The Cold War

In the Cold War it was relatively easy to
say that this fighter jet is a weapon
and that that phone is a tool.
But when we install the ability to sense,
digitize, connect, process, learn, share
and act into more and more things
— from your GPS-enabled phone to your
car to your toaster to your favorite app —
they all become dual use, either weapons or
tools depending on who controls the software
running them and who owns the data
that they spin off.

Today, it's just a few lines of code
that separate autonomous cars
from autonomous weapons.

Thomas Friedman, New York Times, Apr. 14, 2023