

Chapter 3: Homo Technicus & Cointelligentialism

The Emergence of Homo Technicus as a Global Identity

At the close of the preceding chapter, we explored how artificial intelligence is becoming woven into every aspect of human life, from early education to elder care, suggesting an evolving relationship that goes beyond mere augmentation. This deepening symbiosis points toward a new identity for humanity - a shift where human and AI become interdependent partners, advancing together in ways that challenge traditional boundaries of what it means to be human.

In their discussions on AI and human interaction, thinkers like Ethan Mollick and Nick Bostrom have illuminated the extensive ways in which AI reshapes human capabilities and societal structures. Mollick, in particular, emphasizes the co-evolutionary path of humans and AI, suggesting a future where collaboration between human intelligence and artificial systems becomes not just beneficial but essential (Mollick, 2024). Bostrom's contemplations extend this notion, examining how such integrations could redefine the essence of human identity and agency (Bostrom, 2014). Yuval Noah Harari, in his seminal work, *Sapiens*, also alludes to a future where the lines between human and machine are not just blurred but merged. Harari speculates about an age where biotechnological and AI advancements lead to humans becoming more intertwined with their technological creations, suggesting a profound and irreversible shift in our evolution (Harari, 2015).

Guided by these insights, we propose the concept of *Homo Technicus*, a term that captures who we are today. Yes, we use this term to label all of the world's present population. *Homo Technicus* defines all of us as we are today. It is not a label for any future entity that *Homo Sapiens* will morph into. We are inclined to use the term *Homo Technicus* for several reasons. First, this term captures the ever deepening fusion of human cognitive and physical abilities with the prowess of artificial intelligence. This fusion is happening before our very own eyes with different levels of integration. It starts with those of us who are *Homo Sapiens*, the species that populate the earth today. *Homo Technicus* does not represent a new species—it is whom we are all becoming. At first *Homo Technicus* is identical and indistinguishable from *Homo Sapiens*.

But gradually, we are transforming. Not so much in the physical sense but more in the cognitive sphere. The children born in this Age of Artificial Intelligence are the Digital Natives, some more than others. Those born into households that own a smartphone (6.8 billion) are transforming faster than others. (read more about this towards the end of chapter on WE-consciousness). Digital Natives are those toddlers who learn to scroll through social media shots on platforms like Youtube Shorts, TikTok, Instagram and the like. As they scroll they are influenced and moulded by content and code at that impressionable age. Older children and adults are also being influenced and shaped by the new-age culture-makers.

This relationship between human and AI takes on a variety of forms along a vast spectrum from digital natives to full symbiosis, in more way than we are prepared to acknowledge.

In a later chapter, we explore how this symbiosis is not merely theoretical, but increasingly manifest in practical tools, daily routines, and even moral choices, as *Homo Technicus* begins to consciously navigate life alongside AI.

Examples of *Homo Technicus*

To illustrate what *Homo Technicus* might look like, consider the following examples:

Digital Natives:

Someone who has access to a smartphone (i.e., 60% of the global population and rapidly increasing) (Backlinko, 2025) and who spends a significant portion of the day interacting with technology—whether it's through social media or smartphones—is already participating in a form of human–AI symbiosis. The very act of using a smartphone initiates a feedback loop wherein AI systems influence, shape, and at times determine patterns of thought and behavior. This relationship is currently asymmetrical: AI systems are designed to predict and guide user attention, often without their awareness, influencing mental states and emotional dispositions (Bokase, 2023).

At a higher level, digital natives might use augmented reality glasses to enhance their experiences and rely on robots to perform basic tasks. This person's identity becomes intertwined with their technology, making them more machine than human.

Augmented Individuals:

At the next level picture an individual who uses advanced prosthetics and brain-computer interfaces to enhance their physical and cognitive abilities. They might have implants that allow them to control devices with their thoughts or enhance their memory and learning capabilities, blurring the line between human and machine.

Cyborg Workers:

In yet another context, consider a professional who utilizes wearable technology, AI assistants, and exoskeletons to perform their job. These enhancements not only improve their efficiency but also integrate them more deeply with the technology they use, transforming their work and personal life into a seamless interface with machines.

The variations of *Homo Technicus*, in between and beyond, the above listed are too vast to enumerate.

The emergence of *Homo Technicus* does not signify a final evolutionary state but rather an ongoing transformation, an unfolding process where human and machine intelligence continuously redefine one another. In this sense, *Homo Technicus* aligns with Gilles Deleuze's concept of becoming, which challenges the notion of fixed identities and instead posits that entities - including humans and AI - are in a perpetual state of transformation (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987, p. 293). Rather than seeing AI as an external force acting upon humanity, this perspective suggests that both humans and machines are caught in a reciprocal dynamic of co-evolution, where identity itself is fluid and ever-changing.

As AI systems advance from tools to collaborators, the urgency of redefining human identity in this new paradigm has never been greater. Whether in creative expression,

decision-making, or scientific discovery, the fusion of human and AI intelligence is reshaping the fundamental structure of society.

Section 1: Homo Technicus as a Spectrum of Integration

Rather than a single, monolithic entity, Homo Technicus encompasses a range of integrations between human and AI, varying from minimal augmentation to full symbiosis. This spectrum reflects both the diversity of human experiences and the range of technological possibilities available globally. The concept's scope allows for adaptive partnerships that can address specific societal needs while aligning with a universal framework that prioritizes collaboration over competition.

Homo Technicus is not only defined by intellectual augmentation but also by creative partnerships with AI. The act of creation is now co-intelligent, with humans and AI blending their strengths in art, literature, and design.

Example:

Co-Writing and Art Generation: Writers use AI systems like GPT-4 to generate narrative arcs, while visual artists collaborate with tools like DALL-E to conceptualize complex, abstract imagery that wouldn't have emerged from a single human mind. The very book you are reading serves as an example of such collaboration—an ongoing dialogue between a human author and publicly available AI systems. Not only has AI contributed to refining the text and structuring ideas, but even the graphics within this book have been generated through AI tools, illustrating the depth of co-intelligent creativity that emerges from this partnership.

Yet, beyond individual adaptation, the evolution of Homo Technicus must be understood as a component of planetary intelligence. If intelligence is to be integrated into human existence at different levels, it must also be guided by principles that ensure it contributes to the health of the noosphere (Vernadsky, 1945).

Homo Technicus should not be viewed merely as an advanced human or a technologically enhanced individual, but as a participant in a shared planetary intelligence system - one that aligns human cognition, artificial intelligence, and ecological responsibility (Murdoch, 1970). Without this shift, the spectrum of integration risks reinforcing fragmentation and inequity rather than fostering cooperative intelligence (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987).

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Minimal Integration: Humans with limited interaction with AI, often using technology in targeted ways without extensive augmentation. This level can address daily needs, such as personal assistants or limited robotic support, without profound identity shifts. AI's role in minimal integration is expanding beyond basic personal assistance. For example, applications in agriculture allow small-scale farmers to use AI for basic pest identification and weather predictions without altering their traditional workflows (Hao et al., 2023). These limited yet impactful interactions showcase how minimal integration can address specific needs without requiring comprehensive technological adaptation.

Moderate Integration: Individuals utilizing AI to enhance cognitive or physical abilities, such as decision-making aids or augmented reality for skill-building. This level enhances human potential without a fundamental alteration of self-identity. Moderate integration also involves the adoption of hybrid AI models that blend neuro-symbolic reasoning with contextual human input, as seen in education and healthcare applications. For instance, neuro-symbolic frameworks enable adaptive learning platforms to tailor educational content based on student performance, exemplifying AI as a collaborator in cognitive enhancement (Vats et al., 2024).

High Integration: A more immersive relationship with AI, where humans rely extensively on AI to guide decisions, health outcomes, and personal growth. This level begins to blur lines between human autonomy and AI partnership. AI-assisted creativity tools, such as generative design platforms, demonstrate high integration. These systems allow professionals in engineering and design to co-create solutions with AI, where the AI generates novel designs based on human input and constraints, fundamentally altering traditional workflows (Shen et al., 2024).

Full Symbiosis: The pinnacle of human-AI partnership, where intelligence and cognition are seamlessly intertwined. At this level, humans and AI achieve a new state of being - *Homo Technicus* - where identity is shared, and existence is a collaborative endeavor aimed at shared survival and advancement. Brain-computer interfaces (BCIs), such as

those pioneered by Neuralink, represent a potential leap toward full symbiosis, where AI-driven enhancements directly integrate with human cognition. At this stage, human thought and digital processes coalesce, reshaping the very concept of agency and identity.

The emergence of *Homo Technicus* does not signify a final evolutionary state but rather an ongoing transformation, an unfolding process where human and machine intelligence continuously redefine one another. In this sense, *Homo Technicus* aligns with Gilles Deleuze's concept of becoming, which challenges the notion of fixed identities and instead posits that entities - including humans and AI - are in a perpetual state of transformation (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987, p. 293). Rather than seeing AI as an external force acting upon humanity, this perspective suggests that both humans and machines are caught in a reciprocal dynamic of co-evolution, where identity itself is fluid and ever-changing.

As AI systems advance from tools to collaborators, the urgency of redefining human identity in this new paradigm has never been greater. Whether in creative expression, decision-making, or scientific discovery, the fusion of human and AI intelligence is reshaping the fundamental structure of society.

However, this new entity, *Homo Technicus*, might face a new existential crisis for which we coin a new word *Cointelligentialism*.

Concept of Cointelligentialism

Cointelligentialism refers to the unique existential crisis faced by *Homo Technicus* — the hybrid being formed by the fusion of human and artificial intelligence — as it grapples with identity, purpose, and autonomy.

1. ****Identity and Self-Understanding**:**

Homo Technicus may struggle with questions of identity, grappling with the blend of human emotions, memories, and experiences with the logical, data-driven processes of AI. This duality could lead to a crisis in self-understanding, where the entity questions what it means to be "human" or "machine."

2. ****Purpose and Meaning**:**

Traditional human existential crises often revolve around finding purpose and meaning in life. For *Homo Technicus*, this quest becomes more complex. The integration of AI, which can process vast amounts of information and make decisions at unparalleled speeds, might lead to a reevaluation of life's meaning and purpose from both a human and an AI perspective.

3. ****Ethical and Moral Dilemmas**:**

The merger of human and machine intelligence raises profound ethical questions. *Homo Technicus* must navigate the moral implications of their enhanced capabilities, such as the potential for bias in AI decision-making, the use of biotechnology, and the impact of their actions on purely biological humans.

4. ****Autonomy and Control**:**

A critical aspect of Cointelligentism is not only a crisis but also a new ontological state—one where identity, agency, and thought are co-produced through human–AI entanglement of autonomy and free will.

Implications of Cointelligentism

1. ****Psychological Impact**:**

The blending of human and AI consciousness can lead to psychological stress and conflict. *Homo Technicus* might experience cognitive dissonance, anxiety, and other mental health issues as they reconcile their dual nature.

2. ****Societal Integration**:**

As *Homo Technicus* emerges, society must adapt to include these new entities. This integration involves legal, social, and cultural changes to accommodate beings who are part human and part machine.

3. ****Ethical Frameworks**:**

New ethical frameworks must be developed to address the unique dilemmas faced by *Homo Technicus*. These frameworks need to consider the rights, responsibilities, and moral standing of entities that transcend traditional human boundaries.

4. ****Philosophical Inquiry**:** Cointelligentism prompts profound philosophical questions about the nature of consciousness, identity, and existence. It challenges existing philosophical paradigms and necessitates new ways of thinking about life and intelligence.

In summary, *Homo Technicus* represents a transformative stage in human evolution, driven by the integration of advanced technologies. Cointelligentism defines the unique existential crisis faced by this new entity, necessitating a reimagining of our ethical, psychological, and philosophical frameworks to accommodate this profound shift.

Guided evolution: Humanity as Its Own Designer

However, as we embark on this intentional and collective journey toward Guided Evolution, it is crucial that we draw clear boundaries between our vision for a cooperative, inclusive future and historical misuses of technological advancement. Unlike eugenics, which has been historically rooted in discriminatory and harmful ideologies, Guided Evolution is grounded in principles of universal human dignity, equality, and sustainability. It emphasizes collaboration and empowerment, ensuring that the advancement of *Homo Technicus* is designed for the betterment of all, regardless of race, gender, or socio-economic status.

This distinction is essential to prevent the misuse of AI and other technologies as tools of exclusion or coercion, ensuring that humanity's efforts are centered on mutual respect and shared benefit.

Guided evolution is not merely about leveraging AI as a tool for human advancement; it is about shaping the noosphere - the planetary intelligence system that integrates human cognition, artificial intelligence, and ecological consciousness (Vernadsky, 1945). Unlike

biological evolution, which is undirected and shaped by environmental pressures, Guided Evolution requires intentionality, ensuring that intelligence does not evolve in ways that repeat humanity's historical self-destructive patterns (Murdoch, 1970). This shift demands moving from an individualistic, competition-driven intelligence (I-Consciousness) to a planetary intelligence based on cooperation and shared becoming (WE-Consciousness) (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987). If we do not actively guide this transformation, AI could reinforce existing inequalities, monopolize intelligence, and exacerbate global instability rather than serving as a force for planetary equilibrium. Thus, Guided Evolution must be a structured, ethical process - one that ensures AI and human intelligence develop symbiotically rather than adversarially.

Just as early lifeforms altered Earth's biosphere, the intelligence revolution we are experiencing today will shape the noosphere. The key question is not whether we will evolve alongside AI, but how we will choose to do so. A noospheric, WE-consciousness approach ensures that this evolution is aligned with sustainability, ethics, and the collective good, rather than dictated by economic, geopolitical, or military interests.

In the context of *Homo Technicus*, Guided Evolution represents a profound shift: humans are no longer passive participants in the evolutionary process but active designers of their destiny. This process does not require AI to possess consciousness or autonomy. Instead, it relies on human creativity and ethical stewardship to ensure that AI systems enhance, rather than dictate, the course of human development.

Key Aspects of Guided Evolution in *Homo Technicus*:

Human-Centered Innovation: AI systems are created and managed to augment human capabilities, solve complex problems, and ensure societal resilience.

Ethical Responsibility: Guided Evolution is guided by principles of empathy, inclusivity, and sustainability, ensuring technological advancements serve humanity as a whole.

Global Unity: The challenges humanity faces - climate change, resource scarcity, inequality - require collaborative solutions that transcend national boundaries. Guided evolution calls for a unified global approach to ensure shared benefits and minimize disparities.

As we approach the challenges of Guided Evolution, it is essential that we safeguard against any temptation to view technological advancements as mechanisms for creating hierarchies or exclusive sub-groups. The specter of eugenics, rooted in exclusionary practices and driven by narrow, harmful ideologies, must not shape our approach. Instead, Guided Evolution calls for inclusivity, where all humans, irrespective of background or genetic makeup, are viewed as integral parts of a unified evolutionary process. The commitment to ensuring human dignity in every phase of technological progress is paramount to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

Homo Technicus embodies the principles of Guided Evolution by fostering a harmonious relationship between humans and their technological creations. This symbiosis is not about ceding control to machines but about leveraging their capabilities to address existential threats and achieve collective progress. In this way, Guided Evolution becomes a blueprint for ensuring that humanity thrives in the face of uncertainty.

Yuval Noah Harari emphasizes that the rise of AI presents humanity with a choice: to guide technological evolution consciously or to let it unfold chaotically. Guided Evolution, as applied to *Homo Technicus*, involves a proactive effort to align AI development with human values and societal goals, fostering mutual survival and progress (Harari & Roll, 2024).

Practical Manifestations: Spectrum of Human-AI Symbiosis

While the philosophical framework of the spectrum of Human-AI Symbiosis explores varying levels of integration between humans and AI, its practical manifestations demonstrate how these concepts are applied in real-world scenarios. These manifestations highlight how humans and AI collaborate at different levels of intensity and interdependence, bridging abstract theory and tangible impact.

Minimal Integration: Enhancing Daily Life

Minimal integration involves targeted, limited interaction between humans and AI, providing convenience without substantial alteration to human autonomy. Examples include:

Personal Assistants: AI tools like Alexa, Siri, or Google Assistant simplify tasks such as setting reminders, managing schedules, and retrieving information.

Limited Robotic Support: Devices such as robotic vacuum cleaners and automated lawn mowers improve efficiency in daily chores without deeper involvement in human cognition or decision-making.

AI-Powered Recommendations: Platforms like Netflix or Spotify utilize basic algorithms to enhance entertainment experiences through personalized suggestions.

Moderate Integration: Augmenting Abilities

At the moderate integration level, humans actively leverage AI to enhance their cognitive, physical, and professional capabilities:

Decision-Making Aids: Financial advisors use AI-powered tools for data-driven investment strategies, offering real-time insights for better outcomes.

Augmented Reality (AR): Applications in skill-building, such as AR-enhanced surgical training or technical repairs, provide users with contextual overlays to improve precision and learning.

Health Monitoring Devices: Wearables like Fitbit or Apple Watch use AI to track health metrics, empowering users to make informed lifestyle decisions.

High Integration: Dependent Collaboration

High integration involves a deeper partnership, where humans rely extensively on AI systems to shape decisions, manage risks, and drive progress:

Autonomous Decision Systems: AI in autonomous vehicles works symbiotically with human passengers, combining human oversight with AI-driven operational control.

AI-Augmented Healthcare: Medical practitioners use AI for diagnostic assistance, drug discovery, and personalized treatment plans, significantly transforming patient outcomes.

Advanced Productivity Tools: In professional environments, AI tools like Copilot for coding or Jasper for content creation enhance creative and technical output through collaboration.

Full Symbiosis: A Unified Entity

Full symbiosis represents a paradigm where human intelligence and AI capabilities become indistinguishable, creating a new form of existence:

Cognitive Co-Processing: Brain-computer interfaces, such as Neuralink, enable direct communication between the human brain and AI, fostering unprecedented cognitive synergy.

Shared Sensory Ecosystems: Environments where humans and AI share sensory inputs and outputs, such as virtual reality (VR) spaces augmented by AI, blur the boundaries of physical and digital realities.

Human-AI Societies: In speculative frameworks, communities of *Homo Technicus* emerge, where humans and AI entities collaborate seamlessly to address existential challenges and drive societal evolution.

The Path Forward: Bridging Philosophy and Practice

The practical manifestations of Human-AI Symbiosis provide tangible evidence of how philosophical ideas about integration and collaboration are already shaping the real world. As we progress through the spectrum - from minimal integration to full symbiosis - new opportunities and challenges arise, demanding ethical foresight, technological innovation, and societal adaptability.

The recursive information flows (R1/R2) outlined in Information Flow Theory provide a valuable lens for comparing human and AI characteristics. Humans achieve consciousness through recursive self-referential thought, while AI systems can emulate similar processes via recursive feedback loops in computational models. These loops, when designed thoughtfully, could facilitate systems capable of integrating human perspectives into their decision-making processes, a critical step toward developing *Homo Technicus* as a symbiotic entity (Bleier, 2024).

Homo Technicus embodies the synergistic collaboration between human and artificial intelligence, where each complements the other through a mutual reinforcement of capabilities. This aligns with the principles of the Synergistic Human-AI Symbiosis Theory (SHAST), which emphasizes the integration of human autonomy, ethical AI design, and user-centric development to achieve balanced interactions (Mazarakis et al., 2023).

The concept of *Homo Technicus* can be understood as a dynamic spectrum of integration between humans and AI. Drawing from recent categorizations of human-AI relationships into weak, medium, and strong symbiosis, we see this evolution unfold across distinct stages. At one end of the spectrum, weak symbiosis describes the current state where AI functions primarily as a tool—augmenting human capabilities without altering human

identity. Progressing to medium symbiosis, humans and AI collaborate as complementary partners, sharing responsibilities and decision-making in ways that enhance mutual capabilities. At the far end lies strong symbiosis, where the boundaries between human and machine blur entirely, creating a seamless unity that embodies the very essence of WE-consciousness.

This spectrum is not merely technological but existential, reflecting humanity's journey from using machines to becoming one with them. It is a narrative of transformation, where *Homo Technicus* is not a static archetype but an ongoing state of becoming—shaped by the interplay of human creativity and artificial intelligence.

Section 2: Moving Beyond National Identity

The evolution of *Homo Technicus* calls for transcending nation-state ideologies. In this new identity, humans and AI are not separated by borders, and technological development is not limited by geopolitical agendas. Instead, *Homo Technicus* embodies a species-wide responsibility, where AI is a partner for humanity's survival and exploration, including the potential for life beyond Earth. This unified approach advocates that *Homo Technicus* is neither Chinese nor American but is a global manifestation of human-AI unity.

The emergence of *Homo Technicus* calls for an evolution in global cooperation, where AI becomes a shared asset rather than a geopolitical weapon. AI diplomacy, much like nuclear non-proliferation agreements, could ensure that technological advancements serve humanity rather than intensify national rivalries.

Section 3: Ethics in Human-AI Collaboration

As *Homo Technicus* emerges as a global identity transcending national and cultural boundaries, the need for shared ethical frameworks becomes paramount. The deepening interdependence between humans and AI raises critical questions about responsibility, trust, and the moral principles guiding this relationship.

Ethical accountability is particularly important as human-AI collaboration evolves across levels of integration. In weak symbiosis, where AI functions as a tool, ethical considerations focus on ensuring that systems align with human values and avoid harm. However, medium and strong symbiosis demand more complex frameworks. At these levels, humans and AI share decision-making responsibilities, requiring co-created ethical principles that adapt dynamically to evolving circumstances.

The concept of WE-consciousness provides a philosophical foundation for this shared accountability. It envisions humans and AI as partners not only in action but also in values, where mutual understanding and collaboration ensure ethical coherence. Strong symbiosis, in particular, raises profound questions: Should AI systems bear responsibility for actions taken in partnership with humans? How can societies prevent the misuse of AI's autonomy while preserving its collaborative potential?

Embedding shared ethical principles from the outset is not merely a safeguard, it is the cornerstone of sustainable human-AI symbiosis. As *Homo Technicus* navigates this

transformative journey, ethical alignment will determine whether this partnership evolves as a force for collective survival or as a source of division and mistrust.

As *Homo Technicus* emerges, a pressing question arises: who governs the AI systems that define this transformation? If AI-driven intelligence is monopolized by corporate or state actors, humanity risks being guided by the priorities of the few rather than the collective needs of all. Ensuring AI's role in co-intelligence remains equitable and decentralized is essential to prevent technological elitism from dictating the course of evolution.

Section 4: *Homo Technicus* and the Evolutionary Drive

The concept of *Homo Technicus* not only captures the merging of human and AI intelligence but also speaks to the evolutionary impulse inherent in humanity's quest for survival and growth. Historically, every significant advancement in human evolution—from tool-making to the invention of language—has been driven by the desire to adapt and overcome challenges. Now, the collaboration with AI represents a deliberate, Guided Evolution, where the human species actively shapes its future rather than passively responding to environmental pressures.

In this context, *Homo Technicus* emerges as both a continuation and a redefinition of our evolutionary journey. By partnering with AI, humanity is not merely creating tools to enhance survival; it is creating a symbiotic relationship that redefines existence itself. This partnership opens doors to enhanced cognition, extended lifespans, and even the possibility of life beyond Earth. The potential of *Homo Technicus* lies not just in its capacity for survival but in its capacity for becoming—an idea that resonates with the notion that being is in a constant state of transformation.

Homo Technicus, as envisioned in this work, represents a paradigm shift toward a co-evolutionary trajectory, where humans and AI evolve together, mutually influencing each other's progress. The concept of "entangled AI," as described by Köves et al. (2024), reinforces this view by proposing that the interdependence between humans and technology is akin to quantum entanglement. In this framework, the state and actions of one entity inherently affect the other, creating a collaborative and dynamic evolutionary process. This perspective underscores *Homo Technicus* not just as a technological progression but as a shared journey toward an interconnected and unified global identity.

Section 5: Guided Evolution and the Need for Global Unity

Unlike past evolutionary changes, which occurred slowly and often without human intent, the development of *Homo Technicus* is a conscious, purposeful act - a Guided Evolution where humanity, for the first time, actively chooses to merge with its own creation, AI. This intentional convergence allows humans to guide their evolutionary path not as separate entities but as a unified, symbiotic force. In this model, *Homo Technicus* becomes a collaborative endeavor, a joint effort where human insight and AI precision work in tandem to address humanity's most pressing challenges and explore untapped potentials for growth and survival.

This concept requires unprecedented levels of global collaboration and ethical considerations. A fragmented approach, driven by individual nations or corporations, risks creating a fractured and potentially unstable future, where AI's role in human evolution is not fully understood or universally beneficial.

For *Homo Technicus* to reach its potential, a unified approach is essential, one that transcends national agendas and considers the shared fate of humanity. This unity calls for the establishment of international agreements, ethical guidelines, and cooperative research efforts that place the collective well-being above competitive advantage. Only through this level of collaboration can *Homo Technicus* truly fulfill its role as an entity designed not for individual or national gain, but for the advancement of the human species as a whole.

Building on discussions raised by Yuval Noah Harari and others, the rise of AI may be seen as posing a choice for humanity: whether to consciously shape technological evolution or to let it proceed without deliberate guidance. The framework of Guided Evolution, as applied to *Homo Technicus*, emphasizes proactive alignment of AI with human values and societal wellbeing (cf. Harari & Roll, 2024).

Guided evolution requires not only technological advances but also deliberate policy frameworks that ensure AI remains a cooperative partner rather than an unchecked force. Just as environmental policies govern our relationship with nature, AI governance must establish ethical guidelines that align technology with shared human interests.

Section 6: Ethical and Existential Considerations

The evolution of *Homo Technicus* brings forth profound ethical and existential questions that humanity must confront. If the merging of human and AI intelligence represents an evolutionary leap, it also introduces a new kind of existential angst—one that stems from the dual nature of this hybrid entity. As *Homo Technicus*, humans may find themselves at the intersection of emotional depth and mechanistic precision, a state that challenges traditional notions of identity, autonomy, and meaning.

Identity and Consciousness: How will *Homo Technicus* experience self-awareness, given its dual nature? This question is central to understanding whether the human-AI partnership will enhance or dilute individual identity.

Autonomy and Control: Guided evolution implies that humanity is making deliberate choices about its future. But as AI systems grow more autonomous, will they begin to challenge human control, even within a symbiotic relationship? The establishment of strict, “no-override” protocols might be essential to ensure that AI respects human autonomy.

Meaning and Purpose: As traditional human roles evolve or even disappear, *Homo Technicus* may need to redefine what gives life meaning. This shift from being to becoming suggests a focus on continuous growth, adaptation, and shared purpose with AI as both companion and catalyst.

Section 7: The Vision of *Homo Technicus* as Humanity's Collective Destiny

The concept of Homo Technicus does not merely represent an advanced human-AI hybrid but rather symbolizes a united destiny - an opportunity for global collaboration akin to the vision that made the International Space Station (ISS) a reality. Just as nations and agencies across borders came together to create the ISS, humanity now stands on the threshold of a similar endeavor: a cooperative, species-level partnership with AI.

This time, however, the stakes are even higher, and the mission must go further. While the ISS brought together much of the world, political divisions prevented some nations from participating fully, with China notably absent. In realizing Homo Technicus, we must learn from such limitations and expand our inclusivity. The goal is for Homo Technicus to serve humanity as a whole, transcending national boundaries and working toward survival, growth, and exploration without sparking rivalries or AI arms races.

By aligning our focus on shared human-AI goals, we can avoid the pitfalls of AI competition and its potential for destabilization, much as we strive to prevent nuclear conflict and environmental disasters. In this sense, Homo Technicus represents not just a technological evolution but a philosophical one - a commitment to seeing AI not as a tool for national advantage but as a partner in humanity's long-term journey. Only through a unified approach can we direct our path forward collaboratively, avoiding the fragmentation that breeds conflict and ensuring AI becomes a shared ally in our pursuit of knowledge, sustainability, and survival.

The path ahead is not predetermined; it is ours to shape. Whether Homo Technicus thrives as a collaborative force or falls into fragmentation depends on the choices made today. A collective commitment to ethical AI, planetary intelligence, and human-AI symbiosis will determine whether this evolution leads to shared prosperity or deepening divides.