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"The future is already here.
It's just not very evenly distributed."

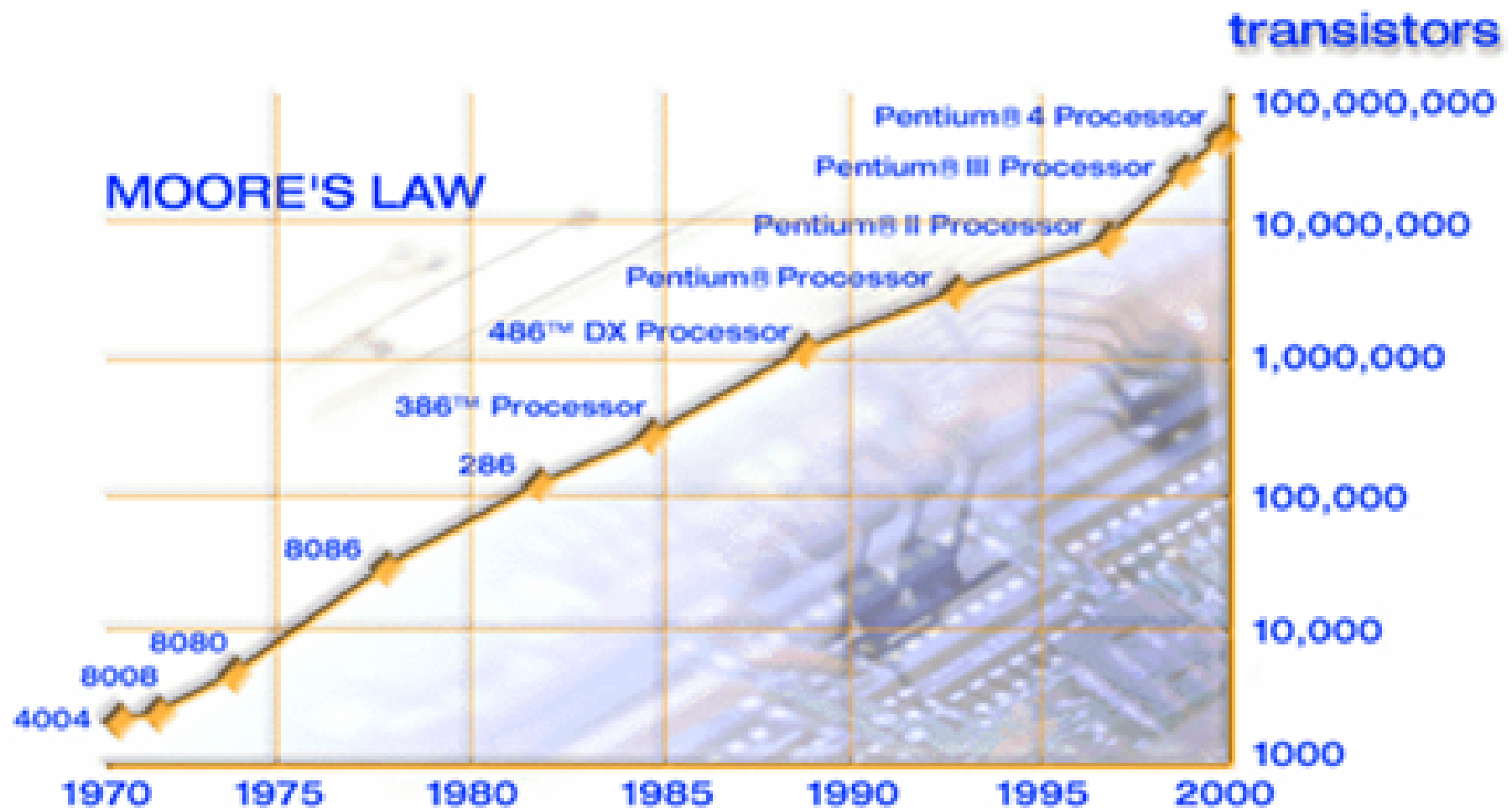
- William Gibson

Ray Kurzweil
vs
Bruce Sterling

or...

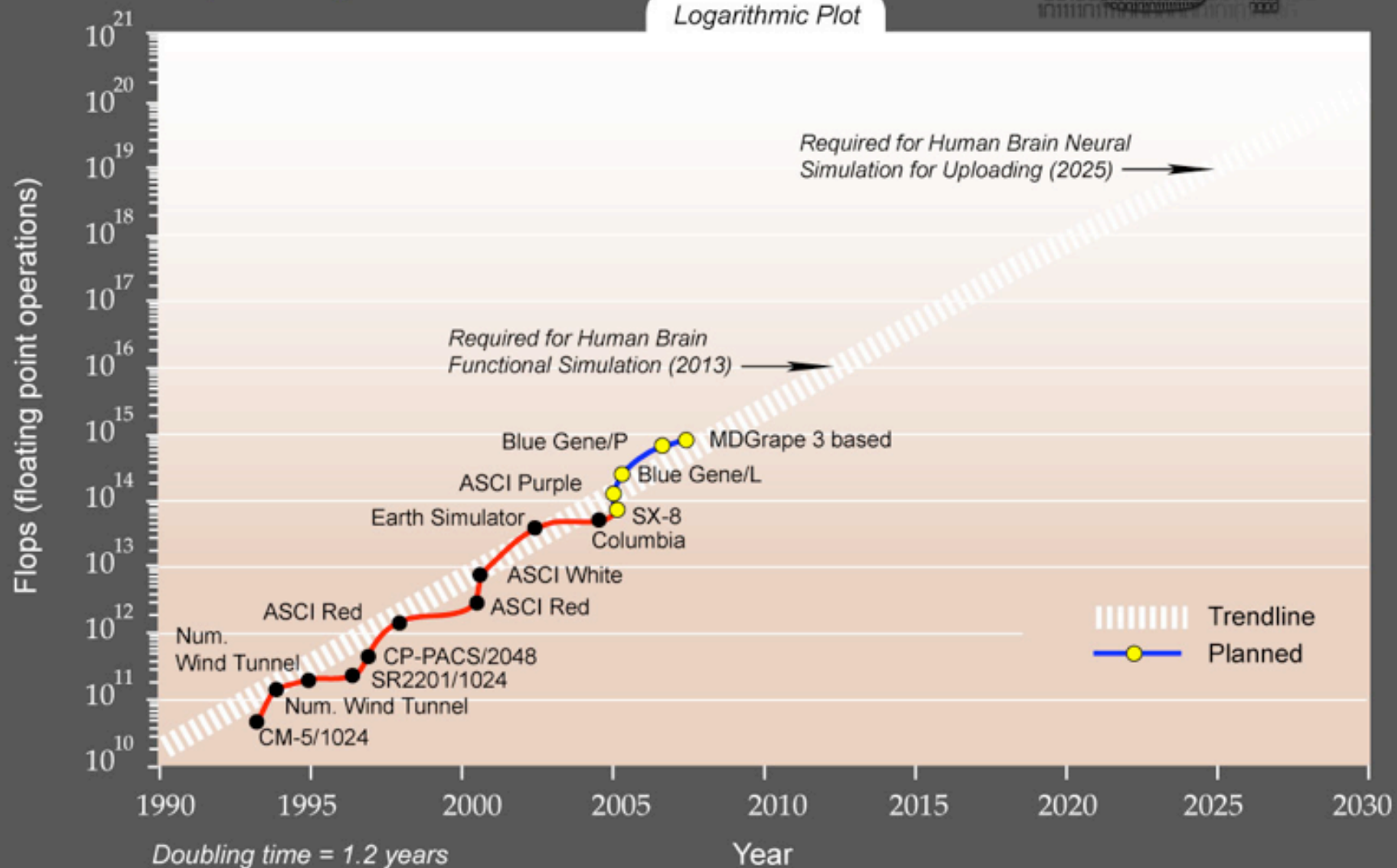
The Singularity vs Blobjects

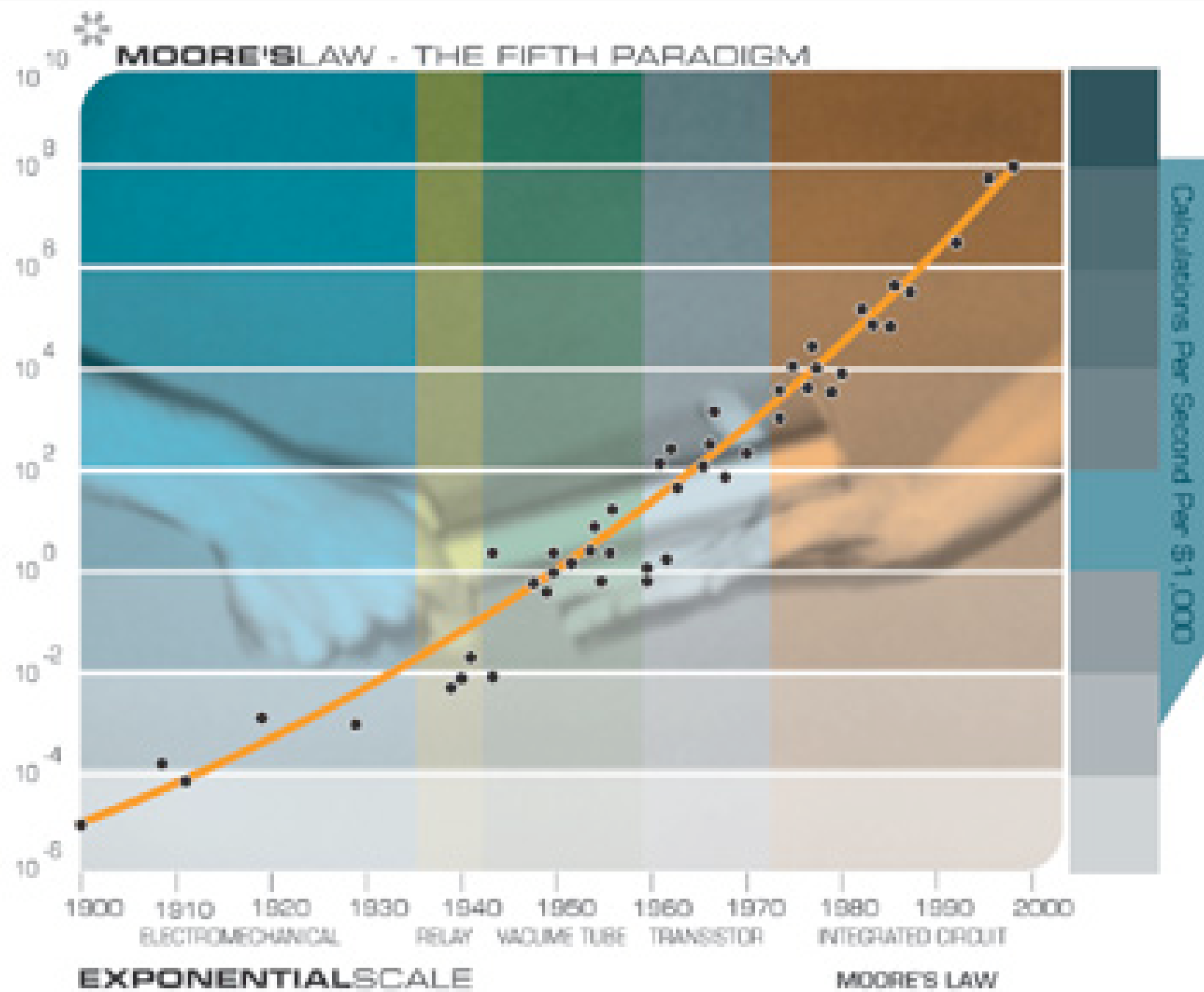
MOORE'S LAW



Growth in Supercomputer Power

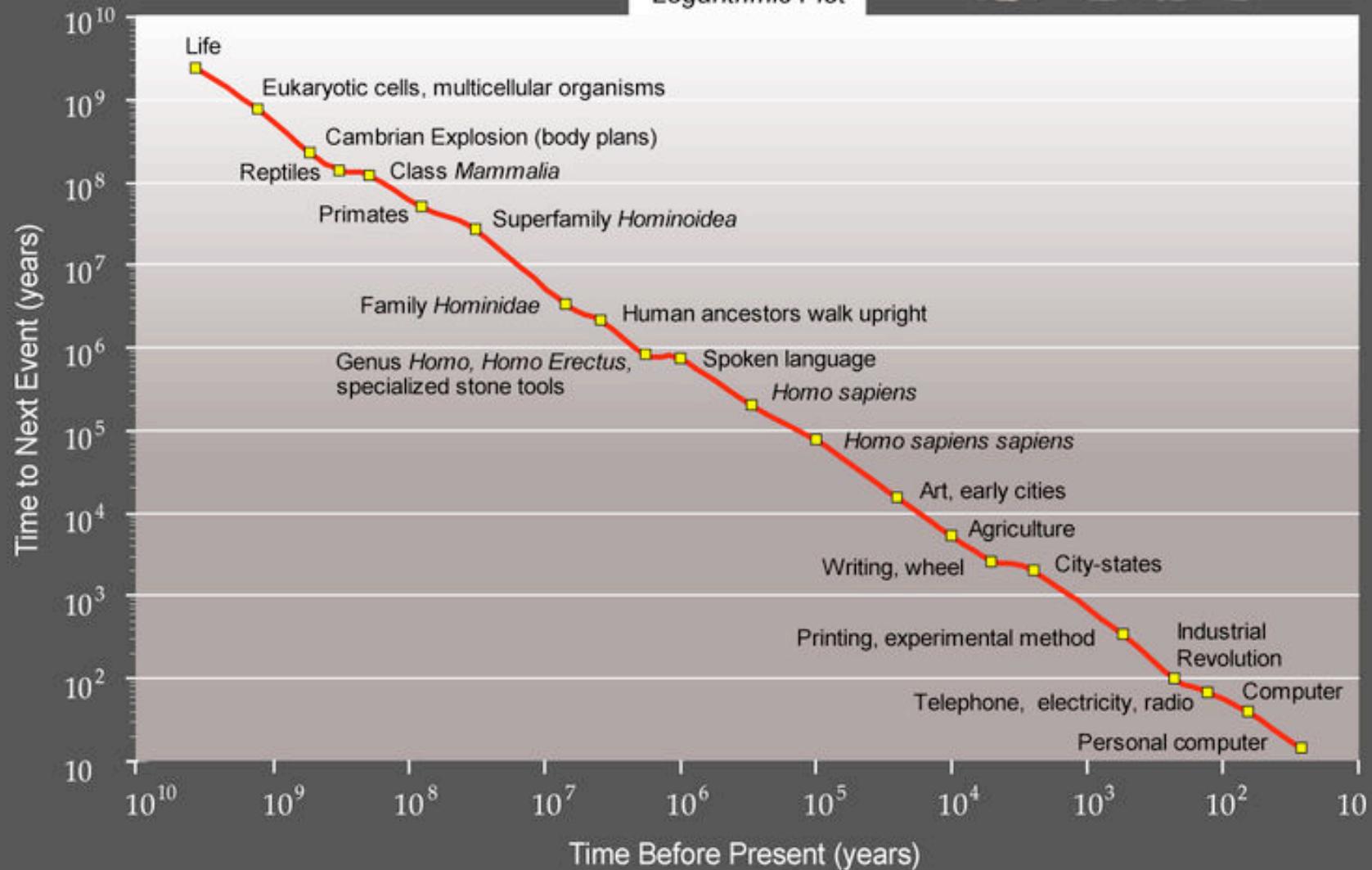
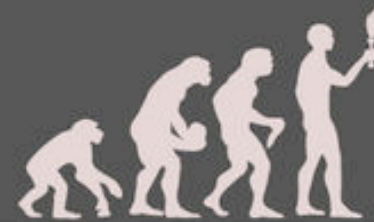
Logarithmic Plot





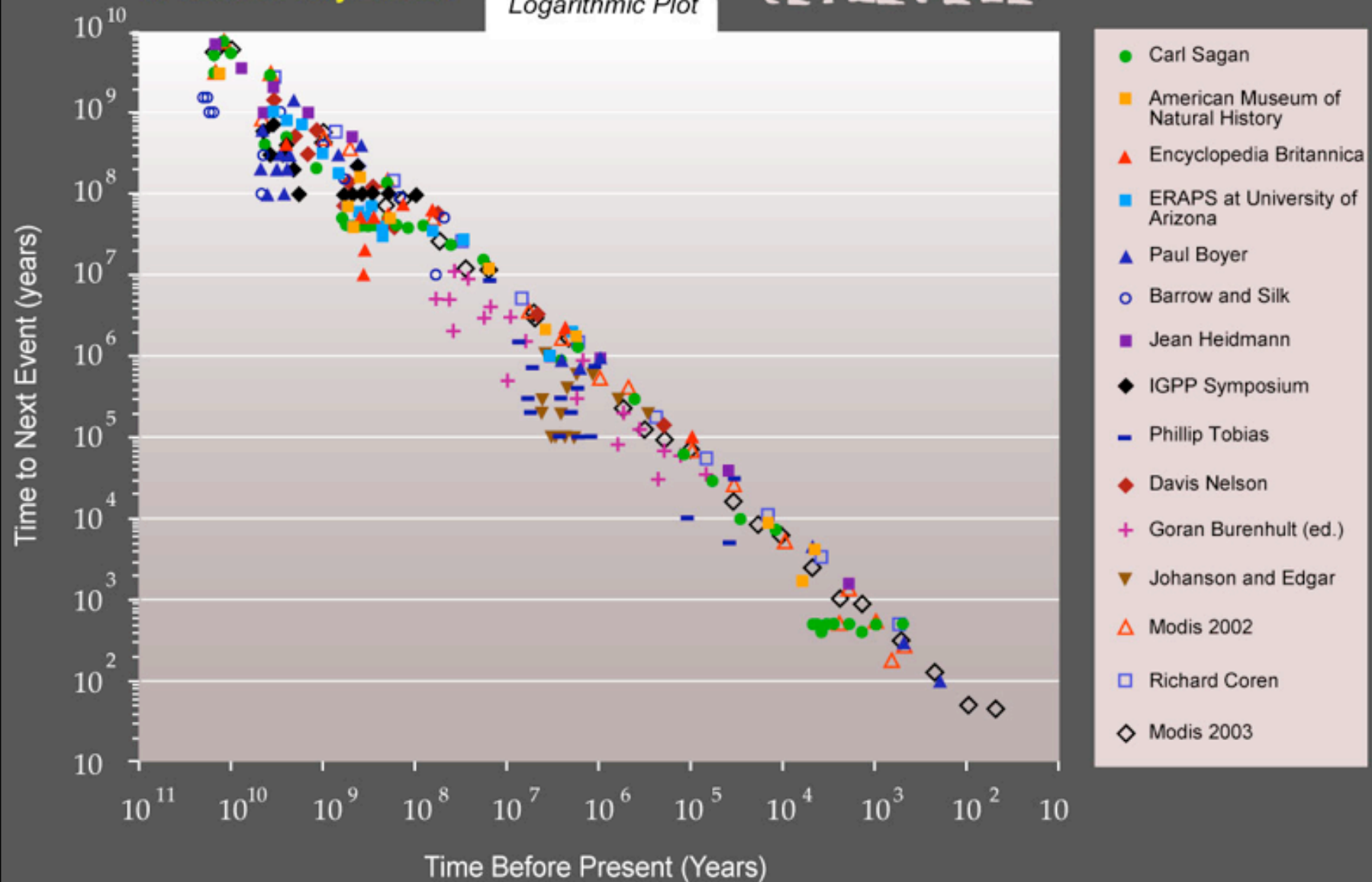
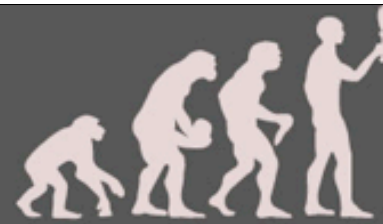
Countdown to Singularity

Logarithmic Plot



Paradigm Shifts for 15 Lists of Key Events

Logarithmic Plot



Bruce Sterling's Vision of the future





Complexity is a big problem.

Especially with software.

On the Internet,
“simple” survives.

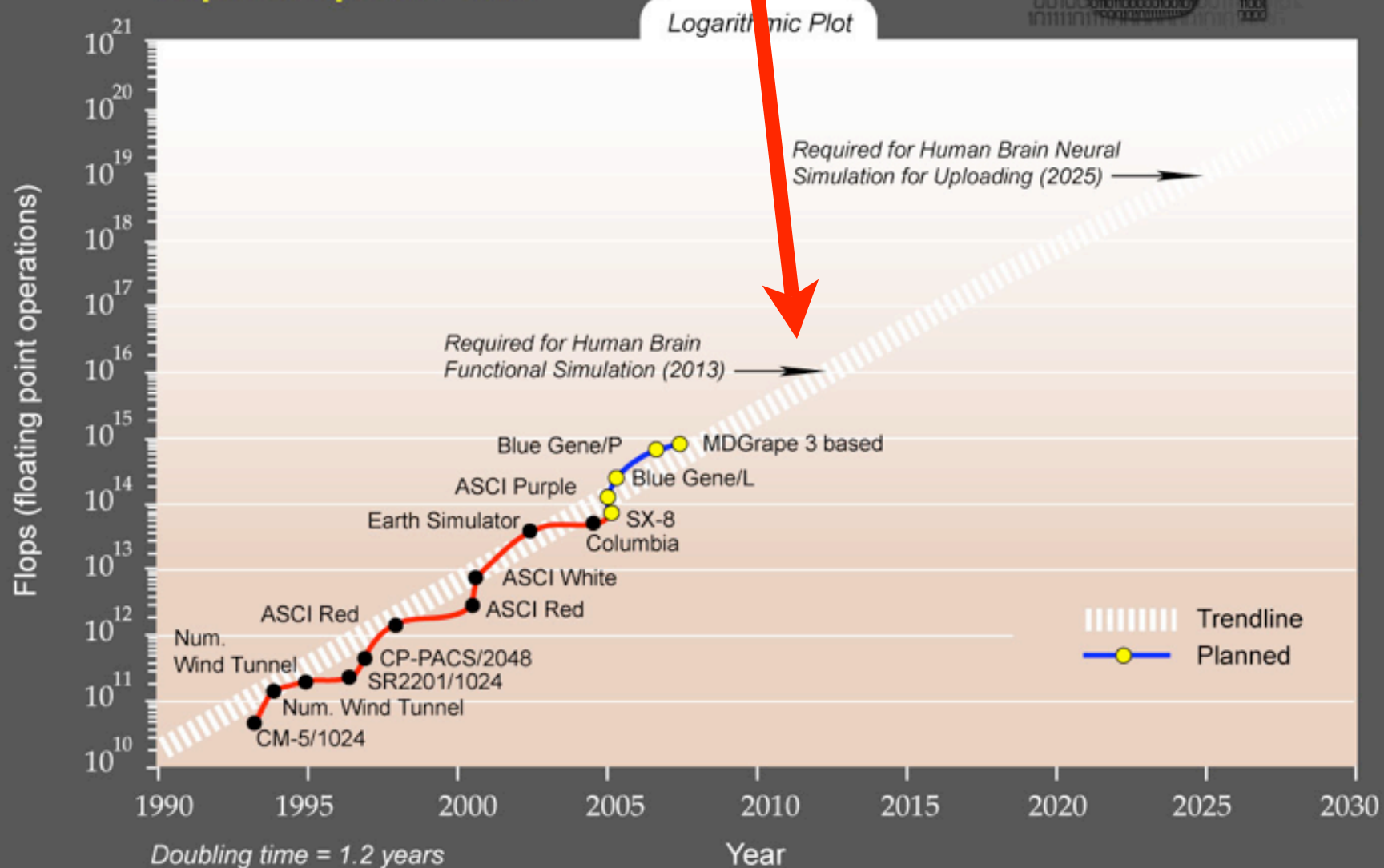
REST
XML
TCP/IP
RSS
SMTP
HTTP
Web 2.0

We don't know how to build
on top of “complicated”

Human beings just aren't that smart.

(which is Kurzweil's main point)

Growth in Supercomputer Power



The semantic web will never
happen.

Microformats *might* happen.

The Internet will always be
broken.

Because chaos causes the most innovation.

The Internet will always be
lawless.

Because nations may be an obsolete concept, but
they're not going away.

But Kurzweil is right

Massive traumatic change is just around the corner.

Free/libre/open
production will continue to
grow, challenging the
marketplace.

P2P physical distribution may
traumatize “Big Brick &
Mortar” and “Big Web”.

i.e.:

Aftermarkets
Group Buying

The BookMooch example:

One copy of a book is passed on, over and over, to everyone who wants it.

Many fewer copies of the book are sold.

this idea works with all media products
in the physical world

and with digital media

in a post-piracy world,
there is no consumer sales
business model

Another example:

Neighbors pool their ADSL connections so they can buy less bandwidth, at a lower cost, at a greater reliability.

Sssshhhh..

don't tell anyone, but
that's exactly what
“one laptop per child” is doing.

But that's ok, because only poor people
are going to get this technology, right?

This idea works with anything
controlled by software.

Piracy is very compelling

With digital media,
B2B will be all that's left.



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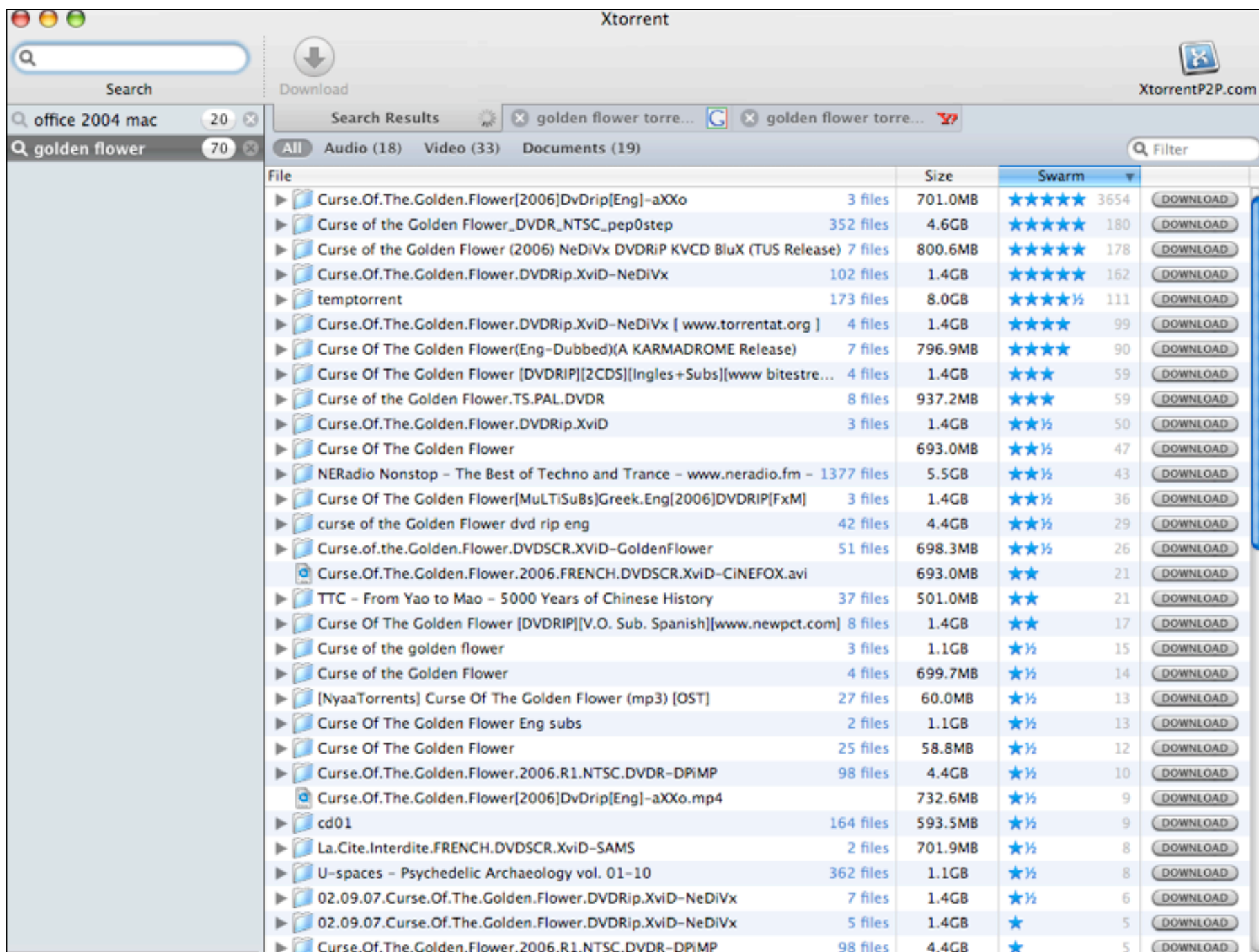
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DOWNLOAD

16 minutes
remaining

Unless law enforcement
and the criminal justice system
becomes 100%
automated.

Government + collective rights agencies
might do just that.

They're trying hard to do it already.

Free & Libre & Open Cultural Production

will continue to grow logarithmically

Ironically, Free & Libre Cultural Production
is a middle-road between piracy and permission society.

Because it recognizes rights and permissions,
while providing many of the freedoms that piracy delivers.

What will likely happen:

- 1) permission society will expand
- 2) piracy (i.e. “infringing use”) will grow at the same time
- 3) the “Free & Libre” sphere will also be growing

These trends are all colliding.

What will likely happen:

- which of these 3 wins will depend on government
- “Free & Libre & Open” presents the best current path and may force government’s hand

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