

University researchers looking at creating clothing that can think

Thinking caps may become a reality

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CHIEF REPORTER

ESSEX University is looking at creating paint and clothing that can think.

Researchers claim their work, which is in its early stages, might one day mean computers virtually disappear from view.

It is part of research being carried out at the university into how buildings can become more "intelligent".

One of the key players is Anthony Pounds-Cornish, who said the main aim was to create new technologies in which computers would become less the thing on the desk and part of our living world.

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He said its uses in helping to make homes more energy-efficient, safer and more secure and offering health and safety benefits would be immense.

Mr Pounds-Cornish, a research assistant with the intelligent inhabited environments group, said a special flat would be created in a networking centre being built next to the electronics department.

It follows the university's



● **Advance** - Anthony Pounds-Cornish with a device for operating everything in his room.

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iDorm project, which involved a student-style room being created and fitted with the latest technologies.

He said the department was looking at making ever

smaller computers that one day would be so small they could be housed in something like paint or clothing.

These tiny devices could be used within the home and

would monitor the world and people around them. Using artificial intelligence, these computers could learn how people behave and then realise if something was wrong.

The project combines a range of disciplines, ranging from electronics and robotics to behavioural science.

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