“With this adjustment, I think that's about all I can do without testing it.” Ariel said to herself, looking away from the computer screen to a long chair with a helmet attached to the top of it. She had been working on this device for nearly three months now, and she could barely contain her excitement.

She could be considered somewhat of a mad scientist. She certainly fit the bill on a visual level; working with various delicate electronics lead to her building and discharging static so frequently, her light blonde hair would end up standing in all directions by the end of a work session no matter how nice her hair looked before hand.

The white labcoat, and goggles also could not be avoided in this environment, for sterility and protective purposes respectively. The occasional fit of maniacal laughter was entirely on her though.

She had a gift for neuroscience. The device hooked up to the chair was something she designed based loosely on an earlier invention of hers that was capable of manipulating a subject's behavior. She did have to go through more than a few subjects before getting the behavioral modification code just right but it was worth it.

What she had here was something she intended to use on her own mind. This would make her work so much easier. One problem she consistently found with her work was that you could only really think through a problem one way at a time. While her incredible intellect was a marvel that exceeded nearly anyone she knew, she logically had to admit that the power of crowdsourcing was greater still.

That was her goal now; to combine her incredible mind with the power of crowdsourcing. She could connect herself to any number of intellects to think through her problems, and give her solutions she might not have even considered.

Yet, some part of her suspected, perhaps even feared that her pride might get in the way. The worst possible outcome would be that she might reject the correct solution to a problem simply because it was not something that she would have considered doing herself. The experiment would be pointless if she ended up not making use of the problem solving capabilities of the device.

That is why she designed it based on the behavioral modification device. It would not only give her access to crowdsourced solutions, but it would compel her to accept and carry out those solutions to the best of her ability.

Admittedly, this sort of thing would warrant testing on somebody more expendable. If she did that, however, it could take another month or more to gather the resources to build a new crowdsourcing platform and populate it with qualified users.

She heard a loud knock at the door, loud enough that she could hear it from her lab. She wasn't expecting anyone today. It could be anyone; an angry previous test subject? A girlscout selling cookies? The Government coming to shut her lab down? Whoever it was, this could make for a good first test. Given everything she knows, and the vast information available to the internet, the chip should be able to figure out a solution with ease.

She sat down in the chair, feeling a slight pain at the back of her neck as the machinery in the helmet rapidly installed a chip and wireless receiver into her. As soon as the chip came online, her subconscious sent out the first problem to be solved:

“Who is at the door, and what should I do about it?”