

Refinement Protocol - Squared Away

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Answer: 96

This is a “two-phase” nonogram puzzle. In the first “phase” the player solves the nonogram according to the first set of numbers (in black). That will reveal the number **3249**.

The second “phase” uses the second set of numbers (in red). The player is told in the prompt that they must “erase” to reveal the solution. To solve this nonogram, the player should first shade in all the squares and follow the clues to *erase* away cells. That will reveal the number **5967**.

At the bottom of the puzzle are two lines joined by a plus sign and inside square root radical. The solution is computed by solving this expression with the two numbers above, $\sqrt{3249 + 5967} = \sqrt{9,216} = 96$. This result has been chosen such that the answer is an integer value.

The dialog in the puzzle instructions is based on the popular TV show “Severance”.

The theme (“square”) inspired the nonogram puzzle itself, and the “away” bit in the title refers to erasing in phase two of the puzzle.

See next page for visualization of both phases.

