



Cyborgs and Cybernetics

Downloading your soul

Ian Pearson, BT exact Technologies

In the early 1990's we realised that computers would get incredibly clever. And this would be a big threat unless we could actually figure out some way of keeping up with the machines. And the obvious way of keeping up with the machines is to be able to make a direct connection between our brains and the machine world. So we thought well how can you do that? You can't stick a din socket into the back of your head. That isn't going to work very well. But then lots of people started talking about nano technology and self-replicating devices. And we thought well, at some point in the distant future, say 2030, 2040 who knows, you should be able to get an injection into your arm with a few nano technology devices which would wander up to your brain and start connecting to every single neuron. And there's enough address space even in IP version 6, the internet addressing system, you can address signals to every single neuron individually in your brain. In fact every neuron in the entire planet, everybody's brain, you can send signals to. So we've got the means in principle of connecting electronic devices to every brain cell in your head. Therefore you can take an exact replica of your brain. So I can have Ian Pearson Mark2 living inside my PC in 2030. And I could have all of my thoughts backed up on there. All of my memory is backed up. And if I get run down by a bus it doesn't matter. It's not a career problem, because I've got a back up on the network. So this is a wonderful concept for the future. We call it soul catching. It's effectively capturing my entire mind and dumping it on a chip, or notionally a chip and I would have another existence in cyberspace. Unfortunately a lot of the media have misunderstood. They thought they were doing this next year. But it's actually sort of 25/30 years away. Unless we get some very big breakthroughs in technology between now and then.