

90S THROWBACK



BYTEBOOM: Where Y2K Meets MURDER

As the clock ticks toward a new millennium, you are cordially invited to the most anticipated tech event of 1999...

December 31, 1999 | 8:00 PM | Romano Mansion

Step into tech mogul Chip Romano's luxurious mansion for the launch party of **ByteBoom**—the revolutionary web browser poised to transform the internet as we know it. Among the neon lights, dial-up sounds, and the anxious whispers of Y2K, Silicon Valley's elite gather to witness history.

But beneath the surface of champagne toasts and IPO dreams lies a tangled web of ambition and deceit.

As snowflakes blanket the outside world and security protocols lock down the mansion, someone harbors deadly intentions. The digital code isn't the only thing that's been corrupted tonight.

When the clock strikes midnight, will you be celebrating a new millennium... or solving a murder?

The password to the server room is only the first secret you'll need to uncover.

Host Quick Start Guide

Character Assignment

Before the Party:

- **Read character descriptions** and match them to your guests based on personality fit
- **Determine attendance** at least two weeks before your event to ensure accurate character assignments
- **Send character sheets** after guests RSVP
- The **killer won't know** they're the murderer until opening their second envelope at the party
- The **victim won't know** their fate until arriving at the party

Special Roles:

- After "dying," the victim becomes the **Detective** for the second half

Preparation Steps

1. For Each Guest, Prepare:

- Invitation and character description
- Name tag (print on label paper or regular paper with pins)
- Two envelopes labeled with character name: one marked "**Pre**" and one marked "**Post**"

2. Envelope Contents:

- **Pre Envelopes:** Name tag, pin, character's objectives for the first half
- **Post Envelopes:** Objectives for after the murder occurs

3. Additional Materials:

- Create a separate "Investigation" envelope containing instructions
- Prepare an "Evidence" envelope with all case information
- Cut the clue cards as directed in your materials

Party Timeline

An average party takes 2-4 hours

Stage One: Arrival

- Greet guests and provide their name tags and "Pre" envelopes

Stage Two: Introduction

- Read the Introduction aloud
- Allow 30-60 minutes for mingling and objective completion
- *Consider serving dinner during this phase*

Stage Three: Murder and Investigation

- When the victim signals they've completed objectives, turn off the lights
- When lights return, the victim will be "dead"
- *Optional: Outline the position of the body*
- Announce the Detective's arrival (victim assumes this role)
- Have the Detective read investigation instructions
- Distribute "Post" envelopes to all guests

Stage Four: Evidence Review

- Have the Detective present evidence findings
- Allow guests time to review evidence (consider making multiple copies)
- Distribute accusation sheets to all guests

Stage Five: Solution

- Collect and tally accusation sheets
- Have the Detective read the solution
- Award certificates to winners!

Remember: This game is designed to be easy to run and interactive for all guests. Your participants will bring it to life!

THE SILICON TIMES

MILLENNIUM MELTDOWN: BYTEBOOM LAUNCH PARTY PROMISES TO CHANGE HISTORY

December 31, 1999 - Special Evening Edition

COUNTDOWN TO DIGITAL REVOLUTION OR DISASTER?

As the clock ticks down to midnight on this historic New Year's Eve, all eyes in Silicon Valley are fixed on the sprawling Romano mansion, where tech visionary Chip Romano hosts what promises to be either the party of the century or its most spectacular flameout.

ByteBoom, the startup that has consumed venture capital and sparked bidding wars among investors, unveils its revolutionary web browser tonight amid growing Y2K anxieties. Industry analysts predict the company's valuation could hit billions when markets open in the new millennium—assuming computers still function tomorrow.

"What we're launching tonight isn't just software; it's the future of human connection," Romano told reporters earlier this week, sporting his trademark hoodie despite the winter chill. "ByteBoom will make the internet what it was always meant to be."

The guest list reads like a who's who of digital royalty and cultural icons, all braving the worsening snowstorm to witness what Romano calls "the moment everything changes." Curiously, the mansion's advanced security system is programmed for complete lockdown at midnight—a precaution Romano insists is "standard Y2K protocol," though security experts note the unusual nature of such measures for a private residence.

As neon lights illuminate the falling snow and dial-up tones form an ironic soundtrack to the evening, the question remains: Will ByteBoom usher in a new digital dawn, or is something more ominous lurking beneath its pixelated surface?

FACES TO WATCH

CHIP ROMANO: THE DIGITAL MAVERICK

The 32-year-old MIT dropout turned tech mogul stands at the precipice of his greatest triumph. Known for working through the night in his private server room, Romano's recent behavior has raised eyebrows among staff, who report increased secrecy and tension as launch day approached. "He's always been intense," says one ByteBoom employee who requested anonymity, "but lately, it's different. Like he's running from something, not toward it."

JUSTIN THYME: FROM SITCOM TO SILICON VALLEY

The former child star of "Just In Time" has reinvented himself as tech's most fashionable investor. At 26, Thyme's financial backing gave ByteBoom its runway, though sources close to the company note increasing friction between Thyme and Romano regarding the company's future. "Justin never misses an opportunity," notes one industry insider, "but he never seems to arrive on time either."

POPPY DISKETTE: MORE THAN A PRETTY INTERFACE

The 24-year-old pop sensation whose candy-colored aesthetic dominates MTV has become ByteBoom's unexpected ambassador. Her performance tonight is rumored to feature technology no one has seen before. "I'm, like, totally into the digital revolution," Diskette told reporters, though observant attendees note she takes more interest in ByteBoom's server architecture than most performers would consider normal.

MEG A. BYTE: THE CODE WARRIOR

Perhaps the least public-facing of ByteBoom's leadership, 30-year-old Chief Technology Officer Meg A. Byte commands respect in programming circles. The MIT graduate's relationship with Romano dates back to their college days, though colleagues describe it as "complicated at best." Known for her meticulous documentation and ethical coding standards, Byte has been unusually quiet about ByteBoom's architecture, stating only that "the code will speak for itself when the time comes."

LOCAL GOSSIP: VALLEY WHISPERS

- Which *seemingly bankrupt investor* has been spotted taking meetings with ByteBoom competitors? Sources say his designer suits hide increasingly desperate financial straits.
- A certain *pop princess* isn't as digitally challenged as her public persona suggests. Studio engineers report she debugged their recording software faster than their IT department could.
- Which *tech mogul* has been receiving ominous messages signed "Millennium Bug"? Security around his mansion has doubled in the past week.

- Overheard at JavaScript Cafe: A *prominent female programmer* was seen purchasing massive amounts of server space for an unnamed project set to launch in the new year. "It's either the next big thing or digital armageddon," our source quipped.
- Which two ByteBoom executives had a heated argument over "stolen architecture" in the company parking lot last week? The dispute ended only when security intervened.

MARKET WATCH

BYTEBOOM IPO RUMORS INTENSIFY

Wall Street analysts predict ByteBoom could file for public offering as early as February 2000, with estimated valuations ranging from \$2-5 billion. "The browser wars are about to have a new contender," says tech analyst Maria Jenson. "Assuming we all survive Y2K."

WEATHER ALERT

Unexpected snowstorm intensifying across Silicon Valley. Roads to Romano Estate increasingly difficult to navigate. Authorities advise against travel after 10 PM. Current accumulation: 8 inches and rising.

The Silicon Times is printed on 100% recyclable paper. Our servers are Y2K compliant. Probably.



Character Sheet

Chip Romano

Character Background

Chip Romano stands at the pinnacle of tech stardom—a charismatic maverick who abandoned MIT's hallowed halls at 19 to chase digital dreams. Now 32, his ByteBoom mansion reflects his contradictory nature: cutting-edge servers alongside vintage arcade cabinets, symbolic of a man caught between nostalgia and ruthless innovation. Behind his trademark confident grin and designer hoodies lies a man drowning in secrets. Late nights in his private server room have become more frequent, with staff reporting heated phone conversations about "covering tracks" and "midnight deadlines." His relationship with Meg remains visibly tense—former classmates with a complicated history that neither discusses openly. Justin's financial backing bought ByteBoom time, but Chip's recent evasiveness about launch specifics has raised eyebrows. Perhaps most curious is his newfound interest in Poppy's career, installing state-of-the-art recording equipment throughout the mansion "for her convenience." Despite public bravado about ByteBoom revolutionizing the internet, Chip's private anxiety about Y2K seems excessive—his elaborate security system locks down the mansion completely at midnight, a precaution he insists is "just good business." The question remains: what is Chip Romano so afraid of as the millennium approaches?

Private Secrets

- You've been embezzling from ByteBoom's investment funds to cover personal gambling debts
- You have evidence that Meg is the 'Millennium Bug' hacker, and were planning to confront her after the party
- You installed hidden cameras throughout the mansion to gather blackmail material on potential business rivals

Objectives

Complete your assigned objectives during the game. Your specific goals will be revealed during gameplay.

Character Relationships

Related to: Meg A. Byte (Former college classmate and brief romantic partner. Their relationship ended badly when Chip allegedly stole Meg's early browser code for what would become ByteBoom.)



Character Sheet

Justin Thyme

Character Background

Justin Thyme, the perpetually tardy 26-year-old former child star of "Just In Time," leveraged his sitcom earnings into a carefully cultivated image as Silicon Valley's golden-boy investor. Behind his designer suits and practiced charm lies a man desperately clinging to relevance, his financial empire built more on reputation than actual capital. After a string of disastrous tech investments left him teetering on bankruptcy, ByteBoom represents his final lifeline. Justin's relationship with Chip has grown increasingly strained as he pushes aggressively for an early IPO, often gripping his stress medication bottle during their heated arguments. His pursuit of pop sensation Poppy Diskette seems motivated less by attraction than by strategic positioning within ByteBoom's future. Those who knew Justin as a teen remember concerning episodes of rage when things didn't go his way—outbursts he now controls through medication he sometimes "forgets" to take. Recently, he's been spotted in hushed conversations with executives from ByteBoom's competitors and hiring private investigators for undisclosed purposes. Despite his public confidence about ByteBoom's success, Justin's eyes betray a desperate man who would do anything to protect what remains of his crumbling facade.

Private Secrets

- Your child star earnings were mostly stolen by your parents, and your wealthy investor persona is largely fabricated
- You've been taking medication for rage blackouts that you've experienced since your teen years
- You hired a private investigator to dig up dirt on Chip to use as leverage for a better deal

Objectives

Complete your assigned objectives during the game. Your specific goals will be revealed during gameplay.

Character Relationships

Related to: Poppy Diskette (Current romantic interest. Justin has been pursuing Poppy aggressively, though she seems more interested in ByteBoom's technology than in him.)



Character Sheet

Poppy Diskette

Character Background

Poppy Diskette burst onto the music scene at 21, her candy-colored aesthetic and earworm hits masking a calculating mind. The 24-year-old star's seemingly vapid interviews belie her strategic approach to fame—she's never missed a contractual obligation or made an unplanned public appearance. Raised by a single mother who worked at an early internet service provider, Poppy spent her teenage years in server rooms rather than at school dances. This ByteBoom performance represents more than just another paycheck; she's been meticulously studying their operations under the guise of "understanding the brand." Her habit of carrying a modified PDA everywhere is dismissed as celebrity eccentricity, though she's often spotted typing rapidly when she thinks no one's watching. Justin Thyme's obvious infatuation provides convenient access to ByteBoom's inner circle, though her lingering gazes at Meg suggest more complex interests. Recently, Poppy's been developing what she vaguely describes as a "digital platform for artists," spending unusual amounts of time consulting with programmers. Those who've worked closely with her note Poppy has an uncanny ability to recall technical conversations verbatim and appears in places she wasn't invited—particularly server rooms.

Private Secrets

- You've been using your access to hack into ByteBoom's servers to study their code for your own technology startup
- You witnessed Chip and Justin having a heated argument about money in the server room an hour before the party
- You're actually more interested in Meg than Justin, but are using Justin's interest to gain access to ByteBoom's inner circle

Objectives

Complete your assigned objectives during the game. Your specific goals will be revealed during gameplay.

Character Relationships

Related to: Justin Thyme (Being pursued romantically by Justin, though she keeps him at arm's length while using his connections to advance her career and gain access to ByteBoom's technology.)



Character Sheet

Meg A. Byte

Character Background

Meg A. Byte stands out in Silicon Valley's boys' club with her razor-sharp intellect and uncompromising code ethics. At 30, this programming virtuoso reluctantly serves as ByteBoom's CTO, her fingers perpetually stained with whiteboard marker and her desk cluttered with meticulous documentation of code evolution. Former MIT classmate and brief flame of Chip Romano, their relationship combusted over "creative differences"—namely, the browser architecture that mysteriously transformed into ByteBoom's core technology. Meg joined the company only after Chip promised her 30% ownership, paperwork that remains conveniently "in legal review." Behind her steely exterior and minimalist fashion sense lies the architect of several underground hacking tools, though she dismisses such rumors with practiced indifference. Recently, she's been logging unusual hours in ByteBoom's server rooms, installing "security upgrades" before launch. When not coding, Meg maintains an extensive home recording studio and has developed a peculiar interest in surveillance technology. Her laptop, protected by fifteen layers of encryption, contains a countdown clock to midnight, December 31st—the moment she claims "digital truth will reboot Silicon Valley." Despite her apparent loyalty to ByteBoom, Meg has been quietly purchasing server space for an unnamed project set to launch in the new millennium.

Private Secrets

- You are indeed the 'Millennium Bug' hacker, planning to expose Silicon Valley's corrupt practices at midnight
- You've been secretly recording all of Chip's conversations in the mansion through a security system you installed
- You discovered that ByteBoom's code has catastrophic security flaws that could actually cause real Y2K problems

Objectives

Complete your assigned objectives during the game. Your specific goals will be revealed during gameplay.

Character Relationships

Related to: Chip Romano (Former college classmate and brief romantic partner. She believes Chip stole her code years ago and has joined ByteBoom to reclaim what's rightfully hers.)

Clues

Murder Phase Clues

Murder - Physical

A shattered champagne flute found near the victim's body with traces of lipstick on the rim. The lipstick is a distinctive neon pink shade.

Murder - Text Message

The victim's smartphone displays a threatening message received at 11:15 PM: 'Your time runs out at midnight. The Millennium Bug will expose everything.'

Murder - Document

A crumpled printout of ByteBoom's code with sections highlighted and handwritten notes in the margins reading 'STOLEN - I can prove it' found in the server room trash can.

Murder - Video

Security camera footage from the hallway outside the server room shows a figure in a flashy jacket entering at 11:30 PM, but their face is not visible to the camera.

Investigation Phase Clues

Investigation Phase Clues (continued)

Investigation - Document

The victim's personal laptop contains an open spreadsheet detailing extensive gambling debts totaling over \$2 million, with recent payments marked as 'from ByteBoom investor funds.'

Investigation - Physical

A prescription bottle for medication used to treat severe mood disorders and rage episodes found in a designer jacket pocket in the coat check. The label is partially torn off.

Investigation - Audio

A hidden audio recording device discovered behind a server rack contains a heated argument: 'You promised me ownership! This is MY code!' followed by 'You'll never prove it, and no one would believe you anyway.'

Investigation - Email

An email draft on the victim's phone addressed to a major competitor offering to sell ByteBoom 'immediately after the launch hype peaks' with a note that 'Justin doesn't need to know until it's done.'

Investigation - Testimony

A witness reports seeing someone with colorful hair spending an unusual amount of time examining the server room door earlier in the evening, claiming they were 'just looking for the bathroom.'

Investigation Phase Clues (continued)

Investigation - Document

Bank statements found in a hidden compartment of the victim's desk showing multiple accounts nearly empty, with a handwritten note: 'Last chance - ByteBoom MUST succeed.'

Discovery Phase Clues

Discovery - Document

A private investigator's invoice found crumpled in a trash bin, listing services rendered as 'Surveillance of C.R.' and 'Documentation of embezzlement activities' with a 'PAID IN FULL' stamp dated two days before the party.

Discovery - Physical

A secret compartment in the server room reveals a collection of small hidden cameras and recording devices, along with a notebook containing potential blackmail information on several party guests.

Discovery - Document

Financial records from a cloud backup show that contrary to public perception, one investor's accounts are nearly empty, with multiple loans taken out against future ByteBoom earnings.

Discovery Phase Clues (continued)

Discovery - Dna Evidence

DNA evidence from skin cells found under the victim's fingernails indicates a struggle with someone who has a rare genetic marker found in only 2% of the population, consistent with Mediterranean heritage.

Sample Game Content

Important Notice

This is only a sample file. A complete Mystery package includes:

Planning Materials:

- **Host's Playbook** - Your comprehensive guide with step-by-step instructions for invitation preparation, character assignments, and party setup
- **Evening Timeline** - Detailed hourly breakdown of event activities from guest arrival to mystery resolution
- **Welcome Script** - Opening remarks to set the scene when guests arrive

Invitation Resources:

- **Printable Invitation Templates** - Customizable designs ready for your party details
- **Digital Invitation Options** - Online versions available through our website
- **Newsletter** - Pre-party gossip and background information to send with invitations, building anticipation

Character Materials:

- **Detailed Character Profiles** - Complete descriptions with costume suggestions and personality traits
- **Personal Objective Cards** - Individual mission directives for each guest at different stages of the mystery
- **Identification Tags** - Professional name badges for all participants

Game Elements:

- **Evidence Documents** - Additional clues revealed during the second act
- **Solution Packet** - Comprehensive explanation of the crime, perpetrator, motives, and evidence trail
- **Accusation Forms** - Ballots for murderer guesses and award voting
- **Achievement Certificates** - Awards for best costume, best acting, and top detective

Bonus Content:

- **Themed Decoration Templates** - Printable designs to create an immersive atmosphere tailored to your mystery scenario

Purchase your Mystery at murdermysterygameai.com now!

SAMPLE