

Code Word 2014 – Austin, TX

Introduction

Welcome to the 2014 Code Word challenge! This year you and your team are attempting to join a secret puzzling organization. The organization, whose goals and members remain obscure until you pass their initiation test, accepts new members only on the condition that they can correctly answer the group's key question: What puzzles you? Today, your goal is to be the first team to answer this question with the correct code word and win the day.

The structure of this year's Code Word challenge is simple: nine puzzles are solved for answers in the form of a word or phrase. These answers feed into a tenth and final endgame puzzle which reveals the final code word and answers the question: What puzzles you?

Code Word is an open resource competition, meaning you can use anything at your disposal except the members of another team. Scissors and tape may be necessary for some of the puzzles, and can be borrowed from game control. A code sheet has been provided for your convenience, though bear in mind that any and all of the given information may or may not be used in the challenge. Puzzles this year will be released in three phases. In addition to the puzzles you have already been given, the next sets will be available at 11:30 am, and 1:00 pm respectively. If at any point you believe you have solved all of the puzzles available to you, let game control know and your team will be provided with the next set of puzzles.

Relative difficulty ratings are given in the upper right hand corner of each puzzle across from the title following the scheme below:

	Easy
	Medium
	Hard
	Very Hard

You may request hints for a puzzle at any point during the challenge. Hints incur time penalties and are given per puzzle at a diminishing rate of 15, 10, and 5 minutes for the first, second, and third hints respectively. A representative from game control will be available for the duration of the challenge to answer any questions. If your question warrants a hint penalty you will be warned before being provided with an answer.

The team with the fastest time in determining the code word (including penalties for hints) will be provided with this year's prize and everlasting glory.

The current time is _____.

Best of luck, and let the games begin!