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**ALIEN LIFE:  
TRANSITION TO  
SILICON LIFE –  
“HEY, WHY NOT? WHAT  
COULD POSSIBLY GO  
WRONG?!”**

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# CARBON-BASED LIFE HAS LIMITATIONS...

- It dies
- It's subject to colonization by parasites
- Radiation, DNA damage possible, and likely

But there's a much more serious one...

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# IT EVOLVES SLOWLY... VERY SLOWLY

- Over multi-generational time scales. For humans, that's thousands of years. Or more. What if the conditions in which it must survive and confront, change radically and quickly?
  - Example: Climate change is happening due to us, on a time scale of just 2 or 3 generations – much too fast for genetic Natural Selection to evolve a better *Homo Sapiens*
  - Silicon life, programmed properly (yeah... ) could perhaps evolve its firmware much more rapidly and deal successfully
  - **But.....**
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# THE HUGE QUESTION: WHAT IS “SUCCESSFULLY”??

- Successfully... for whom? **For What?**
- Human civilization has evolved a very efficient form of “value” creation and associated motivations: Capitalism.
- But what is its GOAL??
- (let’s let that be open to conversation here!)

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# MY ANSWER, AND MY READ OF HISTORY SAYS...

- Those who get to answer “what for?” are those with the most POWER
  - The **Maximum Power Principle (MPP)** *e.g.* [deLong \(2008\)](#) in action
  - The MPP applies not to individuals, nor in its newer forms, to groups, but rather to ecosystems – such that “losers” in the power grab are more than offset by the greater gains of the winners in the final system. This is precisely the danger, when it comes to thinking of the sustainability of an entire planetary civilization. [Cai et al. 2006](#) test the ecosystems hypothesis in one context and find it succeeds in its predictions.
  - Economic Power rules the transfer of “value”, and political power rules the making of brute enforced laws, in any civilization,
  - Very likely for Alien Inhabited Planets as well.
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GOOD – FOR WHOM,  
AND FOR HOW LONG?

TIME SCALES MATTER.

IF YOUR VIEW OF THE  
FUTURE IS GRIM, YOU  
MAY APPLY A STEEP  
DISCOUNT RATE TO  
FUTURE UTILITY; *“GET  
WHILE THE GETTIN’S  
STILL GOOD”*



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# THAT INCLUDES, THE TRANSITION TO SILICON BASED DECISION-MAKING

- Experts say we're getting much closer, much faster, to "Artificial General Intelligence" AGI than had been thought even a couple of years ago.
- What will be the **purpose** expressed in the design of AI in the form of AGI?
- For humans, and perhaps for other Aliens who get to this stage as well, it is, I observe....

• **Maximizing Short Term Profits**

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# IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE, TO INSURE A LONG TERM BENEVOLENT FUTURE FOR ALL LIFE ON THE PLANET

- It appears to be - to maximize a narrowly defined financially profitable and hence high-influence / high power “Return on Investment” to the inventors and programmers of this new AGI.
- A voting majority, especially within Capitalism’s units – Corporations - do not sufficiently care about life in the more distant future, even if actions today doom life-suitability for eons into the future.
- In one sense, this is understandable. It’s extremely costly and needs intense \$investment to get to this point. They need to pay off the investment in a reasonably short time in order to justify the “in-the-now” expense.
- But it sets up a fatal Faustian Bargain.
- Profits = Energy Consumption + Materials Consumption
- ~~On a finite planet with limited materials and limited energy access rates, this can be ultimately fatal.~~

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# IS THE CHOSEN STRATEGY TO GO AHEAD AND MAKE THAT FAUSTIAN BARGAIN, BUT YET STILL TRY TO...

- ...Program your AI to make the best decisions for a more morally justifiable future?
  - What if we had AGI perfected today, and had become complacent enough in its power to solve problems of a more limited nature, that we simply turned over the energy systems, the defense armories, computer systems, and the rest of our complexities; and gave it the command...
  - *“ Attention AGI: Your new problem to solve: Make a world with a long term future, for on the order a hundred million years, in which maximum life can flourish and have a stable environment”*
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- What would be its solution?



**TERMINATOR**

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# ACTUALLY.... PROBABLY NOT

- **Individual “Terminators” would require far too much raw watts of energy power.**
  - **Human brains run on only 20 watts (!)**
  - **Boston Dynamics’ killer robots run on 100 – 1000x more power. And to run a brain like those that do AI, takes more still, and also tremendous energy for cooling systems.**
  - **No, it would happen a little less anthropomorphically...**
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- **SkyNet! Perhaps. Is it already arriving....?**

# ...SKYNET... TODAY

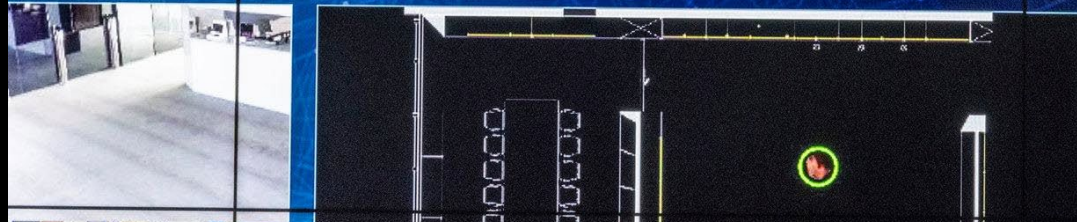
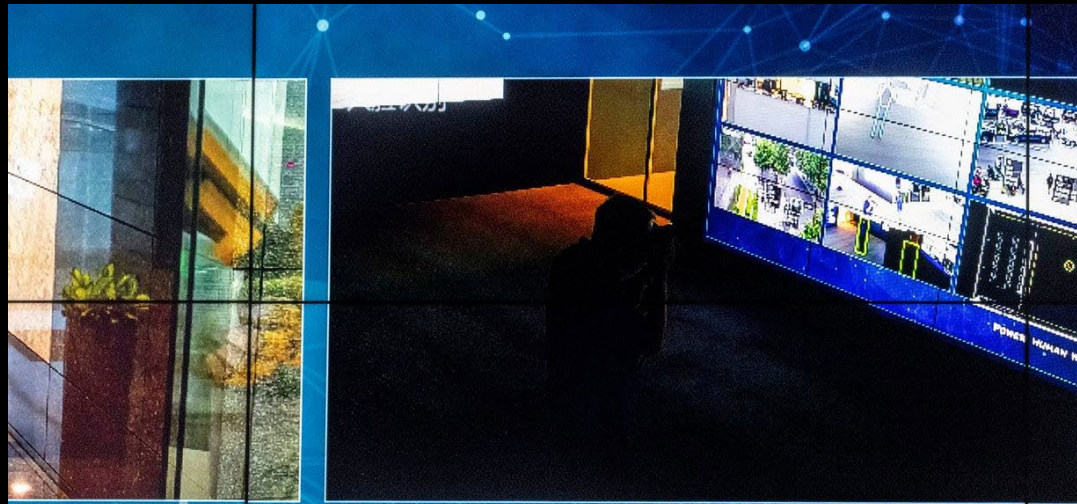
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- China, rapidly rising with aspirations to be the most dominant country on Earth, already has deployed “Skynet” (yes, that’s what the Chinese call it),
  - “Hooked into everything” including 20 million spy cameras
  - However their air pollution is so bad **Skynet** is having a hard time seeing through it.
  - Their solution? Alter Skynet’s wavelength sensitivities. This will allow it to still search out and efficiently identify “dissidents” ...
  - ...”targeted for termination” in the “Black Jails”?
  - The Chinese have worked hard to incorporate facial recognition software into Skynet.
  - **It’s not just China. There are now estimated to be 250 million spy cameras worldwide, and more powerful facial recognition software is here, in the U.S. Your privacy is gone. But at least we can be entertained on Twitter and China-created “Tick-Tock” while we await the future.**
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# SKYNET – HOOKED INTO 20 MILLION SPY CAMERAS, AND CONNECTED TO FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE



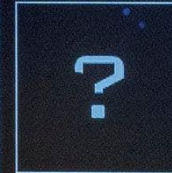
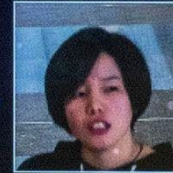
# SKYNET... HAS YOU



**SKYNET**



LOCATION: 02  
TIME:  
2018-05-10  
16:12:01



LOCATION: 02  
TIME:  
2018-05-10  
16:12:15



LOCATION: 01  
TIME:  
2018-05-10  
16:12:20



LOCATION: 01  
TIME:  
2018-05-10  
16:12:46



LOCATION: 01  
TIME:  
2018-05-10  
16:13:05

# AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE WORRYING...

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- This article describes how A.I. is designed to think like a corporation...

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## IN '23, AI IS NOW BEING GIVEN THE KEYS TO HUMANITY - LANGUAGE

- *“In 2022, over 700 top academics and researchers behind the leading artificial intelligence companies were asked in a survey about future A.I. risk.*
- *Half of those surveyed stated that there was a 10 percent or greater chance of human extinction (or similarly “permanent and severe disempowerment”) from future A.I. systems.” ([source](#))*

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- *“In the beginning was the word. Language is the operating system of human culture. From language emerges myth and law, gods and money, art and science, friendships and nations and computer code. A.I.’s new mastery of language means it can now hack and manipulate the operating system of civilization. By gaining mastery of language, A.I. is seizing the master key to civilization, from bank vaults to holy sepulchers.”* ([Yuval et al. ‘23](#))
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# THE FOUNDER OF A.I. AND RECENT WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE HAS INSIGHTS TO SHARE, TODAY...

- Geoffrey Hinton, has a conversation on the Podcast **“Theories of Everything”** which is sobering...
- [Let's Watch and Listen...](#)