

**The Spirit of the Internet**  
Speculations  
on the  
Evolution of Global Consciousness

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**Chapter Highlights**  
Selected passages from *The Spirit of the Internet*

(Full text version available at: [www.MatrixMasters.com](http://www.MatrixMasters.com))

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## Introduction

... the changes being brought about by the Internet are orders of magnitude more significant, and are taking place much faster, than anything we have ever seen before.

... The Internet, or the “Net” as it is commonly called, is in fact the physical manifestation of the continuing evolution of human consciousness during an age of unprecedented growth in human/machine symbiosis.

... The Internet has become the central nervous system of our planet’s social and economic life and is the physical manifestation of a place called cyberspace.

... no technology before the Internet has had the power to literally transform the entire range of human experience. ... you will be well served to pay very close attention to the evolution of this important communications medium.

... this book is about the ways in which unfettered access to virtually unlimited amounts of information is changing our world.

... The main thread of this book concerns what is meant by the evolution of global consciousness.

## Chapter 1: A Place Called Cyberspace

### What is cyberspace?

... the concept of cyberspace itself appears to be constantly morphing between related but slightly dissimilar meanings.

... The substrate that supports cyberspace is different. It has both physical and mental components, for it consists of computers, networks, *and* human minds.

... the word “cyberspace” has largely come to represent a synergistic collection of concepts about where one’s mind *is* when involved in mental activities that are leveraged by technology.

... A mind that is in cyberspace is a mind that is altered from its normal, walking around state.

... Cyberspace is a reflection of who we *really* are—for in cyberspace our minds are more willing to explore new ideas, taste forbidden delights, and meet some very interesting people.

### A Global Culture

... Is it possible that the Internet has become the cornerstone of what will one day become this planet’s first truly global culture?

... We are entering new territory here, one that presents a grave threat to the established order, those who preserve our current cultures.

### Taking the “Virtual” out of Virtual Reality

... while the World Wide Web is simply a linked, two-dimensional, document base, Virtual Reality is about direct person-to-person interactions in three-dimensional cyberspace. This is some of the technology our species has begun using to actually *populate* cyberspace.

... Virtual Reality is a mind-space that is no more virtual than any other form of reality in a quantum mechanical universe.

... “Virtual Reality is going to be *the* fundamental communications medium of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”<sup>1</sup>

... “What happens to your *image* happens to *you*, because in Virtual Reality we become both art and artist.”<sup>2</sup>

... It is a known scientific fact that changes in a person’s consciousness can be directly linked to changes in one’s brain chemistry.

### Virtual Worlds

... my hope is that there will never be anything *but* colonies in cyberspace. The alternative is to see both big companies and nations, large and small, attempt to put fences around parts of cyberspace just as they have on land, sea, and in our air space.

... Today, each and every human mind has been given a charter to colonize as much of cyberspace as he or she cares to maintain.

... Formerly the stuff of science fiction, ALife is already on its way to becoming an integral feature of nature.

... what we are seeing here is the evolution of pure information ...

... both ALife and human consciousness are beginning to colonize cyberspace.

### Cyberspace and You

... Once a mind is in deep cyberspace, it is no easy matter to extract it and return to the restrictions of biological existence.

... It is in deep cyberspace where we see the islands of information becoming larger and consciousness becoming more dense. These islands in cyberspace consist of the interactions between consciousness, information, billions of virtual objects, and artificial forms of life, and are being sustained by the most complex technological artifact ever built on Earth.

## Chapter 2: The Internet and the Noosphere

... Chardin used the term “noosphere” (possibly first coined by Vladimir Vernadsky<sup>3</sup>) to represent a “sphere of mind” encircling the Earth.

<sup>1</sup> Bruce Damer, virtual worlds pioneer.

<sup>2</sup> Galen Brandt, virtual healing pioneer.

... “[Chardin was] deeply concerned with establishing a global unification of human awareness as a necessary prerequisite for any real future progress of mankind.”<sup>4</sup>

... the Internet is *not* the noosphere. An Internet connection is not required, for all of humanity is already an integral part of the noosphere.

### **What is the Noosphere?**

... If Chardin is correct in asserting that reflective consciousness is “the specific effect of organized complexity,” it follows that some sort of intensification of human consciousness is at least possible within the laws of biological evolution.

... He further suggests that this is not a mere accretion of information, but rather a synthesis of information that erects “as though it were a vault above our heads, a domain of interwoven consciousness.”

... “We are faced with a harmonised collectivity of consciousness equivalent to a sort of super-consciousness. The idea is that of the earth not only becoming covered by myriad’s of grains of thought, but becoming enclosed in a single thinking envelope so as to form, functionally, no more than a single vast grain of thought on the sidereal scale, the plurality of individual reflections grouping themselves together and reinforcing one another in the act of a single unanimous reflection.”<sup>5</sup>

... In other words, it is the moment in time when the entire human species acquires super-psychic abilities.

... This, in Chardin’s view, is nothing less than a collective human organism.

### **Is the Internet the Mechanical Infrastructure of the Noosphere?**

... Within a few years, there will be millions of people around the globe who will be immersed in the continuous computer environments now being designed for the “personal electronic companions” that are about to enter the market.<sup>6</sup>

... Could it be that the Internet is the noosphere’s “brain of its own” [Chardin] refers to?

### **Is “Noosphere” Another Name for “Gaian Mind?”**

... My personal belief is that Gaian mind already exists; ...

... The sound of the surf, as it breaks at the shoreline, calls to mind the purr of some gigantic, symbiotic creature composed of all the life in the ocean. While walking along the shoreline, I sense the presence of some wise old being as it whispers into my ear. That is when I *feel* the essence of Gaia.

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<sup>3</sup> Vladimir Vernadsky (1863–1945), a Russian scientist, was instrumental in establishing the field of biogeochemistry.

<sup>4</sup> Julian Huxley’s “Introduction” to Teilhard de Chardin’s *The Phenomenon of Man*, p. 17 (New York: Harper & Row, 1959).

<sup>5</sup> Teilhard de Chardin’s *The Phenomenon of Man*, p. 251 (New York: Harper & Row, 1959).

<sup>6</sup> See page 139 of the full text version for a description of these new devices.

... I do not mean to imply that one day there will be some sort of mind meld where the noosphere becomes indistinguishable from Gaian mind. Rather, I am suggesting that such a unifying of consciousness would be experienced more in the context of “being of the same mind.”

... As you will soon see, I believe the Internet has evolved as another tool for us to use to accelerate the transformation of the entirety of human consciousness into the larger sea of Gaian awareness.

### **Is it Possible for the Noosphere and Gaian Consciousness to Harmonize?**

... “There exists a world apart from this one to which the plants give access.”<sup>7</sup>

... Reports from psychonauts, many of which may be found on the Internet, indicate that their experiences are not illusions at all. Rather, they involve an expansion of consciousness into a much larger realm than our minds encounter in the world of consensual reality.

... their minds also seem to encompass a much larger, all-inclusive reality ...

... I use the concept of *entheospace* here to more broadly describe the deeply seated sense of being infused with, and a part of, divine mind.

... Metaphorically, one can think of entheospace as an environment in which many disparate types of consciousness share a common language with which they may communicate.

... contact with an alien intelligence does not necessarily imply contact through verbal exchanges.

... is there a new technology for the noosphere to use? Has a new sacred plant, or *sacred medium*, evolved?

### **A New Sacred Medium**

... Perhaps one of the reasons we humans have been inspired to build, and then so quickly embrace, this new technology we call the Internet, is to provide a focal point for the noosphere so it can more easily achieve communication with Gaian consciousness.

... “cyberspace is already crawling with delighted acid heads.”<sup>8</sup>

... It is as if a bond of some sort exists between the psychedelic and computing communities.

... the fact that there may be yet another tool that could be of use in the exploration of inner landscapes is important news. Perhaps a socially acceptable way for large numbers of people to enter entheospace has evolved.

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<sup>7</sup> Richard Yensen’s “Prologue,” to Janine Rodiles’ *A Prohibited Therapy – Biography of Salvadore Roquet*, 1998.

<sup>8</sup> John Perry Barlow’s *Being in Nothingness: Virtual Reality and the Pioneers of Cyberspace*, found at [www.eff.org/pub/Publications/John\\_Perry\\_Barlow](http://www.eff.org/pub/Publications/John_Perry_Barlow).

... Just as psychedelic chemicals provide a portal to entheospace, cyberdelic space also acts as a portal to entheospace.

... there now may be a technology that large numbers of people can legally use to expand their consciousness into entheospace, using the portal of cyberdelic space.

... it is possible that one day we will be able to use the power of Virtual Reality technology to enter Inhabited Virtual Worlds, which in turn will provide us with the same sense of place one experiences in entheospace.

... Once a mind is established in cyberspace it becomes larger; it expands; it becomes manifest in this new medium; it becomes psychedelic.

... The *intensity* of the experience of being in an altered state may be less in cyberspace than in a pure entheospace, but the *feeling* of expanded consciousness is much the same.

... entheospace is in essence the sense of place sentient beings experience when on deep spiritual quests.

... the day has arrived for us to join together in a revolution of consciousness.

### **The Evolution of Global Consciousness**

... Humankind is at its most significant crossroad yet.

... what the Internet is actually all about is the interconnection of these conscious minds into a more unified global consciousness, a collective consciousness, the compliment of our collective unconscious.

... I envision this elevated state of human consciousness bestowing a form of super-psychic abilities on our *entire* species, ...

... What a unified global consciousness implies is that *everyone* on the planet will be in harmony with this sense of Gaian consciousness.

... Terence McKenna may have put his finger on the problem when he said, "...half the time you think you are thinking you are actually listening."<sup>9</sup> Perhaps our species can learn to use the Internet to help us *listen* better, and thus use the Net as a lever to nudge the entirety of the noosphere back into the serenity of Gaian consciousness.

## **Chapter 3: Conscious Evolution and the Evolution of Consciousness**

... no longer is organic life at the mercy of evolution's previously glacier-like speed. We have entered an era in which conscious awareness is taking over the machinery of evolution, striving to improve the very species in which this consciousness has taken root.

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<sup>9</sup> Terence McKenna's "Psychedelic Society," from Robert Forte's (ed.) *Entheogens and the Future of Religion*, p. 60 (San Francisco: Council on Spiritual Practices, 1997).

... as important as it is to improve the biology of our species, it is even more important that we accelerate the evolution of consciousness itself.

... Chardin also postulated that self-aware consciousness evolves from animal intelligence only after some critical mass of complexity is reached in the brain/body organism supporting that intelligence.

... complexity itself is now increasing exponentially.

### **An Evolutionary Bifurcation**

... Briefly stated, Chardin's Law of Complexity and Consciousness holds that increasing complexity *always* results in an increase in consciousness and vice versa.

... we may be approaching a bifurcation along the road of human evolution, a point at which complexity reaches yet another critical mass. It is at this point we can expect to see a new form of super-consciousness arise in the human species.

... his hypothesis that, eventually, the human species, *en masse*, will constitute, or merge into, a single, *symbiotic organism*.

... Chardin here implies that for human consciousness to evolve to its utmost limits requires a richer substrate than is to be found in an individual human brain.

... Of course, with hindsight it is now obvious that those in positions of power could not let any form of mass communications fall under the control of the public at large.

... Like the butterfly of chaos theory, whose fluttering wings cause an almost imperceptible disturbance in the atmosphere, which in turn leads to a hurricane, the future of this great venture we call the Internet might well depend upon a single word, or act, or gesture from you. At this delicate point in the space/time continuum, *everyone's* actions become extremely important. This is certainly not the time for you to have a casual attitude about the future of human life on planet Earth.

... Of all the tools yet developed by the human species, the Internet provides the most fertile ground in which the noosphere, our species-consciousness, can take root and evolve to its next level of complexity.

### **A Working Definition of Consciousness**

... "Light is the original cosmic energy source. All life, the life of plants, animals, and human beings, is formed and sustained by light. Even the thought process of the human brain is fed by this energy source. Therefore the human mind, our consciousness, represents the highest, most sublime energetic transformation of light. We are light beings; that is not only a mystical experience but scientific knowledge as well."<sup>10</sup>

... Light, of course, is a form of energy, thus consciousness (in my view) is energy that has taken human form; in other words, energy incarnate.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Albert Hofmann, Ph.D., "Natural Science and the Mystical World View," from Robert Forte's (ed.) *Entheogens and the Nature of Religion* (San Francisco: Council on Spiritual Practices, 1997).

<sup>11</sup> For an intriguing discussion of the amount of energy required to hold a single thought in one's mind, see Adam McLean's *Quantum Consciousness*, found at [www.levity.com/alchemy/quantum.html](http://www.levity.com/alchemy/quantum.html).

... Perhaps the entities they encounter on their deep shamanic journeys are concentrated fields of energy composed of other than human consciousness.

### **The Evolution of Consciousness**

... If we were to say that consciousness itself fell under nature's processes of evolution, ideas would be analogous to genes. Just as our genes determine our biological makeup, our ideas shape our consciousness.

... Her consciousness encountered a mutated idea and out of it evolved a new person.

... Our species has been pillaging the environment for at least 14,000 years. Why? Because the collective consciousness of our species has not yet evolved to the point where it can take precedence over individual wills.

... Each day more people come to the realization that all life *is* actually interconnected, deeply interconnected.

### **Conscious Evolution**

... Consciousness has now taken its place alongside nature and joined in the work of evolution.

... when it comes to inter-tribal relations among our species we have not evolved much above the level of our prehistoric ancestors. The time has arrived for us to consciously direct the evolution of human consciousness itself, before our technology and innate selfishness drive our species to extinction.

## **Chapter 4: The Internet as a Chaotic Attractor**

... many large scale systems reach their maximum potential when poised between chaos and order.

... "Networks in the regime near the edge of chaos—this compromise between order and surprise—appear best able to coordinate complex activities and best able to evolve as well."<sup>12</sup>

... I believe that the Internet is serving as just such an attractor, or basin of attraction, drawing the Earth's most creative minds into a synergistic union out of which a new form of human consciousness can arise from the wells of chaos.

### **A Probabilistic Universe**

... At the subatomic level, at least, it was found that the universe was not deterministic, but that it was instead probabilistic.

... From the chaos of the universe, all creativity springs forth, and all possibilities may be realized within certain probabilistic limits established by the laws of nature.

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<sup>12</sup> Stuart Kauffman's *At Home in the Universe*, p. 26 (Oxford University Press, 1995).

... To overcome the propensity of species to become extinct requires thinking beyond one's personal concerns and working in unison with others to search out the path that holds the greatest probability for our survival.

### **The Illusion of Reality**

... Once you are in such a state of mind, you will come to the *emotional* realization that your *memory* of life's episodes is their only continuing reality. Could it be that memory, or thought, is the true bedrock of our Earthly reality?

... Ultimately, science may conclude that the fundamental particle of nature is nothing other than pure mathematical thought.

... I do believe that we have yet to unlock the mysteries of existence as viewed from a quantum mechanical point of view.

... As the Internet becomes ever more deeply ingrained in our everyday lives, our concept of reality becomes even more problematic.

### **Fallout from Bell's Theorem**

... According to Bell's Theorem, our universe isn't made of independent, or stand-alone, objects, it is instead *an indivisible whole*.

... If science can ultimately prove that everything in the cosmos is indeed an indivisible part of a single whole, what does this mean to religion, science, and philosophy?

... it may be in our best interest to quickly come to grips with the cosmic importance of these findings.

### **The Dawn of a New Era**

... According to Ray Kurzweil, "your personal computer will be able to simulate the brain power of a small village by the year 2030, the entire population of the United States by 2048, and a trillion human brains by 2060."<sup>13</sup>

... With the price/performance ratio of personal computers constantly improving, it will not be only the large businesses and governmental organizations who own these super computers that match or exceed human intelligence.

... Is it any wonder then, that there has been a resurgence of interest in the possible advent of a new world age—one that was long ago predicted by the Mayans?

... only once in approximately 25,800 years does the meridian of the Winter Solstice come into direct alignment with the center of our galaxy. The next date on which this alignment will take place was thought by the ancient Mayans to be the harbinger of a major turning point for the human species. That date is December 21, 2012.

... "The Maya conceived of the Great Cycle as one World Age, one growth cycle, at the end of which humanity reaches the next stage in its spiritual development. As the life

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<sup>13</sup> Ray Kurzweil's *The Age of Spiritual Machines*, p. 105 (New York: Viking, 1999).

of an individual goes through distinct stages, so too the collective lifewave of humanity grows through several distinct phases.”<sup>14</sup>

... it appears that the ancient Maya believed their long count calendar measured, among other things, the amount of time required for the human species to evolve to each succeeding level of awareness. Accordingly, they believed that when our planet and sun come into a resonant alignment with the galactic center, humanity will step over another threshold of consciousness and begin the next great World Age. In essence, the Maya believed the alignment of December 21, 2012 would provide the resonant catalyst for the next quantum leap consciousness takes as our cosmos continues to awaken.

... the pole shift foretold by the Mayans is one of a shift in the collective psyche of our species. As they saw it, we are headed for a fundamental change in the way we relate to one another, as well as for a change in the ways in which our species relates to the rest of the biosphere.

... Given the perspective of 21<sup>st</sup> century science, there does not appear to be any physical event that is going to occur when (or if) our planet is aligned with the center of our galaxy. Although there are some people who eagerly anticipate some such grand physical transformation, I believe the Maya were being more metaphysical than physical in their anticipation of a great change taking place at the end of their current calendar.

... I see this as no reason for *not* championing the idea that it is time, once again, for our species to move to some higher level of awareness.

## **A Technological Singularity**

... In Vinge’s view, a technological singularity will soon occur due to the outgrowth of computers possessing a level of intelligence that exceeds the level of human intelligence.

... “Within thirty years, we will have the technological means to create superhuman intelligence. Shortly after, the human era will be ended. ... I argue in this paper that we are on the edge of change comparable to the rise of human life on Earth. The precise cause of this change is the imminent creation by technology of entities with greater than human intelligence.”<sup>15</sup>

... If scientific knowledge and technological innovation continue to increase at their present rates, approximately doubling over constant periods of time, then, by Vinge’s analysis, it may soon be possible to create superhuman intelligence.

... This is no small matter; like entering a black hole, what lies beyond such a singularity cannot be known ahead of time.

... It seems to me that *all* of humanity has a right to take part in discussions about how these unimaginably powerful devices will be used. This is not the time to sit on the sidelines and let only our scientists and engineers consider the implications of deep and rapid technological advances. These are times when the entire chorus of human

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<sup>14</sup> John Major Jenkins’ *Mayan Cosmogenesis 2012*, p. 22 (Santa Fe: Bear & Company, 1998).

<sup>15</sup> Vernor Vinge’s “Technological Singularity,” *Whole Earth Review*, December 10, 1993.

consciousness is called upon to raise our voices in discussions about technology that will have profound implications on the future of our species.

... My personal view is that if advanced machine intelligence can be realized, we will see this development well before the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

... The prospect of the *Internet* awakening appears to me to coincide nicely with speculations about a technological singularity.

... Neural implants are no longer the stuff of science fiction. They are a part of today's version of reality.

... As our interfaces to the Internet become ever more biological in nature, we also see the Net moving deeper into wireless transmission. It is certainly within the range of probabilities that one day soon there will be neural implants, which allow us to tap into the total body of human knowledge stored on the Internet simply by executing mental commands. Perhaps the day will arrive when we reach a critical mass of such highly connected individuals, and the resulting resonance of this group mind will precipitate the technological singularity that Vernor Vinge foresees.

### **Ubiquitous Computing**

... While widespread use of neural implants may still be many years away, ubiquitous, or immersive computing is now upon us.

... Long before this century is one-half over, even what is now called the third world will be immersed in an unseen web of interconnected computing devices.

... Over time, cyberspace will hold a mirror image of our physical world, and the distinctions between Virtual Reality and every day consensus reality will begin to blur.

... To stop the exponential growth of ubiquitous computing is not only impossible, it would be unwise. What *is* called for is for each and every one of us to become personally involved in debates about the ethical considerations and human issues that will shape the future of technological growth on this planet in the century that lies before us.

... The alternative is for us to build into this technology the basic human right of privacy—the right to be left alone as long as we are not causing harm to others or to the planet. The future is, quite literally, in our hands.

### **The Chaotic Attraction of the Internet**

... While this rush of events is driving some of our neighbors back to the deceptive security of fundamentalist religions, our most forward-looking and fearless minds are being drawn ever more deeply into the chaotic embrace of the Internet.

... This is certainly not the time to bury our heads in the sands of old thinking. Instead we would be wise to firmly plant our minds in the silicon of cyberspace and see what new ideas begin to grow.

... A technological tsunami, the size of which has never before been experienced on this planet, is about to engulf our entire globe.

... Whether such unprecedented change will have a positive impact upon this planet remains to be seen.

... It is my hope that by the time you finish reading this book you will share my optimism that we are heading to higher ground.

... A delicate balance between free speech and social responsibility must be maintained if our utopian dreams of a free global exchange of ideas, which are the genes of consciousness, is to become a reality.

## Chapter 5: Freedom in Cyberspace

... “The right to control one’s own consciousness is the quintessence of freedom.” — Richard Glen Boire<sup>16</sup>

... In essence, cyberspace exists primarily in our minds. It is from this perspective that I suggest we consider what is meant by “freedom in cyberspace.”

... “What are the implications for mental autonomy when wearable computers become wet-wired to our own minds and memory is augmented by a high-speed wireless connection to the Web? Similarly, advances in biotechnology and drug-design increasingly raise legal and ethical questions related to cognitive liberty, including what rights people will have to access these and other technologies, and what rights we will have to avoid them.”<sup>17</sup>

### **Transcending the Corporation/Nation State**

... Should corporations and countries both be viewed as independent entities, responsible only as some kind of super-person, or should we see them as assemblages of individual people pursuing some form of common objective?

... What I mean by transcending is that each and every one of us not only take responsibility for the actions of our countries and companies, but that we also view the actions of organizations we encounter to be the joint responsibility of every one of their members.

... Even in pseudo-democracies like the United States, we have abrogated most of our rights and allowed a system to evolve which has little relationship to a true democracy.

... Our species has spent the past thousands of years living in subjugation to those who see fit to control access to any and all information that may, in some tangential way, pose a threat to their base of money and power.

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<sup>16</sup> Richard Glen Boire, Esq. is the Executive Director of the Alchemind Society ([www.alchemind.org](http://www.alchemind.org)) and holds a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of California, Berkeley. He is an expert on constitutional and criminal law, specializing in the jurisprudence of extraordinary states of consciousness, dissident thinking, and shamanic inebriants.

<sup>17</sup> Richard Glen Boire’s “On Cognitive Liberty (Part I),” *Journal of Cognitive Liberties Vol. 1, No. 1*, p. 8, Winter 1999/2000.

... Today, priests of all manner continue to impose their ideology on everyone who will listen. Without access to the same underlying information on which they base their claims, we have been unable to directly challenge what they tell us.

... Fortunately, the Internet now provides a way for us to change this situation.

... The ability to communicate with one another, globally and instantly, is the real advantage the Internet brings to those who live outside the walls of the rich and powerful. This is why the Internet presents a serious threat to the people who are running the show today.

... *It is imperative that we not allow any government, business, or other organization to hold control over our personal cyberspace.*

... If we are not *extremely vigilant* in the next few years, those now in positions of power, both in government and in business, are going to succeed in carving cyberspace into territories, just as they have done on land.

... While I do not mean to downplay the threats that terrorists present to our networks, I believe that these threats can be defended against by means that fall far short of putting a military controlled *cybercurtain* around our nation's information space.

... Let us tell our policy-makers that we do not want to waste our time and energy on a never-ending series of wars in cyberspace, trying to prove the superiority of one culture, religion, or country over another.

### **The Survival of our Species**

... life always seems to remain in some sort of precarious balance, so the greater our potential for finding ways to extend human life expectancy beyond 100 years, the greater is the potential for eliminating our species completely.

... Unfortunately, we appear to be approaching a point of no return.

... [World Scientists' Warning To Humanity] "Fundamental changes are urgent if we are to avoid the collision our present course will bring about. ...We the undersigned, senior members of the world's scientific community, hereby warn all humanity of what lies ahead. A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home on this planet is not to be irretrievably mutilated."<sup>18</sup>

... We pride ourselves on being a culture steeped in science, yet we have ignored this clear warning from our leading scientific minds. Without a massive and rapid expansion of awareness about the problems caused because of the way in which we humans are using technology, I fear we will soon enter the twilight of the human experiment.

... If we act quickly and decisively, we can restore the ecological systems required to support human consciousness for another millennium.

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<sup>18</sup> Found at [www.deoxy.org/sciwarn.htm](http://www.deoxy.org/sciwarn.htm).

### **The Importance of Your Daily Decisions**

... Although *what* you currently believe about issues such as global warming does matter, what is just as important is that you *act* on your beliefs.

... Remember the butterfly and chaos? One never knows how a small, simple action will disturb the chaos around them and become the catalyst for a transformation of our entire species to a higher order of ecological awareness.

... This is not the time to be timid or afraid. It certainly is not the time to remain stuck in the old systems of thought and belief that have been imposed upon us since birth.

### **The Importance of Cyberspace**

... the truth is we do not yet know what the political impact will be once the majority of world citizens have uncensored access to information from all sides of every issue.

... Two generations from now there will be few world leaders who did not grow up chatting online with friends in a dozen or more countries.

... The time has arrived for each of us to join the global mind—the global conversation that is taking place on the Internet.

... *each and every* member of our species has a stake in seeing that this rapidly advancing technology remains under the control of our species-at-large, and not in the hands of just a few individuals or corporations. *This is certainly one of the single most important tasks of this decade.*

... As John Perry Barlow says in his “Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace:” ... “Cyberspace does not lie within your borders. Do not think that you can build it, as though it were a public construction project. You cannot. *It is an act of nature and it grows itself through our collective actions.*”<sup>19</sup> [Emphasis added]

... like it or not, whether you are in the seas of business or just an average guy, you are eventually going to be swept away by this great wave of technology we call the Internet.

## **Chapter 6: Your Future in Cyberspace**

... . Something much more powerful than money is pulling our minds into cyberspace at this incredible pace.

... With each passing day, the Internet extends its tendrils of information ever more deeply into our lives. In hundreds of little ways, most of which are never even noticed, our species-mind is growing and evolving in cyberspace.

... It has not been predetermined that speech will remain free on the Internet, nor has it been clearly established what is even meant by free speech in relation to the Net. These great issues remain for us, as a global community-at-large, to yet define. Reality is in our hands.

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<sup>19</sup> John Perry Barlow’s “Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace” may be found at [www.eff.org/pub/Publications/John\\_Perry\\_Barlow/barlow\\_0296.declaration](http://www.eff.org/pub/Publications/John_Perry_Barlow/barlow_0296.declaration).

## Consciously Evolving Reality

... In what kind of universe do *you* live? Is your world view still governed by Newton's laws of mechanics, or do you live in a quantum mechanical universe?

... the various ways in which we use and interpret our language are what shape our view of reality.

... We have been so arrogant as to brand Mother Nature an outlaw for evolving and continuing to grow these plants. For all but a few brave psychonauts and shamans, using entheogens to accelerate the evolution of language is far too dangerous to undertake. Fortunately, a new communications technology has evolved—...

... we now have a tool, the Internet, which every person on Earth can eventually use to expand their consciousness.

... "As technology propels us forward into the age of information, thoughts have become more transformative than in any previous millennium."<sup>20</sup>

... As you become the master of your virtual worlds, you will find it much easier to bring these visions to physical fruition once your mind returns from cyberspace. By first exploring new modes of living in virtual worlds, we will be much better equipped to navigate our way through the infinity of parallel universes that await our arrival.

## A Recapitulation

... Perhaps our ancient ancestors actually *did* hear voices other than their own.

... Most nations on Earth have strict laws governing the admission of new residents. Yet, where are our planetary restrictions on the admission of new spirits who come to live in human bodies?

... Just because our species has become quite expert at harnessing technology doesn't mean our technology is without spirit.

... The Internet is as much a product of the evolution of life as we are. It is the physical manifestation of our species-consciousness.

... One of the great advantages the Internet brings us is that no longer are we restricted to *only* the physical communities in which we spend our daily lives.

... This great gift of consciousness is far too precious to remain in just one geographic location.

... Online communities are every bit as *real* as the community in which your body interacts.

... It is important that we quickly come to an understanding, on the level of our species-consciousness, that we are literally ripping out our own lungs, not just in the Amazon, but in forests throughout the globe.

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<sup>20</sup> Elizabeth Arnold and Rod Beckström's *Brainticklers II*, p. 2 (San Francisco: Brainticklers Publishing, 1999).

... Assume responsibility for even the smallest details in your life, for they are directly connected to everyone else's little details, which if left unattended can sometimes roll up into a big problem for our environment.

... Now that human consciousness has become actively involved in directing some of the processes of evolution, we each have the option of deciding how big a part we wish to play in the conscious evolution of our species.

... It will come as no surprise that there are mighty forces being marshaled in an effort to end the freedom of speech we now enjoy on the Internet.

... The fact that restricting free speech is unconstitutional does not seem to bother today's legislator.

... Today, the War on Drugs is the reason being given to restrict what is already widely available information, both on the Net and in print.

... people who have been involved in free speech battles involving the Internet are well aware that those in positions of power will take whatever means necessary, under any guise they choose, to restrict our access to uncensored information.

... In the final analysis, free speech is actually the cornerstone of the Internet experience.

... "Unfortunately, such periods do not last long before they succumb to the tug of more prosaic historical forces, and especially to the powerful undertow of money and power. ... commercial interests and the state alike colonize the new communications space as a 'natural' extension of their domains. ... Whether or not the Internet will simply replicate this admittedly simplistic scheme remains to be seen."<sup>21</sup>

... The Internet has given our species its best hope yet to break free from the shackles of those who want to control information for their own ends.

... Whatever you do, please do not take your right of free speech and its resulting state of cognitive liberty for granted. It is perhaps our last and only hope for building a better world.

## Chapter 7: The Internet as a Cathedral

... For those of us who long to return to a simpler way of life, the Internet, paradoxically, may be our equivalent of a cathedral.

... Try coming to the Internet occasionally just to experience the pure joy of unbounded thought.

... Collectively, our minds are all part of the same unity, this growing noosphere where thought is sovereign. In cyberspace, ideas are a form of power.

... With the freedom to create anything one can imagine, comes the admonition to act responsibly in this sacred place.

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<sup>21</sup> Erik Davis' *Techgnosis*, p. 263 (Three Rivers Press, 1998).

### The Awakening of the Noosphere

... “With every day that passes it becomes a little more impossible for us to act or think otherwise than collectively.”<sup>22</sup>

... Freed from the shackles of Catholic thinking, Chardin’s theory about the evolution of the noosphere is a perfect fit with the reality of the Internet.

... The time may be close at hand, however, when the gift of self-reflection becomes embedded in a larger structure, one that embraces the entire human species. How else are we to rise above the narrow-minded thinking that results in wars and massive ecological destruction?

... It is now up to consciousness itself to take control of the evolution of our species and oversee our transition from toolmaker, *Homo faber*, into a form of being that becomes virtually inseparable from the technology it creates, *Homo cyber*.

### The Mental Life of Homo Cyber

... In my utopian view of the mental life of *Homo cyber*, I see the possibility for our species to reach a constant state of expanded awareness to such a degree that a fully integrated Gaian awareness is the natural state of our being.

... A deep love for the Earth and concern for its biosphere are actually the *result* of entering into the state of full Gaian awareness that is to be found in entheospace.

... I see a possibility for an almost overnight transformation of consciousness taking place at some point in time, once the global transformation of our species into *Homo cyber* is complete.

... Picture a world in which the distinctions between cyberspace and what we now consider to be consensual reality begin to blur.

... the possibility exists for some form of spontaneous new order to arise out of this densely complex soup of consciousness.

... Kauffman then sums up this part of his thesis in *At Home in the Universe* by saying, “...the reason complex systems exist on, or in the ordered regime near the edge of chaos is because evolution takes them there.”<sup>23</sup> Could evolution be taking our complex world of people and machines in the direction of *Homo cyber*?

### The Material World of Homo Cyber

... *Homo faber* will not become *Homo cyber* overnight, ...

... Before long, it will be commonplace to see affluent teenagers carrying personal “electronic companions.” An order of magnitude greater in function than the personal digital assistants, PDAs, used in today’s world of business, these small devices are going to create a new wave of personal communications unlike anything we have yet experienced.

<sup>22</sup> Teilhard Chardin’s “The Formation of the Noosphere,” *Revue des Questions Scientifiques* (Louvian), pp. 7–35, January 1947.

<sup>23</sup> Stuart Kauffman’s *At Home in the Universe*, p. 90 (Oxford University Press, 1995).

... As Orwellian as this may sound, such devices will be quite common within five years. Evolution encourages their growth.

... The kind of world we are about to bring into existence is being shaped each day by thousands of little decisions being made in companies all around the globe.

... Of prime importance in all of these decisions is the issue of privacy. If we do not clearly establish one's personal privacy as an absolute and inalienable human right, our grandchildren may never know what it is like to have a private moment.

... This constant sense of always being connected will bring with it a definitive change in the way one experiences this world.

### **The Enlightenment of Homo Cyber**

... The day will also come when the expanded sense of awareness shamans and psychonauts seek in entheospace will be more widely experienced, for people will be using the portal of deep cyberspace—cyberdelic space—to launch their minds into the unlimited realm of entheospace where Gaian consciousness exists.

... When this resonance (or singularity?) occurs, it could precipitate a crystallization of consciousness.

... If Prigogine's theory holds true for the Internet/noosphere, the chaos of billions of interconnected consciousness' will at some point, quite suddenly, crystallize into a state of organized complexity not yet seen in this little corner of the universe. At that point in the space/time continuum the hyper-consciousness of the human species will come into being, and our *cognitive world* will be forever changed.

... . I think our species will ultimately survive long beyond this new millennium because we deserve to.

... "The real pole shift may thus be about a shift in our fundamental orientation to each other and to the world, stimulated by our recommitment to life-affirming values."<sup>24</sup>

... What does matter is the part we each play in shaping the immediate future; for we are not just in a period of rapid change, we are in a period of *rapid evolution*.

... Perhaps in the not too distant future, the noosphere will shed its chrysalises, spread its beautiful wings, and take its proper place in the dance of the cosmos.

... What if this transformation takes thirty generations instead of only three? Is this any less reason to lay the proper foundation for such a future? ***At this pivotal moment in the evolution of our species, we are all butterflies on the edge of chaos.***

### **The Spirit of the Internet**

... By the time we have established permanent bases on other planets we may have completed our mutation into a new branch of our species, *Homo cyber*.

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<sup>24</sup> John Major Jenkins' *Maya Cosmogonesis 2012*, pp. 331–332 (Santa Fe: Bear & Company, 1998).

... With all of the commercial excitement caused by this new technology, we sometimes overlook the fact that a powerful new means of inter-human communication is evolving at an incredibly rapid pace.

... Consciousness itself has taken hold and is beginning to expand inside of this great cathedral that is part human and part machine.

... The spirit of the Internet is your spirit, it is my spirit, it is *human spirit* in all its forms.

## Epilogue

... Since we live a universe that is governed by the laws of quantum mechanics, why not hold a quantum world view? In a quantum universe nothing is *actual*, but all is *possible*. The future is up to us.

## Glossary

### Addendum

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