

Club Apurvata



Located in the entertainment areas near Helix, Club Apurvata is one of the premier places in the solar system for singularity seekers and other people on the lookout for the very bleeding edge. This is equally a social meeting place, discussion forum and place to show off outlandish ideas. People who are uneasy about radical transformation better stay away: here one can find TITAN apologists, Ultimates, extreme cognohackers, people showing off Skinthetic alpha-release morphs, people discussing Seed AGI implementation, methods for disassembling planets or how to hack spacetime. The vast majority is of course hot air or just done for effect, but there are enough real movers around that a person with high rep may find themselves dragged into a scheme to harvest TITAN software, hyperevolve neural networks, a gatecrashing expedition or a serious attempt to catch and tame a nanoswarm.

The owner, Shantanu Purushottam ("Mr Pu"), is a key figure in Extropian technology investment and networking. While he never seems to be directly involved in any of the deals that occur in the privacy rooms in the club, he garners hefty indirect profits. In many ways he is running a VC firm for singularity-oriented VC firms: if you want to get in on the big game, you need Mr Pu's help to get access, rep and capital - and he always gets his cut once you make it. Exactly how rich Mr Pu is anybody's guess, but he can certainly afford some of the most outrageous morphs Skinthetic can clone and best security in the habitat. Some think he actually owns much of Skinthetic and/or Medusan Shield, others think he is one of the main people in Nine Lives. Mr Pu usually laughs off such speculations by claiming to be the Comte St. Germain or a time traveller.

Club Apurvata is a fun place even if you think most of the ambitions of the people there are misguided: this is where the most radical of the radical want to be seen. It draws celebrities, crackpots, inventors and people with truly interesting stories - the one thing that will get you thrown out by the security is being boring.

Adventure Possibilities

Firewall is seriously worried about Mr Pu. If he is merely bringing "interesting people and ideas" together, then he is still indirectly responsible for a noticeable fraction of activities that lead to Firewall interventions. But he could have a more coherent agenda, such as getting certain technologies developed, gaining influence over a new singularity. The most paranoid possibilities include that he is (or is a puppet of) a rouge seed AGI. The best way of finding out

would be to get close to him, and in order to that some sentinels need to go undercover as singularity seeker VCs. Can they play their roles, getting involved in the most radical (and unsafe) technology around, to figure out who or what Mr Pu is?

Certain groups would like to destroy the club with extreme prejudice - luddites, the Jovian Junta and certain fractions of the Planetary Consortium. The PCs accidentally come across a very sophisticated plan to destroy it and make it look like a TITAN outbreak. Perfect anti-singularity, anti-extropian propaganda, but also endangering the entire habitat. Can they stop it in time - or can the terrorists convince them that it is for the best?

A radical acquaintance of the PCs has come up with a wild idea for how to find further Pandora gates using asyns connected to quantum antennas - it is crazy enough to (maybe) work, but she needs help in implementing the plan. She wants the PCs to accompany her to the Club and find a VC willing to invest in her project. Her main problem turns out to be a former employee who might be the original inventor of the idea and now want control over it. He might be right or not, but he is a very resentful async who has a good reason to get rid of the only other person who knows all the details before she reveals them to others.

Michelle Hugues (Réunion Holding SA) and Tamati Timoti (Pentane Investments) are two successful singularity VCs, famously competitive. Mrs Hugues had her breakthrough when a group of her scavengers managed to bring back a compression algorithm from Iapetus, and solidified when one of her gatecrasher teams discovered a habitable world. Matua Timoti funded the Allgood mission into the quarantine zone on Mars, and have made a fortune on morph patents developed by the controversial Broadwood SimBio method. Both are constantly trying to scoop the other, put moles on each other's teams or even sabotage missions. All this is an elaborate love game: both are best enemies and care deeply - if somewhat oddly - for each other. Anybody getting dragged into their intrigues will become a pawn in a dangerous, exciting and very abstract passionate quarrel.