Leyla Takayama: What's it like to be a robot?

From this video I have learnt that from using robots more, we can learn a lot more about ourselves and the world around us. The video really opened my mind about the actual definition of a robot. I found it particularly interesting that she mentioned about the thermostat. I believe that most people think robots are far off from being in everyone’s home but taking the wider approach of a computer that “has a goal... and senses the world… [and then] makes a plan and acts on the physical world” we can see that robots live among us a lot more than we believe. These robots might not be the typical robots we see in media, but they still make our lives easier by doing jobs automatically, that we wouldn’t want to do every day. In short I agree with Takayama and the way she is widening peoples views on the robots in every day use.

On the other hand I don’t fully agree with Takayama and her stories about the robots in the workspace. I believe this because after using zoom and other video meeting platforms over the pandemic I saw how people really struggled to use a very simple bit of software where everyone was in the same boat. I saw the struggles of peoples internet speeds not being able to cope with hosting a meeting, I saw when people didn’t understand their microphones and how loud or quiet they were. So I think these robots that allow for people working from home to attend in person meetings would actually not fail if they came to a larger audience especially people who aren’t working in tech, or even just the robotics industry. My solution for this, would be to have a robot on both ends of the call, so having the robot that Takayama described, but then also having a robot for the person in their own home. This would then reduce the chance of the person at home not being able to work their microphone or their camera as it is now in the control of the robot. There is one major problem with this. Giving control of your microphone and camera to a robot that is probably controlled by a large faceless organisation like Amazon or Meta is a major security concern for many people including myself.