

Encrypt

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Inspired by "Upload" and "Black Mirror" TV shows

Freeform LARP, cyberpunk

You will participate in an official online board meeting of Newtown conglomeration about digital afterlives members' future.

This game touches on the themes of profitability vs humanity, moral principles vs human weaknesses. Each player will be faced with difficult choices, hidden information and manipulations and will need to express their opinion on some of the acute problems in the cyberpunk environment.

The game can be played online by Zoom or Discord. No additional props are needed.

Characters' descriptions need to be sent out to players before the game. It will take about 10 minutes to prepare.

8 players (can be reduced up to 5), any sex.

Duration: about 2 hours.

General information:

The world is divided into various conglomerates governed by corporations. Each conglomerate is a separate state and can make its own laws.

The Newtown conglomerate's economy is based on digital technologies. The largest players in this market are the Encrypt corporation (digital afterlife) and the Mayflower corporation (Virtual Reality).

A few years ago, Encrypt corporation patented the rights to a technology that allows people to transfer a person's consciousness to the virtual world at the moment of death. The procedure is expensive, and staying in the virtual world also costs money. But people are willing to pay for their parents, wives, and children. And sometimes people transfer their entire fortune to the account of the Encrypt corporation before their death in order to continue their existence there for as long as their money would last.

Now people who were encrypted are considered dead. They can't own money, can't work, their property is inherited, they have no rights. In fact, they can only stay in the virtual reality of the Encrypt corporation and communicate only with relatives and friends if they contact them.

The head of the Mayflower corporation sent an official request regarding the situation with encrypts. In his opinion, there is a growing tension in society due to the dual nature of encrypts. They behave like people with consciousness and free will, but do not have the same rights as living people. The situation requires the introduction of laws about encrypts. In addition, if they have the opportunity to have a job, they will be able to bring money to the conglomerate's economy, pay taxes, and so on.

The head of a conglomerate cannot ignore an official request and must call an online meeting to make some decisions on this request.

Such a decision can't be made without discussion with the head of the conglomerate's church and a public relations specialist. Several others were also invited to present different opinions about the problem.

You have 2 hours to make a law proposal and make a decision about it.

Roles

Michael / Michelle Cohan	Head of the Newtown conglomerate	The person in charge, the player needs to make a decision and run the conversation.
John/Joan Still	Head of the Newtown conglomerate church	The person that needs to show strong moral principles and humanity approach. But what does that mean in this world?
Bert / Berta Wiles	Public relations specialist, adviser to the Head of the conglomerate	The person who needs to think about society and others' opinion more than all others.
Sam/Samantha Elliot	The head of the Mayflower Corporation	The person who started this discussion. Which from the others will support you?
Tim/Tina Bernardy	The head of the Encrypt Corporation	The person who is vitally interested in the subject. Encrypt is your main asset and the decision will influence all your future.
Lucy/Lucy Whitehouse	Technical Director of the Encrypt Corporation	The person who seems not to have to say much, but knows a lot. What answers will you give and how they affect the decision?
Alex Schneider	Technical consultant of the Mayflower Corporation	The person who has a lot to say, but who will listen to you? Will you be able to speak up?
Chris Kastiliyo	Former artist and public figure, active member of the Michael / Michelle Cohan campaign, now encrypt	The person who represents all others of your kind. This is a huge responsibility. But it seems you are used to it.

Please, do not read the information below if you want to play this game.

Game Master's instructions:

- First read [general information](#) and all [characters information](#). Now you know everything about this game.
- Assign people on roles based on their choice and your opinion. Send each of them general information and their personal character information before the game.

If you have less than 8 players, remove roles in the following order Bert / Berta Wiles, Lucy/Lucy Whitehouse, Chris Kastiliyo. Edit the character information accordingly or just inform players that a number of roles were changed and part of their information can be excessive.

- Start a video conference, rename participants according to their roles and allow players to have discussions on their own. It is recommended for players to use voice with video and do not use chat to avoid personal intercommunications.

You can set up some rules for conversation but we would not recommend that.

- Just after the start of the game, send [personal messages](#) to Alex and Lucy/Lucy.
- If you feel that some of the players are bored or not involved, please use additional game events from [the table below](#). They are private messages with some important information that can change character opinion on the matter and should be sent directly to the person, not to the public chat.
- Recommended game duration is about 2 hours. You can remind the Head of conglomerates about 15 min before the time is over. You can extend or shorter the game timeline if you feel that is needed.

Players usually like to have time to discuss the game after it finishes, so plan some time for that. If you give them this chance you may hear a lot of interesting thoughts you may use next time.

Personal characters hands out:

Sam/Samantha Elliot

Head of the Mayflower Corporation

Your corporation has been trying to invent an analog of the encrypt technology for a long time without any success. This has become your obsession.

An unknown person, named Alex Schneider, has recently contacted you and said that he had invented an alternative to the encrypt technology and even provided proof of it. He's willing to sell it to your corporation on certain terms. In addition to the enormous amount of money, you must make the government recognise the rights of encrypts. The right to own money, intellectual property, and ideally the right to work. It is important for him because Alex is an encrypt. And it doesn't make any sense for him to pass on the technology to you if he can't take advantage of it.

You want this knowledge and are ready to pay for it, but you would prefer the encrypts to get all the rights except for intellectual property. Then you can convince Alex to sell the technology to you much cheaper.

Alex insisted on attending this meeting. You pretend that he is your technical consultant. To do this, he even organized the connection channel through your company's servers.

Alex Schnaider

You're an encrypt. You've been existing in virtual reality for a year after your death. Your ex-wife is paying for your account and you worry that she will stop paying for it. Every time you meet her, she threatens you with it.

In the afterlife you started to communicate with your former friend and classmate Luca/Lucy Whitehouse, who works for the Encrypt Corporation. You discuss his work, he/she shares with you the technical details and asks for your advice, which you easily give, because you miss your work. During these conversations, you found out an idea of how to develop a cheaper alternative to the encrypt technology.

After a little thought, you decided that you can sell your ideas to the Mayflower corporation, which wants it a lot. You contacted Sam/Samantha Elliot and said that you were ready to sell your ideas in case that he/she would achieve recognition of the rights of encrypts, the rights to own money, intellectual property, and the rights to work. In order to give weight to your words, you provided Sam with partial evidence of your invention.

Sam/Samantha agreed to help, but you wanted to attend personally the meeting with the Head, so you agreed to come to the meeting pretending to be a technical consultant. To do this, you even organized your connection channel through the servers of Mayflower company.

Tim/Tina Bernardy

The monopolist and the only owner of the encrypt technology

This meeting was a surprise for you, but, in principle, you are ready to allow encrypts to work. But you would prefer to forbid them to own real money and intellectual property. You understand that they can bring real benefits to you and your corporation. However you have recently found a way to earn some additional money from Encrypt. Sometimes you make deals with trusted people whose relatives are going to Encrypt. As a result, everyone including encrypt thinks that all his fortune went to the Encrypt as a payment for the Premium account. But in fact, most of the money goes to the trusted person and you. You made a similar deal with Bert/Berta Wiles recently about his partner's inheritance.

You've heard that the Mayflower corporation has been working on inventing a technology similar to the Encrypt but has't achieved any results yet. Does this request mean that they are close to a breakthrough? What should you do?

You invited Luca/Lucy Whitehouse, the technical Director, to the meeting in the hope that he/she would be able to understand how close Mayflower is to a breakthrough. And also to answer technical questions about the encrypt technology, since you don't really understand it yourself.

Luca/Lucy is one of the most talented technical specialists, recently appointed by you as a Technical Director for some very successful ideas.

Lucy/Lucy Whitehouse

Technical Director of Encrypt Corporation.

You've been working for Encrypt for 10 years, but you haven't been promoted. The situation changed when your best friend and former classmate Alex Schneider was encrypted. You started to communicate and, gradually, you

realized that he gives surprisingly good advice regarding your work. Since then you have been using his ideas and your career took off. In just a year, you achieved the position of Technical Director.

The only thing that can prevent your fruitful cooperation is your friend's spouse, who threatens to stop payments to the Encrypt. You even think about transferring his/her contract to yourself, but you haven't talked to anyone about it yet.

Michael/Michelle Cohan

Head of the Newtown conglomerate

The head of the Mayflower Corporation has been talking about encrypt's rights several times in the last couple of months, but you've been avoiding the discussion. That's probably why he sent an official request that you can't ignore. However, the decision is still on you. All other participants in the meeting (the head of the Church, the heads of corporations, the public relations specialist) have only an advisory voice.

This topic has recently become quite relevant for you, because your father is no longer young. Before the invention of the Encrypt, you were counting on his money, but now there is a high chance that he will decide to become an encrypt and transfer his entire fortune to the corporation. You didn't talk to him about it because you were afraid to give him the idea. Bert\Berta had a similar story - his spouse transferred all her/his money to the Encrypt and Bert\Berta was left with two children and no money. It was a good thing that he/she had inherited a house from his/her aunt around the same time.

You called the only encrypt you knew, former artist Chris Castillo, to this meeting. He was a significant part of your campaign, and he was known for being religious.

Chris Castiliyo

Encrypt.

You are the former artist. One of the lucky ones who found their recognition being alive.

At the age of 25, you became so popular that you were invited to all major exhibitions and events. At 26, you were hired as the primary artist and designer for the entire campaign of Michael Cohen, now the chosen head of the Newtown conglomerate.

Working on the campaign was exhausting and at some point you realized that you couldn't continue. Then Bert / Berta Wiles, who you worked closely with, advised you on a new medicine from his/her uncle's firm. The medicine worked perfectly and the company was your best creation. But you soon realized that you can't create and live without this medicine. With nothing better to do, you signed a contract with the Encrypt and took a lethal dose. You were hoping that at least in virtual reality you would be free of control.

You've been quite happy ever since. You know that your death was presented to the public as a heart attack. The only thing that bothers you is that now you can't go to church. You even sent a letter to the head of the church and asked him to open a church in the Encrypt. But he didn't answer.

The initiative to allow encrypts to own property and work seems dangerous to you. You are afraid that this will result in the Encrypt exploitation of its inhabitants. Instead of free and happy doing nothing you will become digital slaves.

Bert/Berta Wiles

PublicRelations specialist for the Newtown conglomerate

There is an ambivalent attitude towards encrypts in society. On the one hand, people consider them as a fake created by corporations and not as their relatives. They do not trust them and are afraid. On the other hand, most people are ready to do a lot to gain virtual immortality.

You yourself believe that this technology should be available not for money, but for social achievements.

Your partner was going to transfer her/his entire fortune to the Encrypt, and you could have been left with two children without money. Fortunately, you knew the right people. You made an agreement with the head of the Encrypt. Everything in all the documents remained as indicated by your partner, but in fact most of the funds were transferred to your own account, paying interest to the head of the Corporation. Your partner now exists in the Encrypt at the lowest rate, but sure that she/he has a Premium account. With the money you received, you were able to buy a new house, but you tell everyone that you inherited it from your aunt.

You were unpleasantly surprised to see Chris Castillo here. It turns out that he has become an encrypt. You used to know him. He was a part of the conglomerate CEO's campaign. At one point, Chris stopped working and almost

disrupted the campaign. You advised him on a new medicine, produced by your uncle's company and it seems that he went back to work after that. After a while, you found out that he committed suicide, although it is presented to the public as a heart attack. But you didn't think that he would become an encrypt because he was very religious.

John/Joan Still

Head of the Newtown conglomerate church.

You hate the encrypt technology. You think it takes away the afterlife and, even worse, the fear of the hell. Encrypts have no soul and no feelings!

You have already received several letters from encrypts with requests to perform various ceremonies in VR for them or even allow them to create their own virtual church.

Your only daughter is an artist and fan of Chris Castillo's work. She has a deadly disease and may die soon. Her mother begs her to go to the Encrypt. Your daughter refuses it because you've taught her that Encrypt is bad. You're full of doubts.

Start-game messages

To Alex: "You recognize that your former friend Luca/Lucy is here. He/she for sure knows that you are encrypt"

To Luca/Lucy: "You recognize that your former friend and encrypt Alex is here pretending to be a living person - technical consultant of Mayflower corporation."

Game events

To:	From	Message
Michael / Michelle Cohan	Mother	Your father is very scared. He called to Encrypt and set a meeting with their agent for tomorrow morning.
John/Joan Still	Secretary?	I got an unofficial message from college that the head of Parsik conglomerate church was encrypted today.
Bert / Berta Wiles	Encrypted partner	Just know that all of the people on premium accounts have jacuzzi in their room, while I have not. I'll complain to support
Sam/Samantha Elliot	External technical consultant	I have studied the evidence provided by Alex and I doubt that this technology can be implemented at the current technical capacity
Tim/Tina Bernardy	The head of Encrypt corporation security	We found a direct channel from our servers to the Mayflower office. It looks like someone from the corporation is transferring data via an encrypt
Lucy/Lucy Whitehouse	From old friend	Hey! What's up? I heard the Mayflower team is near to start a big project. Maybe you want to discuss opportunities they have for you?
Alex Schneider	Wife	You forgot about our anniversary again! I'm deleting your account tomorrow!
Chris Kastiliyo	Friend	The head of the Church of a neighboring conglomerate signed a contract with Encrypt.