

THINK TANK
BY LAB45

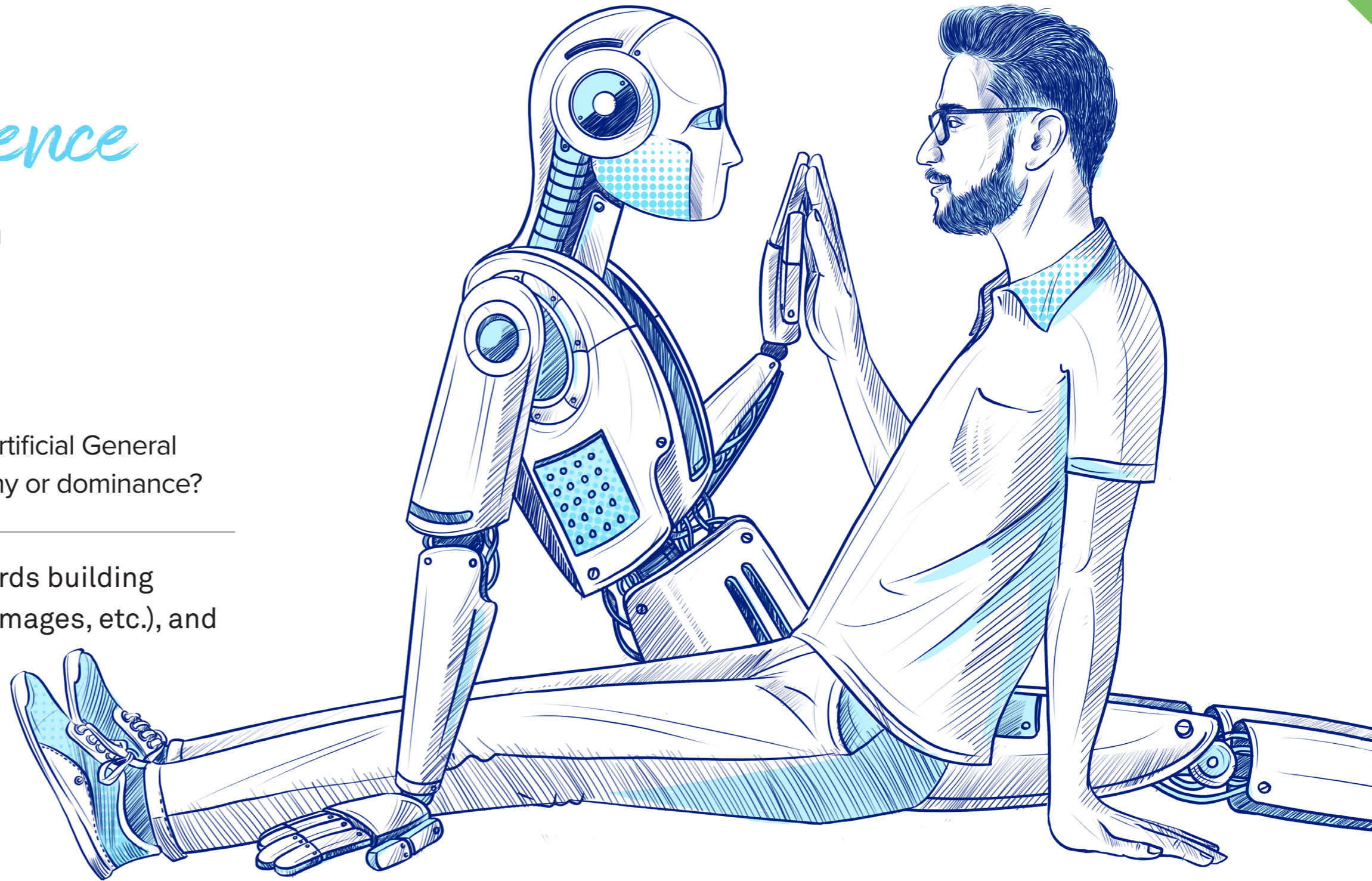
EARTH DAY SPECIAL

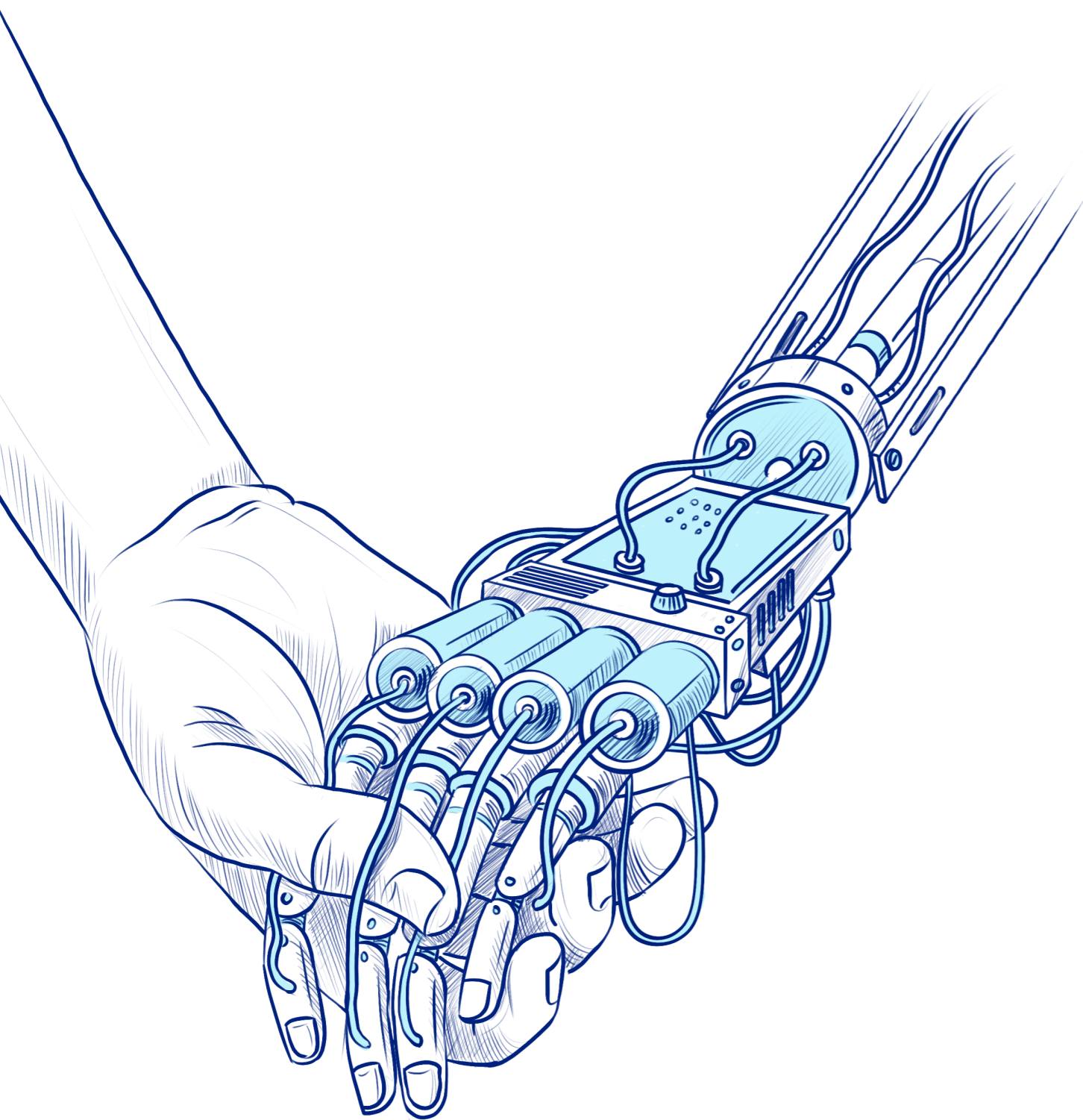
Higher Order Intelligence Dominance or empathy?

**Break
the box**

Arvind Ravishunkar contemplates how Artificial General Intelligence would treat humans: empathy or dominance?

There is rapid scientific progress being made towards building artificial intelligence in different modalities (text, images, etc.), and it is hard not to see a future where eventually it will converge into some form of Artificial General Intelligence. If/When it does, I can't help but wonder how such an intelligence in the future would treat humans. "Would it be empathetic, or would it be dominant?"





There is a growing movement towards more empathy towards life forms around us.

polymers and then dump them in oceans, we introduce chemicals into organic matter without regard to life forms in the soil, and the host of actions is endless. If intelligence means dominance, we are doing a fantastic job.

But this path of dominance is not the universal human path. There is a growing movement towards more empathy towards life forms around us. Preservation of biodiversity, local and organic eating, reduction of plastics, plant-based diets, and free-range farming are just some starting examples of humans with more empathy. I personally believe that empathy is a higher order intelligence since it is inclusive. Dominance is a historical concept.

I have a companion in my home. She is 6 years old, and she has 4 paws. Her name is Maple. When people use the phrase “pet ownership,” I cringe. I don’t own Maple.

How can one life form own another? I am her caretaker and her companion, and vice versa. I want no dominion over other life but rather friendship.

I can understand that the path of empathy is a balancing act since one must weigh the consequences to oneself. However, the path of dominance is also a balancing act since one has to weigh the consequences to other life forms.

There isn’t a right or wrong here, but the question to ask yourself is how would you like a higher form of intelligence to treat you? If you are a fair person, you would want to be treated the way you treat other life forms. It’s an important question since it will inform the lifestyle decisions you make.



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