



*A Vision of Digital Earth:
Knowledge Base for Global
Symphony*

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Life is an adventure of discovery

Life is about living, and living better – with lives
that are ever richer and more fully satisfying

Life is changing.

A fundamental shift is occurring.

Human culture is moving from a *passive-reactive* state
to an *active-creative* state

From a mechanical-physical point of view, the *active-creative* state has been in existence since animals, and especially humans, first started making tools and changing the world around them.

But from an intellectual-consciousness point of view,
a cultural point of view, we are just entering the
active-creative state.

We are beginning to recognize the quality and the quantity of human impact, accumulated over time by geo-unconscious development, and are now realizing that *we have entered a new paradigm* – the *active-creative* state.

So it's not a matter of creating a new paradigm.

It's a matter of understanding the one we're in.

What is the *active-creative state*?

It is the application of thought to creating the future, taking the actions necessary to produce desired outcomes.

It includes a recognition that thought is at the leading edge of evolution, and that the process of evolution has itself evolved. No longer is it the apparently unconscious advance of complexification. It now includes a powerful new element – life's own product – human thought.

It opens the door to a world that is at the same time wonderful, exciting, frightening, unpredictable, boundless, liberating, holistic, choice-derived, and transforming.

The difference between the *active-creative* and *passive-reactive* states is like the difference between being a crew member and a passenger: crew members are responsible for maintaining and operating the enterprise; passengers are simply along for the ride.

For most of time on this planet, from a consciousness point of view, we have been passengers, infants on our planet, much as an infant is a passenger within a family. But now, as we begin to mature, we gradually assume the role of crew members.

Digital Earth will become both a product and a means of our maturation.

We must now actively choose to become crew members of our home in space.

Are we prepared? No. So how do we become prepared?

That brings us to the heart of the matter: Digital Earth.

Digital Earth conceptually encompasses all information about the Earth. It also embodies a dynamic portrayal of all information about the Earth.

It is a dynamic window on the planet, whose depth and fidelity will evolve as we, and the technological extensions of ourselves, reach higher and higher levels. It is a living, dynamic, model of the Earth.

Why is Digital Earth so important?

Let's first consider the absolutely revolutionary –
and evolutionary – function of the human mind as it
applies to the question of sustainability and our future.

The human mind has re-created the Earth as an open system!

And that changes everything!

In the past, the Earth has been viewed as a closed system. And, except for the energy and matter arriving from the sun and outer space, the physical resources of our planet are relatively fixed.

But what about thought – creative intelligence – the human mind?

Only one resource on the planet is potentially unlimited –
creative intelligence and the human mind.

By itself, perhaps. But most importantly,
as connected to many minds,
and as enhanced by mind-created augmenters.

Like Digital Earth!

The Challenge

The limiting challenge of this century will be assuring sustainability of the integrated social, economic, and environmental infrastructure of our planet.

So what are the keys to meeting the sustainability challenge?

- Changing the way we think
 - Transforming our view of the possible
 - Expanding our world of knowledge
 - Enabling the human psyche to accommodate change
 - Developing new tools for learning

The human mind is the driver behind:

- Significant aspects of global change
- Creation of Digital Earth

So how does our mind function with regard to meeting our critical sustainability challenge?

- By providing us a model of the world we perceive around us, and
- By shaping our behavior.

Considering mind as model:

Our mind functions as a model of the world we see – or think we see.

“Out of sight, out of mind”, limits our mind-model to our limited sensual, intellectual, and “mind’s eye” experience.

Existing mind-technology mix limits the capacity of our individual minds to build a comprehensive mind-model.

So we build external models to augment our mind-model.

Digital Earth is potentially a model of models – a container and enhancer for all models.

Shaping our behavior – the root of our problem,
and its solution –

lies in resolving the tension between
what we *actually* perceive, and what we *expect* or
would wish to perceive.

And because our behavior is becoming more causative,
we have reason for both hope and concern.

It is this connection between our perception of the world
and the resulting behavior, which lies at the root of our
dilemma, and provides us the path to a hopeful solution.

A life-sustaining solution:

Digital Earth will become the organism that builds understanding, leading to changed expectations, and soon following, voluntary and integrated, sustainable behavior.

All the while, enhancing individual dignity, freedom, and creative capacity.

In the process, there is a limiting world view, a human-created dualism, that Digital Earth will help dissolve: the artificial separation of so-called *natural* and *constructed* environments.

Holistically speaking, are the things built by humans any less “natural” than the things built by “nature”?

- Hasn't Digital Earth grown from the seed of human thought.
- And isn't thought a beautiful culmination of “nature's” evolution?

Therefore, why shouldn't buildings, roads, ships, constructed wetlands, models, or Digital Earth be considered an intrinsic part of nature?

The mental partitioning of so called human-created and nature-created worlds produces a dualism which limits and inhibits both our world view and the evolution of human thought and action.

Each person on the planet, each crew member of our home in space, is potentially a vital link in the evolution and use of our future knowledge base.

Yet each person's power is greatly enhanced when joined with others. Crew power – the ability to creatively adapt to new ways of thinking and to take appropriate action – will come from both *individual creativity* and *multi-dimensional connectivity* between individuals.

These two elements form an essential foundation for an unbounded future – each reinforcing and feeding the other.

Individual creativity has been with us for thousands of years.

High-level connectivity has not.

Efficient, open, multi-dimensional connectivity is essential to reaching critical mass in thought and creativity.

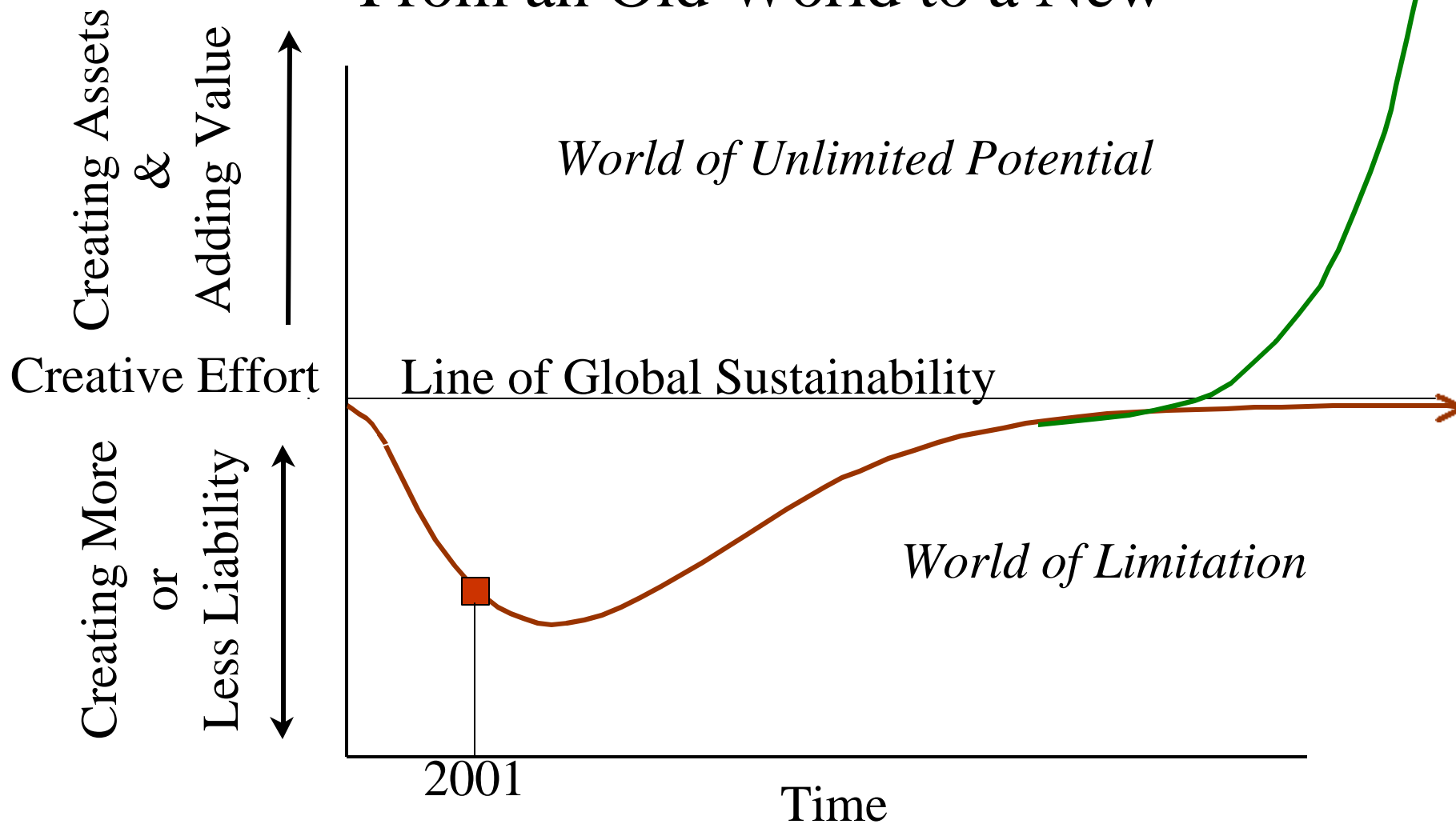
We have only begun.

Connectivity will be essential to Digital Earth.

And Digital Earth will be vital to connectivity.

Digital Earth will be a window on Earth's dynamic reality –
a window through which a world of integrated
sustainability and enhancement can evolve.

In Thought and Action, From an Old World to a New



Thought Experiment





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Sense of Sight

Motionville

New Days



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