TAMING HAL

DESIGNING INTERFACES
BEYOND 2001

ASAF DEGANI

Published by Palgrave-Macmillan, 2004

CLOCK SET

PROGRAM

AUTO REPEAT

LANGUAGE

Book Description: Machines are an integral part of our lives, from alarm clocks that awaken us up in the morning to radios that lull us to sleep. Most of our interactions with automated machines and computers are problem-free, but more often than we would like, they can be irritating and confusing. This is frequently harmless, such as a VCR recording the wrong show, but when it involves a critical system like an autopilot or medical device it can be a matter of life or death. *Taming HAL* seeks to explain these miscommunications between humans and machines by exploring user interfaces of everyday devices. Degani examines thirty different systems for human use, including watches, consumer electronic products, Internet applications, cars, medical equipment, navigation systems onboard cruise ships, and autopilots of commercial aircraft. Readers will discover why interfaces between people and machines all too often do not work and what needs to be done to avoid potential tragedies.

Dr. Asaf Degani is a research scientist at the Computational Science Division (Code IC) at NASA Ames Research Center. His current research work is on developement of interface design methodologies for controlling automated systems (the next generation Mars rovers), and mathematical approaches for analysis and design for emergency/abnormal procedures.