A Telesynaesthetic Approach to Infocology Representation - an Emergent Case Study

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Starting with the use of metacodes, a visual meta-language directly implementable in online interaction in a manner similar to emoticons, I will explore an integrated approach towards the creation of unique immersive interfaces for interaction and navigation through personal and collective infocologies (information ecologies) and postulate on the telesynaesthetic form they will certainly end up becoming.

This article will cover the follow infoflow:

-> explicit annotation of information and interactions using metacodes ->
-> filtering of information and interaction by metacodes ->
-> visualization of collective infocologies around DOTs (distributed objects of thought)
-> gradual integration of metacodes with IEML ->
-> memetic computing, memetic algorithms, pattern languages ->
-> aura recognition (aka augmented reality) ->
-> ambient metadata delivery ->
-> identity as co-created by interaction with self, others, environment, information ->

Starting from the group blog SpaceCollective, where an architecture and philosophy for a future mind habitat has been explored in the Polytopia Project, I have been exploring ideas around knowledge representation as an immersive experience.

Towards that, I began concept mapping in Compendium and exploring knowledge representation. This led me to directly to knowledge federation - which I explain to people as being "Microsoft Photosynth for ideas". Microsoft Photosynth federates photos taken of different parts of the same space and using algorithms, recreates the space virtually out of each separate subjective perspective.

I started asking myself, how can we do the same thing with subjective perspectives around knowledge, ideas, issues, etc?

Through my involvement with Junto, a platform for federating small group conversations, I started to apply concept mapping live in the role of technographer, both by transcribing the conversations into maps as well as live 'gardening' in the context of focusing a group to bootstrap the action potential of the process. I have also been "metamapping" all the initiatives around Junto, including ELAN (George Por), Entanglement - Personas/Metaconstructs (Gavin Keech), Social Tetrahedron (Mark Frazier), Metacodes (myself) and UBIQUID.US (Gunther Sonnenfeld, Brendan Howley, Ishan Shapiro, Gavin Keech), to further understand their

relationships, overlaps, disconnects, and have been actively strengthening the relationships between where I see them.

The mapping of dialogues, conversations and initiatives is a form of immediation, and the creation and gardening of the map is a key part of the reflexive process of co-creation, which this active use case of the development of the SpaceCollective/Junto universe shows.

Using Compendium to map out the conversations, I quickly realized a lack of specificity with the existing icon sets. In an effort to create an icon set that worked well for mapping out the general domain of a conversation, we have developed an icon set suited for this purpose, compiling normal compendium icons, compendium tags, Kreeo icons, plus a few that were created as needs dictated.

This effort is the beginning of the Metacodes Project, and where for me the practice of knowledge federation can find fertile ground - an effort to collect, create and discuss an sort of folks-ontology of interaction, taking the form of annotations and tags to attach to ideas, thoughts and information. It's inspired by Ebon Fisher's work with Zoacodes on visualizing network ethics and intentions of interaction, and I'm working on an approach for integration with Pierre Levy's IEML (Information Economy Meta-langauge).

With the advent of twitter annotations, metacodes are directly implementable in the short term - a huge step forward in organizing the infoflow. A tweet will no longer be 140 characters but a hyperspatial packet of information - dense objects of thought eventually with unlimited metadata.

We also plan to explore the assigning of tonal values to each metacode, making it possible to hear the sounds of the infocologies in the form of rhythms - what we tentatively name inforhythms.

The attachment of metacodes to tweets, as well as the ability to define meaningful relationships between these now hyperspatial packets of information, can be fed into a visualization or interactive interface and be a major step towards the federation of knowledge, being the auto-assemblage of subjective perspectives around common information and objects of thought.

During the conference I will also practice dialogue mapping with metacodes and use them specifically to the stated purpose of the workshop in real-time.