

Interview from the Future #1

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Well, that's a lot to explain all at once. I—

Q:

Ha, like the old party cliché. I saw a meme about it once recently, in New Yorker cartoon style. I forget it now but it had a talking cat and dog at a party...

Q:

Ok, that's a good place to start. So today is a good example, I think. I awoke, and started early on a little project. Then I should have gone for a run, but decided that I wouldn't have time for it before tocktime, so I watched my stream for a while. Now this. And after this, I have to go for my health check.

Q:

Oh, a silly project. A game based on the trust game, you know? Where you jump off a cliff without knowing how far down it will be. I had a vision of how it would look, so I made it.

Q:

A "videogame." It took about an hour.

Q:

Haha, yeah, maybe, I guess. When I think of "coder" I think of [geeks] locked in their rooms drinking [energy drink]. You know, furiously typing... But yeah, I guess I am, in a way. But I don't type any code. I draw on my sketchpad or enter descriptions. I choose style and actions, maybe do some tinkering on the mechanics... Maybe I am a coder. I do actually drink loads of [energy drink]. Or I did, I don't as much anymore, it got super expensive recently. I—

Q:

I checked it in, my new creation, and posted about it.

Q:

Disco. Where my friends find my creations. We share, watch each other's stuff, joke about them, discuss.

Q:

Just over a million.

Q:

Ok, maybe "friends" is the wrong word... But it feels like friends. We chat about ideas, collaborate. Mostly we chat about what streams we are watching. Recommendations for what to add to my Disco queue. Yesterday I just heard about this new—

Q:

Ok, here is an example I think you will understand. It's maybe not typical, but it should be illustrative. You know that old movie The Hunt for Red October? I decided to make a splice of that one. But instead of the original guy, I replaced him with the Jim Halpert Jack Ryan. I forget the actor's name right now, but he's great. I watched the old The Office episodes a while ago. The classic one, not the new one, and—

Q:

Wait, what? There is an even more classic [The] Office?

Q:

Uh, ok, right ... I mean the movie is the same, but with a different actor, or character really. I replaced the Alec Baldwin Jack Ryan character with the Jim Halpert Jack Ryan version. But that's not all. I don't usually change the camera angles. It's an important part of the movie, you know? But this case is different, because it takes place in submarines. So I did something I don't normally do; I made it immersive.

It was a lot of work! I couldn't believe it, no one had modeled the sub. This is usually the first sort of thing done. I mean, there are twenty thousand versions of Darth Vader's toilet, but no Red October! Well I guess that's not exactly true, but there were no good versions—

Q:

It's like a video game. Actually it is a video game now, my boy Albert went on to make it. It was a pretty big deal. He took the models I made, and made it playable. Gave it its own new storyline and levels. It became very popular. I got credits of course, for my part.

Q:

No, mine was just a movie, the original movie, but with changes, a splice we call it. If you want, you can wander around the sub while the action is taking place. You can get an overhead view of the climactic fight, for example. But everything else is the same. Same storyline, same dialogue.

Q:

It took about a week, all told. Mostly because Al and I kept arguing about the sub. It was hard to fit the original movie set into the constraints of the sub. That and I got distracted by this great stream. It was an anime about these—

Q:

Yes, my income gets boosted based on consumption of my work. I am a collaborator on Al's, so I get income from that one too.

Q:

On top of my basic income.

Q:

I go to Health Services every month. I don't think they're always so good though. I was irritated last time, I overslept, I had stayed up way too late watching my Disco, and I had some trouble with my Uber on the way there. So I was freaking out thinking I was going to miss my appointment—there's a penalty for that—so I think my blood was up. Anyway they said my blood pressure was high and gave me some pills. I haven't been taking them. If they notice today, I imagine there will be a penalty for that too.

Q:

No, I just call it that. I haven't used an Uber since the Uberwars. I ended up way out in San Bernardino once because of that. I thought I was going to die.

Q:

What? No, from the heat.

Q:

Not really. I just watched my stream. Some people get sick, especially with the roundabouts, thankfully not me. So it doesn't really matter. I just watch my Disco queue. I forget which one, [television series] maybe.

Q:

Oh no no no. There is no finish... They are automatically generated. Once one's done, I just create another. Or another is created. There is no end.