

Data scan

beta version



START

About

The data scan@home exercise responds to calls by scholars for more attention to questions of datafication in relation to everyday life. It invites you to connect your own knowledge and experience of datafication to public debate.

(inspired by the data walks of, among others, Alison Powell and BOLD cities)

This worksheet is a way to keep fieldnotes as you observe and reflect on digital data at home. Go through the steps and fill in your response in the designated spaces.

Please ensure you have opened this file with Adobe ReaderDC, available for free at get.adobe.com/reader.



Initial scan

- 1 Formulate your own definition of data.
- 2 Scan the room(s) of your home. What would you consider 'data hot' and what 'data cool' areas? Explain.
- 3 Identify and make a list of all the different data points (places where digital data is collected or transmitted, e.g. smart meters, WiFi routers, voice assistants, etc.) that you observe.
- 4 For these data points, write down:
 - a. which data is collected;
 - b. by whom and to what end.



Zooming in: *home data ecology*



Go to **Tools** and select **Comment**.
Use & to draw here!

Draw your home personal data ecology, including all the data points you identified. Think of different ways to classify and organize them (for instance according to your feelings of/experiences towards them).

Identify one data point in the ecology that sparks particular interest.

- a. Articulate why it interests you.
- b. Did you consent to data being collected here? If so, how?
- c. Which other parties have access to this data?
- d. What are the benefits and risks/potential cost of this?
- e. How does this affect you on a daily basis?



Zooming out: *the public debate*

- 7 Go online and trace a public debate about this data point (e.g. how has Amazon Alexa been discussed in relation to privacy or language-based discrimination?)

Position your own experience in relation to this debate.
 - a. What is overlooked in this discourse?
 - b. Which questions remain unanswered?
 - c. How might the issues that come up be remedied?



THE BIGGER PICTURE

Finished! You have taken a first step towards critically engaging with your home data ecology. Share this document with others to exchange and compare personal experiences and reflections on the public debate.