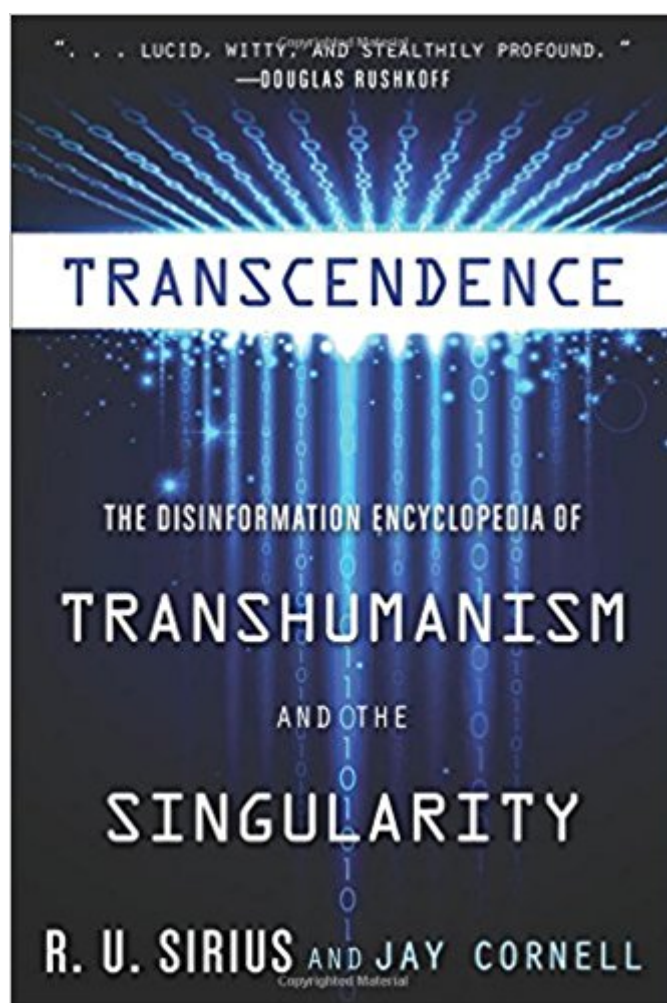


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Transcendence: The Disinformation Encyclopedia Of Transhumanism And The Singularity



Synopsis

Transhumanism is an international movement that advocates the use of science and technology to overcome the "natural" limitations experienced by humanity through such developments as: the Singularity--the creation of machine intelligences that exceed the capacities of our biological brains; the ability to replicate individual minds and put them into solid-state bodies or virtual environments; individual control over mental and emotional states for enhancing functionalities and/or ecstasies. Some of this is happening now. Some of it is still in the minds of dreamers. In nearly ninety A-Z entries, Transcendence provides a multilayered look at the accelerating advances in artificial intelligence, cognitive science, genomics, information technology, nanotechnology, neuroscience, space exploration, synthetic biology, robotics, and virtual worlds that are making transhumanism a reality. Entries range from Cloning and Cyborg Feminism to Designer Babies and Memory-Editing Drugs. In addition, the book notes historical predecessors and personalities, both in mythology and history--ranging from Timothy Leary to Michael Jackson to Ray Kurzweil. It also introduces the culture around Transhumanism, covering all the geeky obsessions of the Transhumanist movement.

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Customer Reviews

"RU Sirius and Jay Cornell present us with their own psychedelic guide to the galaxy in this adventurous idea-rich book, bootstrapping on emerging technologies that beckon us to take control of our evolutionary destiny and lead humanity towards radical new landscapes of mind, of dream, of cosmos, of possibility. Metaphors for self-transcendence are 'literalized' as we 'timelapse' our

capacity to artfully remake the world and ourselves." --Jason Silva "This is without doubt the most delightful guide to the radical future." -Walter Isaacson "Cool new book, Transcendence, on transhumanism, by King of the Freaks, R. U. Sirius." --Rudy Rucker "Transcendence by R.U. Sirius & Jay Cornell is fascinating, ridiculously fun to read, and good for you!" --Mark Leyner "The future is weird, very weird!" --Paul Saffo "Witty, snide, and incredibly informative." --George Dvorsky, iO9.com "Sure-footed guides through the treacherous landscapes of infinite possibility, RU Sirius and Jay Cornell are lucid, witty, and stealthily profound. Transcendence is a refreshingly pro-human report on transhumanism and the 'Rapture of the Nerds.'" --Douglas Rushkoff, author of Present Shock: When Everything Happens Now "This book is a hilarious breath of fresh air: the perfect antidote for Singularitarilistic Koolhaas." --Dr. Ken Y. Goldberg, .com "A wild tour of our possible future -- friendly, fun, and extremely interesting, even hard to put down... creatives, circuitheads, and fans of science fiction will find plenty here to stimulate the mind." --Anna Call, Foreword Reviews "A new book deciphering the surreal truths, questionable fictions, and high weirdness of the Singularity... Infotaining, irreverent, and frequent piss-taking paperback." --David Pescovitz, Boing Boing "A delicious funcyclopedia of the Singularity, transhumanism, and radical futurism ... a deceptively light treatment of mind-blowing technologies and their cultural, social and political impact. This book will put your mind on fire and may do more than previous books to put transhumanist ideas on the map." --Giulio Prisco, Hacked.com "A fun and easy introduction to transhumanism." --Peter Rothman, h+ magazine "Transcendence: The Disinformation Encyclopedia by R.U. Sirius & Jay Cornell sounds pedantic, but actually REEKS WITH WICKED HUMOR." -Paul Krassner "Being of the same energy field as myself, I now throw a sack full of gold dust into the arena and dare anyone to be either funnier or smarter than this R. U. Sirius." -Andrei Codrescu

R.U. Sirius (Ken Goffman) is a writer, editor and well-known digital iconoclast. He was co-publisher of the first popular digital culture magazine, MONDO 2000, from 1989-1993 and co-editor of the popular book, MONDO 2000: A User's Guide to the New Edge. He has written about technology and culture for Wired, The Village Voice, Salon.com, BoingBoing.net, Time Magazine, S.F. Chronicle, Rolling Stone, and Esquire among other publications. Sirius/Goffman also lectures widely having appeared as part of the Reality Hacking series at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, at the TedX conference in Brussels, and at San Francisco's popular Dorkbot event. Visit him at: StealThisSingularity.com. Jay Cornell is a writer, editor, web developer, and little-known semi-iconoclast. He is the former managing editor of h+ magazine, and the former associate publisher of Gnosis magazine. He is currently senior web developer at Landkamer Partners, and a

member of the Board of Advisors of the Lifeboat Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to defending humanity from existential risks.

Good summary of current trends and latest technologies that may shape humanity Writing is convoluted Same ideas repeating all over the book With 25% of the content you get the point

The Book Called: The Disinformation Encyclopedia of. TRANSHUMANISM and the SINGULARITY
By: R.U.Sirius & Jay Cornell; Was I believable account of "What was once Viewed in Books or Movies as **SYFY!"! It Brings to the Public whom are familiar with all the New Technology; The Scary Factual Truth that maybe Humans will at some point be Facing Off with what Technology That WE Humans Created?! Those whom refuse yo use Technology will be the "Loners"! It reminded me of the "SYFY Movie: *Soilent Green"! In the manner of those whom thought differently, Had to hide underground? Is This a Possibility? YES! Good, Fast Read & Relatable.

For those who want to know what the future will bring this book is a good start.Johannes VervloedAruba

I had the good fortune of interviewing these chaps after buying the book - their breadth of knowledge combined with their wit is brilliant!

Great writing by a grand master!

A bit of a disappointment. While it's a good collection of concepts and anecdotes, there's not much here. It's too generic to interest techies and too abstract to attract non-techies. I'm not sure of the intended audience but I'm sure I'm not a good fit. The writing style is OK but the depth and breadth leave a lot to be desired. If you know nothing of transhumanism and have never heard of the technological singularity (but then, you're not likely to read this comment in that case), this book might be interesting. Otherwise, skip it and do an internet search for either topic -- that'll give you more to think about and a lot more details.

For anyone interested in a taste of what the future may hold, this book is a delightful smorgasbord, presenting significant concepts in entertaining fashion. Speculations on the societal consequences of various technological developments, mingled with interviews and historical data, are provocative

food for thought, and topics such as "The Proactionary Principle" and "Zero State" leaven the predominance of entries on biological and cybernetical phenomena. The "Recommended Reading" section will aid those who may wish to find heftier fare, fictional as well as factual.

Enjoyable read. Very informative. Great insight into what Transhumanism is all about.

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