

Material vs. Information Security

It may surprise you to learn that you have been undergoing a psychiatric evaluation for the past 15 months. This evaluation suggests that you are capable of learning facts of a destabilizing nature, and are therefore qualified to join a secret government program. This qualification is not an obligation to join our project, and this document exists to provide the minimum-possible information for you to make a decision regarding your participation.

If you join the project, you will be confronted with irrefutable proof of the following:

1. Humanity's understanding of the physical universe is fundamentally wrong.
2. Humanity is not alone in the universe.

These truths became clear when we acquired two extraterrestrial organisms with capabilities that violate physics as we understand it. These organisms come from a civilization that originated and evolved in deep space, where tremendous distances separate resources. They did not start on a planet and move to space. They were born in the void, and their bodies evolved with a specialization for that environment. To oversimplify, these organisms' bodies are spacecraft generated by evolution rather than engineering, and piloted by their minds. We've come to refer to these organisms as "the pilots." They are alive, and they learned to communicate with us.

The pilots can move their bodies in ways that physics should not allow. When asked how they do these things, they respond that they haven't the slightest idea. Asking the pilots how they move through space is as useless as asking a human being how its brain works. A person uses his or her brain without understanding its underlying mechanisms. Likewise for the pilots and their bodies.

The extraterrestrial beings claim to be as interested in humanity's abilities as we are in theirs. Though they possess great intelligence, they cannot engineer machines. In the case of the pilots, evolution generated bodies that are hyper-specialized for traversing interstellar distances, but it never required that they modify their environment in a significant way. The nearest analogy we can offer is that of dolphins, who demonstrate an exceptional intelligence and aptitude for their aquatic environment, but never evolved an ability to engineer that environment.

This creates an opportunity for a mutually beneficial relationship, and the program for which you are a candidate maintains that relationship. The two extraterrestrial beings agreed to

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deploy their capabilities for national security purposes if we, in exchange, teach them how to engineer. If the program goes well, they've tentatively agreed to establish a small Earth colony where members of their civilization can deploy their talents in exchange for an education. They even agree to non-invasive medical studies in an effort to understand how their bodies do what they do. They appear to be just as interested in learning this as we are.

Your role in this project will be as a teacher, and you will be insulated from the national security activities that your pupils perform in exchange for their education. Please think very carefully about this before you agree. Participating in any secret project can alienate one from friends and family, but the secrecy associated with this project is of a totally new variety. We'd like for you to carefully consider the following before you reach any decision.

Secret government technology programs have existed in the past, but nearly all of these have been engineering projects. Maintaining security for those projects is a much harder problem than it is for this one. Any spy can prove the existence of a secret *engineering* program by offering designs and schematics of the device being engineered. We need not worry about such security leaks for this project. Nobody can offer the "design" of any organism as complicated as the pilots.

Any whistleblower associated with our program can only explain *what* they've seen the pilots do, without being able to offer any explanation for *how* the pilots do those things (please excuse the ambiguity, if you join the project you'll learn precisely what these "things" are that they do). In short, no claim for the existence of these pilots can be substantiated without material evidence. Whereas secret *engineering* programs must worry about both information and material security, we need only worry about the latter. For reasons that will become clear when you meet the pilots, material security is not hard for us to maintain.

Please consider your sanity before you join us. You will want to tell your friends and family that we are not alone in the universe, and you will want to tell them that our understanding of physics is wrong. If you do, your community will believe that you have lost your mind, and we (the government) will support that belief. You will feel a profound isolation from your loved ones and from humanity. You will not be allowed to tell anyone what you've learned, nobody will believe you if you do, and you will not be able to offer any proof that you are telling the truth.