



A Brief Account of Silicon(e) Living

Silicon: A hard brittle crystalline solid with a blue-gray metallic lustre. It is a metalloid (between a metal and non-metal). A major player in modern electronics due to being an ideal conductor of electricity.

Silicone: A synthetic polymer made from Silicon, Oxygen and other elements.

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Waiting for a train in the undercrofts of Silicon Roundabout. No blue metallic lustre here, just concrete with air pollution residue. White clouds reflect in the heights of the glass offices above, where 137 employees, 1739 flat whites and 32 office dogs cohabit around a flexi hours clock.

I recently started a part-time job at a tech startup. Unfortunately there are no office dogs or flat whites yet (the office is down an alley in the basement of an estate agents). I see it as a side-gig to my career as an "artist." However, this "Art career" is a pseudo career in the eyes of my pragmatic dental hygienist friend, who uses Silicone to cast teeth.

Today I wrote about IoT and SMO (that's 'Internet of Things' and 'Social Media Optimisation') for a more connected and efficient (in business terms) world. I have realised that technology is probably just as utopian a pursuit as Art. Accelerated by Silicon, I'm secretly trespassing on these uncharted terrains of the tech-world.

A few weeks ago I dropped my phone in the sea. There was more breathable space offline; less foggy. One thing I did whilst "switched-off" was parasail off of a boat. My parasail was a giant green emoji that resembled the face of the Cheshire Cat (maybe feeling slightly nauseous). As the wind billowed into its innards, I found myself ominously reminded that I was still tethered to my online life, even whilst up in the blue. No electrical currents uploaded any data through Silicon parts, but my preexisting body was still there on a databank somewhere.

A friend went to the doctor who told him digital cameras and smartphones are making our memories lazy. I thought I had lost a years worth of photos and feared that my own memories had become more hazy. But, sure enough my Silicon(e) device had put my photos safely onto the cloud. So when I was back online again I just uploaded the picture of me. I'm in the sky again; synchronising amongst the currents.