"Remplir-Cette-Ficheophobia"..... A Phobia Involving Completing Forms Incorrectly

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Abstract

Computers can retain data eternally and are the source for unwanted and unintended uses. Some people loathe and cannot fill out forms and develop a phobia about this. Appraised here are phobias, the use of computers for unwanted and unintended purposes, and qualitatively deconstructs major influences as to why some people suffer from a simple but serious phobia labeled "Remplir-cette-ficheophobia" (RCF). RCF sufferers are people who hate the filling out of forms to the point of obsession which becomes a phobia: RCF is a rare but important psychological ailment and sufferers need help to eliminate serious consequences.

Keywords: *Forms; Data-Analysis; Information; Phobia; Remplir-Cette-Ficheophobia; RCF*

Introduction

Background

A phobia is an irrational, but persistent intense fear of a phobic stimulus (such as a specific object, situation or activity) and the reaction is acknowledged and recognized as being excessive or unreasonable by the person them self. Should a phobia be a significant interfering source of distress of social functioning, it is deemed a mental disorder, as a neurosis or phobic disorder. The DSM III sub-classifies phobic disorders as agoraphobia, social phobias, and simple phobias. A phobia is usually used as a word termination indicating the irrational aversion or fear to the object indicated by the root word to which-phobia is attached. Accordingly, there is agoraphobia that involves fear of being alone in public spaces: Social-phobia is the fear or embarrassment being present in social situations: simple-phobias as any phobia not involving agoraphobia. Other simple phobias involve fear of closed-spaces as claustrophobia, fear of heights as acrophobia, and arachnophobia, as a fear of spiders. Other common simple phobias derive from animals, particularly dogs, cats, mice, snakes and insects. Social-Phobias (DSM III-R) are any phobic disorder involving avoidance and intense fear of social situations in which the affected individual fears will be exposed to possible humiliation or embarrassment: for example fears of performing in front of an audience or speaking in public, using public facilities like lavatories or even eating at public functions or in restaurants.

Provenance

Computers were introduced in the latter part of the 20th Century, and from being huge cumbersome machines, they have been progressively reduced in size, so that in the 21st Century computers are powerful yet, relative to previous desk-top towers, very small. The internet is available to millions of citizen users globally, as a mini-computer is embedded into most hand- held telephones. Communicating demands exact entry and completion of data for locating applications (Apps), E-missives (E-mail), search engines and all other activities provided by computers and the internet. Lack of precision in a search or instruction voids the function. By using a retrieval-filing system correctly, the computer saves the information, never forgets, and the advantage of using electronic apps accurately and reliably accelerates functions previously done by hand. For example: Sorting names alphabetically or linking names to addresses; and selecting lists of people with common interests or features, is done regularly. Data analysis in the 21st century allows millions of pieces of personal information to be sifted, screened, sorted and classified with the greatest accuracy, reliability and ease. This strategy is used by marketers who wish to target specific groups, by age, genders, specific interests or activity. Most people when asked to fill out forms will comply and voluntarily

do so, innocently providing much personal information. This data is stored in cyber-memory and is often the source of targeted dispersal of information to parties wishing to find, promote or contact potential targets for their own interests and purposes. Yet there is a select group of people who for deep seated psychological reasons, have difficulty, or find it impossible to complete required data when a form is placed in front of them. In French the instruction simply states: "Remplir cette fiche". In English the instruction says "Fill in this form".

Aim of the Study

This report introduces and examines a phobia called "Remplir-cette-ficheophobia" (RCF: pronounced 'Rumplirrsetfishiofobiah') and qualitatively explains why people in this group of people have stressful challenges with an intense fearful loathing of filling out forms, to the stage when it becomes a phobia, and they often cannot complete forms, or may willfully and always make mistakes.

Deconstruction and explanation of the roots of RCF "Remplir-cette-ficheophobia"

This specific phobia (RCF) is prevalent in people who survived The Holocaust in World War II and/or among those who studied how and why the Germans were so efficient at rounding up innocent citizens, Jews, homosexuals, gypsies and other political opponents…. to be deported and murdered in extermination concentration camps from about 1933 to 1944. Consequently, this RCF is encountered in elderly Holocaust survivors, and those younger contemporary individuals who search history for insights into the German methods of locating and targeting Jews for the Nazi Reichs' antisemitic genocidal policies by using IBM computers. During the stated period, all the information was availed to them from forms collected by civic or municipal authorities about nationality, and citizenship: This included names, country of birth and origin, addresses, ages, gender, professions and religions. This RCF phobia arises from the fact that The Germans successfully used computers to analyze personal data, provided by citizens innocently to local municipal authorities, prior to-, early on-, or during the reign of the German Third Reich in Europe. Survivors and subsequent generations of people cite this as a lesson to be learnt about the dangers of computer use and abuse. Once data is fed into a computer memory, the computer never forgets, and the data is available for those who gain access to it. The German SS Einsatztrupfen could easily identify victims, mainly Jews, by their religion then names, family members, domestic habitat or business, because they used a Hollerith IBM computer punch-card system to facilitate and organize their information [1]. In the 21st Century modern computers can easily, quickly and accurately transfer information from one source to another. Subsequent raking and searching through the transferred data rapidly sifts out names, addresses and interests for specific purposes, among which purposes are frequently advertizing products or soliciting business for supplies, some type of provisions, services or other promotions. Unfortunately, also the accessed data may be used for fraudulent, spurious or criminal activity. Although these nefarious activities are rare, any person with overactive imaginations may develop phobias about revealing personal information when filling out forms to be entered into computers.

Discussion

An alternative term, namely "form-phobia" was considered but rejected because it is not specific enough and alludes to other modalities like shape, fitness or structure. Many people nowadays (2020) use the internet, and all too frequently are inundated with unwanted and unwelcome intrusions into their computer screens. When "surfing the web' for any specific topic a myriad of pop-up pieces of information appear, and often these seem mysteriously related to items mentioned somewhere on the computer, by users correspondence. This occurs because the owner-proprietors of the Internet-servers do use "data analysis" to focus advertizing and diversionary clips, targeting specific groups with their previously revealed interests. These unwanted solicitations can be stopped by replying to the sender to remove the targets name from their mailing list. To avoid receiving these unsolicited adverts, people with RCF phobias when ever asked to complete a form with personal details, will purposely ignore the request, or more frequently now leave out information, or fill in incorrect data, such as a wrong initial, changing a birth-date, address or any other number requested. When RCF-sufferers hear of reported cases of identity theft, fraudulent stealing of cash from bank accounts, or sending out false invoices, the intensity of the RCF is strongly

aggravated. RCF sufferers have deep seated psychological fears about being controlled by external forces or allow their imagination to overtake their judgment with catastrophic ideation. Accordingly, any application form, like a form for the membership to a club, an airline ticket acquisition, or even a simple shopping purpose, causes the RCF sufferer great anxiety. Total avoidance occurs, or a fouled-up form is submitted. Often the a fouled-up form will be rejected, but if it goes into a fundamental bank for authentic data, the mistakes can have serious consequences down the road on computational outcomes deriving from those defectively filled out forms. For example all government controlled bodies like licensing bureaus, citizenship and voting, or power supplies, the postal services, pensions and health care providers, and air-line landing customs forms, all demand completing a form with all a persons' identity details and related information. RCF sufferers have major difficulties with these forms and also with passwords, as subconsciously they change names, addresses, numbers, fonts, capitals, punctuation, symbols, ciphers and characters. RCF sufferers need to recognize their phobia problem and secure help to avoid future resulting disasters. Known RCF cases must have someone else always check their data forms for accuracy when submitting to avoid damage, and although RCF is a rare and important psychological ailment, RCF sufferers need help to eliminate serious subsequent consequences.

Concluding Remarks

The term for RCF, namely "Remplir-cette-Ficheophobia" although derived from the French, is precise in meaning, gives the phobia a unique moniker, is easy to say and makes for easy recall. The use of computers that can acquire and permanently retain information and can yield selected accurate details of personal recorded data, is the source of people developing RCF. This may derive from a sense of loss-of-control about how personal information may be used or abused by outsiders whether with benign or malicious intent. RCF sufferers are those people who hate the filling out of forms to the point of obsession which interferes with healthy judgment calls in living and becomes a phobia.

Remplir-Cette-Ficheophobia is a rare but real and important psychological ailment and RCF sufferers need help to assuage bad decisions and eliminate serious consequences.

Authors' Statement

The authors have no conflict of interests to declare.

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