

Half an hour in the life of an HPCT system

Unedited posts from archives of CSG-L (see INTROCSG.NET):

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Subject: Observing P

[From Bill Powers (931125.0215 MST)]

Notes from an observer:

Hans' diagram -- nothing there to know about perception -- all imagination. No higher levels, no lower levels, all one chunk. How about spinal control systems?

Feeling cold. Ear compressed against pillow. No light through eyelids, must be early. Body on left side, shoulder squeezed, left leg flexed a little, right knee tucked in behind left, warm between knees, arms lying loose. Weight of covers warm here and there, cold between. Taste of cold air in mouth and nose. Muscles tense, close to shivering in stomach and legs. Hans' model doesn't know any of this. Scientific ...

Now knees pulled up more, legs close together, colder. Must have dozed off. Left hand holding warm right hand, sheets warm above and below but cold if I move. Open eyes. Nothing. Too early. Shut. Bladder pressure. Got to get up and pee. Too damned cold. When I pull covers back I will freeze. If I move I will freeze. Too early. I want to sleep. Damned bladder. Got to get up.

Joints feel loose, wiggling feet feels good. Tensing leg muscles, arm muscles, body, feels good. Too long in one position. Sudden intake of air, big yawn. I didn't do that. Friction of sheets on skin as legs straighten and stretch, arms move, body moves. Getting up any minute now, sit up while hand folds covers back, icy air on skin. Pretty soon now. Another yawn.

Getting up involves controlling a lot of perceptions. Big conflict, got to pee but don't want to be cold. Can Hans' model have a conflict? Can it know it has a conflict? Can it tell the difference between stretching sensations like this, or cold air on skin, or having to pee? Really time to do something about this. Slide hand to top of covers, fold back, sit up. Do it. Pretty soon. Well ...

Hand up, covers back, tense stomach, swing legs over side of bed, stiff, levering body up on elbow, sitting on edge of bed. Not as bad as I thought. Feet feeling rug. Damned dark. What time is it? Want to write this down. Up on feet, feeling bed behind legs. Turn right, walk a couple of steps, slow down, grope for wall. Glimmer of light under door, night-light in hall. Grope to find hook trying to keep loud scraping noise from waking Mary. Resonant wall. Ah. Bathrobe. Feel for front, find armhole, slip on one arm, slide other arm in, close, flip-flip and tie. Robe cold. Go back for glasses. Pretty close, Hans would be proud of me. Find way back to door. Fumble for doorknob, rattle, rattle, pull door open, go through, pull closed with both hands to prevent bang and click.

There's the clock in the living room. One in the morning. Damn. Flip on bathroom light. Pow! Daylight world. Do thing that relaxes sphincter. Much better. Awake now. Nice glass of hot milk while I write all this down -- too cold in computer room, scribble on paper.

Half an hour in the life of a hierarchical perceptual control system, babe, that's really what it is. All you have to do is pay attention.

Really awake now. Might as well copy and send.

Bill P.