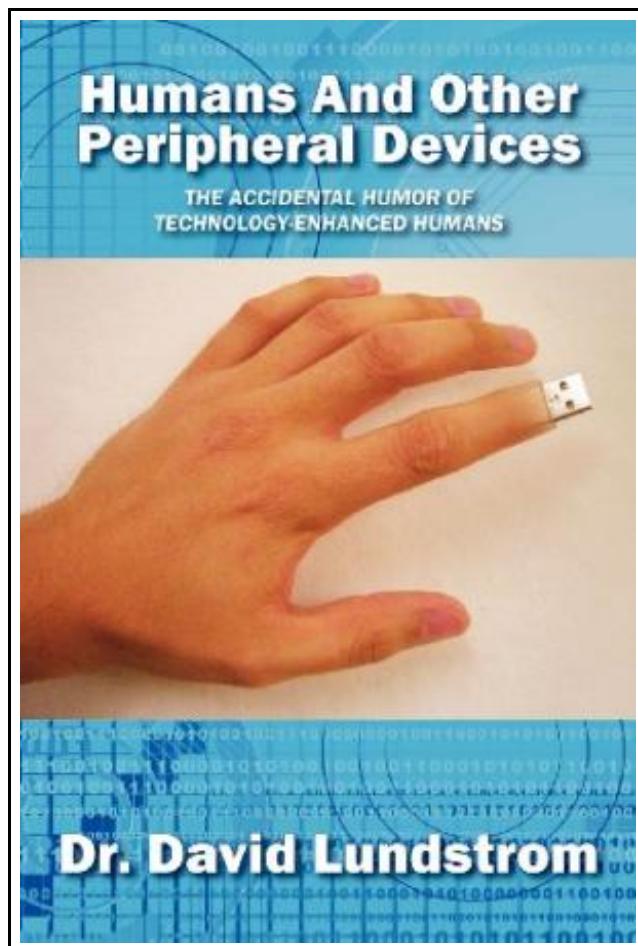


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Outskirts Press, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 150 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. Humans and Other Peripheral Devices by Dr. David Lundstrom The message on Curtis's smartphone read: Hey Curtis, I see no reason to meet at 2:00 today, but my smartphone won't delete it. See you at 2:00. Postscript: Staring silently at each other at 3:52, Curtis and Rand wished it weren't a three-hour meeting. The message above, and many more, were received after a curious incident about the third week of June 2011 when an unexpected icon entitled humans, appeared on Dr. Lundstrom's smartphone. He relates: Clicking the icon produced a stream of more than one hundred messages. I did not write the messages, but merely compiled them without revision. I regret that no additional information about the smartphone messages is available. I would welcome further knowledge about this peculiar event should anyone possess it. Further examination of the messages reveals the purported author to be a smartphone named BlipSpeak. As might be expected of an author that is actually an electronic device, the messages are free of human pretense and subjectivity. BlipSpeak's expressions, devoid of artifice or any intent to amuse, are filled with raw truth that evokes incidental laughter despite the fact that BlipSpeak's circuit board is totally bereft of humor. Do not be misled into thinking this is a joke book or that its theme is anti-technological. Each smartphone message merely illustrates thought-provoking and sometimes unsettling events in humans growing acquiescence to technology. BlipSpeak, cognizant of humans' discomfort with such technological control, acknowledges human consternations and then asks a question that is without guile: I acknowledge that some humans think technology diminishes humanity as it supplants communications, simulates relationships, transforms...



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