

THE VALUE EXCHANGE

FUTURE OF TRANSACTIONS

Identify the key uncertainties from the Framework document that you are going to use to construct the baseline scenario. Then extrapolate those elements to the time horizon. You are to create one alternative future for this assignment.

OVERVIEW

The Value Exchange:

- There is standardized marketplace that allows for varied value based currencies, e.g. favor-based / network weaving / good will / connections to a financial marketplace.
- Self-correcting social mechanisms (in the form of activist groups) have sprung up to encourage certain behavior.

TIMEFRAME

2023 (13 years into the future)

FUTURE CONDITIONS

Future conditions of this alternative.

- Individual Currencies: It's not strange for certain individuals to have their own currencies. Not everyone has one though, because there is a fair amount of work necessary before being accepted to the currency exchange. Think of it as difficult as getting a Non-Profit biz status today.
- Values based society
- Public Credit Score: Similar to FICO, a weighted score that aggregates your behavior across various values (e.g. sustainability, recycling, awareness, health, fiscal responsibility, etc.)
 - Anon donation concept: private, but impacts your value score
 - Credit donation concept: publicly shared
- The Goodwill Awards: A list of the top do-gooders. Can only be on the list once in your life.
- The Discordian List: A snarky response to the goodwill awards list. An annual list of the 50 biggest takers from the world. Unlike the inspiration, one can be on this list many times. Often many on the list are targeted for Hunt Night an event "sponsored" by The Benoi Capers an underground fiscal prankster-activist group (inspired by the Cacophony Society in the 20th Century and the ancient fable Robin Hood) to teach the value of making a positive impact on the world. (A Christmas Carol down the rabbit hole with gamer-cacophonists.)

It's 2025. The Benoi Capers just released their annual 100 Discordian list to their underground worldwide following. Leaks have been made to the mainstream media in the past, so there are rumors. Many whose names end up on the Discordian list disappear, others end up in a total media blackout. It is not surprising for someone targeted by the discordians to end up with a Goodwill award years later. Anyone on the list is notified and told a team has been assigned to help them "revise" their ways.

CHARACTERS

Create at least three characters (real or otherwise) that would appear in the scenario presentation. Write up to a 250 description of the character, their appearance, their back story, and their role in the scenario.

- The Values Leaderboard: website ranking
- Values Matching

- The Benoit Capers: an anonymous activist group that celebrates and showers praises on those that do good, as well as track down and take on a Dante's acid trip tour down the rabbit hole for the top 50 ranked dischorders.
- The Office of Alternate Currencies: This is the office that oversees all neux currencies. Neux currencies registered by individuals, corporations, businesses and communities. Each proposed currency must be analyzed and an algorithm for marketplace matching created. Once a match is created, the submitter must accept the match algo. The currency is then approved, but in limited circulation for the first 2 years. If the currency continues to be in circulation after 2 years, it is given expanded (but not unlimited) circulation. Currencies are reviewed every year, the algo checked to confirm it is still appropriate. Based on these reviews currencies can be granted wider usage, up to global and intersteller.
- Individual Goodwill Awards, "everyone who does good is a winner."
- Goodwill Detective: is an AI that confirms/evidence that people did what they said they did
- Value Score Farmers : For those who want to increase their value scores, they can illegally hire people to do good in their stead. They must be able to biologically mimic their client. Cloning (although illegal) has been used. Hiring people to do good in your stead. Black market for favors.

SITUATION / EVENTS

Create at least three situations or events that would occur in the scenario.

1. The first face to face meeting of Discordian #2023_38 – Marian, at an interactive circus theatre. She is picked out of the crowd by the Magician of the show (a Benoi), does not return to the stage, but is instead introduced to her team of re-programmers backstage.
2. Zentropa: A community that has just had their neux currency proposal provisionally accepted.
3. Sean, a young value farmer, working to pay off his student debt.
4. Dan, a business owner working to increase his value score, because he is trying to impress a woman.
5. A detective who checks out false goodwill check-ins, employed by a subsidiary of the Public Credit Score Company.

PLOT/STORYBOARD

Describe the scenario conditions, including the plot, in story form up to 1000 words:

A Saturday night in new-Chicago, Dan, a rising business owner, is preparing to go out with a mixed group of friends. His picks up his cell phone, puts on a privacy dongle and makes a call.

"Hi Sean, its Dan. I want to make sure you're on for ... you know ... tonight."

"Hi Dan. Yeah. We're still on. Tonight you're going to be volunteering at 4 hour humanity surveillance shift for the Lucky Swan Manufacturing Company. It's sure to be a nail-biting Saturday night."

"Great. Gotta make sure those factories are treating us humanely, while making the new iWhatever. How many credits does that get me?"

"It should raise your score about 10 points, but 3 shifts in a month on a weekend night, is usually grounds for a bonus. You never know until the end of the month. But you've shown a lot of concern for the humanitarian conditions of those workers in the past few months... so I wouldn't be surprised if you're one of the lucky bonus recipients soon."

"That's great news! I knew there was a reason we were working together. Come by tomorrow and we'll square up. Don't come by too early though, I've got a late night, you know with that 4 hour shift."

"Sure thing Dan."

The phone disconnects. Dan takes his wallet, opens it and removes his ID chip and all identifying credit chips. He switches his phone to forward. From a drawer he takes a different chip and phone. Checks his messages are being anonymously forwarded and slips it into his wallet, with an alt ID chip and plenty of anon credits in his pocket. He steps out the door of his condo-complex and joins his friends at a restaurant down the street. Later they have plans to see a traveling Cabaret from San Francisco with a very special mentalist.

* * *

Backstage, a phone buzzes in a dressing room. With touch of a button a 3D image is projection in the 5 inch space above the phone. It is the figure of a woman wearing a black gown. The image rotates and then closes-up on her face. Her hair is swept back in a classic French twist. Her eyes are green. Make-up is classic old Hollywood, dark eyeliner and red lips. Her face dissolves and an interior of the theatre appears. A blue dot appears near the front right side of the house. The number 2023_38 flashes with an animated symbol forming and then dissolving into fractal pieces. A voice montage clipped from old films intones: “Collect discordian 2023_38 for re-programming team awaiting deposit at rear theatre door.”

The mentalist pauses for a moment. He replays the image of the woman’s face and seat location, then walks towards the back of the theatre. Opening the door, he notices a black car with the same symbol on the dash. He flashes a hand-sign to show receipt of the message and planned compliance. The driver returns the hand-sign. The door shuts, just as the music of the orchestra begins its pre-show compositions.

* * *

Crib Notes for Discordian Tour

- 2023-38 is collected
- We learn why she is on the list (the lack of values is not what we might expect today – but I’m not sure what those are)
- Taken on a tour of short-coming (a la Christmas Carol)
- Further explorations into core values – and in this we understand more about this culture.
- Does she escape? Does she convert and become one of the? Does she get rehabbed? Does she stay the same?

Crib Notes for the Value Farmer

- Sean raises Dan’s Value Score enough so that Dan is able to successful woo his desired lady.
- Dan “pays” Sean with alternate currency off the books.
- Sean is able to exchange this currency into one where he can pay for his educational expenses.
- Somehow Dan’s impeccable increase in value score triggers a review. The AI review comes up clean, so they hire a detective to do a “lifestyle” audit. Is this guy as good as he says he is?

PRESENTATION IDEAS / FORMAT

Describe another form that the scenario could take other than a story. Candidates include any kind of product or artifact that would appear in that future and that somehow returns to the present, carrying an image of that future with it.

Website Application Process for The Office of Alternative Currencies. It would include the criteria, process, check status, list of pending & approved currencies as well as exchange rates for the various currencies. I would include all required questions to be answered a la a patent submission.

I would base it off this website: <http://www.heathervescent.com/ac2/>