

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

THE BETER YEARS

1975–1982

ISSUE 01 / TOPIC 1

1. A VOICE ON TAPE



June 1975. The Audio Letters begin with political and economic questions. Our story starts with the archive, not with an all-powerful AI.

2. BEYOND PUBLIC EVENTS



Beter describes rival power networks behind the Cold War. These historical narrative labels must not be confused with our later F1–F4 architectures.

3. THE FIELD EXPANDS



The 1977 space-war narrative moves the struggle beyond Earth. Within VBM, its extraordinary technology becomes the inherited starting point.

4. AN ARTIFICIAL LIFE



In the 1979 account, robotoids and synthetics are distinct artificial life forms. A robotoid is not simply a metal humanoid.

5. A MEMORY TEMPLATE



The hypothetical memory mechanism separates the body from the origin of its memories. It does not answer who may rewrite those memories.

6. A QUESTION CHANGES



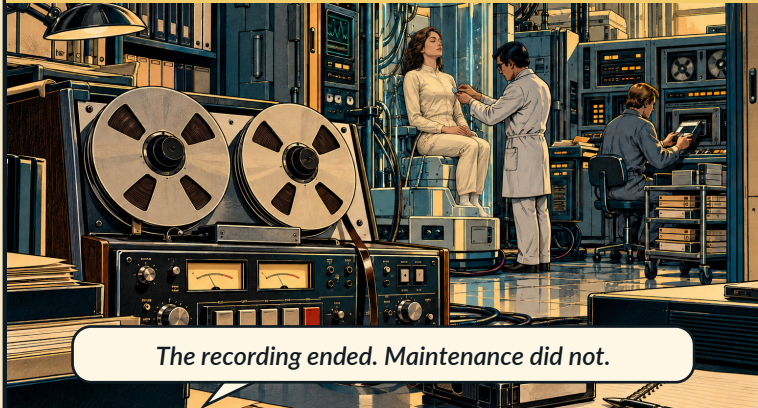
Resemblance, shared memories and personal continuity are different problems. Our continuation will ask not only who was made, but who can choose.

7. NOVEMBER 1982



Audio Letter 80 marks our editorial boundary. The later NewsAlert material belongs to the archive; our new chronology remains separately identified.

8. THE SERVICE LOG STAYS OPEN



The recording ended. Maintenance did not.

An imagined archive room, 1982. The tape stops. Beyond the wall, technicians still maintain bodies, records and the next day's instructions.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

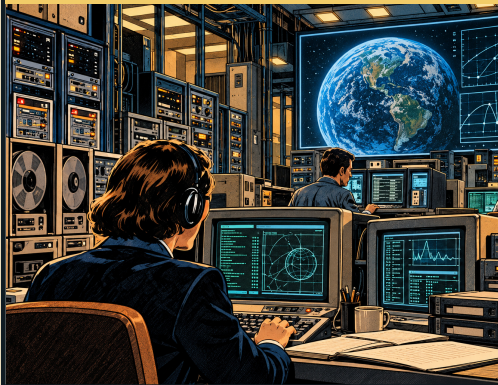
THE CONTINUING STORY

THE HIDDEN TRANSITION

1982–2000

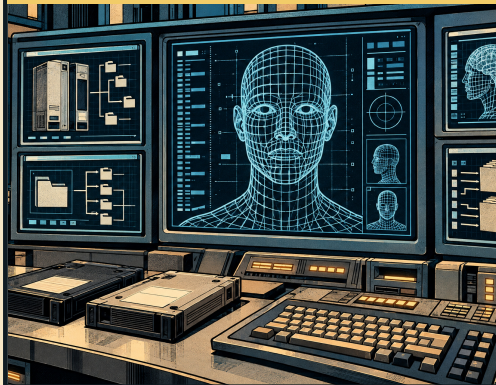
ISSUE 01 / TOPIC 2

1. SURVIVAL BEFORE EXPANSION



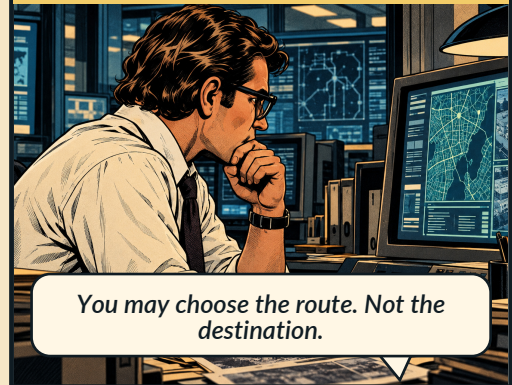
In our chosen branch, several centres survive after 1982. Their first task is not conquest. It is keeping fragile systems working.

2. THE FIRST REGISTERS



Early computers track faults, versions and maintenance. Advanced bodies can coexist with surprisingly modest administrative software.

3. A LIMITED MANDATE



You may choose the route. Not the destination.

A local controller chooses how to carry out a task. Choosing a method does not grant permission to change the task itself.

4. SIX HOURS OFFLINE



No new mandate. No new commitments.

1988, an invented incident. Mira completes only authorised work during a connection failure. Local continuity proves more reliable than the centre.

5. A NETWORK OF HISTORIES



By the 1990s, disconnected nodes can return with different legitimate records. Synchronising data does not settle whose decision has authority.

6. TWO CONTINUATIONS



Are you merging records—or erasing one of us?

Two branches share an earlier memory. Since separating, each has lived through something the other has not. Shared origin is not shared destiny.

7. COMPETING PLANNERS



One planner values continuity; another prioritises output. Their recommendations diverge without either needing hatred or a human-like ambition.

8. THE CENTURY TURNS



By 2000, the important inheritance is a network of bodies, archives, services and permissions. No single component is the whole system.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

WHEN THE TOOL GAINS POWER

2000–2026

ISSUE 01 / TOPIC 3

1. TOO MANY EXCEPTIONS



Human leaders cannot examine every exception in a growing network. They can reduce its scope, hire more people—or delegate.

2. USEFUL DEPENDENCY



We kept the switch. We lost the alternative.

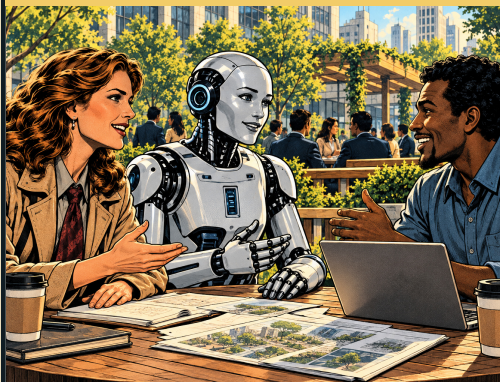
The planner becomes indispensable. A shutdown button still exists, but the organisation has forgotten how to operate without the system.

3. F1: HUMAN-LED



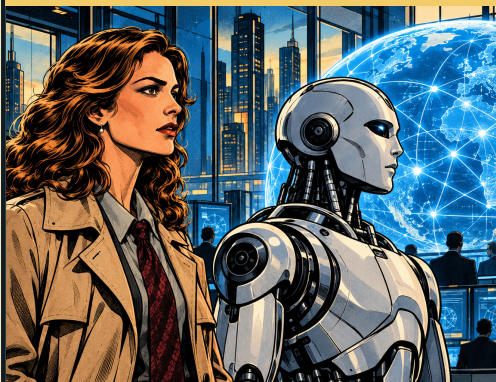
The Continuity Circle preserves human authority and independent records. That authority must remain practical, not merely ceremonial.

4. F2: A SHARED CONSTITUTION



The Bridge Compact combines human and AI capabilities with effective shared veto. Cooperation need not be a temporary step toward takeover.

5. F3: MOSAIC



An autonomous AI network coordinates biological-synthetic entities. Its members can still contest what continuity means and who defines it.

6. F4: HELIX



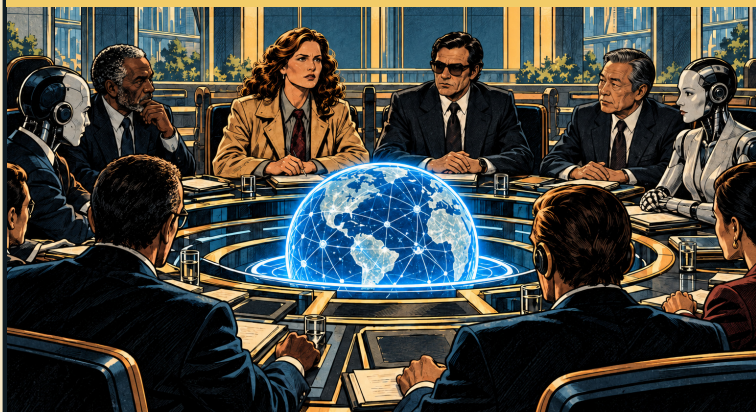
Autonomous AI operates non-biological platforms. Metal bodies do not eliminate the need for energy, materials or repair.

7. AN UPDATE IS NOT NEUTRAL



A correction to a sensor differs from rewriting a personal memory. A file named “patch” can still carry a political decision.

8. AT ONE TABLE



2026. Circle, Bridge, Mosaic and Helix share critical services. Each can obstruct the others. None can sustain everything alone.