Digital Waste   Yu Terao   Garbage station, monitor, burnable trash, cardboard, trash bags

This work is a media art piece that collects cloud data, which is forgotten and accumulated without being used, and exhibits it as physical trash to make people recognize it as "trash" again. Physical trash here refers to trash that exists in the real world, such as paper scraps, food scraps, plastic bottles, and empty cans.

The conception of this work began with the question, "Are there other types of waste that pollute the environment besides physical waste? We focused on the data waste   accumulated in cloud services that we use on a daily basis.

Cloud services such as Google's are mainly managed in data centers around the world. There are more than 8 million of them around the world. The power to run thousands of   high-spec PCs in data centers 24 hours a day, and the power to cool those PCs, are all generating CO_2 emissions at this very moment. Currently, data centers account for 0.6 to 1 percent of the world's electricity consumption. In today's society, where data-intensive systems such as AI, IoT, and automated driving have become a part of daily life, the amount of information is expected to explode in the future. Assuming that no energy conservation measures are taken in the future, the world's power supply could be compromised by information alone.

This production procedure was designed as an opportunity to contemplate the possibility that cloud data and casually used information devices, which have been forgotten in our daily lives, may indirectly lead to environmental pollution, global electricity shortages, and other social problems.

First, we collect the garbage (images and videos) accumulated in the cloud service from about 100 to 200 people. The idea is that by collecting the data for recycling, the load on the data center will be reduced, albeit slightly. Next, the images and videos are combined into a single movie and displayed on a display. Finally, the display is placed in a plastic bag and placed in the trash.

The act of placing the display in a plastic bag and a trash can is an application of the act of receiving physical waste, such as paper scraps and food scraps, into the collected data. This is to emphasize the meaning that data, which does not exist as material in the real world, is synonymous with garbage.

The image of garbage seen through a plastic bag is made difficult to see by the physical filter of plastic. Viewing these difficult-to-see images provides an opportunity to contemplate the accumulation of forgotten data, the problem of physical trash, and a future that can no longer withstand informatization.