



Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines

Steve Talbott

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines

Steve Talbott

Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines Steve Talbott

"Self-forgetfulness is the reigning temptation of the technological era. This is why we so readily give our assent to the absurd proposition that a computer can add two plus two, despite the obvious fact that it can do nothing of the sort--not if we have in mind anything remotely resembling what we do when we add numbers. In the computer's case, the mechanics of addition involve no motivation, no consciousness of the task, no mobilization of the will, no metabolic activity, no imagination. And its performance brings neither the satisfaction of accomplishment nor the strengthening of practical skills and cognitive capacities." In this insightful book, author Steve Talbott, software programmer and technical writer turned researcher and editor for The Nature Institute, challenges us to step back and take an objective look at the technology driving our lives. At a time when 65 percent of American consumers spend more time with their PCs than they do with their significant others, according to a recent study, Talbott illustrates that we're forgetting one important thing--our Selves, the human spirit from which technology stems. Whether we're surrendering intimate details to yet another database, eschewing our physical communities for online social networks, or calculating our net worth, we freely give our power over to technology until, he says, "we arrive at a computer's-eye view of the entire world of industry, commerce, and society at large...an ever more closely woven web of programmed logic." Digital technology certainly makes us more efficient. But when efficiency is the only goal, we have no way to know whether we're going in the right or wrong direction. Businesses replace guiding vision with a spreadsheet's bottom line. Schoolteachers are replaced by the computer's dataflow. Indigenous peoples give up traditional skills for the dazzle and ease of new gadgets. Even the Pentagon's zeal to replace "boots on the ground" with technology has led to the mess in Iraq. And on it goes. The ultimate danger is that, in our willingness to adapt ourselves to technology, "we will descend to the level of the computational devices we have engineered--not merely imagining ever new and more sophisticated automatons, but reducing ourselves to automatons." To transform our situation, we need to see it in a new and unaccustomed light, and that's what Talbott provides by examining the deceiving virtues of technology--how we're killing education, socializing our machines, and mechanizing our society. Once you take this eye-opening journey, you will think more clearly about how you consume technology and how you allow it to consume you. "Nothing is as rare or sorely needed in our tech-enchanted culture right now as intelligent criticism of technology, and Steve Talbott is exactly the critic we've been waiting for: trenchant, sophisticated, and completely original. Devices of the Soul is an urgent and important book." --Michael Pollan, author of *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* and *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World* "Steve Talbott is a rare voice of clarity, humanity, and passion in a world enthralled by machines and calculation. His new book, *Devices of the Soul*, lays out a frightening and at the same time inspiring analysis of what computers and computer-like thinking are doing to us, our children, and the future of our planet. Talbott is no Luddite. He fully understands and appreciates the stunning power of technology for both good and evil. His cool and precise skewering of the fuzzy thinking and mindless enthusiasm of the technology true believers is tempered by his modesty, the elegance of his writing, and his abiding love for the world of nature and our capacity for communion with it." --Edward Miller, Former editor, *Harvard Education Letter* "Those who care about the healthy and wholesome lives of children can gain much from Steve Talbott's wisdom. He examines the need to help children spend more time...

 [Download Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines

Steve Talbott

From reader reviews:

Richard Hund:

What do you about book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They need to answer that question since just their can do in which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on guardería until university need this specific Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines to read.

William Kirby:

The experience that you get from Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines will be the more deep you excavating the information that hide inside the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines giving you buzz feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by simply anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having that Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines instantly.

Zachary Connors:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our expertise for everything. By a e-book we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year has been exactly added. This book Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines was filled in relation to science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading any book. If you know how big benefit from a book, you can feel enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book you wanted.

Lisa Loo:

Reading a e-book make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information coming from a book. Book is written or printed or outlined from each source which filled update of news. With this modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for you actually. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, book and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just in search of the Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines when you desired it?

Download and Read Online Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines Steve Talbott #R4J6MN0ICP2

Read Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines by Steve Talbott for online ebook

Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines by Steve Talbott Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines by Steve Talbott books to read online.

Online Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines by Steve Talbott ebook PDF download

Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines by Steve Talbott Doc

Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines by Steve Talbott Mobipocket

Devices of the Soul: Battling for Our Selves in an Age of Machines by Steve Talbott EPub