

MyCybertwin: The Bot That Simulates Me

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I stumbled upon a great new technology for the Net geek in all of us. It can be used for business or personal reasons. It's called MyCyberTwin. If you need to spend a lot of time online but don't feel that you have that time to spend, then MyCyberTwin can work for you. MyCyberTwin is free to create and is a substitute you. You can place your MyCyberTwin on your blog, your website, your [MySpace](#) page, and even have it sign in and talk as a proxy self for you on Instant Messenger services. So far I believe that last thing is limited right now to Windows Live Messenger, but I am certain that other IM compatibilities are on the way.

I decided that I would create a MyCyberTwin account and see what I could do (pun intended). It was quite easy to create and set up, and once that was taken care of the fun began! I got to give general answers of "yes", "no", or "maybe" to nearly 80 questions in order to begin intrsalling my personality into the my cyber twin on MyCyberTwin. These questions only took a total of perhaps 15 minutes to answer, but they began "fleshing me out" in the cyberworld. It's pretty wild creating a twin for yourself in the cyberworld, and is mostly likely a portent of things to come in the future of our civilization when we'll all have avatars and the online world shall be as real as the, um, real world.

MyCyberTwin is a "bot"; that is, it is a program that can simulate a live human being. Bots have typically been used in the past to annoy people, or trick others, but the technology for them has advanced to the point where they can have serious applications as well. What I find really fascinating about MyCyberTwin is the process by which you educate your proxy self. The process is not limited just to the set of 79 questions that you proved yes, no, or maybe to as answers. It can get quite detailed and complex, and you "organically" grow the mind and personality of your MyCyberTwin they way that I theorize we would have to do were we to at last create a realistic, human-like A.I. There are many other sets of questions to answer pertaining to defined topics, including such topics as sex and explicit sex as well as work and careers, and with these you can give up to three replies to a hypothetical statement made by another to you. You do this through the "classroom" feature of MyCyberTwin; so you are literally, even if in a primitive way, growing an A.I. personality. One that mirrors your own and can even stand in for you.

With your cyber twin, you can have answers about yourself given to inquirers when you aren't online or are away. You can also use the account to socially network with others all around the globe who share your interests or have similar personalities. Some people will probably see MyCyberTwin as creepy and impinging too much on reality or even trying to replace reality. But they expressed the same fears over ten years ago with the advent of V.R. and that tool has not taken over the world nor replaced society (at least, most people would say so!). MyCyberTwin is fun, fascinating, and useful. Technology can be our friend whenever we want it to be and use it in the right way.

MyCyberTwin is not necessarily without any financial cost to you. You have to use up "credits" to have your Cyber Twin hold conversations with another person and to be able to send an e-mail

(yourself) to another Cyber Twin person. But you are given 500 free credits to begin with and you receive another 500 every 28 days.

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