

The DIGITAL AGENDA Insights



Convenience

Comfort

Easy

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Welcome to

THE DIGITAL AGENDA INSIGHTS Monthly Newsletter

In this edition, we delve into the interconnected transformations redefining modern life—from Pandemics & Cashless economies to Artificial Intelligence & Aliens. Our featured discussion, "**Truth in the Balance**," brings together experts examining whether these developments are isolated events or part of a larger global shift.

We examine Uganda's impending cash withdrawal limits through both a critical and prophetic lens.

We also unpack Sony's controversial move toward '**digital-only**' gaming and what it means for consumer ownership and rights. Digital only means, dependence on platform rules. Won't the platform owner switch you off as they please? What happens to the right to choose? Why not let Digital work alongside Physical without making one replace the other?

We challenge the narrative that **cashless societies** and **Digital-Only** are inevitable.

As technology accelerates change across every facet of life; health, finance, identity, and governance, this issue asks the essential question: Are we moving forward with wisdom, or simply being swept along?

Enjoy the thought-provoking analysis, practical insights, and a call for discernment in an increasingly digital age.

The digital future is not something that simply happens to us. It is something we must understand, question, and shape deliberately.

If our work resonates with you, please join us. Also, partner with us.

For **Digital Agenda Forum**

OUR CORE VALUES

S

Stewardship

P

Purpose

A

Authenticity

D

Dignity

TRUTH IN THE BALANCE

From Pandemics & Cashless Societies to AI & ALIENS

By **Digital Agenda Forum**

On 24th June 2026, 7 PM (EAT) on X Spaces, Digital Agenda Forum hosted a discussion on the topic, TRUTH IN THE BALANCE: From Pandemics and Cashless Societies to AI and Aliens

Moderator: **Maria Batenga**, a Tech Practitioner & Digital Rights Activist.

Panelists: Seth Taremwa, *Medical Practitioner*, Emmanuel Opio, *Chief Information Technologist*, Leens Witt Akandwanaho, *Product Manager - Tusangaire* Claire Babirye, *Data Scientist* and Timothy Ampumuza, *Researcher*



In setting the stage for the discussion, it was noted that the world has undergone massive, rapid transformation over the past few years—socially, economically, technologically, and structurally. Terms like lockdowns, contact tracing, and vaccine passports were unfamiliar before COVID-19, but are now part of our global reality. It was highlighted that there are several concurrent developments:

- **Health:** Ongoing Ebola outbreaks in Uganda and DRC, France's first Ebola case, and the sudden appearance and disappearance of the Hantavirus.

- **Finance:** The Bank of Uganda introducing cash withdrawal limits (individuals: 50 million/day, 250 million/week; businesses: 500 million/day, 2.5 billion/week) to promote a "cash-light" economy and exploring Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).

- **Digital Identity:** The UK's ban on social media

for under-16s, requiring age verification through government IDs or facial age estimation—seen by many as a "backdoor" for universal digital ID.

- **Artificial Intelligence:** AI being used in education, healthcare, business, media, and governance, with generative AI capable of writing reports, creating images, and assisting in decision-making.

- **UFOs/UAPs:** Former conspiracy theories are now mainstream news, with US government hearings, military testimony, and formal reports on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena and non-human intelligence.

A central question was posed: **Are all these developments independent and unrelated, or are they part of a bigger, connected transformation?**

Pandemics and Global Change - Seth

Key Lessons from COVID-19:

1. Preparedness is Non-Negotiable: Viral diseases cannot be cured—only managed through immunity and prevention. Whether natural or manufactured, societies must be prepared for pandemics.

2. Open Debate is Essential: During COVID, medical personnel who spoke out against official narratives were arrested and silenced. This eroded public trust. Governments must allow open debate without judgment, as listening to patients is a core principle of healthcare.

3. The Media's Role: The media should inform the public with facts, not propagate fear. Reporting only death tolls without recoveries creates panic, which can accelerate the spread of disease.

4. Public Response: The public should demand:

- Focused protection for high-risk groups rather than blanket lockdowns that shut down entire systems (education, transport).
- Rapid independent testing in both private and government facilities.
- Transparency on disease origins to prevent misinformation and conspiracy theories.

5. Trust and Trauma: The public now has "COVID trauma"—they lost money, and some died from other diseases because they couldn't access care. If another pandemic emerges, they will resist measures unless they have full access to information and trust in the system.

6. The Manufacture Question: The same technology used to create vaccines can be used

to create and release viruses. This raises serious ethical and security concerns.

How to Distinguish Fact from Exaggeration:

- Get information from credible scientists, not politicians e.g., Bill Gates does not have a medical background.
- Rely on opinion leaders (cultural and religious leaders) who can interpret and pass on information correctly.
- "Cross-check" information from different media sources. If different media are saying different things, the public will be confused.
- Encourage a constant flow of information and rapid independent testing.

Cashless Societies and Digital Money - Leens

The Evolution of Money:

Leens traced the history of money from barter trade to metals (gold, silver) to receipts (paper money) to digital payments. The driving force has always been convenience—gold was heavy, receipts were lighter, and digital is even more convenient.

Advantages of Cashless Systems: Convenience and speed. Reduced physical theft (though cyber theft increases). Supports e-commerce and global trade.

Risks and Vulnerabilities:

1. Data Privacy: Every fintech and bank holds ledgers with detailed personal information. This creates a surveillance risk. When you pay cash at a restaurant, no one knows your name. When you pay digitally, every transaction is tracked.

2. Infrastructure Dependency: Cashless systems rely heavily on electricity and internet. If these fail, you have value but cannot access it. In remote areas of Uganda and Africa, this is a critical barrier.

3. Over-reliance on Technology: Skilled hackers can sabotage financial infrastructure. The more we rely on digital systems, the bigger the target becomes.

Is a Cashless Society Inevitable?

- **No.** Leens argued that a hybrid system will persist. Cash will be reduced but not eliminated, much like radios survived the advent of television.

- **Inclusivity:** Many people cannot use phones, lack digital literacy, or live in remote areas. Cash remains essential for them.

- **Fallback:** Even countries like the UK, which promote cashless, are enforcing laws to ensure cash remains legal tender and is available as a fallback.

How to Protecting Financial Freedom:

- Individuals should understand that cash still holds value and is not obsolete.

- The "new normal" should be a knowing when to use cash and when to use cashless.

Digital Identity and the Future of Access

- Emmanuel

What is Digital ID? Digital identity is the gateway to financial inclusion, government services, healthcare, and participation in the digital economy. To register a SIM card or use mobile money, you must provide a national ID, name, date of birth, and biometric information.

Benefits of Digital ID: Reduces fraud. Improves welfare distribution and service delivery. Enables access to tax services, business registrations, and healthcare records (as seen in Estonia and India's Aadhaar system).

Risks and Concerns:

- **Centralized Data:** When national IDs, biometric records, health records, tax invoices, and banking records are all collected in one database, it becomes a massive target for hackers. A single breach could expose everything about a person.

- **Consent Issues:** Most users blindly click "I agree" to lengthy terms and conditions without reading them. This means they unknowingly give consent for their data to be used in ways they wouldn't approve of.

- **Age Verification as a Backdoor:** The UK's social media ban for under-16s, requiring government-issued ID or facial age estimation, is seen by many as a subtle move to introduce universal digital ID for everyone under the guise of "protecting children."

- **Facial Age Estimation Errors:** Technology is not perfect. A young-looking adult may be flagged as underage, while an older-looking teenager may pass checks. There are also cases where facial recognition fails (e.g., a daughter who looks identical to her mother can unlock her mother's phone).

Safeguards Needed:

- Data minimization: Collect only what is necessary. A social media app does not need your national ID, financial records, or location history.
- Transparency: Clearly state why data is collected, how it will be used, who can access it, and how long it will be stored.
- Consent: Consent must be informed, not a forced click. Users should be aware of their rights and the terms they are agreeing to.
- Data Deletion: After the project life cycle or when data is no longer needed, it must be deleted—not just "deactivated" or stored indefinitely.
- Strong Data Protection Laws: These laws exist in Uganda (PDPO), but enforcement is weak. Citizens must demand accountability.

A Real-World Example: In 2022, a major humanitarian organization's central database was hacked, and 90% of its data was compromised. Personal data, including national

IDs, was sold. Once your data is out, anyone with malicious intent can use it to access your bank accounts or commit identity theft.

Artificial Intelligence and Humanity - Claire

Claire provided a nuanced analysis of AI, acknowledging its benefits while detailing its risks.

Is AI Improving Life? Yes, in many areas. Productivity: Work processes are automated, leading to higher efficiency. Service Delivery: Recommendation systems in e-commerce improve user experience. Decision Support: AI can assist in healthcare, governance, and business.

Is AI Creating New Problems? Yes, significantly.

1. Security and Compliance Risks:

- **New Attack Surfaces:** AI introduces new vulnerabilities. Prompt Injection: Attackers can input malicious instructions to bypass restrictions. Unintentional Leaks: Confidential information can be leaked through AI systems.

2. Quality and Over-Reliance:

- **Hallucinations:** Generative AI produces plausible but often incorrect outputs, presented with confidence. This is not a bug but a feature of how the models work.

- **Silent Model Drift:** A model that was working properly can degrade in a short period without early warnings.

- **Cognitive Dependency:** Professionals are relying on AI, which erodes critical thinking. If AI fails, they may not know what to do.

3. Ethics and Bias:

- **Algorithmic Bias:** AI amplifies pre-existing biases in historical data. A hiring model trained on biased data will systematically reproduce that bias.
- **Lack of Transparency:** The nondeterministic behaviour of AI makes it difficult to explain or audit decisions.

4. Cybersecurity:

- **Deepfakes:** AI-generated audio and video can be used for extortion and fraud (e.g., the Italian defense minister deepfake incident).
- **Hyper-Personalized Phishing:** More than 80% of phishing emails are now generated using large language models.
- **AI-Powered Cybercrime Tools:** Tools like WormGPT and FraudGPT are specifically designed for attacks.

5. Privacy in Large Language Models:

- **Memorization:** LLMs memorize fragments of personal data and can reproduce them as outputs.
- **Re-identification:** Even anonymized data can be re-identified and profiled by the model.
- **Feedback Storage:** User feedback is stored and used for training, but it often contains sensitive data, which can be leaked.

6. Environmental Impact: AI models consume

massive amounts of energy and water. If Uganda gives energy to run a generative AI model that could have powered thousands of homes, we must reconsider resource allocation.

Are We Becoming Too Dependent on AI? Yes.

A child asked if they needed help with homework replied, "I already asked ChatGPT."

How to Preserve Human Dignity:

- Understand that AI is a tool, not a creator. It mimics human behaviour but does not have firsthand experience of the world.
- AI generates plausible outputs, but a correlation is not an end, and a prediction is not a direction.
- Human oversight is non-negotiable in critical decisions.
- AI should be used for human flourishing, not to diminish human autonomy or rights.
- We must exercise discernment—a uniquely human capability—when using AI.

UFOs, UAPs, and Non-Human Intelligence -

Timothy (briefly joined but connection was lost)

- What was once considered conspiracy theory is now being discussed in mainstream media, with US government hearings, military testimony, and formal reports.
- Language Shift: The term has shifted from "UFOs" to "UAPs" (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena) and "non-human intelligence."
- Question: Are these discussions independent, or are they connected to the other technological transformations happening in the world? This remains an open question.

Audience Q&A and Discussion

- AI and Climate Change:** AI models consume a lot of water and energy. Where does this leave climate change campaigns? *It was noted that this is a real concern and requires resource prioritization.*
- AI and Emotional Degradation:** Imagine being managed by an AI doctor who is not touched by your emotions. *This highlights the need for human oversight, especially in sensitive fields like healthcare.*
- Trusted Scientists:** During COVID, how many scientists became "pro-COVID activists"? Who can society trust? *The response emphasized that it's not about who, but about honesty and transparency. Lack of honesty will always be verified by time.*
- Regulating Patient Data:** Who truly regulates the handlers of patient data in Uganda? What has the PDPO done? *The response emphasized that strong laws exist, but enforcement is weak. Citizens must demand accountability and transparency.*
- Age Verification = Universal Digital ID:** The UK's social media ban is indirectly a digital ID for everyone. *This comment was echoed by many, reinforcing the concern that protection of children is being used as a pretext for universal surveillance.*

6. **Internet Interruptions:** These interruptions in Uganda won't allow digitalization to prosper. This was addressed in the closing remarks, noting that connectivity issues during the discussion itself proved this point.
7. **AI Memorization:** A user gave a fake name to ChatGPT, and now it calls them by that name. This demonstrates how AI can memorize and reproduce personal information, which is a privacy risk.
8. **Quantum Computing:** Donald Trump signed an executive order on quantum computing. Is it related to AI? It was noted that these are different fields, but there is an emerging field called "Quantum AI." She suggested a separate discussion on this topic.

improve productivity but also creates security threats, amplifies bias, and encourages over-dependence.

Human oversight, ethical frameworks, and discernment are essential.

- All these changes are interconnected. They are not isolated events but part of a broader global shift. This requires a holistic and vigilant approach.
- Infrastructure matters. Uganda is not yet ready for full digitalization. Pushing systems without addressing electricity, internet, and digital literacy will create exclusion, not inclusion.

CLOSING REMARKS

1. The irony of the connection issues during the discussion was highlighted. It was noted that **if we cannot hold a digital conversation without interruptions, then Uganda is not yet ready for full digitalization.** Pushing everyone into digital systems before addressing the underlying infrastructure; electricity, internet, digital literacy, will push people out of life.
2. There is a glaring danger of **copying solutions from Silicon Valley or China without adapting them to local conditions.** What works in the USA may not work in Uganda. We must create solutions that are accustomed to our environment.

The discussion concluded by tying all the threads together:

- Health, finance, identity, AI, and UFO narratives are all happening at the same time and appear to be connected. Every aspect of our lives is becoming integrated and digitized.
- While this connectivity brings benefits, it also brings serious risks to our freedom, autonomy, and human dignity.
- This requires wisdom, responsibility, accountability, and spiritual discernment. We need to see beyond the surface and understand the agenda behind these systems.

TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DISCUSSION

1. For Health crises, preparedness, transparency, and open debate are essential to manage them and maintain public trust. Suppressing dissent erodes credibility.
2. Cash remains a necessary fallback for inclusivity and resilience.
3. Digital identity is a double-edged sword. It promises efficiency and inclusion but raises severe concerns about surveillance, data security, and privacy. Strong legal safeguards and informed consent are non-negotiable.
4. AI is a powerful tool with dangerous risks. It can

Find the Recording at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDI1tpXISPI>

By:

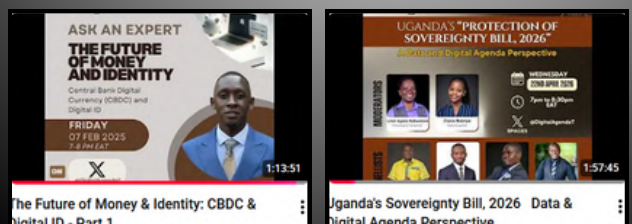
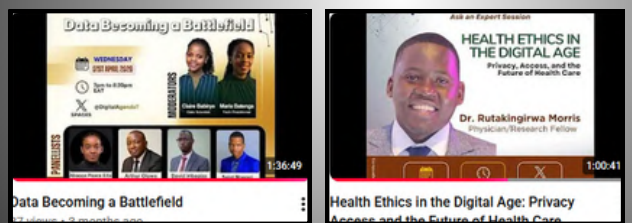
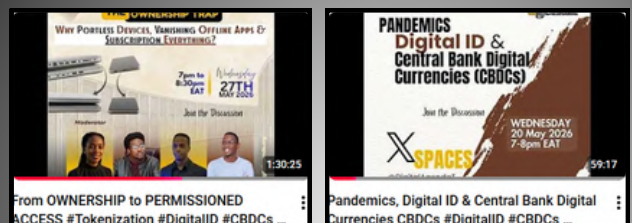
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Find all Recordings of Previous Debates and Discussions at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@DigitalAgendaT>



BEYOND CONVENIENCE:

A Christian Reflection on Uganda's Cash Withdrawal Limits and the Prophetic Warning

On 4th June 2026, the Bank of Uganda announced that it will introduce an over-the-counter cash withdrawal limit, effective 1 January 2027. According to the central bank, the decision is intended to align Uganda with global financial trends, support the financial sector's electronic payment strategy, and respond to what it describes as consumers' growing preference for electronic credit transfers.

These reasons, however, raise an important question: Does the preference of some consumers for electronic transactions justify restricting those who still choose to use cash?

To many, this policy may appear to be a simple step toward modernization and efficiency. Yet, many Christians view it differently. They believe the global push toward digital currencies and cashless transactions is part of a broader agenda with implications that extend beyond economics.

This concern echoes a prophetic message delivered by Prophet Elvis Mbonye on 7 January 2025 at Zoe Grounds. According to the prophecy, the digitization of currencies by central banks would be presented as a matter of convenience while ultimately leading to greater control and restrictions over people's financial lives.

The prophetic word warned that centralized digital currencies could enable authorities to monitor transactions more closely, limit access to financial services for individuals or organizations that do not conform to certain standards, and gradually erode financial privacy and personal ownership. Under such a system, purchasing certain goods or accessing specific services could become subject to approval or permission.

For believers who accept this prophetic



By
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message, current developments are viewed not as isolated financial reforms but as signs of a larger spiritual and global shift. They see the increasing reliance on digital financial systems as consistent with warnings given through God's prophet and believe these changes deserve careful discernment rather than unquestioning acceptance.

Christians hold that a prophetic word is not merely the opinion of a man of God but a message delivered by God through His chosen prophet. For those who embrace this conviction, prophecy serves as divine guidance for the times in which they live. They believe that as God's purposes unfold, no individual, institution, or agenda can ultimately prevail against His will.

As Uganda advances toward an increasingly digital financial future, Christians are encouraged to remain spiritually alert, seek God's wisdom, and carefully weigh the implications of changes that may affect both their freedom and their faith.

The Fast-Forward Race to a Global Cashless Economy!



By **Mariagorreti Batenga**
Tech Practitioner | Digital Rights Activist
emgorret@gmail.com

For the past few weeks, there have been serious conversations about Uganda adopting a cashless or rather a “cash- lite” economy. Many people think this simply about making payments easier and reducing the burden of carrying cash. It has also been presented as a way to improve convenience, speed, efficiency and financial inclusion.

While advertised as beneficial, the cashless transition is actually driven by a coordinated global network. **Powerful international bodies—including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), central banks, World Economic Forum (WEF) and major tech corporations—are actively orchestrating the worldwide digitisation** of identity, finance, and governance. To execute this, countries are rolling out Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). This foundational framework links digital IDs, cashless payments, and centralized data-sharing platforms together to control and deliver all public and private services.

In Uganda, government services are moving online. More institutions are encouraging citizens to transact digitally. It is starting to look like they are laying the foundation for an economy where digital identity and payments define access to different services. None of this means that the progress of technology is bad, it has improved the lives of many, but are we paying enough attention to where these changes are leading us?

Many Ugandans have experienced the reality of relying almost entirely on digital systems. We have witnessed service disruptions affecting MTN Uganda and Stanbic Bank for hours, leaving users unable to make calls, access the internet, or use Mobile Money and digital banking. Although reported as separate technical issues, their near-simultaneous failure was hard to consider a coincidence. This is a reminder of how quickly life can be disrupted when essential services depend digital infrastructure.

During the election period, the internet was

switched off, and online banking ground to a halt, further exposing this vulnerability.

In the United Kingdom, the Starmer administration proposed the introduction of a national digital identity system, expanded digital verification for access to public services and employment, promoted digital transformation across government, proposed banning social media for children under the age of 16 through mandatory age-verification measures, and pursued tighter regulation of online platforms. These measures were presented as efforts to modernise public services, make identity verification easier, strengthen border security and tackle illegal immigration, protect children from harmful online content and improve their mental wellbeing, reduce fraud, and make government services more efficient and accessible. However, they also created concerns about privacy, surveillance and the increased collection of citizens' personal data in digital systems.

Renewed interest has also surfaced in a January 2025 prophecy by Prophet Elvis Mbonye regarding Keir Starmer's political downfall. The prophecy forecasted that Starmer would endure intense scrutiny and exposure, leading to a sudden, dramatic downfall. Crucially, it linked Starmer to global meetings driving digital currencies and Digital ID agendas, concluding with the declaration, "Checkmate." Following Starmer's recent resignation under heavy political pressure, it sparked a revisit to the prophecy, framing his political exit as the direct fallout of his aggressive push for mandatory Digital IDs and a cashless society. Whether viewed as a warning or a unique perspective, this scenario refocuses public attention on critical digital policies that are easily overlooked.

As Governments including Uganda, continue to push full-scale Digital ID systems, digital payments and digital transformation, it is important for citizens to not only focus on the immediate benefits promised, but also what it means in the long run or even now with the fallible nature of technology, and demand full transparency, accountability, and safeguards for their data privacy.

Watch at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYHGZZ04wb0>

THE "OWNERSHIP" CRISIS:

Massive Pushback Against Sony's 'Digital-Only' Shift

By **Lilian Agaba Nabwebale**
Information Scientist

Sony has inadvertently reignited one of the biggest Ownership debates of the digital age.

On July 1, 2026, Sony announced that it would discontinue physical game discs for all new PlayStation releases from January 2028, shifting entirely to digital distribution for future titles. The company also informed customers that 551 previously purchased StudioCanal movies would be removed from their PlayStation libraries due to licensing agreements. For many gamers, the timing could not have been worse. The company found itself at the centre of a growing backlash over digital ownership

The internet responded with mockery from consumers and other companies.

Domino's joked that it would stop making physical pizzas. KFC announced that its chicken would now be delivered as downloadable PNG files. G FUEL joined the trend, while Respawn humorously announced that it would discontinue physical chairs, replacing them with downloadable digital chair codes. Esports Awards joked that physical trophies were being retired in favour of digital ones, while Wrestlelamia quipped that WWE would no longer feature physical wrestlers in the ring because they would now be digital.

One of the most viral parody came from a fake Sony announcement claiming that the next PlayStation controller would be single-use only, that the moment you put the controller down, your licence to use it would be revoked and you would need to purchase another one. The joke landed because it captured what many increasingly fear: in an increasingly digital economy, consumers no longer own what they pay for.

The concern goes beyond gaming. Today, many people own very little in the traditional sense. We possess a Playstation download code, a Spotify subscription, a



In response to shifting trends in consumer preference, new games will be released on PlayStation Store and at retailers in digital formats only.

a Netflix password, or a Microsoft Office licence. In Africa, this same shift is already lived in daily reality: households rely on PAYGo solar systems, paying daily or weekly just to keep the lights on; electric boda riders operate through battery-swapping networks such as Spiro and Zembo, paying for mobility and energy access rather than owning the full system outright. Smartphones are increasingly acquired through device financing and installment plans such M-KOPA. Across both digital and physical life, ownership is quietly being replaced by continuous payment for access.

PlayStation's terms also state that if an account has been inactive for at least three years. Sony may begin the account-closure process, a reminder that access to digital

ecosystems is governed by platform rules rather than permanent possession.

Consumer rights organisations have already begun challenging Sony's digital-only direction, arguing that eliminating physical media reduces competition, limits consumer choice, and ultimately gives platform owners greater control over pricing. Across social media, many users have posted screenshots cancelling subscriptions in protest.

However, the conversation is not becoming digital vs physical media. One message has emerged repeatedly: "It's okay to buy digital only. It's okay to buy physical only. What is not okay is the inability to have a choice."

That distinction matters. Digital distribution offers undeniable convenience. Physical media offers permanence, resale rights, lending, collecting and preservation. The issue is not whether digital systems should replace cash, but that consumers must absolutely retain the freedom to choose.

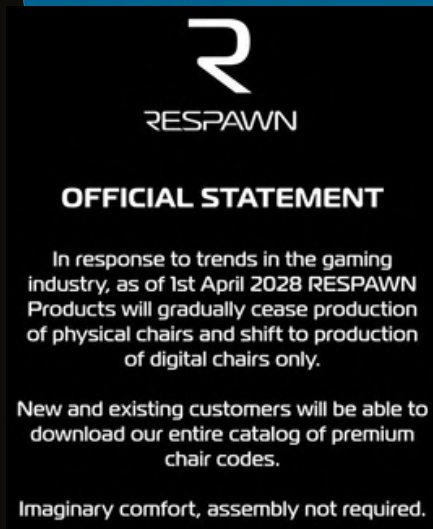
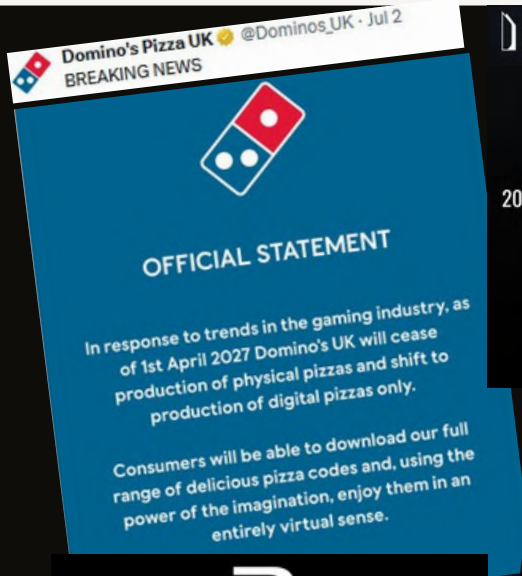
“The issue is not whether digital systems should replace cash, but that consumers must absolutely retain the freedom to choose.

Encouragingly, several publishers and distributors have publicly committed to keeping physical releases alive for as long as possible. Companies including Aeternum Game Studios, Super Rare Games, Tesura Games and Silver Lining Interactive have reaffirmed their commitment to physical editions. Delorean Labs perhaps summed it up best:

"We respect the physical world. We believe in the digital one. And we think the best future is the one where both move forward together."

That is the real lesson from Sony's PlayStation controversy. This is not a competition between digital and physical. It is about preserving consumer choice, and ensuring that when people purchase something, they genuinely own it.

The Playstation Backlash



Thank you to everyone who submitted an essay for the **Digital Stewardship Essay Competition 2026**.

Your participation is evidence that a new generation of technology professionals is committed to becoming **Digital Stewards**. The future is indeed bright.

We will be in touch with the participants in due course

The poster features a central graphic with a smartphone displaying a 'SUBSCRIPTION' screen, a padlock icon, and a tag that reads 'ACCESS NOT OWNERSHIP'. To the right is the 'digital agenda' logo. A yellow banner at the top right says '06 JUNE 2026 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS'. The main title is 'Digital Stewardship Essay Competition 2026'. Below it, the theme is 'Tokenisation, Disappearing Device Ports, and the Rise of Subscription for Everything: What Do These Trends Mean for Ownership, Freedom, and the Future of a Digital Society?'. Three columns provide details on eligibility, submission guidelines, and the competition process. A 'REWARDS' section lists prizes for 1st place, 2nd place, and top 10 finalists, plus additional benefits. A 'DEADLINE' box indicates '21 June 2026, 11:59pm EAT'. The website 'www.thedigitalagenda.org/digisteward-submissions' is provided for details.

06 JUNE 2026 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Digital Stewardship Essay Competition 2026

Theme: *Tokenisation, Disappearing Device Ports, and the Rise of Subscription for Everything: What Do These Trends Mean for Ownership, Freedom, and the Future of a Digital Society?*

Eligibility	Submission Guidelines	Competition Process
Open to undergraduate students enrolled in Information Technology, Information Science, Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Systems, Data Science, Cybersecurity, ICT and other related computing, information, and digital technology programmes at recognised universities in Uganda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Original, unpublished work only.Recommended length: 1,500 – 3,000 words.Essays should demonstrate research, critical thinking, and practical recommendations.References should be properly cited where applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Written essays will be reviewed by an independent evaluation panel.The Top 10 submissions will be shortlisted.Shortlisted participants will be invited to deliver an oral presentation defending their work before a panel of judges.

REWARDS

- 1st Place:** UGX 1,000,000 Cash Prize, Excellence Award, Forum Presentation Opportunity, Featured Publication, Certificate of Excellence
- 2nd Place:** UGX 500,000 Cash Prize, Featured Publication, Certificate of Distinction
- Top 10 Finalists:** Digital Stewardship Fellow 2026 Recognition, Expert Panel Presentation, Certificate of Merit, Networking Opportunities, Inclusion in the 2026 Essay Compendium
- Additional Benefits for Selected Entries**
Publication in the Digital Stewardship Collection, Promotion through Digital Agenda Forum Channels, Opportunities for Future Forum Engagements

DEADLINE
21 June 2026, 11:59pm EAT

Details at:
www.thedigitalagenda.org/digisteward-submissions

DIGITAL AGENDA FORUM

Digital Stewardship Program

This is a Program by Digital Agenda Forum.

It is not a coding school. It is a program on digital power, governance, ethics, and resilience.

PURPOSE

Training leaders to understand not only how technology works, but who it serves, who controls it, and who it harms.

Grounded in public interest and national resilience.

The digital world is not neutral. It is designed, governed, and directed.

The question is no longer whether you use technology, but whether you understand what it is doing to society, governance, faith, and freedom.

GOAL

The Digital Stewardship Program (DSP) equips leaders to critically understand digital systems and responsibly engage the forces shaping our digital future.

DIGITAL STEWARDSHIP FELLOWS NETWORK

A community of leaders committed to responsible digital understanding and engagement.

They are not defined by ideology or politics, but by a shared conviction:

The digital future must be understood, questioned, and responsibly shaped, not blindly accepted.

What unites them is not discipline, but a shared commitment to understanding digital power and serving the public good in a digital age.

WHY THIS PROGRAM MATTERS

Digital systems now influence:

- Governance and democracy
- Economic opportunity
- Information and truth
- Cultural identity
- Human freedom

Yet most leadership structures are not trained to understand these systems deeply. The Digital Stewardship Program fills that gap.

BEYOND TECHNICAL SKILLS

To systems thinking, governance awareness, and digital responsibility.

We train leaders to understand:

- How digital systems shape society
- Who designs and controls them
- How power operates through technology
- What ethical and spiritual responsibilities arise in a digital age

DIGISTEWARDS

Fellows are formed into:

- Digital Systems Thinkers who see beyond tools into underlying systems
- Digital Stewardship Analysts who interpret digital policy, platforms, and influence structures
- Ethical and Faith-Grounded Leaders who uphold dignity, truth, and responsibility
- Public Insight Contributors who engage in research and societal dialogue

More at:

<https://thedigitalagenda.org/digisteward-program/>

Find Past Editions of the Newsletter here.

You will be impacted Positively.



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