Patrick Woodrum – pwoodru
CPSC 2910
Chapter 1 Reading and Questions

One of the biggest issues we're beginning to face in current times is the ethicality of computer science and how far we are willing to take technology to satisfy our needs or "fix" our problems. Are we capable of creating technology that fixes our problems without going haywire and causing more problems?

I intentionally waited until after Elon Musk's Neuralink demo to sit and down and write this because Elon Musk and his wide variety of technological escapades have had me interested in his work for a few years now. I wrote a paper my freshman year about Musk and his plan to visit Mars, which unintentionally led me to researching his "Starlink" project alongside the beginnings of Neuralink. Elon Musk's plan for Neuralink is to create an embedded chip that wires to our brain and essentially connects us to the internet or a form of AI. The ethical complications behind this are massive. Many people see humans coexisting with AI as a threat to humanity. Others see the act of embedding a chip into our brain as scary and extremely unethical in of itself. While I may not personally see myself partaking in the project any time soon, it still interests me beyond much of what is happening in the technological world nowadays. The internet has been around for a few decades and we are already trying to implant it in everyone's head for quick and easy access to endless information? Outstanding. The potential issues are currently huge and are ones that have not yet been discussed in detail. Could this potentially affect our normal day-to-day lives in ways we don't want? What is the lifespan of these implants? Are there any health side effects? Some people even go as far as to question whether this is a plot by Elon Musk to have direct control over millions of humans' brains. Musk and his company are attempting to reassure and encourage the public by saying that this product could potentially cure paralysis, brain damage, and mental illnesses like anxiety and depression.

As of now, I am purely interested in the science behind it and where this could possibly take humanity. Could we have finally found a way to remove the physical gap between ourselves and the endless library of knowledge that we humans have created? How in the world did this science become somewhat of a reality and what are the programs and software behind it? I would love to sit down and listen to someone explain the details of the programming and technological science behind all of this, but at the same time would love to hear reassurances over many of the issues we already see as potentially harming.