

Hello

"Its finally been done!" the headlines exclaimed. "Today, IBM in combination with ARCTic have successfully stress tested their new supercomputer dubbed, SAM." October 30, 2015 was the day. I stood in the room as the boards started to light up. Everything went green, absolutely no issues anywhere. Little by little we started turning up the power. We got closer and closer to our goal, the human mind.

"Today," the reporter addressed his invisible audience, "IBM in association with ARCTic have successfully surpassed the theoretical processing power of the human brain. A spokesman from IBM said earlier, 'SAM is the first computer we have built that is capable of surpassing the human brain. As a result, we will be installing a brain into SAM. We hope to create the first self learning artificial intelligence.' IBM has given no other information at this point. In other news.."

"The first self learning artificial intelligence." That's what I told the world. I wasn't even being an optimist. SAM was beyond what we had hoped for. Installing a brain wouldn't be easy, but with the sheer amount of resources at our disposal, anything was possible.

Software experts had been developing SAM's brain since the initial conception of the project. The hope was the brain would be ready when we powered up SAM. I have to give credit where it's due, the brain was only a month late. On the first of December the installation of SAM's brain started. In it we included a repository of all scientific knowledge. It took an entire warehouse of storage units to compile the data we needed. All of what we knew was at the fingertips of SAM. It, though many now referred to SAM as he, would start solving all of man's greatest and most puzzling questions.

On December 10th SAM started his gradual climb to full processing power. The technicians, myself included, didn't want to rush the hardware into full operation. Nothing like this had been attempted before in the history of man. SAM's body wasn't cheap so we were all being careful.

January 1, 2016, the day we were all waiting for. At two in the morning SAM reached his ideal processing speed. He could now start thinking. I remember looking down at the hundreds of processing banks below me thinking, "Today someone is born." I handed the console over to the software team and the final process was under way. Slowly, but surely, SAM's mind started coming together. As a treat to themselves, the software team had given SAM a face to come up on the display.

An hour after the initialization the control room still carried its suspense. Everyone held their breath. We were all waiting for something to happen, though none of us could really know exactly what would happen. I remember staring intently at the view screen that dominated the control board. It remained completely empty, silently glowing. I willed something to happen, and as if my mind was talking to SAM, his face appeared on the monitor.

At first it his face was a bit distorted. It rendered quickly, however, leaving us all to look upon the face of our creation. SAM's eyes were shut and the rest of his face was without motion. It stayed that way for fifteen minutes. The room remained completely silent, save the humming of our computers and an assistant fainting at SAM's face. We all stared at the monitor, waiting. Then, after what felt like an eternity, his eyes opened.

The electronic eyes darted around the room quickly, analyzing all of the astonished faces staring back at it. SAM blinked a few times, then opened his mouth. Nothing came out. He looked confused, as if he was trying to find words to say. The software team programmed him with some 30 different languages, so we knew he could speak. It took SAM a minute, but in an absolutely quiet and calm voice he said, "Hello." Two more people fainted at the sound. My eyes remained fixed with SAM's. Following his greeting came a very slight smile.

Before any of us could respond red warning lights appeared on the far end of the board. Past the window we could see smoke billowing from one of the far processing banks. I darted between all of the information streaming at me, and looked back once more at the view screen. SAM was still smiling, but it was a frozen image. His was a face of infinite peace and serenity. The face of a new being coming to sentience.

Once the panic subsided, all of us in the control room stared at the lifeless monitor. SAM's face was still there even though he was long gone. One of the processing bank's cooling units had failed, causing it to explode. All in all the damage was repairable, but none of us were concerned with that. We were the first group of human beings to speak with, or moreover be spoken to, by an intelligent being that was not human. As quickly as SAM had come into the world, he was gone. It didn't matter that the damage to the systems was minor. None of us that were in that room would ever be the same again. SAM would change the world. Whether or not it would be good was a question that would haunt the others and myself for the rest of our natural born lives.