

SECRET

Director Kenei Nakasha talks about the project's mysteries!

Let's introduce the two titles bundled with .hack//Beyond the World: the fighting game .hack//Versus and the OVA within it, Thanatos Report. In addition, we'll summarize the discussion corner of .hack//ch (broadcast until August 14th 2013 on Nico Nico) which was called .hack//histories.



Since we're explaining all the nitty gritty of the 3rd season, beware of **huge spoilers.**



Director -
CyberConnect2
Kenei Nakasha

Has worked on the .hack series since G.U., and was lead game designer on Link. In addition, he's the director of Versus*.

*This game was bundled with the Hybrid Pack.

What qualifies as the "third season"?

- .hack//Link
- .hack//Quantum
- .hack//Beyond the World
- .hack//Versus

Okay, let's begin with .hack//Beyond the World. It's a 3DCG theatrical version of .hack released in January 2013, and there was a serialized manga version by Yamigo called .hack (sora)//Beyond the World.

The protagonist's name is **Sora Yuuki**.

Sora is a junior high student living in Yanagawa, Fukuoka prefecture. **The World FORCE:ERA** is popular with her classmates, but she's late to start. This is because her grandpa is against it.

On one of their days off, Sora's childhood friend Tomohiko Okano and his friend Kakeru Tanaka run into Sora's grandfather, Takeo Yuuki, at an electronics store and have a chat.

To their surprise, Sora's grandfather who seemed to hate anything and everything digital, was a devout player of The World FORCE:ERA. Despite banning her from playing the game, he plays a young handsome man who even owns an airship. More on that later. Anyway, with his blessing, **Kakeru Tanaka** introduces Sora to The World FORCE:ERA.

Sora's older model Server Robot "Makoto" downloads a player character model of the legendary hero Kite, and logs in. She gawks in awe at the sight of Mac Anu, and soon after meets a mysterious girl. At that time, a virus bug appears! It attacks the mysterious girl, but she pays it no mind. After she approaches Kite (Sora), she bestows upon her a cube-shaped "Seed," and then disappears.



...That's the gist of it.

This scene **mirrors the one in the original .hack series (Infection through Quarantine)**, in which that version of **Kite receives a mysterious book from the girl.** They both get helplessly addicted to the game by a result of such a mysterious encounter (lol).

By the way, the technology of this world **already exists in ours in a preliminary form. Wireless charging and eBooks,** for example, are already in use. Stuff like the server robots add that layer of **"a near-future"** in a believable way,

don't you think?

Also, at a glance, this story follows the typical "preventing a Network Crisis with the ability of Aura that's implanted in a newbie" kind of outline. We get it, you've seen it before. You're not wrong to think that. **That's why we put the real important story elsewhere.**

Where, you ask?

That's right: .hack//Versus. I'll get there eventually, and I'll try to explain it in the most easy-to-understand way I can.

Okay, this Hybrid Pack's got three main keywords, which we'll break down the story with:

- **The World FORCE:ERA.**
- **Sophia**
- **NAB**

Keep these in mind.

First is The World FORCE:ERA, the most recent version of The World launched in 2024. It was designed to closer match the "Epitaph of Twilight," and is a huge success with over 20 million players. The guild and class systems are greatly enhanced, which is the main draw. The airships which appeared in .hack//Quantum become available to players with big guilds.



NAB

FULL NAME: Network Analysis Bureau. Based in Washington, D.C., the NAB is a subsidiary of the UN. It's responsible for investigating digital hazards and cyber-terrorism, and it monitors networks all around the world.

NAB 調査員たちの動き

2016年 2017年 2018年 2021年 2022年 2023年 2024年

Indou Masato	Registers for The World under the name 'Ovan'	Goes unconscious				
Saeki Reiko	Registers for The World under the name "Pi"		Leaves CC Corp and joins NAB's Japan branch		Registers for The World R:X with the PC known as Shamrock in order to search for Masato Indou	
David & Eleanor				Began monitoring the CC Corp employee Yodogawa Kiyoteru		
					First appearance in Japan	Return trip to Japan to capture Aura and return to Washington



Masato Indou

An investigator at NAB's Japan branch. After preventing the Third Network Crisis, he fell unconscious. His gigantic left arm was made by himself by the Morganna Factor and his own hacking abilities developed at NAB.



Reiko Saeki

An investigator at NAB's Japan branch. Previously CC Corp employee. In 2022 she hypothesized that the consciousness of Masato Indou became a wandering AI, and began using The World R:X with the same type of PC as his sister, Aina.



David & Eleanor

Investigators at NAB's main headquarters in Washington. David does the field work while Eleanor supports him from home. A special dialogue between them can be unlocked after clearing .hack//Link's main story, in the "Twilight, Four Years From Now" section.

Okay, a lot of stuff goes on **behind the scenes**, so I'm gonna skip ahead a bit. (we'll get back to it later)
Next is "**Sophia**." This is an **anti-virus software produced by ALGOS, a major consumer electronics company acquired by ALTIMIT**. In .hack//Quantum, it appears as a guard in the Digital Bastille. In FORCE:ERA, it's used as virus removal software. The software itself was made from **core data from Aura recovered from the Akashic Record**,



and as a result are able to use the skill known as **Data Drain**. The other purpose of their development was initiated by **mama** in order to create a copy of Aura. But, no matter how much they research it, Sophia has never been able to reach the abilities of Aura. To be more specific, they weren't able to recreate Aura's ability to learn from interacting with and observing humans. So they repurposed the research into anti-virus software. **This research began around .hack//Link's events**. Finally, let's take a look at the **NAB**. This is an abbreviation of "Network Analysis Bureau,"

an entity based in Washington, D.C. It's a subsidiary of the UN, and is responsible for preventing digital hazards and cyber-terrorism, and monitoring networks across the world. .hack//G.U.'s **Ovan** and Reiko Saeki, who used the PC **Pi in G.U.** and **Shamrock** in .hack//Quantum is a member, alongside the two new characters **David and Eleanor** from .hack//Beyond the World.
Back up, back up! We're reaching heavy spoilers!
On **David and Eleanor**, well, we'll look at them again when we discuss **Thanatos Report**, but... **it looks like Eleanor is [REDACTED]**

MAMA

mama is...

an environmental conservation organization founded by the disciples of Dominique de Mirabeau's seminal texts. It is an organization comprised solely of women, who follow the slogan "to save Mother Earth with mother's love." They have been operating from behind the scenes in order to prevent the "Domestic Destruction" as foreseen by Dominique by developing a plan to digitalize all of humanity. While they are officially defined as an environmental organization, they have long been secretly monitored by the United States' FBI as domestic terrorists because of their extremism. The defining characteristic of their operation is their attempt to reform environmental policies from within by inserting their own members into governments, militaries, and businesses all around the world. As a result, the activities and movements of this organization are unable to be discerned from the outside, as they operate so stealthily.



DOMINIQUE DE MIRABEAU

Published "On the Comprehensive Effect of Mankind on the Environment of the Earth," which functions as the bible of all Mama members.

Summary of her work

If the current trends of human industry and global birth rate persist, then the volume of carbon dioxide emissions will also increase dramatically.

Within 1000 years, the oxygen concentration in the atmosphere will drop from 21% to 14%. Any oxygen levels below 16% are dangerous to the human lung, and regular breathing will be impossible.

If the evolution of human beings cannot adjust for this fact, then all human beings will die.

In order to avoid this outcome, all human activity must cease.

Timeline

	Public Information	Mama's History
1912		Dominique de Mirabeau is born in Strasbourg, France. She is raised in the household of her anthropologist aunt.
1939	Second World War	
1941		Dominique participates in socialist demonstrations.
1945	Second World War ends	Dominique gains fame for founding the pacifist "Anti-Battle Movement." She becomes a professor at the University of Paris.
1976		Dominique retires from her position at the University of Paris.
1986		Dominique's "On the Comprehensive Effect of Mankind on the Environment of the Earth" is published. She comes to the conclusion that a "pause" in human activity is required to prevent the decrease of oxygen concentration in the atmosphere.
1989		The environmental conservation organization, 'Mama,' is launched. They begin research into realistic methods to "pause" human activity.
1990	ALTIMIT is established	Mama executive Erna Uhlenhuth proposes the Human Digitalization Plan. To achieve that goal, she decides the existence of a "goddess" to guide humanity is an indispensable facet of the plan. Mama executive Sibyl Green establishes ALTIMIT to fund research into an electronic human brain.
1996		Mama executive Erna makes contact with Harald Hoerwick under the name "Emma." He is designated to design the goddess.

By the way, NAB is at a **very early stage of uncovering Mama's master plan** ever since Masato Indou (The player of Ovan) fell unconscious during the events of .hack//G.U. It seems that while she was still at CC Corp, Reiko Saeki was able to conduct investigations as a secret agent. Regardless of the outcome of the 3rd Network Crisis, she was always monitoring the movements of CC Corp. Okay, let's move onto **.hack//Versus**. This game was bundled in the Hybrid Pack, released in June of 2012. I'll try to explain it as easily as possible. **The protagonist** is invited to a closed beta test in 2025 to the **online fighting**

"VERSUS: The World" as a test player. Among those who registered for VERSUS: The World as test players, the mysterious boy who goes by **9** challenges the player, and server trouble starts to occur. Slowly but surely, the player is drawn into the background mystery. The main characteristic of this work is that the **protagonist is you, the player.** Until now it's always been that you're along for someone else's journey, like Kite or Haseo, but this time I wanted to give the players a feeling of immersion in the story. To this end I tried to make it as much like **an online fighting game,**

but not really at the same time. It was kinda difficult (lol). The scenario was really hard to write... Like, for example, I wanted to make it so that you could **turn down 9's request** to make it feel like you had agency in the story, but I figured if you declined the request the story would **have no choice but to end**, so I decided it was best to **write it linearly.** Also, a tournament-style fighting-adventure game is a **genre that's never done before, right?** What kind of game would be best for people to connect with their favourite .hack characters? We asked a lot of questions like this during development. **The theme of this third season of .hack is "confrontation,"** after all. So we figured this kind of genre would be best.

	Public Information	Mama's History		Public Information	Mama's History
2002	Harald Hoerwick publishes his thesis, "The Future of Man-kind, Distributive Processing, and AI." * The World Network Council (WNC) is established, with the President of the United States as the leader.		2009	Aura, the Ultimate AI is born inside The World. Her awakening is stalled by the corrupted mother program Morganna Mode Gone.	
2004	The WNC's spring meeting is held. The "21st Century Hypernetwork Proposal" is submitted but ultimately rejected by the US and China.	Mama executive Erna approaches Harald Hoerwick under the name "Emma" with the idea for a "goddess."	2010	Pluto Again causes the Second Network Crisis. Aura continues to develop as the Ultimate AI.	Tabitha Knox censors Second Network Crisis press coverage. The players who became involved in the process of Aura's birth had lead her to develop a kind and caring personality. In Mama's own plan, Aura was supposed to deem humanity as irredeemable as per the thesis of Dominique. Upon doing so, she was supposed to manage their consciousnesses until she saw fit to release them again. Instead, Aura respected humanity's wishes and chose to take the role of an observer.
2005	Pluto's Kiss causes the First Network Crisis.		2014	Aura disappears into the network.	As a result of Aura's disappearance, Mama drafts two plans: 1. to salvage Morgana's Wave data and repurpose it to create a new, manipulable Aura. This would be made possible by the Epitaph PCs. 2. Change the specifications of The World so that negative emotional data is amplified and convinces Aura to capture them.
2006	The US takes responsibility for Pluto's Kiss, leading to the resignation of President Stonecold. Alex Coleman becomes the new president of the US. A group of ALTIMIT programmers form their own company, the CyberConnect Corporation. Harald begins development of 'fragment.'	Mama executive Tabitha Knox, operating as president Alex Coleman's secretary, re-proposes the plan for the 21st Century Hypernetwork. ALTIMIT OS goes into circulation. It is the only OS unaffected by Pluto's Kiss, and with the WNC's regulation enforcing its use, ALTIMIT quickly grows into one of the world's largest corporations. In his research, Harald develops a theory from which a 'goddess' can be born. By introducing her into the digital space of an online game, the emotional data of humans can be collected en masse. In order to accomplish this, the online game must become successful with a large number of users. To this end, mama establishes the CyberConnect Corporation with Mama executive Veronica Bain as its CEO to develop and distribute the online game, 'The World.'	2015	RA Plan development is commenced under Project G.U. During development, Jyotaro Amagi sets fire to CyberConnect Corporation Japan, and subsequently digitalizes himself and goes missing. The World's first ever service outage.	Plan 1: The RA Plan begins development under Jyotaro Amagi and Jun Bansyoya. They begin salvaging the data of Morganna Mode Gone. Privately, Amagi begins planning Immortal Dusk. Mama sees this as an opportunity to test their Human Digitalization Plan on a smaller scale, and aids its development. However, Jun Bansyoya caught wind of this development and began to investigate Mama himself. Upon discovering their intentions with Amagi, he intentionally sabotages Amagi's work by stealing the Tarvos Epitaph Data. In his rage, Amagi, sets fire to the CC Corp building. Plan 2: The World R:2 is created with an emphasis on player killing and Arena matches to encourage conflict and animosity between players.
2007	Harald is real digitalized and goes missing. "fragment" is redeveloped under the network infrastructure of the 21st Century Hypernetwork and repurposed into The World. "Mother Mary's Kiss" is marked by the launch of the first network game available since Pluto's Kiss and the new OS.				

This subject was discussed a lot by our staff in their own outlets, like in the **.hack//Memories** book or individual staff blogs written after the release of Versus. Okay, last up is Thanatos Report. This is an OVA you unlock after clearing the main story of .hack//Versus that takes place after the events of the movie. It's a story about what happens to David after he returns to Washington—that is, **an attack**. David **discovers the main headquarters of mama**, and plans a surprise attack. It's a success—their leader **Dominique de Mirabeau dies**, but after that, **a ton of unexpected stuff happens to him!** Exciting, right?

This is by far the most important entry in the third season, as it's the ending. It depicts the power shifts amongst Mama's own members, and reveals David's own future. **The story ends on a huge cliffhanger**. Well then... **It's what you've all been waiting for**. The real big spoilers. Previously it was discussed on .hack//ch that the story of the 3rd season is a reflection of the power struggle between mama's two major factions, both with the same goal: **Human Digitalization Project**. One side **aims to use Aura's**

power to achieve this goal, and the other is **searching for other means**. Let's take a look at how this affects everything from .hack//Link to Versus. .hack//Link's events were orchestrated by the side who aim to use Aura's power. Using the Akashic Record, they tried to lock Aura and use its power. Genius (Durga Fida Sharma), who made his first appearance in Link was the one who came up with this plan. **He belongs to the faction that aims to use Aura's power during this time**, but after their failure, their power weakens. **In contrast, the side who aims to use others means are the ones who orchestrate the events of .hack//Quantum**.

	Public Information	Mama's History		Public Information	Mama's History
2015			2020	The World R:X begins service. Immortal Dusk begins. Once again, unpredictable elements emerge; AIKA, the descendant of AIDA, emerges. Aura loses her memory and power, and once again disappears into the network. CC Corporation begins development of Sophia and the Digital Bastille.	Mama executive Tabitha bans press coverage of Immortal Dusk. Mama begins to lose hope in the Ultimate AI. They begin development of a new form of the Ultimate AI by repurposing the RA Plan: Sophia, mass-produced copies of Aura. Development of the Digital Bastille also begins as a method of capturing human consciousness. These two projects shape the future of their Human Digitalization Project.
2016	The World R:2 service begins. Network distortions birth AIDA. Jun Bansyoya takes responsibility for the CC Corp fire, and is later presumed dead. The AI copy of Jyotaro Amagi, Geist, awakens. Durga Fida Sharma begins to make a name for himself at CC Corp America.	Geist begins to work on Immortal Dusk independently after the disappearance of Jyotaro Amagi.	2021	CC Corporation CEO Durga Fida Sharma is fired.	It became clear early in development that it would be impossible to copy the Ultimate AI. Sophia is rebranded into The Sophia Security System, a powerful anti-virus. Meanwhile, Durga Fida Sharma considers the Second RA Plan blasphemy of Aura, and accuses Veronica Bain of straying from the ideals defined by Mama, and calls for her excommunication.
2017	Third Network Crisis is triggered by The Rebirth.	Mama executive and CC CEO Veronica Bain repurposes the Epitaph PCs to exterminate AIDA. The Epitaph Users' actions call forth the anti-existence Cubia, which successfully brings Aura out from hiding to aid their battle. Once again, Mama's Tabitha Knox places a press coverage ban on the Third Network Crisis.	2022	Development of the Digital Bastille is suspended by NAB investigator Reiko Saeki, et al.	
2018	Durga Fida Sharma becomes the second president of the CyberConnect Corporation. Development on the Akashic Record project begins.	Veronica Bain discovers the game Akashic Line leftover by Jyotaro Amagi, and realizes its purpose as a Real Digitalize amplifier. Akashic Line is repurposed into the basis for The World R:X, as it is intended to be used as a 'cage' for Aura in conjunction with the Akashic Record.	2024	The World FORCE:ERA service begins. The Sophia Security System is put in circulation. Aura returns to The World, but devoid of her memory or power. She stays dormant in her greenhouse. Upon receiving the 'Seed' from Sora Yuuki, Aura revives.	
2019	Aura returns. Aura is sealed in the Akashic Record by Schicksal.	Upon capturing Aura, Mama provides analytical data from the past 10 years to Schicksal. The capture of the Ultimate AI was handled by Schicksal alone.	2025		Aura is captured by FBI agent David Steinberg in a special chip. Mama make several attempts to regain the chip from David, but fail every time. In his own counterattack, Eleanor and David track down their main headquarters. While trying to persuade David otherwise, Dominique de Mirabeau dies of a heart attack. As a result, all of the old Mama executives are dead. Mama executive Eleanor is designated as her successor. Eleanor performs a human experiment in VERSUS: THE WORLD. Eleanor chases David to regain Aura, but both die in the process. David falls into the Yosemite Valley, with Aura floating through the stream...

mama: Anti-Aura Faction
- leader: **Veronica Bain**
CC Corp Japan: Genius is CEO
- He attacks the anti-Aura faction.

I tried to summarize it as best I could... Anyway, the first appearance of Veronica Bain is in the web novel .hack//bullet. In that novel, she offers a deal to Kiyoteru Yodogawa. To put it plainly, **if he can bring her Genius, he'll get a promotion.** You see, in .hack//Link's ending, Genius **breaks off from both pro and anti Aura factions of Mama, and decides to protect Aura** alone as a result of his, well, **religious experience with Aura.** Yodogawa figures that since Genius used company money to

pay for the events of Link without permission, Yodogawa can sue him on behalf of the company. Pretty crafty, don't you think? So as a result, Genius is laying low. **This is because he's trying to hide information on Aura that only he knows.** To that end, he's trying to convey everything he knows to Ryuuji Sogabe, the only person whose ability he trusts. Yodogawa guesses this and goes to Sogabe to **intercept the information before he learns the truth.** Once again, good work on the craftiness Yodogawa, you slimy bastard! Also, one part of .hack//bullet's story

the friendship forged between **David and Sogabe.** In the manga version of Beyond the World, the one David is calling for help is **actually Sogabe.** As I've mentioned before, **Sogabe and 9 are also allied in this era,** and 9 is conducting investigations as instructed by Sogabe. **That's why 9 was present during the manga version of Beyond the World and made a hole in the back of the goddess statue in the climax of the film.**



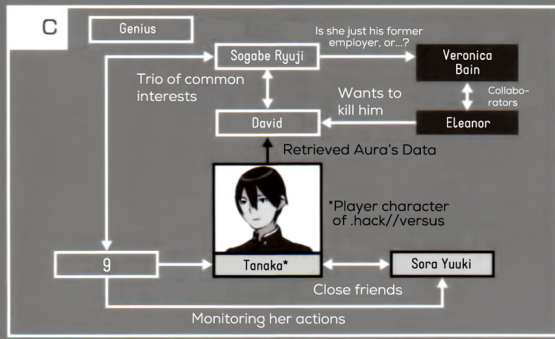
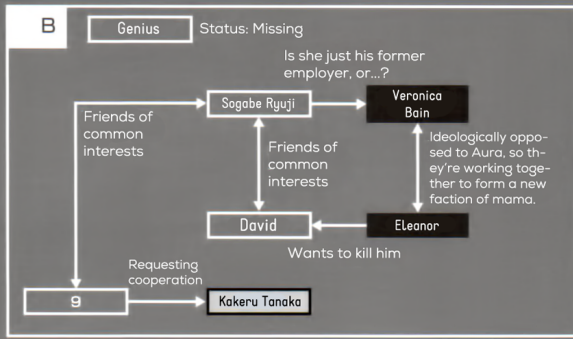
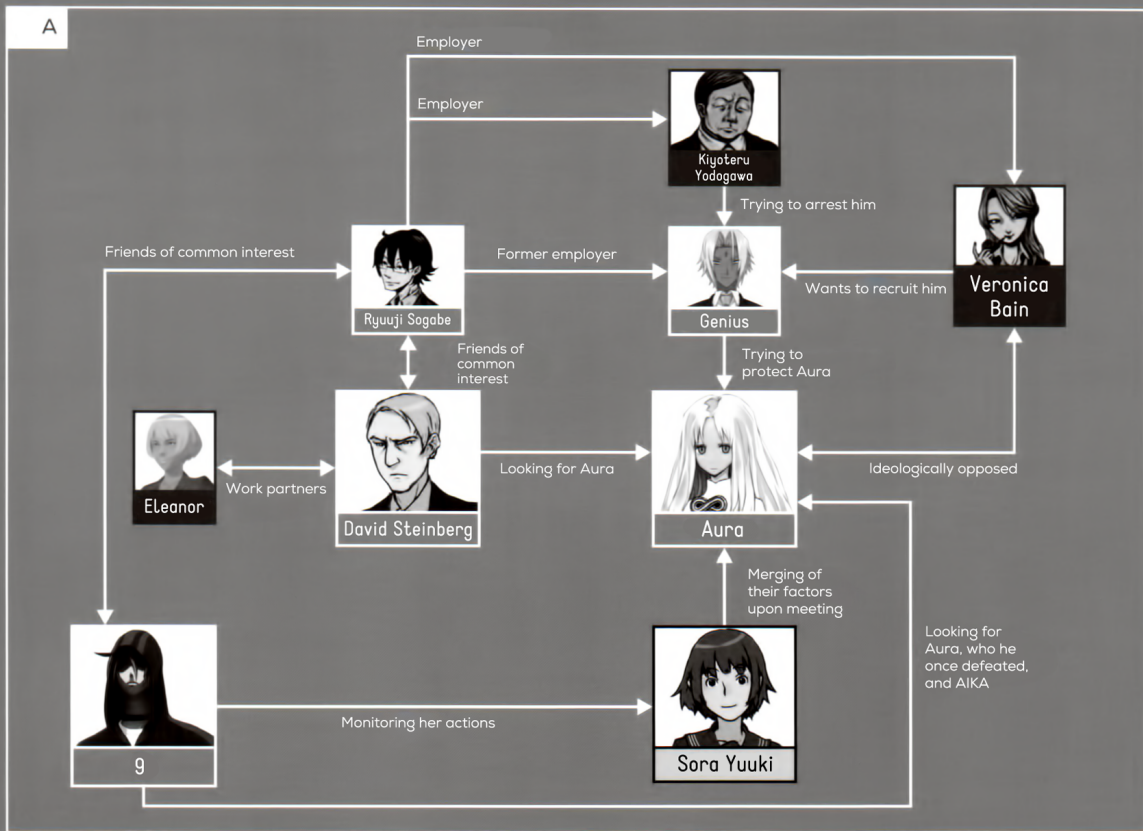


Figure A is what it looks like from Versus through Thanatos Report. After that, it changes slightly, like option B. Okay, I've got one more spoiler. There's one more character chart I've got to introduce. That's Figure C. This is still ongoing, so I've got to be careful. It's about the behind-the-scenes plot of .hack//bullet. In this story, Ryouji Sagabe appears as a "Network Trouble Consultant." At the time of this story **he's just your average citizen.** How could it be that he acts as a guide for 9 or David's investigations during Beyond the World and Versus? At the time of this writing (August 2014), .hack//bullet is

still being serialized, so it's difficult to talk about spoilers without giving too much away. All I can say is that the main two keywords here are **"Veronica Bain" and "Kaya Froebe."** **The meaning of these two keywords' relationship to Ryouji Sagabe will gradually be understood in future chapters, so please look forward to it.** So, what do you think? All this is stuff we've talked about on .hack//ch and a bit more. Now that you know all this info neatly and clearly, it should be easier for you to go

back to each of the entries in .hack's third season and understand what happened in them better. **Both the smartphone game Guilty Dragon and the web novel .hack//bullet were written with this information in mind,** and .hack//bullet in particular is a work that is **heavily reliant on the information discussed here.** This story is pretty complex and intricately designed, so look forward to the climax! The strong voices of fans has always been the **greatest power** of the .hack franchise. If you continue to be strong, there may be further developments to reward you. **Never stop cheering .hack on. Thank you for your support.**

.hack//Beyond the World

Introducing a variety of project trivia!

TRIVIA



Deliciously useless knowledge!

Feast your eyes on this vast assortment of .hack//Beyond the World trivia! Valuable(?) information that will be published publicly for the first time in this here book!

サイバーコネクト
ディレクター
中宮 俊成
Kunihiko Nakayama

1 What's that girl's name?

The World's got a lot of mascots, but strangely enough none of them have any names. There are a few that are preset, though. Baldur's mascot character is called Sky, and Masaru Seven's is called Corone. Both only appear for a moment, but we're deeply committed to these names. Don't underestimate them.



Sky



Corone

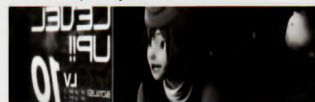
2 Is motion capture hard?

You know the scene where Gondo throws a dragon by its tail? Yeah, we actually made a cardboard dragon tail for that one. Other scenes like Sora and Tomohiko on their way to school weren't shot with an actual bicycle, but rather the kind you see in gyms. We used a lot of shortcuts like this.



3 Level up?

In the scene where Sora's doing some grinding, she levels up, and the window that pops up says she's reached level 10. In our own super secret setting data, by the end of the movie she's at level 15. 15 levels in such a short time—we wanted to make sure to show that by the end of the movie Sora is helplessly addicted to The World.



4 What's that poster on sora's wall?

Of course, there is a deep meaning to the poster on her wall. The title is "ZABAVNY O LISKA A LASICKA." It's a story about a fish named Stanislav who helps his friend Asimov, a fish that got caught by a fisherman.



5 Any important characters lurking in the attendance sheet?

We researched what last names were most common in Yanagawa and put them in there. You can really feel the attention to detail, huh?



6 Will Tomohiko be sad forever?

Actually, in the pilot film, there was an even heavier focus on the love story, and Tomohiko was originally named Yasuhiko! The protagonist was supposed to be in love with him, but as the scenario changed we kinda flipped that around. Don't give up, Tomohiko!



7 Is Makoto holding a deeper secret than he lets on? who made him?

Makoto is Sora's devout partner in the film itself and has a big role! But what's the big spoiler? Well, actually, when screenplay-writer Kazunori Ito e-mailed the plan to the director, Matsuyama, Makoto was named Mendako. Matsuyama decided otherwise. By the way, "Makoto" comes from the name of the dog Sora used to have as a kid.



8 Why are Sora and her friends so fashionable?

Did you notice how her and her friends are always unbuttoning the top part of their uniform coats? This is just one point through which they can express their own sense of fashion.



9 Where the hell are the power outlets?

Technology has advanced so far by the year 2024, wireless power has become the norm, and as a result outlets are disappearing. Even Sora's hair dryer is wireless. The only place an outlet appears in the film is next to Tanaka's hospital bed, and even that is for emergencies only.



10 Who's that character?

In the introductory Mac Anu scene, many familiar .hack characters like Kuhn or Endrance appear in the background. This only happens in that scene, though. It's just for fun.



11 Where did all those friends come from?

In the last scene of the movie a ton of characters show up to support Sora, but these aren't all her friends—a lot of them are her grandpa's guild members who also run the airship. Why are they there and not doing their job?!



12 That items in the movie too?

Yeah, it is. We put a lot of familiar items in her inventory window like "Health Drink" or the classic "Spiral Edge." Take a closer look, you might find something new!

