

AMA I am Kevin Kelly, radical techno-optimist, digital pioneer, and co-founder of Wired magazine. AMA! (self.Futurology)

submitted 10 months ago \*by kevin2kelly Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired

### Verification here

I've been writing about the future for many decades and I am thrilled to be among many others here on Reddit who take the future seriously. I believe what we think about the future matters tremendously, for our own individual lives and for society in general. Thanks to [/u/mind\\_bomber](#) for reaching out and to the moderation team for hosting this conversation.

I live in California, Bay Area, along the coast. I write books for publishers, and I've self published books. I write for magazines and I've published magazines. I've ridden a bike across the US, twice, built a house from scratch. Over the past 40 years I've traveled almost everywhere Asia in order to document disappearing traditions. I co-launched the first Hackers' Conference (1984), the first public access to the internet (1985), the first public try-out of VR (1989), a campaign to catalog all the living species on Earth (2001), and the Quantified Self movement (2007). My past books have been about decentralized systems, the new economy, and what technology wants. For the past 12 years I've run a website that reviews and recommends cool tools [Cool Tools](#), and one that recommends great documentary films [True Films](#). My most recent publication is a 464-page graphic novel about "spiritual technology" -- angels and robots, drones and astral travel [Silver Cord](#).

I am part of a band of people trying to think long-term. We designed a backup of all human languages on a disk (Rosetta Disk) that was carried on the probe that landed on the comet this year. We are building a clock that will tick for 10,000 year inside a mountain [Long Now](#).

More about me here: [kk.org](#) or better yet, AMA!

Now at 5:30 p, PST, I have to wrap up my visit. If I did not get to your question, my apologies. Thanks for listening, and for great questions. The Reddit community is awesome. Keep up the great work in making the world safe for a prosperous future!

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[\[-\]](#) [lughnasadh](#) Onwards & Upwards 21 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin, in a book you published in 1999 "New Rules for the New Economy", you said "The great benefits reaped by the new economy in the coming decades will be due in large part to exploring and exploiting the power of decentralized and autonomous networks." & you also said "If goods and services become more valuable as they become more plentiful, and if they become cheaper as they become valuable, then the natural extension of this logic says that the most valuable things of all should be those that are ubiquitous and free."

It also seems to me another natural extension of this logic, that as more and more of our economy switches to this model, it won't be organized along the classical capitalist economic model we have known in Europe & America since the start of the industrial revolution, but rather, something like what gets called post-scarcity or zero marginal costs economics.

Do you think this process of the decline of capitalism has started already, as sectors of our economy, particularly the information and digital sectors, are already effectively switching to being in a post-scarcity economy ?

With more technologies waiting in the wings, like MOOC's & blockchain technologies expanding beyond bitcoin, ready to switch sectors like education and banking/finance to a post-scarcity model, do you think this decline of capitalism (if indeed it is happening/going to happen) is about to speed up ?

If so, any thoughts for how we should deal with this transition ?

**permalink**

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 40 points 10 months ago

Very little in terms of technology disappears. Capitalism isn't going to disappear. Rather it will become refined, improved, layered over, evolved. I would argue that we are witnessing the early stages of capitalism's evolution, rather than its demise. At some point in the future of its evolution we might look back and say it is different, but right now it will be a modification. Chief among those is the large shift away from ownership (property the center of capitalism) towards access. This will be part of a long process, over generations, but I do agree that our education and legal/ financing institutions will need to adapt with this change.

**permalink** **parent**

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[\[-\] mind\\_bomber](#) Citizen of Earth 41 points 10 months ago

Hi Mr. Kelly!

Thank you for doing this AMA here with us today.

Just yesterday this sub reached over 2,000,000 subscribers. That is more subscribers than I can possibly imagine. So what can we do with this thing we have created? What is the potential for having two million subscribers interested in the future and accelerating technologies? And how does [/r/Futurology](#), or reddit as a whole, fit-in with your idea of the 'Technium'?

**permalink**

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 83 points 10 months ago

Congratulations! That is a hundred times more reach than Wired magazine ever had! What I would hope might happen is that this community help create more positive visions of the future. Hollywood and even sci-fi these days are very good at creating dystopias -- all that conflict is useful for drama -- but we need protopian visions of a future that we actually want to live in. This is very hard (utopias are just as unhelpful) but possible.

**permalink** **parent**

[\[-\] mind\\_bomber](#) Citizen of Earth 18 points 10 months ago

Can you tell us more about what it means to be "protopian?" And how can this sub do more to create a protopian future?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 85 points 10 months ago

Protopia is moving toward progress rather than perfection. Science is protopian. It means investing into process instead of products.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [NewAlexandria](#) 3 points 10 months ago

How do you think that crowdfunding and social medias can be evolved to support the development of protopian advancements and experiments?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 18 points 10 months ago

In general it is. The next step is more widespread acceptance of crowd-sourced OWNERSHIP in the project. Participating in the overall success and not just one product.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [NewAlexandria](#) 3 points 10 months ago

It seems that the JOBS Act failed to deliver on that. Do you have any hints toward how an adhoc-legal contract, in the spirit of FOSS licenses, could be effectively created?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [mind\\_bomber](#) Citizen of Earth 13 points 10 months ago

Thank you. This is an idea I can totally align myself with (and I hope this sub does too).

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [apmTech](#) 58 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin, Welcome to the sub; what near term (5-10 year horizon) technology are you most excited about and foresee having a big impact on people's lives?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 92 points 10 months ago

I think commercial, cheap, ubiquitous, boring AI delivered as a utility service (like web hosting) will be the defining disruptive technology in the near future. The more I hear about recent improvements, the more I feel we are near a 20 year run of constant and meaningful results. Most of the consequences are not going to be Her, but invisible benefits.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [BBBTech](#) 90 points 10 months ago

I recently read Nick Bostroms "Superintelligence" and he makes the point that as

soon as a form of AI works, we call it something else. So if you described Google Now or Watson to researchers in the 80s, they would call it a massive success in AI. But because we presently see and use these technologies, our standard for what truly constitutes AI expands.

Most AI is completely boring to the average consumer. But it's important to recognise how far we've actually come.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 76 points 10 months ago

I agree that we keep defining AI away. AI in popular usage is anything smart that we don't have.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [BBBTech](#) 18 points 10 months ago

Yes, and this hurts the field as a whole because it leads funders to believe it's all hype.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (6 replies)

[\[-\]](#) [yoda17](#) 5 points 10 months ago

| anything smart that we don't have.

How about anything we don't understand (in pop culture)?

Many things that I have done and worked on for decades, people now call AI, like self driving cars. If you look at the published high level control system for Stanley (Stanford's Grand Challenge winning entry) look exactly the same as what I was doing in the 90's with [IVHS](#) at Berkeley, the difference being better sensors and more cpu bandwidth to more tests.

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[\[-\]](#) [Lastonk](#) 44 points 10 months ago

Mr. Kelly If automation rendered most of the "bread and butter" work that you currently do obsolete, to the point you only need an hour or so a day to do all the things, what would you do with your sudden excess of spare time?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 120 points 10 months ago

I would read more books. I would make more photographs. I would write more stuff that only I cared about. Mostly I would try and do more things that I felt only I could do. That takes a lot of messing around and wasting of time to discover.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [indydiddle](#) 21 points 10 months ago

I love this. We will never lose our ability to create, regardless of what happens down the road. I've been wondering deeply about this question, and I like Kevin's answer.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[–] [Xenophon1](#) 7 points 10 months ago\*

Thanks for being here today. It is a privilege to have you.

Can you explain the ideas on your paper [Nerd Theology](#) and what the belief system of [rational spirituality](#) might look like as older anthropocentric faith-based systems fade? What tenets would cause the intersection of religion and technology to take hold in society?

You are a pioneer of what this community has come to understand as [Techno-Optimism](#)(1). Is this related? We often hear the sentiment in our day-to-day lives: a) technology is making our lives artificial or superficial, b) technology is enslaving us or taking our freedoms, c) technology ruins the magic and mystery of life, d) technology is making us dumber, fatter, or causing us to entirely rely on computers, calculators, etc.

What defines Techno-Optimism? a) technology is prolonging our lives, making them fuller, happier, and healthier by technological advancements in medicine and agriculture, b) technology is liberating our lives, allowing us to travel the globe, discover the unknown, and reach the solar system, c) technology is enlightening our lives, giving global access to learning and education for the first time in history. Is this related to the development of rational spirituality? A religion based on technology?

(1) Loosely defined, Techno-Optimism is: An ideology that is concerned with the ability of technology to be used to make the world worse, but the rational hope that it can be steered to make the world better.

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of [Wired](#) [S] 36 points 10 months ago

My techno-optimism is based on two premises: 1) Technology creates most of our new problems, but in return it delivers more options and possibilities (for good and harm). But simply having new choices between good and harm is itself another option we didn't have before so this small increase in more good than harm (less than 1%) is all we get, but 1% better is good enough for progress. 2) This tiny bias in technology comes from a similar tiny bias in nature which is self-organizing, and indeed stems from a tiny bias in the universe wherein self-organization persists over billions of years, first making complex matter, then stars, then galaxies, planets, etc. So the good in technology is actually a cosmic force, which we can align our lives with.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[–] [female\\_redditor\\_pmme](#) 28 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin- what are your thoughts on increased automation eventually putting people out of jobs? It seems like a pretty negative subject so I'd love to hear a positive spin on it!

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of [Wired](#) [S] 57 points 10 months ago

Robots and AI will help us create more jobs for humans -- if we want them. And one of those jobs for us will be to keep inventing new jobs for the AIs and robots to take from us. We think of a new job we want, we do it for a while, then we teach robots how to do it. Then we make up something else.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [jelder](#) 12 points 10 months ago

That's interesting. Is this a pattern you observed in the past?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 56 points 10 months ago

Sure. We invented machines to take x-rays, then we invented x-ray diagnostic technicians which farmers 200 years ago would have not believed could be a job, and now we are giving those jobs to robot AIs.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [Gosteponalegoplease](#) 7 points 10 months ago

What's crazy to think is that most jobs people will work 20-30 years from now might not have even been thought up yet.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [female\\_redditor\\_pmme](#) 6 points 10 months ago

Oh, that's cool! Thanks for the answer, and enjoy your night.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\]](#) [andytheg](#) 20 points 10 months ago

What do you think will happen first, intelligent life elsewhere will contact us or we will contact intelligent life elsewhere?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 50 points 10 months ago

Neither. First we will make artificial aliens by making AIs on Earth. These other minds that will think differently than us, and may be conscious differently than us, and they will offer some (but by no means all) of the same benefits of contacting an ET.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [hankthepigeonisreal](#) 16 points 10 months ago

Salutations KK,

I'd like your thoughts on MIT's Jeremy England's theory/equation with regards to the Technium? "...when a group of atoms is driven by an external source of energy (like the sun or chemical fuel) and surrounded by a heat bath (like the ocean or atmosphere), it will often gradually restructure itself in order to dissipate increasingly more energy. This could mean that under certain conditions, matter inexorably acquires the key physical attribute associated with life." (Quanta via Salon)

Reference [http://www.salon.com/2015/01/03/god\\_is\\_on\\_the\\_ropes\\_the\\_brilliant\\_new\\_science\\_that\\_has\\_creationists\\_and\\_the\\_christian\\_right\\_terrified/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=socialflow](http://www.salon.com/2015/01/03/god_is_on_the_ropes_the_brilliant_new_science_that_has_creationists_and_the_christian_right_terrified/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow)

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[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 21 points 10 months ago

I think England is correct. There is a bias toward self-organization in the structure of energy/matter. I called it exotropy (negative entropy). Exotropy increases locally by generating more entropy. I talk about this in my book *What Technology Wants*.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Xenophon1](#) 27 points 10 months ago\*

Thanks again for counting yourself as one amongst us at the Future(s) Studies community today.

What do you think of Dr. Nick Bostrom's work at FHI in [Existential Risk Reduction](#)? Should it be global priority as his [paper](#) states?

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 27 points 10 months ago

I think it is worth some attention, but I think other existential risks such as an asteroid impact, or drastic climate change are worth more energy.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Xenophon1](#) 8 points 10 months ago\*

How might we organize in this regard at a political level? What are your thoughts on a [Futurist Party](#) inspired by existential risk reduction and universal access of digital information?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 19 points 10 months ago

I don't know enough about political parties.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [PM\\_ME\\_YOUR\\_MOOD\\_](#) 23 points 10 months ago

It's a sad truth that the smartest people in America will never be pressed to enter the political sphere by anyone currently in it.

Disenfranchising scientists and engineers from politics needs to stop and the barriers to participate and communicate with ppl in politics need to be lowered.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[–] [Trichinobezoar](#) 20 points 10 months ago

Do you believe the Singularity is coming? What do you say to those who maintain it's simply a techie version of the Rapture, i.e. an apocalypse beyond which we no longer have to think about?

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 49 points 10 months ago

I don't believe in the Strong/Hard version of the Singularity: AIs that self-create into a god-like power that can give us immortality. I do believe in the Weak/Soft version that humanity and machines merge into something that we can't see or understand right now.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] space\\_monster](#) 12 points 10 months ago

the way I see it though, it's like the nuclear bomb. we built it because we could, regardless (mostly) of the risks & repercussions.

so I believe we will build super-artilects as soon as we are able (assuming it's technically / conceptually possible). the way they are networked and/or constrained will determine the repercussions.

how that impacts human biology (no doubt it will, if we can turn artilects to the problems of gene therapy, protein folding, cell death etc.) is another story, but someone somewhere will build the biggest, baddest artilect just for the sake of doing it.

why do we climb mountains? because they are there.

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[\[-\] ConcernedCitizen](#) 13 points 10 months ago

Until he gets a chance to answer: A similar-ish question from last year:

[http://www.reddit.com/r/IAmA/comments/1sob2v/i\\_am\\_kevin\\_kelly\\_radical\\_technooptimist\\_and/cdzkho7?context=3](http://www.reddit.com/r/IAmA/comments/1sob2v/i_am_kevin_kelly_radical_technooptimist_and/cdzkho7?context=3)

jesseab: Can you paraphrase your argument against The Singularity?

kevin2kelly: In short: Timing. Longer: it will happen but only be visible in retrospect. During the time, it will just seem like incremental change.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 22 points 10 months ago

Yes, part of its "not-happening" will be because it is only visible in retrospect, but another part that I don't think will happen is all kinds of goodies merely because our machines can think faster, or deeper. I call that error "thinkism" meaning that to solve problems like immortality requires so much more than just thinking about it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] TheMusiKid](#) 14 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin! Thanks for the AmA.

I know that Jason Silva references you a ton in his videos and podcasts - I was wondering (1) what you thought of his ideas, and (2) if you'd ever gotten a chance to sit and chat with him?

You both seem like awesome people to hang around.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 17 points 10 months ago

I just met him last month. I was not unaware of his performances until then. I see a bit of me in him, but he takes it to 10 levels above and beyond me. I enjoy his rapping. But I am sorry I don't know him beyond that one short encounter at the bar at the Long Now Interval.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[–] [opabiniarex](#) 11 points 10 months ago

Mr. Kelly, Just wanted to drop in and say the segment you did on This American Life is one of the best pieces of story telling I've ever heard. I listen to it about once a year.

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 21 points 10 months ago

Thanks. For others, I told my story of how I lived my life expecting to die in six months on the very first This American Life broadcast. It entailed a spiritual epiphany in Jerusalem, and then riding my bicycle across the US. The episode is called "Shoulda Been Dead."

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [jetlej](#) 6 points 10 months ago

<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/50/shoulda-been-dead>

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[–] [omjvivi](#) 8 points 10 months ago

Hey Kevin, thanks for doing this AMA.

What sort of economic changes must Western society see in order to survive the 21st century? Are there any policies you back (like UBI for example)?

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 25 points 10 months ago

Yeah, I recently changed my mind about a universal basic income. I thought it was a ridiculous idea but the more I read and thought about, the more reasonable it appeared. It is unclear how disruptive it might be. But I can imagine it being in place in a generation or two.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [ImaMiser](#) 10 points 10 months ago

A question I pose to all whose wisdom I respect,

What makes you happiest?

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 38 points 10 months ago

Learning. Changing my mind. Helping others do the same.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [CC\\_EF\\_JTF](#) 10 points 10 months ago

Thoughts on the decentralization movement? A few examples:

- Bitcoin - Money
- OpenBazaar - Trade
- Bitmessage - Email

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 16 points 10 months ago

Essential. Good. Foundational. Can't say whether they are good investments.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] CC\\_EF\\_JTF](#) 8 points 10 months ago

Agreed. If you're interested in decentralization to make money, you're probably going to be disappointed.

But if you want to empower future generations to cut out the middlemen and the gatekeepers in society, I think these efforts are our best bet.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (2 replies)

[\[-\] alexshatberg](#) 6 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin, thanks for doing the AMA. what's your favorite sci-fi movie of the recent years?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 24 points 10 months ago

The Fifth Element which I have seen too many times.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] mnrnovember5](#) 1 5 points 10 months ago

I'm glad I'm not the only one with an unreasonable love for this film.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] RAA](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Would you consider the Fifth Element to be protopian, as you mentioned elsewhere? It seems like a societal depiction of the future without a particular sway of "fear" or "consequence". A little bit of fantasy thrown in probably doesn't harm it too much :)

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\] SkanksForTheMemories](#) 4 points 10 months ago

Fellow Westfielder here! We are proud of what you've been able to accomplish.

My question: What was the point of placing the Rosetta Disk on the probe that landed on the comet? Were you expecting someone to find it? Please say yes. Thanks!

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 13 points 10 months ago

Complicated story: We made the disk originally to test out ways to store information over the very long term. The 1,000 languages was the sample data set, but it tooks years to collect. When the European Space Agency' Rosetta probe was being assemble they came across a reference to our disk and asked if they could bolt one on the side. Of course we said yes.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] SkanksForTheMemories](#) 9 points 10 months ago

I'm just going to go ahead and assume that soon there will be aliens that can speak Spanish better than I.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\] mind\\_bomber](#) [Citizen of Earth](#) 10 points 10 months ago

Mr. Kelly,

How much more do you think there is left to discover?

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[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 19 points 10 months ago

99%. We have only seen 1%. True of technology and science.

**permalink parent**

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 8 points 10 months ago

You are being profoundly generous to our state of progress, I suspect.

**permalink parent**

[\[-\] ConcernedCitizen](#) 7 points 10 months ago

When it comes to tech advancement, clearly code can iterate faster than biology. Part of the reason why we use quickly reproducing organisms like mice and flies is to get faster returns than we could with primates.

However, tech like CRISPR offers a glimpse into changing the DNA of mature organisms with computer-code like tools.

This is incredibly exiting. And terrifying.

What seems to be the general feeling for this type of tech among your circle?

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[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 10 points 10 months ago

CRISPR and other synthetic biology tools and techniques are HUGE, but I think their full impact is many decades away. Our biology is very conservation, which tends to slow things down.

**permalink parent**

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[\[-\] Trichinobezoar](#) 7 points 10 months ago

I love the Cool Tools site and book. Are there any categories you wanted to include, but didn't because of space or other reasons?

**permalink**

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 16 points 10 months ago

I avoided gizmos, apps and electronic stuff in the Cool Tools book because 1) they are obsolete as soon as it is printed, 2) a hundred online sites cover this territory very well. Head to Wirecutter.

**permalink parent**

[\[-\] singeblanc](#) 9 points 10 months ago

LFTL:<http://m.thewirecutter.com/>

**permalink parent**

[\[-\] trioxine](#) 5 points 10 months ago

What's the best drug experience you have had?

**permalink**

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 26 points 10 months ago

I really only have had one "drug" experience. I was a non drug taking hippie. On my 50th birthday I took LSD for the first and only time. I saw God. Have not done any

since.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [prepend](#) 12 points 10 months ago

This is really interesting. I'm a non-drug user as well. If you saw God, what makes you not want to replicate the experience?

I hear this type of story frequently with drugs like LSD. How it is amazing and life changing. Yet people stop.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 42 points 10 months ago

God -- the source of the universe -- is not soft and cuddly.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [anima173](#) 14 points 10 months ago

The brutality of pure truth.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [LikeItsYourJob](#) 6 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin, What is a good long-term investment today? Thanks!

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 30 points 10 months ago

Educating girls everywhere.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [sfacets](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Surely a complete overhaul of the current school system should be a top priority? We are still learning the same things that were taught in the 1900's with a few updates.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 6 points 10 months ago

What's your childhood's dream?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 16 points 10 months ago

My childhood dream was to build a house where everything was recycled. Like it was a space ship. I have no idea why I had that dream.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [gorkish](#) 5 points 10 months ago

Well, Bill Gates just drank recycled poop yesterday. You were forward thinking, you just didn't realize it yet.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (2 replies)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] Cosmicpixie](#) 5 points 10 months ago

What are your thoughts on Limits to Growth, Peak Oil, etc? Do you think we'll transition to greener energy resources in time? Do we have enough time to make the transition safely, or do you think we'll have major bumps in the road? Which technologies will be hampered by resource scarcity?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 17 points 10 months ago

In theory this is a peak oil, but it is not important. Nuclear energy will be a major part of our transition. I still have hope for fusion, or synthetic solar.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (6 replies)

[\[-\] AnJu91](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Dear Kevin Kelly,

First of all thanks for this AMA!

Advances in science and technology are rapid, and it is difficult for one person to keep track of all this, let alone the implications on tomorrow's future. In light of this I am of opinion that media like Wired has a unique degree of power due to their influence on society's views, and in your case specifically concerning science and technology.

Do you believe this places a certain responsibility on you and media similar like Wired?

For example, are there subjects or topics you prioritize in your magazine? and can you give the reasons for this? Any other answer will do though, I'm just curious about your perspective on the influence and responsibility of an organisation as Wired and a person in your position.

Thank you again, hope that you find the question interesting.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 7 points 10 months ago

Point of clarification: I don't run Wired any longer, and take no credit or blame for what's in beyond my own articles.

But sure, media, including WIred, have both rights and responsibilities. I think it is helpful to talk about both at once.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] R0gueSch0lar](#) 3 points 10 months ago

What's the most interesting story behind a story you've covered? Any harrowing tales of survival trying to reach and interview eccentric millionaires or challenges given by crazy inventors?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 14 points 10 months ago

Eccentric millionaires are pretty boring. Their #2 and mid-level managers is where all the weirdness lie. I did meet one corporate guy who was still a disciple of Carlo Castenada, the infamous shaman imposter.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] IncidentalAnimal](#) 4 points 10 months ago

Thank you Mr. Kelly for the AMA. What advice would you give your 25 year old self? What direction would you point yourself in if you were 25 years old today. I very much enjoyed your interview on the Tim Ferris Show podcast, would you consider doing a podcast of your own someday? Thank you for your time!

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 7 points 10 months ago

I do a Cool Tools podcast with Mark Frauenfelder.

I'd tell my DIY 25-year-old self that you don't have to do EVERYTHING yourself. You can hire others to do things (like programing) that I don't do well myself.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] covington](#) 4 points 10 months ago

How do you keep an optimistic perspective and appreciation of the age of wonder in which we live, despite the Great Despair that mass culture is feeding us via a lockstep narrative of diminishing prospects, backsliding human rights, and increasing concentration of political power in a gerontological cleptocracy?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 7 points 10 months ago

I spend A LOT of time travelling in remote areas of developing world which reminds me of all the good that is happening despite all the harm. In most cases the once poor are not so poor any more.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] FuturePrimitive](#) 3 points 10 months ago

What do you make of articles like [this](#)? Subsequently, what is your stance on how technology's role (positive and/or negative) can/will drive our planet's ecological future? Which technologies give you hope?

Do you fear that the pace of ecological destruction may inadvertently inhibit the rapid development of tech and spoil the realization of a 'futuristic' society?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 9 points 10 months ago

We have not even begun to use the green potential of technology. There's nothing we have invented yet that we have been unable to make more environmentally appropriate. As we import more biological principles in technology, we can make them work with less harm on biology. It is mostly a matter of choosing to do so.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[load more comments](#) (2 replies)

[\[-\] o11ooooo11o11](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin,

Regarding digital/silicon immortality & AI - as we move toward ubiquitous connectivity and store our collective knowledge, it seems like a digital consciousness would quickly become 'our' collective consciousness. Do you think the purpose of our progress toward true AI represents our transcendence from our biological vehicles as individuals, or transcendence of our consciousness as a whole?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 9 points 10 months ago

Yes, I would say the new possibilities of collective consciousness is inevitable for this planet, and a coming attraction. But like all new things, they rarely eliminate the old ones.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] o110000011o11](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Thanks! This platform is amazing for bringing together people of similar thinking & interest, and colliding our questions and ideas. How do you think we can step forward into faster, more direct, sharing of what we know, solving each other's problems and thinking together?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Who-the-fuck-is-that](#) 3 points 10 months ago

I'm just amazed they're getting it to work on mobile, but where do you see the current Oculus Rift/Google Cardboard VR trend headed?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 11 points 10 months ago

I thought VR was going to arrive any minute 20 years ago so I am probably not the one to ask about this now.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Who-the-fuck-is-that](#) 3 points 10 months ago

LOL Yeah. Lawnmower Man and Virtual Boy got me all excited when I was a kid then nothing happened til now.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] threadsoul](#) 3 points 10 months ago

I found your studies on technology adoption within Amish communities to be absolutely fascinating and incredibly valuable information given the general preponderance of stereotypes dominating any conversation regarding their relationships with technology.

Did that work have any affect upon your positions with regard to techno-optimism, and if so, what in particular?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 8 points 10 months ago

Part of techno-optimism is the belief that more choices are better. I honor the Amish for a couple of reasons; one of them is because I always want their option -- little electric gizmos -- to be an option. I may not take it, but it should always remain an option.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] BlackBloke](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Have you read James Barrat's, "Our Final Invention"? If so, what did you think of it?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 7 points 10 months ago

I did read it, but rather fast. I think AI is one of our finest inventions, but no where near the last. I understand the worry -- and we do need to train and lead our AIs -- and there will be new problems because of them, but I don't buy the end of civilization dystopia.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] memystic](#) 7 points 10 months ago

I'm a representative for Bitshares; a cryptocurrency like Bitcoin but we solve the volatility problem with what we call "market pegged assets". [Read the whitepaper here.](#)

If you were me and thought this was genuinely a revolutionary, newsworthy technology, how would you get the attention of a Wired editor / journalist?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 10 points 10 months ago

For better or worse, Wired these days does few purely conceptual idea pieces. You'll have better luck aiming at other channels.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] StanLarimer](#) 2 points 10 months ago

This is beyond the conceptual stage. It's an active top 5 crypto currency with a market cap of \$37M...

I would tend to approach it from the angle of this article:<http://bytemaster.bitshares.org/article/2015/01/07/The-Worlds-First-Decentralized-Exchange/>

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (3 replies)

[load more comments](#) (2 replies)

[\[-\] hertling](#) 3 points 10 months ago

What are some of your favorite novels?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 11 points 10 months ago

A few years ago I read (audited) the novel Shantaram, and it is still reverberating in my head. This may have a lot to do with its setting which was India and Afghanistan where I spent a lot of my youth.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (2 replies)

[\[-\] jmnugent](#) 6 points 10 months ago

I don't have any questions,.. but I do just wanna say that I admire & respect you. When I think of the list of "smart internet people" (Jason Silva, Clay Shirky, Douglas Rushkoff,



Jacob Applebaum, etc).. You're definitely amongst them. Deep thanks for everything you do and the vision and wisdom you share with the world !..

**permalink**

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 4 points 10 months ago

I am honored to be in good company. Thanks!

**permalink parent**

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] denshi](#) 4 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin! I've been reading Wired since the very first issue, and am a big fan of the Long Now.

Do you think Techno-Optimism commingles with personal, human experience Optimism? Or does Techno-Optimism center around a psuedo-Messianical vision that the next firmware upgrade will obviate any need for seeking out love, compassion, and understanding in the here and now?

**permalink**

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 5 points 10 months ago

I honestly believe that technology can help us be more compassionate, more loving and increase our understanding. And I think those qualities have increased over the past several thousand years -- because of progress in our society. I would MUCH rather live now that 3,000 years ago, and not just because of the fleas. Tech makes us better humans.

**permalink parent**

[\[-\] denshi](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Does tech make us better, or is tech wielded by those who seek to make themselves better?

**permalink parent**

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 10 months ago

[deleted]

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 10 points 10 months ago

I am expecting to die, reluctantly.

**permalink**

[\[-\] davidbrin1](#) David Brin 3 points 10 months ago

My own take on prospects for immortality. We are already the methuselahs of mammals. The rest will be hard.<http://www.davidbrin.com/immortality.html>

**permalink parent**

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 10 months ago

[deleted]

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 4 points 10 months ago

I got meeting-out years ago, and I avoid meetings except new ones. But that I mean I like meetings built around a bunch of people who are meeting about a subject for the

first time. Usually it is small, fringe and the folks don't know each other very well. So there is a lot of explaining. Those are the only kind I tend to go to. I don't know any about the future like that.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] prepend](#) 2 points 10 months ago

What's the most interesting conference, workshop, gathering that you've been to? Did you ever attend any of the Rockefeller Institute's sessions at the Bellagio Center?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 4 points 10 months ago

The best conf ever I attended was the first Artificial Life conference at Los Alamos, NM in late 1980s. See my comment elsewhere in this thread about meetings.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] prepend](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Just wanted to say a great thank you. Your writings motivated me to find the internet in the early 90s and I appreciate your work. I still remember bringing Wired 1.04 into class and showing it to my friends and teachers. The format, the inks, the timeliness and the material really galvanized a generation.

I subscribed to Wired for 20 years, but for the past few it hasn't quite been the same. It morphed quite a bit over the time but this latest version seems to be really about targeting rich, technology-lovers rather than being written by technology enthusiasts.

My question is if you have a recommendation to follow sites or magazines or communities that have a particular vibe like Wired had? There are many great communities online, but I'm looking for something with editorial vision.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 4 points 10 months ago

I was just talking to Chris Anderson the former editor at Wired. We agree that these days we get the most news from reading VCs like Fred Wilson, Paul Graham, Felix Salmon, etc. The ones that write well have keen insights way beyond the money angle.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] prepend](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Back in the early days of google reader you could subscribe to people's RSS feeds and see what sites people follow. I didn't see a list of blogs you follow on kk.org. Do you publish a list anywhere that I can reference?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] BengeTrumpetPlayer](#) 3 points 10 months ago

What was your biggest inspiration or reason to get into the subscription magazine business?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 4 points 10 months ago

Back then that was the easiest way to reach a lot of people. No long true.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[–] [Lastonk](#) 2 points 10 months ago

How do you feel about the idea of seed factories? Using a collection of machines like 3d printers, mold machines, multi axis routers, lathes, and a variety of CAD devices which collectively are capable of making a copy of every machine in the factory? Basically do you think a Von Neumann machine is now possible?

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 4 points 10 months ago

We are still decades from a physical Von Neumann replicator. A seed factory would work in theory, but its use case is pretty narrow. Packed on a spaceship, yes. But for most of everyday life and technology, specialization wins. I think improved transportation can eliminate many of the disadvantages of having something made in another part of your town instead of in your bedroom.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [skomorokh](#) 5 points 10 months ago

Have you seen [The Global Village Construction Set](#)? It's an effort to sort-of build the manual version of that: a collection of plans for machines needed to provide a good quality of life and sufficient to build more such machines.

The goal is to provide sustainable aid since, say, if you give a John Deere tractor one day the recipients will need parts. Ones that tend to be quite specialized and not easily substituted with whatever you have on hand.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Ekrof](#) 1 point 10 months ago

Hello Kevin! Greetings from [/r/SpaceBuckets](#)

What are your thoughts on home indoor gardening? Do you think it could become mainstream in the future? LEDs are getting much better at plant growing.

[permalink](#)

[–] [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [S] 4 points 10 months ago

Sunlight is so cheap, I find it hard to get excited by. It made sense when you have to hide pot plants.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Ekrof](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Thanks for your response!

I've grown dill, chives, basil, [cherry tomatoes](#) and hot peppers in my buckets, with much success. I don't have access to good, consistent sunlight. Indoor gardening can be the only option for people living in small apartments, for example! Its a fun hobby too, I think we should look at its potential without judging the plants species.

Cheers from the southern hemisphere!

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Chispy](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Hey Kevin,

What's the future of the city? Are we going to continue upgrading our current megalopolises or will we construct new ones based on [Arcological designs](#)? If so, how will they look like and when do you think we'll start seeing them?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 3 points 10 months ago

I doubt it. My prediction is that the rough shape and texture of a city in 100 years from now, or even 200, will roughly be similar to now. What will be different are the communications and relationships in that city.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 4 points 10 months ago

If you could recommend only one book, fiction or non-fiction, that you think everyone should read, what would it be?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 10 points 10 months ago

The Bible. No matter what you think it says, it does not say that.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [daneirkusauralex](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Hi! Thanks for doing this.

How has your experience changed over time when discussing futurist concepts with "non-futurists?" Do you feel that a large proportion of humans are oblivious to the direction in which we're heading and the effects of technological change?

Put another way, when or what may cause the rest of the world to wake up to the dramatic changes we can and likely will bring to fruition?

Thanks

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 1 point 10 months ago

There is a lot of talk of the future now that we often get future fatigue. But I think that Hollywood futurist movies are still hugely influential -- the real cultural center. I would expect them and games to continue to have great influence on how we talk about the future.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\]](#) [PrussianBleu](#) 1 point 10 months ago

Hi Kevin, big fan of Cool Tools.

Thankfully, there is a resurgence in interest in carpentry/woodworking and other making and I think that's good. What tactile skill is dying out that will have the biggest impact?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 7 points 10 months ago

There are probably some fine skills needed in niche ways that will be gone. But at the same time there are now more sword makers and flint knappers making swords or stone points than ever before! Old things keep going...

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 10 months ago\*

[\[deleted\]](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 5 points 10 months ago

I keep being surprised by the vast army of non-programmers needed to make successful tech companies work. All the hundreds of accountants, project managers, designers, lawyers, sales, marketing, and other key players that contribute to the product or service. I know a videographer, a spreadsheet jock, an artist, a teacher/trainer -- all in their 20s, who work for high tech companies and seem to be happy. Find a place where you like the people you work with.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] Anjin](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin, I loved *What Technology Wants* I read a good part of it in a hut in Belize on a dive trip and for some reason that seemed very appropriate.

I had a question for you, as a technically capable writer, what are your thoughts on the new generation of tools that let writers control the entire publishing and sales process like <https://www.gitbook.com> or <http://www.softcover.io> ?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 1 point 10 months ago

More control is a good option. But I like to keep choices. So publishers are sometimes a good option too.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] CloudSA](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Hey Kevin thanks for the AMA

What would you consider to be the best 3 sources of technology news and information for anyone looking to stay in the know. Outside of Wired of course. Thx

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 2 points 10 months ago

I answered this somewhere else in this thread, but following the VCs who write is my way these days.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\]](#) [deleted] 10 months ago

[deleted]

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 6 points 10 months ago

Yellow.

[permalink](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] OwensJ11](#) 2 points 10 months ago

How might a young writer get hired at wired?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Write a great blog, that others retweet.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 1 point 10 months ago

Would not it be interesting to add a schematic for decoding the language as well? letters to sounds, symbols to pictures

would an alien be able to figure out the languages with null previous knowledge of them or the alphabets?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 2 points 10 months ago

If you were serious about conveying language, there are so many things to do that we didn't do because that was not the original objective of the disk. It was to study long-term storage of information.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 2 points 10 months ago

I stumbled upon the rosetta project page many months ago, i found it very fascinating.

I have some great ideas that would solve many problems in the world, i would like to share them with you,

are you the sort of person who answers emails or doesnt email back?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] sfified](#) 0 points 10 months ago

Hey Kevin,

I read the WIRED article [The Internet of Anything: The 3-D Printer That Can Spit Out Custom Electronics](#) the other day and it that included this line:

Yes, companies can print custom hearing aids using today, but someone still has to solder the electronics into the plastic moldings.

When I see an error like that in the future, what is the best way to let the magazine know about it?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 4 points 10 months ago

I don't know since I don't work there.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] treelovinhippie](#) 1 point 10 months ago

Massive fan KK :) For the development of AGI, do you prefer the idea of it being developed in a lab by researchers? Or that it will emerge via the interconnectedness and collective intelligence of humans?

I like to explain to people that we humans are like neurons in a developing global hivemind, a hiveAI. However, just as neurons cannot comprehend the complexities of the brain and its emergent "self/consciousness", and ants cannot comprehend their complex underground colony structures; will humans ever be able to notice or comprehend a global (sentient) brain when we are merely the neurons?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Good question. Key uncertainty. It could go either way, or maybe both. If I had to bet these days, I would bet on a global AI happening before a stand along AI that we can agree to call an AI.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 0 points 10 months ago

Why is your website so clunky and outdated?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 11 points 10 months ago

Clunky and outdated is cool. Think Reddit.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 2 points 10 months ago\*

Reddit is not clunky and outdated. It is a minimal, fast and highly effective PHP service. It isn't broken and does not require alteration. Imgur is also the most effective image browsing service on the internet.

Wired is a plain old ad-ridden HTML page server and a crappy one at that.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 8 points 10 months ago

I'm sorry. I thought you were talking about MY website, kk.org. I don't have anything to do with wired.com. In fact when the magazine was sold to Conde Nast in about 2000 it was legally prohibited from having a website, since wired.com was sold to a different company, Lycos. It was not returned to the magazine until a few years ago. My site, kk.org, on the other hand is minimal, fast, and highly effective.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[load more comments](#) (12 replies)

[\[-\]](#) [curiousdude](#) 12 points 10 months ago

Why has cognitive enhancement rarely, if ever, been featured in Wired? To me, it seems the idea of improving physiological capabilities of people who do not have a disease seems filled with potential, but it seems to be somewhat of a taboo in tech writing.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [\[deleted\]](#) 1 point 10 months ago

If the Rosetta Disk is found and successfully interpreted by a civilization in the future, do you think human languages might have changed so much to make it ineffective? In modern terms, it seems like it would be akin to someone trying to communicate with us using Old English.

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Yes, modern languages are still evolving rapidly. We add 14 new words to the English language every DAY! [Here](#)The point of the Rosetta disk is not to revive old languages (it does not contain enough information for each language) but to help in understand what once was.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] Cs\\_swixx](#) 2 points 10 months ago

I am going to work in an ict-company in Taiwan for 4 months, don't know advanced pc stuff but i am willing to learn + finished highest edication level in the Netherlands. Any tips?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 1 point 10 months ago

Get out of Taipei whenever you can.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] davidbrin1](#) [David Brin](#) 41 points 10 months ago

Kevin -- David Brin here -- great stuff! I held back, deferring to the regulars. But you - as usual - SEE the way things are, very well, and communicate them, even better.

[permalink](#)

[load more comments](#) (2 replies)

[\[-\] o11ooooo11o11](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Are you familiar with TDCS, if so what do you think of this technology as a means to accelerate learning & improve cognitive abilities?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 1 point 10 months ago

I have no direct experience with it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[load more comments](#) (1 reply)

[\[-\] Advcu23](#) 1 point 10 months ago

Humans are builder our future will be based on transcending what we think is possible. Technology is taking the imagination and bring it to reality now we have the power to create things to benefit our destroy civilization.

We will find our answers in the (decisions) we choose as technology advances and we become more curious. Our goal should be to create an emtional connction with technology...

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 1 point 10 months ago

Agree.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] \[deleted\]](#) 1 point 10 months ago

Greatest regrets in life?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\] kevin2kelly](#) [Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired](#) [\[S\]](#) 4 points 10 months ago

We have three children and wished we had had four.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\] RhoOfFeh](#) 9 points 10 months ago

Want one of mine? He's slapping me on the butt as I type this, lol.



[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 8 points 10 months ago

Cherish it -- the horsing around.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [Ddevil5](#) -6 points 10 months ago

Why does your magazine suck so bad?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 12 points 10 months ago

Because I am not editing it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

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[\[-\]](#) [SH4RK\\_SANDWICH](#) -5 points 10 months ago

Did you write that shitty self-aggrandizing thread title yourself?

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 5 points 10 months ago

Yep.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[\[-\]](#) [Hello-Universe](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Thank you for your time, it is valued.

What are your thoughts on 'what is natural' and what isn't? For example, the human race ruining the climate, an asteroid hitting the earth, a species going extinct because of our impact.

To me, this all seems natural. It might seem new, or perceived as a drastic change.... but haven't all drastic changes in the past had some sort of impact to lead us to where we are today? (i.e. a foreign body hitting the earth and eliminating the dinosaurs)

[permalink](#)

[\[-\]](#) [deleted] 10 months ago

[removed]

[\[-\]](#) [kevin2kelly](#) Kevin Kelly, co-founder of Wired [\[S\]](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Which half?

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[\[-\]](#) [deleted] 10 months ago

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[\[-\]](#) [TheSystem\\_IsDown](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Recently on the [Tim Ferriss Podcast](#) you talked about population decline in developed countries, with America being an exception only because of immigration. My first thought

was "Great, maybe we'll get down to a more manageable size for using our planet's resources more slowly until we can be sustainable through technology. To get there without needing a massive plague or nuclear holocaust, but because people in cities statistically have less babies is infinitely more desirable."

I gathered that you didn't think this potential population decline was a good thing, saying that people in relatively privileged positions (have access to water, education, etc for their young) should do their part and have 4 kids. Why is that? Don't you think this is a natural reaction to overpopulation and a solution to natural resource stress?

**permalink**

[\[-\] northamerimassgrave](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Have you ever worked for, collaborated with, or been approached to be recruited by a U.S. intelligence agency?

**permalink**

[\[-\] astrobeen](#) 2 points 10 months ago

Hi Kevin - Considering that algorithms and AI strongly influence our dating, fitness, diet, news consumption, social networks, education, entertainment, porn consumption, schedule, navigation, and job searches, what aspect of our lives are NOT currently controlled by computer algorithms?

**permalink**

[\[-\] o110000011o11](#) 3 points 10 months ago

Is there anything you'd like to tell/share with us that hasn't been prompted by a question yet?

**permalink**

[\[-\] Mdub47](#) 3 points 10 months ago

What is something you never thought would happen, and then you ended up featuring it in WIRED?