

## Tracey Follows Mind Tools Expert Interview Excerpt Transcription

“I think one of the interesting issues that came about as I was writing the book, and that I’d already foreseen, was the implementation of digital identity, using technology to provide a way to authenticate or verify yourself and your identity if you wanted access to public services or you were going to use a digital currency for example.

“And I think that’s one of the things that people could do now to appraise themselves better of some of the technologies and the different means of bringing about a digital identity because that will really matter. And in a funny sort of way it’s the gateway to lots of other things that would happen technologically, whether it’s connecting you or enhancing you or preserving you.

“Whatever it is, if our identity is being digitized then we want to be in control of it, we want to use a centric digital identity where we have privacy protected and we get to use it in the way that we want to use it, when we want to use it. Not a kind of system that’s they’ve instituted in India with the Aadhaar system or in China where you are stuck to a biometric and somebody, somewhere is kind of surveilling where you’ve been and what you were doing and having some sort of tabs on your identity through digital systems.

“So, we really want to look more at the usage of digital wallets and how identity or identification and authentication works out of those wallets and how much user control one has.

“And so that would be a great place to start for people because it is the gateway, but it is probably the thing that’s coming fastest, in fact there’s lots of conversations happening around it now.

“I think in the first chapter I make the point about the state now has a belief (it doesn’t matter what party it is, in the Western world in particular) the states all have the belief that the successful state of the future is a technological state. So governments are very busy transferring all of our old analog systems into digital systems. And therefore we will need to operate as a digital persona, as a digital identity.

“And so I can’t think of anything more important really to research or to know about or to have an opinion on than that, because it affects literally every single aspect of one’s life going forward.”

Listen to the full 30 minutes interview in the Mind Tools Club.