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This is Technology Update.

John Joss reporting from Silicon Valley, world headquarters of the 21st century.

Can technology help human life? For those who see high technology as a destroyer, here's an unusual story from KPEN listener Dennis Starkovich of Palo Alto. Dennis uses the so-called PERT/CPM or "critical path" method of planning, to do all sorts of problem solving. He's a management consultant, but a very hip one.

Dennis' network analyses have been applied to all the traditional businesses for scientific and management problem solving. Also, happily, to schoolroom learning, to help teachers and students tackle short and long-term problems in – would you believe, kindergarten. The resulting network is one of the most charming and provocative documents I've seen in ages. It's identical in concept to approaches used by high-technology companies to build new plants, launch new products, put men on the moon. But perhaps the most interesting and personal example that Dennis sent me is a network of the movements used in Tai-Chi, the well known Oriental exercise, meditation and dance concept.

If you'd like to learn more about these analytical methods, call Dennis at his Palo Alto office. He's a professional and technologist, but one with a lot of heart. I thank him for giving me the word to pass on to you. I'm John Joss.

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