

A.2 Gridlook



Puzzle by: Andrew Coker
Difficulty: Medium

cisra Puzzle Competition 2008
<http://puzzle.cisra.com.au>

The man on the bench beside you glances across. “You see it, don’t you?”

You shake your head, even more confused.

The man mutters something about having to explain everything. “Look.” He glances furtively around. “I can tell by the fact that you’re not a vegetable that you haven’t been affected.”

You start to ask, “Affected by what?” then pause. You hadn’t really noticed before, but everywhere around you, people are acting like... zombies. You stare, fascinated, as a woman slowly walks into a tree, before managing to shuffle around it.

He nods grimly. “We think it’s the bird flu, but it’s been... *modified*. It doesn’t make you sick. At least, not physically. It takes away your self-awareness; your ability to think for yourself. And it doesn’t affect everybody. We think about 3% of the population is immune.”

You ponder for a moment. “So who’s this *we*?”

“We’re gathering together the survivors. We want to find whoever’s doing this and fight back. Or find a cure. Actually, not everyone agrees on what we should be doing, but we all agree we need to do *something*.” He pauses. “We can’t afford to squander power like this.”

You start as his form begins shimmering and dissolving in front of your eyes – he was a hologram!

“You’re on your own. The newspaper will show you the way. Good luck.”

