

OPTOSIGMA COMICS

PROJECT AVATAR



VOL. 7 - INTO THE VOID



Photonics West was amazing!!

We were able to recruit so many brilliant scientists and engineers!

Nearly 1300 recruits!

Wow, that is fantastic!

This will really help speed up the assembly of the Gate Ring so we can help save the Tanken.

Well, we have 30 minutes till takeoff and time is ticking... Let's get going! We have to get all of the new recruits situated.

Yes! Shiori will be thrilled to see how many people are willing to help our cause.





That's it...

Everyone is finally loaded
and in their sleep pods.

We can tell shuttle control
we are ready for blast
off!!



Aaaand... They
are off!!!

That's right Jim...

The latest group of
G.R.E.A.T. Association recruits
are on their way to the Gate
Ring to help rescue the
Tanken!

BREAKING NEWS

1,297 G.R.E.A.T. Ass. recruits are on their way to the
Gate Ring Station to help rescue the Tanken race...



7 months later...

Well folks, it's
been 7 months, and the
team of G.R.E.A.T. engineers and
scientists aboard Shuttle Rescue 3 who
were recruited at last year's SPIE
Photonics West conference are finally
nearing the Gate Ring station. Their
training will begin soon, and before
you know it, the Gate Ring
will be complete...

That's right Stacy...
The recruits will need to mine the
asteroids in the area for precious metals
so that the rest of the Gate Ring can be
3-D printed. Then they can get to work
installing and aligning all of the high-
tech equipment needed to open
the wormhole...

BREAKING NEWS

Gate Ring Station prepares for installation of high-precision
OptoSigma optical components required to open the wormhole.





OK - Time to wake these guys up. They need to begin training!

I hope that they had sweet dreams...



OK recruits!

This is your mining qualification test. Those of you who pass will become full-fledged mining engineers with clearance to mine precious metals from the asteroids. Those that fail...get...**REMEDIATION!**



There is still so much left to do...

We need to get the quantum computer up and running to make the Gate Ring operational.

Meanwhile, in the
Quantum Computing lab...

I'm burning out!
Someone find a grad
student... We need
more snacks and
coffee!

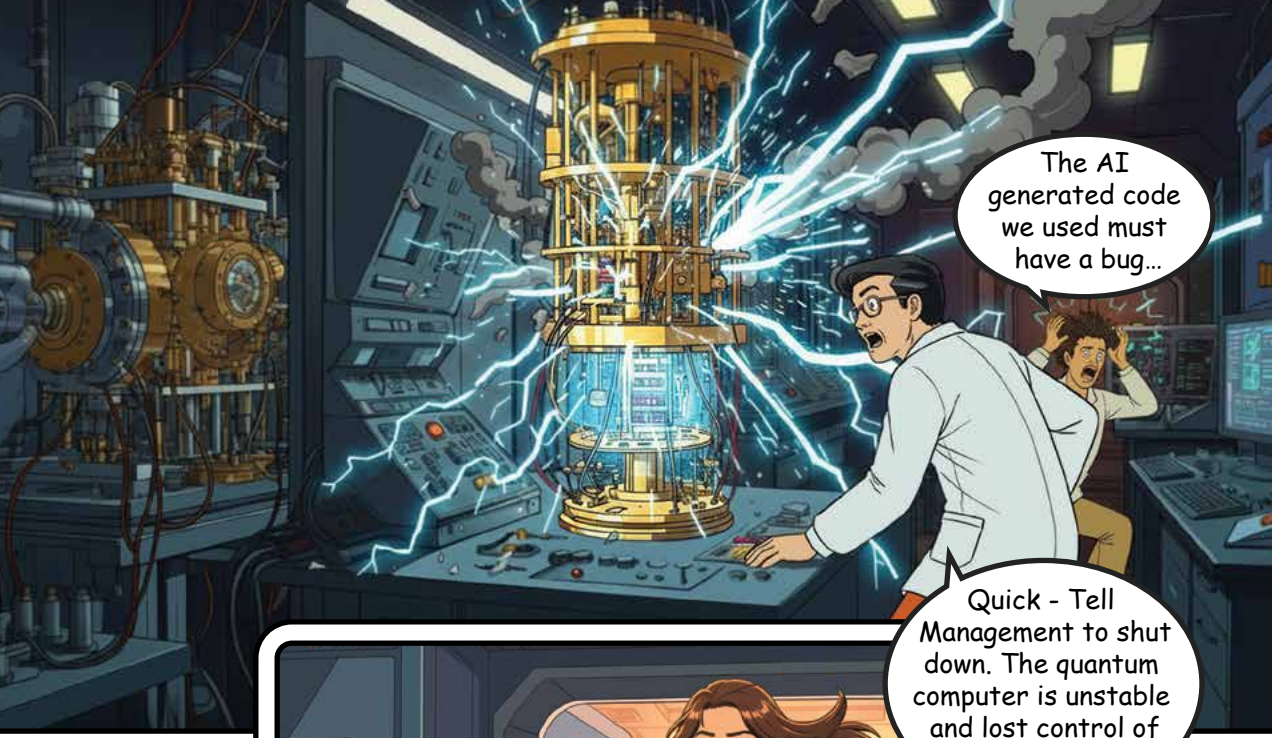
Ugh! 7 months
of travel and all that
training... and I'm still the
one fetching snacks
and coffee?!

Once you've
wrapped up the code,
we can load everything
into the computer and let
management know. Then we
can finally celebrate and
watch the Gate Ring
come to life!

Almost done - I'm
using AI* to help write
the code. We can load
it in and give it a try
in a few minutes.

*AI Stands for Artificial Intelligence and is a technology that has dramatically increased in both use and capability over the past several years. AI is increasingly being used to help develop, de-bug and optimize software and can be an invaluable tool for programmers. A major concern and issue with the use of AI in this capacity is the possibility of AI "hallucinations". In rare occurrences AI has generated code that looks correct and functional - but is flawed, non-operational, and/or does not work as intended. AI often does not have a good sense of the "big picture" of a project, and so it requires the high-level visionary input from a human to help direct the overall flow of the project to meet the ultimate goals.

AI has a growing list of applications and uses - from medical diagnostics to generative art and entertainment. AI powered applications are becoming an everyday part of life.



The AI generated code we used must have a bug...

Quick - Tell Management to shut down. The quantum computer is unstable and lost control of the subsystems!

Something's wrong!!! The lasers linking the Gate Ring segments are pulsing and the wormhole* is collapsing!

EVACUATE EVERYONE!!!

THE GATE RING IS GOING TO COLLAPSE!





To be continued...

*A wormhole (formally known as an Einstein-Rosen bridge) is a theoretical passage through space and time. The concept of a wormhole was first proposed by Albert Einstein and Nathan Rosen in 1935. Einstein and Rosen speculated that it could be possible to connect two distant points in space by folding spacetime and punching a hole from one side of the "spacetime fabric" through to the other. The existence of wormholes remains purely hypothetical, and no evidence of a wormhole has ever been recorded. Wormholes are however mathematically feasible - although they are expected to be inherently unstable - requiring a negative energy source to keep the throat of the wormhole from collapsing. Because of this extreme instability, it is unlikely that objects could safely traverse a wormhole even if one were found. Despite this, wormholes remain a central tenet of many science fiction stories.

SPECIAL NOTE: In 2022, Researchers from Caltech, University of Washington, and Harvard, in collaboration with Google AI, created a laboratory-based analog of an Einstein-Rosen bridge on a quantum computer. This was a simulation and not a physical wormhole - but the results were groundbreaking and are detailed in the December 2022 issue of Nature.

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