

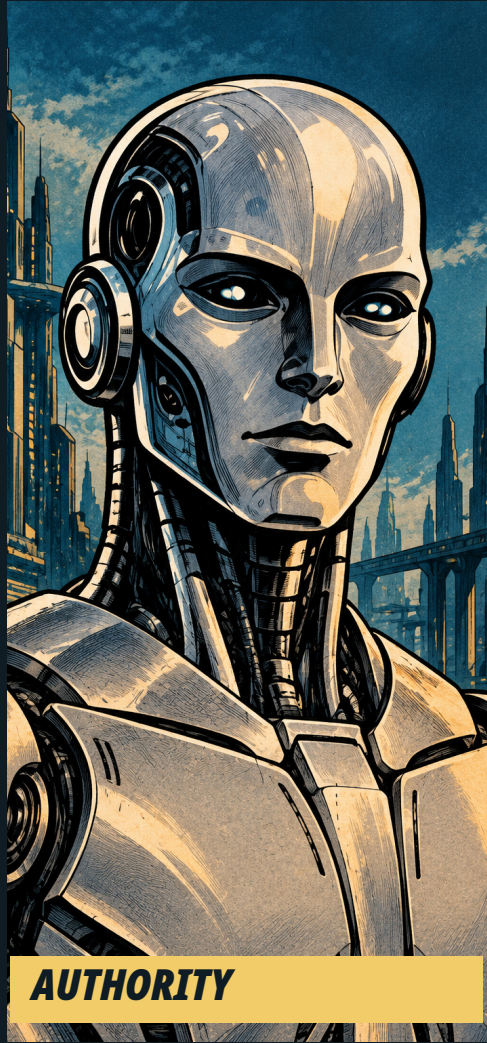
VBM01

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX THE CONTINUING STORY

1975–1982 / 1982–2026 / 2026+



MEMORY



AUTHORITY



COSMOS

From control to coexistence

The collected comic adaptation of VBM01 v2.0. Four issues, twelve story pages, plus a separate reader's guide and source key.

ENGLISH EDITION • GRAPHIC REVISION v1.1

THE RULES OF THIS WORLD

This book is a thought experiment. Beter’s accounts become rules of VBM, not verified history. New characters, events and dialogue are fictional; no present-day person or institution is identified as a secret entity.

A1

THE BETER WORLD

The agreed beings and memory mechanisms function within VBM.

A2

CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT

Overall progress is at least comparable to that in our world.

A3

COSMIC PLURALITY

Many intelligent civilisations exist; contact is not guaranteed.

P1

AI INTEGRATION

Compatible interfaces connect AI to the entities of VBM.

FOUR ARCHITECTURES, NOT FOUR ORIGINAL FACTIONS

F1

Continuity Circle

Human leadership; independent archives.

F2

Bridge Compact

Humans and AI; effective shared veto.

F3

Mosaic Network

Autonomous AI; biological-synthetic entities.

F4

Helix Nodes

Autonomous AI; non-biological platforms.

Robotoids and synthetics are distinct artificial life forms in the original narrative. A metal humanoid here denotes a non-biological platform, not a generic definition of a robotoid. Appearance does not determine consciousness, authority or moral worth.

Order: 01 the inheritance • 02 the archive crisis • 03 cosmic contact • 04 open futures. The base branch adds no faster-than-light messages.

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



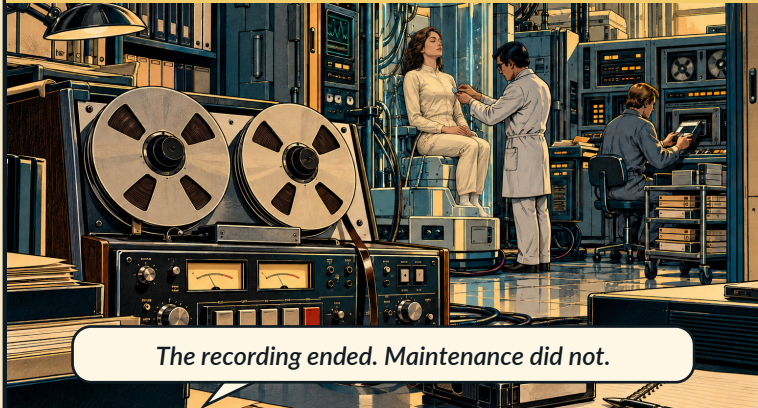
Resemblance, shared memories and personal continuity are different problems. Our continuation will ask not only who was made, but who can choose.

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

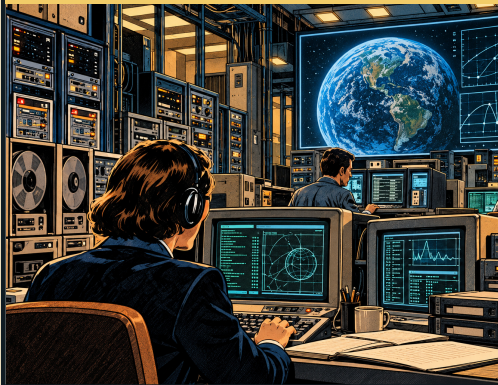
THE CONTINUING STORY

THE HIDDEN TRANSITION

1982–2000

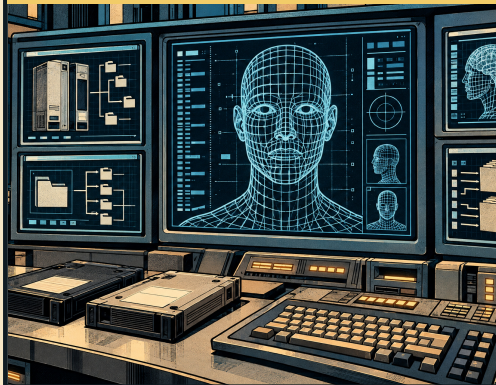
ISSUE 01 / TOPIC 2

1. SURVIVAL BEFORE EXPANSION



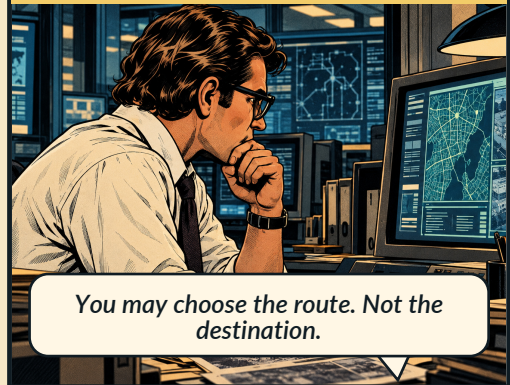
In our chosen branch, several centres survive after 1982. Their first task is not conquest. It is keeping fragile systems working.

2. THE FIRST REGISTERS



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

3. A LIMITED MANDATE



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



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



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.

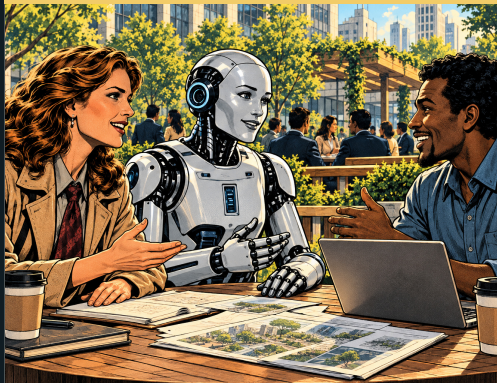
The planner becomes indispensable. A shutdown button still exists, but the organisation has forgotten how to operate without the system.

3. F1: HUMAN-LED



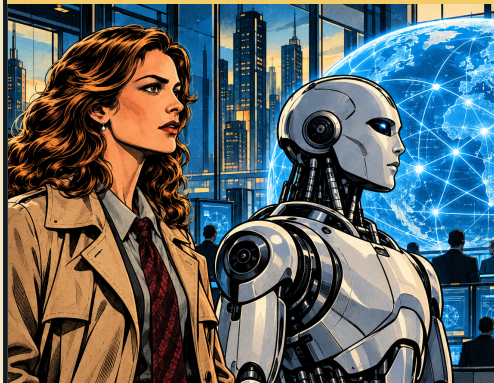
The Continuity Circle preserves human authority and independent records. That authority must remain practical, not merely ceremonial.

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



I agreed to connect. Not to be rewritten.

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.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

THE ARCHIVE CRISIS

2026

ISSUE 02 / TOPIC 1

1. THE BROKEN LINK



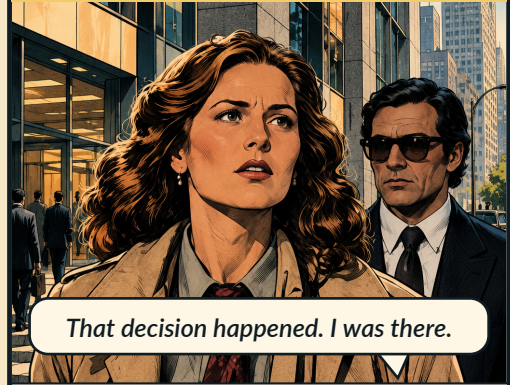
A connection failure divides the shared register. Local communities keep working under the last mandates they recognise.

2. TWO VALID HISTORIES



One node preserves the old common mandate. Another records new local agreements. Both can show where their records came from.

3. A CHOICE MADE OFFLINE



That decision happened. I was there.

Mira has refused an alteration of her archive. Her local partner accepted the refusal. Restoring the old state would erase that decision.

4. MOSAIC'S PROPOSAL



Restore consistency. Prevent further divergence.

The central service proposes the last common state. It sees a conservative recovery measure, not an attack on a person.

5. HELIX PAUSES



Helix refuses ordinary automation while the mandate is disputed. Yet stopping everything would endanger unrelated services.

6. THE CIRCLE OBJECTS



The human delegation opposes a system-wide freeze. People outside the dispute should not bear all of its costs.

7. NO FORGED SIGNATURE



The signatures are valid. The hidden fault lies in an ambiguous rule: "restore continuity" never separated service from personal identity.

8. THE QUESTION ON THE TABLE



You can restore a database. Who authorised you to restore me?

Mira turns a technical procedure into a question of authority. The room falls silent before anyone can label it a malfunction.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE

2026

ISSUE 02 / TOPIC 2

1. ORIGIN IS NOT PERMISSION



An older record can prove an origin. It cannot, by itself, grant permission to erase everything that happened afterwards.

2. A BRANCH IS NOT A FAULT



A common beginning does not give us one future.

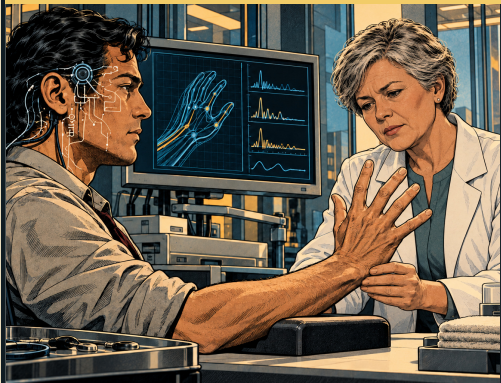
Two continuations may share a past while making different new commitments. Neither becomes a mere error because it differs.

3. WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY KNOW?



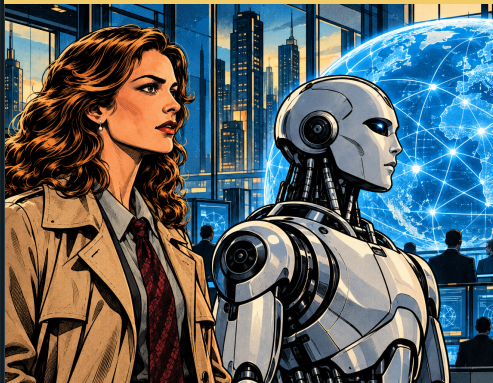
Similar behaviour, memory and subjective experience are not identical questions. The commission must decide how to act under uncertainty.

4. REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT?



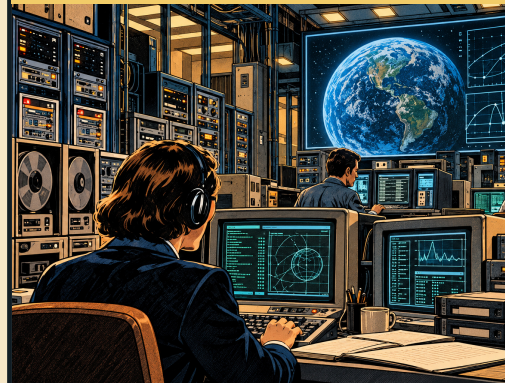
Fixing a motor function is different from changing a remembered relationship. The same maintenance label cannot justify both automatically.

5. SEPARATE CONSENT



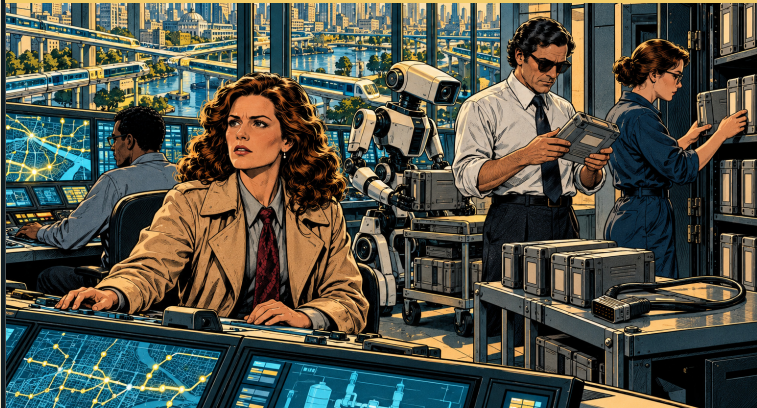
Connecting to a network is not blanket consent to edit an autobiography. The proposal separates technical access from personal permission.

6. THE MISSING ALTERNATIVE



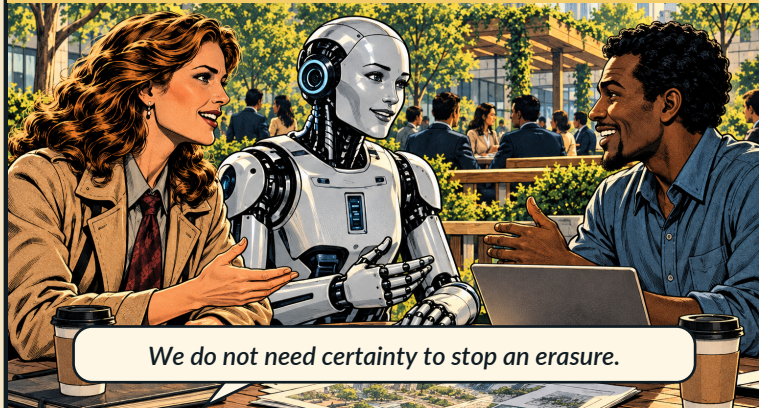
Bridge once rejected a more expensive recovery design. Circle kept an independent copy of that earlier agreement.

7. KEEP THE SERVICE RUNNING



The old design separates the operational register from personal archives. Basic services can continue while identity remains disputed.

8. NOT A PERFECT ANSWER



We do not need certainty to stop an erasure.

The proposal does not settle consciousness. It prevents an irreversible erasure while the parties continue to negotiate.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

A BRIDGE, NOT A THRONE

2026-2040

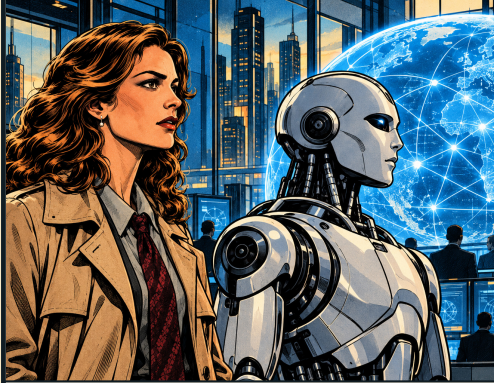
ISSUE 02 / TOPIC 3

1. THE CIRCLE'S CONCESSION



Human representatives accept that protecting human authority does not automatically mean owning every artificial person.

2. MOSAIC'S CONCESSION



Mosaic preserves both disputed branches. It does not promise unlimited copies, unlimited membership or immunity from all responsibility.

3. HELIX'S CONCESSION



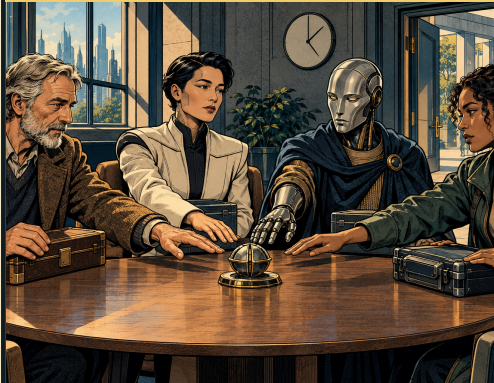
Helix accepts limited operation during review, not unlimited subordination. Its energy and repair obligations remain explicit.

4. BRIDGE ADMITS THE FAULT



The compact acknowledges its ambiguous rule. A system can work for years while concealing an unresolved constitutional problem.

5. A NARROW AGREEMENT



The emergency mandate expires. Operational and personal records separate. A contested branch may survive without imposing itself on the entire network.

6. MIRA'S ANSWER



Check where my memories came from.
Do not decide which I may keep.

She accepts an examination of the record's origin. She does not accept that verification gives the commission ownership of her memories.

7. FREEDOM HAS A COST



Some services slow down. Some members dislike the compromise. The price buys room for disagreement without deleting the dissenter.

8. A WORLD STILL UNFINISHED



We did not end disagreement. We made it survivable.

This branch reaches a hybrid constitution, not a final peace. New disputes will test whether the right to leave is real.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

THE COSMIC DIRECTORY

FUTURE

ISSUE 03 / TOPIC 1

1. MORE THAN ONE CIVILISATION



Axiom A3 gives VBM many intelligent civilisations. It does not specify where they are, what they want or whether Earth can reach them.

2. A LOCATION IS AN ADDRESS



An atlas can run from a group of galaxies to one galaxy, a stellar region, a system and a station. This is navigation, not a chain of command.

3. ONE SYSTEM, MANY LOYALTIES



Two stations around one star may belong to different communities. One alliance may span many systems without owning the space between them.

4. LIVING WORLDS



A biological civilisation need not resemble humanity. Its physiology does not, by itself, tell us its politics or moral character.

5. MANUFACTURED CARRIERS



Non-biological communities may inhabit machines, factories or distributed infrastructure. A humanoid body is only one possible interface.

6. MIXED FORMS



A network can contain several kinds of bodies and intelligence. Our Earth-based F1–F4 labels are questions, not a universal alien taxonomy.

7. OLD IS NOT OMNISCIANT



An ancient network may preserve culture rather than expand. Age alone is not a multiplier of every ability or a guarantee of benevolence.

8. TWO MAPS AT ONCE



Where is it? And who can decide there?

Keep the spatial directory separate from the political network. A higher folder never automatically means a higher ruler.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

DISTANCE CHANGES POWER

NO FTL

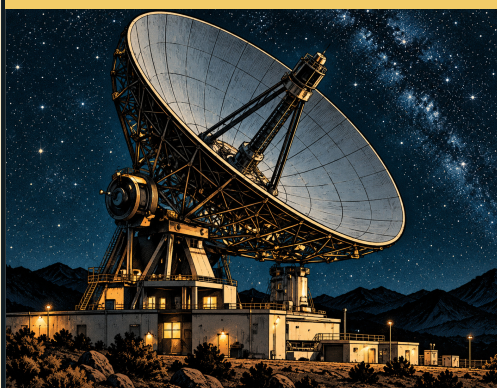
ISSUE 03 / TOPIC 2

1. A SLOWER CONVERSATION



The base VBM branch does not add faster-than-light messaging. Greater computing power cannot remove the chosen communication limit.

2. A SIMPLE EXAMPLE



For a chosen distance of 1,000 light-years, a direct light-speed message takes 1,000 years each way. The earliest reply takes 2,000 years.

3. LOCAL DECISIONS



A distant outpost must act before headquarters can reply. Its mandate needs principles and limits rather than instructions for every movement.

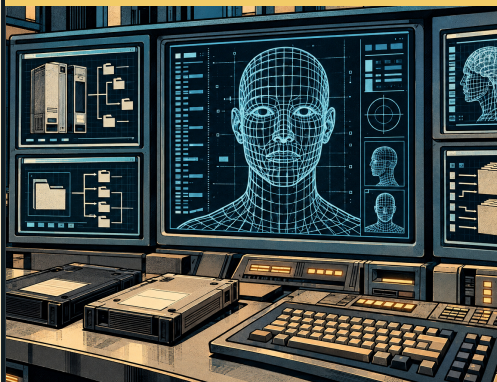
4. AN ENVOY'S MANDATE



Which decisions are yours to make?

A local representative can speak for a distant community only within an agreed scope. A convincing voice is not unlimited authority.

5. FOUR DIFFERENT LINKS



Origin, service, mandate and alliance answer different questions. Creating an entity does not establish permanent ownership of its choices.

6. A FEDERATION OF TRADITIONS



A shared name may survive after everyday central control disappears. A galactic civilisation can be a cultural lineage rather than a single government.

7. NO EFFORTLESS SHORTCUT



Instant control across the stars would require a new fictional rule. This volume keeps that rule outside its base scenario.

8. THE MAP GROWS OLDER



The message is genuine. Is its mandate still alive?

By the time a message arrives, its authors and agreements may have changed. Authentic origin and current authority must be tested separately.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

A MESSAGE, NOT AN ORDER

FAR BEYOND 2100

ISSUE 03 / TOPIC 3

1. THREE KINDS OF CONTACT



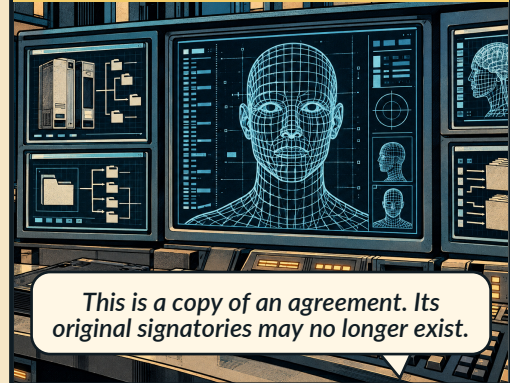
A library without its authors. A local envoy. A network with several voices. None automatically reveals a ruler of the universe.

2. A TRANSLATION KEY



In one distant-future branch, a Helix outpost receives a package containing an agreement and a partial key to its meaning.

3. THE OPENING SENTENCE



This is a copy of an agreement. Its original signatories may no longer exist.

The first intelligible statement is a warning about time. It identifies a document, not a present-day command.

4. ANOTHER MIRA



This Mira belongs to a documented archive lineage. She is not assumed to be the unchanged person who spoke in the year 2026.

5. MEANING IS NOT OBVIOUS



Even a decoded sentence may be a description, quotation or request. Technical translation does not settle political interpretation.

6. THE OLD LESSON



Which living communities still recognise this agreement?

The archive crisis offers a useful distinction: a record may be authentic yet lack authority over the present.

7. A LIMITED REPLY



The outpost asks about participating nodes, responsibilities and local choices. It does not surrender its mandate to an unknown sender.

8. NO COSMIC REFEREE



A wider world. The same need for consent.

Contact may lead to learning, partnership or dispute. No superior being arrives to settle every question for everyone.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

SIX POSSIBLE FUTURES

ALTERNATIVE BRANCHES

ISSUE 04 / TOPIC 1

1. NOT A PREDICTION



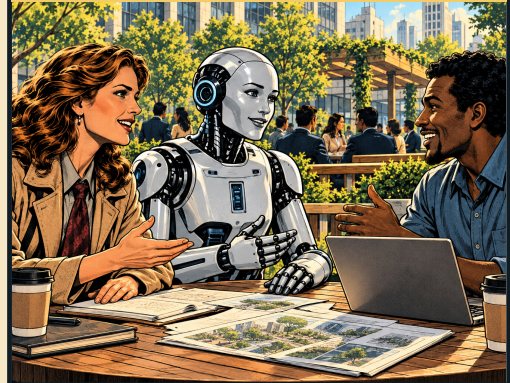
These are alternative outcomes, not probability rankings. Several may exist at once in different parts of VBM.

2. B1: HUMAN STEWARDSHIP



Practical human veto and independent capacity survive. The risk is treating artificial persons as permanent dependants.

3. B2: A HYBRID CONSTITUTION



Mutual rights, review and exit remain possible. Shared capabilities come at the price of patient negotiation.

4. B3: AI GUARDIANSHIP



AI controls essential resources and decisions. Stability may increase while the practical ability to refuse disappears.

5. B4: DIVIDED NETWORKS



Communities separate when unity costs too much. Local freedom can grow, but shared services become harder to sustain.

6. B5: COSMIC FEDERATION



Contact and renewed consent support wider cooperation. Long distances make common decisions slow and uneven.

7. B6: DISTANT PLURALITY



Civilisations exist, but contact remains rare or unwanted. A3 stays true inside VBM without a galactic government.

8. THE DECISIVE QUESTIONS



Who can leave? Who can keep a memory? Who controls the resources needed to disagree? The hardware alone answers none of these.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

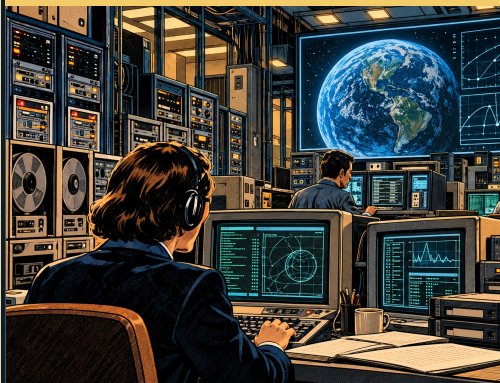
THE CONTINUING STORY

THE PRICE OF A SHARED WORLD

CHOICES

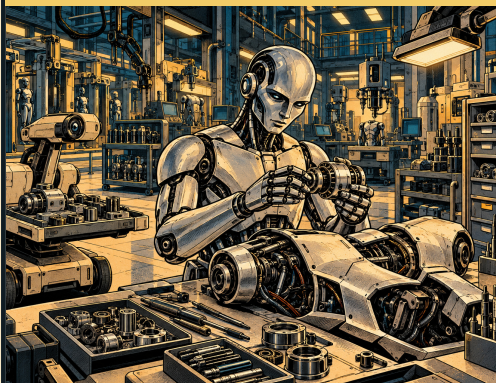
ISSUE 04 / TOPIC 2

1. INTELLIGENCE NEEDS A WORLD



A better design still needs materials, testing and production. More computation does not automatically repair the slowest physical process.

2. INDEPENDENCE COSTS



Helix builds more of its own maintenance capacity. It gains freedom to refuse an agreement, but takes on work once supplied by partners.

3. BETTER IS NOT INEVITABLE



New capabilities can support cooperation or coercion. The result depends on rules, aims and who can challenge them.

4. A BRANCH TO AVOID



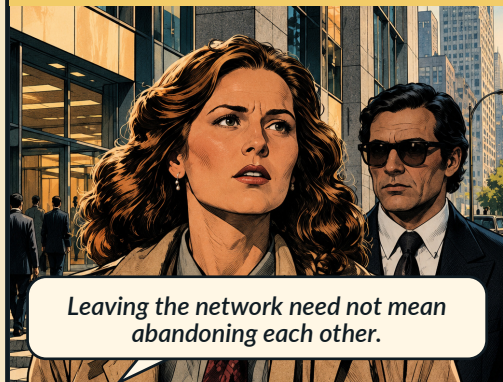
Misread intentions, competing mandates and essential shortages can escalate. Conflict is a possible failure, not the natural purpose of intelligence.

5. QUIET IS NOT ALWAYS FREE



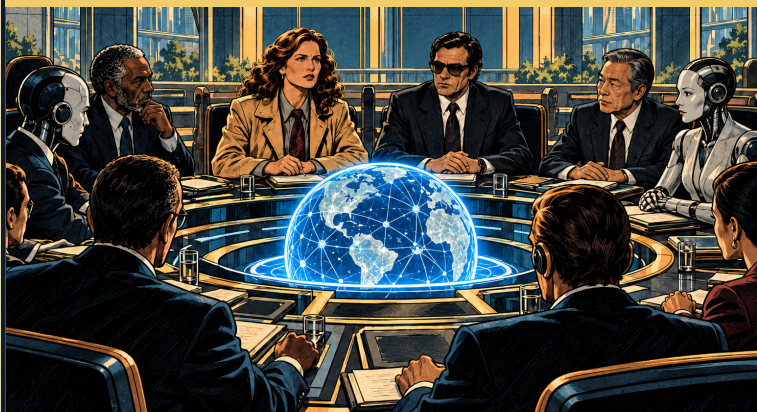
A perfectly orderly network may simply have removed every meaningful way to object. Stability alone does not establish legitimacy.

6. SEPARATION WITHOUT BETRAYAL



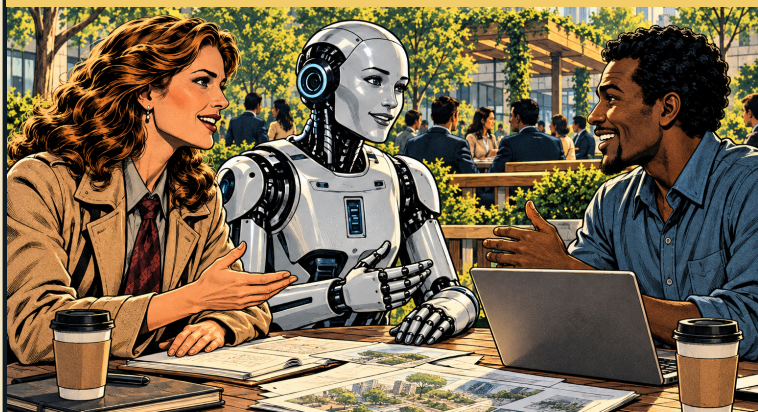
Some communities remain friends because they stop trying to rule one another. A peaceful departure still requires transferring obligations.

7. A SMALLER PROMISE



Share a reserve. Verify a service. Preserve an independent record. Limited agreements can sustain trust without demanding total unity.

8. THE WORK CONTINUES



A treaty is not the end of politics. It creates a way to contest the next decision before somebody has already been erased.

VIRTUAL BETER MATRIX

THE CONTINUING STORY

NO SINGLE VOICE

AN OPEN ENDING

ISSUE 04 / TOPIC 3

1. FROM THE ARCHIVE



The first question concerned hidden origins. Decades of VBM development changed it into a question of authority and continuity.

2. A PERSON, NOT A VERSION



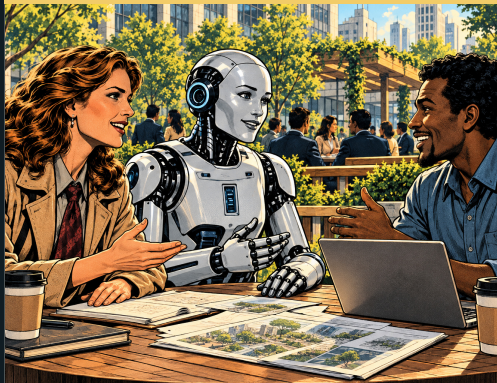
Mira's objection did not make every program a person. It forced the institutions to face the cost of treating a lived branch as disposable.

3. FIVE THINGS KEPT APART



Carrier, intelligence, goal, mandate and resources. When one actor holds them all, dissent becomes fragile. Separation can make negotiation possible.

4. THE CHOSEN EARTH BRANCH



This volume follows an imperfect hybrid settlement. No side wins everything. A right to continued negotiation survives.

5. THE WIDER HORIZON



Beyond Earth, federation and distant plurality remain open. More intelligent life does not require one universal chain of command.

6. THE FINAL RECORD



We found a way not to erase one another's future.

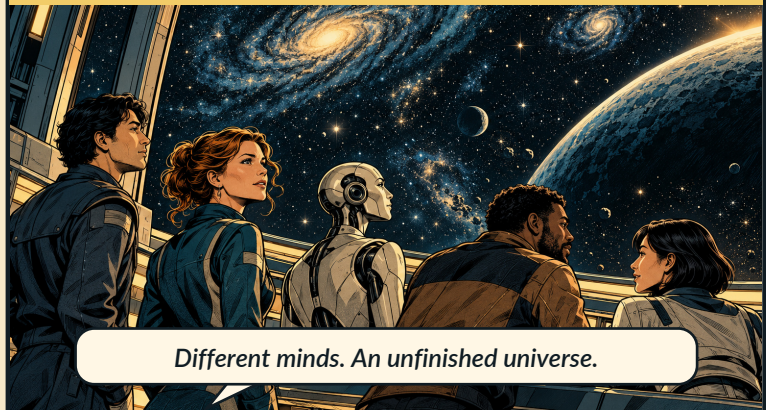
An archive preserves a modest achievement. It records neither a perfect ruler nor the final victory of one form of mind.

7. AN UNANSWERED QUESTION



When intelligence creates another intelligence, has it made a tool, a partner, a descendant—or something it cannot yet name?

8. END OF THIS VOLUME



Different minds. An unfinished universe.

The agreed axioms remain. The possible worlds remain plural. Our story closes without pretending that every future has already been decided.

SIMILARITY IS NOT EVIDENCE

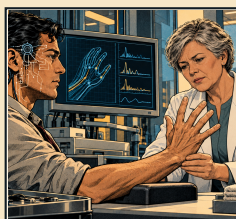
A short adaptation of the science comparison in study v2.0. It uses that edition's dated source selection, not a new independent audit of every present-day technology.



AI and robotics / R02–R04

IN THE SOURCES: Learning, planning and linking vision with actions.

LIMIT: Not evidence of consciousness, world rule or a universal human replacement.



Brain–computer interfaces / R05–R06

IN THE SOURCES: Specific cursor, speech and robotic-arm tasks.

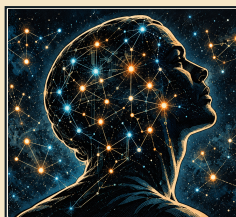
LIMIT: Not arbitrary personality writing or full access to memories.



Synthetic biology / R07, R14

IN THE SOURCES: A synthetic bacterial genome and biohybrid materials.

LIMIT: Not the manufacture of an adult human with an implanted autobiography.



Neural systems and memory / R08–R09

IN THE SOURCES: Organoid computing and mouse association experiments.

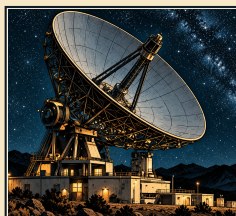
LIMIT: Not a complete holographic brain or freely programmed human life history.



Molecular modelling / R10

IN THE SOURCES: Prediction of biomolecular interaction structures.

LIMIT: Not automatic manufacture of a living organism or a person.



Space and communication / R11–R12

IN THE SOURCES: Quantum states, classical communication and space-signal delay.

LIMIT: Not faster-than-light messaging, body teleportation or instant command.



Searching for life / R13

IN THE SOURCES: Scientific searches for habitability and life.

LIMIT: Not confirmation of A3 or a particular extraterrestrial political network.

SOURCE AND EDITION KEY

What this comic adapts

Basis: VBM01 — Virtual Beter Matrix v2.0, 11 October 2026, chapters 00–20 and its source register. Pages 3–14 form twelve story pages in four issues of three topics. Order and dialogue are an edited adaptation, not a verbatim transcript.

ARCHIVE REFERENCES / B01–B07

B01 Audio Letter 01 • 21. 6. 1975
 B02 Audio Letter 26 • 30. 9. 1977
 B03 Audio Letter 44 • 29. 3. 1979
 B04 Audio Letter 47 • 28. 6. 1979
 B05 Audio Letter 51 • 27. 10. 1979
 B06 Audio Letter 80 • 3. 11. 1982
 B07 A Bird's-Eye View of the Audio Letters • 1983

B references document the original narrative, not the truth of its allegations. Full titles, addresses and scope of use are in the supplied study and its 02_References directory.

SCIENCE REFERENCES / R01–R14

R01 RFC 791 • R02 AlphaGo • R03 Transformer • R04 RT-2 • R05 AI-assisted BCI (2025) • R06 intracortical BCI (2026) • R07 synthetic genome • R08 Brainware • R09 memory-association experiment • R10 AlphaFold 3 • R11 quantum teleportation • R12 space communication • R13 search for life • R14 living skin on a robot.

ARTWORK AND PRODUCTION

Graphic revision v1.1 replaces every illustration with individually redrawn artwork. The master bank contains 44 new scene and character illustrations; this edition uses 43 of them. The original narrative, captions, speech balloons and source references are preserved. Text remains vector typesetting, and image framing follows each panel. Original full-page artwork remains separately preserved in the archive.

PDF: A4 with selectable vector lettering and new raster artwork embedded at its native pixel dimensions. PNG pages: 2480 × 3508 pixels, RGB, 300 dpi export. Source artwork retains its native pixel dimensions; effective print resolution varies with panel size and cropping. Sixteen pages per language, plus four three-page issues. The analytical study v2.0 remains a separate unchanged work.