Love each other!
Stay in the loop:

07 February 10th, 2014
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Jenni Toriseva IxD1

10 words or less about yourself:
(Referring to recent discussions) I am not Saami (though it would be cool be onel), I'm Finnish-malaysian-chinese.

Something most people don't know about you: I have a very sensitive sense of smell. Luckily all my classmates smell very nice.

An interesting fact from your country: Finland is a hotspot for genetic research due to isolation from most other European populations. Finns are also closest to Cro-Magnons (early Homo sapiens sapiens) in terms of anthropological measurements.

The New Black in BOOKS: Jared Diamond's 'The World Until Yesterday: What Can We Learn from Traditional Societies?'. I haven't read this one yet but if it follows the author's previous level of writing it's bound to be good.

The New Black in DESIGN: The MIT Media Lab recently unveiled a tangible display that allows you to touch objects e.g. through a Skype call. It seems very cool. Fingers crossed this marks the end for flat displays!


The New Black in SLANG: Jäätelötötterö.

Robert Prouó Kluit APD2

10 words or less about yourself: What can I say? Last week someone described me as a listener...

Something most people don't know about you: I am a twin.

An interesting fact from your country: Have you ever wondered why carrots are orange?

The New Black in BOOKS: Any tangible book will do.

The New Black in RANDOMNESS: The mindful revolution.


Credits:

Thanks for your contributions. Future articles & photos can be sent to: wozzop@gmail.com by Thursday evenings. We love hearing from you (seriously) !!

Editor: Miglė Padegimaitė
Graphic Designer: Miglė Padegimaitė
Contributions: Stephanie Knödler // ©2014 UID
Caretaker - Anders Hellström is going on parental leave on 100% February 10- February 24. He will be back on 50%, working 8.00-12.00, February 24- March 28, and then back full-time in April. Jennie Vänman from the Service Office will be covering for him and answer on the same phone number and e-mail.

Assistant professor - An ad (assistant professor in industrial design) is published with March 31 as the last day to apply. Please help us spread the ad! http://uid.umu.se/en/about-us/job-opportunities/assistant-professor-in-industrial-design/

Deputy Head of Department - Niklas Andersson will start working as deputy Head of Department and Parag Deshpande will cover for him in the role as programme leader meanwhile.

Adjunct teacher in interaction design - We are at present writing an ad for an upcoming advertisement of a lecturer in interaction design.

Ställverket - Ställverket need people to volunteer for running a bar during the DRS conference (minimum 5 persons). The conference will be held June 16-19 and the bar will be run during three evenings, the volunteers for the bar will be paid. Ställverket also need 2 volunteers/class that would like to be interviewed by the Swedish Higher Education Authority on Wednesday March 5.

Mega congratulations to Kevin Gaunt from IxD1 for winning the IxDA Student Award! Kevin was a finalist in the 2014 IxDA Info4Life Student Design Challenge, which happened in Amsterdam 5-8 Feb. We’re proud of you!!!

Dutch Design Competition USA 2014

The Dutch government is looking for a new giveaway to distribute in the United States, and is inviting designers from all over the world to submit inventive, quirky and smart ideas for a functional and affordable small item inspired by Dutch Design. *** Competition starts on 13 Jan 2014, ends on 7 Mar 2014.

After March 7, the top 10 entries will be selected by a high-profile jury by the beginning of April, and will be printed in 3D by Shapeways. The competition will then start its second phase when the designs become part of a temporary exhibit in New York City. Members of the public will vote on their favorite. The winning design will be announced in mid-April.

Each submission must contain a representative images/drawings of the design in a digital file (preferably in pdf-format). Designers are also encouraged to submit CAD 3D drawings. Kikkerland will be able to assist with a CAD drawing if select designers from the top 10 submissions are not able to do so.

The participant remains under any event the owner of the copyrights and other intellectual property rights vested in the submitted design. On each design, printed in 3D-form, the name of the designer shall be credited. There is no entry fee. The competition is open to everyone worldwide.

Prize: Kikkerland Design Inc. plans to produce the winning design and introduce it to the US and global markets. In addition, the Dutch government will buy 500 pieces of the winning product, and use it as its official giveaway in the United States. On top of that, Shapeways will offer the winner a weeklong residency at its headquarters in New York. Flight and accommodations will be included with the prize.


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Check out the UID vimeo pages:
vimeo.com/uid & vimeo.com/ixdumea

Minutes from the school meeting

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8 tips to make your life more surprising from Tania Luna, Surprisologist

Luna reminds us to appreciate the unexpected joys of daily life and to embrace uncertainty. This philosophy translates directly to Luna’s day job, as a Surprisologist. Luna co-founded Surprise Industries, a company that curates delightful experiences for both individuals and teams. (Read more about Luna’s work in this TED Blog Q&A.)

“Surprises make life simultaneously more serene and more exciting,” says Luna. Below, she offers 8 pieces of advice for how everyone can make their lives a little more amazing.

1. **Commit to the mindset and process of surprise.** Decide to be a surprisologist, and explore the world through this lens. Ask yourself, “What would a surprisologist do?” Create systems to reinforce surprise in your life. Counterintuitive though it sounds, schedule time to wander. Even the most exciting people need to be plucked out of their routines sometimes.

2. **Get to the pot of gold on the other side of awkward.** Remind yourself that all the good stuff in life lies behind a sticky clump of discomfort and uncertainty. Few people follow their dreams or take positive risks — not because it’s difficult or even scary, but because we avoid that sensation of uncertainty that we call awkwardness. Learn to love it. Remind yourself that discomfort means you are growing AND reaching someplace special that few people dare to go. Try a hobby that looks awful. Talk to a stranger. Or spend some alone time if you tend to avoid your own company.

3. **Stop Googling away delight.** I love instant information, but I also know that seeing photos of my hotel room before I get there and using Yelp to pick out the best dish on the menu strips my life of surprise, discovery and serendipity. Let yourself imagine and then get surprised.

4. **Turn your social circle into a different shape.** Go way off the grid when it comes to meeting new people. Being surrounded by people like us is comforting, but it also stops us from growing and learning. Go out of your way to speak with and empathize with people who don’t share your norms. Ask friends to introduce you to the most unlike-you person they know.

5. **Collect sensations.** When was the last time you smelled, tasted or touched something new? Every week give yourself the assignment to explore and experience the world through one primary sense.

6. **Get lost.** If you always know where you’re going, you’ll never get someplace new. Let yourself wander, mapless, in an unfamiliar park or neighborhood. Try playing the Left, Left, Right game — keep turning left, left, then right until you discover something surprising. (I learned this one from my fellow Surprisologist, LeeAnn Renninger.) Or simplest of all, set aside free wander and wonder time.

7. **Schedule a Yes Day.** Saying “yes” to new things can be overwhelming, so I like to dedicate one day every week to saying “yes” to all new opportunities. FYI: my Yes Day is Wednesday :) .

8. **Keep a Surprise Opportunity Log.** Anytime someone mentions something they love or have always wanted to try, jot it down and put to good use in the future. Surprising others is as much fun as surprising yourself.

http://blog.ted.com/2013/07/26/8-tips-to-make-your-life-more-surprising-from-a-surprisologist/
Facebook Timeline Designer Releases An App For Measuring Your Whole Life

Nicholas Felton, the design guru behind the Facebook timeline, has released an app for quantifying anything in your life.

You may know Nicholas Felton best as the creator of the Facebook Timeline. But the reason he even got that job was his cultishly popular Feltron Report, an annual, infographical dive into his own life. These reports—which are gorgeous, limited edition prints on fine stock paper—track both intimate and silly details of his life, from where he’s been, to what he’s been drinking, to whom he’s hung around the most.

For the better part of a decade, that meant Felton kept meticulous notes through each and every day. As of 2013, he and a friend Drew Breuning created a private app called Reporter to make the process easier. Now, you can buy Reporter on iPhone for $4, a polished version of the homegrown app by Felton, Breuning, and Friends of the Web. And it’s good for a lot more than rendering nifty visualizations. Reporter can create a truer self portrait of your otherwise intangible human metrics—nuanced ideas like your mood, your real friends, and your diet—that modern sensors just can’t track very well.

WHO ARE YOU WITH?

Alone, 35
Drew Freeman, 24
Olga Bello, 43

“This is one of those passion projects,” Felton tells Co.Design. “This is a product I want to see in the world. I have no idea if people will pay for it. I have no idea if people want it. I have no idea how big the market is for this.”

Reporter is, at its heart, a survey tool. Six randomized times a day (or more, or less), the app will send you a notification to answer a series of questions. Defaults are things like, “how many cups of coffee have you had today?” or “who are you with?” But it’s possible to program any question you want to ask yourself, with a variety of easy responses including multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and yes/no, among others.

If the surveys sound like a pain, then honestly, Reporter just might not be for you. But Felton has designed the app to be incredibly streamlined, by minimizing the UI (there’s no endless feed to monopolize your attention like Twitter); leveraging sensors to track data automatically (GPS measures location, while your microphone can track ambient noise levels); and deploying smart, learning code that autofills common answers for you (meaning you won’t have to type your significant other’s full name more than once). All of these features combine to create an extremely practical experience, tailored to get you off your phone rather than reel you in—the exact opposite of the “constant engagement” model behind most apps.

“Meanwhile, your data is crunched privately on your phone (not a server that’s just mining your life for sale), transforming your answers locally into real-time visualizations. So far, these visuals are tasteful but spartan line, bar, and area graphs that, while perfectly functional, don’t begin to approach the ornate beauty of Felton’s annual reports. But such is the price of visualizing almost any sort of data a user chooses to collect.

“To a certain degree, there are limitations—to have these visualizations that can just accommodate a bunch different types of data coming in, they need to be somewhat generic,” Felton concedes, adding that he still has big plans to expand the selection through in-app purchases. A map visualization of your locations over time is a no-brainer, he tells me.

WE WANT YOU TO RECORD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WHAT’S IMPORTANT TO YOU, THEN GET YOU BACK TO LIVING YOUR LIFE.

There’s also a whole other layer of analysis (and visualization) that the app can eventually tap. It’s the correlative data—graphs that can look at, not just how much coffee you drank, but how much coffee you drank depending on the weather, or how happy you were depending on who you were with.

Anyone who’s heard the aphorism “correlation isn’t causation” will know that you can only trust such data so much; it can imply connections between two things that don’t really exist. But to Felton, that’s not really the point. “I just think it’s funny that when I’m with my cat, I drink more beer,” Felton says. “What’s the correlation, a real thing or imaginary? Hopefully, that’s good dinner conversation.”

WHEN I’M WITH MY CAT, I DRINK MORE BEER. WHAT’S THE CORRELATION, A REAL THING OR IMAGINARY?

All of this said, the most impressive part of Reporter might be that it’s ultimately a very low-tech tool that, through its streamlined interaction design, can solve some of the biggest problems facing wearable devices and life quantification technology today. For instance, your Jawbone Up fitness band wants to help monitor your diet, but it can’t ever see the food you put in your mouth. Reporter will just ask you what you’re eating. While your GPS knows where you are, there’s no easy way to track and identify the friends you’re with at any given moment. Reporter will just ask you who you’re hanging out with.

Surely, we’ll eventually have omniscient sensors and algorithms capable of deciphering all of this information. But until then, Reporter is happy to just ask you whatever it is that you’d like to tell it.
We live in a culture of urgency, constantly throwing our emotional energy into the latest public scandal, emergency, or cat video. Most of us work in always-switched-on companies where everything feels urgent. Call backs, emails, and meetings are wrought with peak energy. How quickly do you expect a response to an email or changes to a report?

Because of this, I believe that prioritizing is the most essential skill a creative can possess. The constant influx of information from social media, emails, clients, advertising, etc., makes it difficult to decipher what's important, what to abandon and what to work on now. Can you even add up the sheer number of small decisions you make each day?

The media theorist and writer Douglas Rushkoff describes his concept of “present shock” as “one big now… where everything is happening so fast it may as well be simultaneous.” He says the incoming barrage of information has degraded our ability to create long-term plans, and instead sets us up to react, react, react.

Urgency is a great motivator, but a flimsy one. The problem with urgency is that no one can remember what’s really important, so we spend too much time and energy on activities that don’t matter.

“The Principle of Priority states (a) you must know the difference between what is urgent and what is important, and (b) you must do what’s important first.” Steven Pressfield, The War of Art

It’s true the creatives among us who make ideas happen have a remarkable ability to ignore distractions. But being creative and productive requires long stretches of focus, a commodity that is shrinking in the face of present shock.

For several months, I’ve been experimenting with this idea of relentless prioritizing, conducting mini-strategic plans and reordering to-do lists. I still grapple with the barrage of information, but having a methodology helps. By the way, “strategic planning” is the process of defining a direction and then making decisions to allocate resources to that direction.

Who says we can only do them once a year at an off-site?

**My daily prioritization check-in**

I have to remind myself that I’m acting against the great cultural tide of urgency. Prioritizing means not getting sucked into that tide. So I prioritize twice a day, as a ritual. The process for figuring out what is important is really just a simple series of questions:

1. Do I really have to do this now?
2. If so, is it “The Most Important Thing?”
3. If not, where does it fit relative to the other tasks?
4. Is someone waiting on me for this?
5. If so, when do they need it?
6. Does working/not working on this now have long-term consequences that I’m missing?

Part of reducing present shock is refusing to react. The best practice I’ve come up with is to not react to demands as they come in. Instead, I recognize them, and add them to a running list. Only when I have a proper break do I put them on the to-do list. The moment we enter “reaction” mode, we’ve surrendered our day to the whims of others.

It helps me to a) notice, and therefore not react so I don’t feel like anything is slipping away, and b) place things properly along the spectrum of priorities. I map my to-do’s or action items directly to strategic initiatives in order to better allocate my resources. For example, “buy conference tickets” might be mapped to my business, while “do the dishes” goes on my home to-do list (nerd alert: they’re also color-coded).

The moment we enter reaction mode, we’ve surrendered our day to the whims of others.

The first check-in occurs in the middle of the day, before or after lunch. Am I working on what I said I was going to work on? Am I making progress? Am I working on the most important thing? I re-order appropriately. I’ve saved myself lots of frustration by course-correcting in the middle of the work day.

Check-in #2 is right before bed, when I plan for the next day. That way when I start at my desk in the morning, I don’t fall back into my inbox and back into response mode. And, if I do find I’m constantly reacting to the flood, I show myself some compassion. Drifting isn’t always a bad thing.

Being consistent about prioritization has produced interesting results. My major projects are moving along nicely. I feel less harried. The things I choose not to do, I choose purposefully. I’m able to focus longer and get back on track when necessary.

So is prioritization the solution to present shock? Maybe. Is prioritization a key weapon in reducing stress and staying sane? Absolutely.

http://99u.com/articles/22053/why-you-need-a-daily-prioritization-meeting