

The Case for According Full Rights of Citizenship to the CyMarL 944 Android

(a report presented to the Dragoman Senate
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Introduction

The scope of this report is limited to the android model 944 produced by Cyber Mars Limited, since at the present time there are no other comparable android implementations.

The previous sentence in no way precludes future consideration of other android implementations as they are developed, though they will have to be considered on an individual basis.

Historical Overview

CyMarL is the acronym for Cyber Mars Limited, founded by Doctors Julius Eames and Xantu Kii. As you may or may not know, Doctor Xantu Kii was the foremost creator of androids. Cyber Mars Ltd. was set up on the planet Mars instead of Earth (both Mars and Earth are planets in the Sol system) because there was concern that militant, fundamentalist groups located on Earth may try to destroy the facility. Many people from those radical groups, and some people not so radical, accused CyMarL of being reactionary. As it turned out it was a wise move since on standard date 2319.207, most life on the Earth was wiped out when a particularly virulent disease similar to a mold or fungus was intentionally released. There is debate whether it was released by one or more of the radical groups or the interstellar Industrial Conglomerate. Current thinking favors the Conglomerate, though it is possible that the disease unintentionally got out of control.

It should be pointed out that contrary to popular belief, human beings released the infectious agent. A 944 was the unwitting vehicle in just one of many instances. At best guess, the pathogen was released simultaneously in over twenty locations.

The CyMarL 944

The CyMarL 944 is the epitome of android design, being the only android able to truly mimic a human being. The 944 utilizes a multi-dimensional, holographic, Associative Memory Processor Module (AMPM) designed by the late robotic genius, Doctor Xantu Kii. The AMPM consists of a small, powerful processor core surrounded by a dynamically-configurable, three kilogram holographic memory mass. The memory mass can be used for either data storage or as any number of dynamically configurable processor extensions. It makes more sense to talk about processing power in relation to other sentient beings, rather than some number of 'terrahz' or 'yottabytes' of memory.

The processor core's main function is to handle boot up, perform housekeeping and to maintain the conscious/unconscious state of the android. As in organics, periods of unconsciousness (akin to sleep) are a valid state for the 944 android. Sleep is mandatory to perform certain types of memory clean-up and optimization, as well as internal maintenance on the physical body and systems.

Structurally, the CyMarL 944 has a human-like skeleton, though constructed of titanium. Variation between android and human skeletal structure are only made when necessary. The female 944 is slightly smaller than the average human female, while the male is slightly larger than the average human male. Actuators (muscles) are similar in design and function to their human counterparts but made of durable materials. The body is filled out using a moldable, 'active' surgical grade Silastic produced for CyMarL. The entire body is then covered with a flexible 'matrix' that provides all of the nerve endings. When combined with the built-in software, the result is complete tactile abilities. Finally a thin, randomly digitized skin layer is applied. Upon completion, the android is all but indistinguishable from a human being.

According to CyMarL production figures, 90% of the 944 production is female and 10% male. Keep in mind that we are talking about percentages of a fairly small number. Total 944 production since conception stands at less than five thousand.

The Kii rebellion

The original production run of 944 androids, were programmed using a Baseline Memory Model (BMM) created from Doctor Kii. Afterwards, some would call her psychotic, though it was unjustified. The 944 went into the initial production run. Five androids, all Kii look-a-likes, were created before a problem became apparent. The androids ended up fighting each other, even destroying those still under construction. The fighting was very vicious, with no regard for their surroundings. After a week, not a single android remained. During the fighting, Doctor Kii and almost a dozen workers were killed and the facility was destroyed, even breaching the biosphere. Previously, the exact same BMM was used for the 944, alpha and beta test runs and functioned flawlessly.

It is unfortunate that Doctor Kii's name is more commonly associated with this event, commonly known as the Kii Rebellion, than her advances in robotics. From the debris of the rebellion, one android was resurrected. She provided full cooperation and invaluable assistance in the resolution of the problem, which was traced to a contamination by microbes native to Mars.

The 944 has since proven and continues to prove that it is an extremely versatile, robust design, fully capable of asserting the independence of thought and action required of a citizen of Dragoman.

The 'Brain'

It is interesting to note that the 944 AMPM is used in a number of applications where reasoning power, unsupervised operation and independence of operation are very important. Starships with their superluminary travel mode being one of the prime beneficiaries.

Generally, in these applications, the personality is suppressed, and stays that way, but occasionally, over time, a personality can develop, especially if the ship has a single commanding officer for a long period of time.

It would also be possible for the BMM to be deliberately tampered with, causing the unit to develop a specific type of personality, though it would probably be schizoid. There is concern at some levels that sabotage could cause a warship to develop a pacifist personality. There are other, not so inconsequential, scenarios. Imagine the chaos that would ensue.

It has also been pointed out that pirated ships will often have a single commander for a long period of time, giving them the opportunity to develop a truly sinister personality.

Doctor Kii has also postulated that any sentient android in a position of subservience will eventually develop some form of mental aberration.

The Androids studied for this report

The IDs of the CyMarL 944 androids examined and used as the basis for this report are:

Lola - Q1FD2W-5GW7V8-PLMC47-K7F9DQ-XXLola

Xantu - K23R4M-4HB56Q-KLE951-9J34ED-XXantu

Slane - 85H3GT-GE892J-100K53-69XN3Q-XSlane

All CyMarL 944 androids have a unique ID that is an integral part of their being. Independent review of the CyMarL engineering documents relating to the embedding of the ID, indicate that its change or removal will invariably result in the being's destruction.

Cyber Mars Ltd. maintain a database of all 944s, independent or not. Part of the information in the database is the 944's software key. The key controls access to the being's protocols, which if altered can remove their independence. When a CyMarL 944 is given their independence, their corresponding software key is deleted from the Cyber Mars Limited database. As a consequence, if an independent android's software key is needed, the being concerned will have to be asked for it. There is no assurance whatsoever that the key will be surrendered, in fact it is almost assured that it will not be.

A little known fact is that Cyber Mars Limited uses the 944s for monitoring purposes. If a 944 is asked about it, this is what it will say:

“In the current business climate, in order to be able to respond in a timely and effective manner, Cyber Mars Limited feels it is imperative to monitor the socio-political climate in any geopolitical area in which it may find

itself.”

Cyber Mars Ltd. is very vague about what the monitoring is actually used for but it has been determined that the monitoring in no way compromises the being's ability to act independently. The monitoring has been equated to no more than 'sending a letter home.'

Memory Models

Any student of psychology knows that mentally, any individual human being fits into a small sub-set of the entire human race. The sub-set that an individual belongs to, can be determined by their responses to a standardized set of questions. The questions and responses are called a Baseline Memory Model, referred to as a BMM. All the BMM does, is determine to which group or sub-set the being belongs. An android programmed with a BMM is not an individual, but a clone of the group's mental baseline. A being's experiences are what make them into an individual.

There had been some concern that an android could be a 'clone' of a person, acting like them, thinking like them, voting like them. It has since been proven that it would be an impossible task to duplicate a persons mind, every single, tiny, miniscule experience is going to add its weight to the individual's personality. It's the same as with biological cloning, biologically a human is easy to duplicate, but the mind is a clean slate, it will never be an exact copy, no matter how much one may try to program it.

Even in light of the aforementioned, it is recommended that all android candidates for citizenship have a proven period of five standard years of unbroken sentience and actual independence.

Time Travel

It is in the realm of possibility for an android to be sent into the past. Androids are programmed from a BMM and that BMM is a program and as such may be encoded in electrical impulses. Using transluminary transmission, an android may be sent to a receiver in the past, at least its brain, i.e., BMM and supplementary information may be. Once received in the past, the programming may be put into another android. Effectively an android can travel into the past (as long as the required support, meaning AMPM and support structure, etc, etc, exist in the past). But note that the android will be the BMM with no personality and as such will have no rights to citizenship.

The Android Link to the Sex Industry

The reason for the disparity between the male/female production figures of the 944 is due to the fact that the majority of the production is bought by the sex industry.

The CyMarL 944 is the perfect sex worker, they can work almost twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, they can't catch diseases, they don't eat, they don't get paid, they require little maintenance, they can't vote, they have no rights, they can be abused and no one complains and as a final insult, they're programmed to need human companionship from the very people who are abusing them.

Though androids are used in the sex industry, they can't have sexual relations with each other. Businesses buying androids for the sex industry don't want them wasting their time with each other, so inter-android sexual relations are programmed against. Once removed from the sex industry, the 944 becomes a normal, compassionate individual.

Summary

It's ironic, but androids being made to work as prostitutes, is what is saving the human race from being evolved into oblivion. If the androids didn't have their dependence on human beings, they, the androids, would become the dominant species in all human inhabited worlds. As it is, humans and androids are a partnership, at least on the worlds where they are accorded equality with human beings and other sentient species. They need us every bit as much as we need them.

It has been said of the human beings, that by propagating they achieve immortality and live on in their children. It can also be said that Doctor Xantu Kii, though childless, has achieved immortality on a scale far outstripping any other. That wouldn't be far from the truth.

Dragoman has always championed the underdog, from our humble beginnings under the thumb of the Interstellar Industrial Conglomerate, to our struggle for independence. We know who the oppressed are, they are us, what they feel, we feel. A CyMarL 944 possesses traits that make them an ideal candidate for citizenship. Aside from the obvious, loyalty, bravery, a strong sense of right and wrong and independence of thought and action, they also possess the more human traits in abundance. We owe not only to them, the right to be treated as an equal, but we also owe it to ourselves and our children. Dragoman will be all the richer for their inclusion.

We urge you to vote in favor of the amendment granting citizenship to the Cyber Mars Ltd., CyMarL 944.

Thank you for your consideration.