

# Is It OK to Discriminate Against a Cyborg?

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# What is a Cyborg?

**Narrow (sci-fi) Sense:**  
An internal merger between a human organism and a machine or electronic device for human enhancement purposes.



# The World's First Cyborg

## Prof. Steve Mann



Wearing Eyetap device



1980



1985



1991

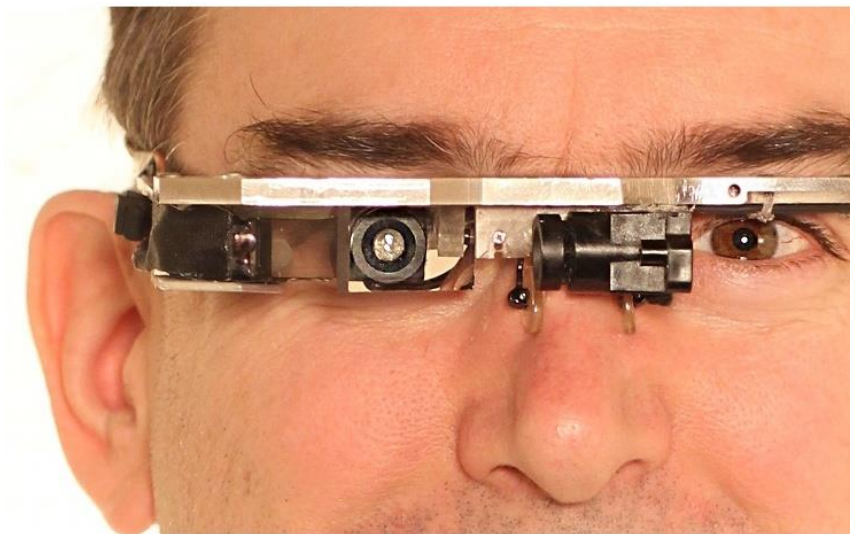


1995

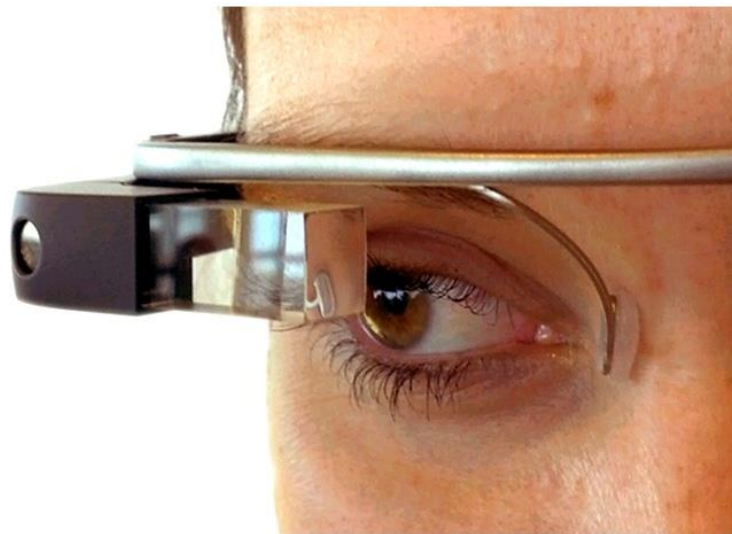


1998

# Eyetaap => Google Glass



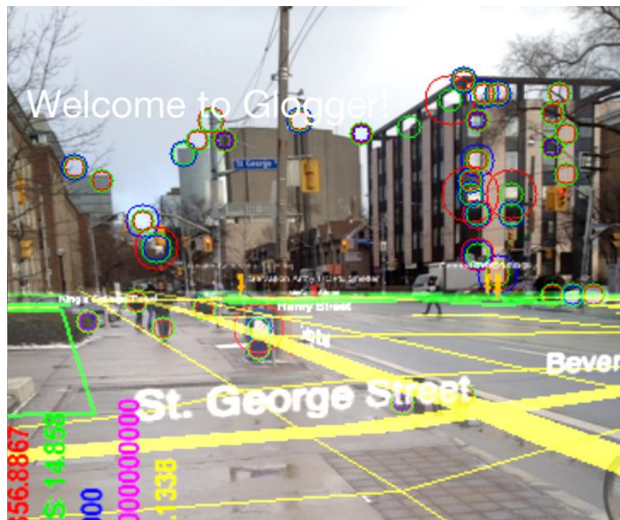
Mann's 1999 "EyeTap Digital Eye Glass"



2012, Google Glass

# The World Through Mann's Eyes

Running a directions application





# Paris, McDonald's 2012



**“Cyborg Discrimination?  
Scientist Says  
McDonald's Staff Tried  
To Pull Off His Google-  
Glass-Like Eyepiece,  
Then Threw Him Out” -  
Forbes**

# The Shape of Things to Come?



“The 5 Point is the first Seattle business to ban in advance Google Glasses [sic]. And **ass kickings will be encouraged for violators.**” - 5 Point Cafe Facebook post, 2013

“Google Glass ‘Attack Victim’ Says She Experienced a **Hate Crime**” - New York Magazine, 2014



# Stop the Cyborgs



**Google Glass Is Banned  
On These Premises**

"We are already living in a Big Brother society but we will soon be living in a transparent society and this will be much worse....Not all oppression comes from the government; for some people it might be their overbearing boss, their partner, their peers, their parents, or their religious community."

- Stop the Cyborgs spokesperson, PC Mag, 2013



# Cyborg Discrimination?



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# Cyborg Discrimination?

**“Disability rights & assistive devices:** we ask that if you do ban Google Glass and similar devices from your property that you also respect the rights of such people and do not prevent them from using assistive devices where data/device remains within the control of the individual.” - Stop the Cyborgs website



# Cyborg Discrimination?

**Does intentionally choosing to become a cyborg for non-medical purposes negate discrimination claims?**

“...many of us make the decision [to become a cyborg] for reasons including professional, personal, religious, stylistic, aesthetic, and political—many of which are protected forms of expression.” - “Why Cyborg Pride”, Body Hacking Con website



# Cyborgs and Gun Bans



# Wearable Computing Explosion



Sony



Microsoft



Meta

**Augmented/Virtual  
Reality to hit \$150  
billion disrupting  
mobile by 2020  
- Digi-Capital.com**



Facebook



Samsung



# Thank you!



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