



**CourseCast of the Week – August 3, 2009 – Episode 112**

**Key Topics:**

- Microhoo a Reality
- The Promise and Dangers of Thinking Machines
- News Briefs

**Talk About It:**

1. What companies have signed a partnership? Why is this a big deal? What benefits will the consumers see? (Microhoo a Reality)
2. Blue Brain Project—what is it? What is the time frame? What is its promise? (The Promise and Dangers of Thinking Machines)

**Explore Technology:**

1. And you thought algorithms were just part of math class. Research search engines and algorithms. What did you learn? (Microhoo a Reality)
2. What is artificial intelligence (AI)? Besides the Blue Brain Project, what other uses are there for AI? (The Promise and Dangers of Thinking Machines)

**Think Critically:**

1. From Google's perspective, why do you think they view the partnership as unhealthy? Do you think there is a problem? Explain your answer. (Microhoo a Reality)
2. What do you think are the promises and dangers of thinking machines? What do you envision are future technologies for artificial intelligence? (The Promise and Dangers of Thinking Machines)