

We are all Cyborgs

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Overview

- Ted Talk
- How humans are cyborgs
- Technical Cyborgs
- Metamorphic Cyborgs
- Ontological Cyborgs
- What it all means

TED TALK - Amber Case

- “We are all cyborgs every time we use a computer or mobile device.”
 - -Amber Case

- Do you agree/disagree?

Cyborg Anthropology

- Cyborg: An organism to which xogenous components have been added for the purpose of adapting to new environments.
- We are a new form of homospanien
 - Technology has changed us
- Mobile devices have extended the mental self
 - “Mary Poppins” technology
 - If we lose information from a device we feel lost
- Second-self and presenting yourself digitally
 - Online - people can interact with you when you’re not there

Ambient Intimacy

- At any time we can have access to anyone
 - We no longer take time for mental reflection
 - No slowing down
 - No external input to figure out who you are so you can present your second self in a legitimate way
- Kids today will have no down time

- Machines are not taking over they are helping us
- “This is still human connection it’s just done in a different way. We are increasing our humanness, and our ability to connect with each other regardless of our geography.”
 - -Amber Case

Agree/Disagree

- Are our mobile devices and machines helping us become more human?
- Do you agree with not having any down time?

“Resistance is Futile: Cyborgs, Humanism and the Borg” -David Gunkel

- What is “the Borg?”

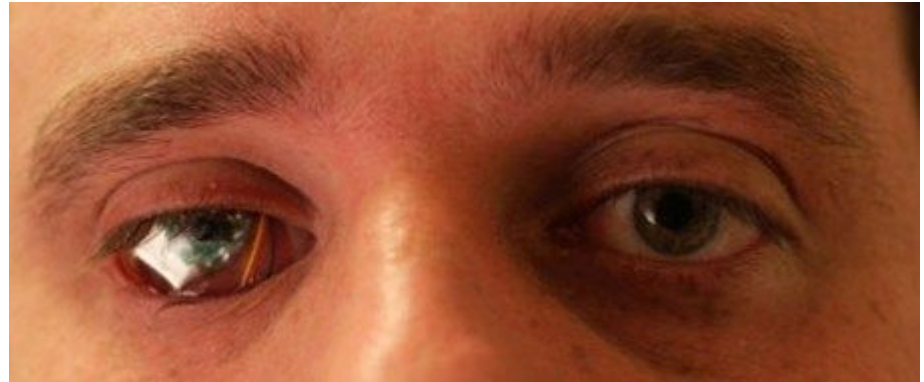
- Are we borgs?

Borg

- A cyborg or cybernetic organism
 - Cyborg definition has evolved as a result of technology
- Cyborg - any form of integrated synthesis of organism and technology into a hybrid.
 - Three types of people are cyborgs under this new definition
 - Technical Cyborgs
 - Metamorphic Cyborgs
 - Ontological Cyborgs

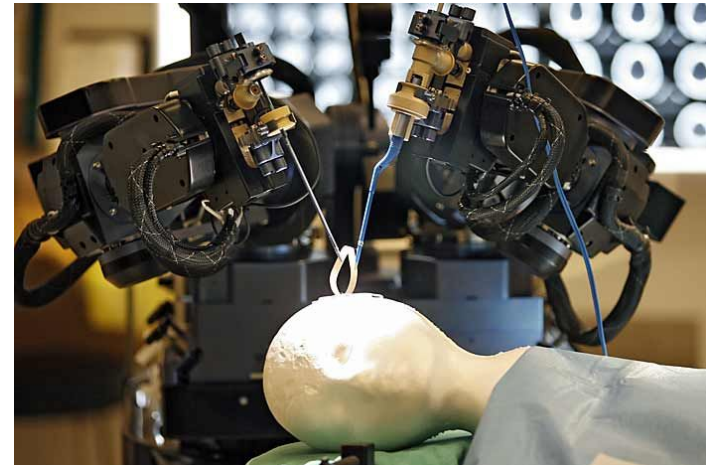
Technical Cyborgs

- Five living
 - Jesse Sullivan-robotic arms
 - Kevin Warwick-implanted RFID chip under the skin of his forearm
 - Rob Spence-Replaced missing eye with camera
- Not just prosthetics but people with pacemakers as well as those who get vaccinations



Metamorphic Cyborgs

- Occupations make us Metamorphic
 - “ Computer keyboarder joined in a cybernetic circuit to the screen”
 - “Neurosurgeon guided by fiber optic microscopy”
 - “Adolescent game player at the local arcade”
- Kevin Warwick
 - The Borg invasion is here

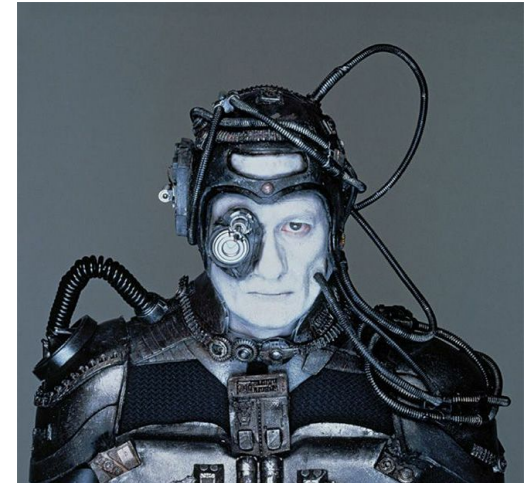


Ontological Cyborg

- Cyborgs exist when two kinds of boundaries exist together and are problematic
 - Between animals, other organisms, and humans
 - Self-controlled, self-governing machines, and organisms, especially humans
- Nothing convincingly separates humans and animals
- Our machines are lively and self-developing
- Argues that we have always been Borg

What it all means

- Dehumanization - Any kind of cyborg poses a threat
 - Robocop, Terminator, the Borg, Frankenstein
 - Catastrophic counter force to human dignity and survival
 - According to Star Trek it's threatening because it challenges the concept of humanism
- Transhumanism - Does not threaten humanity
 - Amber Case
 - Helps us be more human - "Humanity 2.0" "Humanity+"
 - Push the boundaries of humanness
- Posthumanism - Cyborg compromises
 - Signals an end of humans as a concept



Questions

- Are cyborgs really a threat?
 - Help or hurt us?
- Do you agree with Amber Case?