

Good evening everyone. My name is Sepaus Daniali. I would like to talk to you all about the future possibility of brain uploading. I strongly oppose humans uploading their brains to a computer system and I would like to make my case.

In an ideal future with brain uploading technology, people could live forever and escape the challenges of the real world, but in reality, it's not so simple. I want you all to imagine what type of person may be able to leave their problems behind and preserve their brains forever. Is it an ordinary, average Joe? Or is it a billionaire who has the means to afford such a type of system. We can look to a real system to verify this. Nectome is a real company that is offering to preserve people's brains for the possibility of being put in a computer simulation in the future. If you look at Nectome's product details, you will see that it costs \$10,000 just to join the waiting list. It also says that the procedure requires you to die during the preservation. Elon Musk has expressed a desire to preserve his consciousness and Sam Altman, the creator of Chat-GPT has already paid his 10 grand.

Maybe regular people will one day be able to live forever in the cloud, but to quote Michael Hendricks, a neuroscientist at McGill University, "I hope

future people are appalled that in the 21st century, the richest and most comfortable people in history spent their money and resources trying to live forever on the backs of their descendants. It's a joke. They are cartoon bad guys.”

We know Nectome's technology works. We know we can preserve human brains. But what we don't know, is if the technology to upload the brains works. The main reason people believe the technology would work is from a 17th century belief that the mind is separate from the brain. This has been disproven. Researchers from George Washington University discovered that the mind comes from matter in the brain, making them connected. Another point is that no supercomputer currently exists that can hold the data of a single brain. Furthermore, Moheb Costandi, a neuroscientist and author says that bodily awareness is the basis of consciousness, so a brain connected to no body cannot be conscious.

This is a theoretical debate and this system is unlikely to be created. But for the sake of the debate, I would like to go over if this possible system is beneficial to mental health. Supporters of brain uploading talk about how in a simulation, true happiness can be explored, but that is simply not the

case. An article written by Michael Graziano, a Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Princeton University, says nothing in the simulation is real, so you don't actually do certain things, you just experience them. In the real world, people want to be a certain type of person, but in a simulation, you have no personality, interests, sense of humour, or anything. You become a shell of a person. In my opinion, one of the biggest drawbacks is that a simulated world is limited to your perception of the world. You can't use technology, watch movies, listen to music, or meet people from the time after you are uploaded. Proponents of brain uploading say that the technology can allow the user to live in a world of unlimited happiness. I believe that this is dystopian and is the worst consequence of brain uploading. Instantaneous pleasure makes people weak, mindless, and lazy. If you can put in minimum effort for maximum pleasure, the effects of dopamine wear off, and you would become depressed for eternity.

As I conclude, it is clear that brain uploading is an unethical and unnecessary technology. In its best case, it will be a system that only benefits the 1% at the expense of the working class, and at worst, it is an unpredictable procedure that will surely have devastating consequences.

Opponent's Points	COUNTERATTACKS
Economic Growth: The technology created will hugely accelerate the intelligence and robotics industries.	If the companies that provide mind uploading services become big enough, they could create propaganda to make brain uploading seem like the ultimate solution for all human suffering. False advertising or misinformation from the brain uploading industry would be detrimental to human society and could have unforeseen impacts. If the world's 1% suddenly uploaded their brains and left the physical world, it may cause a collapse of all corporations, banks, and governments, leading the world into chaos.
Intelligence enhancement: Observing information flows in uploaded human brains will provide extremely valuable knowledge on the human brain and	Currently, scientists only understand about 10% of the human brain. If Artificial Intelligence discovers how the rest of the brain works faster than human's can, it could lead to a dystopia where AI becomes more powerful and intelligent than their human creators.

cognition. This will also make AI even more advanced.	
Environmental Recovery. If people are living in a simulated world, the real world will require less natural resources and take up less space.	A brain uploading computer system would be a supercomputer larger and more powerful than any other computer to ever exist. The power needed to operate this kind of system would be incredibly expensive and need an unbelievable amount of energy, potentially creating more carbon emissions, requiring more resources, and doing even more damage to the environment.

I believe it is clear that I have won this debate. I have given you multiple reasons why brain uploading is unethical and I have defended this position and will continue to do so. My opponent has only given unclear and circumstantial evidence from unreliable sources to try and defend this disastrous technology. It is clear to me, and hopefully all of you, that digital consciousness will further divide society, and we can work together to advocate against it.