

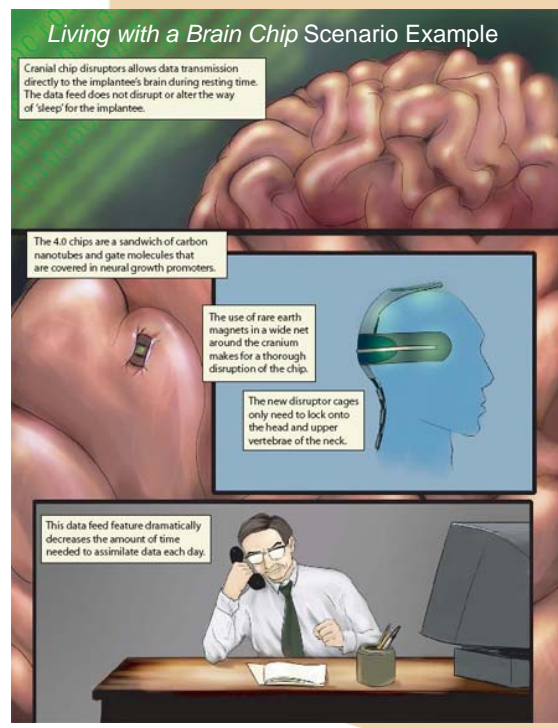
Using Scenarios to Encourage Responsible Debate about the Social Implications of Nanotechnology

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The scenes have also been published on the web, at <http://cns.asu.edu/nanofutures>. At this website, any visitor can read about the project, respond to the scenes in a discussion forum, and even revise them into full scenarios that explore the wider implications and dilemmas of nanotechnology.

As an experiment in creating social engagement around anticipatory governance of nanotechnology, CNS-ASU developed six futuristic scenes of products that utilize nanotechnology. Based on documented claims in published scientific literature, the scenes project these claims into possible short-, medium- and long-term future product applications. In order to establish their plausibility, the scenes have gone through a rigorous vetting process involving scientists with relevant expertise.

These scenes have been used to facilitate discussion of the larger social, political, economic and ethical implications of nanotechnology in a variety of settings, including college courses and in nationwide citizens' technology deliberation panels.



The scenes address products such as synthetically-engineered tissues, brain chips that allow data to be fed directly into the brain during sleep, bionic eyes that enable magnification and night-vision, and a "doc-in-a-box" that can detect disease years before a person manifests any symptoms.

