

MEET MICK PETRICK

I first heard of cryonics in a documentary about longer life on Foxtel. I am a member of CI. After hearing about it I joined two years later. Mostly because I thought it was going to be super expensive and I was saving up money. When I was ready to look further in to Cryonics I discovered to my great relief that I can add the cost to a life insurance policy.

My family and friends are mostly positive, some members of my family aren't so keen on joining me, more say they'll join me than those who say they won't. I haven't been to any of the Cryonics sites because I live in Australia. I've never met another cryonicist.

I've been asked about my view of uploading, which is such a topic that has many unknowns, but I can at least comment on my current point of view. Uploading raw data of a brain scan is a fairly benign concept. However, if that data can be "read" or simulated, then that would give people access to your thoughts, views and possibly even run simulations on how you might best respond to certain situations and points of view.

I think that raw forms of computer intelligence will develop at the same rate as the ability to upload the data. So by the time a full data-set can be stored it won't be too long following that the dataset can replicate the original person from which the data represents.

I believe that to write a code to simulate the human mind would take vastly more illogical and irrelevant programming than logic would dictate. So any such program would never represent a person in their absolute form.

I doubt very much that a programmer could or would write a code for the human brain which isn't "improved upon" in some way.

I believe that an uploaded code isn't a living being, but could very well be perceived as one. Ultimately all of our DNA is binary data anyway. If someone were to recreate a person I'd think that starting from DNA and digitally replicating it from there would be the easiest way to get a true code of a person. The memories could then be overlayed over that. In essence the human mind reproduces what it perceives in its own little virtual world. We see reality and make a copy of that which is most vividly represented by dreams or even potentially hallucinations.

Gregory Bateson is the person who coined the term "The map is not the territory". An uploaded person would be capable of processing far more data and doing things than a could. An uploaded person would have little reason not to be "wired" in improved ways.

To be uploaded would be like Jarel in the fortress of solitude in Superman. I think it would be useful to have a copy of ones memories in case of brain damage during reanimation, but in a way you're opening up your soul to either the world or anyone who can access the coding. Every little thought of your life could become public domain in one way or another. A person who has committed a crime could be found guilty of that crime,

even after death. To what extent would there be an invasion of privacy. What would be the sentence to a crime if people lived forever?

As far as using an upload to rewire a human brain in the case of damage it might be very useful. At the moment the technology to do an upload is most likely already available, but the problem is that it would be an invasive procedure. A bit like the transporter in Star Trek, you'd be disassembled in order to be

re-assembled. Non-invasive uploading technology will most likely become available before reanimation technology. So the question will certainly be raised in the future. If I had the choice to have my brain uploaded I would probably say it's a great idea



Mick, right, with his partner Michelle and son, Eben

on the proviso that it's fundamental to being reanimated. If the technology is available to use that technology to assist in reanimation, then the technology would also be available to manipulate certain parts of the brain. By the time reanimation technology is available, with or without uploading the same would be true, that manipulation could occur.

In the case of a program which can "run the brain", a technician could decide what outcomes work best, even before the person is reanimated to run the best sequence for the desired outcome.

In my opinion of society, most times people want access to personal information is for their personal gain. And personal gain to the other person usually means no gain or loss to the person providing the information. So I remain a bit pessimistic that any tampering would be for the personal good of the person involved. It would be nice to think that people would use such technology for purely altruistic reasons, and that's the type of world I would most like to be reanimated in.

Ultimately I find that people are easy enough to manipulate and that an uploaded persona could easily befriend people and influence them. For example, a "robot nanny" would become real, to the point where a developing child would prefer the nanny over the real parent. People would be very inclined to find uploaded lovers, uploaded friends and the list goes on.

In a sense I have four families. My childhood family of which I'm the eldest of four children. A family with my ex-wife where I had five children. My current family with one child. My partners family who has two other children and we have a child together. I am very much a "normal person".

I have many interests, some which some people may find a bit confusing. At the moment I'm in to hobby planes. My sons and I have developed a quadcopter and I'm developing draft designs for the world's first manned quadcopter / wing in ground effect. I also develop computers and I've put together a cheap PBX phone system running on a \$120 computer.

I enjoy dancing and getting out on the weekend when I'm not so busy, which hasn't been often lately. I enjoy dabbling in a bit of pseudo psychology. I enjoy camping. I've been a bit of a fitness freak for most of my life, I enjoy my work, which is ecommerce programming and web design mostly in the asp.net language. I also do web based SEO marketing for a number of companies.

I have most of the latest recreational do-dads such as 3D TV gaming devices, fitness equipment, etc. I run my own company with a number of employees and work from home which suits me well.

I enjoy travelling and I think my best trip will be my trip in to the future. Cryonics gives me the ability to enjoy my life to the fullest, knowing that when I pass away that it won't all be forgot-

ten. Cryonics has given me more meaning in life. It makes me feel more confident and happy that my time in this life isn't all for nothing.



Mick with a koala bear, Eben and Michelle at an Australian Theme Park "Dreamworld"

KEVIN BOYLE REFLECTS ON MOURNING

My grandmother, who is now a patient at CI, told my mother "You can have any sort of ceremony you want for me after I die, but I won't be there. I will be in Detroit!". My mother, "being Catholic", had a memorial mass for her at a local church about a month later. Being an atheist, I stayed in the parking lot so I am not sure what went on inside, but afterwards we all went to a local function hall for the traditional eating, drinking, and talking about my grandmother. Most people avoided the subject of where she was now, although a couple of people were very interested and asked me a few questions about cryonics. I have visited CI several times since my dog passed away and then was joined by my grandmother and like Porter mentioned about someone else, it is a very moving experience when I visit them. I guess it does feel somewhat like going on a cemetery visit, but when I visit them, instead of complete sadness there is a glimmer of hope for the future that burns within the sadness. Although I miss both of them terribly, I usually leave there feeling good about what I did for both of them...