In Christian Davenport’s Washington Post article, one topic addressed is the use of robots in the international robot competition. If it were up to me, my cyber discovery group would not accept the invitation to participate in the robot competition. The use of robots can ultimately make the world we live in a lot easier. How would we like to have robots programmed to wake us up or brush our teeth for us? What if we left something at home and we don’t have time to go back home to get it? Wouldn’t it be nice to have a robot to do simple things for us like brush our teeth or go get things we may have forgotten? Although life would be easier, I still believe there are just as many bad things, if not more, associated with having these robots play such a vital role in humanity.

In Davenport’s article, one issue addressed was the use of robots in war. Gill Pratt supported this by saying, “We don’t know what the next disaster will be, but we know we have to develop the technology to help us to address these kinds of disaster.” Although I agree with the importance of the advancement of technology in war, I also feel that robots are not a practical way of protecting our country. I understand that robots are a very advanced form of technology, but I believe that humans should control the technology used in war. I feel this way because robots and other uses of technology can be hacked or shut down. Technology is reliable but not 100% of the time. Having humans fight in war is more reliable in the sense that they can’t be hacked and they can make better decisions of what to do in certain situations. The bright side of this, is that humans won’t be killed but at the same token, humans would be in less control of who gets killed.

The use of robots to do most “human” things such as drive and fight in war gives the humans less control over their economy and their life. We may think the robots are just there to make life easier for humans, but in my opinion we are just digging ourselves in a hole we may not be able to get out of. How? You may ask. Well, if the robots have access to our private information such as bank accounts, because we rely on them to make our transactions, they can easily spend our money or even change things around. We may think that because they are “just robots” that they won’t do harmful things, but if given too much control a hacker can easily use these robots to commit fraud and tamper with people’s bank accounts. So what if we use robots in war? It is much easier for the country we are fighting to manipulate a robot than a human.

So if it were up to me, my cyber discovery group wouldn’t compete in the competition because it’s too much of a risk.