

September 9, 2022

Welcome back to the Unfinished newsletter, where we explore the intersection of tech, ethics, and social impact.

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What we're obsessed with

Even for those of us who are not digital natives born and raised in the internet age, it can be hard to remember a time when we weren't surgically attached to our devices and the internet hadn't yet crept into every corner of our lives. Such memories can feel distant because of how dominant the internet age is, and how merged our digital and physical selves are. And for those who are digital natives, they have known nothing else.

But as hard as it is to remember our non-digital past, it's possibly even harder to imagine a radically different digital future.

It will take quite a leap for our imagination to conceive of a digital future defined by different principles, new forms of data ownership, and more human-centered ethical values, when the only digital world we have ever known possesses none of those characteristics.

How do we imagine and create something fundamentally new and different for our digital lives and relationships? This is the question that drives Unfinished and Project Liberty, and we're convinced that it's one of the most consequential issues of our time.

So this year at Unfinished Live, we've created the [Project Liberty Experience](#), a collection of interactive exhibits and experiences next to the Unfinished Live conference, but free and open to the public.

Today's public squares have moved online and become digital-only spaces, but the Project Liberty Experience is a pop-up public square at The Shed in

New York City where anyone can contribute to exhibits that explore our relationship to data, privacy, and our digital future. It fuses our physical and digital worlds together, inviting us to experience how deeply intertwined the two have become.

If you go, at the center of the public square you'll encounter a provocative art installation by the renowned media artist, director, and pioneer in the aesthetics of machine intelligence, [Refik Anadol](#). His studio has been using machine learning to augment human consciousness. In this installation at the Project Liberty Experience, "Machine Hallucination — Space Dreams", he collected data from digital archives and other publicly available resources to create a dynamic art installation represented in a large digital cube hung from the ceiling of The Shed.

As you take in Refik's installation, you'll begin to dream about a better digital future. You can then walk over to the Liberty Zone to engage in a tactile and interactive exhibit that invites you to share your own thoughts about more human technology. Artificial intelligence will factor your input into the art itself, continuously updating and refreshing with contributions from online and in-person visitors.

You will also have the opportunity to participate more deeply in different public workshops designed by Unfinished Network partners, covering topics such as [elections and misinformation](#), the [digital divide](#), writing goodbye [letters to social networks](#), and [more](#).

From there, you'll be drawn across the room to the All Tech is Human Library, a conversational space where AI ethicists and public-interest technologists will be hosting intimate, pop-up conversations on the most important topics surrounding responsible tech, every day from 1-4 pm.

The Project Liberty Experience is free and open to the public, but only for three days: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday September 22-24. Secure your free ticket [here](#).




Other notable headlines

♥ Forget Tinder, we're moving to Google Docs. More and more people are moving beyond the limited word-counts of dating apps (and other online platforms) by creating "Date Me" Google documents that go into extensive detail about who they are and what they're looking for in a partner. [Wired](#) reports on the post dating app future that isn't powered by algorithms or platforms that control data, but rather by people who are optimizing for partnership via more expansive self-expression.

🇺🇸 Two recent bills in California point to the state becoming a "data sanctuary" where a person's data and private online information are protected. One law prohibits health care providers, law enforcement, and the state from helping another state's investigation into a minor receiving gender affirming care in California. The other law protects those traveling to California for an abortion from having their medical records shared with another state. What other sanctuary city and state policies have done for immigrant rights, [Protocol](#) reports, California lawmakers are looking to do for trans and reproductive rights.

📧 Your email reading habits are being tracked, creating both privacy and security issues. An article in [Vox](#) highlights how your email address has become one of your most accurate and consistent online identifiers, allowing data brokers and marketers to build sophisticated profiles of your online and offline life that they then sell to companies. New email protection services are hitting the market that disguise your email and block trackers before they mine your data.

 [Vogue](#) profiled [Maria Ressa](#), one of the mainstage speakers at Unfinished Live, about Rappler, her news organization battling disinformation and fighting for truth in the Philippines. It's brave, daring work that comes at enormous personal risk, but Ressa won the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for her tireless efforts to hold leaders to account. Ressa and Rappler's commitment to telling the truth is one of the reasons why we're honored to have her join us at Unfinished Live. We're less than two weeks away; get your ticket [here!](#)

A message from our partners at OFFF

OFFF was born as a festival of creativity that engages a community of designers, thinkers, theorists, developers, professionals, and students from around the world. OFFF hosts talented creatives to share their experiences, unite and collaborate within a festival full of workshops, conferences, networking and more. The 22nd edition will take place at Disseny Hub Barcelona on March 23-25, 2023. As part of the Unfinished community, OFFF is offering an exclusive 25% discount on Regular Tickets. Visit [off-tickets.com](#) and enter code OFFF25UNFINISHED. See you there!

Thank you for reading.

Follow Unfinished ([@byUnfinished](#)) on Twitter for ongoing chitchat on the changing web.

Have a great, restful weekend.

The Unfinished team

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