, or even learned in a classroom. Ramifications are not serial; they can diverge depending upon new innovations and their attached ramifications. Identifying, tracking and in some cases, mitigating ramifications are all about asking questions—constantly.

When we stop asking questions and applying what everyone else is doing, well, we wind up with a society and innovation offerings that not only invade our lives but have a strong potential for negative consequences. A great

individual from history, often overlooked for the ramifications of his insights, was **Frederick Douglass**. When asked what a person should do with their life, he had but one response, “*Agitate, agitate*”. I would like to believe, dare to hope, that you have discovered that asking the right questions and having a constructive difference of opinion is as important as blindly accepting innovation’s sexy, thrilling allure of “fitting in”.

I actually close out *The Ramifications of Innovation Singularity* with a prayer very common within Western cultures:

“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

The above “**Serenity Prayer**” is where the questions asked, and principles of review, can make the difference over delivering a prescriptive set of solutions to deal with the ramifications of innovation singularity.

In the end, the contemplation and cheekiness aside, the failure to address innovation singularity ramifications will result in a slow decline to obsolescence. Intelligence innovations won’t in the end, fix human “stupidity” when it comes to anticipating and preparing for likely outcomes.

Q: Why write about innovation singularity and the impacts it has on the individual and society?

A: This accumulation of thoughts and insights represent not a call to action, but a call to thought, a call to principles, a call to a recognition that thinking big is as equally important as implementing discrete solutions. This book as not designed to be a solution guide, but to generate thought, challenge acceptance.

As a businessperson who is charged to fix “what is broken”, I begin my engagements by managing expectations. To that point, this book was not designed to be an academic reference, or to deliver decades of quantitative research studies. It WAS designed to bring some business, and technological discussion to a world increasingly polarized by triviality and snowflake offerings. An offering, if you will, to rise above the minutiae and focus on what is necessary to frame the discussions, recognize the ramifications, and improve the innovations. Yet, how can we understand the accelerations taking place around us? What does it hold for upcoming generations?

Q: Why is *The Ramifications of Innovation Singularity* different from other books?

A: It is a blend of fiction and non-fiction designed to make us think cohesively about our innovations, and how we readily accept them into every aspect of our lives. If we fail to think through our innovations, their biases, and their deployment, then the fault resides with us—not just their creators.

In the end, this is an uncommon, conversational book intended to make you ask questions as you create and adopt innovations—not to assume a Luddite positioning. We are fast becoming beholden to the ramifications of our innovations. As individuals and within the societies we belong to, we cannot merely “hope for the best” when rising nationalism and populism trends (two topics deserving of their own books) are creating negative consequences for the very innovations we seek to incorporate into our existence.

The human condition is about innovation—we cannot let others determine what is acceptable. As globally linked cultures, enterprises, and inventors, we should not forget THE most compelling rationale of why innovations will not cease or slow down or wait for us—innovation is, and always will be, the great equalizer for nations.

Q: Do you have any final thoughts on the book and its creation?

A: This book was crafted at a time when the “doomsday” clock was less than two minutes to global destruction. A time when climate change tears apart the fabric of society, environments, and generally the world in which humans inhabit. Can the ramifications of our innovations (i.e., those that have powered a collective four major iterations of the “industrial revolution”), move us beyond where we are today—or are those ramifications what

got us here to begin with? Are we indeed at the cusp of failures, or can it be attributable to the normal growing pains of a new innovative revolution?

Like scanning the back cover of a book, or reading an online review posted by strangers, we assume what is inside the innovation is exactly as the marketing words lead us to believe. We don't look deeper. We don't scan what experts have to say. We don't open the innovation ourselves to see what they might be doing with our information. We don't see how it might be transferred to agents that are unaffiliated with the original innovation. We don't see how the fantasy of it all could be harmful, let alone debilitating, or worse, addictive.

Ramifications are, in the contexts between the books' covers, learning how to adjust positively to the impacts on current and future aspects of our lives (e.g., radio imaging, social media, financial management, political discourse). Ramifications are not about "burning down the house" and starting from scratch. When it comes to innovation, it is nearly impossible to put the innovation back in the bottle and wiping everyone's mind of the experiences. In an era of frenzied nationalism and populism, it would be construed as "fake" or discriminatory, racist, sexist, illegal, or some combination of the aforesaid if we tried.

Unless we do something "silly" to stop all innovation, the human spirit of creating a better mouse trap will push forward and stretch all known principles and boundaries. However, when the fractures are noticed, will it already be too late?