
From: Joi Ito [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2015 12:56 PM
To: Jeffrey Epstein
Subject: Re:

Not your old age question?

:-)

It's like Jeopardy except that Watson won't have the =nswer.

One of my faculty, Cesar Hidalgo, recently wrote a book called "Why =nformation Grows".
<http://www.amazon.com/Why-Information-Grows-Evolution-Economies/dp/0465048=94>

I haven't read it yet, but I've had some conversations =ith him. He's trying to approach it from a physics perspective =nd argues that life is "information" and "order". =ot sure this is right.

"What is economic growth? And why, historically, has it occurred in only = few places? Previous efforts to answer these questions have focused on =nstitutions, geography, finances, and psychology. But according to =IT's antidisplinarian César Hidalgo, understanding the nature of =economic growth demands transcending the social sciences and including =he natural sciences of information, networks, and complexity. To =nderstand the growth of economies, Hidalgo argues, we first need to =nderstand the growth of order.

At first glance, the universe seems hostile to order. Thermodynamics =ictates that over time, order--or information--will disappear. Whispers =anish in the wind just like the beauty of swirling cigarette smoke =ollapses into disorderly clouds. But thermodynamics also has loopholes =hat promote the growth of information in pockets. Our cities are =ockets where information grows, but they are not all the same. For =every Silicon Valley, Tokyo, and Paris, there are dozens of places with =conomies that accomplish little more than pulling rocks off the ground. =o, why does the US economy outstrip Brazil's, and Brazil's that of =had? Why did the technology corridor along Boston's Route 128 languish =hile Silicon Valley blossomed? In each case, the key is how people, =irms, and the networks they form make use of information.

Seen from Hidalgo's vantage, economies become distributed computers, =ade of networks of people, and the problem of economic development =ecomes the problem of making these computers more powerful. By =ncovering the mechanisms that enable the growth of information in =ature and society, Why Information Grows lays bear the origins of =physical order and economic growth. Situated at the nexus of information =theory, physics, sociology, and economics, this book propounds a new =theory of how economies can do, not just more, but more interesting =hings."

> On Jun 7, 2015, at 6:51 AM, jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> my age old question . . if LIFE is the answer , what is the =uestion, what set of problems are living systems solving for?

>

> --

> please note

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