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Mobility, Sovereignty & Social Imaginaries: Reshaping Socio-technological Relationships



*How are new media
reshaping whole aspects
of contemporary societies?*

Socio-technological relationship

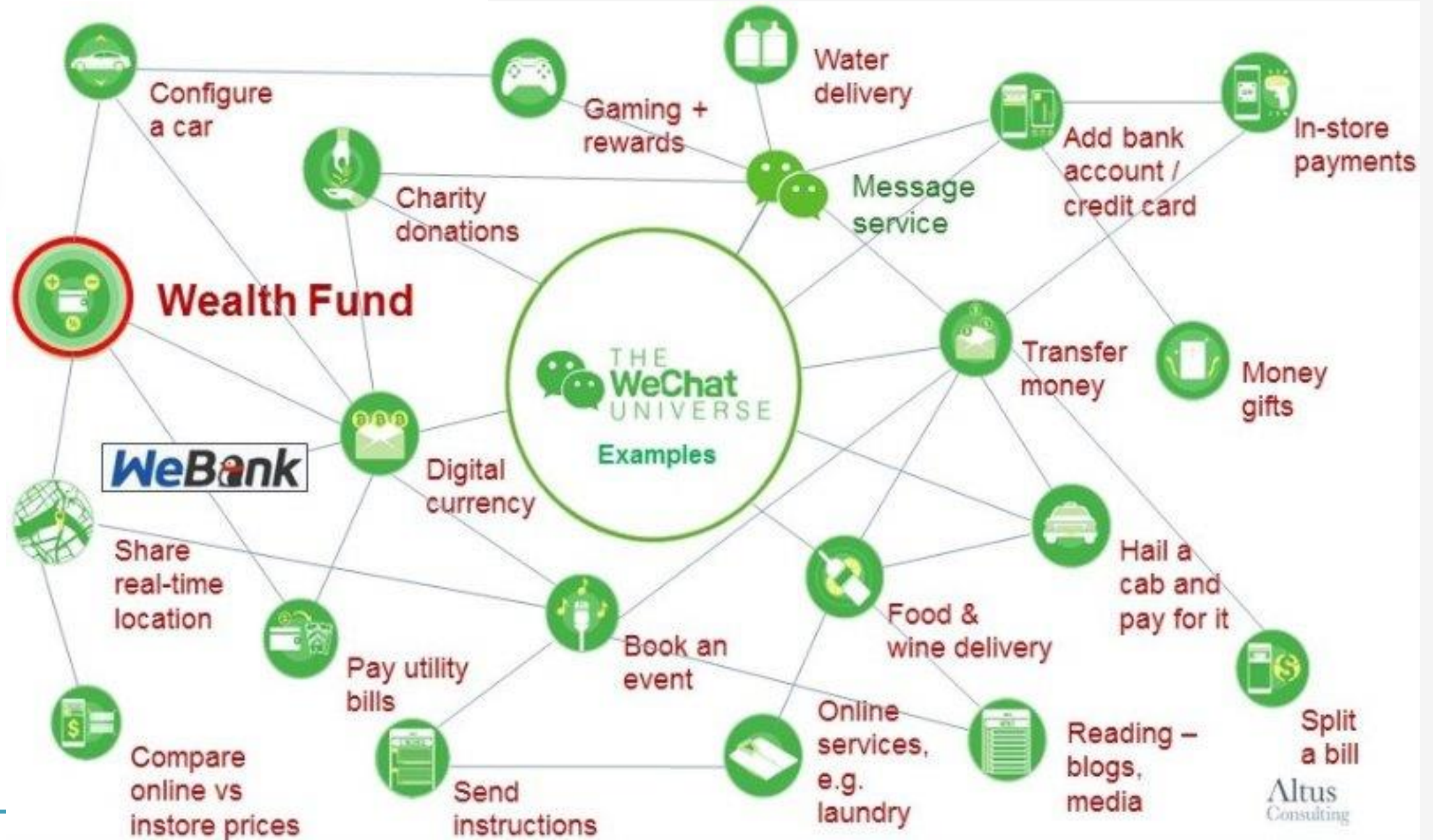
*“Technology ... is, in general,
the organization of knowledge,
people, and things to accomplish
specific practical goals”.*

(Morton Winston 2003: 1)

Mobility ↔ *Sovereignty*







How have new media changed societies?

How have societies changed new media?

$$X + Y = Z$$

society + new media = change



bersih

free & fair elections



diaspora advocacy





bersih 5, 2016

Sovereignty Extended



Bersih 4, 2015

Inside back page of Australian passport



The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, being the representative in Australia of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, requests all those whom it may concern to allow the bearer to pass freely without let or hindrance and to afford him or her every assistance and protection of which he or she may stand in need.



*Received on the
8th of May, too late
to return to Malaysia*

Right now there are Malaysians who are on

Right now there are Malaysians checking their FB every few minutes as they work behind the scenes to match up drivers with passengers, runners with delivery drivers, students with sponsors. And all done without any form of monetary compensation.

Right now, there are Malaysians living overseas who are upset and staring at their ballot envelopes which just arrived this morning - too late to return them to Malaysia.

Right now, Malaysians are sharing information on how to properly cast their vote, or buying plastic gloves to share so no one smudges and possibly invalidates their vote, just so that every vote is accounted for and counted.

Right now, Malaysians are rising up to be counted. By the thousands.

And if that doesn't make you proud to be Malaysian, I don't know what will.

#JomBalikUndi #IniKaliLah #GE14 #MakeADifference
#GetRidofBN #ProudToBeMalaysian



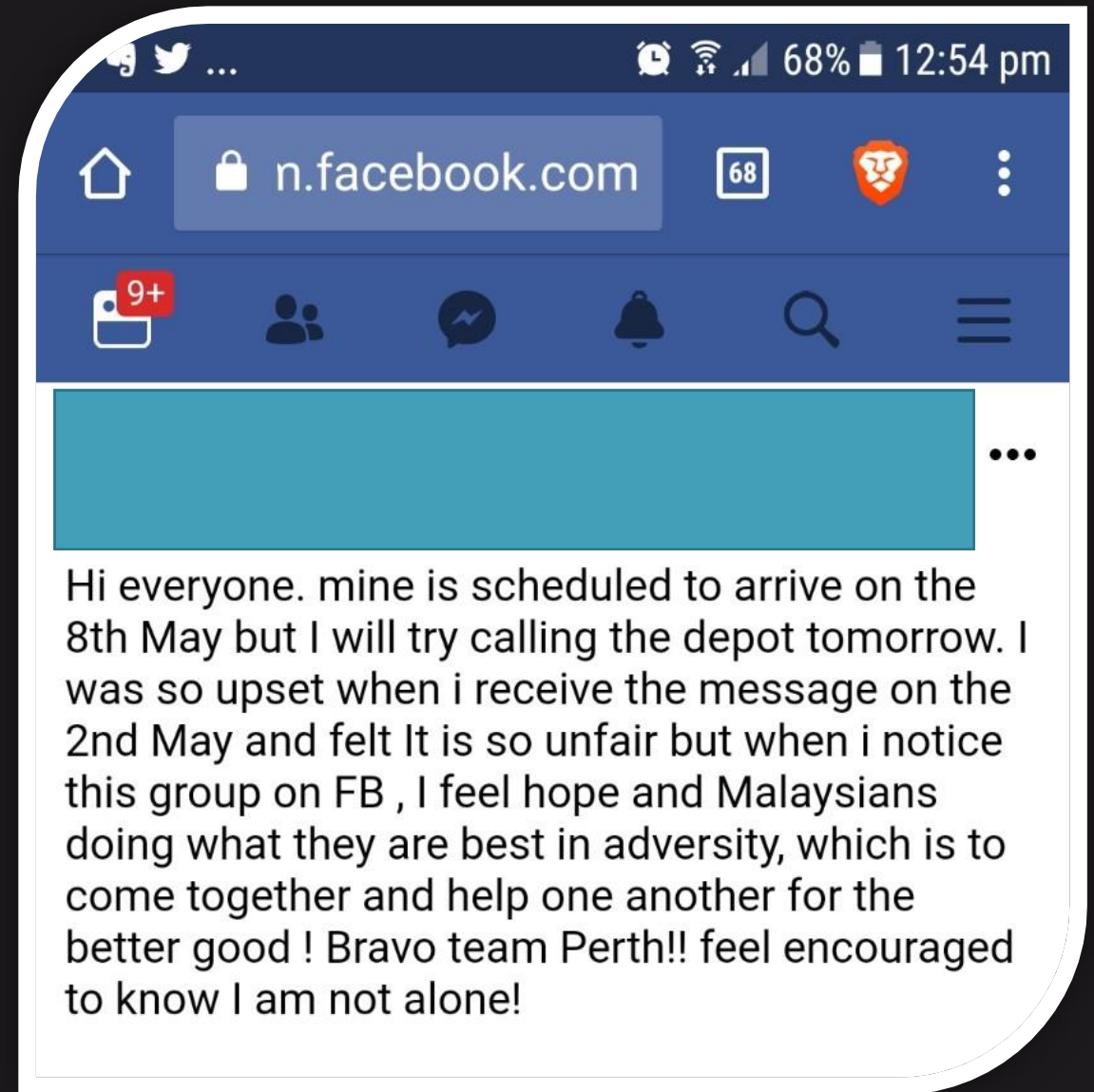
“The number of Malaysians voting overseas is less than 0.1% of the population. It won’t change any result. Don’t get excited (over) it”.

Nur Jazlan Mohamed,
Caretaker Deputy Home Minister,
General Elections 2018

Postal Ballot Collection Exercise

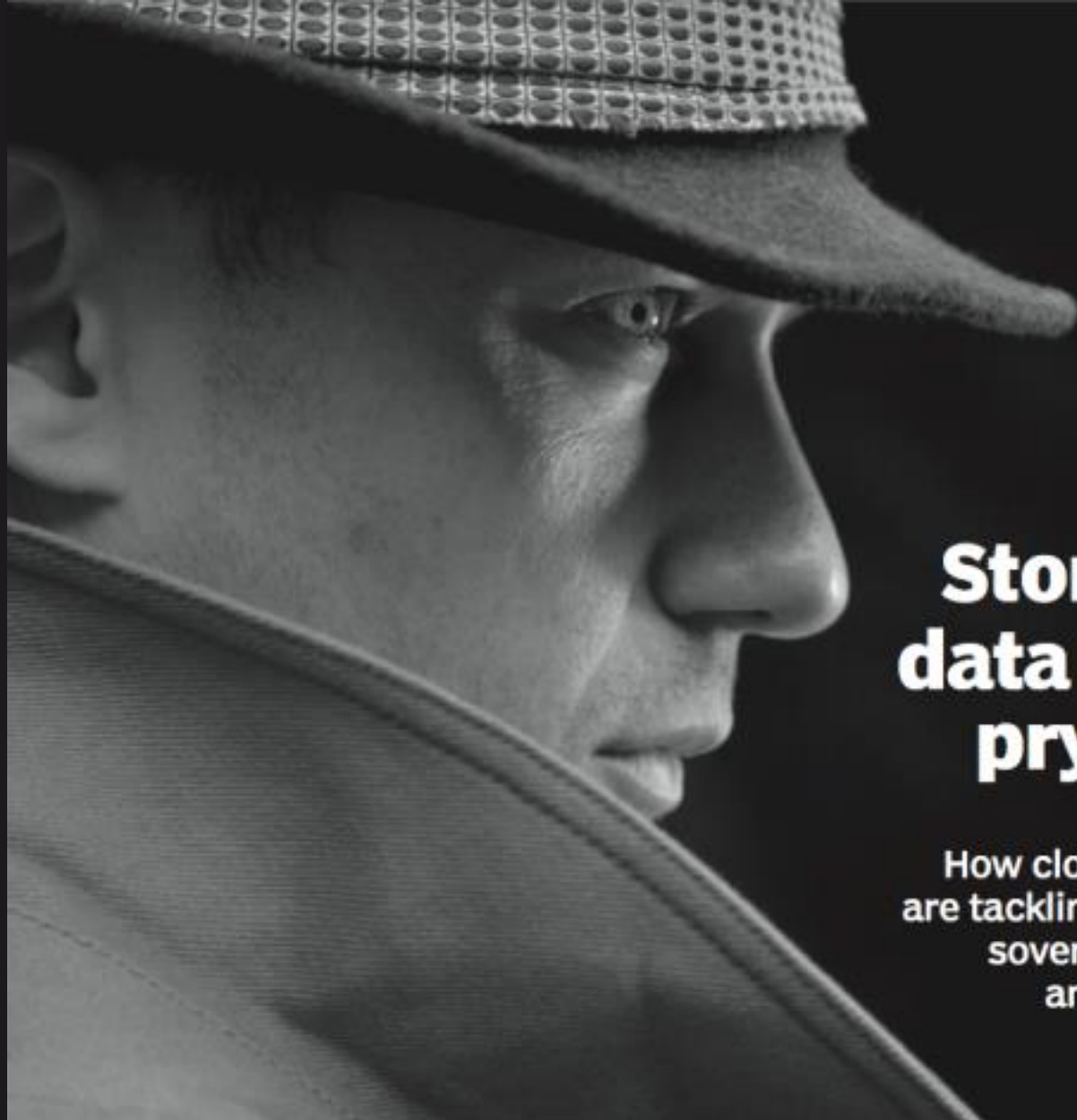


*I am
not
alone!*



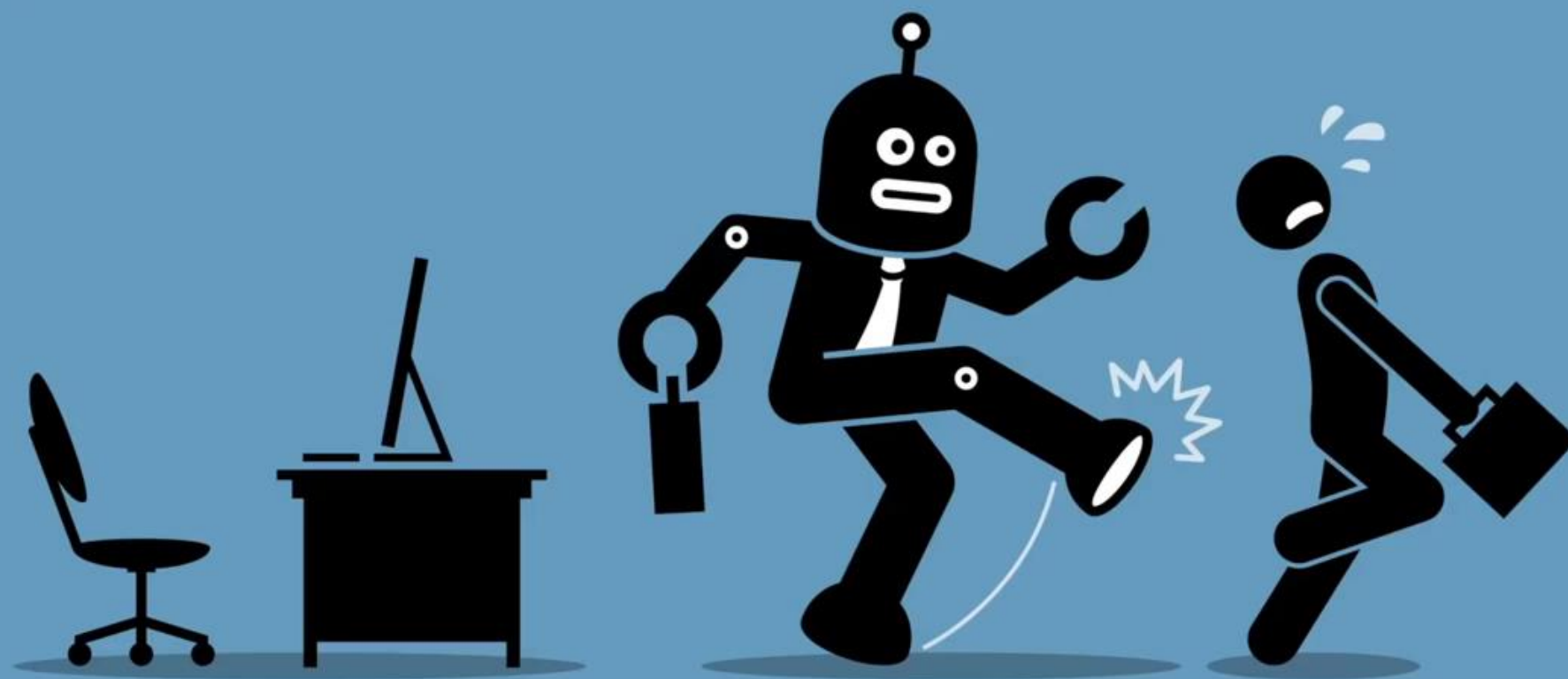


Data Mobility



Storing cloud data away from prying eyes

How cloud storage providers are tackling the challenge of data sovereignty in Australia and New Zealand



THE FUTURE OF WORK

Inevitable?

Let's think about this

Where to start?

Social Imaginary

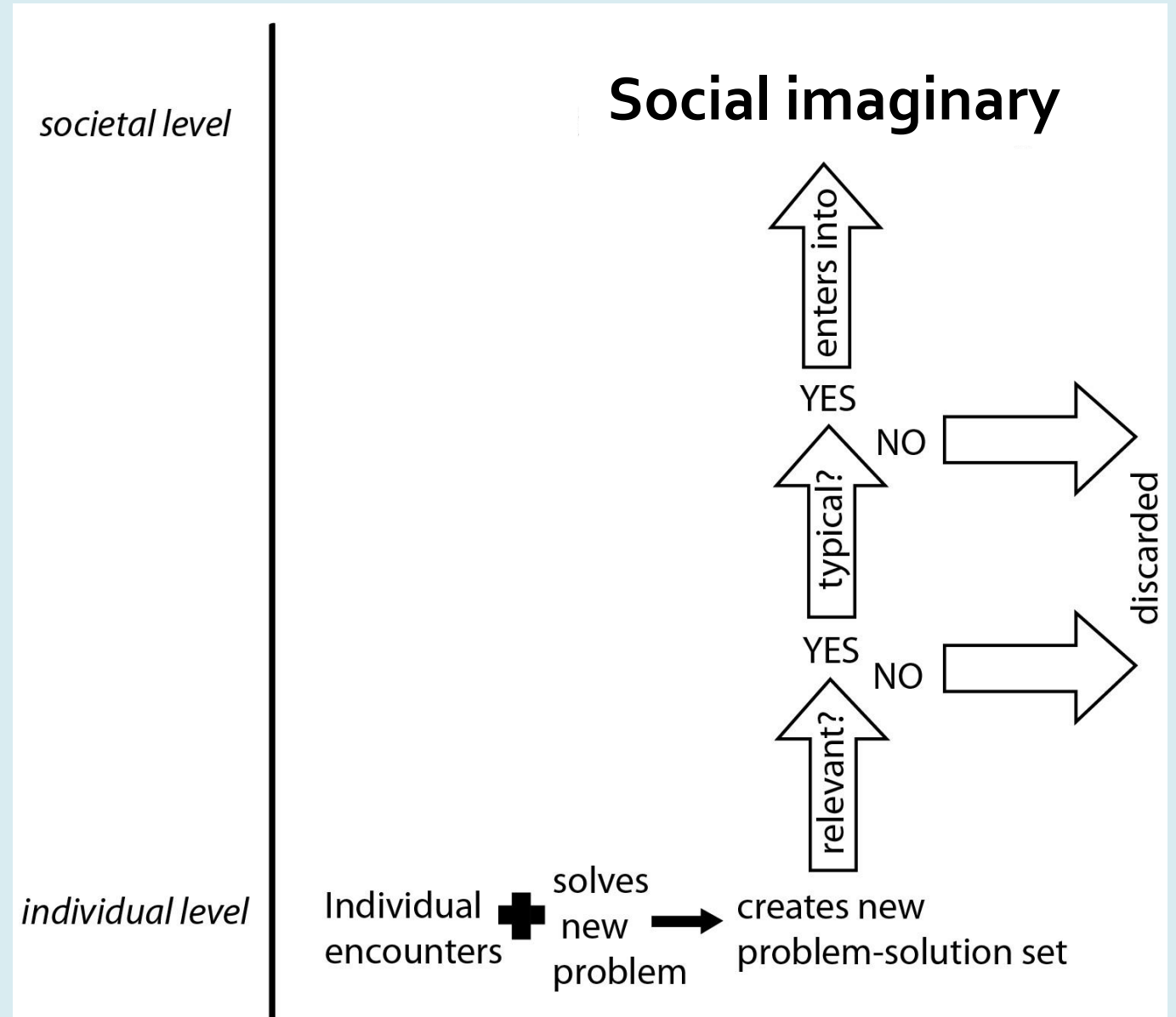
'a loosely co-ordinated body of significations that enables our social acts and practices by making sense of them'.

(Leong 2014: 16)

*Each society is
distinguished by
its social
imaginary*

Every social imaginary is distinct from another because the significations that matter in one social milieu may not matter to another or perhaps, not in the same way.

*Every
signification
was first
a solution
to a new
problem...*



(Leong 2014: 26)

Significations are added to a society's social imaginary only when they are deemed:

- Typical
- Relevant

to that specific social milieu

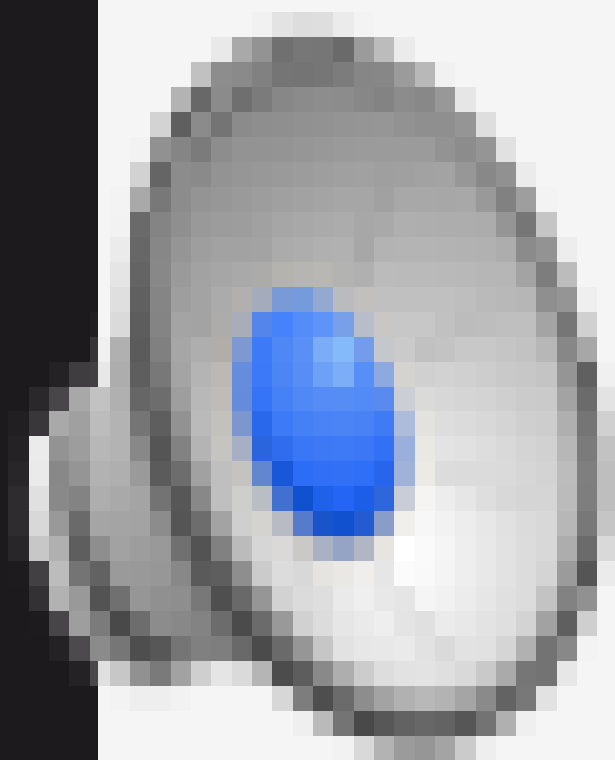
In other words ...

Warning:

The following content contains mildly foul language, sarcasm & humour.

If you are likely to be offended...





*We arrive
at them ...
collectively*

None of our social acts,
practices, norms, taboos or
conventions are inevitable

Southeast Asia's 330 million internet users are set to grow to 480 million users in 2020

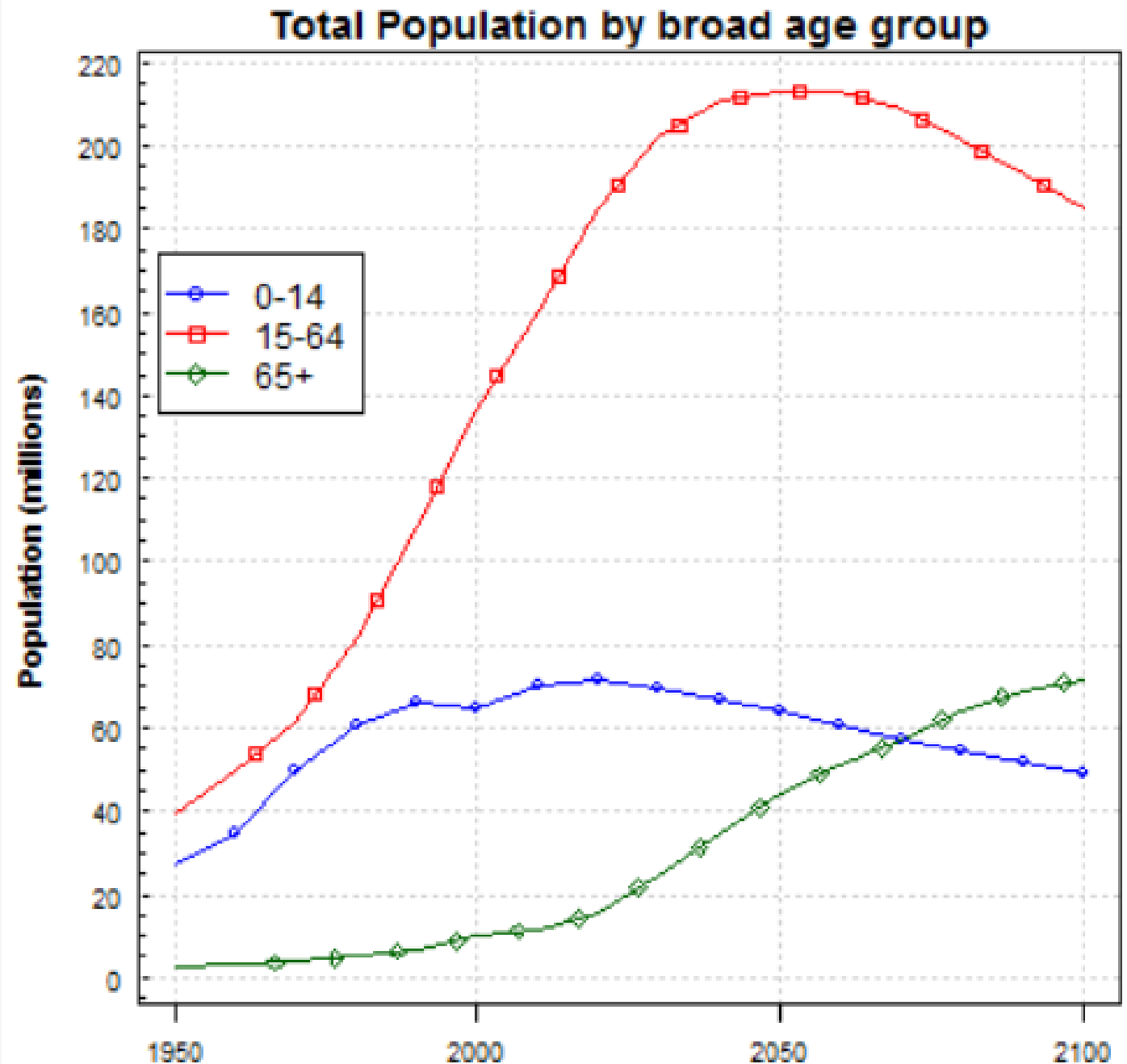
INTERNET USERS



Population of Indonesia

United Nations Population Division

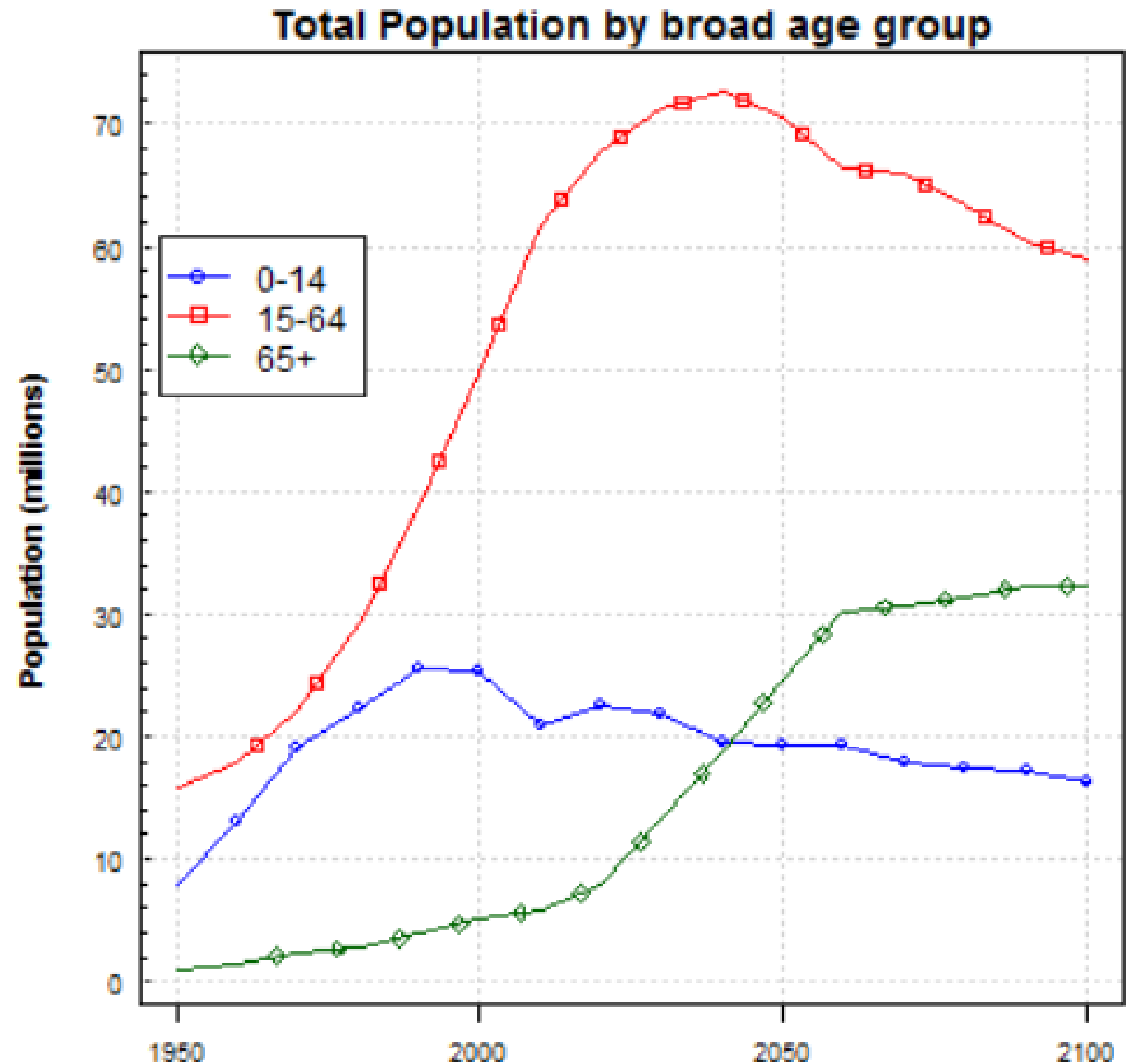
<https://population.un.org/wpp/Graphs/DemographicProfiles/>



Population of Vietnam

United Nations Population Division

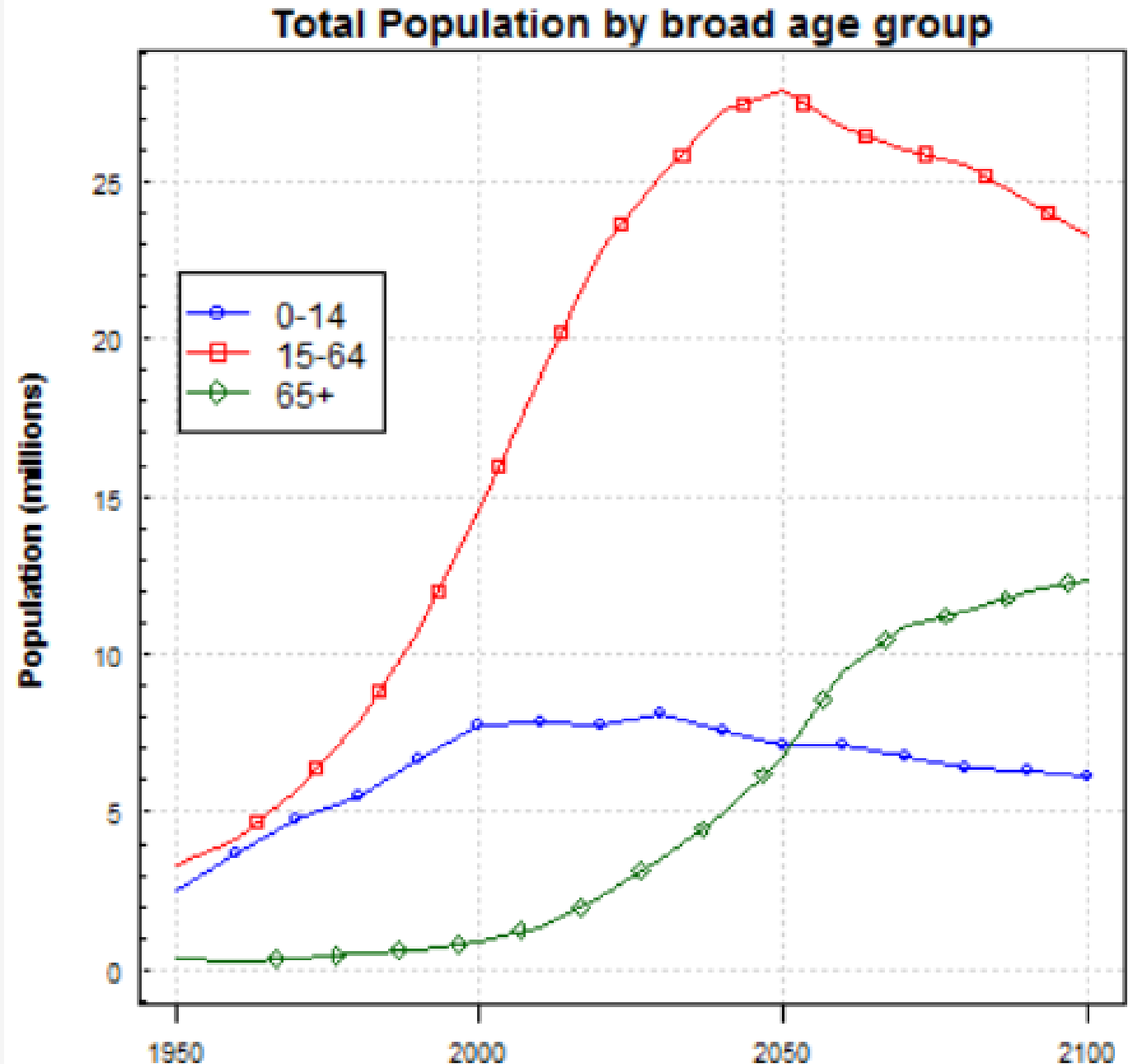
<https://population.un.org/wpp/Graphs/DemographicProfiles/>



Population of Malaysia

United Nations Population Division

<https://population.un.org/wpp/Graphs/DemographicProfiles/>



COUNTRY

TIME



Thailand

9 hours 38 mins

Philippines

9 hours 29 mins

Indonesia

8 hours 51 mins

Malaysia

8 hours 21 mins

Singapore

7 hours 9 mins

Vietnam

6 hours 52 mins



**Users in the region spend an average of 3.6 hours
a day on the internet through their mobile phones**

Reimagining . . .

socio-technological
relationships

Internet Governance

Currently, the Internet is loosely governed based on the multi-stakeholder model and is focused on the rights of the individual

Some countries argue that the Internet should be governed by states and focused on the interests of the nation

Internet Sovereignty

Internet Sovereignty

“Countries should respect each other’s right to choose their own path of cyber development, model of cyber-regulation and Internet public policies, and participate in international cyberspace governance on an equal footing.

No country should pursue cyber hegemony, interfere in other countries’ internal affairs, or engage in, condone or support cyber activities that undermine other countries’ national security”.

International Strategy of Cooperation on Cyberspace, 2017



Blockchain Data Storage and Monetization

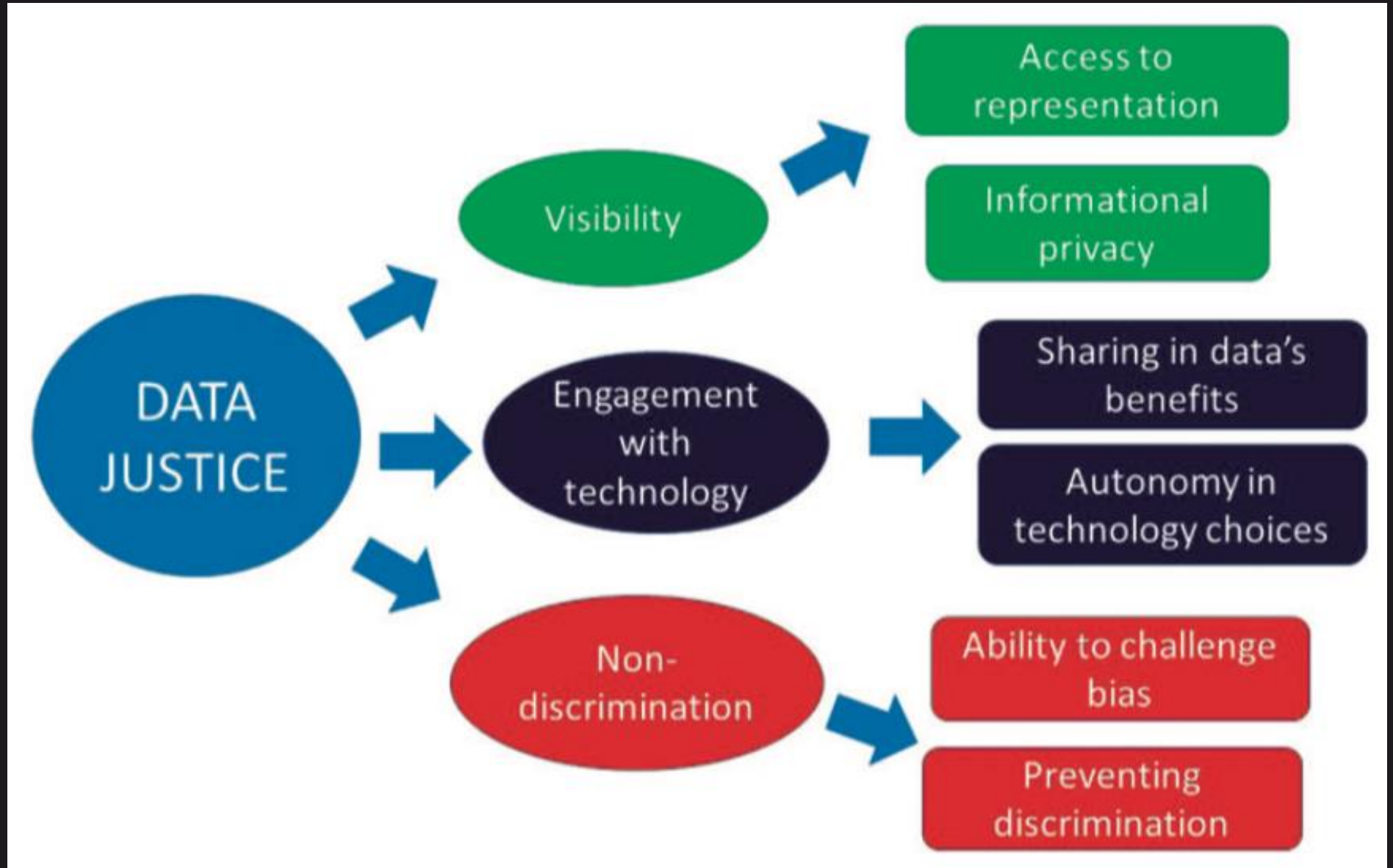
Datum is designed for innovators who empower individuals.



Get a **Solid** POD and Identity

Solid is decentralized, so there is no central place to “signup”. Instead, you can register an identity and get a POD on a Solid server, anywhere in the world. You can even stand up your own!

3 Pillars of Data Justice



“You will measure the things that matter & conversely, what you measure is what you make”

Genevieve Bell
The Future of AI
16 Oct 2018, WIRED25

*How new media
(re)shapes societies
will be determined by
what, and how, we
think of ‘the good life’
and the values we
embed within it.*



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Terima Kasih!

*Feedback,
comments &
queries*



Talk to me later?

OK, you can find me at: susan.leong@monash.edu