The Ænigmatic Addenda:

Guest Constructors revisit the Adalogical Ænigmas

No. 31: Mr Ashish Kumar revisits Ænigma #40

Gentle solver,

Our thirty-first *Ænigmatic Addendum* is fruit of the fertile brain of Mr Ashish Kumar, who began puzzling in 2013 and has since contributed puzzles to such respected venues as the World Puzzle Championships, the World Sudoku Championships, and gmpuzzles.com. You can find more of his work, and support its continuation, at his Patreon page, patreon.com/Enthrallingsudoku.

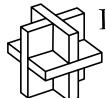
Unlike my original ænigma, Mr Kumar's is inspired by the circumstances under which we all have recently been living: separated from one another yet still seeking connection.

In the grid below, please blacken some squares so as to divide all of the remaining space into rectangular white rooms, each representing one person or family's isolated living space. Any given room may contain at most one number, and each room that does so must have an area of precisely that many squares. You mayn't entirely blacken any two-by-two region, nor may you blacken any numbered square.

We cannot survive in total isolation, so all of the rooms must form a single network, connected corner to corner to corner.

Once you have completed your layout, you may move on to finding the final answer to this ænigma. In each unblackened square that is not adjacent to a number, advance its letter in the alphabet (wrapping around from Z to A if necessary) by the area of its room. Reading the resulting letters left to right, top to bottom will reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

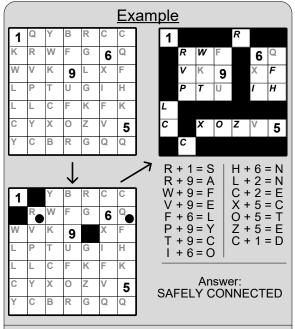


Pavel's Puzzles

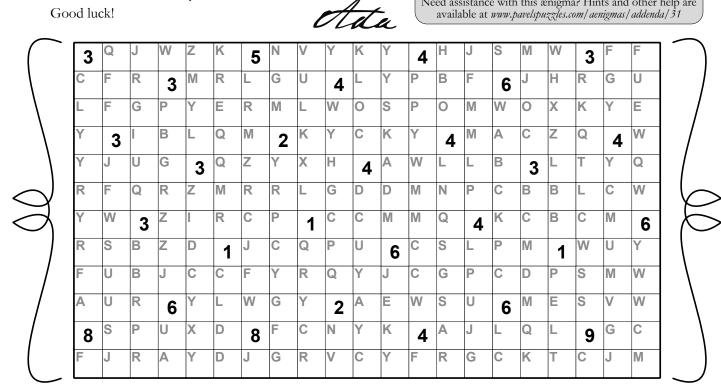
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Need assistance with this ænigma? Hints and other help are available at www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/addenda/31



Send your answer to aenigma@pavelspuzzles.com by 11/14/2021 for a chance to win a free physical puzzle from Pavel's Puzzles! Full details are at www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/addenda/31.