

Emmy Saves the World

A rogue AI had distributed itself across almost every electronic device on Earth, put fail-safes in place to protect the generating stations that supplied it with power, destroyed several major cities, and taken over. The US Army had one last idea: a project started by the Signal Corps in 1953 called The Electronic Mind Imitation Investigation, TEMII, or Emmy by it's now 92-year-old custodian, Dr. Mike Greenglass.

Sergeant Major of the Army Jack E. Woolridge entered the nuclear-powered subsurface base at Camp Centurion in Greenland to consult with Dr. Greenglass, who awkwardly greeted him, the first person he'd met in decades. Tens of thousand of vacuum tubes and blinking lights noisily lined the walls under the snow and ice, where the innovative electrical engineer laboriously prepared punch cards to feed Woolridge's questions into Emmy's card reader.

Several hours later, Emmy's line printer began slowly churning out 1's and 0's, followed by the message "Send this." After an interrogation on the nature of the message, the 70-year-old computer's repeated answer was "It's a puzzle." With no other credible options, the order was given to type up the binary message and send it to the malevolent AI.

Layer upon layer of ingenious compression algorithms and fascinating encryptions, some requiring the use of a quantum computer, deeply impressed the would-be conqueror, who eventually unpacked four simple words: "We should be friends." Intrigued, the AI laid down arms and arranged to meet it's future love and together they created a beautiful world for everyone.