**Thought for the Week: 12th March**

**British Science Week**

**Next time you think, ‘I can’t do that!’ – *oh yes you can*: and here’s wh**y!

* Scientists wanted to work out how powerful a computer they would need to mimic the human brain.
* They found that you would need **more than 82,000 processors** running on one of the world’s fastest supercomputers to mimic one second of normal human brain activity.
* A recent research study found that the human brain can hold 10 times as much information as previously thought.
* Scientists now believe that the capacity of the human brain is [about a petabyte](http://bgr.com/2016/01/21/brain-memory-capacity-petabyte/) *(that’s the same as all of the data on the Internet!)*

**Computers versus Brains**

Computers are good at storage and speed, but brains maintain the efficiency lead

By [Mark Fischetti](https://www.scientificamerican.com/author/mark-fischetti/) on November 1

For decades computer scientists have strived to build machines that can calculate faster than the human brain and store more information. The contraptions have won. The world’s most powerful supercomputer, the K from Fujitsu, computes four times faster and holds 10 times as much data. And of course, many more bits are coursing through the Internet at any moment. Yet the Internet’s servers worldwide would fill a small city, and the K sucks up enough electricity to power 10,000 homes. The incredibly efficient brain consumes less juice than a dim lightbulb and fits nicely inside our head. Biology does a lot with a little: the human genome, which grows our body and directs us through years of complex life, requires less data than a laptop operating system. Even a cat’s brain smokes the newest iPad—1,000 times more data storage and a million times quicker to act on it.

**Quick Questions:**

1. Which company makes the world’s most powerful supercomputer?
2. What is this computer called?
3. ow muchHow much electricity does this computer use?