
Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [ViolentOrgy](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 22:06:30 GMT

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London, England -- By the middle of the 21st century it will be possible to download your brain to a supercomputer, according to a leading thinker on the future.

Ian Pearson, head of British Telecom's futurology unit, told the UK's Observer newspaper that the rapid advances in computing power would make cyber-immortality a reality within 50 years.

Pearson said the launch last week of Sony's PlayStation 3, a machine 35 times more powerful than the model it replaced, was a sign of things to come.

"The new PlayStation is one percent as powerful as the human brain," Pearson told the Observer. "It is into supercomputer status compared to 10 years ago. PlayStation 5 will probably be as powerful as the human brain."

Pearson said that brain-downloading technology would initially be the preserve of the rich, but would become more available over subsequent decades.

"If you're rich enough then by 2050 it's feasible. If you're poor you'll probably have to wait until 2075 or 2080 when it's routine," he said.

"We are very serious about it. That's how fast this technology is moving: 45 years is a hell of a long time in IT."

Pearson also predicted that it would be possible to build a fully conscious computer with superhuman levels of intelligence as early as 2020.

IBM's BlueGene computer can already perform 70.72 trillion calculations a second and Pearson said the next computing goal was to replicate consciousness.

"We're already looking at how you might structure a computer that could become conscious. Consciousness is just another sense, effectively, and that's what we're trying to design in computer."

Pearson said that computer consciousness would make feasible a whole new sphere of emotional machines, such as airplanes that are afraid of crashing.

By 2020 Pearson also predicted the creation of a "virtual world" of immersive computer-generated environments in which we will spend increasing amounts of time, socializing and doing business.

He said: "When technology gives you a life-size 3D image and the links to your nervous system allow you to shake hands, it's like being in the other person's office. It's impossible to believe that won't be the normal way of communicating."

But Pearson admitted that the consequences of advancing technologies needed to be considered carefully.

"You need a complete global debate," he said. "Whether we should be building machines as smart as people is a really big one."

<http://edition.cnn.com/2005/TECH/05/23/brain.download/>

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Dave Anderson](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 22:16:08 GMT
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I like your sig.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Majin Vegeta](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 22:32:50 GMT
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w00t! i'm saving up for that!
Would not mind having my mind downloaded into some robotic body

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Deactivated](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 22:41:04 GMT
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Microsoft Brain 1.5 has performed an illegal operation and will be shut down.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [GetSm0keD](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 23:23:10 GMT
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im gonna own all you guys when i find you in the matrix lol

< The One

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [cmatt42](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 23:37:56 GMT
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Pfft. Good luck to them. :rolleyes:

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [SickOptometrist](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 23:41:42 GMT
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I need a brain upload...

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Oblivion165](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 23:46:12 GMT
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We will be living on the moon by the mid 1980's

Flying cars by 2015

..and on and on.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [YSLMuffins](#) on Mon, 23 May 2005 23:57:58 GMT
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Why doesn't anyone ever listen to those doomsday movies about sentient robots? IE, The Matrix or Terminator? :-\

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [hunteroo2](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 00:43:59 GMT
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cough i, robot*cough*

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [gufu](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 01:04:19 GMT
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CABAL will come in 2050 or so? C&C finaly goes live! Beware of tiberium!

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [sniper12345](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 07:13:07 GMT
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I think it's some pretty wild speculation. He's even speaking of his opinions as fact at a few points. The PS3 being 1% as powerful as the human brain? How powerful is the human brain then?

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [DaveGMM](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 09:06:31 GMT
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More powerful than that IBM Supercomputer quoted.

Way more powerful.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [sniper12345](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 09:53:25 GMT
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even thought you are right, Dave, what I really meant was, it's not a easy thing to put a figure to the power of the human brain, therefore I think it's ridiculous of him to say that the PS3 is 1% of the human brain.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [WinterFresh](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 13:10:18 GMT
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Lol this article is funny. I can tell you right now that this won't happen in 50 years. Although PCs have exponentially increased in power, a wall has been hit with PCs and they will not increase in performance as fast as they used to do for a while.

Yes dual cores are coming out and so on, but the price to performance ratio still doesn't justify it yet. As for downloading your mind into a computer, it would be hard to download tissue into a computer. You can't take an image of a brain, you can't "read" it and upload it. It's extremely absurd.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 13:19:35 GMT
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WinterFreshAs for downloading your mind into a computer, it would be hard to download tissue into a computer. You can't take an image of a brain, you can't "read" it and upload it. It's extremely absurd. Theoretically, you don't need to. You only need to know the synaptic nodes' connections to each other, and the current values that they hold. You could then create a brain "emulator" and proceed where your brain left off. The precision required for such (both in space and in time, since your brain is ever-changing) would be damn-near impossible, though... at least, in any time soon.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [WinterFresh](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 14:09:21 GMT

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Lol, the brain is a little more complex than that. People have done experiemnts to find out how the brain holds information. But even now they still can't figure out how the brain couples together information exactly. Let alone read it.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [bisen11](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 14:17:09 GMT
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Downloading your brain wouldn't even be you anyways. It would just be a copy. It's not like you would feel like you were in the computer or anything. What will they have next, Robotic clones?

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [warranto](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 15:39:27 GMT
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Oblivion165We will be living on the moon by the mid 1980's

Flying cars by 2015

..and on and on.

Heh, and flying cars already exist (well, "sky cars")

<http://www.moller.com/skycar/>

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Dave Mason](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 15:42:43 GMT
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deadfivel like your sig.

GDIDF!

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Hydra](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 15:52:18 GMT
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Don't count on this happening any time soon.

For humans to be able to copy the brain, wouldn't we have to fully understand it, first? And how can a brain fully understand the complexity of another brain when the two are as complex as each other, or in some cases one more complex than the other?

We don't know nor probably ever will no jack about the brain; it's simply too complex for our own brains to comprehend.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [WinterFresh](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 17:58:06 GMT
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warrantoOblivion165We will be living on the moon by the mid 1980's

Flying cars by 2015

..and on and on.

Heh, and flying cars already exist (well, "sky cars")

<http://www.moller.com/skycar/>

They have existed for a long time. The military experimented with flying cars back in the 50s and 60s but you still don't see them in commercial production or out on the street do you?

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [warranto](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 19:47:10 GMT
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look at the link, that one is close to production (albit, it won't be used fully as there is no real regulation system for personal aircraft like that)

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [WinterFresh](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 19:52:20 GMT
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Dude I've seen this car on TV or a earlier model about 4 years ago. They're not going to be coming out any time soon commercially because you simply cannot operate them for a long time or operate them effectively.

It takes a lot of skill to fly one of those things and a lot of fuel.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [warranto](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 20:10:36 GMT

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Quote:4.1. When will M400 be available?

Limited numbers are expected to be available within the next three years. These will be used for marketing demonstrators, special sales, and military applications. A FAA certified model is more than four years away.

I'd say a range of 750 miles with a max speed of 350 mph at 20 miles per gallon fuel consumption (automotive gas) is pretty decent.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [tooncy](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 21:22:10 GMT

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Its scary, really. I don't want to live in a world where computers become consious, and people upload their brains to computers.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [ViolentOrgy](#) on Tue, 24 May 2005 21:45:37 GMT

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Indeed. Just think about it. Its not like you can upload your soul.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 00:43:28 GMT

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Heh, the era of Robocop.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 01:43:56 GMT

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tooncy don't want to live in a world where computers become consiousIt's a common fear among most people. I do not fear conciousness. If the computer truly becomes concious, then it should grow like a human (even if in its own, computer, way). Otherwise, you end up with the same likes of a child having godlike powers: fear the tantrums.

Remember: conciousness isn't intelligence. Intelligence cannot be learned or programmed without dire consequences. It can only be learned.

If the computer learns and grows, it should then also have an attachment to those whom have

helped it, and with that attachment, value and possibly share the opinions and values of those whom it values.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [flyingfox](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 01:58:44 GMT
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Kanezor

If the computer learns and grows, it should then also have an attachment to those whom have helped it, and with that attachment, value and possibly share the opinions and values of those whom it values.

Lol! What the fuck are you smoking dude? Cause I want some o' that shit.

[/img]

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 02:00:35 GMT
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I'm serious. You obviously disagree with my opinion. Would you care to elaborate on your disagreement?

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [flyingfox](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 02:16:20 GMT
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a computer can only take in data, in the sense that you "upload" your brain. all it can do is work with your data. now you're saying, if you can upload a brain you can upload the brain's functions. I highly doubt this, as brains are of such a matter that there's no way of a computer being able to inherit these functions. now I can imagine a computer being able to read brain patterns and hold that data in memory, use that data to decide what action to carry out. Even then it would be a form of AI. I do not imagine a computer ever being able to gain a proper "personality" from a brain, or do anything even close to "respecting a person's opinions". that's just insane, dude.

similarly, if a computer were able to use a brain in such a complex way, then we are all essentially acting on a form of AI, since our AI can be used by a computer to do everything we are able to do. No way. a computer cannot start taking in data and respecting peoples' beliefs.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'
Posted by [Hydra](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 04:04:34 GMT
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warrantoHeh, and flying cars already exist (well, "sky cars")

<http://www.moller.com/skycar/>

That website hardly looks legit to me. That's nothing but an attempt to scam you out of \$10,000; you didn't make a deposit, did you, Warranto?

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [warranto](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 05:34:29 GMT

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err.. \$10,000? I must have missed that, but it's very much legit. I saw it a few days ago being featured on the discovery channel in a show about future technologies.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 18:45:22 GMT

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flyingfoxa computer can only take in data, in the sense that you "upload" your brain. all it can do is work with your data. now you're saying, if you can upload a brain you can upload the brain's functions. I highly doubt this, as brains are of such a matter that there's no way of a computer being able to inherit these functions. now I can imagine a computer being able to read brain patterns and hold that data in memory, use that data to decide what action to carry out. Even then it would be a form of AI. I do not imagine a computer ever being able to gain a proper "personality" from a brain, or do anything even close to "respecting a person's opinions". that's just insane, dude. While you do have a good point, I do believe it to be flawed. Our minds are governed by the laws of physics, as are any machine we create. While our minds may currently operate faster and on a higher level of intricacy than any machine counterpart of current or near future times, is it not possible to create an item of interest that can emulate that, even if it causes the functions to run slower?

How do you know that an A.I. would not do anything even close to respecting a person's opinions? It's not insane.

flyingfoxsimilarly, if a computer were able to use a brain in such a complex way, then we are all essentially acting on a form of AI, since our AI can be used by a computer to do everything we are able to do. No way. a computer cannot start taking in data and respecting peoples' beliefs. Who's to say that we are not acting on a form of AI? It seems to me like your mind is closed to the idea. Sure, it's scary. I'll agree there; it's really scary. The idea of something we creating being able to not only live, but live at a level even halfway close to ours... if not at or higher. However, I'm very confident that it's possible. Maybe not downloading our brains. Maybe not in the near future. But it's certainly a possibility, in my opinion.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [Mindtzar](#) on Wed, 25 May 2005 19:38:40 GMT

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DJMdeadfivel like your sig.

GDIDF!

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [Jzinsky](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 00:20:03 GMT

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I remember hearing about the new computer technology being organic based. Not heard anything else about it for 10 years.

Also yes we should heed the warnings. This is beginning to sound like the matrix. First of all if there is no physical contact in society (such as suggested in the article) then how will reproduction occur? How does physical care for people occur, if everyone's in a virtual world?

Furthermore, I can figure that by this time such a computer could also be self-powered, thus creating a cyborg of sorts. What are they going to do, shoot you? Take you to prison? You're practically invincible

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 01:19:29 GMT

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JzinskyAlso yes we should heed the warnings. This is beginning to sound like the matrix. First of all if there is no physical contact in society (such as suggested in the article) then how will reproduction occur? How does physical care for people occur, if everyone's in a virtual world?

Furthermore, I can figure that by this time such a computer could also be self-powered, thus creating a cyborg of sorts. What are they going to do, shoot you? Take you to prison? You're practically invincibleYes, heed the warnings.

Who said there would be no physical contact in society? I was under the impression that the virtual world would be there for a business platform, and after you're finished, you'd come to the real world. Realistically, if people start to become engrossed within the virtual world, that's when we'll need to take a step back and think about what we're getting ourselves into. But really, just like Morpheus said in the Matrix (paraphrasing): "What is 'real'? How can you define real? If real is what you can see, smell, taste, and touch, then it is simply electronic signals interpreted by your brain."

Such a computer wouldn't necessarily need to be self-powered, but it would definitely need some sort of emergency power in the event of a brownout or short power outage. Yes, you are creating

a cyborg, even if of sorts. A sledgehammer would work well, unless you've been dumb enough to give it automated defences... in which case, you've got bigger problems to think about.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [flyingfox](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 01:44:02 GMT

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Quote:Our minds are governed by the laws of physics, as are any machine we create. While our minds may currently operate faster and on a higher level of intricacy than any machine counterpart of current or near future times . . .

then maybe you are correct in that it is possible but such a thing would still only be a set of instructions, albeit a really sophisticated set, but you will never escape that. Although everything is governed by the laws of physics, computers work very differently to brains. I don't think many people know exactly how a computer works, but its logic is, if you go down to the furthest step available in any algorithm, nothing but binary code. A brain on the other hand isn't dealt with in data, or code, it's an organic lifeform. Your body sends it signals when you want to do something, like move your arm or walk.

On the AI side of things, I've saw a movies that've juggled between this theory of making computers that could act as humans. Have you ever seen the movie I, robot (last year) or an earlier one starring robbin williams? The robbin williams one tried to argue that, while the character robbin williams played (a robot) was a machine, he developed feelings and emotions from his current set of code and became the next best thing to a human. 'I, robot' theoried making robots that perform certain tasks, and also tried to say that these robots could become independant from what they were supposed to do. It said in one part of it that in every computer system there existed little segments of code that juggled between doing what the code said, or saying no and doing as desired. I think to get anywhere close to finding out if that's true, you'd have to speak to some of the people that originally created the big computer systems that could only perform much simpler tasks. [these small systems we use now are inherited from the older, large ones. Just look at mobile phones as another example of technology starting out big, bulky and old-tech, but getting smaller and more advanced in what they can do]. One thing we DO know about all of this is that the technology we've got today was possible, even from the earliest days of man. we just had to develop and make it happen.

Subject: Brain downloads 'possible by 2050'

Posted by [Kanezor](#) on Thu, 26 May 2005 15:18:40 GMT

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flyingfoxHave you ever seen the movie I, robot (last year) or an earlier one starring robbin williams? The robbin williams one tried to argue that, while the character robbin williams played (a robot) was a machine, he developed feelings and emotions from his current set of code and became the next best thing to a human. 'I, robot' theoried making robots that perform certain tasks, and also tried to say that these robots could become independant from what they were supposed to do. It said in one part of it that in every computer system there existed little segments

of code that juggled between doing what the code said, or saying no and doing as desired. I think to get anywhere close to finding out if that's true, you'd have to speak to some of the people that originally created the big computer systems that could only perform much simpler tasks. [these small systems we use now are inherited from the older, large ones. Just look at mobile phones as another example of technology starting out big, bulky and old-tech, but getting smaller and more advanced in what they can do]. One thing we DO know about all of this is that the technology we've got today was possible, even from the earliest days of man. we just had to develop and make it happen. I, Robot and Bicentennial Man were awesome movies, in my opinion. They both bring up valid points if we were to ever create A.I., or something even close to it (which is, in Bicentennial Man, a machine growing beyond its original programming, and in I, Robot, a machine that thinks of something within its original programming that was unexpected to its designers). While I highly doubt that it's possible for a computer to grow beyond its programming unless it's specifically been designed to do so (eg, self-modifying code), I must admit that it's both a good idea and a bad idea. But then, without a machine that is able to grow, it's never going to truly be an intelligence, is it?

And yes, I agree, just like I've been saying through most of my posts here in this thread: it's possible, even if not here or in the near future. What's even more scary is that the building blocks for such an event are being set, so it's very likely, in my opinion, that it will happen, though probably not in the timetable that most people are theorizing. I'd say a true A.I. that is capable of thinking, growing, and possibly the most important, replication, could be created in 200 or 300 years. Half that once we discover how to use biomechanical processes. Why so long off? Well let's face it: not everybody has the software developer's experience necessary to write the involved code. Whether it's a master's degree in artificial intelligence or a computer hacker with twenty years of experience yet not a single year in high school (and really, those ones are your best ones)... let alone is willing and able to help make such an endeavor come true.
