

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/mind-control-of-machines>

Neuroscientist David Eagleman draws on his deep understanding of the brain's plasticity and describes a future when humans might be able to control machines with the mind, even over long distances. Eagleman is an educator, entrepreneur and author of fiction and nonfiction, including the international bestsellers "Sum" and "Incognito." The futuristic vision he details is part of an upcoming book.



Transcript

- One of the things that I'm writing about in my next book, called Livewired, is about brain plasticity, and one of the things I think is interesting is how our brain drives the body, and it can do so very flexibly.. So, you know, I can, when I grow from infant to an adult, I'm driving a very different kind of body.. So you get this 3 pound control center, and then this huge monstrous, you know, robot that gets driven around, but I can get on a bicycle or a surfboard or a skateboard.. I can do all kinds of things.. My brain has no problem just adjusting and driving different things.. So I think it will be no problem at all for us to be able to drive other kinds of machinery with our brain, whether that's driving a big crane or, you know, taking my robot for a walk on Mars where I'm controlling it, or whatever.. There's really, there's no need for the thing to even be attached to me, and I hypothesize that we'll be able to drive it at a distance, because Mother Nature came up with lots of great stuff, but she never came up with Bluetooth, and so there's no reason that when I'm controlling this limb, that it couldn't be detached from me..