

Calm Technologies as the Future Goal of Information Technologies

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*Everything that surrounds us is technology!
Be it or not natural,
It influences the environment we live in.
Here is a serious reason for every technology to be calm!*

INTRODUCTION

The evolution of the human society over the last 50,000 years has been greatly influenced by technology. The last 200 years have brought about technological achievements at a breathtaking speed. For about six decades, we have been *the beneficiaries of the information technologies*, which have acquired, over the last 20-25 years, due to the communication technology, an *exponential proliferation*. In an ideal world, computers will blend into the landscape, will inform but not overburden you with information, and make you aware of them only when you need them. Therefore, the human being is a mere subject of technology, and his everyday life has become increasingly stressing.

In order to diminish this stress, solutions have been considered, designed to “tame” the technologies that the

human being uses, so as to become *calm technologies*, that is, technologies that affect neither the human life nor the environment.

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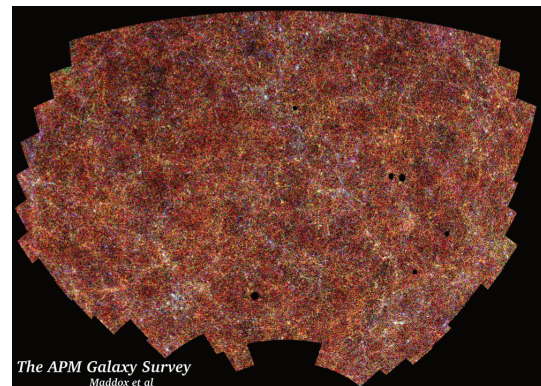
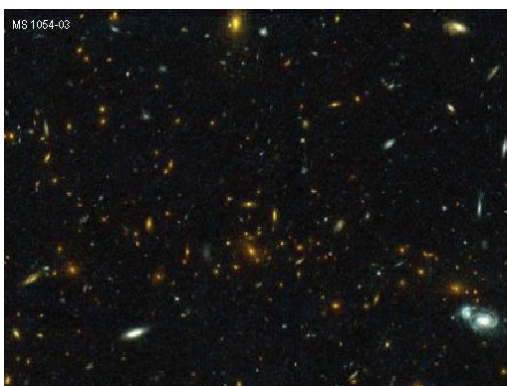
This article basically deals with the concept of *calm technologies* and with the characteristics that should be emphasized in the field of the *information and communication technologies* aimed at turning them into *calm technologies*.

Is There a Law of Global Calmness?

We believe YES! From a distance, any system leaves us with the impression that it is dominated by a **global silence**. Yet sometimes, there occur phenomena and processes that influence this global silence. We mean, for instance, the occurrence of a supernova in our galaxy (for example, the observations of the Chinese of 1054 A.D. about the appearance of a supernova).

We believe that our universe is a calm universe. At its turn, our solar system is a system with a high degree

Figure 1. Galaxies seen from 8 million light years¹ (left), and 2 million galaxies² (right)



of calmness, that is, planets have stable routes and are not “absorbed” by their sun and there are “suppliers” of **global calmness** (we mean the giant planets that draw “intruders” into the system).

As for the Earth, seen from space it seems a huge “oasis of calmness,” where almost nothing happens. As we get closer, we see this calmness affected by natural phenomena and processes or by the avalanche of technologies invented by man.

Regarding the appearance of life, we think that it appeared there where it was best and favorable for its development, against a background of **minimal global calmness**. Any perturbation of this minimal calmness leads irreversibly to life damaging. We sustain that life could not have appeared on Earth if this had not made available to it a quiet, *calm environment*. To this respect, specialists believe that the disappearance of dinosaurs is the result of the clash between Earth and a large body (of about 10 km) that would have led to the troubling of the existing calmness on Earth, with direct effects on the life of that time.

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Therefore, we all agree that the technologies used by man in day to day life are dangerous, as they overlap with natural processes and phenomena and may influence negatively the minimal conditions to maintain

life. This is why we have to prevent our technologies from disturbing this calmness.

Generally speaking, we think that in all systems there is an orientation to a global calmness specific to its own development stage. In other words, we may say that there is a **law of global calmness** to which any system is directed.

What are Calm Technologies and Why This Technology?

By technology, as a restricted meaning, it is understood as a practical scientific application to the purpose of achieving some objectives, especially commercial or industrial ones. In French, technology means the total processes, methods, operations, and so forth, used in order to obtain a product (Romanian Academy [RA], 2003). As a general meaning, by technology, in our opinion, we should understand any process of transformation applied to some resources by the application of some methods, techniques, and procedures, in order to attain certain objectives.

It is obvious that any technology carries both advantages and disadvantages for the environment in which it is produced or applied. Therefore, any technology is characterized by a certain technological aggressiveness, that is, the extent to which it affects or does not affect the environment in which it was produced or it was applied.

Figure 2. Earth seen from the cosmos (nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov)



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