

Welcome to the New Time Machines Working Group! We're an agency that designs and develops memory protocols for aspiring time travelers.

For ages, the arts of memory were rigorously developed and passed down from generation to generation. But in this era of digitally mediated memory, the protocols that augment our natural capacity to remember have fallen by the wayside.

The New Time Machine Working Group's memory kit provides exercises, products, and practices that allow time travelers to revisit people and places no longer present. Memory protocols are not just about storage and recitation. They matter because they help us orient in the seas of our stories—they help us curate the collective lore that glues communities together. Ranging from low-tech objects to never-before-seen devices, our new time machines bring ancient memorial protocols to modern memory artists.

In the age of international atomic clocks and perfectly synchronized smartphones, the reality of time is often taken for granted. Some think it's safe to assume the seconds, minutes, and hours will continue to pass us forevermore. Others aren't so sure—like the physicists in the last century and the Theravada monks ten centuries ago who question the reality of time.

But at the New Time Machines Working Group, we don't worry too much about this. The first rule of studying time is to know that time itself always changes. Some of the earliest notions of time come to us from the stars. When the Pleiades constellation returned in the Southern hemisphere sky, it meant it was time to harvest, and when Leo returned in the Northern hemisphere sky, it portended the river flooding. Cycles recurred, and time went on.

But even this kind of time has its unreality. Stars shine to us from distances we can't yet travel, and we know full well that by the time their light reaches us, they might be out—their light extinguished, gone, and unreal. We know that the myths we tell about the stars are as fragile as their continued existence.

The New Time Machines Working Group's Starproject 2 fixes this. Through a three-thousand-year initiative, we seek to replace the light of extinguished stars with satellites.

The satellites will contain capsules with memory protocols. Ranging from highly idiosyncratic rituals to ancient procedures, these instructions for how to procedurally remember serve three purposes. Firstly, they help revive and reorient us in the present to the art of memory. Secondly, they help us remember the aims of Starproject 2 as it spans three thousand years. Thirdly, we can't tell you yet. Only the most avid followers of our missives will gain access to the third purpose.

With each Protocol Kit publishing update, we will release one missive with information about the memory protocols the satellites contain. In these missives, threads and traces of their true intended purpose weave throughout. We welcome you to find them.

© 2023 Ethereum Foundation. All contributions are the property of their respective authors and are used by Ethereum Foundation under license. All contributions are licensed by their respective authors under CC BY-NC 4.0. After 2026-12-13, all contributions will be licensed by their respective authors under CC BY 4.0. Learn more at: summerofprotocols.com/ccplus-license-2023

Summer of Protocols :: summerofprotocols.com

ISBN-13: 978-1-962872-56-0 print
Printed in the United States of America
Printing history: February 2024

Inquiries :: hello@summerofprotocols.com