The Futures of Artificial Companions: Scenarios of Human-Artificial Companions Relationship

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Emerging Issues

- 3D virtual singer---Hatsune Miku
  - Worldwide 3D-projection concerts

- 2D virtual wife
  A young man married a video game character

- Roxxxy: The world’s first sex robot
  Full-size interactive sex doll
Future Scenarios

- 3D Virtual Mate
- Robot Lover
- Sex-bot Tourism
- Life-Like Sex Doll
- 2D Virtual Wife & 3D Virtual Singer
Two years later...

Oculus Virtual Reality

Robot Hotel
Hatsune Miku Concert 2012

Age: 13~30

Gender: 80% young men

Video games or Comics.
Q: If possible, what kind of artificial companionship would people preferred?
Research Subjects:

- Digital native (age: 15~30)
- Prefer virtual world than reality
- Familiar or addict with virtual singer
- Prefer artificial companion than human
- Snowball → 7 young men (average: 24)

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Questions:

• Q1 Why do you prefer artificial companions? (advantages/disadvantages)

• Q2 What kind of artificial companion is the most ideal one? Why?

• Q3 Describe any type of artificial companion you think will exist in the future
Why artificial companion

• Girls are high maintenance
  (Human are too complicated)

• Human’s relationship is fragile
  (Human cannot be reset...)

• Customize your mate →
  Perfect look, Perfect characteristics.
  (It satisfies my desire of control)
3D virtual
secretary

Multi-formed
companion with AI

Robot girlfriend

3D virtual
secretary

Virtual reality
wife
1. 3D Virtual Secretary

- High AI
- Mental satisfaction
- Microchip with 3D projection (3D computer)
- Only available at home
- No physical body
2. Robot Girlfriend

- *Stepford wives*
- Low AI
- Physical satisfaction
- Space required
- Be ware of malfunction
3. Virtual Reality Wife

- High AI
- Both Physical & Mental
- Low Impact on Reality (Avatar/ Matrix)
- Real life in virtual world
Multi-formed Companion with AI

- Combine 3D, VR, Robot
- Various forms
- High AI
- Both physical & mental
- High impact on real life
- Outsmart, surpass human
Ranking

Threaten

Threaten

Not enough
Virtual Reality

Advantages:

• Just like real
• Experience alternative life
• Total fulfillment
• Privacy
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<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
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BAU---Virtual Romance

2045 VR=New luxurious entertainment

Doubt, Concerned, Abnormal
BAU---Virtual Romance

Game room > Home device
BAU---Virtual Romance

Reality=Lack of Confidence  VR = Confidence
BAU---Virtual Romance

18th Birthday

Adult VR → Fall in love....
Virtual Reality Marriage
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Utopia---Alternative Life

2045 Life combined well with VR

VR Prison

VR interior design

VR tourism
Utopia---Alternative Life
Utopia---Alternative Life

A young boy raised up by his grandpa who is a farmer dreaming of making a garden of Eden.
Utopia---Alternative Life

The boy has good talent on VR interface design
Utopia---Alternative Life

Grandpa was diagnosed with cancer while his girlfriend was killed in a car accident.
The boy designs 2 VR spaces for his girlfriend and dying grandpa.

Utopia---Alternative Life

Secret Place

Virtual Eden
Utopia---Alternative Life
His works was stolen by his teacher who later work for government.

The boy becomes a hacker who thinking of revenge someday.
Utopia---Alternative Life

One day he finally hacked into government’s VR interface where the teacher worked.
Utopia---Alternative Life

He saw his secret place becomes government used. People who lost beloved one could reunion in his secret place.
Virtual Eden becomes Hospice where people with serious disease could die in there without feeling pain
The teacher asked him for forgiveness. Asked him to write a program to protect government’s VR
The boy takes care of grandpa’s farm. After work, he will meet his wife who died in real life but lives in virtual reality.

Utopia---Alternative Life

Grandpa living in VR Eden

The boy takes care of grandpa’s farm.

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Dystopia---Virtual Life

People almost ran out of natural resources for operating VR. Earth is not suitable to live anymore.
Dystopia---Virtual Life

Living VR = Living Heaven
But very expensive... only rich people could afford it.
Dystopia---Virtual Life

An old couple finally save enough money to entering VR to enjoy their retire life.
Dystopia---Virtual Life

In the past 25 years, people live in reality all worked very hard in order to enter the VR
Dystopia---Virtual Life

Because 30 years ago, a VR company launched virtual wife.

Virtual wife was so popular that government forced to legalize VR marriage.
Dystopia---Virtual Life

The company then inherit lots of money from VR marriage.

Gradually, the company becomes the biggest business in the world and cooperate with government.
Dystopia---Virtual Life

Resources ↑

Virtual life – A space where you can live your whole life in
Dystopia---Virtual Life

Education

Marriage
Family life

Life ended
Dystopia---Virtual Life

Physical body are controlled by the VR company in reality
Dystopia---Virtual Life

Divided world

Reality = Hell

Virtual = Heaven
20 years ago, the old couple already send their baby into VR life. They save lots of money for letting their son enjoy his life in virtual world.
Today, they finally save enough money to leave reality forever, and reunion with their son in VR
Re-exam

1. What kind of values had been set in those young men’s mind

2. What kind of hidden assumption in artificial companionships
Re-exam
The relationship between human and technology
Any useful idea about the future should appear to be ridiculous

James Dator 2nd law of the future

We shape our tools and thereafter our tools shape us

James Dator 3rd law of the future
Thank You for Listening

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