Artificial Intelligence - Online Interview.

Name: Benjamin Humphreys

Relation to Robotics/Artificial Intelligence (optional): Tech and Artificial Intelligence Enthusiast.

How do you think the recent growth of technology has impacted the growth of AI technology in recent years?

The rate technology is growing seems to be the catalyst in a need for an application of AI in certain technologies. Artificial Intelligence seems to be the new technological craze, much like televisions and mobile phones once were. Tech giants like Google and Deepmind are having arms races of AI research and development. These companies are working tirelessly to make AI integrated into current technology a societal standard.

Are you more afraid or excited for the future of AI technology?

It’s almost impossible not to be both. The concept of computers and devices being able to think is completely astounding yet is covered in grey area. Robots are already evolving faster than humans, and it will always be in the back of my mind that this might not be such a good idea. But I also want to be able to talk to my coffee machine. Very much a double-edged sword.

With a lot of recent media focusing on the possibility of AI rising up and taking over, do you believe that there is any valid concern to this, or is it all just works of fiction? If so why do you believe so?

I think the concern DOES stem from themes in popular culture, but those ideas exist for a reason. Especially with the direction robotics seem to be heading in, scientists and engineers are pushing for robots that function like humans. As technology improves, so will these robots. Even the prototypes and basic designs that have been created are stronger and more robust than a human would be. It isn’t a surprise that people would be afraid of that. The thought of a kitchen appliance being able to ‘consciously’ make a decision to kill you isn’t so wholesome.

It also doesn’t help that people like Elon Musk and Bill Gates, people who have built careers on pioneering technology, are actively warning against furthering research of AI. It is very interesting to see such tech giants taking a step back and considering the consequences of such advancements.

Where do you think the development of AI is heading?

Integration into the human elements of society surely seems inevitable. People are a finite resource that require more resources to use. When something comes along that can think like a human, act like a human, and even work like a human, it may make actual humans redundant. You see it already with automated cars and neural networks that function less like running commands and more like actual thoughts. It seems more practical and efficient
for companies, households and even individuals to have all these things in everyday life.

**How do you believe the future of AI will impact humanity?**

Absolutely, it would almost be stupid not to. Take televisions and computers, even mobile phones. Everyone will have one eventually. To look at it simply, AI's are just another piece of technology that will become more advanced and more available as the market becomes more approachable.

**With recent improvement in synthetic growth of human tissue, do you believe there is a future where AI can develop their way into Synthetic human bodies indistinguishable from humans? (Aka blade runner, Westworld, fallout 4)**

Probably not in my lifetime, but this will absolutely occur one day before the 25th century. Whether that is in a multi-billion-dollar lab or a mad scientist's backyard is yet to be seen. The concern with that is how people already interact with other people. The violence and hatred between cultures, countries and beliefs is already astounding. It'd almost be a bad idea to add another option to the mix. Especially if that option has guns for arms and is hard to kill.

**Do you think there is a future where humans and these ‘synthetic’ humans can coexist?**

I REALLY hope so, and very much wish to be alive to see it. It’s the next step in human evolution for sure. It will be very interesting to see how that coexistence will go.