

The Sixth Day: a "Cheat Sheet" for the SMAM Class

(<http://www.thesixthday.com/>)



An analysis of the SMAM technologies illustrated in the science fiction film, **The Sixth Day**.

for the:
**Spiritual Machines
&
Artificial Minds Class**
Fall Semester 2002

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Prepare a written review (see details below) in text or MS Word format only and submit them via email by the end of 19 Dec 2002, no later than 7:00 p.m. (Dutch time).

Assignment:

View the film to see a set of illustrations of the deployment and use of many of the technologies we have discussed in class and read about in the class reading assignments, including the videos. Write a 2 to 3-page discussion of some of the key concepts illustrated in the film and relate them to the concepts discussed and studied in the reading assignments (texts and papers, including optional ones in the library), videos we watched, and classroom presentations by other students. The particular items you discuss is less important than the depth and clarity with which you discuss them. When referencing a paper, video, etc., please mention the name and/or author(s).

Include your name and the phrase "6DHW" somewhere in your file name and submit as an attachment to an email to **smam@liacs.nl**. Example: "6DHW-degroot.doc".

Concepts to Watch for and Analyze:

- CL - nuclear cell somatic transfer cloning procedure
- CL - cloned "blanks"
- BS - brain scanning technique; mind uploading; consciousness transfers

- PI - personal identity
- UC - ubiquitous computing & disappearing computers
- TH - talking heads; virtual personas
- VP - holographic chatterbots / videobots
- AP - artificial pets & cloned pets
- PH - language issues for expressing personal identity
- LU - Luddites and similar attitudes
- Others - Feel free to identify other class-related concepts that I have not listed here.

Other things to note/debate:

- **Science Fiction vs. Science Fact:**

Several elements in this film have been purposely "dumbed down", in the same manner as film producers often "dumb down" computer visual imagery and displays in movies from being photo-realistic to having visible scan lines and other video artifacts. They fear that otherwise the audience will find the film "unbelievable", even though the computer technology is actually capable of far superior imagery than is shown. Where can you find examples of this same phenomenon in the movie, and where is the state of the art actually more capable than what is shown in the film? And where are things shown in such a way as to appear to be futuristic when such capabilities actually exist today, even if only in the lab?

Time <small>(thought to be correct, but may not be)</small>	Key	Event to Watch For
01:55	TH	Holographic announcer (talking head) at stadium; Johnny Phoenix
04:35	UC	TV news on bathroom window and personal agent (knows your birthday and meeting notification)
05:45	AP	RePet ad on TV
06:13	AP	SimPal conversation during breakfast (cf. Cyndy Smart doll, TI's Julie doll, Teddy in AI)
07:00	UC	Smart refrigerator
07:16	TH/LU?	Adam's conversation with Hank about his Virtual Girlfriend
09:26	AP/CL	Natalie calls Adam; Oliver was sick and died; need for RePet
11:39 - 13:47	AP	"How many of you have RePets or know somebody who has one?"
15:15 - 15:42	BS	Adam gets his "eyes checked".
18:36 - 18:51	TH	holographic overhead video (cf. Las Vegas' video boardwalk)
		Adam visits RePet; Cerebral Syncording

18:50	BS/AP	Process; transplants pet's thoughts, memories, instincts, etc. via optic nerve
20:53 - 27:50	CL/AP	at the SimPal booth
31:30 - 31:45	TH/LU	holographic display of Dr. Griffin Weir at Replacement Technologies; note the demonstrators
37:12 - 37:54	TH	Virtual Court-Appointed Attorney
45:10 - 47:18	TH	"Honey, I'm home!" Hank walks through his girlfriend! (Why, and what does this imply??)
47:30 - 48:24	PI/PH	"Technically, this could be committing suicide." "OK, you're you." "He's not real."
54:17 - 55:40	PI	"And she couldn't tell it wasn't me?" "It didn't look like it. I mean, she seemed, uh, happy."
56:03	UC	motion activated Virtual Girlfriend; holographic projection
56:37	TH	"Hey, Adam, is Hank sleeping on the floor again?"
1:11:30 - 1:11:56	UC	smart fridge - family schedule
1:18:00	PI/CL	Adam meets himself.
1:00:21 - 1:00:38	guess!	"Those were brand new boots!"
1:03:46	TH	Holographic projections of Dr. Weir and Drucker (?) at Replacement Technologies.
<p>There are, of course, many more examples that can be found in this movie, so feel free to identify other relevant examples and include them in your discussion if you prefer.</p>		

Some Interesting Quotes to Think About:

Dr. Weir:

"You don't become one of the richest men in the world without making enemies, so we back up his mind religiously."

Adam:

"This time, stay dead."

Adam, to Adam:

"You might think about that while you're out there at sea, wondering if you're really human. If that's not being human, I don't know what is."

Bad Guy 2:

"Those were new boots!"

Others memorable quotes you note during the viewing:

