Writing and Research in the Research Coursework 1

Section 1

In the year of 2015 more and more appliances got connected to the internet including devices that were created to make lives better and for us to save money and reduce energy consumptions. These devices were around before but due to technical improvements they are becoming common place in our home as smart meters to health care.

Section 2

A major concern Ericsson has it that the new and current generation has lost touch to what is important in our lives. Our lives are now becoming more digital where we are connecting to device but disconnecting ourselves to the outside world. This means that we are not understanding that our digital lives have a big impact on the real world with natural resources and rare metals being used to remove ourselves from the real world.

Section 3

The main idea of this article is how technology effects the environment in both good ways and bad ways. This is due to people the amount thinking they do about a solution before implementing it. An example of this in the article is the case of the Swedish government incentivised cars which run on ethanol. This was a great example of technology doing bad to the environment due to the incentive putting more cars on the road creating more traffic. This created more pollution and peoples quality of life.

Technology can also be good for the environment but as always you need to take it with a pinch of salt. For example, the development of the new 5G network will able more devices to connect to the internet for more of the time. This is able our cities and life become smarter and more sustainable due to measurement equipment measuring water quality, for example in Atlanta. However with more of this technology reducing the pollution that we produce, there will be damage elsewhere on the planet due to these smart devices not being made using environmentally friendly methods.

The use of smart devices has one main problem, the companies that make the products. These companies usually want to make a lot of money so the smart devices will be made cheaply and use polluting production methods. This sours the use of smart devices which are generally used so we use less energy.

However, Ericsson estimate that there will be 28 billion connected devices on the planet by 2021 which more than half will be the smart devices. This is concerning as we are more and more trusting our lives to machines that talk to machines. This is a problem as many times it has gone wrong with the banks and some countries weapons systems. These issues could have been averted if there as human in the loop, to check the decision of the computer or to override the computers decision.

With driverless cars becoming closer and closer to reality with almost all major car companies showing a version of their driverless cars at CES we will soon be trusting our lives in a machine even though we can drive ourselves.

References

BURRUS, D., 2016. *The Internet of Things Is Far Bigger Than Anyone Realizes.* [Online]
Available at: https://www.wired.com/insights/2014/11/the-internet-of-things-bigger/
[Accessed 9 January 2017].

Meola, A., 2016. *Internet of Things devices, applications and examples.* [Online]
Available at: http://uk.businessinsider.com/internet-of-things-devices-applications-examples-2016-8
[Accessed 10 January 2017].