

Digital Redlining: Ensuring Equal Access in the Digital Age

```
if (version_compare("5.2", PHP_VERSION, ">")) {  
    die("PHP 5.2 or greater is required!");  
}  
if (!extension_loaded("pcre")) {  
    die("phpSysInfo requires the pcre extension to php in order to work  
        properly.");  
}  
  
require_once APP_ROOT.'/includes/autoloader.inc.php';  
  
// Load configuration  
require_once APP_ROOT.'/config.php';  
  
if (!defined('PSI_CONFIG_FILE') || !defined('PSI_DEBUG')) {  
    $tpl = new Template("/templates/html/error_config.html");  
    echo $tpl->fetch();  
    die();  
}
```

Dr. Chris Gilliard



1. Navigate to [google.com](https://www.google.com)
2. Begin by typing in “why do” or “why are”
3. Next, type in one aspect of race, gender i.d., ethnicity...
4. Write down 1st 2 autocomplete suggestions.
5. What do these suggestions imply about that group? Write down the answer.
6. Share results with person next to you.



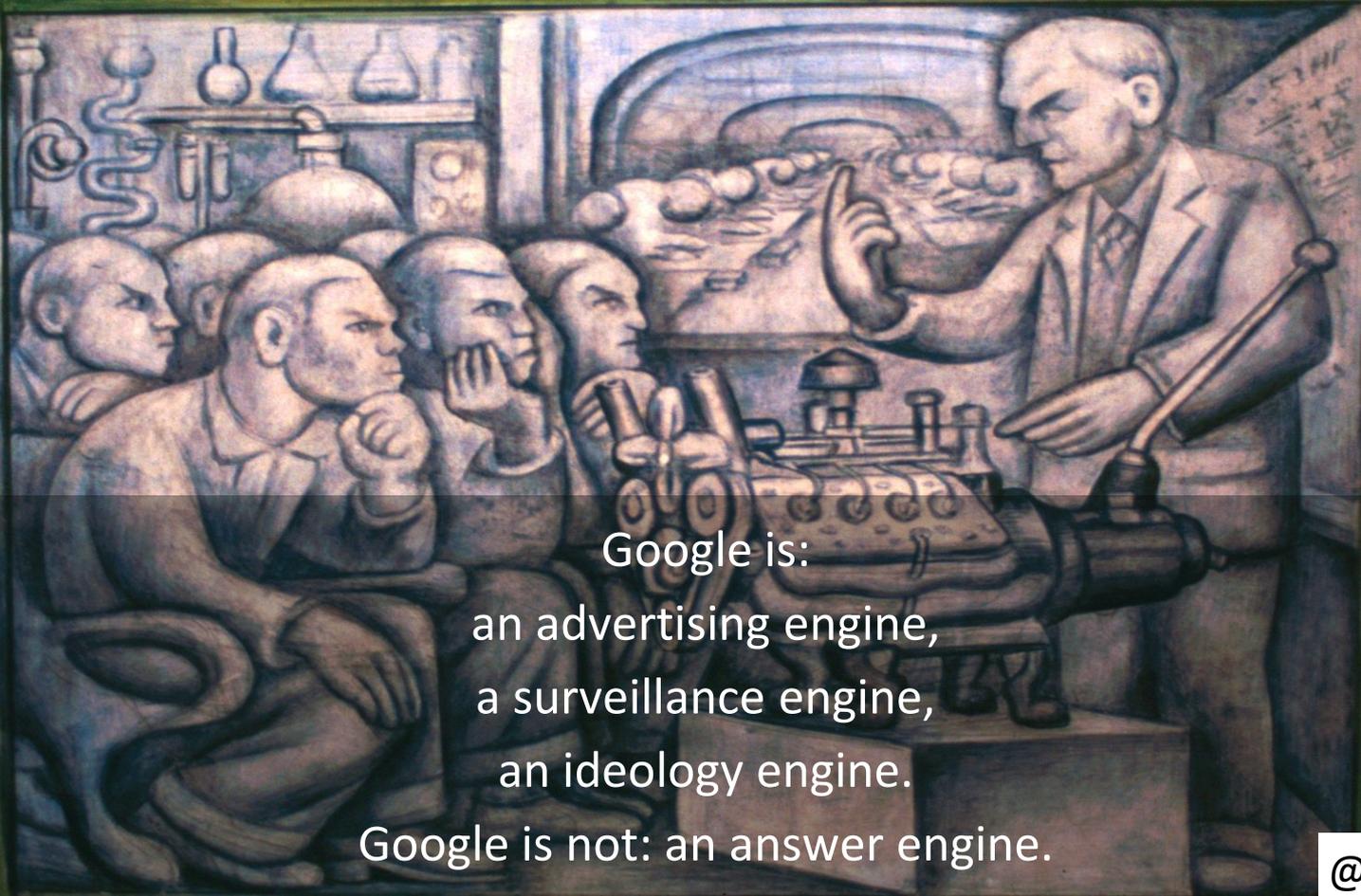
Google™

"I kept hearing and seeing [Trayvon Martin's] name," Roof wrote, "and eventually I decided to look him up." Roof wrote that he "read the Wikipedia article" about the shooting and came to the conclusion that Zimmerman was not at fault.

"But," he continued, "more importantly this prompted me to type in the words 'black on White crime' into Google, and I have never been the same since that day."

“It seems as if you are never “hard core” enough for YouTube’s recommendation algorithm. It promotes, recommends and disseminates videos in a manner that appears to constantly up the stakes. Given its billion or so users, YouTube may be one of the most powerful radicalizing instruments of the 21st century.”

-Zeynep Tufekci



Google is:
an advertising engine,
a surveillance engine,
an ideology engine.
Google is not: an answer engine.

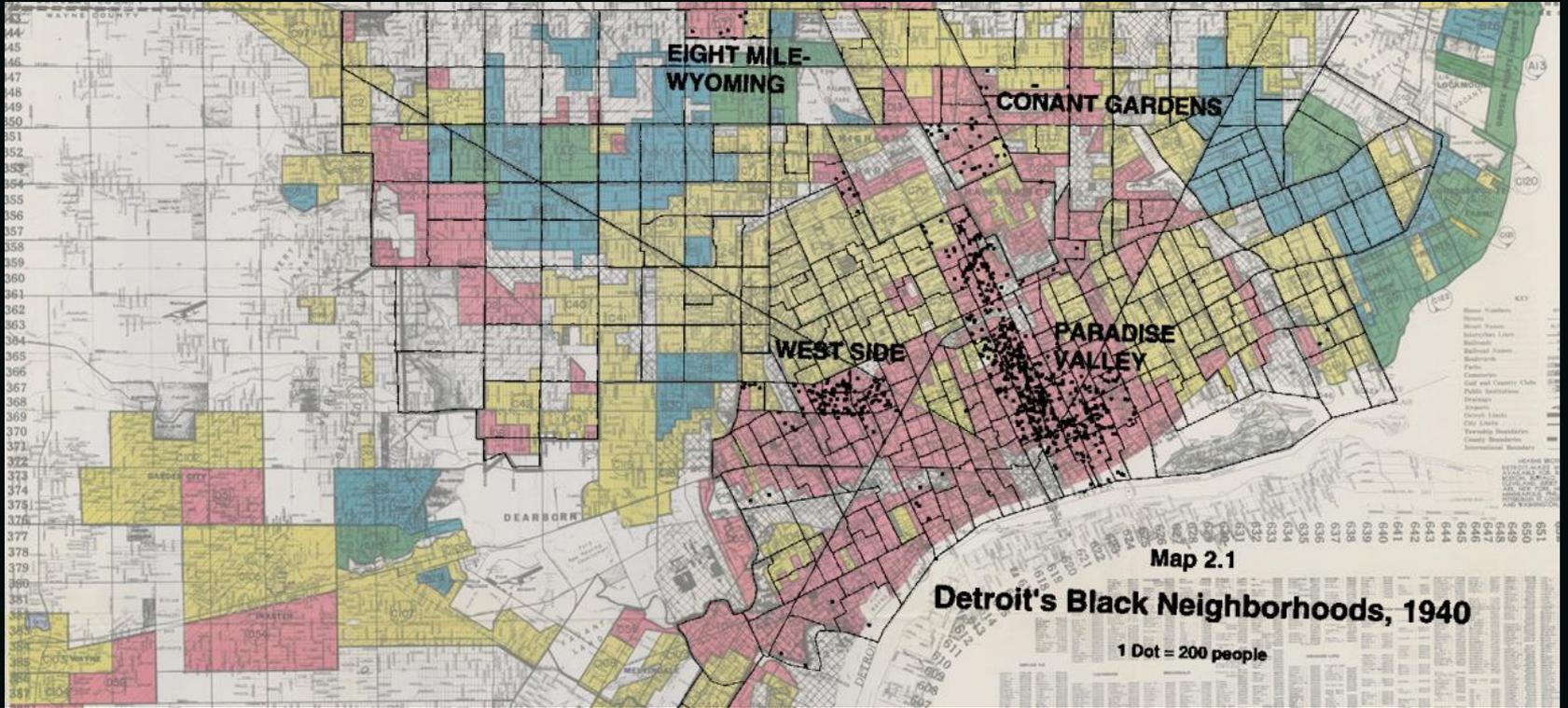
@hypervisible

“Google creates advertising algorithms, not information algorithms”

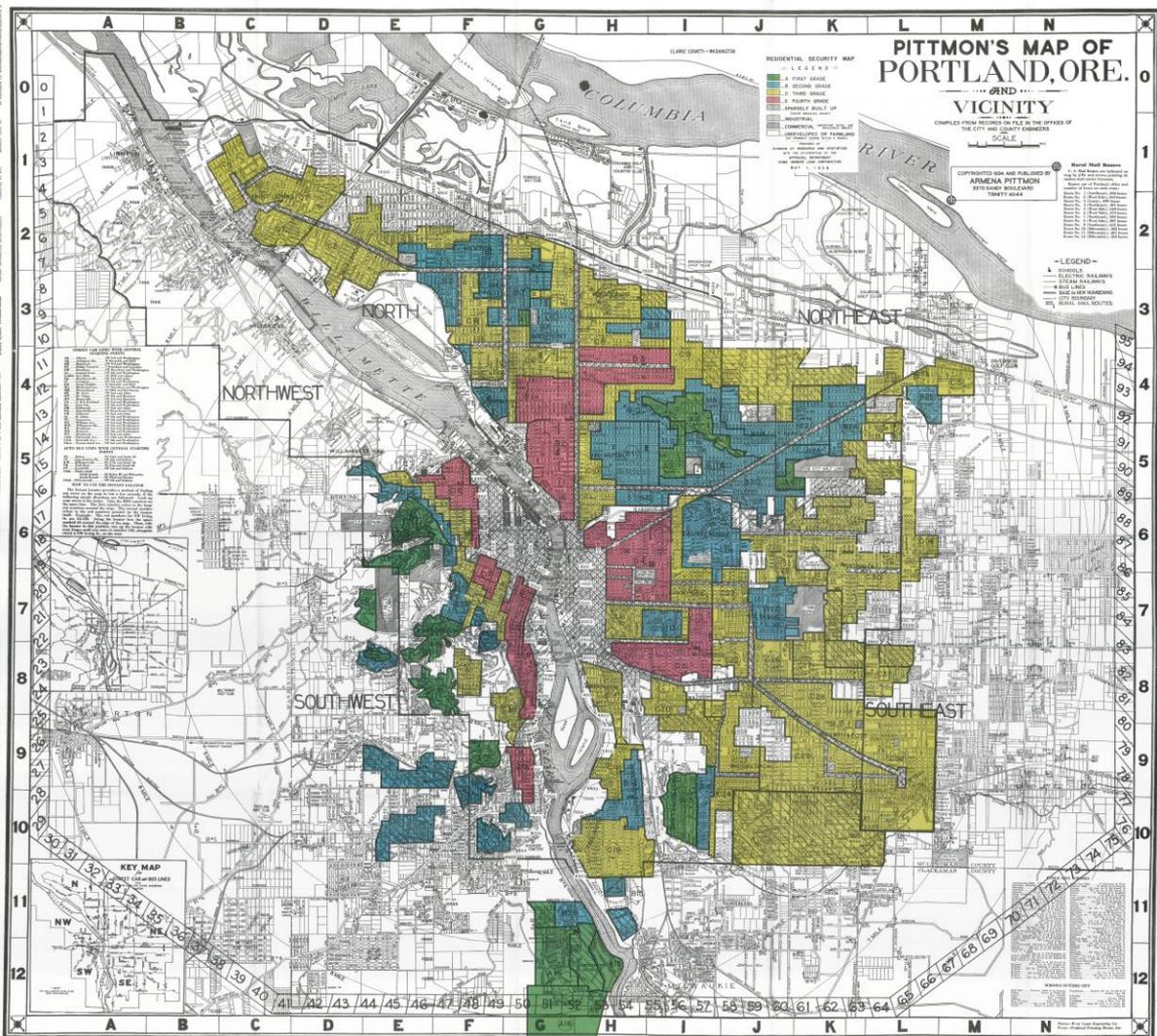
Safiya Umoja Noble, Algorithms of Oppression

“Redlining is the practice of denying or limiting financial services to certain neighborhoods based on racial or ethnic composition without regard to the residents' qualifications or credit worthiness. The term "redlining" refers to the practice of using a red line on a map to delineate the area where financial institutions would not invest.”

Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston

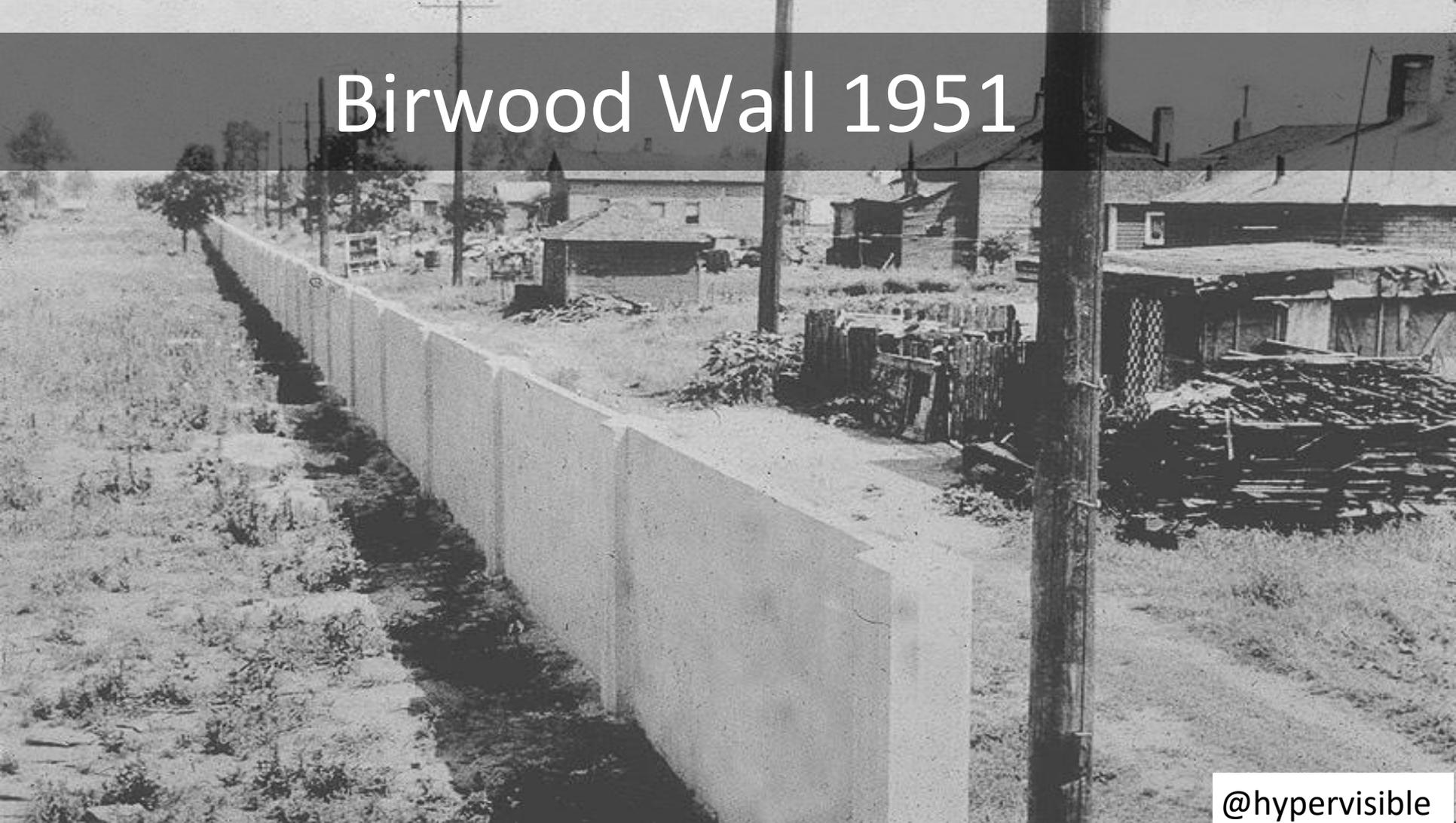


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CITY OF DETROIT APW005
Eight Mile W

Birwood Wall 1951



@hypervisible

Digital Redlining:

Enforcing class boundaries and/or discriminating against specific groups through technology policy, practice, pedagogy, or investment decisions.



Ethnic Affinity

Boston





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**10% of Americans own a
smartphone but do not have
broadband at home.**

**23% of Americans do not have
broadband access at home.**

Pew Research



Zuboff's Laws



1. Everything that can be automated will be automated.
2. Everything that can be informed will be informed.
3. Every digital application that can be used for surveillance and control will be used for surveillance and control



“Surveillance Capitalism” is the monetization of free behavioral data acquired through surveillance and sold on to entities with an interest in your future behavior

Shoshana Zuboff

@hypervisible

“Platforms are digital structures that enable two or more groups to interact....a platform provides the basic infrastructure to mediate between two different groups. While often presenting themselves as empty spaces for others to interact on, they in fact embody a politics.”

Nick Srnicek

Platforms are *extractive*

PLATFORMS, WTF?

PLATFORMS, WTF?

A UK room-rental firm has started a service using DNA analysis to match apartment renters with the most compatible roommates...

PLATFORMS, WTF?

[ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) has bought dozens of graveyards in order to extract and monetize the DNA of the corpses...

PLATFORMS, WTF?

Gaggle, a “safety management platform” that monitors student use of tech, bragged about their ability to also monitor instructors and prevent them from striking...

PLATFORMS, WTF?

A school installed cameras in
the washrooms in order to
"combat bullying and
vandalism..."

PLATFORMS, WTF?

A Silicon Valley K-12 charter uses sensory deprivation tanks along with VR headsets as part of their “immersive” pedagogy...

PLATFORMS, WTF?

An ed-tech company is marketing their ability to monitor kids' EEG activity in order to gauge student attention levels...



So now what...?

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The myth of technological and political and social inevitability is a powerful tranquilizer of the conscience. It's service is to remove responsibility from the shoulders of those who believe in it. But in fact there *are* actors.

-Joseph Weizenbaum