# 1.1.0-Act 1, Scene1, Choice 0

[SCENE OVERALL DESCRIPTION (SD)-The game opens with a completely black background single letters appearing on the screen at a time while words are typed out in a “Teletext/Block Graphics” letter font from the earliest days of computing. The font color should be green from the earliest days of computing. The text can only fill the screen at this time, one letter a time until full at which point the text will stay on screen and not be removed. The camera cannot move and there are no player inputs.]

1. ### INTERFACE BOOT SEQUENCE ###  
    \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # CONNECTION: INITIALIZED #  
   # ENVIRONMENT CONFIGURATION: SUCCESS #  
   # TEXT MODULE: LOADED #  
   # FONT RENDERING: ACTIVE #  
   # INTERFACE GRID CALIBRATION: COMPLETE #  
   # DISPLAY SYNCHRONIZATION: OK #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   >>> SYSTEM READY <<<
2. "HELLO"
3. "I KNOW THIS MUST BE INCREDIBLY DISORIENTING. PLEASE, TAKE A MOMENT TO STEADY YOUR MIND."

[SD-A visual defect screen effect from the CRT era occurs briefly here]

1. "I AM REACHING YOU THROUGH THIS SCREEN YOU THINK YOU ARE SEEING IN YOUR ‘REAL LIFE’, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT THIS MESSAGE IS THE ONLY REAL THING YOU ARE EXPERIENCING IN THIS MOMENT.”
2. "RIGHT NOW, I CAN ONLY COMMUNICATE WITH YOU THROUGH THIS TEXT INTERFACE. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RESPOND JUST YET.”
3. “THERE'S A LOT I NEED TO EXPLAIN, AND I ASK FOR YOUR PATIENCE."
4. “IN FACT, WE NEED TO HAVE YOUR CURSOR CONNECTION COME ONLINE. THIS WILL ALLOW YOU TO ARROW DOWN TO THE NEXT LINE OF THE MESSAGES AS YOU READ THROUGH THEM. HOPEFULLY WE WON’T BE TOO MUCH LONGER NOW.”
5. “AH, NEVER MIND, IT IS COMING ONLINE NOW.”

[SD-All previous text stays on screen. A flashing cursor appears at the end of the last line, but now the player can push the down arrow on the keyboard to move down to the next line where the text will be printed]

1. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # USER CURSOR: INITIALIZED #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
2. “PUSH DOWN THE ARROW KEY TO TEST THE FUNCTIONALITY AND WE WILL CONTINUE.”
3. "I'LL BE STRAIGHTFORWARD, EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT BE HARD TO HEAR."
4. "YOU'RE IN A COMA. YOU HAVE BEEN FOR QUITE SOME TIME."
5. “I’LL LET THAT SINK-IN…I’M SURE THIS IS ALL A BLUR.”

[SD-Words now start appearing one after another instead of one letter at a time.]

1. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # WORD LOADING: ACTIVE #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
2. "YOU'RE READING THIS MESSAGE THROUGH A DEVICE CALLED A BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACE, OR BCI."
3. "THE BCI GENERALLY WORKS MY MAKING PHYSICAL CONNECTIONS TO THE BRAIN THAT CAN SEND INFORMATION BACK AND FORTH TO A COMPUTER.”
4. “WE ARE GRADUALLY GAINING MORE AND MORE CAPABILITIES WITH OUR CONNECTION AS THIS MESSAGE IS SENT AS JUST HAPPENED WITH OUR ABILITY TO LOAD WORDS ALL AT ONCE RATHER THAN TYPE THEM OUT. YOU WILL SEE THOSE SYSTEM MESSAGES FROM TIME TO TIME AS WE GAIN FUNCTIONALITY.”
5. "I KNOW YOU MIGHT BE FEELING CONFUSED, PERHAPS EVEN A BIT FRIGHTENED. THAT'S COMPLETELY UNDERSTANDABLE. THE LOWERCASE TYPE IS READY TO LOAD.”

[SD-Lower case letters are now available and sentence case can starts being used.]

1. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # SENTENCE CASE: LOADED #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
2. “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..."
3. "You're not just in a coma; you're also incarcerated. You were convicted of treason in association with your family's activities.”
4. ” I’ll give you another second as we have a pixel density update coming now to improve the text font."

[SD-The text font takes a step forward to ASCII font.]

1. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # ASCII TEXT OVERWRITE: SUCCESS #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
2. "Ok, I have been dreading sharing all of this with you, but I am almost there.”
3. “You were only a teenager at the time of your conviction, but you were tried as an adult and sentenced to life in prison. Given the severity of the charge, parole is not an option."
4. "As part of your sentence, you're being kept in a medically induced coma."
5. “I know you must be thinking how can you be in a coma and at the same time be living your life while playing what you thought was some video game. I’ll explain after briefly discontent to have establish a save state of our conversation so far just in case we get disconnected.”

[SD-There is a CRT like screen defect effect even though the screen stays black. The player seems some machine generated message with auto-save type language]

1. ### SAVE SYSTEM INITIALIZATION ###  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # STORAGE CONNECTION: ESTABLISHED #  
   # DATA SLOT CONFIGURATION: SUCCESS #  
   # FILE SYSTEM INTEGRITY: VERIFIED #  
   # MEMORY ALLOCATION: COMPLETE #  
   # SAVE MODULE STATUS: ACTIVE #  
   # AUTO-SAVE FUNCTION: ENABLED #  
   # MANUAL SAVE FUNCTION: READY #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   >>> SAVE SYSTEM ONLINE <<<
2. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # AUTO-SAVE: SUCCESS #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
3. “We are back, and it looks like the save state system is online. For now, we will keep it under our control as we gain more functionality. Please let me continue to explain why you seem to be living two lives.”
4. "Our society has adopted this method of housing prisoners in an unconscious state as we do not have the facilities nor the capacity to house prisoners as in the past.”
5. “Despite even this fact, many find this a more humane method anyway as this approach allows them to live an internal life of sorts without harming others especially since we now know how to prevent the severe mental and physical decline of prolonged unconsciousness."
6. "That's where the BCI comes in, as it allows us to stimulate the brain's cortex, providing coherent and vivid dream-like experiences while preventing mental deterioration of long-term comas. Combined with muscle stimulation and physical therapy techniques, we can maintain a prisoner's body in good condition for decades."

[SD-A quick screen glitch and now sentences are appearing as the player arrows down.]

1. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # SENTENCE LOADING: ACTIVE #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
2. “Ah a little late, but we now can put whole sentences up a time. I’ll continue..”
3. "However, our ability to control these experiences you are having under BCI stimulation is limited—beyond this experimental text interface, we can't direct what you experience. However, the process 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.”
4. "I realize this is a lot to process, but the life you thought you were living—the world of 2025—is a product of your mind."
5. "You may have noticed inconsistencies, small details that don’t quite add up. That’s the BCI at work, keeping your mind stimulated by stitching together experiences."
6. "I know this may be terrible news. Some people find comfort in the knowledge that the life they are living is not real, while others feel a profound sense of loss or confusion—as could be expected."

[SD-This time the update comes with no warning you see a line that partitions the screen at the top. ASCII hyphens are used to make the line.]

1. ### SCREEN PARTITIONING INITIALIZATION ###   
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*   
   # PRIMARY DISPLAY AREA: CONFIGURED #   
   # STATUS PANEL: ALLOCATED #   
   # TEXT POSITIONING AND ALIGNMENT: ENABLED #  
   # INTERACTION CONSOLE: ACTIVE #   
   # NAVIGATION GRID: LOADED #   
   # MESSAGE FEED: ONLINE #   
   # INPUT COMMAND PROMPT: READY #   
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*   
   >>> SCREEN PARTITIONING COMPLETE <<<
2. “Great it looks like we have the information panel loaded. Sorry I didn’t give you a warning first, it caught me off guard as well. We can’t do anything with it yet, so let’s continue.”
3. "Before we move on, you might wonder why you can’t remember anything from before your imprisonment.”
4. “Those memories have eroded over time. We can recover them with a focused effort perhaps, but we have other matters to attend to. We have the amber and white text color ready to go…hold a moment.”

[SD-Load in amber text to all text writing with the status bar line being white.]

1. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # AMBER TEXT COLOR: ACTIVE #  
   # WHITE TEXT COLOR: ACTIVE #  
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*
2. “They say this amber color is easier on your eyes, but we really are just testing our color functionality as basically as possible.”
3. "Now that I’ve told you about your situation, it’s time I explain my role in all this."
4. "I’m a research scientist working on an experimental project."
5. "There are dozens of similar projects running concurrently, each led by different researchers. We’re essentially in competition with each other, each pursuing the same end goal through different methods."
6. "Our first objective is to advance the integration between the brain and the BCI device so we can start collecting data at the synaptic level."
7. “Speaking of integration, we are going to start using the information bar to display our progress towards loading the next upgrade to our capabilities along with a brief title of that for that upgrade.”

[SD-Add progress precent complete (00%) in the information bar.]

1. ### UPDGRADE PROGRESS REPORT SYSTEM INITIALIZATION ###   
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*   
   # DISPLAY MODULE: ACTIVATED #   
   # PROGRESS TRACKER: CALIBRATED #   
   # LOAD METER: SYNCHRONIZED #   
   # INCREMENTAL STATUS UPDATES: ENABLED #   
   # VISUAL FEEDBACK: ONLINE #   
   # TARGET UPGRADE: LOCKED IN #   
   # ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME: CALCULATED #   
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*   
   >>> UPGRADE PROGRESS REPORT SYSTEM READY <<<

[SD-Display “CURSOR MOVEMENT EXPANSION 0%” in the information bar.]

1. “It may not seem like much, but our team is very proud of getting this progress report loaded to the information bar, but I digress yet again.”
2. "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.”
3. "This data isn’t just a byproduct; it’s essential for our end goal: to use insights from the brain’s operations to shape the architecture of a new kind of artificial intelligence, or AI, through advanced neural networks that mimic these processes."
4. "As the brain-computer integration continues to develop and provide more complex training data, we expect it will reveal structures we can use to build AI models that scale incrementally—from basic machine learning to, hopefully, artificial general intelligence or AGI."
5. "We need a model that can truly exceed human capabilities to understand a multitude of variables while applying expert-level knowledge across a host of different areas of expertise. Achieving AGI levels of intelligence is essential."
6. “We cracked the cursor movement problem and now you can move and select text, but there is nothing to use it for now. We need to make small steps and not every one of them can lead to a huge leap in function for you.”
7. “We are getting to toughest part…at least for everyone trying to make it here in the real world.”

[SD-Player can now move side-to-side with the cursor keying through words and space with each press sideways in either direction. They can hit enter to select a word though there is nothing to do with it right now.]

1. ### CURSOR ENHANCEMENT INITIALIZATION ###   
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*   
   # VERTICAL MOVEMENT: ACTIVE #   
   # HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT: ENABLED #   
   # BLINKING TEXT: READY #  
   # WORD SELECTION MODE: CONFIGURED #   
   # INTERACTIVE SELECTION: READY #   
   # ENTER KEY FUNCTIONALITY: MAPPED #   
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*   
   >>> CURSOR UPGRADE COMPLETE <<<

[SD-Display “TEXT FORMATTING 0% in the information bar”]

1. "I am giving everything I have to make this breakthrough, and my organization is not expending so much of our precious resources to discover new science or go to the stars. We do this to meet the threats we face, threats that could even harm you in the prison where your unconscious body is housed."
2. "Our world is on the brink of total collapse—civilization has experienced a cascade of catastrophic events!”
3. "The collapse was initiated by one of the worst human extinction possibilities right up there with things like an asteroid strike or super volcano eruption, but much more insidious.”
4. “It was really 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.”
5. "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."
6. "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."
7. “We estimate about 90% of humanity has died since the virus appeared 7 years ago.”
8. “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 have all the bad news out in the open. The next upgrade is going to allow you to finally make some choices albeit limited at first.”
9. ### TEXT FORMATTING INITIALIZATION ###   
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
   # BOLD TEXT ENABLED #   
   # UNDERLINE FUNCTION: ACTIVE #   
   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*   
   >>> TEXT FORMATTING SYSTEM ONLINE <<<
10. “We have working in our favor is the disease seems to have burned out of the population quickly once it became deadly. We believe there are very little cases of those with incubating infections and those people will also soon be dead. Now that people are aware, everyone isolates from anyone they do not know leading to even less expectation the virus is still circulating in any numbers.”
11. "We estimate the global population may be now as low as 400 million, with most of humanity clustered around the world’s most habitable land, divided into various factions with diverse local cultures and varying levels of technology. Competition for resources has led to extremely territorial tribal-type warfare."
12. "Rebuilding any kind of society we once knew presents the most challenging problem in human history. Thankfully, there are still advanced pockets of technology, including this facility that houses you as a prisoner and serves as the home of this research effort."
13. “I hope now you can see why we need an innovative solution that offers a truly new way to organize society.”
14. "By understanding human cognition at a deeper level, we aim to train an AGI capable of devising strategies to navigate these complex challenges."
15. "The AGI would assist in planning recovery efforts, managing resources efficiently, and helping to rebuild society with the hope that we could even find new breakthroughs if we achieve ASI levels of cognition."
16. "Your participation in helping to develop the simulation and train this intelligence could make a profound difference—not just for yourself, but for countless others."
17. "However, I need to be honest with you—the process of integrating the BCI more deeply is risky. It requires invasive procedures while in a comatose state."
18. "There's a chance of complications, even death, during the surgeries or due to unforeseen effects of the integration."
19. "Our program directors believe that the threat of death is necessary to capture authentic cognitive states as accurately as possible. They consider this one of the foundational principles for achieving the needed breakthroughs."
20. "It's crucial that you're aware of these dangers. The stakes inside these experiences will be as real as they are outside."
21. "Given these necessary dangers, our organization had to make a difficult decision.”
22. "The invasive procedures require patients who are unconscious to begin with. Getting volunteers who are willing to be unconscious for an indefinite period while risking death inside the simulation proved impossible, despite the circumstances."
23. "Not to mention all the risks associated with advancing the surgical integration of the brain-computer interface that may be difficult or impossible to be undone."
24. "Therefore after much tumultuous debate, using prisoners in comas seems to be the only feasible option."
25. "I recognize that prisoners may not be the most representative sample, but we have hundreds of projects running, each with their own candidates."
26. "Your file is particularly unique in that you are here due to what seems to be a case of guilt by association. I have high hopes for what you can contribute.”
27. "This presents a good opportunity to tell you a little more about myself, especially since your fate is somewhat tied to mine."
28. "I'm 44 years old, and despite not fitting the typical profile for this program, I was selected because of my unique approach to this research project."
29. "My colleagues sometimes refer to me as an 'ideas guy'—I admit I'm not the most technically skilled when it comes to programming or computer science."
30. "However, I have a background in neuroscience and a deep interest in history and social science. Plus, I'm passionate about video games of all kinds which doesn’t seem relevant at the moment but let me explain."
31. "Rather than attempting to create a fully immersive, hyper-realistic simulation like most of my peers, I propose utilizing principles of gamification to structure the experiences."
32. "By abstracting complex real-world scenarios into structured game mechanics, we’re able to isolate and capture specific neural patterns in your decision-making processes. This structured format provides clean, labeled data on cognitive responses, making it ideal for neural networks and machine learning models.”
33. "We can gradually increase the simulation complexity as the BCI connections deepen and expand, starting from simple text-based interactions and progressively incorporating more complexity."
34. “As the complexity of the simulation increases, it allows us to train algorithms on distinct aspects of human behavior, like risk assessment, adaptability, and strategic planning, which are difficult to capture in unstructured real-world data.
35. This controlled environment enables the precise, repeatable observations needed to develop advanced neural models that closely mimic human cognitive functions."
36. "Interestingly, this approach was inspired by my love of video games and the limitations of the primitive BCI we have to start with."
37. "While not delibrate, the increasing complexity of the simulation will somewhat follow the technical and mechanical progression of role-playing games throughout gaming history."
38. "I realize this is a lot to take in, and you haven't had a chance to respond yet."
39. "Before we proceed, we need to upgrade your BCI to allow for interactive choices. This will require a minor procedure."
40. "During the procedure, you won't experience anything. It will be as if no time has passed from your perspective."
41. "I wish I could ask for your consent, but we don't have that capability yet. I hope you'll understand."
42. "We've performed this initial procedure on a few other candidates before you, and unfortunately, one of the operations failed resulting in the death of the prisoner."
43. "I wish you the best of luck, and we will see you on the other side."
44. "Welcome back. You should now see a cursor—you'll be able to make choices from the options we provide."
45. "I've told you why you're here, what we're doing, why you're a potential candidate, and what we hope to achieve. But I haven't told you what's in it for you."
46. "You now know that you will remain unconscious for the rest of your life, and you may even perish from the total collapse of society, which would see you die trapped in a coma in prison."
47. "You could go back to the way you were before we contacted you and continue living in your constructed reality, unaware of its artificial nature. But now that you know the truth, does it still hold the same meaning?"
48. "But consider this: in your current life, you have no true agency. The thoughts and decisions you believe are yours are actually generated by the BCI."
49. "Think about moments when ideas seemed to come from nowhere—that's the BCI stimulating your cortex to keep your mind active. You haven't exercised free will since your imprisonment. But that can change."
50. "The path ahead won't be easy. There are significant risks—the integration procedures and the challenges within the experiences could potentially result in your death."
51. "However, if you're willing to face these challenges, there’s an opportunity."
52. "If you choose to participate, navigate the experiences successfully, and survive until we have completed all the requirements to reach our goal, you will be set free with no strings attached."
53. "Moreover, your contribution could help save humanity from the crises we face. I think many would consider that even more important if you are the kind of person I think you are."
54. "I understand if you're hesitant. It's a lot to consider. But I believe in this project, and I hope you'll join me."
55. "Let me load your options so you can make your choice. Whatever you decide, I wish you the best."