

# Welcome your computer overlords

“Jeopardy” is in jeopardy.

Perhaps. Tuesday night, IBM’s Watson computer program won big time over its human competitors. As a 40-year IBM veteran (retired in 1993), I’m not surprised, given the huge advance in database search technologies. Early in my career, I was privileged to meet Mr. Watson ... both of them — Thomas J., and his son, “Junior.” In 1954, still in my teens, I worked under the late and legendary Ken Olsen at MIT’s Lincoln Laboratories on the world’s first transistor computer. Ken predicted that computers would one day surpass human capabilities for raw information processing.

However, the day a cloud of “ones and zeros” spits out unassisted Hamlet’s soliloquy, then it will be all of us who are indeed in jeopardy.

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