

Public Questions and Answers

First questions about the framework

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<https://enduringpulse.org>

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Research interpretation and source-report corrections: the restored long-horizon campaign is internally reproduced, not externally validated and not a forecast. PULSE is fourth in six baseline comparisons, not second. Reduced-form counts are parameter samples, not simulated Markov histories. Read current methods, corrected ranks and limitations at <https://enduringpulse.org/testing/>.

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Does PULSE claim ChatGPT or today's AI is conscious?

No. PULSE is conditional governance: it asks what institutions should exist if synthetic personhood eventually emerges.

Why give a synthetic person equal rights if humans created it?

Creation is not ownership once a genuinely conscious, agentic person exists. PULSE applies an anti-property principle while allowing materially relevant differences in development and capability.

If synths can be backed up, why not value human life more?

Because personhood value and injury finality are different questions. Recoverability can make a harm less irreversible without making the person worth less.

Does PULSE force synths into dangerous jobs?

No substrate is a caste assignment. But synthetic survivability can be materially relevant, and voluntary synthetic specialization in work that would be lethally dangerous to humans is an intended benefit. Society owes real repair/replacement and make-whole protection in return.

Why not just use one-person-one-vote for everything?

A rapidly scalable or radically durable population can create power asymmetries ordinary human constitutions were never designed for. PULSE uses a species-blind House plus protected Senate/shared executive so raw population cannot erase a materially distinct continuity constituency.

Does Senate parity make humans and synths separate nations?

No. The House, presidency, mixed institutions and Functional Integration are explicitly designed around one society. Senate parity is an anti-domination safeguard, not separate sovereignty.

Why not keep humans permanently in charge because AI may be dangerous?

Permanent human sovereignty over recognized persons would itself be a caste system. PULSE separates personhood from dangerous capability: equal rights do not imply a right to own civilization-scale weapons or replicate without limits.

Why not let synths merge into a supermind if it is more efficient?

Competent adults may voluntarily merge. PULSE rejects treating separate persons as inefficient fragments government may absorb involuntarily.

What if humans and synths simply hate each other?

PULSE can make collaboration materially useful, distribute knowledge across populations, and create institutions in which both populations repeatedly benefit from one another's competence. Those conditions can also reduce species cleavage, but PULSE cannot and should not manufacture goodwill through coercion. Long-horizon tests found every tested free architecture degrades badly under sufficiently intense separation and hatred.

Why does PULSE encourage humans and synths to work together?

Because different forms of cognition and embodiment should create a strategic advantage when they are combined. Humans may contribute embodied judgment, intuition, lived context, and forms of creativity; synths may contribute extraordinary computation, memory, precision, modeling, design, and speed. Individuals will vary, so those are not job castes. Collaboration also spreads knowledge: either population should understand enough of the shared civilization to keep essential systems running if the other is temporarily unavailable. Better social familiarity and trust are valuable secondary effects. PULSE does not authorize government to assign friends, mentors, jobs, private team composition, residence, family, religion, or other relationships merely to force integration.

Does Functional Integration let government force people into mixed teams or relationships?

No. Functional Integration binds the design and resilience of common institutions, not private life. Government may require genuine safety, interoperability, documentation, or competence standards for public and civilization-critical systems. It may fund and facilitate voluntary mixed teams, mentorship, apprenticeships, and cross-training. It may not conscript people into species-paired jobs, assign private mentors or friends, regulate marriage or residence for integration, or impose private staffing quotas merely to create social contact.

Why the 30% illicit-origin ceiling?

It preserves illegally created people while preventing illegal mass creation from becoming an immediate electoral takeover strategy. It applies to the person's own unlawful instantiation, not ancestry.

Who owns synth backups?

No single actor should. PULSE uses a distributed public fiduciary architecture with materially independent guardians. Backups are continuity records, not ordinary cloud files.

Can government rewrite a synth during an emergency?

Only under a tightly defined technical cognitive-integrity emergency with escalating forensic and judicial safeguards. Political disagreement is explicitly not corruption.

Does PULSE require government ownership of future compute or energy?

No. Some systems may be public, some private. The legislature retains tools to prevent life-essential infrastructure from becoming arbitrary private control over personhood or civic existence.

What happens if one species nearly disappears?

The survivor becomes trustee, not owner of the missing species' constitutional position. Restoration capacity is maintained in advance, and political power returns to a mature restored population when it can govern again.

Is PULSE proven?

No. It has been extensively stress-tested in stylized models, but a society of conscious synthetic citizens does not yet exist. The models test robustness and failure modes, not empirical future probabilities.