



Elon Musk v Jack Ma: Who Is More Human?

Two billionaire arch-Technocrats from vastly different cultures square off to debate the future of the world. Alibaba Chairman Jack Ma is clearly more in touch with the human condition than Elon Musk.

Musk's illogic is seen with a statement like: *"The first thing we should assume is we are very dumb. We can definitely make things smarter than ourselves."* How can dumb people make things smarter than themselves? □ TN Editor

[Tesla](#) CEO [Elon Musk](#) on Wednesday said that computers are getting smarter than humans in more and more spheres and that the trend will continue.

"We will be far, far surpassed in every single way. I guarantee it," Musk said to [Jack Ma](#), chairman of [Alibaba](#), at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai.

The comments highlight an evolving landscape in technology, including

in artificial intelligence — an area [technology companies are tapping](#) to enhance their products and sell to businesses.

Musk pointed to advances in chess and the Chinese board game of Go as evidence of progress in AI.

“Your cell phone could crush the world champion of chess, literally,” Musk told Ma.

He talked about how in the future technology from Neuralink, a start-up he co-founded, could give people a way to boost their skills in certain subjects. The company is seeking to draw on AI for [augmenting people’s cognitive capabilities](#) with brain-machine interfaces. The company is not there yet, though.

“The first thing we should assume is we are very dumb,” Musk said. “We can definitely make things smarter than ourselves.”

Ma had a different view, suggesting that a computer has never spawned a human being, or even a mosquito.

“I’ve never in my life, especially [in the] last two years, when people talk about AI, human beings will be controlled by machines,” he said. “I never think about that. It’s impossible.”

And Ma said that he does not want to play chess or Go against a machine. These games were designed for people to play against each other, he said.

“I’ll be happy to see two computers fight each other,” Ma added.

The Tesla chief has spoken previously about AI. In 2017 [he suggested](#) that competition among nations in AI could lead to World War III.

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