

[08/10/2016, 10:00:35] Weekend Testers Americas: Weekend Testers Americas has renamed this conversation to "WTA-76: START"

[08/10/2016, 10:00:54] Weekend Testers Americas: Good \$localtime, everyone :).

[08/10/2016, 10:01:35] Weekend Testers Americas: Thamy you for joining Weekend Testing Americas today. I know that the US East Coast is dealing with a hurricane, so we may have a smaller number of attendees today, but that's totally cool :).

[08/10/2016, 10:01:47] Weekend Testers Americas: First order of business is, we do introductions.

[08/10/2016, 10:02:02] Weekend Testers Americas: So, introduce yourselves :).

[08/10/2016, 10:02:11] Weekend Testers Americas: The role of WTA will be played today by Michael Larsen. Hi all, that's me :).

[08/10/2016, 10:02:15] Weekend Testers Americas: I've been testing for many years, I'm a co-founder of this chapter of Weekend Testing Americas, I'm both a Software Tester and a Release Manager, so I get to both be a tester and be the target of testing, and sometimes that makes for some interesting realisations. I produce a podcast called The Testing Show, I blog at <http://mkltesthead.com>, and I tweet at @mkltesthead.

[08/10/2016, 10:04:42] Anna Royzman: I am Anna Royzman. Founder of Quality Leadership Institute and Test Masters Academy. <http://testmastersacademy.org> I run testing conferences and quality leadership training. Conference speaker, Executive at Large at AST Board of Directors. :)

[08/10/2016, 10:04:51] Anna Royzman: tweet at @QA_nna

[08/10/2016, 10:05:38] Weekend Testers Americas: and case study leader for Cynefin Framework for Software Testing, if my editing and listening is accurate :).

[08/10/2016, 10:06:00] Anna Royzman: yes, that too :) The project is in the inception stage

[08/10/2016, 10:06:56] Weekend Testers Americas: I just finished the editing of the show and transcript, so I'm compiling the show notes now. There's a lot of them :). Your involvement in that may actually be of help to the experiment I'm looking at today :).

[08/10/2016, 10:07:11] Anna Royzman: all right

[08/10/2016, 10:07:23] Weekend Testers Americas: I saw Kiran reply earlier. Kiran, are you still here?

[08/10/2016, 10:07:29] Weekend Testers Americas: If so, please say hello.

[08/10/2016, 10:07:50] Weekend Testers Americas: I also anticipate we may have some late comers, so we'll deal with them as they get here.

[08/10/2016, 10:08:11] Weekend Testers Americas: but let's go ahead and introduce the topic and the mission/charter(s) for today's session.

[08/10/2016, 10:08:27] Weekend Testers Americas: Weekend Testers Americas has renamed this conversation to "WTA-76: MISSION/CHARTERS"

[08/10/2016, 10:08:57] Weekend Testers Americas: First, I've found the concept of machine learning, both in what it gets right and what it gets wrong, to be intriguing.

[08/10/2016, 10:09:57] Weekend Testers Americas: We tend to think of algorithms as being somehow "more fair" or "less biased" than people making judgments, but in truth, algorithms are ultimately written by people, and biases, and unforeseen circumstances pop in all the time.

[08/10/2016, 10:10:51] Weekend Testers Americas: Sometimes, these result in humorous issues (like facial recognition finding a face in a cookie), but other times, they can be more serious and hurtful, if unintentionally so.

[08/10/2016, 10:12:13] Weekend Testers Americas: As part of the preparation for today, I encouraged looking at Carina C. Zona's Keynote "Consequences of an Insightful Algorithm"

YouTube Video of Talk: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NheE6udjfGI>)

Slides From Talk: (<http://www.slideshare.net/cczona/consequences-of-an-insightful-algorithm>)

[08/10/2016, 10:13:02] Weekend Testers Americas: We won't go into depth on that, as it would take 45 minutes to watch it, but i personally found it helpful to see where machine learning can do good things but also be unintentionally harmful.

[08/10/2016, 10:13:12] Anna Royzman: I watched the video

[08/10/2016, 10:13:19] Weekend Testers Americas: Oh, good :).

[08/10/2016, 10:13:28] Weekend Testers Americas: Then we can talk about it a bit :D

[08/10/2016, 10:13:34] Anna Royzman: of course!

[08/10/2016, 10:13:54] Weekend Testers Americas: My personal; frustration point was with the Flickr examples.

[08/10/2016, 10:14:19] Weekend Testers Americas: Especially the labelling of the gate at Auschwitz.

[08/10/2016, 10:15:11] Anna Royzman: I found the insensitive reminders of the lost daughter as a very big pain point. One of the reasons I don't engage in Facebook that much, and don't share personal events.

[08/10/2016, 10:15:37] Weekend Testers Americas: On one hand, I kid of get it. It's angular metal, and it has varying degrees of angulation, so it could be interpreted as a "play structure", but the original photographer clearly labeled the picture.

[08/10/2016, 10:16:00] Anna Royzman: So it was an incomplete training data set

[08/10/2016, 10:16:17] Anna Royzman: for machine

[08/10/2016, 10:16:46] Weekend Testers Americas: Oh yes, I'm with you there. I've seen a few examples of Timeline where it has said "we want to remind you of this memory you shared seven years ago" and it being the last moments of their father alive in a hospital bed.

[08/10/2016, 10:17:46] Weekend Testers Americas: The potential to bring up raw memories like that is definitely an unintended consequences, but it brings them up usually because a lot of interaction had occurred. Obviously, it was an important event. But important because it was fun, or because it was an outpouring of sadness?

[08/10/2016, 10:18:17] Anna Royzman: right

[08/10/2016, 10:18:45] Weekend Testers Americas: Yes, the training set seemed to be incomplete for the Flickr example, but of even bigger concern was that it overrode the original description and tags. It's been resolved, of course, but these things still happen.

[08/10/2016, 10:19:20] Weekend Testers Americas: Anyway, that's why I wanted to help ground the topic on that idea, but Wanted to have a slightly more fun method of testing today, not so emotional, orat least m, I hope not ;).

WTA-76: Go Ahead, Play With Your Food!

[08/10/2016, 10:19:40] Weekend Testers Americas: So the tool we are looking at today is an app called Loselt!

[08/10/2016, 10:19:54] Anna Royzman: lol, it is kind of sensitive but I am willing to play!

[08/10/2016, 10:20:09] Weekend Testers Americas: It's currently available for both iPhone and Android.

[08/10/2016, 10:21:35] Weekend Testers Americas: I will actively say I am a user of this product, and I have a love/hate relationship with it. On one hand, it collects a lot of data about me and my habits. Pared with my Fitbit Surge, I get a lot of numbers that Loselt then tries to put into some kind of cheerleading plan to help me lose weight or at least make sense of why I'm not at a given time.

[08/10/2016, 10:22:01] Weekend Testers Americas: So Anna, since right now it looks like we're the only active participants, do you have an iPhone and do you have the app downloaded?

[08/10/2016, 10:22:18] Anna Royzman: I have android and yes, I downloaded the app

[08/10/2016, 10:22:58] Weekend Testers Americas: OK, so first things first, let's see if SnapIt is available for you. If it isn't, we may have to approach the open session a little differently :).

[08/10/2016, 10:23:34] Anna Royzman: what is SnapIt?

[08/10/2016, 10:23:40] Weekend Testers Americas: If you open the app, and go to "Log", you should see a listing of Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner options. There should be a method to add items, and I'm hoping you are also seeing a camera icon.

[08/10/2016, 10:24:01] Anna Royzman: Yes, I see the camera icon

[08/10/2016, 10:24:16] Weekend Testers Americas: OK, so the app uses the camera in two ways.

[08/10/2016, 10:25:23] Weekend Testers Americas: In one, it lets users read bar codes on packages, and get their nutritional info.

[08/10/2016, 10:26:04] Weekend Testers Americas: The second option lets you actually take pictures of food items and makes a guess at what it is.

[08/10/2016, 10:26:33] Weekend Testers Americas: So I thought we could have some fun and see how accurate the SnapIt option is :).

[08/10/2016, 10:27:01] Anna Royzman: ok

[08/10/2016, 10:27:09] Weekend Testers Americas: We usually only record text for these sessions, but I will also upload pictures from my phone as samples. You are welcome to do the same.

[08/10/2016, 10:27:24] Anna Royzman: I am trying it now on my bag of walnuts. and it's not recognizing it :)

[08/10/2016, 10:27:45] Weekend Testers Americas: reading the bar code or photographing the walnuts themselves?

[08/10/2016, 10:28:09] Anna Royzman: photographing. the barcode reading was also unsuccessful so the option now is to create a new food

[08/10/2016, 10:28:24] Weekend Testers Americas: Often, there may be foods that the Loselt database does not recognize, and entering in information allows that to be shared if you so choose.

[08/10/2016, 10:28:26] Weekend Testers Americas: Right :).

[08/10/2016, 10:29:49] Anna Royzman: I created a custom food. They did locate the brand name - it was in their DB

WTA-76: Go Ahead, Play With Your Food!

[08/10/2016, 10:30:01] Weekend Testers Americas: So to be clear, today, we are going to look at the camera and picture options for photographing food and seeing what we come up with :).

[08/10/2016, 10:30:10] Weekend Testers Americas: Weekend Testers Americas has renamed this conversation to "WTA-76: OPEN TESTING"

[08/10/2016, 10:30:15] Anna Royzman: all right

[08/10/2016, 10:32:57] Weekend Testers Americas: Switching to my phone now, so my updates may be a little slower :)

[08/10/2016, 10:33:32] Weekend Testers Americas: Let's start with something simple

[08/10/2016, 10:33:58] Anna Royzman: ok

[08/10/2016, 10:34:46] Anna Royzman: I found another bag of walnuts and it seems this app doesn't have enough algorithms to recognize walnuts in general. The suggested choices don't include nuts at all.

[08/10/2016, 10:34:58] Weekend Testers Americas: Image

[08/10/2016, 10:35:41] Weekend Testers Americas: So to set the bar, what we have here is a Forelle Pear.

[08/10/2016, 10:36:14] Anna Royzman: It doesn't seem to like natural foods :)

[08/10/2016, 10:36:52] Weekend Testers Americas: The choices I'm getting back are, to say the least, interesting. I'm not quite sure where ice cream or hummus comes from for this image, but guacamole I could possibly see, since the shape of a pear sort of resembles the shape of an avocado.

[08/10/2016, 10:37:27] Weekend Testers Americas: Well, this is a new app for them. It's possible that the back end database, which would be identifying many of these items, is still pretty small.

[08/10/2016, 10:37:47] Weekend Testers Americas: So it is up to us crowd users to help "fill in the blank's " □

[08/10/2016, 10:38:12] Anna Royzman: Image

[08/10/2016, 10:39:04] Weekend Testers Americas: Now that's interesting. Just by looking at the texture of the picture, I could see where oysters gnocchi and dumplings could be interpreted as a proper fit for this

[08/10/2016, 10:39:12] Anna Royzman: I think they do some recognition by the shape.

[08/10/2016, 10:39:21] Weekend Testers Americas: Right :).

[08/10/2016, 10:39:38] Weekend Testers Americas: What happens if you take a few of the walnut kernels out of the bag, and place them on the counter and take a picture from there?

[08/10/2016, 10:39:48] Anna Royzman: ok

[08/10/2016, 10:40:20] Weekend Testers Americas: As in, I wonder if the "sheen" from the bag might be skewing the results.

[08/10/2016, 10:41:22] Weekend Testers Americas: This brings to the forefront one of the thoughts that I've had about "machine learning" to begin with. What additional details in the picture, such as a bag, or a pattern on a countertop, could skew the results?

[08/10/2016, 10:41:29] Anna Royzman: Image

[08/10/2016, 10:41:37] Anna Royzman: Worse :)

[08/10/2016, 10:41:53] Weekend Testers Americas: Would we potential he get better results if we were to place them on, say, a white sheet of paper, so nothing else could interfere with the recognition?

[08/10/2016, 10:42:05] Weekend Testers Americas: OK, that's funny ☐

[08/10/2016, 10:42:48] Weekend Testers Americas: I'm going to try something interesting. I'm going to try a prepared food, just some pasta that we made last night.

[08/10/2016, 10:42:55] Anna Royzman: Image

[08/10/2016, 10:43:32] Anna Royzman: Interesting that the background does change the suggested choices

[08/10/2016, 10:43:54] Weekend Testers Americas: Image

[08/10/2016, 10:44:00] Anna Royzman: so it seems that color contrasts have been part of the algorithm

[08/10/2016, 10:44:27] Weekend Testers Americas: This is a chicken farfalla pasta with red peppers.

[08/10/2016, 10:44:36] Anna Royzman: I could see 'granola' in your photo

[08/10/2016, 10:44:42] Weekend Testers Americas: So it got the chicken part right.

[08/10/2016, 10:44:51] Anna Royzman: Definitely, color matters

[08/10/2016, 10:45:02] Weekend Testers Americas: And yes, I can see granola in that as well. Some of the chicken has a bit of a clustered texture to it.

[08/10/2016, 10:45:07] Anna Royzman: right

[08/10/2016, 10:46:12] Anna Royzman: I wonder if it recognized 'chicken' by the color association

[08/10/2016, 10:46:13] Weekend Testers Americas: So again this is an interesting experiment, and a little amusing, but it also sort of shows us that there are lots of factors that go into making a machine learning "educated guess"

[08/10/2016, 10:47:16] Weekend Testers Americas: So let's try something that, I hope, is fairly obvious. Let's use bananas.

[08/10/2016, 10:48:01] Anna Royzman: Meanwhile, I used 'granola' bar.

[08/10/2016, 10:48:04] Anna Royzman: Image

[08/10/2016, 10:48:18] Anna Royzman: I guess the shape matters

[08/10/2016, 10:48:23] Weekend Testers Americas: Image

[08/10/2016, 10:48:25] Anna Royzman: let's see the banana experiment

[08/10/2016, 10:48:44] Weekend Testers Americas: OK, so that would look like a successful recognition, right?

[08/10/2016, 10:48:56] Anna Royzman: yes!

[08/10/2016, 10:49:02] Weekend Testers Americas: On one hand, yes. In that banana was one of the options it was able to recognize.

[08/10/2016, 10:49:18] Anna Royzman: Interesting as it recognized 3

[08/10/2016, 10:49:32] Weekend Testers Americas: I then had to select banana, choose done, select one of the banana options from the index, and then select the number of bananas.

[08/10/2016, 10:49:51] Weekend Testers Americas: Yeah, I was hoping it would, but in this case it didn't. I had to provide the count.

[08/10/2016, 10:49:57] Anna Royzman: ahh

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[08/10/2016, 10:50:12] Anna Royzman: in my case, btw - that was not a granola bar, it's a nut bar :)

[08/10/2016, 10:50:21] Weekend Testers Americas: How did provided the account as well, I would have been seriously impressed.

[08/10/2016, 10:50:33] Weekend Testers Americas: Right, technically, granola is a brand-name.

[08/10/2016, 10:50:52] Anna Royzman: so they suggest a brand name to a piece of food

[08/10/2016, 10:51:00] Weekend Testers Americas: Had it provided the count ;).

[08/10/2016, 10:51:04] Anna Royzman: :)

[08/10/2016, 10:51:34] Anna Royzman: so, it did recognize the banana shape, but not the count?

[08/10/2016, 10:51:42] Weekend Testers Americas: Now this is an interesting find, Want to see if I can replicate it.

[08/10/2016, 10:52:17] Weekend Testers Americas: In the tests, I was going back and retaking the pictures, and after the third or so time, the camera button only displayed the top half of the button.

[08/10/2016, 10:53:02] Anna Royzman: I have a suspicion they only did acceptance tests on this app :)

[08/10/2016, 10:53:29] Anna Royzman: like: let's see how they do one recognition, then another recognition, and that's passed!

[08/10/2016, 10:53:47] Weekend Testers Americas: Image

[08/10/2016, 10:54:03] Weekend Testers Americas: Well here's the third go around □

[08/10/2016, 10:54:29] Anna Royzman: the app is tired of so many bananas?

[08/10/2016, 10:55:07] Weekend Testers Americas: Cool, I love when I can actually capture a real bug in these sessions. Usually, everyone else gets to have all the fun. I just play facilitator, and herd cats. So it's nice, today I actually get to test □

[08/10/2016, 10:55:25] Weekend Testers Americas: Yeah, it's saying "if you give me one more banana to take a picture of, you'll be sorry" □

[08/10/2016, 10:55:57] Anna Royzman: I find machine learning fascinating. I can see how training data sets can introduce bugs and biases.

[08/10/2016, 10:56:40] Weekend Testers Americas: Definitely. There is such a rich set of data that can be harvested just from the visual images themselves. Of course, somehow, we have to make literal sense of what that data is.

[08/10/2016, 10:57:18] Weekend Testers Americas: I've seen it in Facebook, where I post pictures of my wife, and my younger daughter. When I do so, I often get prompted to tag my younger daughters pictures as my wife.

[08/10/2016, 10:57:28] Anna Royzman: interesting

[08/10/2016, 10:57:57] Weekend Testers Americas: Which isn't entirely surprising, seeing as they have similar hairstyles, and other facial features that resemble each other, but it is amusing how often when I post a picture of the younger daughter that my wife's name comes up in the suggestion

[08/10/2016, 10:58:49] Weekend Testers Americas: I'm tempted to try this experiment some time with my older daughters pictures. Because in many ways, her facial features resemble

mine. But I have a sneaking suspicion that we will not get the same result. I'm sure my facial hair doesn't help matters ☐

[08/10/2016, 10:59:19] Anna Royzman: I am wondering - if such face recognition is tied to a name, would it be dangerous - to have someone snap a picture of unknown person and find a match?

[08/10/2016, 10:59:42] Anna Royzman: thus discovering this person identity

[08/10/2016, 11:00:41] Weekend Testers Americas: Carina goes into a bit of detail about that in her talk. She doesn't mention that specific scenario, but yes, there is a potential possibility that, by scanning in a picture of somebody's face, and then running it through an algorithm, that a "match" could be found. The question is, is it an accurate match?

[08/10/2016, 11:01:36] Anna Royzman: she also mentioned Uber - and I am wondering, how much of that privacy is exposed to general public?

[08/10/2016, 11:02:47] Weekend Testers Americas: I'm guessing quite a bit of it could be. I don't use Uber and enough, and I have not done a Knouff digging into their systems, to make a proper guess. I have, however, found it interesting to see just how much information Facebook keeps on people, and the level of excruciating detail they are able to suss out based on browsing and clicking habits.

[08/10/2016, 11:03:18] Weekend Testers Americas: I should mention that there was a recent podcast episode on "note to self" about how to actually see what Facebook knows about you and your data habits.

[08/10/2016, 11:03:51] Weekend Testers Americas: As well as an initiative called "black box" that is looking to try to ascertain how they are getting that data. I'm interested in participating, because I'd be curious to see what the findings are.

[08/10/2016, 11:04:09] Anna Royzman: Do you think all the information will be disclosed?

[08/10/2016, 11:04:28] Weekend Testers Americas: Anyway, with the fact that it's just the two of us today hitting that this app, I think we can basically say that we've got some good ideas as to what the app can, and can't do. So is there anything else that we might want to poke around at?

[08/10/2016, 11:04:37] Anna Royzman: totally

[08/10/2016, 11:04:49] Anna Royzman: you mean - with this app?

[08/10/2016, 11:04:54] Weekend Testers Americas: I think the findings will be disclosed as part of the Black Box initiative, but probably not the specific details.

[08/10/2016, 11:05:18] Weekend Testers Americas: Yes, we usually have longer open sessions when we have multiple testers, and we gather them together to discuss our findings.

[08/10/2016, 11:05:27] Weekend Testers Americas: In this case, we've been doing that this whole time :).

[08/10/2016, 11:05:53] Anna Royzman: btw, the app did discover the proper match on my 'granola' bar through the barcode

[08/10/2016, 11:06:06] Anna Royzman: Perhaps, it has a large DB for the packed food entries

[08/10/2016, 11:06:43] Weekend Testers Americas: Yes, the DB for the packaged foods has been around for several years.

[08/10/2016, 11:07:03] Weekend Testers Americas: So it's pretty well established, though it sometimes throws me some odd choices.

[08/10/2016, 11:07:33] Weekend Testers Americas: Bar codes are a little more specific, but I've since discovered that even bar codes can be rendered as different things.

[08/10/2016, 11:07:56] Weekend Testers Americas: I scanned a piece of Ricotta cheese from a local market, and it came up as frankfurters (LOL!).

[08/10/2016, 11:08:06] Anna Royzman: I was wondering how fast they update the DB with the new products. That is a gazillion of data.

[08/10/2016, 11:08:42] Weekend Testers Americas: As I understand it, first, they let users keep the data local, so that it becomes part of your local food database.

[08/10/2016, 11:09:04] Weekend Testers Americas: I think if there are enough "confirmed hits" that the data is then uploaded and compared, and then it goes into the DB.

[08/10/2016, 11:09:34] Weekend Testers Americas: Don't quote me on that, it's just a guess... but perhaps I could ask someone over at Loselt if they'd be willing to share how they do it without spelling out their algorithm.

[08/10/2016, 11:09:58] Anna Royzman: all right :)

[08/10/2016, 11:10:46] Anna Royzman: I wonder if they have somehow got some existing algorithms from other companies?

[08/10/2016, 11:10:53] Weekend Testers Americas: Weekend Testers Americas has renamed this conversation to "WTA-76: DISCUSSION"

[08/10/2016, 11:11:01] Weekend Testers Americas: Sorry, forgot to change the header :).

[08/10/2016, 11:11:10] Anna Royzman: The image recognition should be common code by now

[08/10/2016, 11:11:16] Weekend Testers Americas: I would think that the bar code data is pretty standard.

[08/10/2016, 11:11:26] Weekend Testers Americas: otherwise, how could stores scan in items?

[08/10/2016, 11:12:55] Weekend Testers Americas: My guess is that small batch items or regional ones may be more tricky. I've seen it struggle with International foods. I like to order Korean spices or Fish Sauce from Thailand, or Sinamak, which is a spicy cane vinegar from the Philippines. It either gave me different food values or put up a dialog saying "OK< I have no idea what this is" (LOL!).

[08/10/2016, 11:13:13] Anna Royzman: :)

[08/10/2016, 11:13:48] Weekend Testers Americas: Well, not literally those words, but the dialog saying it doesn't recognise this for item, would I like to add it?

[08/10/2016, 11:14:32] Weekend Testers Americas: that would be an interesting thing to learn, such as what brands are used by whom? At least as scanned or reported by users.

[08/10/2016, 11:15:15] Anna Royzman: so they are getting exposure to an interesting data and can sell it back to companies - as the user location is also captured

[08/10/2016, 11:15:56] Weekend Testers Americas: Right, that's how I'd fear it would be used (LOL!). Not for customers to see what's being bought and by who, but for companies to see specifically who has bought and scanned, so they can market to us.

[08/10/2016, 11:16:12] Anna Royzman: right

[08/10/2016, 11:16:25] Anna Royzman: and also get competitors data :)

[08/10/2016, 11:17:07] Weekend Testers Americas: Ultimately, at the end of the day, it's all just data that we provide. In this case, for the SnapIt app, we're taking pictures of food and either taking their suggestions or providing our own.

WTA-76: Go Ahead, Play With Your Food!

[08/10/2016, 11:17:26] Anna Royzman: true

[08/10/2016, 11:17:39] Weekend Testers Americas: It's still too soon to see how good the algorithm is. It does pretty good on obvious foods, but it's a little fuzzy on others.

[08/10/2016, 11:18:15] Anna Royzman: but the fact that the users don't want to cheat themselves with calorie count - they will try hard to do the right thing. So the users are self motivated to provide good data

[08/10/2016, 11:18:16] Weekend Testers Americas: It might be worthwhile to take a few pictures of common items (or at least common to me) and run the same test a month later, and then a month after that.

[08/10/2016, 11:18:34] Weekend Testers Americas: Right, one would hope that would be the case.

[08/10/2016, 11:19:32] Weekend Testers Americas: There is a social component to Loselt, so I could see some people feeling like entering more "aspirational" values will somehow get them sudo points from friends, but I'd think if that's what you're doing you have bigger issues ;).

[08/10/2016, 11:20:15] Anna Royzman: ah so it's a shared app?

[08/10/2016, 11:20:24] Weekend Testers Americas: It can be.

[08/10/2016, 11:20:39] Weekend Testers Americas: You don't have to use it socially. Many don't, but a lot of people do. I do.

[08/10/2016, 11:21:05] Weekend Testers Americas: This opens up a whole other avenue of machine learning.

[08/10/2016, 11:21:26] Anna Royzman: like what?

[08/10/2016, 11:21:55] Weekend Testers Americas: Purely anecdotally, I do know that I am more engaged and more involved with monitoring and keeping my data up to date when I know that other people are commenting.

[08/10/2016, 11:22:03] Anna Royzman: true

[08/10/2016, 11:22:16] Weekend Testers Americas: For every data point we enter, there is a commenting possibility.

[08/10/2016, 11:22:36] Anna Royzman: I guess that was the point of this 'hook' ;)

[08/10/2016, 11:23:05] Weekend Testers Americas: For example, my fitbit will report if I have gone over my target calorie burn for the day, and for every range of calories, I'll earn an "adjustment". People often comment on the size of the adjustment.

[08/10/2016, 11:23:40] Weekend Testers Americas: Lie "hey great adjustment, or "wow, huge adjustment", or "wow, did you run a marathon today? Huge numbers, congrats!"

[08/10/2016, 11:24:07] Weekend Testers Americas: If you drop weight, people congratulate, if you put weight on, people commiserate or say "no big deal, you've got this".

[08/10/2016, 11:24:26] Weekend Testers Americas: So all of that is reinforcing, or at least can be.

[08/10/2016, 11:24:36] Anna Royzman: I did some touring of the app - it seems that the social component of it is huge

[08/10/2016, 11:25:16] Weekend Testers Americas: It is. Challenges are built around the social aspect. There's groups and forums people can participate in.

[08/10/2016, 11:25:37] Anna Royzman: Losing weight has been known as an activity that is better done in groups

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[08/10/2016, 11:25:49] Weekend Testers Americas: And in some ways, it's just comforting to know that you are reviewing and talking with people going through what you are.

[08/10/2016, 11:26:03] Weekend Testers Americas: Right, I totally agree :). there's that sense of social accountability.

[08/10/2016, 11:26:08] Anna Royzman: right

[08/10/2016, 11:27:02] Weekend Testers Americas: This extends that into a more virtual sphere, but you still feel that emotional tug. With one exception, I don't know, in person, any of my Loselt friends, but I still feel accountable to them, and I feel it important to communicate and cheer them on, too.

[08/10/2016, 11:27:28] Anna Royzman: joining the group can also provide interesting data to companies who want to sell products to you...

[08/10/2016, 11:27:45] Anna Royzman: like these maternity ads by Target

[08/10/2016, 11:28:09] Weekend Testers Americas: So it fills that need, I think, of being able to share that experience. And I'm certain Loselt is tracking and mining the data for that, to... well, I'm not sure, but if I'm thinking they ought to be, they probably are ;).

[08/10/2016, 11:28:19] Weekend Testers Americas: Ohhhh, that was rough!

[08/10/2016, 11:28:26] Weekend Testers Americas: I felt so bad for that guy!

[08/10/2016, 11:29:11] Anna Royzman: oh well - I felt bad for his daughter

[08/10/2016, 11:29:22] Weekend Testers Americas: Yeah, that's what I meant.

[08/10/2016, 11:29:36] Anna Royzman: she had to hide it from parents

[08/10/2016, 11:30:09] Weekend Testers Americas: The situation in general. I'm not sure I'd want to learn from Target that my daughter was pregnant, and yes, it points to a much deeper issue there.

[08/10/2016, 11:30:15] Anna Royzman: right

[08/10/2016, 11:30:22] Anna Royzman: it's an ethical issue

[08/10/2016, 11:31:29] Weekend Testers Americas: And thanks for that, since it brings the conversation full circle. Machine learning can offer us a lot of great information, it can make things easier for us to identify, but it's fallible, and it's ultimately only as good as the people that design and use them.

[08/10/2016, 11:31:51] Weekend Testers Americas: Goes back to the old phrase "math is objective, but the people who use it are not".

[08/10/2016, 11:32:34] Weekend Testers Americas: Numbers themselves don't lie, but people's interpretations of the numbers, and the actions they take, are all based in fears, biases, prejudices, etc.

[08/10/2016, 11:32:55] Anna Royzman: right

[08/10/2016, 11:33:22] Weekend Testers Americas: Our example today is a little lighter on that front, but it emphasises the fact that humans, ultimately, make the judgment calls on what this data means.

[08/10/2016, 11:33:40] Weekend Testers Americas: Weekend Testers Americas has renamed this conversation to "WTA-76: CLOSING"

[08/10/2016, 11:34:13] Weekend Testers Americas: OK, since it's just the two of us today, I figure we can close up shop early. Any final thoughts or considerations you'd like to share :)?

[08/10/2016, 11:35:02] Anna Royzman: I feel the realizations will be coming later as well.

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[08/10/2016, 11:35:27] Anna Royzman: I also immersed into social aspect of this app - reading comments on challenges. Very interesting

[08/10/2016, 11:36:07] Anna Royzman: Also, with the machine learning - there is a potential to abuse the data

[08/10/2016, 11:36:24] Anna Royzman: feeding it the 'fakes' on purpose

[08/10/2016, 11:36:43] Anna Royzman: I am not sure how that is being managed by the algorithms

[08/10/2016, 11:37:15] Anna Royzman: the idea that machine learned with training data sets, and then continues learning 'in production'

[08/10/2016, 11:38:07] Anna Royzman: also - there is a lot of relying on 'user catching bugs' for this type of programs

[08/10/2016, 11:38:38] Anna Royzman: the video suggested diverse team to create algorithms

[08/10/2016, 11:38:46] Anna Royzman: I am not sure that's feasible

[08/10/2016, 11:39:29] Anna Royzman: somehow companies need to be incentivized to create diverse teams

[08/10/2016, 11:40:16] Anna Royzman: if they are not yet incentivized to have testers in their IT, how much can you incentivize them to get diversity in their teams?

[08/10/2016, 11:42:01] Weekend Testers Americas: I think a lot of it comes down to bottom line. The old adage "we get the tools and services we deserve" (to paraphrase another quote) is apt. If we support a less diverse methodology with our actions and our money, then there's not motivation to change. If enough of us demand that behaviours change, and if we show it with our pocketbooks, the chances for legitimate change go way up.

[08/10/2016, 11:42:06] Weekend Testers Americas: IMO.

[08/10/2016, 11:42:58] Weekend Testers Americas: For now, I do my best to reward those organisations that actually do have these ideals and demonstrate a "walk the walk" approach. Those that don't if I have an option to go elsewhere, I certainly will.

[08/10/2016, 11:43:36] Weekend Testers Americas: All right, well, thank you Anna, for coming out and playing with us today. I hope you enjoyed your first WTA session :).

[08/10/2016, 11:44:02] Weekend Testers Americas: and I hope we'll see you back to future sessions, hopefully not while half the US is being battered by a big storm :D

[08/10/2016, 11:44:12] Anna Royzman: It was great! Thank you, Michael!

[08/10/2016, 11:45:40] Weekend Testers Americas: OK, I'm going to call this a wrap. Thanks for joining us today for Weekend Testing. As always, if you have ideas for sessions, please feel free to email us at WTAmericas@gmail.com, and let us know what you'd like to see us cover. Tentatively, our next session will be held the second Saturday of November. Soon as we confirm that, we will send an update and let everyone know.

[08/10/2016, 11:45:57] Weekend Testers Americas: Thanks and have a great rest of your weekend :).

[08/10/2016, 11:46:01] Anna Royzman: You too!

[08/10/2016, 11:46:05] Weekend Testers Americas: Weekend Testers Americas has renamed this conversation to "WTA-76: END"