Meet Nadine, the Most Human-Like ‘Social’ Robot Created So Far

Susanne Posel (OC) - Researchers at the Nanyang Technical University (NTU) have created a humanoid robot named Nadine who is quite ‘friendly’, will remember details about those it meets and even recall the last conversation you had with it.

Nadine has soft skin and reddish-brown hair. The robot smiles, greets new people with a handshake and continuously makes eye contact with you during conversation.

This robot has been programed with the ability to develop its own “personality, mood and emotions” in order to facilitate social contact.

Nadia Thalmann, a computer graphics scientist and director of the Institute for Media Innovation at NTU and head of MiraLab, created Nadine using artificial intelligence software similar to Siri and Cortana.

Thalmann enhanced Nadine to interface with virtual technology, as well as having the robot’s “thoughts” displayed on a television or computer screen in order to create “a low-cost virtual social companion”.

Nadine is one of many “social robots” that is slated for commercialization. Thalmann explained: “Robotics technologies have advanced significantly over the past few decades and are already being used in manufacturing and logistics. As countries worldwide face challenges of an aging population, social robots can be one solution to address the shrinking workforce, become personal companions for children and the elderly at home, and even serve as a platform for healthcare services in future.”

Since 2011, researchers at NTU “have been fostering cross-disciplinary research in social robotics technologies – involving engineering, computer science, linguistics, psychology and other fields – to transform a virtual human, from within a computer, into a physical being that is able to observe and interact with other humans.”

Nadine is the first humanoid robot that feels “somewhat like a real companion that is always with you and conscious of what is happening. So in future, these socially intelligent robots could be like C-3PO, the iconic golden droid from Star Wars, with knowledge of language and etiquette.”

WATCH: NTU scientists unveil humanoid robot Nadine

Susanne Posel, Occupy Corporatism