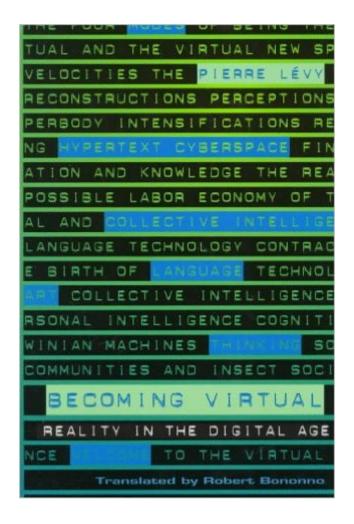
The book was found

Becoming Virtual





Synopsis

Virtual reality is a phenomenon that captivates people of all ages and all levels of technical expertise. It appears on the Internet and in computer games, and is used, among other places, in high-tech software for doctors, engineers, and scientists. But, is it really something new? And how does it affect us? Examining the social and cultural impact of new digital technologies, Levy tackles the concept of "the virtual," demonstrating how it has always been an enduring component of the human mind. He shows how the body, the text, and the economy, are made virtual. He then reveals how the Internet and web sites are now transforming the virtual into a "collective intelligence" linked to digital communication. Succinct, accessible, and profound, Becoming Virtual is an intellectual tour de force from one of France's most brilliant young thinkers.

Book Information

Hardcover: 250 pages

Publisher: Plenum Trade (March 21, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0306457881

ISBN-13: 978-0306457883

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 6.3 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,375,716 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #396 in Books > Engineering &

Transportation > Engineering > Electrical & Electronics > Digital Design #555 in Books >

Computers & Technology > Computer Science > Human-Computer Interaction #2712 in Books >

Computers & Technology > Web Development & Design > Web Design

Customer Reviews

The word 'virtual' has had a fair amount of exercise in the last few decades, and it would be a pity if some were put off reading this wonderful book due to the misguided belief it may be populated with computer lingo and people with wetware engaged in simulated 'virtual' sex. Levy's understanding of the virtual extends far beyond information technology; he gives the concept a proper philosophical and even anthropological foundation, and even goes so far as to show that we have in fact always been virtual, and this is what has made us human. Technology is probably what separates us from all other living creatures, or at least sophisticated technology, such as machines. Yes, other organisms utilise simple tools and what have you, but none of them are going to the moon in any

sort of hurry. Levy's work is essentially about artifacts, be they software like language or symbols, or hardware like tools and machines. However, following on from the work of philosophers such as Deleuze and Serres, Levy is profoundly against the two common (mis)conceptions about them: that they 'dominate' us, or that they are simple tools in our hands, doing our bidding. Heidegger and his ilk were very keen on the domination idea, but that's only because they didn't really understand machines; sure, your VCR will seem to dominate you, if you can't work it, as many older people will tell you, but after a good dose of swearing and fumbling the usual result is a machine that just sits there doing nothing. Hardly despotism. Or you may have its measure, and say it's just a tool for capturing video images, for whatever purpose, and yet it changes the way you watch TV, capture memories of your kids, and the entire institutional set-up of the film industry. Quite a clever tool, that.

Download to continue reading...

Virtual Law: Navigating the Legal Landscape of Virtual Worlds ColonografÃ- a por TC: Principios y prÃ;ctica de la colonoscopia virtual: Principios y prÃ;ctica de la colonoscopia virtual (Spanish Edition) Real Virtual en la estetica y la teoria de las artes/Real Virtual in the Esthetic and the Theory of the Arts (Paidos Estetica / Ethetics) (Spanish Edition) Becoming Virtual Making Virtual Worlds: Linden Lab and Second Life 3D Engine Design for Virtual Globes Virtual Reality - die digitale Welt wird zur Wirklichkeit: Augmented Reality, VR-Brillen, Cardboards, Cyberspace (German Edition) Augmented Reality for Beginners!: Principles & Practices for Augmented Reality & Virtual Computers Haptics for Virtual Reality and Teleoperation (Intelligent Systems, Control and Automation: Science and Engineering) The State of Play: Law, Games, and Virtual Worlds (Ex Machina: Law, Technology, and Society) Interact and Engage!: 50+ Activities for Virtual Training, Meetings, and Webinars Exploring Web 2.0: Second Generation Interactive Tools - Blogs. Podcasts, Wikis, Networking, Virtual Words, And More Openswan: Building and Integrating Virtual Private Networks Distributed Virtual Worlds Distributed Virtual Worlds: Foundations and Implementation Techniques Using VRML, Java, and CORBA Scripting VMware Power Tools: Automating Virtual Infrastructure Administration Understanding the Linux Virtual Memory Manager Learning Virtual Reality: Developing Immersive Experiences and Applications for Desktop, Web, and Mobile Building Online Learning Communities: Effective Strategies for the Virtual Classroom Virtual Competition: The Promise and Perils of the Algorithm-Driven Economy

Dmca