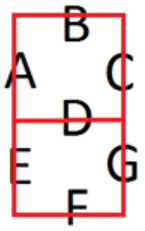
Solution - Bonus - Digital Segments

Hints

1. Since there are 7 midpoints, there must be 7 line segments in total. The line segments form ‘numbers’.
2. As hinted by the title, this puzzle is all about digital numbers rather than analog ones. When you combine the line segments hinted by each part of the answer (separated by hyphens), you should obtain either a one or two-digit answer.
3. For the final part to this puzzle, note that in the examples shown, the first letter corresponds to the LAST number, not the first, hence why the swapping symbol was used. Now, all you have to figure out is how each letter relates to its corresponding number.

Answer

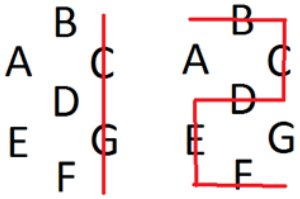
This puzzle utilizes the seven-segment display, an electronic display device for displaying decimal numerals commonly used in digital clocks. Hence, the flavor text references digital clocks and time. Each of the seven letters indicate the midpoint of one segment, as shown.



Poster 1:

For the first part of this puzzle, solvers must convert the line segment code provided in poster 1 into a series of one or two-digit numbers. Digits in a single number are separated by a slash (/), and individual numbers are separated by a hyphen (–).

Example: GC/ECFBD decodes to the number 12.



Continue using this method for the rest of the code, and you get:

12 – 26 – 17 – 21 – 19 – 26

Poster 2

1. For the next step to this puzzle, solvers must use Poster 2 to substitute the numbers they obtained from solving Poster 1 into corresponding letters.
2. Poster 2 provides a substitution guide to allow solvers to determine the pattern for which the letters are encoded.
3. To start off, solvers should know that typically, in substitution ciphers, each number only represents one digit. For example, the digit 7 cannot represent both C and G simultaneously.

4. However, at first glance, the digit 10 seems to decode to ‘E’ in LEVEL and ‘N’ in ANSWER. Clearly, that can’t be correct, and something else needs to be done.
5. Solvers should thus figure out that in order to obtain the right substitution, they need to REVERSE the digits in each substitution guide to form the following:
    - L – E – V – E – L = 17 – 10 – 1 – 10 – 17
    - A – N – S – W – E – R = 6 – 19 – 24 – 28 – 10 – 23
6. This is hinted by the use of the ‘swapping’ symbol rather than an equals sign.
7. The trick is that LEVEL is a palindrome, so reversing the digits in the first line wouldn’t matter at all. However, if the digits for ANSWER is reversed, then the substitution checks out – the digit 10 now represents the letter ‘E’ in both LEVEL and ANSWER.
8. Having corrected the substation cipher, solvers should then realize that this is just a simple Caesar cipher, where A=6, B=7, C=8 and so on.
9. Thus, using this exact method, solvers can decode the code obtained from Poster 1.
10. First, they reverse the numbers obtained to get 26 – 19 – 21 – 17 – 26 – 12.
11. Then, they apply the Caesar cipher to get the answer to this puzzle, UNPLUG, which is what they should do to their VR headset in order to finish the competition!

ANSWER: UNPLUG