

Axiom 3

Recommended Citation

"Axiom 3", Global Problem Solving, December 10, 1999, <https://nautilus.org/global-problem-solving/axiom-3/>

[axiom 1 - metcalf's law](#)

[axiom 2 - early entrants win the field](#)

[axiom 3 - significance precedes momentum](#)

[axiom 4 - standards as power](#)

[axiom 5 - producer and consumer utility](#)

[axiom 6 - gatekeepers, intermediaries, and the attention deficit](#)

[axiom 7 - positive feedback loops](#)

[axiom 8 - differentiation of products and pricing](#)

[axiom 9 - switching costs and lock-in](#)

[axiom 10 - free information: cooperation in a competitive environment](#)

[bibliography](#)

Axiom 3 - Significance Precedes Momentum

In the past, an innovation's momentum indicated significance. Now, in the network environment, where biological behavior reigns, significance precedes momentum(Kelly, 35).

The products new purchasers learn about depends on which products the previous purchasers "polled" or sampled and decided to buy. They are therefore likely to learn more about a commonly purchased product than one with few previous users. Hence, where buyers are risk-averse and tend to favor products they know more about, products that by chance win market share early on gain an information feedback advantage. Under certain circumstances a product may come to dominate by this advantage alone (Arthur and Lane, 69).

View this online at: <https://nautilus.org/global-problem-solving/axiom-3/>

Nautilus Institute

2342 Shattuck Ave. #300, Berkeley, CA 94704 | Phone: (510) 423-0372 | Email:

nautilus@nautilus.org