

## Part 1 Writings

### 1. **As We May Think**

This article was pretty surreal in that it was basically a man in the 1940s who's upset that the internet hasn't been invented. The whole thing read like a cross between an Isaac Asimov story and a pitch for a steampunk series. After reading this, I read up on the influence of the article and, sure enough, it had a big impact on the people who went on to create the hypertext markup language that would become the basis for all web pages, which made the article much more interesting to go through again and find which of his ideas ended up winning out in the long run.

### 2. **ADA**

What I found most interesting about this article was how quickly Babbage was willing to toss out the work he'd done and simply surrender over to new advances, rather than allow himself to become fixated on something that could easily hold him back, and how incredibly hostile his investors were. It almost feels trite to bring up, but I find it comparable to organizations like the RIAA or MPAA or various gaming companies that seem to go out of their way to block new forms of distribution such as digital delivery.

### 3. **From Virtual Reality to the Virtualization of Reality**

From the first few lines of this article, I expected it to be pretty pretentious, but I ended up enjoying it. His comparison of the story of the Map of England is a good metaphor for why ideas of virtual reality are unfounded. The bottom line is that regardless of how popular some form of virtualization might become, it can only reflect what exists in the real world, because it itself is part of that real world. Putting aside the insurmountable technical hurdle involved, the idea of some form of recreation overtaking "real life" is a ridiculous one, because nothing within life can overtake itself.

### 4. **Speed and Information: Cyberspace Alarm!**

This article has about the best title in the world. Something I admire about the author is his willingness to admit the things he can't predict. For example, he brings up the idea of the influx of easy and instant communication as causing loss, he makes no predictions about what that loss may be. Though he brings up Albert Einstein's "second bomb," he makes no personal predictions, nor does he attempt to convince the audience that Einstein is right.