

Are Computers Alive?: Evolution and New Life Forms

Simons, Geoff L.

Note: This is not the actual book cover

Are Computers Alive

Allen Emerson, Cheryl Forbes



Are Computers Alive:

Are Computers Alive? Geoffrey Leslie Simons, 1983 Today computers and robots are rapidly developing behavioral and intellectual skills they acquire and manipulate knowledge take creative initiative modify their surrounds and more and more they are acting autonomously to achieve particular goals Have the capabilities of intelligent machines advance the point where the contemplation of the computer as a life form is no longer exclusively the stuff of science fiction Has fact overtaken fiction These are the questions which propel this high controversial and probing study of computers their accomplishments and their potential and their rapidly evolving forms Drawing upon recent research cybernetics artificial intelligence robotics biology and philosophy the author presents a compelling case of the existence of computer life an argument which forces us to reappraise our criteria for defining life and to consider anew what it is to be human back cover *Are Computers Alive?*

Geoff Simons, 1984

Are Computers Alive? Geoffrey Leslie Simons, 1983 **The Biology of Computer Life**

SIMONS, 2012-12-06 The doctrine of computer life is not congenial to many people Often they have not thought in any depth about the idea and it necessarily disturbs their psychological and intellectual frame of reference it forces a reappraisal of what it is to be alive what it is to be human and whether there are profound yet unexpected implications in the development of modern computers There is abundant evidence to suggest that we are witnessing the emergence of a vast new family of life forms on earth organisms that are not based on the familiar metabolic chemistries yet whose manifest life credentials are accumulating year by year It is a mistake to regard biology as a closed science with arbitrarily limited categories and we should agree with Jacob 1974 who observed that Contrary to what is imagined biology is not a unified science Biology is essentially concerned with living things and we should be reluctant to assume that at anyone time our concept and understanding of life are complete and incapable of further refinement And it seems clear that much of the continuing refinement of biological categories will be stimulated by advances in systems theory and in particular by those advances that relate to the rapidly expanding world of computing and robotics We should also remember what Pant in 1968 said in a different context the biological sciences are unrestricted and their investigator must be prepared to follow their problems into any other science whatsoever **REviewing REthinking REturning** Alan Wittbecker, 2006 This book reviews and recasts many popular ideas using an ecological perspective ecological design principles and ecological thought experiments

Between Literature and Science Peter Swirski, 2000-09-11 Through close analysis of *Eureka* and *The Purloined Letter* Swirski evaluates Poe's epistemological theses in the light of contemporary philosophy of science and presents literary interpretation as a cooperative game played by the author and reader thereby illuminating how we read fiction The analysis of Poe's little studied *Eureka* provides the basis for his discussion of Lem's critique of scientific reductionism and futurological forecasts Drawing on his own interviews with Lem as well as analysis of his works Swirski considers the author's scenarios involving computers capable of creative acts and discusses their socio-cultural implications His analysis leads to

bold arguments about the nature of literature and its relation to a broad range of other disciplines *The Biology of Computer Life* Geoffrey Leslie Simons, 1985 The doctrine of computer life is not congenial to many people Often they have not thought in any depth about the idea and it necessarily disturbs their psychological and intellectual frame of reference it forces a reappraisal of what it is to be alive what it is to be human and whether there are profound yet unexpected implications in the development of modern computers There is abundant evidence to suggest that we are witnessing the emergence of a vast new family of life forms on earth organisms that are not based on the familiar metabolic chemistries yet whose manifest life credentials are accumulating year by year It is a mistake to regard biology as a closed science with arbitrarily limited categories and we should agree with Jacob 1974 who observed that Contrary to what is imagined biology is not a unified science Biology is essentially concerned with living things and we should be reluctant to assume that at any one time our concept and understanding of life are complete and incapable of further refinement And it seems clear that much of the continuing refinement of biological categories will be stimulated by advances in systems theory and in particular by those advances that relate to the rapidly expanding world of computing and robotics We should also remember what Pant in 1968 said in a different context the biological sciences are unrestricted and their investigator must be prepared to follow their problems into any other science whatsoever **The Second Self, Twentieth Anniversary Edition** Sherry

Turkle, 2005-09-30 A new edition of the classic primer in the psychology of computation with a new introduction a new epilogue and extensive notes added to the original text In *The Second Self* Sherry Turkle looks at the computer not as a tool but as part of our social and psychological lives she looks beyond how we use computer games and spreadsheets to explore how the computer affects our awareness of ourselves of one another and of our relationship with the world Technology she writes catalyzes changes not only in what we do but in how we think First published in 1984 *The Second Self* is still essential reading as a primer in the psychology of computation This twentieth anniversary edition allows us to reconsider two decades of computer culture to re-experience what was and is most novel in our new media culture and to view our own contemporary relationship with technology with fresh eyes Turkle frames this classic work with a new introduction a new epilogue and extensive notes added to the original text Turkle talks to children college students engineers AI scientists hackers and personal computer owners people confronting machines that seem to think and at the same time suggest a new way for us to think about human thought emotion memory and understanding Her interviews reveal that we experience computers as being on the border between inanimate and animate as both an extension of the self and part of the external world Their special place between and between traditional categories is part of what makes them compelling and evocative In the introduction to this edition Turkle quotes a PDA user as saying When my Palm crashed it was like a death I thought I had lost my mind Why we think of the workings of a machine in psychological terms how this happens and what it means for all of us is the ever more timely subject of *The Second Self* **The Invasion of the Computer Culture** Allen Emerson, Cheryl

Forbes,1989 **Supercomputers of Today and Tomorrow** Richard A. Jenkins,1986 **How Machines Think** Nigel Ford,1987-05-11 Aims to introduce those without a mathematical or scientific background to key AI concepts Programming details are given in PROLOG but with parallel plain English versions so the book can be read in either language **It's Alive!** Frederick B. Cohen,1994-04-27 In this collection of essays Cohen takes a thoughtful philosophical look at the practical and useful live software out there today including computer viruses neural networks sophisticated games and more Entertainingly written this is the first book on this emerging topic Disk includes a collection of safe live programs **New Scientist** ,1969 **Interface Age, Computing for Business** ,1984 **The Second Self** Sherry Turkle,1984 In *The Second Self* Sherry Turkle looks at the computer not as a tool but as part of our social and psychological lives she looks beyond how we use computer games and spreadsheets to explore how the computer affects our awareness of ourselves of one another and of our relationship with the world Technology she writes catalyzes changes not only in what we do but in how we think First published in 1984 *The Second Self* is still essential reading as a primer in the psychology of computation This twentieth anniversary edition allows us to reconsider two decades of computer culture to re experience what was and is most novel in our new media culture and to view our own contemporary relationship with technology with fresh eyes Turkle frames this classic work with a new introduction a new epilogue and extensive notes added to the original text Turkle talks to children college students engineers AI scientists hackers and personal computer owners people confronting machines that seem to think and at the same time suggest a new way for us to think about human thought emotion memory and understanding Her interviews reveal that we experience computers as being on the border between inanimate and animate as both an extension of the self and part of the external world Their special place betwixt and between traditional categories is part of what makes them compelling and evocative In the introduction to this edition Turkle quotes a PDA user as saying When my Palm crashed it was like a death I thought I had lost my mind Why we think of the workings of a machine in psychological terms how this happens and what it means for all of us is the ever more timely subject of *The Second Self* Book jacket *Viruses, Bugs and Star Wars* Geoffrey Leslie Simons,1989 Computers can and do go wrong The growing social importance of computer systems from automatic lift control to expanding military systems makes computer safety and security a major concern for everyone and not just for the computer specialist [Tomorrow's World Computers](#) Jack Weber,1984 *Evolution of the Intelligent Machine* Geoffrey Leslie Simons,1988 *The Australian Accountant* ,1985

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