challenge | outsourcing the mind

Elizabeth wants to use her brain power on things she is good at and ignore everything else.



Elizabeth

age 42 profession Creative Director city Kansas City, MO

"My creativity and compassion are my best qualities. They're what I'm good at and what I love—and I no longer do anything that doesn't involve them."

How Elizabeth got here

2003 Mother's mental illness intensifies: Elizabeth relocates to be close to her parents.

2009 Starts hourly workout routines and meditation to calm panic attacks.

2016 Promoted to creative director.

2011 Son Ethan born.

2018 Starts using a personal digital assistant to manage mother's illness and telehealth services, and to coordinate both work and family commitments.

2021 Digital assistant network goes down and Elizabeth subscribes to a backup service after "the two worst days of my life."

2022 Adds human micro-workers to off-load the last of her unwanted tasks.

Her strategies

cognitive off-loading | Elizabeth depends on her personal digital assistant to seamlessly juggle her commitments, complete routine digital tasks, and enlist human resources for micro-tasks like getting groceries. utopian (XX)



digital dieting | She carefully chooses the information she lets into her sphere—just enough to know headlines—and compulsively avoids upsetting news. utopian 🗱



sharing health devices | Elizabeth uses her mom's many diagnostic devices on herself, her husband, and her son. pragmatic 🦝



Elizabeth realizes time is her biggest asset, so she goes to great lengths to outsource anything she doesn't want to do herself. She enjoys her demanding career as creative director at a communications firm, juggling dozens of projects requiring her creativity, but she hires micro-workers to do the more menial aspects of her job, such as scheduling and writing communications. Elizabeth is also deeply satisfied spending time with her husband and 11-year-old son and, together, caring for her aging parents, who live just down the street. Every night, Elizabeth has them over for dinner and family time. Though she enjoys cooking and many aspects of caregiving, she off-loads planning and details—such as picking up prescriptions or ingredients, and making the nutritional calculations for her menu plans—to her digital assistants.

Settings for Health

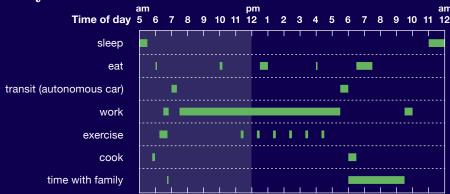


21 bmi goal 0 25 body mass index

Hour by hour

daily minutes saved

by off-loading tasks



daily physical

activity

challenge | outperforming age

Jacob believes that with help from the right technologies he can maintain his youthful energy and avoid the traditional health care system.



Jacob.

age 23 profession

Freelance Programmer

city New York, NY

"My parents think I'm being reckless, but every time I go to a bar I'm actually planning ahead."

How Jacob got here

2005 Father survives prostate cancer, struggles with imperfect hormone therapy.

2010 Jacob assembles his first Arduino board and realizes that he can truly make anything he wants.

2019 Jacob begins tracking personal hormone levels so his natural levels can be recreated later in life when needed.

2013 His school district in upstate New York bans hand sanitizer and raises awareness of friendly bacteria.

2020 Graduates from Cornell with a degree in human-computer interaction. 2022 Moves to NYC. sells belongings, and starts a "co-living" lifestyle.

His strategies

future proofing | Jacob tracks and banks his hormone levels with a start-up to create a snapshot of his biology he can reference later in life to restore him to his "natural" healthy state.

digital dieting | With a degree in human-computer interaction, he understands better than most the ill effects of media overload, and his biometric feedback system alerts him to any potential overdose. utopian (****)



dropping out of health | Disenchanted with the medical establishment, Jacob avoids doctors and relies almost exclusively on his own measures of health. speculative





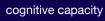
Notorious for his off-the-charts energy level and wide array of projects and hobbies, Jacob moved to NYC determined to avoid the fate of his friends who are slowing down as they approach 30. Jacob is planning ahead, utilizing embedded sensors and microbial optimization to ensure he maintains vitality for decades to come. Sensors collect thousands of data points for a decision-making mechanism programmed to keep his energy high and his brain function higher. Even his frequent pub crawls enhance health by expanding and diversifying his social network and boosting his immune system. His parents worry he sleeps too little and drinks too much, but he feels great and is certain he will always reap the benefits of a fun-filled life.

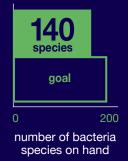
Settings for Health

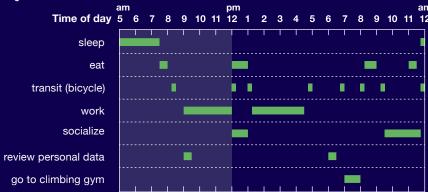












challenge | managing data as a health asset

Barbara wants to make sure her daughter gets the most out of her personal data and manage her profile properly.



Barbara

age 38
profession
Data Analyst
city
Cupertino, CA

"By collecting and managing it right, I'm going to make sure my daughter's data will be a resource she can tap into whenever she needs it, at any point in her life."

How Barbara got here

2002 Gets accepted into a computer science program at a public university.

2008 Graduates and forms a small start-up with college friends.

2016 Joins a quantified-self group and starts tracking several aspects of her life, including physiological health and social habits.

2014 Start-up folds and Barbara transitions to a data analytics job at a major tech company.

2020 Buys a home, partially funded by monetizing data.

2021 Pays surrogate to carry her child. Takes a job at a smaller company that lets her work remotely.

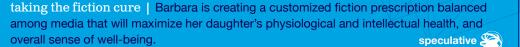
2022 Joins a community of quantified parents.

Her strategies

optimizing health choices | Barbara is a savvy data manager who teaches mothers which data to collect and how to bank and pool it to maximize its value.



cognitive off-loading | To be a better parent, Barbara off-loads many tasks, letting bots make food choices and schedule social activities for optimal enjoyment with minimal time demands.



As soon as she decided to hire a surrogate to carry her child, Barbara started thinking about how to maximize her daughter's opportunities. She now invests time exploring educational and social opportunities for her child to keep her happy and healthy. Her data literacy gives her an advantage over other parents because she understands the benefits and risks of collecting personal data. Some of the home retrofits Barbara and her partner have made are data based—for instance, installing the appropriate sensors to ensure that the data gathered will be the most valuable for her child. She's already started a data savings account for her daughter and plans to choose carefully when to dip into it.

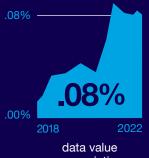


RETAIL automated shopping systems

WORK anytime, anyplace work

ON-THE-GO self-driving cars

What Barbara is tracking



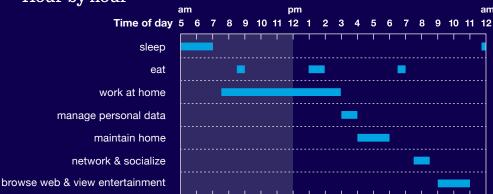
appreciation



fetal well-being index



home health score





Robert

age 60 profession Manager at **Outdoor Gear** Store

city Boulder, CO "I'm not about to let a freeway ruin the future health of my neighborhood."



How Robert got here

2002 Stops pursuing freelance writing jobs to take a full-time position at a retail store after the birth of his second son. 2008 Joins a local wilderness excursion group with his wife and sons. Goes on frequent hikes and camping trips.

2017 Youngest son goes to **college.** The public park where Robert took his sons is sold to developers to balance city budget.

2013 Robert and his wife divorce. First son moves out and goes to college.

2021 Several chemical and other processing plants open in neighboring state as a result of reduced regulation.

2022 New development plan would place a big-box retailer and extend a freeway to within blocks of Robert's home.

His strategies

sharing health devices | By designing community health devices, Robert brings transparency to the neighborhood's health risks. This strengthens social connections pragmatic & and community well-being.



optimizing health choices | Through community organizing, Robert manages data that he and his neighbors collect as an asset when needed to advocate for change. pragmatic §



creating pre-sick identities | Robert's group is using the community's risk profile to define his neighborhood as pre-sick to request specific resources from the state and federal governments. speculative



Robert's neighborhood is among the healthiest in the nation—and he's committed to keeping it that way. When it was announced that a new big-box retailer was coming to his neighborhood, along with a freeway expansion, Robert joined a group that believes the development represents such a threat to the community's health that it would make the entire population pre-sick. Now, in his free time, Robert facilitates the donation of old personal and home sensors and diagnostic tools so they can be turned into community health monitors by embedding them in public spaces. And he participates in outreach events to engage community members in mapping the area's risks and resources. On the weekends, his group even plants trees and retrofits public structures to reduce blight and noise pollution.



ON-THE-GO the digital information layer

HOME the connected apartment

CLINICAL primary care reinvented

What Robert is tracking

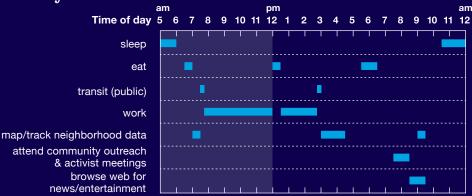


neighborhood stress score



neighborhood air quality score





Regardless of her diagnosis, Melanie wants to focus on staying happy, alert, and connected to her friends and family.



Melanie

age 74
profession
Retired
Animation
Film
Scriptwriter
city

Bend, OR

"Chemo is no fun, and it might not even work; I might as well scrap all that and spend my last years with my grandson exploring virtual worlds together."

How Melanie got here

2002 Chronic work stress triggers first bout of colitis, and a move from LA to Bend, Oregon, gets her out of the fast lane.

2005 Daughter and newborn grandson flee Hurricane Katrina's devastation, moving in with Melanie for almost a year.

2010 Time banking extends community ties and assures future support network.

2007 Supplements, diet, and community gardening become key strategies for lowering stress and relieving symptoms.

2012 Alternative healing strategies—acupuncture, fasting, meditation, peer-to-peer health—yield temporary relief.

2019 Final attempts at medical solutions—prescription drugs and cortisone—provide little relief.

2022 Diagnosis of colon cancer triggers her to totally drop out of the health care system.

Her strategies

taking the fiction cure | Inventing and embodying alien creatures through augmented sensory realities provides pain relief—and she believes it has a better impact on her health than treatments.

Speculative

dropping out of health | Melanie has turned her back on both the traditional and alternative health paradigms—"No more health thinking," she says.

speculative



profile pruning | Melanie and her grandson, Donovan, are recasting their online identities in terms of their off-planet world—and capturing an encoded family history at the same time.



Melanie has always been a great believer in the power of the creative process to transform daily experience, so when she was diagnosed with colon cancer, she rejected the treatments she thought would dull her creative edge and set off instead on a final "journey to the stars" with her teenage grandson. Together they're using sensory-augmented reality tools to create a shareable world of noncarbon off-planet life forms, which she feels, deep down, could actually beat her cancer into remission. Her personal avatar eats digital data, purging invasive digital trails as she goes about her daily routine of community gardening and (most engaging) motion capture of the people on the streets around her to animate her fantasy life forms.

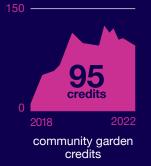
Settings for Health



ON-THE-GO the digital information layer

• **RETAIL** data-driven supermarkets

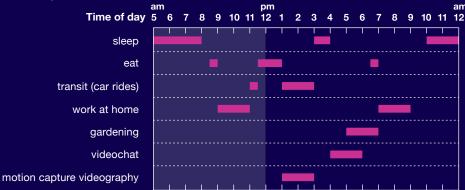
What Melanie is tracking







star journey game level



challenge | designing away risk

With a genetic predisposition to Alzheimer's, Charles needs to ensure that his family's life is designed around preventing its onset.



Charles

age 36
profession
Software
Engineer
city
Atlanta, GA

"My dad is declining and my doctor says I'll have Alzheimer's in 20 years, too. I don't want my son to have to deal with this."

How Charles got here

2004 Begins college at the University of North Carolina; initially plans to follow his father into medicine, but decides to study computer science.

2008 Graduates college, but finding few prospects, turns to freelancing. Moves back in with parents in outskirts of Atlanta to help care for his grandmother.

2015 Gets married and buys house in parents' neighborhood to help with caregiving.

2013 Dad shows first signs of Alzheimer's and retires from job as physician.

2011 Grandmother passes away. Gets first full-time job and moves out of parents' house.

2016 Wife gives birth to son. His dad's cognitive capacities decline more rapidly than expected.

2021 Learns biomarkers indicate that he has preonset Alzheimer's. Joins online support group to learn strategies for building cognitive reserves and delaying disease.

2022 Son undergoes genetic scan showing high likelihood for Alzheimer's risk.

His strategies

creating pre-sick identities | After being diagnosed with pre-Alzheimer's and with his son given a high probability for the disease, Charles spends time pondering how his future disease will limit his health.

speculative



future proofing | To optimize his cognitive reserve, Charles is remodeling his house, buying products, and even organizing his son's nursery based on the latest neuroscience research.



profile pruning | After actively participating in pre-Alzheimer's social networks under his own name, Charles is now trying to figure out how to protect his son's online reputation.

pragmatic





Since being diagnosed with pre-onset Alzheimer's, Charles has been re-evaluating his day-to-day priorities. Family has always been important to him, and he has decided to cut back on work to make more time to care for his young son and ailing father. Determined to be there mentally for his son throughout his childhood, he spends at least an hour a day participating in a pre-Alzheimer's community to learn how to design routines such as frontloading his workday for peak performance and to retrofit his house to maximize brain health. These responsibilities have taken their toll on Charles's career and marriage; he and his wife are still happy, but they rarely have a chance to escape and relax together.

Settings for Health

CLINICAL ubiquitous health interactions

HOME the home health center

WORK anytime, anyplace work

What Charles is tracking



average recall daily memory test



father's daily memory test



number of steps taken daily

