



## The new hybrid

# Imagine if... machines could read (or write!) our minds

Artificial  
intelligence



Bio  
engineering



**By 2071, machines have developed the ability to read our thoughts through micro observations of our expressions, through neural implants or monitoring of brain activity. Stimulation of the brain, initially developed for medical purposes, has found broader application for pleasure and ultimately to allow machines and people to directly interact.**

The societal norms around such technologies remain ill developed. Medical devices include sophisticated implants based on direct neural stimulation to suppress neurological abnormalities, to allow sensory experiences, and to provide motor interfaces for prosthetics. Military applications of such technology have also proliferated allowing augmentation of human performance and interactions with robotics and exoskeletons.

The commercialization of such technology has created a market for human augmentation, as well as tempting states to employ such technology for control of its people including the extremes of criminal behaviour and perhaps more abhorrent viewpoints.

The cyber security of such implants is of paramount importance given their ability to directly manipulate individuals, as well as potential access to the human mind and insights on our most private thoughts and intentions.

Criminal groups will find ways of exploiting brain stimulation as a new narcotic for the masses, leading to new patterns of addiction and new tech enabled crimes.