

PROGRAM YOUR MEMORY

Researchers at MIT, have proved that memories can be modified! By successfully implanting false memories in the brains of genetically engineered mice.

Optogenetics, was the key to this experiment. Mice brains were implanted with optic fibres to deliver pulses of light to their brains, which makes individual neurons respond to light. First, a mouse was placed in a new environment, A. The mouse explores around and creates memories here. Next, it is taken to another place B, where the neuroscientists stimulate the memory of A using optogenetics, while simultaneously delivering electric shocks to the mouse thus inducing fear. Later when the mouse was placed in Place A, it showed signs of fear, it had, when in Place B. This is because the mouse's brain had somehow confused the fear of electric shocks in Place B with its memory of Place A - in other words, a false memory has been created.

This study can explain how unreliable memories can be, why humans often recall things that didn't actually happen - such as paranormal activities, alien abductions, or even during eyewitness testimonies which they believe to be entirely true, but is actually a false memory.

These findings can be further used to treat anxiety, depression and trauma, in humans by reprogramming or deleting bad memories, or even encode new memories. That's of course the future we hope to see.

Memories are incredibly easily manipulated, and can convince you of basically anything!

did you know?

Did you know that Google has a twin brother?

ElgooG (Google spelled backwards) is the literal mirror image of the Google search engine; not only is all of its content a reversal of Google, the search terms must also be written in reverse order to yield the desired results.

Think that is weird...Then check this out:

Though originally created "for fun", it found practical use in the People's Republic of China after the domestic banning of Google, as it circumvented the government's firewalls. Another important aspect is that because search terms in elgooG were typed in reverse, and the search results were also in reverse, it was harder for intermediates to track what users were searching for.



AUGMENTED REALITY

Lately the word on the block is augmented reality and we see new apps and devices with that tag every day or so. The AR as we now see it is still an 'augmented' version of reality but it adds new layers of information that may prove useful to us. With a picture or video recording of the insides of a mall and information of the object needed, the application would identify the place and look into its database to find relevant information that will help us spot the object we're looking for and Viola! Just like that the picture/video will show a marking indicating the destination.

By definition of wikipedia 'Augmented reality (AR)' is a live direct or indirect view of a physical, real-world environment whose elements are augmented (or supplemented/enhanced) by computer-generated sensory input such as sound, video, graphics or GPS data. Basically adding clipart to pictures taken on the phone is your augmented reality. Not very useful but none the less AR.



Swap grocery shopping with path finding adding in help from GPS and other relevant info like maps and such, your device will show you where, how and maybe even why to go, listing all the hotspots in that particular place. But it just doesn't end there.

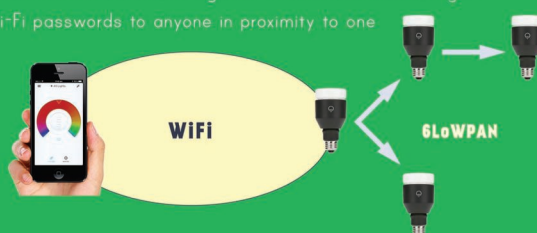
New experiments or prototypes like the Google glass project can wrap it up all into a compact device like the spectacles. There has been talks of technologies that is capable of reading brain waves, facial expressions etc. It means you can know what you and others are thinking right now. With handsfree technology there are numerous other possibilities too. Just like in the movies and video games where the protagonist or a bunch of secret agents have lenses that identify people, spot your enemies and what not. Well actually there is a lot when a person's imagination and creativity is involved. You could be in your own little world.



This video will pretty much give you a jist of it:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSU0ITCMTZw#t=43

HACKED !!

In the latest cautionary tale involving the so-called Internet of things, white-hat hackers have devised an attack against network-connected light bulbs that exposes Wi-Fi passwords to anyone in proximity to one of the LED devices.



The attack works against LIFX smart light bulbs, which can be adjusted using iOS- and Android-based devices. Manufacturers add computing and networking capabilities to appliances so people can manipulate them remotely using smart phones, computers, and other network-connected devices.

LIFX updated the firmware used to control the bulbs, after researchers discovered a weakness that allowed hackers within about 30 meters to obtain the passwords used to secure the connected Wi-Fi network. The credentials are passed from one networked bulb to another over a mesh network powered by 6LoWPAN, a wireless specification built on top of the IEEE 802.15.4 standard. While the bulbs used the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) to encrypt the passwords, the underlying pre-shared key never changed, making it easy for the attacker to decipher the payload.

Armed with knowledge of the encryption algorithm, key, initialization vector, and an understanding of the mesh network protocol we could then inject packets into the mesh network, capture the Wi-Fi details, and decrypt the credentials, all without any prior authentication or alerting of our presence.