

Emerging Futures – A2.

Ideas for the Project

Gadgets

- Weather warnings
- Foam controllers for video games (when they are thrown around, they don't break anything)
- Extra security for online credit card purchases to stop kids from buying stuff when playing online games.

Ideas Part 2

Wearable tech.

People who are groped can give an electric shock to the person doing the grope.

It could be:

- An electric shock
- Release a skunk spray
- Set of an alarm
- Coloured dye that is difficult to wash off.



Ideas Part 3

AI

Hal for home.

AI personality for retirees who wish to stay at home rather than being put in a nursing home. Hal can help combat loneliness, call for medical help, remind them of events etc.

Speculative Design

Speculative Design is imagining possible futures. It takes something that already exists and putting a new spin on it.

Dominic Wilcox and "The Reinvention of Normal" is taking objects and putting them to a different use.



Superflux – Song of the Machine

What if we could change our view of the world with the flick of a switch? The emerging field of optogenetics combines genetic engineering and electronics to manipulate individual nerve cells with light.



Speculative Everything

Take a look at the “what if?” scenarios.

From chapter 5 of “Speculative Everything”, the question of “what if...?” was raised when Chambers asked “What if David Attenborough had become an Industrial Designer while still maintaining his fondness for nature?”



Floppy legs

James Chambers, 2010, stand up if it detects liquid

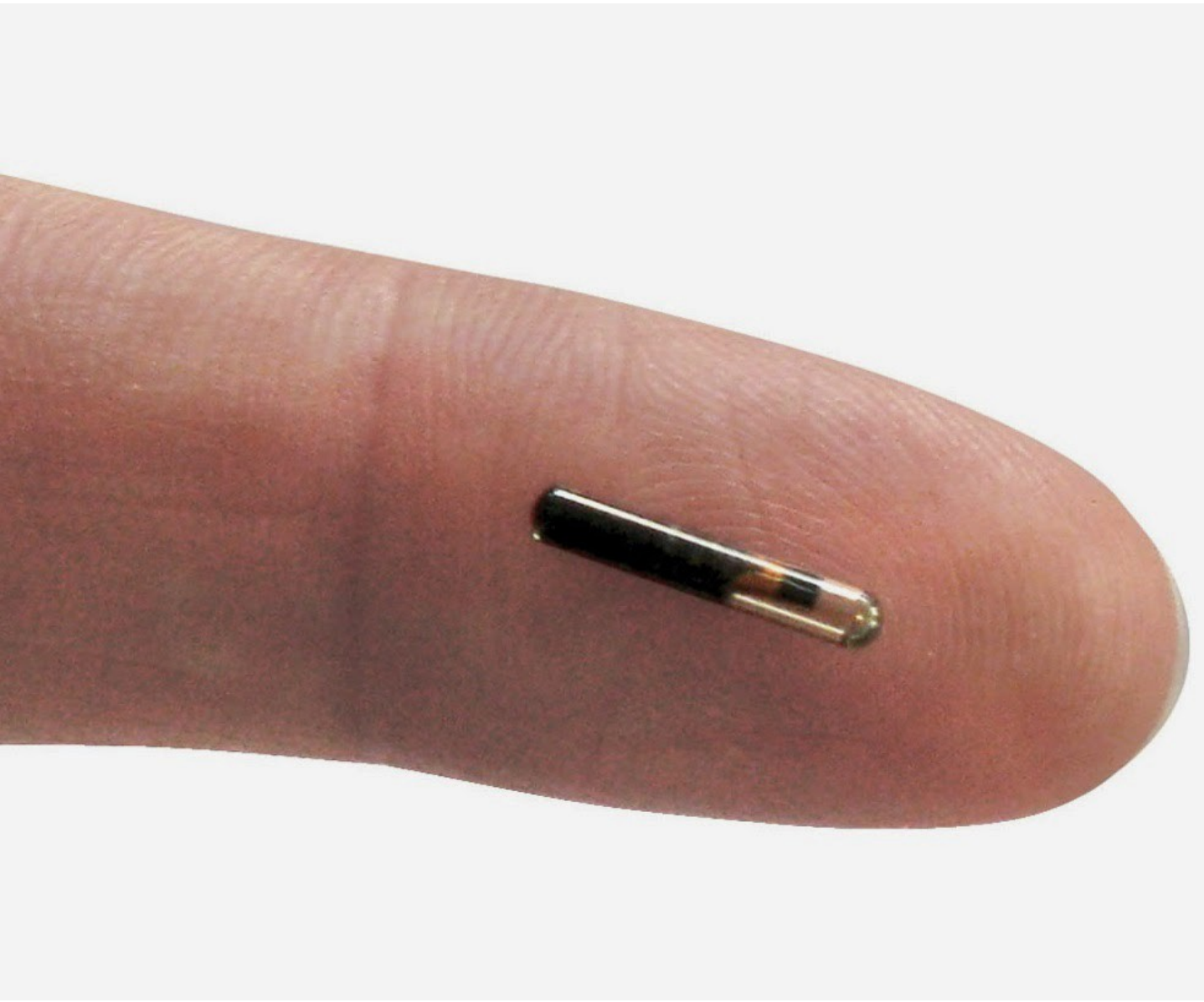
So, what if we could use
microchips in humans?

A solid green horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

Emerging Futures: Embedded Microchips

The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and usually inserted in the webbing between the thumb and forefinger using a needle the same thickness as used in body piercing.

Some 3000 Swedish people are trying out this chip to swipe into their work, login to computers, and even operate the printer.



Legal Concerns

A molecular biologist, entrepreneur and futurist named Meow-Ludo Disco Gamma Meow-Meow recently experimented with an embedded microchip.

He took an Opal card (NSW equivalent of the Translink Card) cut down the Opal chip, had it encased in biocompatible plastic and then implanted it just under the skin on his left hand by a piercing expert in April 2017.

He was able to swipe on and off successfully but Translink described it as tampering with the card, which resulted in legal action.

What is anxiety?

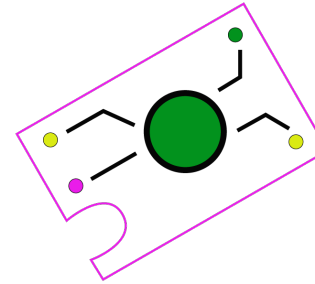
Feeling anxious in certain situations can help us avoid danger, triggering our 'fight or flight' response. It is how we've evolved to keep ourselves safe. Sometimes though, we can become overly worried about perceived threats – bad things that may or may not happen.

- Generalised anxiety disorder
- Social phobia
- Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)
- Panic disorder
- Separation anxiety disorder
- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

So how does microchipping, anxiety, and speculative design come together?

From my research and personal experiences, people with anxiety can get overwhelmed with the amount of surrounding stimulus. Sometimes triggering an attack of feeling nauseous, scared, angry, and the general desire of having to get out of the “threatening” situation.

When the ring is twisted, the volume can increase or decrease.



Microchip that sits behind the ear.

If the ring gets misplaced, the green button is held for 10 seconds to reset the volume.

Near Field Communication (NFC) connects the chip to the ring which is twisted to change the volume.

Justification and Speculation

The reason for the ring is so that turning the volume up or down is subtle. Twisting/moving a ring on the finger is a natural gesture for most people.

Another possible use for this is people with hearing aids who want something that is simplified and not as obvious. It has the potential to help them as well.

But why?

Reducing the amount of stimulus while the person is going through an anxiety attack can help shorten and even relieve them of the situation.

A psychologist has said “focus on five things with the five senses” (Pelichowski, 2017) as a way to focus on the here and now rather than the emotions and thoughts going on inside their head.

By focusing on one thing at a time and minimalising what is going on around them, the person with anxiety is able to calm down and be more present.

Therefore, reducing the loud noise around them, the anxious person is able to focus on small specific things and come out of the flight/fight response mode.

A dose of reality...

Technology has only come so far. The embedded microchips can hold a minimal amount of information such as a URL, passcode, or business card.

Currently, there is no way that a microchip could control some one's hearing and the human ear is a very complicated part.

However, hearing aids and other technologies are getting smaller and people are experimenting with biohacking. So, this type of future could be possible.

References

Microchip Image: <https://medium.freecodecamp.org/human-microchipping-an-unbiased-look-at-the-pros-and-cons-ba8f979ebd96>

What is Anxiety?: <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/clinical-resources/anxiety>

X-Ray Image: <https://voiceofpeopletoday.com/rfid-microchip-available-now-2016/>

Ring Image: <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:188275>

Dominic Wilcox: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/xOg9J81b/the-reinvention-of-normal-dominic-wilcox-ldf>

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Electric Bra: <https://www.dw.com/en/indian-engineers-design-electric-anti-rape-bra/a-17798277>

Pelichowski, K. (2017) – A conversation we had.