

WIRED

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Special Feature:

Neal Stephenson

**The Hacker Tourist
Travels the World
To Bring Back**

**The Epic Story of
Wiring the
Planet**

AOL: A-OK or DOA?

FedEx:

Airline of the Internet

Online Ads:

Death of the Banner

Geek of Geeks



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Epistemology is the study of what we know and how we know it. How does a viewer know that a television broadcast of astronauts landing on the moon is authentic? Such questions become more interesting with the Web.

WWW telerobotic cameras allow viewers to choose a desired viewpoint. Determined skeptics might question whether these images are live. However, consider a telerobotic apparatus on the Web that allows users to view *and manipulate* a remote environment (e.g., *telegarden.aec.at*). The ability to alter what is being viewed fosters confidence by introducing a Turing Test for epistemology. But still, nothing is

certain.

When perception is mediated

Telepistemology

By Ken Goldberg
and Sue Spaid

with electronic images that purport to be live, the term *telepistemology* might describe the corresponding study of what we know and how we know it.

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