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HOME RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION WORKING PAPERS Number 100

Digital Home: The missing element for a people-centred digital future
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Abstract

Digitization of the Home has accelerated with Covid-19, as work, learning moved online. Family life, work life, social life is rapidly transforming, we must ask how will we assure a future where people are nurtured? The home should be a safe space, a refuge. In a changing world, can "Home" still be that place of stability where humans can grow and learn, and become good global citizens for the benefit of humankind?

The potential of the Digital Home has hit like a tsunami wave with many growing risks. Even as the digital proportion of our life grows, businesses and governments are gaining greater access to our digital lives. Transparency between our internal and external spaces is disturbing millennia-old notions of the family home. Insistent digital presence fragments our personal and shared family time and attention. Personal data is no longer under our control. Elders and the economically and physically disadvantaged struggle with technology designed primarily for the already digitally literate.

The Internet offers the opportunity to learn and apply skills from the safety of our own homes. Covid has shown this. Transcending physical and social barriers can foster harmony, empathy and economic opportunity for people who have been excluded. Better use of resources can be enabled by digitizing the supply chain all the way into the home – for example Agriculture-Food-Health linkages can reduce waste and increase nutrition and taste, and quality of life. But economic inequality and digital divides threaten our social fabric and our humanity.

We re-imagine the digital home as nurturing place for instilling confidence through learning to become digital citizens of local communities, and the world, the explorers and creators of a flourishing globally connected world. By joining our digital homes in networks built on trust and inclusion, we can together design, develop and operate the transparent, safe, inclusive and sustainable future worth fighting for.

*Full paper
See book ['The Home in the Digital Age'](#)