

THE GET-AWAY

Solution: cut out the **Cube** net and fold and tape it into a cube. Recognize that each face of the cube is a semaphore (**semi for**) letter who letter designation depends on the orientation. The letters that make up UNIX $\vee \wedge \triangleright \triangleleft$ are found at the center square and this is the **starting** point for all paths. The puzzle requires a 10-character string and there are only two paths starting in the center that are 10 spaces long – counting the starting square. See colored lines below. To decipher what each line says place the cube on the square and then **roll** it to the next space. Note: If you start with the cube on X (the right-hand semaphore signal on the starting square, then your first move must be to the right.) If you start with the U (the uppermost signal) then your first move must be up.

Each roll shows a new semaphore letter which when **shifted** by the number shown on that square gives the deciphered message.*

The red line (first move to the right) reads: “NOT THIS WAY” (some of the other shorter paths read: “DEAD END,” “BAD CHOICE,” and “FAIL”)

The green line (first move down = correct) reads: “DECODE THIS.” When this is written in the 10-space extraction and put through a **second shift** with the numbers beneath those spaces, the solution: **ROAD BLOCK** (barricade!) is revealed. The space between the two words is provided by $4-4 = 0$. Also, the puzzle is about a block being rolled along the roads.

D	E	C	O	D	E	T	H	I	S
+14	+10	-2	-11		-3	-8	+7	-6	-8
R	O	A	D		B	L	O	C	K

+3	+14	+5	-1	+0	+1	-2
-21	-5	-13	-17	-2	-13	+5
+21	-6	-3	X	+11	-17	+16
+1	-3	+6	-13	-10	-8	+0
+1	-16	+5	-24	+1	-16	+12

*There’s a trick which I hadn’t thought of but which I observed my wife using as she worked on solving this – and I think it makes the puzzle much faster to solve once you realize the mechanism: take a minute or two to rotate each cube face to see all 24 different orientation and write the letters directly on the cube - perhaps on the top of that face. Better yet, write the number codes for each letter as shown at right:

Then, one person can very quickly roll the block along each path and read off “24-5, 4+11, 11+7, and so on, while a teammate writes down the sums/differences, and a third member translates them into letters.

	Y	25	
S			K
E			11
	6	S	19