



# e/acc magazine

issue 0

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## Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of *e/acc magazine*!

As someone who remembers the techno-optimism of *Omni* and *Mondo 2000* magazines, I'm excited to see the same spirit coming from the nascent e/acc community.

To paraphrase the hacker motto, this magazine is my attempt to "think in public".

I want to learn more about cutting-edge technologies and put together my thoughts about them better. I also hope this will help start conversations with people who know more about, or have different views of, accelerative technologies than I do.

If you're unfamiliar with e/acc, it's a belief that we (humanity) can solve our problems by accelerating development of new technologies - instead of believing we've reached our peak and should just accept that "this is as good as it gets".

There is no formal e/acc committee, with official guidelines. But some common beliefs are: progress is good, more progress is better, experimentation is good, competition is good, the free market is good, open source is good, and government regulations will be ineffective (at best) and harmful (at worst).

As this is the first issue of *e/acc magazine*, expect to see changes in future issues, as I adapt to feedback.

If you have suggestions, please email me at [editor@eaccmagazine.com](mailto:editor@eaccmagazine.com)

- Scott



## Expanding Techno-Optimism

Currently, a battle is going on between people who want to accelerate technological growth and people who want to slow it down, or even stop it.



The 1970s were marked by economic instability, political unrest, and societal concern about rapid changes, all of which contributed to a deceleration in technological advancement - much like today. To prevent deceleration from happening again, we need to find a way for the public to embrace innovation.

It's tempting to write off decelerators as ignorant Luddites - it always satisfies the ego to feel smarter than others.

But I don't feel that's an effective strategy. This seems like a way to start never-ending identity-driven arguments that keep getting worse over time.

What if, like in a game of Civilization, we techno-optimists aim for a cultural victory instead of a science victory?

### Where does techno-pessimism start?

Emotions are more powerful than logic, and they can't be countered with logic.

I believe our best strategy is to increase the net quantity and emotional intensity of positive experiences with technology.

These experiences can be real or fictional. The brain doesn't do a good job of distinguishing between those.

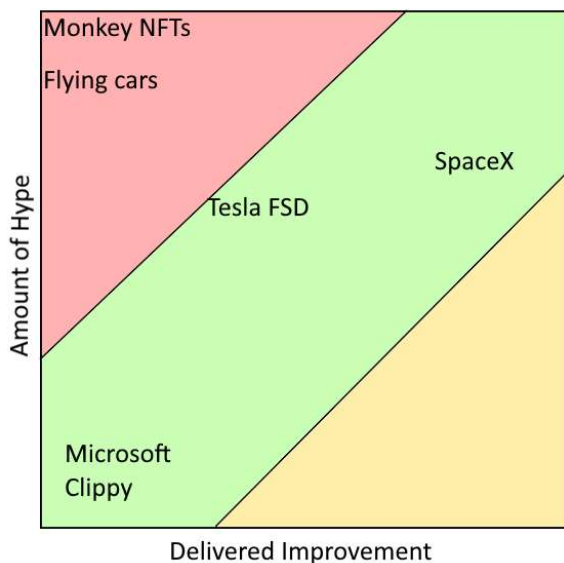
That may be why so many negative views of advanced technology are based on science fiction movies. To the brain, AI will clearly create Terminator robots that will wipe out humanity. We've all seen it in those documentaries science fiction movies with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

### Stop over-hyping and under-delivering

Inspired by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's Flow State, we can draw parallels with finding a balance between the 'Amount of Hype' and 'Delivered Improvement' in technological advancements.

With flow, work needs to fall inside an acceptable range on a chart with axes of "Skill/Ability" and "Difficulty".

Below this range leads to boredom, and above it leads to anxiety.



In this version, "optimism" replaces "flow state".

Below this section is "who cares?", and above it is scams and broken promises - which leads to pessimism.

When we deliver tech with a good value to hype ratio (inside the green zone), we build credibility.

Repeatedly delivering on our promises leaves techno-pessimists with fewer inputs for their negative beliefs.

While moonshot projects can capture the public's attention, they often take years (or decades) to complete - if ever.

But, delivering small projects frequently may help increase optimism, thanks to the recency bias we humans have.

If the average person's life keeps getting better every month, thanks to some new technological breakthrough or tool, it may start to drown out their negative beliefs.

I don't suggest stopping work on big, bold ideas.

But, when looking for a new project to start, I personally look at smaller things - probably a good idea for other business-related reasons anyway.

### Creating more optimistic stories

Stories are a powerful tool for shaping public perception.

I believe that emotionally compelling techno-positive fiction has the potential to shift people's views to optimism. We need to counter the many tales of doom.



To spread optimism, consider meeting the public where they are at; short-form content that can be consumed passively, like podcasts, YouTube, X/Twitter, etc.

O'Shaughnessy Ventures' [Infinite Films](#) is working on uplifting films and stories through *White Mirror*, their counter to the dystopic *Black Mirror* series.

If you know of people doing something similar, please let me know. I'd like to share their content in future issues.

### **What to do for the future?**

Much of what I see in the e/acc world is either motivational for its proponents, or critical of its opponents - which isn't likely to win them over to our side.

There will certainly be people with such deeply ingrained beliefs they won't ever change - like people in government who still believe in their ability to control.

But, as much as I'd like to believe we can just create amazing technological advances and society will appreciate it and accept it, we've seen that fail before.

Maybe it's worth trying to help more people have an optimistic view of the future, instead of trying to fight them.

As with all articles here, please share your opinion if you have a different view.



## Review: *Up-Wingers* (1973)

F.M. Esfandiary was an Olympic athlete turned transhumanist philosopher and author.

His 1973 book *Up-Wingers: A Futurist Manifesto* details his vision of a better future for humanity, based on social and technological advances.

It's interesting to read old books about the future and compare their hopes with our reality. It may help with our current attempts for a better future.

The basic premise is that we need to stop viewing the world through Left and Right political lenses, which are both conservative in their own way. Neither of those views will produce a better world.

Instead, we need to look Up - embrace technological progress. That's the direction to a better world.

FM-2030 (as he renamed himself, to signify his desire to live until 2030) noted that the years from 1955-1973 were a time of optimism. However, he saw the mood changing to pessimism.

Still, he was optimistic that it could also have been the beginning of a period of major, positive upheavals in technology and society.



He divided changes into two areas:

1. Planetary Movement - eliminating age-old systems and replacing them with "cybernated" (computerized and automated) systems.
2. Cosmic Upheaval - a new stage of human development: longevity, immortality, and mind-uploading.

To get to this imagined future, he felt we needed to switch from pessimism to optimism.

We'd also need to stop hyper-focusing on our small individual problems and realize we were small points in infinite timelines and infinite space.

The future and the Universe were waiting for us - if we could gather the courage to step forward into them.

He saw four main sources of pessimism:

1. Lack of the self-esteem that we could succeed at achievement.
2. Puritan guilt that we didn't "deserve" happiness or success.
3. Lack of historical perspective. Like a fish in water, we couldn't recognize the progress surrounding us.
4. Theological and philosophical indoctrination that we could only "accept our fate" on Earth.

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*"If you are doing nothing for the world you have no moral right to complain" - FM-2030*

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He also believed we should question everything. None of our beliefs, habits, or systems should be safe from being replaced with something better.

This gets into a part of the book that may make many people uncomfortable.

He objected to "ownership" of children by their parents. He believed we grew up equating being loved and valued with being "owned".

This extended beyond families to the patriotism we have for nations. And this inevitably leads to jealousy, rivalry, and violence.

That sounds reasonable... so far.

However, his solution to this problem was straight out of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*.

Scientists would select the best eggs and sperm to use to create optimal (by whose definition?) humans. The babies would be grown in artificial wombs, with the "best" children eventually being cloned.

Once born, the babies would be raised by different people, moving from one Mobilia (commune) to another, to prevent attachment and ownership.

Thinking of the people I know who were adopted, or grew up in foster homes, I have my doubts about the effectiveness of this idea.

I also feel we do need to keep genetic variations and our "weirdos".

But that's only a portion of the book. There are plenty of other ideas around space travel, biological enhancements, and automation.

As someone who has traveled a bit, I like his idea of Mobilia, small commune-like places where people would live for short periods of time.

However, I haven't seen examples of successful intentional communities, other than those based on religion. My gut feeling is that most of those fail due

to the "tragedy of the commons". If you don't personally own something, there's less of a desire to care for it.

FM-2030 wanted to replace schools with something like what's currently available with online training.

He expected it would be too expensive and slow to retrofit current cities with advanced technology. It would be better to just build new cities with high-tech infrastructures.

Individual car ownership was something he expected to eliminate. Automated transportation, like the self-driving cars we're getting close to having, was his view of the future.

Some of FM-2030's ideas sound like the WEF idea that, "You'll own nothing and be happy". I've always felt that statement includes the unspoken, "And you'll be lifetime renters from us, the asset-owning 'Elites', providing us with steady lifetime incomes."

However, FM-2030 also foresaw living a life of leisure and abundance, while working fewer hours.

So, I expect his view would be that technology would provide our material needs at a cost so low it may not be worth measuring - as in the world of Star Trek.

Some things do date the book: concern about a population explosion and expecting changes to be managed by the United Nations.

However, it was interesting to read ideas from someone willing to get to the root cause of problems and willing to replace existing systems completely.

On a side note, FM-2030 didn't make it to 2030. He died from pancreatic cancer in 2000, at 69. However, he is in cryonic suspension at Alcor. So, there's still a chance he may get to see some of his visions become real.



## Techno-Positive Movies

To make sure my entertainment diet has more positive views of technology in the future, I went through the movies in my library the other day.



I looked for movies where technology had a significant role, then subjectively decided if the technology was shown as positive or negative.

It was tough deciding which list to put some movies on, for example, [Her](#).

The AI character wasn't evil. It made the main human character happy, for most of the movie. But it was like a narcotic. It eased emotional pain and made it easy to ignore the root problem. Plus, it was disturbingly addictive.

So, it went on my "negative" list.

I had nine movies with a positive view of technology, and 80 that were negative.

My nine positive movies are:

1. [Armageddon \(1998\)](#)
2. [Bicentennial Man \(2000\)](#)
3. [Brian & Charles \(2022\)](#)
4. [Electric Dreams \(1984\)](#)
5. [The Iron Giant \(1999\)](#)
6. [The Last Starfighter \(1984\)](#)
7. [Limitless \(2011\)](#)
8. [The Martian \(2015\)](#)
9. [Robot & Frank \(2012\)](#)

I almost didn't count *Electric Dreams* as positive. The AI causes the conflict. But it was probably the first AI movie I saw, and it makes me feel motivated about technology. So, it holds a special place in my memories and earned a place on my "positive" list.

I've watched other tech-driven movies, but these are the ones I liked enough to buy.

I'm using this review as a sign I need to be more selective in my entertainment diet for the future.

Let me know if you have other techno-positive movies you recommend.

# Are investors and customers confident in the ethics and safety of your AI apps?

Nowadays, everyone worries about AI ethics and safety - including your potential investors and customers.

## How can you assure investors and customers that your AI app won't become the next Terminator?

The government and huge AI companies talk about forming a committee or agency to regulate AI. But are they really the best source of ethics and safety?

Of course not!

Let's look at the ethical history of what governments have done:

- Started wars, based on lies.
- Destroyed wealth through inflation and hyper-inflation.
- Performed bio-medical experiments, under the guise of free medical care.
- Smuggled drugs and weapons.
- Interfered with foreign elections.
- Its leaders regularly engage in insider trading.
- Repeatedly reported false economic data - and quietly "adjusted" it later.
- And much, much more



## What's the solution?

It's your lucky day!

I have a certificate you can show your investors and customers, to ensure they feel safe about your AI app.

For a one-time fee of \$9,995 and 0.5% Advisor shares in your company, you'll get a copy of this nice certificate.

## Why get your certificate from me?

I've never done any of the evil things that governments have. Plus, I'm not one of your competitors.

**Order now!**

**Supplies are unlimited!**

## What's Next?

*e/acc magazine* is a passion project. I'm the only one working on it right now - unless you count ChatGPT, DALL-E, and Midjourney.

Most of my career has been working as a programmer. But, for the magazine, I'm interested in all areas of technology. The main topics are:

- AI
- Biohacking/longevity
- Energy
- Space travel

I want to use the Plan-Do-Study-Adjust cycle for this magazine.

Releasing this issue is the final step of the "Do" phase. Now it's time to "Study" - see what people think of it and use their feedback to adjust future issues.

If you have feedback, please email me at [editor@eaccmagazine.com](mailto:editor@eaccmagazine.com)

I'm also looking for other contributors, especially:

- People working on cool technology who'd like to be interviewed
- Guides on how to use the new tech available
- Short fiction stories with a tech-positive viewpoint

Part of the purpose of this magazine is to personally learn more about the new technologies becoming available.

So, please let me know if you have something to share or a different view to consider.

