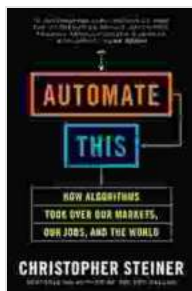


How Algorithms Took Over Our Markets, Our Jobs, and the World

Algorithms are everywhere. They're in our phones, our cars, and our homes. They're used to make decisions about everything from what we buy to who we date. But what exactly are algorithms, and how do they work? And what are the implications of their increasing prevalence in our lives?

An algorithm is a set of instructions that tells a computer how to perform a task. Algorithms can be simple or complex, short or long. Some algorithms are designed to solve specific problems, while others are more general-purpose and can be used for a variety of tasks.



Automate This: How Algorithms Took Over Our Markets, Our Jobs, and the World by Christopher Steiner

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 853 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 268 pages



Algorithms have been around for centuries. The earliest known algorithm is the Euclidean algorithm, which dates back to the 3rd century BC. The

Euclidean algorithm is used to find the greatest common divisor of two numbers.

In the past few decades, algorithms have become increasingly important as computers have become more powerful and more affordable. Algorithms are now used in a wide variety of applications, from search engines to social media to financial trading.

Algorithms can have a significant impact on our lives. They can help us find information, make decisions, and connect with others. However, algorithms can also be used for harmful purposes, such as discrimination or surveillance.

It is important to be aware of the potential benefits and risks of algorithms. We need to understand how algorithms work and how they can be used so that we can make informed decisions about their use.

How Algorithms Work

Algorithms work by following a set of instructions. These instructions are typically written in a programming language that the computer can understand.

The first step in creating an algorithm is to define the problem that you want to solve. Once you have defined the problem, you can start to develop a set of instructions that will solve the problem.

The following is an example of a simple algorithm for finding the largest number in a list of numbers:

1. Set the largest number to the first number in the list.
2. Loop through the remaining numbers in the list.
3. If the current number is larger than the largest number, set the largest number to the current number.
4. Repeat step 3 until you have looped through all of the numbers in the list.
5. Return the largest number.

This algorithm works by comparing each number in the list to the largest number found so far. If the current number is larger than the largest number found so far, the largest number is updated to the current number. After looping through all of the numbers in the list, the algorithm returns the largest number.

The Implications of Algorithms

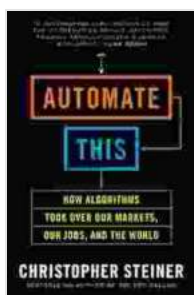
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One of the most important implications of algorithms is that they can be biased. This is because algorithms are created by humans, and humans are biased. For example, an algorithm that is used to predict who is likely to commit a crime may be biased against certain racial or ethnic groups.

Another implication of algorithms is that they can be used to manipulate people. This is because algorithms can be used to track our behavior and predict our preferences. For example, a social media company may use an algorithm to track our likes and shares and then use this information to target us with personalized advertising.

It is important to be aware of the potential benefits and risks of algorithms. We need to understand how algorithms work and how they can be used so that we can make informed decisions about their use.

Algorithms are increasingly becoming a part of our lives. They can have a significant impact on our lives, both positive and negative. It is important to be aware of the potential benefits and risks of algorithms so that we can make informed decisions about their use.



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