

by Peter Sarrett



The Vex are biological androids running many parallel simulations at once. This lets them see how identical paths can produce divergent futures and identify the points that are immutable.

A path can be traced through each grid to spell a 9-letter word or phrase. As a solving aid, the words are presented in alphabetical order. Each path is shared by exactly two grids, spelling answers that share exactly one letter in identical positions (in both the word and the grid). Sorting answers by the shared positions and reading those letters produces the message LIKE A FOX (or _ LIKE A FOX, if you treat the lack of a shared letter in the first position as a blank) which clues the answer, **SLY**.

A	P L A	A L GORITHM P L ANETOID	B G P	S T T C C A	BIOWEAPON SCHEMATIC
E N F	S C N	MAINFRAME SCIENTIST	F S R	S R B E U W	FORKLI f TS SUBWOO f ER
T H S	E V D S I	BAC K LIGHT DIS K DRIVE	M A O U F N O A	P S P	AUTOMAT O N PROCESS O R
R Q N F E N M A G	S P A	MAGN E TRON SPAC E SHIP	P E L	R D O	MULTIPLE X DOTMATRI X