E.I.T. Links

From "SELF-SERVICE" to "ROOM SERVICE" :
How Emerging Information Technology is changing the way we live

"The Future is already here; It's just not evenly distributed." --Gibson

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Editor's Note:

Beginning soon, this newsletter will be available as a *podcast*. *Podcasts* allow you to download an audio version of the newsletter and play it any time on your iPod or other MP3 player. You will even be able to automatically be informed with a new *podcast* of the newsletter is available (aren't intelligent agents great!).

Remember, all links here can be found at www.steveknode.com/news_updates.htm

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Links for this Issue

Brain

- Predicting What you Will Think Next – As researchers gain more and more understanding of the brain, more interesting developments begin to emerge. This article shows how scientists can even start predicting what you will think of next.

Robots

- Robot Demonstrates Self-Awareness – We now have a robot that can recognize the difference between a mirror image of itself and another robot that looks exactly like it.

- Anty: It's OK to Shoot the Messenger – A new robotic toy, using vision, audio and touch, can interact with children in medical wards. The robot can provide information to the children, console them, and function as a caregiver, even expressing appropriate emotions.

- 50 Best Robots Ever – A compendium of the best robots ever built, this article will enlighten you about how far we have come in developing advanced robots.

- Robo-Patients Allow Medical Students to Practise Until Perfect – This life-like robotic patient allows medical students to receive the latest training without risking human patients. Coupled with the latest in simulation technology, the robo-patient environment is a significant step forward.

- IFOMIND: A Robot With the Power to Reason – IFOMIND is a robot which, when encountering new objects, uses its built-in inquisitiveness to determine how to interact with the object. Functioning like people do, IFOMIND decides how best to interact with the new object.

Pervasive Systems

- Dark Scenarios in Ambient Intelligence - The world of pervasive systems does have its downsides. Putting sensors into virtually everything means that "everything about everything" will be known. This report outlines some of the negative possibilities.

Machine Learning

- [Self-Taught: Software That Learns by Doing](#) – We now have software that can adapt by itself! As the complexity of software grows, it becomes more and more difficult to keep it functioning correctly. As the software that successfully drove a robot car across the desert recently showed, software that can automatically adapt is starting to emerge.

RFID Chips

- [US Group Implants Electronic Tags in Workers](#) – As I have been predicting, RFID chips are starting to show up in humans! At this Ohio company two workers (voluntarily) have had RFID chips implanted into their arms to provide unalterable security identification.

Manufacturing

- [The Machine That Can Copy Anything](#) - As we approach the era of the replicator, more progress like explained in this article will occur. Even now, the ability to replicate almost anything will dramatically change the way manufacturing is done, especially in the lesser developed countries.

Intelligent Agents

- [Create Your Own Customized Radio Station Music](#) – At this site you can create your own radio station, playing music of your choice. Intelligent agents seek information similar to the songs (or artist) you say you like, thereby creating a music station of your very own. Thousands of songs have been given a special rating on several factors which allows for matching to your desires.

Kurzweil

- [IT Will be Everything](#) - Yet another opportunity to hear from the person who has the best track record in predicting the future, Ray Kurzweil. He discusses his latest views on how we will soon merge our bodies with computers.

Information Overload

- [Privacy Invasion](#) – At this site you can listen to a demonstration, via a flash file, of just how invasive things might become. With the advent of chips in everything, it will soon be possible to do all of the things illustrated in this file.

Expert Systems

- [EULAlyzer](#) – An expert system that automatically analyzes license agreements and informs the user of any interesting items within the agreements.

Chatterbots

- [Virtual Robot Psychoanalyst](#) – Here is an online psychoanalyst similar to the Eliza of many years ago. Designed to interact with visitors, this avatar can provide advice.

Future

- [Ian Pearson Predicts](#) – One of the best futurists, Ian Pearson, gives his view of the future in this article. You will be amazed at his predictions. Remember, however, that he has a proven track record of accurate prognostications.

- [World Future Society Special Report](#) – This special report from the World Future Society outlines several trends that will have a dramatic impact on our society in the future.

Data Mining

- [Digging for Data That Can Change Our World](#) – Tracking and analyzing reams of data has become nearly impossible for humans. One automated approach, Data Mining, shows promise in being able to assist by automating the process. This article outlines some current state-of-the-art approaches which show promise.