



Cyborgs and Cybernetics

Intelligent robots

Kevin Warwick

These are autonomous robots. Each one of them's got their own intelligence. And what we've got them doing here is learning firstly how to move around. But also how to flock together a bit like sheep. So they're learning that it's a good thing if they group together. We are actually using ultrasonic senses. Like a bat senses the world. And infrared to communicate with each other. To tell each other where they are. These robots have the intelligence of perhaps a snail. The best robots in the world at the present time are about the level of a cat's intelligence, or a dog. In ten years time we're going to have robots with perhaps the intelligence of humans. We're looking within the next year or so to take information from ultrasonic infrared sensors and feed it directly down onto the human nervous system. It will probably be another five, six, maybe ten years before we can start taking the intelligence of these robots and maybe the sensing capabilities, and feed it directly into the human brain.

Kevin Warwick

Well I think we look fifty years out, we're going to have machines that are far more intelligent than we are as humans. So I don't know that I particularly like that scenario. Machines making all the decisions for me. If we look to cyborgs, which is all about enhancing humans to create super human beings, then that gives us the possibility of taking some of that machine intelligence and linking it with our own. Giving humans cyborg capabilities. That I think is a possibility that we're going to see either intelligent machines or cyborgs actually running things on earth. Humans will be something like a sub-species. A bit like chimpanzee's are at the moment. So, if you're a human and think 'well I don't want to be upgraded'. That's your choice. But you're going to be a chimpanzee in the future.