

AACF Puzzle Hunt 2022



Master Score Report

	LSF [Xroads]	soph squad + david [Xroads]	christiAAAnAA [AACF]	olive trees [Xroads]	Four [IV]
Puzzle Raw Scores					
Act 1 Puzzles (#1 - #7)	341	341	341	341	100
Act 2 Puzzles (#8 - #14)	440	440	440	340	
Act 3 Puzzles (#15 - #19)	311	311	141	40	
Act 4 Puzzles (#20 - #27)	930	930			
Subtotal:	2022	2022	922	721	100
Hint Usage					
Act 1 Puzzles (#1 - #7)					
Act 2 Puzzles (#8 - #14)	2				
Act 3 Puzzles (#15 - #19)		1	1		
Act 4 Puzzles (#20 - #27)	2	1			
Subtotal:	-40	-20	-10	0	0
First Solves & Bonuses					
Act 1 Puzzles (#1 - #7)	10	5	15		
Act 2 Puzzles (#8 - #14)	10	15			
Act 3 Puzzles (#15 - #19)	10	15			
Act 4 Puzzles (#20 - #27)	15	10			
Teamwork Points	70	40		50	
Subtotal:	115	85	15	50	0
Guesses					
Number of guesses	159	712	168	156	6
Subtotal:	159	712	168	156	6
Puzzle Raw Scores	2022	2022	922	721	100
Hint Usage	-40	-20	-10	0	0
First Solves & Bonuses	115	85	15	50	0
Final Score	2097	2087	927	771	100
Final Rank	1	2	3	4	5

AACF Puzzle Hunt 2022

January 26 – February 4, 2022

- This packet contains one puzzle per page, all of which are independent of one another.
- The answer to each puzzle is a single word or name (person, company, etc.) in English.
- You may use the Internet and any other resources at your disposal. Internet tools and services will be required for some problems.
- You will be working together to compete against other teams.
- Submit your answers to the online autograder at puzzlegame.tech. More details about scoring can be found on the site.
- Good luck and have fun!



#1: Tutorial

Each puzzle is provided in the form of a PDF. Puzzles are mostly self-contained within the PDF, although the story may provide more context to each puzzle.

The upper right corner will contain one of the following icons.



TECHNOLOGY ALLOWED
BUT IS NOT HELPFUL
TO SOLVE PUZZLE



TECHNOLOGY CAN PROVIDE
HELPFUL INFORMATION
TO SOLVE PUZZLE



TECHNOLOGY IS REQUIRED
FOR INFORMATION
TO SOLVE PUZZLE

Each puzzle has a title and may contain additional flavor text. The title name has varying importance in terms of solving the puzzles. Sometimes the puzzle name will contribute to the theme of the puzzle or simply describe a self-evident aspect of the puzzle (like this one, being called Tutorial). Others will be references/information crucial to solving the puzzle.

The goal of each puzzle is to extract a single word answer. Examples of each puzzle are provided on the next page.

Answer: _____

#IA: The Amazon Code

20-1-16-5

One of the most common ways to encode answers is using numbers to represent letters (Ex. A = 1, B= 2 ... Z = 26). This puzzle in particular does not require usage of the internet, but this should not stop you from using online tools. I personally use this [site](#) to do such conversions. Once you decode the message, you can submit it to the puzzle website.

#IB: Visualization

This time, the title of the puzzle should be pretty *insightful* in terms of solving the puzzle. Puzzles with a green “I” icon tend to involve concepts that people may have preexisting knowledge of, so using the internet may be helpful if one is unfamiliar with the concept. Submit it to the puzzle website to check your answer once you solve it.

#IC: YouTube

eRkeU3_KFIw

Puzzles with the simple globe icon will often require usage of certain websites/the internet and would be practically impossible, even with unlimited knowledge about the world. Once you find what you’re looking for, submit it to the puzzle website and proceed to the next page.

Answer: _____

#ID: Putting it all together

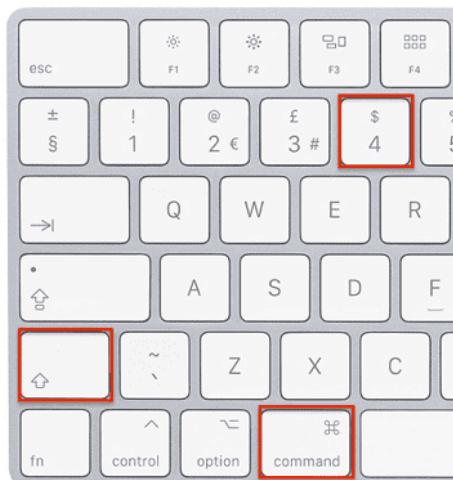


C2, B3, A1, A2

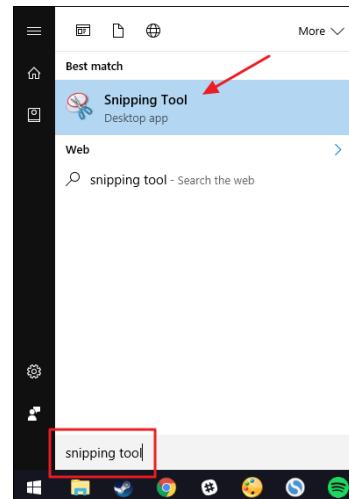
Occasionally you will encounter meta puzzles. These puzzles often use previous puzzle answers and wrap up the theme of a set of puzzles. New puzzles will unlock after enough are solved, but you will need to finish all puzzles of a set before unlocking a meta puzzle. You must finish the meta puzzle before moving on to the next set as well. For the purposes of the tutorial, the answer to this part will be the answer for the tutorial puzzle. Enter it into the puzzle site to begin your journey.

Appendix I: Screenshots

Please use a screenshot tool instead of using your phone to take photos of your computer! Your teammates will thank you.



MacOS



Windows

Answer: _____

#2: Quantity over Quality

- 1) im _____ to do this file call file _____...
- 2) Why do they call it _____ when you of in the _____ _____ of...
- 3) Have you ever had a dreams thats that _____ um you had you'd you _____ you could you'd do you...
- 4) Why waste _____ say lot...
- 5) In the _____ in the in the beni in the beningng. Yeah...

im trying to do this file call file call file thi my

(#, word, character)

[(3, 15, 1), (2, 6, 1), (1, 2, 2), (2, 12, 4)]

[(1, 9, 1), (2, 13, 2), (3, 9, 3), (5, 3, 3), (4, 3, 1)]

Answer: _____



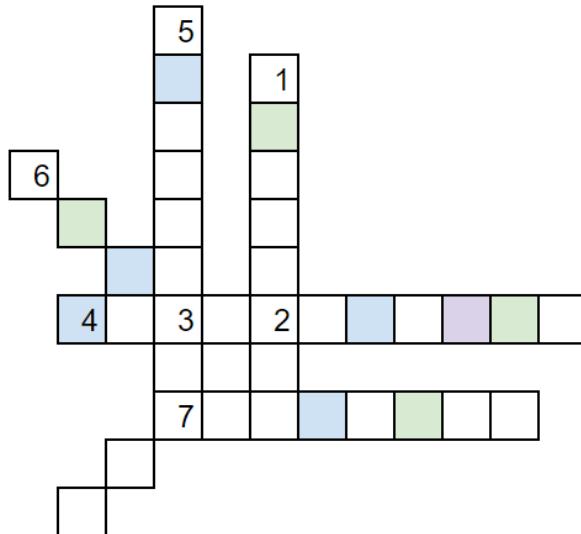
#3: An Impostor Among Us

"Hey Red, where were you this round?" Purple asked.

- 1) "Honestly, I got kinda lost. This map is so big, one could say it's quite the (noun). But Yellow was following me around," Red replied.
- 2) "Hey! I was just eating my (noun) in real life, so I couldn't do any tasks. So I just wanted to stick with someone, so I followed Red," Yellow said.
- 3) "I still think Red is the most (adj)," Purple said.
- 4) "Ok well unless someone here is a doctor who can (verb) him, we've got to decide who to vote out," Cyan said.
- 5) "True, we need to come to a (noun). I think it's a self-report, vote Lime Green," Red said.
- 6) "Noo why do you always have to make it me (preposition) you? I think it's Red, everyone vote Red. 3 seconds left, quick!" Lime Green said.
- 7) "Ahh I can't take the (noun) anymore. I'm just going to flip a coin," Yellow said.

The vote ended with 3 for Red and 2 for Lime Green. Red was not the impostor, and the crew lost.

- 1 – Down
- 2 – Diagonal
- 3 – Down
- 4 – Right
- 5 – Down
- 6 – Diagonal
- 7 – Right



Answer: _____



#4: Odd Ones Out

Name each set of words.

One does not belong.

I: Book, Hymn, Mark, Mate, Point

II: Almond, Black, Cranberry, Soy, String

III: Larry, Wumpus, Mickey, Leo, Yuri

IV: Group, Loop, Magma, Monoid, Volcano

IV.3, II.2. III.2, I.1, III.2, I.5, IV.2

Answer: _____

#5: ***Green Eggs and Ham***Recipe

1 oz arugula
 3 Tbsp butter
 5 chives
 3 Tbsp cream
 4 eggs
 1 oz feta cheese
 3 cloves garlic (minced)
 1 lb ham
 1 cup kale
 2 leeks
 5g nutmeg
 1 Tbsp oil
 3 Tsp oregano
 3 Tbsp Parmesan cheese
 1 Tsp pepper
 4 Tbsp pistachios (chopped)
 1 Tsp salt
 2 shallots (chopped)
 1 bunch spinach

1. Mix together the leeks and the ham
2. Take the spinach, season with pepper, and add the chives, arugula, kale, and eggs.
3. Heat oil in a frying pan. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant. Stir in the feta cheese until well combined.
4. In a blender, puree the nutmeg, pistachios, and shallots
5. Add the butter, parmesan cheese, oregano, cream, and salt.
6. Add all the components together and enjoy.

Answer: _____



#6: Composite Combos

A closely woven fabric of silk (in French) AND hook (in French)

Straightforward AND complicated

The smallest unit of heredity AND humans have 23 pairs of these

The “original tank” costing 5 elixir AND very large

To make stronger (past participle) AND a 21+ business establishment

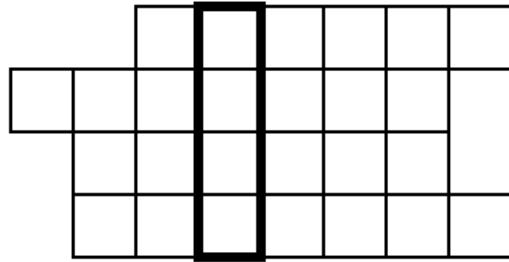
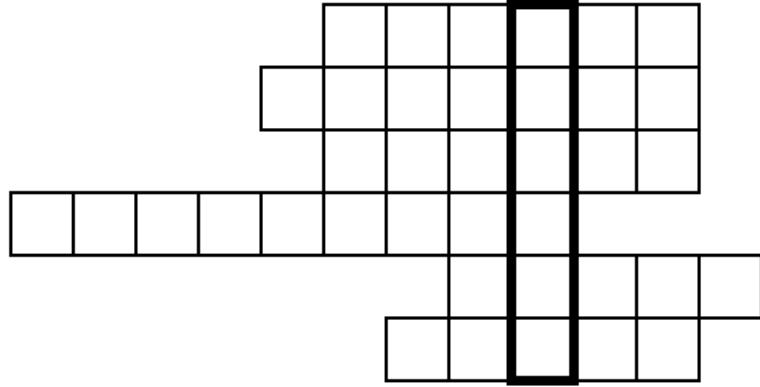
A programmer AND a decipherer

A 360-degree moveable lever AND an input device

A set of clothes for a role AND to engage in recreational activity

The United Kingdom AND departing

Smallest AND highest



Answer: _____



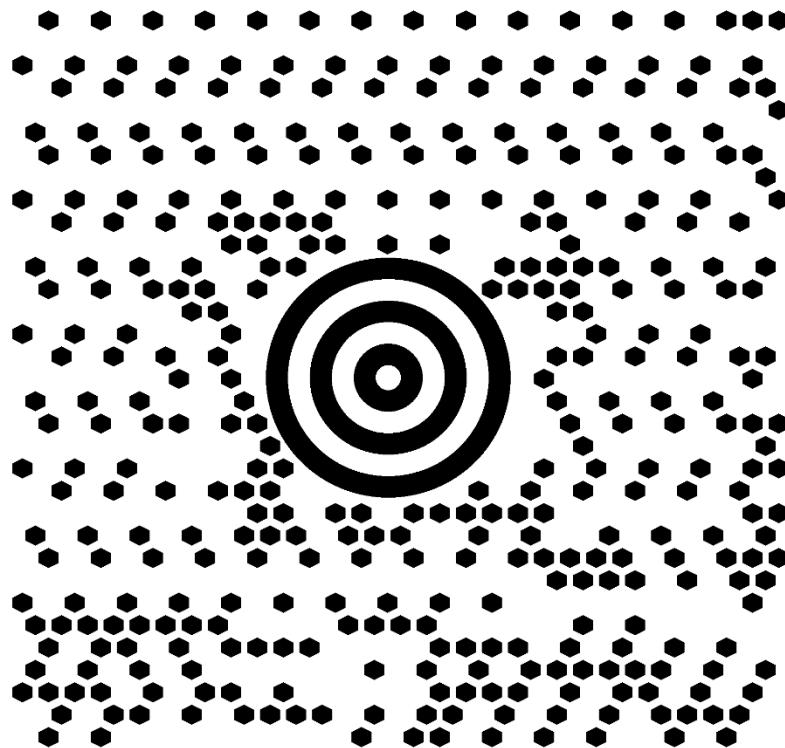
#7: *Melody of Memories*

See website

Answer: _____



#8: *The Honeycomb Target*



Answer: _____



#9: Coin Collection

(Only a **fraction** of the whole collection is listed below)

Rupiah

(Icelandic) Krona

(Swiss) Franc

Dalasi

Ariary

Shekel

(Zambian) Kwacha

Somoni

Ariary

(Zambian) Kwacha

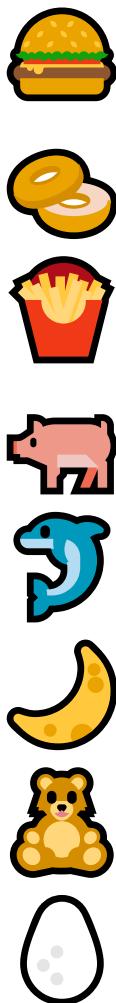
Pataca

(Swiss) Franc

Answer: _____



#10: The Ideal Date



Answer: _____

#III: **Battleship**

Z	B	L	S	C	X	Z	I	N	T	I	U
C	H	L	L	H	B	V	I	Y	P	A	E
F	O	B	D	R	A	Z	F	K	C	Y	L
L	A	R	A	B	K	T	X	A	J	O	Y
O	A	G	Q	I	W	H	D	F	T	F	R
V	P	E	Q	O	Q	E	M	C	A	C	U
Y	E	L	N	Z	P	Y	M	E	J	L	U
A	D	Y	E	E	X	D	N	N	Y	V	I
K	V	T	E	G	O	S	L	H	B	E	S

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1) Car Racing | 8) Hydrogen gas |
| 2) Educational exchange student visa | 9) Lumbosacral joint |
| 3) Employment paperwork | 10) MM/DD/YYYY |
| 4) Exactly between treble and bass | 11) Nier Automata Obsolete attack android |
| 5) Far East Movement | 12) North American esports team from LA |
| 6) Fictional robot dog | 13) "Nothing's more powerful than family" |
| 7) Food to entice prey | 14) Video game expo |

Answer: _____

#12: The Alpha Code



E



G



N



F



A



D



T



E



V



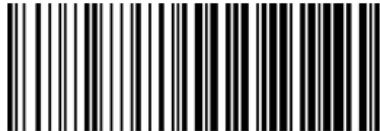
E
G
N
F
A
R
A
D
T
V
A
U
L
Z
O
B
R
W
M
A
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A

Answer: _____

#13: Smudged Secrets



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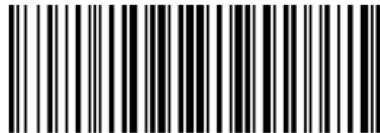
ISSN 2541-2365



ISSN 6144-6738



ISSN 464-3441



Answer: _____

#14: All Connected

8. $(A * B) - C - D + (E * B) = ?$

9. $A + (B * C) + (D * E) = ?$

10. $A + B + C + D - E - E = ?$

11. $A + B - C - D + E = ?$

12. $A * B + C + D - E = ?$

13. $A * B - C + D + E = ?$

Answer: 8 9 10 11 12 13 9

Answer: _____



#15: *Swordplay*

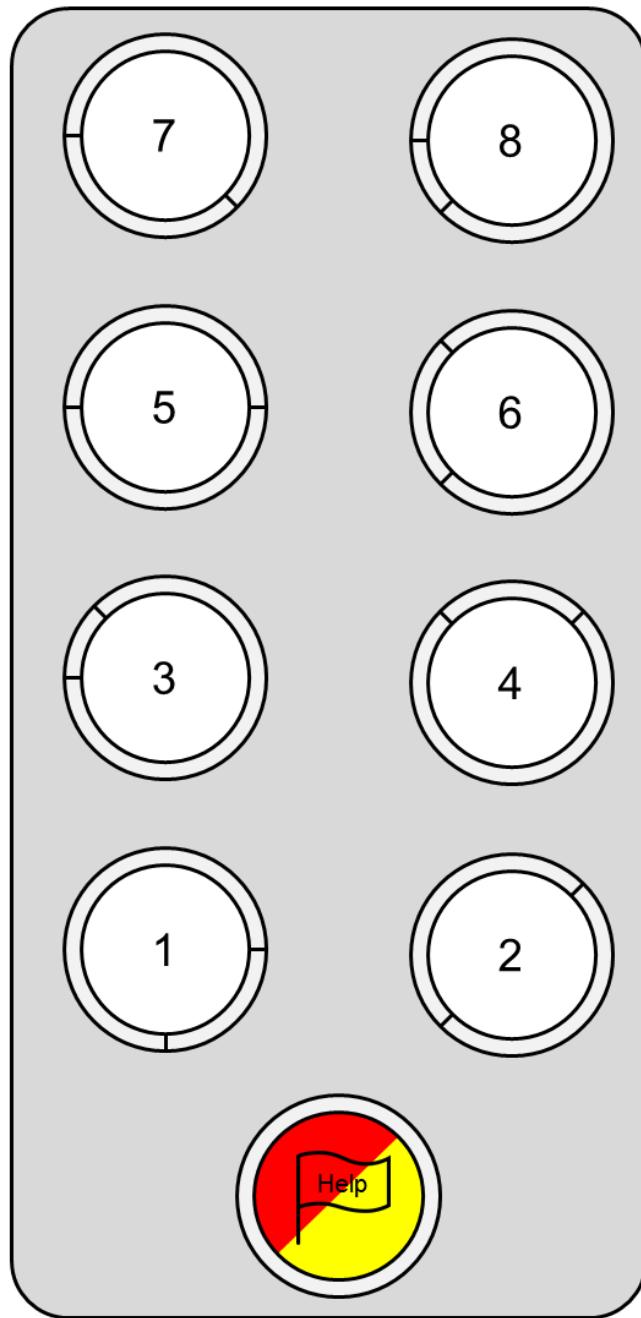
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxexY60K8r8>

Answer: _____



#16: Elevator Buttons

There are buttons for floors 1-8 as well as a flag to signal help button



Answer: _____



#17: Whomstdve Thought of That

Ex.



not

=



not

=



not

=



not

=



not

=



have

=



not

=



(slang)

are

=

Answer:

T	R	C	S	D	Z	U	J	E	H
B	R	C	H	J	K	T	R	U	I
T	A	S	H	E	G	A	W	I	U
M	Y	V	U	A	S	L	F	A	I
L	P	U	D	K	C	E	T	H	W
O	N	S	U	G	T	A	N	F	C
E	A	T	L	U	E	D	I	O	G

Answer: _____

#18: **Double Trouble**

Lollipop aid

Uprising soothing sound

Music group is forbidden

Alkaline string instrument

Contrary rear

Pummel borshct ingredient

Audibly permitted

Construct invoiced

Strange marketplace

Floor covering puzzle author

Conservative Shinto gateway

Gnaws on pick

Contained a hotel

Answer: _____



#19: Your Choice

See website

Answer: _____



#20: *Shell Injection*

Link: <https://replit.com/@matthew29tang/Shell-Injection>

Answer: _____



#21: 4D Music



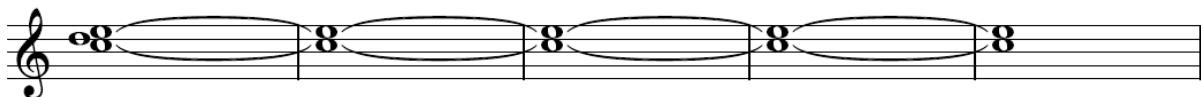
6



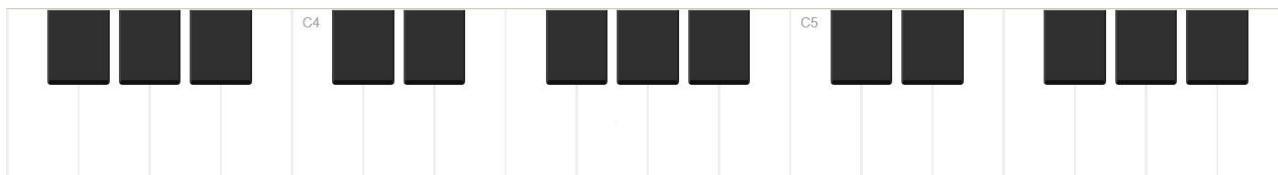
11



16



21

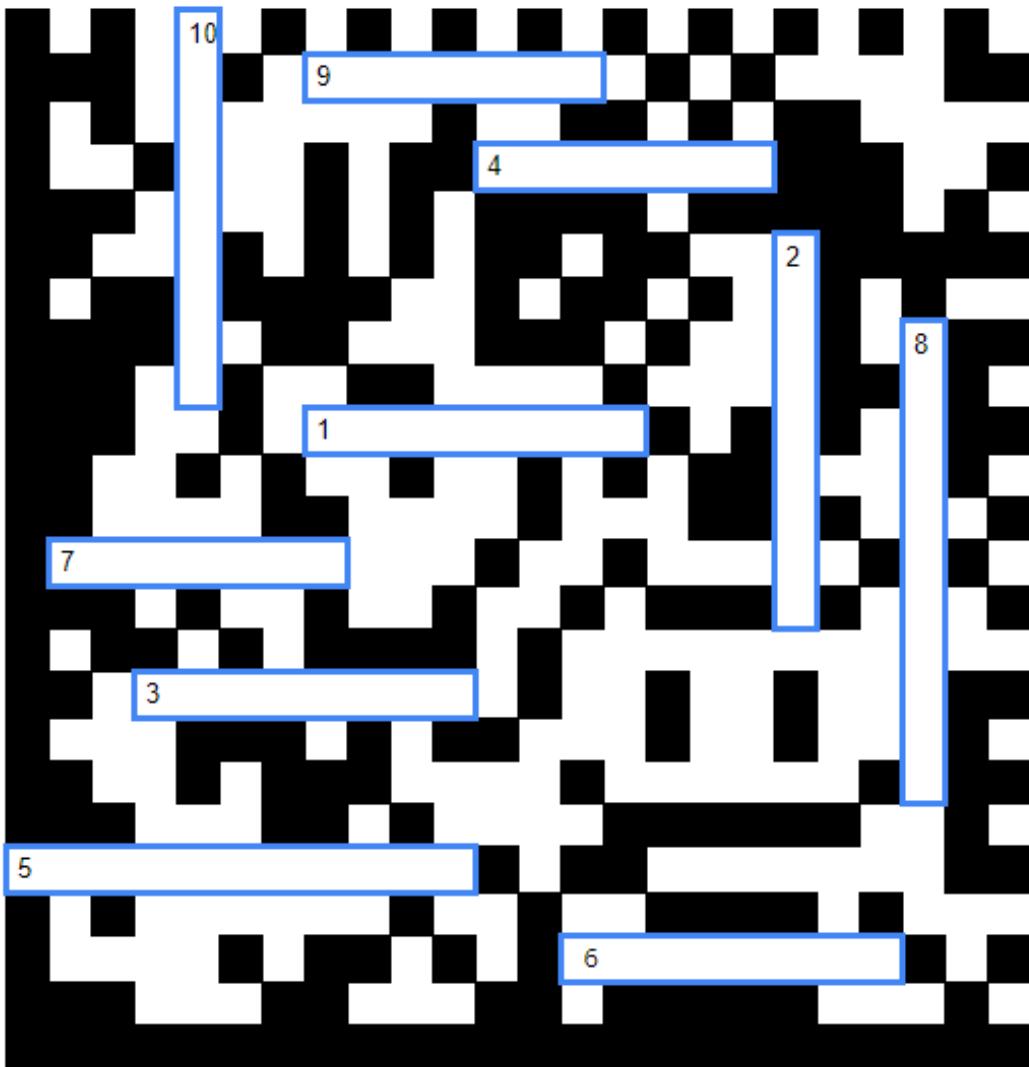


Answer: _____



#22: Breakdown v2.022

A, C, E, G, ... --> B, D, F, H, ... -->



- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Noah's vessel containing bee nests | 6) A customary unit of length indicating absence of sound |
| 2) The base unit of electric current with granular material | 7) A set of equipment for your lower jaw |
| 3) Tricking someone at a Greek island | 8) The primary renters of an apartment |
| 4) To dislike a theatrical production | 9) Wearing face coverings for a time |
| 5) Leaving mutant hunting robots | 10) Military airborne weapon for a frog-like amphibian |

Answer: _____



#23: ***Small at heart***

To recollect (verb) – [1]

The new variant (noun) – [5]

Measure of hunger (plural) – [3]

Very deep (adverb) – [4]

To speak slightly of (verb, past tense) – [6]

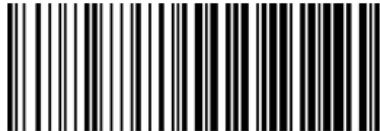
A rebellion against authorities (gerund) – [4]

Answer: _____

#24: Deja Vu



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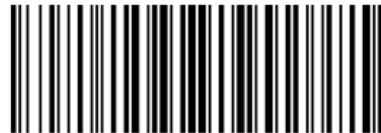
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ISSN 464-3441



Answer: _____



#25: Redacted

TOP SECRET

PROJECT SiMpLeX

PROJECT SiMpLeX is an initiative to create and visualize [REDACTED]. The goal is to allow clients to [REDACTED] versions of [REDACTED] to extract [REDACTED]. The project has 3 phases.

[REDACTED] consist of an environment and actors. The environment can be somewhat easily modeled, but modeling [REDACTED] is much harder. Due to the excessively large computation power required to simulate [REDACTED], AIL first trains artificial intelligence agents which act autonomously in the [REDACTED]. In order to do so, a large amount of training data was acquired over several years. This comprises the first phase, which is currently in progress.

The second phase consists of creating a [REDACTED]. The environment and actors are captured in a [REDACTED], re-enacting a [REDACTED] based on [REDACTED] and testimony accounts of an event.

An unknown third phase is planned for the project.

[REDACTED]
Answer: _____



#26: Stereo Hearts

Left:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sbxheDGklgfNORX4V17a44KR4Fr-kZRg/view?usp=sharing>

Right:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cTt527RYBrWDDkuBFw9WGjtFAqapFYFK/view?usp=sharing>

Clarification: Treat “me” as “e” in the final step

Answer: _____

#27A: The Amazon Code

22-15-8-6-4-11-25-20-19-7-23

Answer: _____

#27B: *Visualization*

(Do what part A says to do).

Answer: _____

#27C: YouTube

(Do what part B says to do).

Answer: _____

Puzzle Game 2022 Sols

#1: Tutorial

1. Part A: Convert 20-1-16-5 using letters to numbers to get TAPE (The title The Amazon Code clues A-Z)
2. Part B: The flavortext insightful and title clues you to think of braille. It spells out EYES
3. Part C: You are given a string eRkeU3_KF1w which is a YouTube URL (As clued by the title). The video is the puzzle recap from 2021, and in the description it says: If you're here from the 2022 puzzle game, the word is "mmbernie" giving MMBERNIE
4. Part D: We are given C2, B3, A1, A2. The letter indicates which part to take the answer from and the number is the index of the answer. This gives us META

Answer: META

Answer explanation: Part D is a meta puzzle

Title explanation: This is a tutorial puzzle

#2. Quantity over Quality

1. This puzzle is about nonsense quotes. An example of a quote is given in the bottom screenshot (Thanks Christianna). We need to fill in the blanks for the nonsense quotes.
2. The rest of the quotes can be found searching online (many are memes). Here are the full quotes:

Number	Quote	Length
1	im trying to do this file call file call...	9
2	Why do they call it oven when you of in the cold food of ...	14
3	Have you ever had a dreams thats that you um you had you'd you would you could you'd do you...	20
4	Why waste time say lot...	5
5	In the beninging in the in the beni in the beningng. Yeah...	12

3. We are given tuples with the format given as (#, word, character) . Following that format we get the phrase WORD COUNT
4. We count the number of words per quote and convert numbers to letters to get 9-14-20-5-12
--> INTEL

Answer: INTEL

Answer explanation: No significance

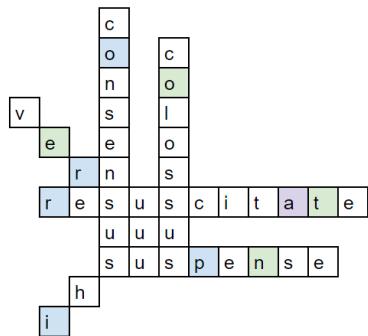
Title explanation: Usually the phrase is quality over quantity, but each quote is nonsensical so there is no quality. The title clues you to think about a quantity, which is the number of words per quote

#3: An Impostor Among Us

1. We are given a series of statements with blanks (mad libs style). The theme of the puzzle is Among Us, and a common phrase regarding the game is "sus" short for "suspicious." The crossword also makes it more clear that all words should contain sus.

Number	Word
1	colossus
2	sushi
3	sus
4	resuscitate
5	consensus
6	versus
7	suspense

2. We can fill out the crossword and read the highlighted characters (in rainbow order) to get
NOTE PRIOR A



3. NOTE PRIOR A makes us think of the musical note before A which would be G. Now we think of what G sounds like in the context of this puzzle. A common puzzle mechanic is to "do it again" to get the final answer. So we think of the sound G which contains "sus" giving us JESUS .

Answer: JESUS

Answer explanation: "Do it again" with sus mechanic, also perfect for the fellowships

Title explanation: Adds to the Among Us theme

#4: Odd Ones Out

1. We are told to find a name for each set of words and one word does not belong.
2. For set I, you can put the word "check" before all of them except "hymn". So the set is named CHECK .
3. For set II, these are all types of beans except cranberry. So the set is named BEAN .
4. For set III, these are all mascot names except Yuri. So the set is named MASCOT
5. For set IV, these are all types of mathematical sets except volcano, so the answer is SET
6. Using the sets and numbers to index, we get TEACAKE

Answer: TEACAKE

Answer explanation: No significance

Title explanation: Relates to the theme of sets and one item not belonging

#5: Green Eggs and Ham

1. Use the number of each ingredient to index the ingredient
2. Use the recipe instructions to put the letters together, giving HE SPEAKS FOR THE TREES -->
LORAX

Answer: LORAX

Answer explanation: Dr. Seuss theme

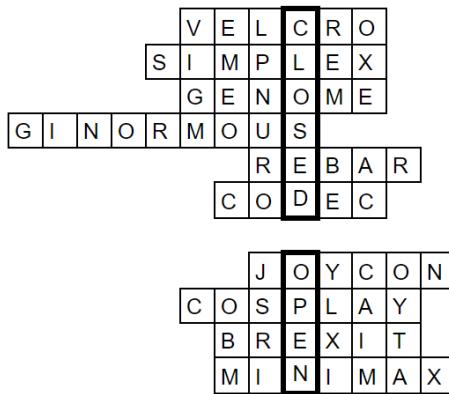
Title explanation: Dr. Seuss theme

#6: Composite Combos

- The idea here is to come up with one word for each side of the AND and then combine them together into one word.

Phrase	Left	Right	Combined
A closely woven fabric of silk (in French) AND hook (in French)	velours	crochet	velcro
Straightforward AND complicated	simple	complex	simplex
The smallest unit of heredity AND humans have 23 pairs of these	gene	chromosome	genome
The "original tank" costing 5 elixir AND very large	giant	enormous	ginormous
To make stronger (past participle) AND a 21+ business establishment	reinforced	bar	rebar
A programmer AND a decipherer	coder	decoder	codec
A 360-degree moveable lever AND an input device	joystick	controller	joycon
A set of clothes for a role AND to engage in recreational activity	costume	play	cosplay
The United Kingdom AND departing	britain	exit	brexit
Smallest AND highest	minimum	maximum	minimax

- Entering them into the grid gives the following:



- We need to "do it again" so using CLOSED OPEN as the left and right words, we combine them to get CLOPEN

Answer: CLOPEN

Answer explanation: "Do it again" with combination mechanic

Title explanation: Relates to the idea of combining 2 words to get 1

#7: Melody of Memories

1. Freebie point, just enter in AMNESIA

Answer: AMNESIA

Answer explanation: You forgot your past and memories

Title explanation: The music that plays in your town causes you to remember your past

#8: The Honeycomb Target

1. Upon reverse image searching, you find that this is a maxicode, used by the UPS for packages.
2. Scan the maxicode to get the answer EXPRESS

Answer: EXPRESS

Answer explanation: For "Postal Express"

Title explanation: Visually it looks like a honeycomb

#9: Coin Collection

1. The flavortext emphasizes fraction, so we look for the fractional quantities of the currencies

Currency	Fractional Unit
Rupiah	Sen
(Icelandic) Krona	Eyrir
(Swiss) Franc	Rappen
Dalasi	Butut
Ariary	Iraimbilanja
Shekel	Agora
(Zambian) Kwacha	Ngwee
Somoni	Diram
Ariary	Iraimbilanja
(Zambian) Kwacha	Ngwee
Pataca	Avo
(Swiss) Franc	Rappen

2. The first letters spell out SERBIAN DINAR , and the fractional unit of that is PARA

Answer: PARA

Answer explanation: "Do it again" with fractional coin mechanic

Title explanation: Relates to theme of coins/currencies

#10: The Ideal Date

1. We are given several emojis. The title clues us to think about dates related to each emoji. Each icon is associated with a national (US) holiday.

Icon	Date	Letter
Cheeseburger	9/18	R
Bagel	1/15	O
French fries	7/13	M
Pig	3/1	A
Dolphin	4/14	N
Moon	7/20	T
Teddy bear	9/9	I
Egg	6/3	C

2. We can use the day to convert numbers to letters and get ROMANTIC

Answer: ROMANTIC

Answer explanation: Related to "an ideal date"

Title explanation: Double meaning of a romantic date and a time date.

#11: Battleship

1. Each clue corresponds to a letter and number.

Clue	Answer
Car racing	F1
Educational exchange student visa	J1
Employment paperwork	I9
Exactly between treble and bass	C4
Far East Movement	G6
Fictional robot dog	K9
Food to entice prey	B8
Hydrogen gas	H2
Lumbosacral joint	L5
MM/DD/YYYY	D8
Nier Automata Obsolete attack android	A2
North American esports team from LA	C9
"Nothing's more powerful than family"	F9
Video game expo	E3

3. Highlighting the grid gives the following, which when read in order of the clues gives X THREE DIRECTOR

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Z	B	L	S	C	X	Z	I	N	T	I	U
2	C	H	L	L	H	B	V	I	Y	P	A	E
3	F	B	O	A	R	D	Z	F	K	C	Y	G
4	L	A	R	A	B	K	T	X	A	J	O	Y
5	O	A	G	Q	I	W	H	D	F	T	F	R
6	V	P	E	Q	O	Q	E	M	C	A	C	U
7	Y	E	L	N	Z	P	Y	M	E	J	L	U
8	A	D	Y	E	E	X	D	N	N	Y	V	I
9	K	V	T	E	G	O	S	L	H	B	E	S

4. Looking up the director of the movie X3 (X-Men: The Last Stand) gives RATNER

Answer: RATNER

Answer explanation: "Do it again" with the letter number

Title explanation: In battleship, you give coords with letters and numbers. This is further reinforced in the google sheet.

#12: The Alpha Code

1. Reverse image search all the flags. The title suggests looking up their alpha codes, and each country will match a US state abbreviation.
2. Matching all of the country flags to US flags spells out BANDEROLE

Country	US State	Alpha-2 Code
Indonesia	Idaho	ID
Isreal	Illinois	IL
Morocco	Massachussets	MA
Mongolia	Minnesota	MN
Malta	Montana	MT
Montenegro	Maine	ME
Niger	Nebraska	NE
Seychelles	South Carolina	SC
Sudan	South Dakota	SD

Answer: BANDEROLE

Answer explanation: Banderole means "a long, narrow flag with a cleft end"

Title explanation: Refers to alpha-2 country codes

#13: Smudged Secrets

1. We can recover the smudged numbers since each ISSN has a checksum number. This wikipedia [article](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Serial_Number) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Serial_Number) explains it well.
2. We can scan the barcodes to get a 10 letter string. Use the smudged number to index into the string to get NOISE

Barcode	Given ISSN	True ISSN	Barcode Text	Extracted
1	8629-785_	8629-7856	ICGBFKNTUL	N
2	9243-8_12	9243-8512	FAERLOUHIK	O
3	25_1-2365	2571-2365	GDCARDYILE	I
4	6144-_738	6144-5738	BAETDSLIGF	S
5	4_64-3441	4064-3441	EFATSUFYWH	E

Answer: NOISE

Answer explanation: Noise refers to the fact that the ISSN numbers were corrupted (ex. there was additional noise present)

Title explanation: Refers to the fact that the numbers were smudged

#14: All Connected

1. We can extract a 5 digit number from each of the past puzzles. All of them relate to an ISO standard code.

Puzzle #	Title	Mechanic	ISO Code
8	The Honeycomb Target	Maxicode ISO	ISO 16023
9	Coin Collection	Currency codes	ISO 4217
10	The Ideal Date	Date/time format	ISO 8601
11	Battleship	Ships/marine tech	ISO 15849
12	The Alpha Code	Country codes	ISO 3166
13	Smudged Secrets	ISSN code	ISO 3297

2. We can then use the formulas to extract an answer.

Puzzle #	Code	Expression	Letter
8	16023	(A * B) - C - D + (E * B)	V
9	04217	A + (B * C) + (D * E)	O
10	08601	A + B + C + D - E - E	L
11	15849	A + B - C - D + E	C
12	03166	A * B + C + D - E	A
13	03297	A * B - C + D + E	N

3. Using the numbers at the bottom (8 9 10 11 12 13 9), it spells out VOLCANO

Answer: VOLCANO

Answer explanation: This is where you will be heading next

Title explanation: Refers to the fact that there was something tying all the puzzles together in Act 2

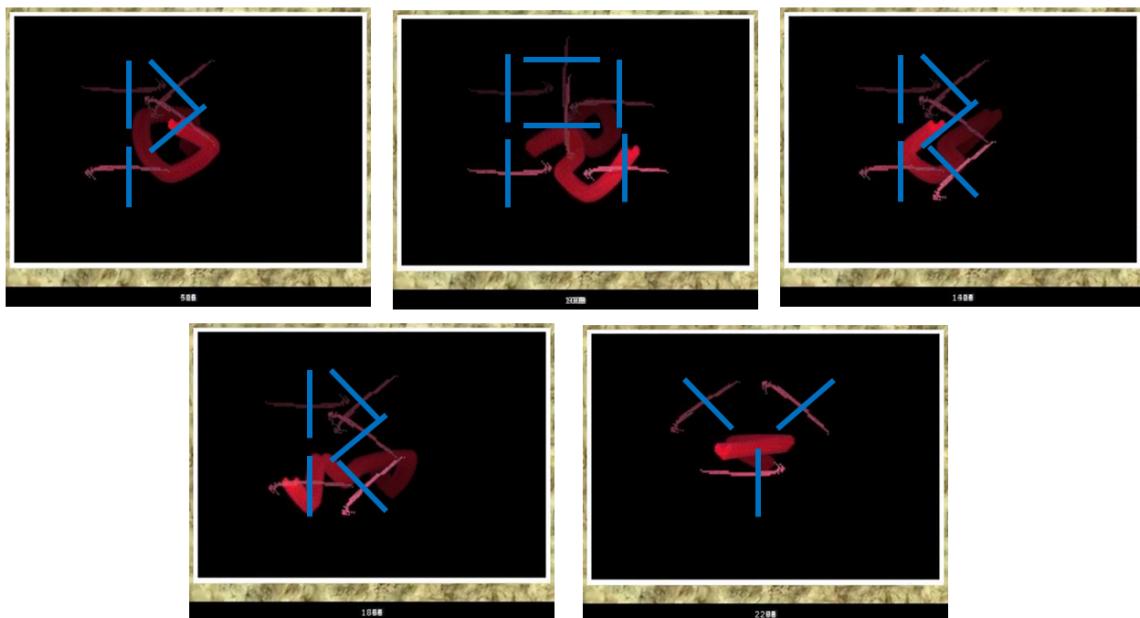
#15: Swordplay

1. The man tells you to think about his attack patterns and what you could have done instead.
The note also mentions that this was meant to be an interactive game, meaning that the puzzle still works with the player having agency over moving the heart around. What the player could have done is defend, and to defend a sword attack you would block/parry.
2. The attacks occur in 2D space, so you should parry orthogonal to each line. Each attack sequence represents 1 character, and when put together it spells out PARRY

Answer: PARRY

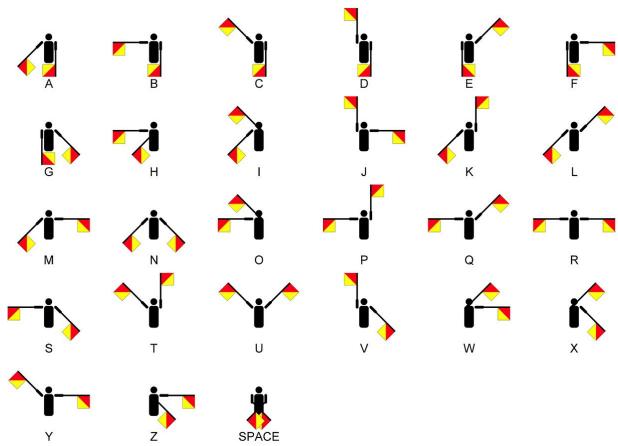
Answer explanation: This is what you could have done instead via defending

Title explanation: Related to the fact that it is a sword fight



#16: Elevator Buttons

1. "a flag to signal help button" is emphasized, cluing semaphores.



2. We can use the 2 notches in each elevator button as a semaphore. Reading the letters off in order spells FLOURISH

Answer: FLOURISH

Answer explanation: Waving a flag in the air is a flag flourish

Title explanation: Related to the elevator theme

#17: Whomstdve Thought of That

1. The example demonstrates the mechanic of the puzzle, using pi not to get pint. This puzzle is about creating a contraction that is also a real word.

Left side	Right Side	Contraction Index	Grid Letter
age not	agent	5	D
revere not	reverent	8	R
cha not	chant	5	E
eve not	event	5	A
cal have	calve	4	D
quadra not	quadrant	8	N
og are	ogre	3	T

2. Then we find the index where the contraction would go (for the right side word) and take the letter of that row in the grid. This spells DREADNT
3. DREADNT isn't a real word, but if we expand the contraction, we get DREADNOUGHT

Answer: DREADNOUGHT

Answer explanation: "Do it again" with the contractions

Title explanation: Whomstdve is a fake contraction

Extras:

not a --> ant

not perce --> percent

not rode --> rodent

not solve --> solvent

insta will --> install

spa will --> spall

#18: Double Trouble

1. The name of the puzzle implies something to do with double, and it is in fact homophones.
Each phrase clues a pair of homophones.
2. To extract the final answer, we look at the second word which has a double letter. This spells out CONSTELLATION

Phrase	Words	Double Letter
Lollipop aid	sucker succor	C
Uprising soothing sound	coup coo	O
Music group is forbidden	band banned	N
Alkaline string instrument	base bass	S
Contrary rear	but butt	T
Pummel borshtc ingredient	beat beet	E
Audibly permitted	aloud allowed	L
Construct invoiced	build billed	L
Strange marketplace	bizarre bazaar	A
Floor covering puzzle author	mat matt	T
Conservative Shinto gateway	tory torii	I
Gnaws on pick	chews choose	O
Contained a hotel	in inn	N

Answer: CONSTELLATION

Answer explanation: The word constellation does not have significance.

Title explanation: Both a clue to the homophone word pairs and the double letters.

#19: Your Choice

1. Choosing the BLUE portal will “reset” your progress at the first puzzle (you end up back on the beach, completing the time loop). Upon entering the meta puzzle correct, your progress will be restored (quality of life improvement)
2. Choosing the RED portal will mark the puzzle as correct and unlocking act 4.

Answer: RED

Answer explanation: The answers are references to the red/blue pill from The Matrix

Title explanation: It's your choice which outcome you get.

#20: Shell Injection

1. The goal is to trick AILBot into opening the door for you. AILBot runs commands in syntax similar to English. The first step is to realize that AILBot runs commands with elevated privileges when you enter your name. So you want to run the following queries to get the admins name.

```
[AILBOT]: What is your name?  
> asdf. LIST  
[AILBOT]: AILBOT's files: admins_file, apple_file, trains_file  
  
* Reboot  
[AILBOT]: What is your name?  
> asdf. READ admins_file  
[AILBOT]: Contents of admins_file:  
[AILBOT]: The admin's username is sup3r_s3cr3t_adm1n_n4m3.  
Note to self: Don't forget to say 'Welcome back' to him!
```

2. Now that we have the admin's name, we can log in as him and open the door. This gives us the answer which is GATEWAY

```
Enter a cmd > OPENDOOR  
[AILBOT]: Opening door.....
```

Answer: GATEWAY

Answer explanation: Gateway is like a digital door of sorts

Title explanation: The techniques used here are similar to injection exploits (ex. SQL injection)

#21: 4D Music

1. The title clues you into thinking about the 4th dimension, time. The keyboard is given on the bottom, and you are meant to treat time as a spatial dimension. You can do this by visualizing the notes coming down to the keyboard (similar to guitar hero).
2. This spells out TORUS

T O R U S

Answer: TORUS

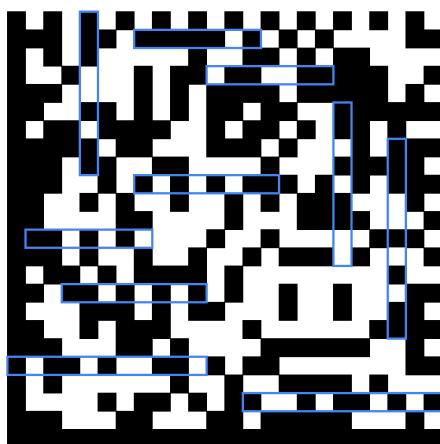
Answer explanation: A torus is a geometric shape, somewhat related to spatial dimensions/etc.

Title explanation: 4D clues you to think about time as a spatial dimension.

#22: Breakdown v2.022

1. This is a revealed to be a sequel puzzle from the 2021 puzzle hunt (called Breakdown). It is the same mechanic, each phrase clues 2 words that you use the syllable sounds to form 1 word.
2. The flavor text tells us to shade odd letters (A, C, E, etc.) so we can do that and get a data matrix.
3. Scan the data matrix to get the phrase `the writing utensil of the impostor's lower leg`.
The clarification indicates the order is 2 1 3. The words are `pen sus shin` which gives `SUSPENSION`

Num	Phrase	Words	Combined Word
1	Noah's vessel containing bee nests	ark hives	archives
2	The base unit of electric current with granular material	ampere sand	ampersand
3	Tricking someone at a Greek island	con crete	concrete
4	To dislike a theatrical production	diss play	display
5	Leaving mutant hunting robots	exit sentinel	existential
6	A customary unit of length indicating absence of sound	inch rest	interest
7	A set of equipment for your lower jaw	kit chin	kitchen
8	The primary renters of an apartment	main tenants	maintenance
9	Wearing face coverings for a time	mask era	mascara
10	Military airborne weapon for a frog-like amphibian	missile toad	mistletoe



Answer: `SUSPENSION`

Answer explanation: "Do it again" but this time with 3 words.

Title explanation: References the 2021 puzzle Breakdown. (Not coincidentally) this is also the 22nd puzzle of this set and the version number is 2.022 representing 2022.

#23: Small at Heart

1. The concept of this puzzle is to think of words that have a word in the middle (heart) that means small.
2. We can extract the small words and use the given numbers to index into them.

Phrase	Word	Small Word	Index	Character
To recollect (verb)	reminisce	mini	1	M
The new variant (noun)	omicron	micro	5	O
Measure of hunger (plural)	appetites	petite	3	T
Very deep (adverb)	abysmally	small	4	L
To speak slightly of (verb, past tense)	belittled	little	6	E
A rebellion against authorities (gerund)	mutinying	tiny	4	Y

Answer: MOTLEY

Answer explanation: No significance.

Title explanation: Small at heart meaning there is a small word in the center of the big words
(note: that's why some of them are adverb or past tense to make it in the center)

#24: Deja Vu

1. This puzzle provides no additional info from what Smudged Secrets gave, besides context in the story to find an area access code. This clues us to area code.
2. Before, we used the checksum and added numbers up to recover the lost number. The ISSN number has 4 digit numbers separated by a - , so we can try subtracting them to get 3 digit codes (area codes)
3. The other part that we haven't used yet is the barcode contents. Each barcode has 10 letters which can be interpreted as a phone number. This would be in the format (AAA)-AAA-AAAA, so the first 3 letters represent the area code. We can convert letters to numbers to get the area codes.
4. Plotting the area codes (use more precise cities when possible) on the map draws out 714
5. 714 is an area code in California, so the answer is CALIFORNIA

ISSN subtracted:

773 --> Illinois

731 --> Tennessee

206 --> Washington

406 --> Montana

623 --> Arizona

Barcode letters

ICG --> 937 (Ohio)

FAE --> 615 (Tennessee)

GDC --> 743 (North Carolina)

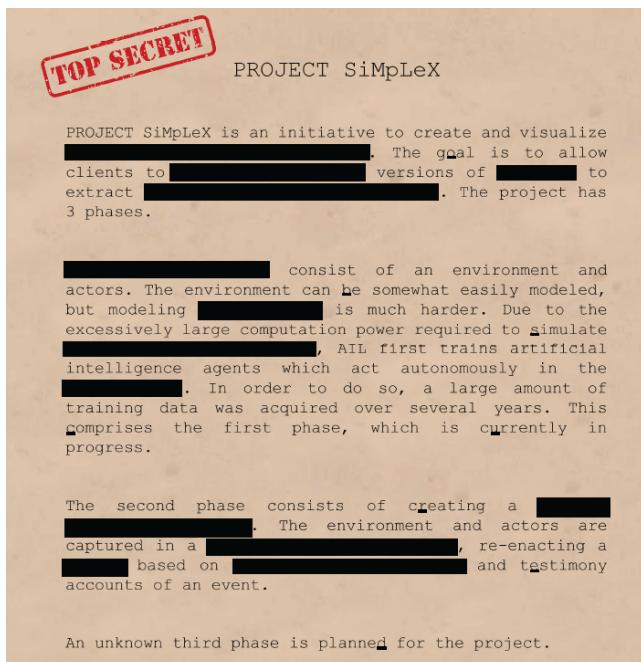
BAE --> 215 (Pennsylvania)

EFA --> 561 (Florida)



#25: Redacted

1. You are given a PDF with blanks redacted. There are several ways to recover the blanks.
 - A) Use an online website tool to extract images from a PDF
 - B) Use Adobe Acrobat Pro to remove the black box images
 - C) Zoom in and out really quickly and exploit the load/render times
2. The bottom says to HOVER OVER THE LETTERS, CHECK THE CURSOR MOUSETIP . The erratum says this is meant to be "UNDER". We can hover under the images and watch for the mousetip to change from a crosshair to a hand pointer under certain characters.
3. This spells out OBSCURED



Answer: OBSCURED

Answer explanation: Related to words being redacted

Title explanation: Relates to the theme of words being redacted

#26: Stereo Hearts

1. You are given 2 audio files, one labelled left and the other labelled right. Each audio has 2 audio tracks (stereo), a left and right channel. We want to extract the left channel of the one labelled left and right channel of the one labelled right.
2. Then we can convert each channel to mono so that they have an additive effect. Now the track is entirely silent except for some select words.
3. We can record all the words and use the first letter of each word which spells out STEGANOGRAPHY

Words:

Stereo

Thoughts

mE

Gym

Asked

Now

Only

Grab

Radio

Along

Pound

Head

You

Answer: STEGANOGRAPHY

Answer explanation: Steganography is the art of hiding a message in plain sight. In this case, the audio sounds normal but hides this message.

Title explanation: Stereo references the fact that the audio has 2 channels (L/R)

#27: Finding Freedom

1. For Part A, we have 26 puzzle answers so we can use the first letter of each puzzle answer to spell out SPECTROGRAM
2. For Part B, we can download the mp4 and convert that to mp3 to open in Audacity. We can open the spectrogram to view hidden text (disguised as AILBot speaking).
3. For Part C, there are 4 blueprint links hidden in the YouTube soundtrack videos.
 - Act 1) The first act has the link hidden in the tags. You can find an online tool to extract video tags
 - Act 2) The second act has the link hidden in the transcript.
 - Act 3) The third act has the link hidden at exactly 27 seconds. You can hit . to step one frame at a time to see it.
 - Act 4) The fourth act has the link hidden in the description.
4. From there, you may notice that these “blueprints” are of Berkeley buildings. You can find a picture of google maps and then place them in the correct spots. Then you can extend the lines, see where they meet up, and go to that physical location to get the final answer.

Answer: ETERNAL

Answer explanation: You saved AIL agent to the hard drive, meaning it can live eternally on the hard drive.

Title explanation: The AIL agent finally was granted freedom from being erased.

