

A brain helmet that can unlock the secrets of aging, concussions, meditation and metaphysical experiences? It's now available and only cost \$110 million to develop

"To make progress on all the fronts that we need to as a society, we have to bring the brain online," says Bryan Johnson... the chief executive officer of Kernel, a startup that's trying to build and sell thousands, or even millions, of lightweight, relatively inexpensive helmets that have the oomph and precision needed for what neuroscientists, computer scientists, and electrical engineers have been trying to do for years: peer through the human skull outside of university or government labs.

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By 2030, Johnson says, he wants to bring down the price to the smartphone range and put a helmet in every American household—which starts to sound as if he's pitching a panacea. The helmets, he says, will allow people to finally take their mental health seriously, to get along better, to examine the mental effects of the pandemic and even the root causes of American political polarization.

If the Biden administration wanted to fund such research, Johnson says, he'd be more than happy to sell the feds a million helmets and get started: "Let's do the largest brain study in history and try to unify ourselves and get back to a steady state."

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