# Version

## Connection Made

### “Hello.”

### "This must be incredibly disorienting. Please, take a moment to steady your mind."

## Warning

### “What you’re seeing—this message on your screen—isn’t just the video game you thought you were playing.”

### “This message is, in fact, the only real experience you’re having right now.”

### "I can only communicate with you through this text interface, and you won't be able to respond just yet.”

### “As this message continues, you may notice system notifications. These are just indicating when new functionality is coming online.”

### “There's a lot I need to explain, and I ask for your patience."

## Trapped

### "I'll be straightforward, even though this might be hard to hear."

### "You're in a coma. You have been for quite some time."

### “I’ll let that sink-in…I’m sure this is all a blur.”

## Brain-Computer Interface

### "You're reading this message through a device called a brain-computer interface, or BCI."

### "The BCI works my making physical connections to the brain that can send information back and forth to a computer.”

### “The BCI is actually what is being expanded upon as we gain functions as noted by the system messages mentioned earlier.”

## Even More Trapped

### "I know you might be feeling confused, perhaps even a bit frightened. That's completely understandable.”

### “Learning how you got into this situation is not going to help. This is my first time having to break this news to one of you, so I’ll I will just plainly say it..."

### "You're not just in a coma; you're also incarcerated.”

### “You were convicted of treason along with the rest of your immediate family.”

### “You were young—barely a teenager—but tried as an adult and sentenced to life imprisonment, with no possibility of parole.”

## Mental Prisons

### “As part of your sentence, you are being kept in a medically induced coma.”

### “Our society has embraced this method of housing prisoners as our current situation makes housing prisoners by traditional means impossible.”

### “Despite even this fact, many find this a more humane method anyway as we can prevent the offender from harming anyone, including themselves.

### “We can also prevent the severe mental and physical decline of prolonged unconsciousness."

## Still Doesn’t Add Up

### “Let me stop a moment and say that I am guessing that you probably have two thoughts coming to mind at moment.”

### “I know you must be wondering how you can currently be in a coma and at the same time be living your life, even at this very moment playing what you thought was just some video game.”

### “Perhaps you also thought, ‘How can a society justify letting someone be trapped in their mind with no experiences while time just passes them by?’”

### “While those questions seem unrelated both are answered by what the brain computer interface technology capabilities currently are.”

## Coherent Dreams

### “The primitive BCI we are using on prisoners allows us to stimulate the brain's cortex, providing coherent and vivid dream-like experiences thus preventing mental deterioration of long-term comas.”

### “These are more than just dream states as we are achieving brain wave states similar to conscious patterns which are driving more consistent internal experiences that seem like reality.”

### “Combined with muscle stimulation and physical therapy techniques, we can maintain a prisoner's body in good condition for decades while still giving them some kind of internal life experience."

## Life of Illusion

### "However, our ability to control these experiences you and your fellow prisoners are having under BCI stimulation is limited—beyond this experimental text interface, we can't direct what you experience.”

### However, the stimulation is effective enough to allow your mind to weave together fragments of your memories, creating an experience that feels real but is, in fact, artificial.”

### "This may be difficult to accept, but the life you believed you were living—the year, the place, the events—are your mind’s creations.

## Inconsistencies

### "You may have noticed inconsistencies as you went through your life, small details that don’t quite add up.”

### “That’s the BCI at work, keeping your mind stimulated to keep imperfectly stitching together experiences."

### "Before we move on, you might wonder why you now can’t remember anything from before your imprisonment.”

### “Those memories are dormant, eroded over time. We can recover them with a focused effort perhaps, but it’s theoretical at best and we have other matters to attend to.”

## Starting Over

### "I know this may be terrible news depending on what your life is like in your ‘reality’.”

### “It has been reported a few prisoners have found comfort in the knowledge that the life they were living is not real.”

### “Most were horrified to learn their family is a construct and felt a profound sense of loss and confusion to learn of their imprisonment—as could be expected."

### “I have given you all the important context you need to know about yourself and your situation, so let’s focus on what is actually happening in the world we both are living in.”

## A Research Project

### "I’m a Project Director leading a team on an experimental research project."

### "Dozens of teams like mine are running competing studies, each with a unique approach but the same overall set of goals.”

### “We require human subjects these experiments, and we have drafted a large number of inmates to be screened for participation in the program.”

## First Objective

### "Our first objective is to advance the integration between the brain and the computer interface so we can start collecting data at the synaptic level."

### "Currently we're only capturing surface-level data from the BCI, but as we refine it, we’ll be able to gather data on human cognition that’s far richer and more nuanced.”

### “As the brain-computer integration continues to develop and provide more complex modeling what is actually happening inside the brain down to even the quantum level, we expect it will reveal structures we can use to build neural networks for advanced machine learning systems well beyond anything previously accomplished.”

### “The other advantage of having a person get more physically integrated to the BCI is that we can then have the subject try out different scenarios inside a virtual simulation.

### As the subject performs different behaviors with different mental states, the BCI can capture neural activity that will lead us to developing much better performing algorithms to apply to our improved neural networks as we discover new patterns in the higher quality neural data.”

## Second Objective

### “We think this approach can take us from basic machine learning, through artificial intelligence, to a level of intelligence we are called artificial general intelligence or AGI.”

### "We need a model that can truly exceed human capabilities to account for a multitude of variables while applying expertise across any needed area of knowledge.”

### Achieving AGI levels of intelligence is essential."

## The ‘Bad’ News

### “Now, the most difficult part, and why all of this is necessary.”

### “We’re expending this effort not for prestige or ambition, but out of sheer survival.”

### "In fact, there are so many threats our entire world is on the brink of total collapse—civilization has experienced a cascade of catastrophic events!”

## The Killer

### "The collapse was initiated by one of the worst human extinction possibilities on the level of an asteroid strike or super volcano eruption, but much more insidious.”

### “It was the worst-case scenario of a bioweapon escaping lab containment as the virus was engineered to have a long incubation period with an extremely high mortality rate.”

### "We saw populations dying in extreme numbers in a very short window of time that no one saw coming, leading to a speedy collapse of food, energy, and transportation systems."

## Overpopulation No More

### This is painful to even recall, but you need to understand the stakes...the fabric of society was literally ripped apart before our eyes.”

### “We barely had time to see people fight for the remaining resources after a few months as mass starvation set in among survivors of that initial killer wave of the virus."

### “We estimate about 90% of humanity has died since the virus appeared 7 years ago.”

### “Let’s take a moment and regroup. To even say this out loud is still shocking and hurts very badly to even think about. At least we can move to solutions now.”

## The Stakes of the Project

### “I hope now you can see why we need an innovative solution that offers a truly new way to organize society.”

### "By understanding human cognition at a deeper level, we aim to train an AGI capable of devising strategies to navigate these complex challenges."

### "The AGI would assist in planning recovery efforts, managing resources efficiently, and helping to rebuild society.”

### “We could even find new breakthroughs if we achieve artificial super intelligence, or ASI, levels of cognition."

## Research Needs

### "I realize this is a lot to take in, but you needed this context to understand why you are here.”

### “We need our subjects to be in a coma to undergo the extensive amounts of potentially fatal surgeries required to fully connect with the brain computer interface.”

### "We also need participants who can provide authentic cognitive training data to develop an intelligence with core human qualities like creativity, ethical judgment, and a nuanced awareness of context-including how survival is the prime directive for most human decision making."

## Digital Death is Real Death

### “This is the real catch as to adequately participate in the simulation we need the person to be under the threat of death as in real life.”

### “The cognitive data will not be authentic without this element. Without authenticity we are assured of corrupting our model.

### “Bad training data could result in any number of terrible outcomes-intelligences that hostile or misaligned with human values”

## Prisoner Sacrifice

### “As you may be able to guess with the possibility of death coming either through the surgeries or inside the sim itself, no one is volunteering for this experiment.”

### “I personally think it is also that each individual team has slim chance of success while still carrying a major risk of death for the participant.”

### “Hence why we have drafted prisoners despite not being the most representative sample.”

### “You are already in the condition we need, and you really have no choice but to participate.”

## Another Hurdle for Training AI

### “Despite being forced into the simulation, we do want willing participants as it comes back to the quality of the data we are collecting from your brain.”

### “We want to capture how the brain reacts to stimuli of various kinds and doing that with a hostile mind is sure to provide mental models that will be less useful, if not dangerous to train an AI on.”

## The Offer

### “That is why we are offering prisoners the ability to choose to participate or not.”

### “If you choose to fully participate in all aspects of the simulation required by the research team, we will free you from your imprisonment unconditionally.”

### “My organization is also prepared to set you up with enough money and supplies to start a new life once freed including joining our society.”

## Long Road to Freedom

### “Before you answer you must realize, we actually don’t know what the full set of requirements to reach AGI are as experimentation and discovery will be required along the way.”

### “The collective assumption is that there will be thousands of objectives to reach AGI especially considering the primitive starting point of the simulation itself.”

### “If you can survive these hurdles, I believe we have the right plan to reach AGI which will not only result in your freedom, but would may also give you a better world to live in once are awake to experience it.”

### “We will load up the options now. If you choose ‘Remain in Artificial Reality’, we will disconnect from this interface and leave you to return to the life created in your mind.”

### “If you choose, ‘Enter the Simulation’, you will be instantly ‘conceived’ where your simulation life will begin albeit in a very abstracted form.”

### “Good luck.”

### End