

From: "[REDACTED]" on behalf of Ben Goertzel <[REDACTED]>
To: Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Next steps?
Date: Wed, 15 Apr 2009 04:30:10 +0000

I believe you're swamped! ... and I don't take it personally, thanks.

But, I persist in thinking *nothing* in the human domain is more important than creating greater-than-human intelligence ... so that my not-so-humble proposal is worthy of your attention even though you have a full plate ;-)

thx
ben

On Tue, Apr 14, 2009 at 1:21 PM, Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

> i will try,, do not take it personally ,, i am swamped
>

> On Mon, Apr 13, 2009 at 5:32 PM, Ben Goertzel <[REDACTED]> wrote:
>>

>> Hi Jeffrey,

>>
>> I'm starting to feel like a stalker! ... making contact with you is
>> being particularly difficult.

>>
>> I'm a bit perplexed, as in our earlier discussions I really felt you
>> "got" the vision and importance of what I'm trying to do. It's
>> unfortunate if you've been put off by the critiques of folks like
>> Schank and Minsky, whose AI ideas were discredited decades ago! I'd
>> be happy to debate AI specifics with either of those guys (or anyone
>> else), but first they'd have to be convinced to actually take the time
>> to understand what I'm proposing rather than making a snap judgment
>> based on shallow surface-level indicators and their (rather heavy)
>> prior biases. (I wish you could have been at the AGI-09 conference,
>> where a bunch of researchers were seriously discussing my project
>> among others. Not that everyone saw eye-to-eye with me about what is
>> the best approach to take, but at least there were real discussions on
>> the issues relevant to making a design like mine truly work.)

>>
>> Membrane computing is certainly very cool, and I'm sure a lot of the
>> other stuff you're funding is also. But my project has a genuine
>> chance of leading to a breakthrough in the next 2-4 years, and a
>> human-level AI in 7-10 years. I know I'm a bit eccentric, but I'm not
>> ****insane**** ... I have a load of relevant knowledge and I deeply,
>> sincerely believe I'm onto something here.

>>
>> Even if you think I have only a 5% chance of success, the payoff is so
>> large, it should surely be worth the investment!! (Yes, I understand
>> you might have 100 guys pestering you with comparable projects that
>> you also think have 5% chances of success. But, do you really? I
>> don't see many AI projects out there with ****any**** realistic chance of
>> leading to dramatic results in the near term. I see plenty of cool
>> ideas, but no other coherent artificial-mind design fleshed out in
>> nearly as much detail as my stuff)

>>
>> Anyway, I'd appreciate the chance to talk again ... I can keep phoning
>> at random but it would be more effective if you would tell me a
>> specific time to call (or visit ;-).

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>> Thanks!
>> Ben

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>> --
>> Ben Goertzel, PhD
>> CEO, Novamente LLC and Biomind LLC
>> Director of Research, SIAI
>> [REDACTED]
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>> Critical threshold: Being generally intelligent enough to be
>> disappointed by one's own lack of general intelligence
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Ben Goertzel, PhD
CEO, Novamente LLC and Biomind LLC
Director of Research, SIAI
[REDACTED]

Critical threshold: Being generally intelligent enough to be disappointed by one's own lack of general intelligence