



Cyborgs and Cybernetics

Cyborgs have feelings

Narrator

Some scientists argue that 21st century cyborg technology is essentially about the way we interact with computers.

At the University of Reading, Prof. **Kevin Warwick** uses cybernetics to create interfaces between computers and the human world. In an attempt to enhance human communication abilities.

His latest experiment involves using the internet to communicate with his wife Irena. Using signals generated directly by their nervous systems.

Kevin Warwick

I'll be receiving an implant in my left arm, connected onto my nervous system. We're sending signals by radio from my nervous system to the computer and then back again from the computer to my nervous system. And as long as everything goes okay, then..

Irena Warwick

I will have my implant as well.

Kevin Warwick

Exactly the same. And what we're looking to do is to send signals from my nervous system potentially across the internet down onto Irena's nervous system.

Irena Warwick

And back again.

Kevin Warwick

Yes. From Irena to me. So we're looking at things like movement. If I move my finger, signal across to Irena's nervous system.

Irena Warwick

I will move my finger.

Kevin Warwick

And?

Irena Warwick

And if I feel pain.

Kevin Warwick

Then the signal will go from Irena's arm onto my nervous system. It will be interesting. Will I feel pain the same way or not?

Irena Warwick

Maybe not.

Kevin Warwick

Maybe not. And what about excitement?

Irena Warwick

That will be interesting. What we feel about each other.

Kevin Warwick

Each other. Yes. Or?

Irena Warwick

If I feel.. If I'm excited by somebody else, you will..

Kevin Warwick

Surely not. And some of those signals would appear on my nervous system.

Irena Warwick

My feeling is that nothing change. That I will be still a human being, with my human feelings. Not Kevin feel that something will change and that we will be the cyborgs. I want to stay human.

Kevin Warwick

I know.