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IT AIMS TO FIGHT COVID-19

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COVID-19 pandemic has brought dramatic changes into the way we live and work. People began to think more about their own and men around safety, so they started working and studying from home through online platforms. Research [1] shows that the majority of respondents have admitted the fact that the outbreak of Covid-19 has resulted in their growing dependence on digital and social media. As the global fight against the virus continues, the biggest information technology companies and inventive minds around the world are bringing innovations in our life.

The objective of the research is to provide an insight into the latest trends and directions of information technology development aimed at fighting COVID-19. The review shows these technologies are linked to data exchange, using of the Internet and AI. Some of them are as follows:

– tools on portable devices that are always with a person, such as mobile phone, smartwatches, health bracelets, etc.;

– artificial intelligence as an assistant in recognizing signs of the disease;

– contactless payments;

– systems for remote communication and work.

Multiple smartphone apps that have recently become available can help to confront COVID-19 in a number of ways. Some apps provide regular updates on the current situation of COVID-19. GPS and Bluetooth features make it possible for tracking apps to track the infection [2]. AI-powered robots and drones not only help track the disease but are also used by Governments to enforce restrictive measures. AI-powered wearable devices appear to be helpful in identifying signs of serious health disorders that individuals may find problematic to detect on their own, as well as predict the start of COVID-19 in people not yet showing symptoms [3].

AI powered apps also provide a convenient screening tool. The recently designed AI model is capable of distinguishing asymptomatic for COVID-19 people from healthy individuals through forced-cough recordings. MIT researchers [4] have found that infected people may differ from healthy individuals in the way that they cough. These differences being indecipherable to the human ear can be picked up by artificial intelligence.

Digital and contactless payments have not only proved themselves as a powerful weapon against corruption but also appeared to be both convenient and easy. The use of numerous contactless and digital payments apps, cards, electronic wallets instead of cash can help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Digital payments allow the individual to do online money purchases or payments without human interaction [1].

Communication portals (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, etc.) provide facilities for remote work and studies, as well as for socializing and communication. In the sphere of continued learning, a trend in education gaining popularity nowadays, there has been developed a specific VR-based app. This software program lets users wearing VR eyeglasses connected to a mobile device explore different well-known places around the world while exercising [5].

Other technological domains helping to fight against the pandemic disease by means of innovative applications are blockchain, 3D printing, open-source technologies, telehealth

technologies [6]. Blockchain applications seem capable of tracking contagion as well as managing insurance payments and upholding medical supply chains. 3D printing and open-source technologies can meet the increasing need for medical hardware, optimize the supply of the necessary medical equipment and offer cost-effective means to slow the spread of the virus [6].

To conclude, the pandemic has evidently stimulated the development of the IT sector. The future has already changed and continues to change dynamically. Each of the above-mentioned IT trends and directions will play a great role in the fight against the virus COVID-19. However, all of them are sure to develop making our lives better even after the victory over the disease.

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