

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS regarding Utopia Next

Please note, this document is updated as often as new information warrants, so you may want to check it every now and again!

Q1. What kind of webcomic is Utopia Next?

Answer: It's science fiction/fantasy but with a "science fact" twist. I do my best to keep aware of emerging technologies in the real world and estimate how they might be impacting human society one hundred years from now.

Q2. Why are you interested in adding "science fact" into the webcomic?

Answer: I want people to try to think about how life is going to be in the future instead of just waiting for the next big invention to show up in the news. I feel that if they are thinking about it, they'll be more interested in science and engineering, and do more to help these things actually happen.

Q3. So, is this supposed to be some kind of educational comic?

Answer: Yes and no. I'm not trying to "stick to the facts", I just want to ignite people's imagination. Utopia Next is first and foremost supposed to be an interesting and engaging story; I'm not here to recite a textbook. It's just that in light of being engaging, it also has more information than usual to share, and a lot of it is based on real technology. Of course, a lot of that is pretty interesting!

Q4. A lot of webcomics are run as separate episodes that don't connect to each other. Is Utopia Next like that?

Answer: No. Utopia Next has a single, continuous storyline. You might notice that some panels have a "temporal synchronization" at their start that notes the date - this is to help the reader keep track of "when they are at". This is so that even if some plotlines start at earlier dates than the main story, the reader will be able to keep track of what is going on - and yes, it will always make sense for that point in time. If something has already happened, that plotline will reflect it if it is relevant at all.

Q5. What are your goals with Utopia Next?

Answer: To help promote acceptance of science and technology, to give people a reason to be less afraid of the future, to encourage discussion on what we want from that future, and to (hopefully) make a living doing all of that. I really am prepared to do this for decades, income permitting for me to do so.

Q5. What do you feel are your strengths and weaknesses as a webcomic author?

Answer: I'm a writer first and foremost, and I love creating characters that have a complex story to them. I'm hoping my readers care about my characters as much as I do. On the other hand, I've only been what anyone would call an artist for a few years. I've done my best to improve my art skills and I believe I'm going to be a lot better than I am now as I go forward. Practice makes perfect, and I aim to get a lot of practice! I'm also hoping that my readers will give me constructive input on how I can continue to grow as a webcomic creator.