

Covid - the explosion for the transformation of modern social culture



Covid - Lunar New Year Eve - The digital era

Those are the words that everyone will definitely mention when mentioning February 12, 2021. A day that is memorable not only in the way of writing (you can see this is a Palindrome string we had to deal with in the early days of programming introduction CS161), but also the one that marks the 1 year Vietnam deal with the epidemic.



I choose that date because it is not only the time of season change but also a special day of my first time on Tet holiday. I have captured most of my moments this day, they will be shared as below.

First of all, let me tell you something I observed before New Year's Eve, that was when the Covid epidemic broke out for the third time in Vietnam, starting from the Hai Duong outbreak and then spreading to Hanoi. follow the flights spread across the country.



At that time I was doing an internship in Hanoi, most of those days I was indoors with these noodles and packs of vitamin C to improve my resistance.



Then I decided to return to Saigon for Tet holiday (at first I didn't want to go home because of fear of affecting my aging parents), the day I returned, the airport was empty, and many passengers canceled tickets, so the flight was postponed, it is also extremely difficult to take a Grab car to return home when no one dares to run, the bus also has a camera warning to wear a mask. There are many community rules in place to deal with the epidemic, and people get used to it. **However**, what surprised me the most is that in the 2nd photo below, while I try to work from home, and limit my exposure, people are still busy buying cherry blossoms (and it's in Hanoi), because it is an essential part of the new year (For fun: Covid cannot beat traditional customs)



The next day when I got back, TSN airport had an airline staff infected with covid, so I had to quarantine myself at home, so anyway, I still welcome Tet alone this year.

On Tet days, everyone seems to be closer than usual, everyone is warm and naturally communicates with each other, whether they are relatives or people rarely seen, from neighbors to lunch shops (Tet only), people do not take advantage of anyone, from the way they playfully tease each other to the way people treat their pets. (I find it difficult to describe in words but can conclude with two words **luck** and **happiness**. Those are also the two most wished words on Tet holiday.



My parents have returned to our hometown in Ben Tre, I feel this is really an interesting experience, every year I am busy cleaning the house, bringing cakes to neighbors, bring fruit to relatives, but this year my New Year is a peaceful and quiet atmosphere of Saigon, something you will definitely not find during the day normally, in a big city like this. Everything in Saigon on New Year's day becomes slower.

Okey, Informally, this is my New Year's Eve:



Because I am alone at home, I have to cook by myself and make Tet dishes such as duck meat and sausage. On Tet every year, people often gather friends to tell each other about things made a year, but this year, maybe we should chill on our own.

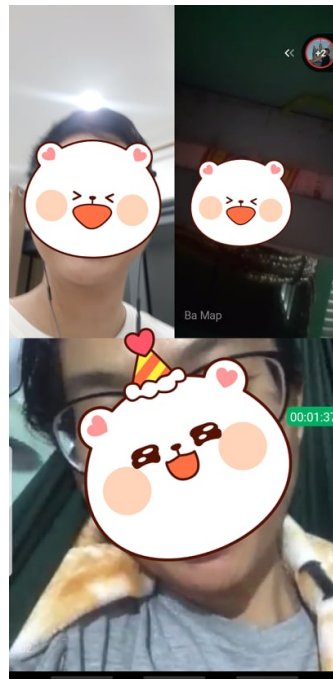
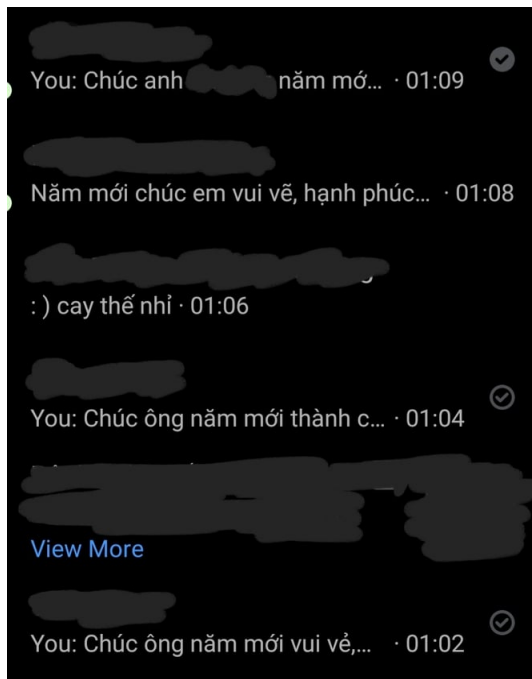
The government has limited the concentration of people, game stalls or Nguyen Hue flower streets are sparse compared to every year, so people are also afraid to go to public fireworks displays.



However, a special thing, also the most prominent feature of this year's New Year's Eve, the memories of the years 1995 come back. As you guessed it, people buy the fireworks themselves and use them for personal use !!!

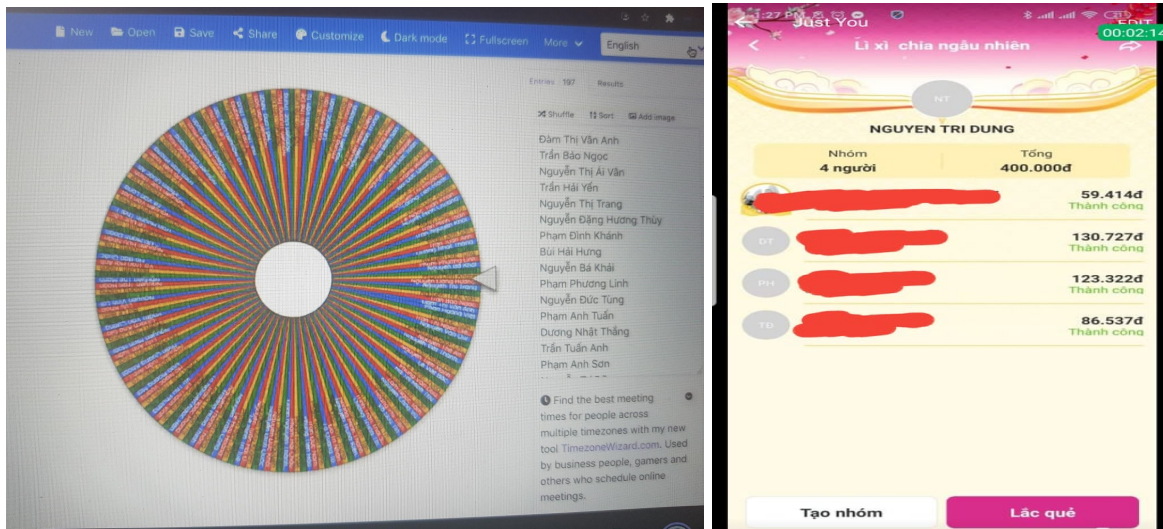


And what needs to be mentioned for the rest of our topic (Covid - Tet - The digital) is Technology. The outbreak of Covid's translation spurred the advent of online meetings, teaching, and communication platforms, and obviously, it changed during our Tet holidays.



You can see through the two pictures above, that is how our whole family welcomes New Year's Eve together, as well as send dear wishes, thanks to friends. When people are in need and limited, people can realize their feelings for each other, then cherish moments together.

And this is how my company and my leader give lucky money for each other



Back to the general/big picture, what has covid and technology changed in our lives

- Conflicts of religion, nation, and regime no longer exist when people join hands against the enemy of humanity
- The streets are less congested, the air is fresh again.
- People know how to live a healthy life, less gather and play, and protect their health.
- The scene of jostling and trampling is almost gone, people have more chances to reunite, and have time to care for each other.
- The way of living and working develops a new step when applying technology, we can work from home, learn from home ... However, there are also many limitations like in this video:

<https://theindependent.sg/nus-professor-lectures-for-2-hours-before-realising-he-was-on-mute>

What can you do to make lives better?

For me, from the perspective of a technologist, we first need to get acquainted with and disseminate technologies by improving user experiments, considering technology as something that will accompany us in the future, however, must guarantee traditional values.