

Documentary “When big tech targets healthcare” (2021) - Translation for the parts in French

At 6:10 (Thomas Clozel): “The tech giants are competing in the cloud, and the question is why data ends up to Google Cloud, Azure or AWS (Amazon Web Services). All of them have slightly different analytics tools and the prices are competitive because of different start-ups. In these cloud wars [between the tech giants offering the services] the future of healthcare will be decided, and there will be no winners”

7:28 (Thomas Clozel): “The healthtech industry is all about data. That data is generated when the human body is being analysed. It can be a lung scan, blood sample or a gene test. That data is money. It can be equally or even more valuable than oil.”

16:18 (Thomas Clozel): “Who owns the health data? If a lung scan gets taken in the hospital, is the scan property of the hospital that is financed from public funds, or the person whose lungs are scanned? Who owns the data? In the US they have a data economy, data markets, in which health data can be sold.”

17:59 (Thomas Clozel): “Selling and exchanging health information is said to be anonymized, but such thing does not exist. The problem is biggest in the US, where gene tests have changed the use of health data. The test is done by using saliva, which is used to analyse the epithelial cells [cell that covers the inside and outside of the surfaces] in the mouth. From the mutations the vulnerability to different diseases such as cancer can be detected. The results of those gene tests are partly public. If a DNA-test is taken after cancer from the tumor and from the patient, you can compare that information to the gene databases that have been collected from the tests. What that means is that no gene test is anonymous. Hence we should stop talking about anonymizing of data. That is not true.”

19:16 (Thomas Clozel): “These gene tests have become very popular. Couple of years back a gene test was the most popular gift in Amazon. I’d rather have a Playstation but people buy gene tests.”

21:08 (Thomas Clozel): “The tech giants are the pharmaceuticals of tomorrow. If you want to conduct a clinical test with 20000 people, it is easiest for Google to find those people. They have their own internal Verily-project, which aims to collect a worldwide database on healthdata called Baseline. From there it is easy to find people for a medical study in the future. If you want to do a big research, Google has the information for that.”

22:15 (Thomas Clozel): “Europe is difficult to attain for American tech giants. They want to come to Europe, because the only research that they accept in Europe needs to be done with European data. If you want a developmental AI model to function across the globe in all continents, you need data from all the regions. Thus, to expand their business these companies need European data.”

31:52 (Kat Borlongan): “There is a new cold war going on what comes to technology. Companies like Google and Amazon have a lot of weight. And it is difficult for France to compete with those giants. The only way we can do that is if Europe stands as a united front. We need to do massive changes in the years to come, and lift Europe to stand on par with the USA and China. We cannot succeed without cooperation.”

32:28: (Thomas Clozel): “Europe can be in front of the others if we cooperate and develop AI as a common European project. Deciding the fate of health data is something we should at first instance.”

33:00 (Dominique Pon): “We have been brainwashed. The tech giants both intrigue and frighten us.”

33:32 (Dominique Pon): “When I moved from the industry to Clinique Pasteur, I had to digitalize the health data of the hospital. According to a study by an American consulting company, you had to buy either the system from IBM or Bull. I didn’t believe that. I wanted to do simple things with local doctors. We would create our own system. Three years later the whole country was using the system because it was seen as user centric. What happened in the end? The market share of French health data was taken away from the big companies.”

34:34 (Dominique Pon): “They keep on telling us that digitalization is something grand. The only option [to manage it] are the big companies. It is like someone would claim that there are only one kind of trees in the world. But there are many others. So lets build our own ecosystem. Our children will suffer, if we don’t keep our stand now and maintain digital sovereignty. Our whole healthcare system is at stake.”

35:37: (Thomas Clozel): “Amazon will become the greatest health insurance company, through which you can get all the medicine. Soon from Amazon you can get your pill dispenser, blood pressure monitor, and everything. The company can also prevent us from buying too salty chips. It knows us inside out.”

47:50 (Dominique Pon): “Despite technological and economical challenges, a person who has cancer and is afraid of dying, really only misses a living person, who knows about things and offers human presence. Google Analytics can tell you many things on when and how you are going to die and what is the likelihood of things. The human being on the other hand only wants human care from another human being.”