

Step into the future of defence

A new online tool is helping to visualise how humans and machines could work together in the defence sector, with a range of thought-provoking scenarios predicting what the conflicts of tomorrow might look like. Its creators explain how it works and the difference it could make

The Human Interface Horizons tool (HIH) provides an information-rich resource for visualising and exploring new and emerging human-machine interface technologies and the future defence and security operating environments in which they might be used.

The HIH was developed to raise awareness of cutting-edge and emerging human-machine interaction technologies and explore their potential uses within the context of the future defence and security operating environment. The principal audience for the tool is developers of future platforms and systems who must consider the technology trade-offs and opportunities of competing future interface technologies. The tool supports this by highlighting the wider sociotechnical challenges that defence and security are likely to face in a future operating environment with evolving technologies and job roles.

Our approach

The HIH uses multiple visually engaging tools to access information. This is intended

to allow both specialists and non-specialists to explore the novel and emerging interface technologies in a manner that promotes innovation. It enables users to easily compare and contrast information about different interface types and their characteristics, and customise the presentation of that information to their own preferences and needs.

A significant feature within the tool is nine illustrated defence and security scenarios covering a variety of operating environments. Embedded within each of these future-focused scenarios are a number of novel and emerging technologies which are intended to stimulate engagement with defence audiences and support innovative thinking regarding 'the art of the possible' for how humans and machines might interact in future.

Innovating our communications

A common challenge we face as practitioners is to communicate our knowledge in engaging ways. All too often, our work

culminates in lengthy technical reports that take time to both produce and read. Alternative ways to influence and interest people should always be considered and actively pursued. As practitioners, it's important that our own products reflect core principles of our discipline; that they are accessible, navigable and produce a positive user experience.

To access the Human Interface Horizons tool, go to <https://dstl.github.io/Human-Interface-Horizons/> You can read excerpts from two of the scenarios over the following pages and for the full library, visit <https://dstl.github.io/Human-Interface-Horizons/scenario-library> >

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