

The categories shown on the printed receipt, such as “Genetic Potential” and “Compliance Level,” were deliberately formulated to evoke emotional responses while remaining open to interpretation. Their ambiguous nature reflects how data-driven systems often frame subjective judgments as objective measurements. By making this logic visible, the project encourages viewers to question the authority we assign to systems of measurement and to consider whether a meaningful life can ever be reduced to scores, predictions, and performance indicators.

References

Halberstam, J. (2011). The Queer Art of Failure. Duke University Press.

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URISCAN™

Turning Data into Better Decisions

English	-Brochure
Français	-Brochure
Deutsch	-Broschüre
Nederlands	-Brochure
Español	-Folleto
Italiano	-Opuscolo
Português	-Brochura
Svenska	-Broschyr
Dansk	-Brochure
Norsk	-Brosjyre

Group 1
Doortje den Hartigh, Puck Verbeek, Filine
Baronin von Behr and Annemein van den Heuvel

DEVICE DESCRIPTION

URISCAN is a home-use health care product designed to turn biological data into meaningful insights about your lifestyle. By analysing naturally occurring biomarkers in urine, URISCAN provides a personalized report on your physical well-being, lifestyle, and future performance.

Based on these measurements, URISCAN translates biological information into easy-to-understand performance metrics.

What Does URISCAN Measure?

- Hydration levels
- Glucose levels
- Protein levels
- Ketones
- pH balance
- Vitamin status indicators
- Stress-related hormonal metabolites
- Medication traces
- Nutritional patterns

Contraindications

None known

Indications for use

URISCAN is intended for urological use only

Adverse reactions

None known

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CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

URISCAN is a speculative design project that critically examines how technologies translate personal and biological life into data in an effort to make the world fully readable, controllable, and optimizable. By converting intimate bodily information into scores, predictions, and assessments, URISCAN demonstrates that measurement systems do not merely describe reality but actively construct a single, authoritative version of it.

By pushing the logic of datafication to an extreme, the project critically reflects on normative definitions of success. It situates itself in relation to Jack Halberstam's concept of "low theory" (2011), which critiques how institutions privilege knowledge that is measurable, ordered, and controllable while marginalizing other ways of knowing. URISCAN imagines a future in which even the body becomes a site of constant measurement and classification.

The design also responds to Halberstam's (2011) call to "resist mastery" (p. 11). Rather than accepting systems that claim objective authority, he encourages a critique of dominant definitions of success and knowledge. URISCAN intentionally performs the opposite operation. It presents itself as a technology that promises complete self-knowledge and self-improvement, assuming that every aspect of life can be measured, interpreted, and optimized. The device's assessment criteria are deliberately focused not on health, but on success.

Within this logic, success becomes something that can always be achieved through correct self-optimization, while failure is reframed as a personal shortcoming. Through this exaggeration, the project reveals the absurdity of reducing complex human experiences to qualitative indicators.

Finally, the project relates to Halberstam's broader interest in alternative ways of knowing and being. Throughout *The Queer Art of Failure*, failure is presented not simply as a negative outcome, but as an opportunity to challenge dominant systems and imagine alternatives. Halberstam (2011) describes failure as a means of exploring "alternative ways of knowing and being" and learning how to "fail better" (p. 24). URISCAN visualizes the opposite world: a society in which every action, bodily process, and personal characteristic is transformed into data and evaluated against standards of success.

Design Decisions

The visual appearance and user experience were developed to support the speculative narrative. URISCAN is intentionally designed to be easy to use while also feeling futuristic, resembling a consumer device that could realistically exist in an everyday bathroom in the future. The technology was designed to behave like a commercial product, making interactions feel familiar and believable. By presenting itself as a household product, the project encourages users to imagine how this technology becomes part of their daily lives. The scientific aesthetic, including the use of metal, glass, and plexiglass, remains consistent with previous iterations developed throughout the course, creating a coherent design language across the project.