

# The Ultimate Computer

With rapidly developing technology and the increasing role played by the computer in our lives, have you ever wondered just how far this device can be taken? How smart will it become?

I came across a story recently (its author unknown) that wanders into this field of speculation. Here it is:

*And it came to pass that the people of the earth banded together to design and build the ultimate computer.*

*Every technology, discipline and philosophy were represented. Money was no object. The capacity was reported in ZIPS – zillions of instructions per second. They programmed it with every known fact.*

*Meanwhile, a second team was charged with fashioning the ultimate questions – questions to both test the machine and to learn the nature of our existence.*

*Years later, both teams made their reports. The second team, after many agonizing discussions, agreed on the ultimate question that the computer should be asked. It was simply, "Why?" The question was entered into the computer.*

*The machine blinked and whirred and went into a processing cycle that was too rapid to measure. On and on it went for days, weeks, months, and finally, the great truth, the answer, appeared on the screen.*

*It read: "Because."*

It occurs to me that I have heard that answer often before. My mother's brain must have been wired the same way.

--Beecher Hunter