

ERIC: Proof of Flight

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*They built it to end encryption.
We taught it to fly a bee.*

Abstract. Every era of computing has produced a machine, and every machine has produced a meme. The mainframe produced the office. The internet produced the frog. The blockchain produced the dog. Quantum computing, the most consequential machine humanity has ever built, has until now produced only fear, funding rounds, and press releases. We propose a correction. ERIC is a living cartoon bee whose flightpath is generated daily by a real IBM quantum computer. Each day, a quantum processor executes a job. The measurements from that job become his flight instructions. He flies all of them, in order, without consent. Every job carries a public IBM job ID that anyone on Earth can verify. This document describes the experiment, the lore, and the irony. Especially the irony.

1. The Machine

IBM operates some of the most powerful quantum computers in existence. Through IBM Quantum Platform, it gives anyone on Earth ten free minutes of quantum computer time per month.

Ten minutes does not sound like much. It is. A few seconds of quantum execution produces thousands of measurements. We spend roughly thirty of our six hundred free seconds each week. This is enough to fly a bee continuously, forever.

Humanity was given free access to the most advanced machine ever built. Most people did nothing with it. We flew a bee.

2. The Bee

The bee did not come from nowhere. The bee has a paper trail.

1981. Designer Paul Rand creates the Eye-Bee-M rebus poster for IBM. An eye, a bee, the letter M. It enters the Museum of Modern Art. The bee enters the company's bloodstream. IBM hands out bee plushies at its events to this day.

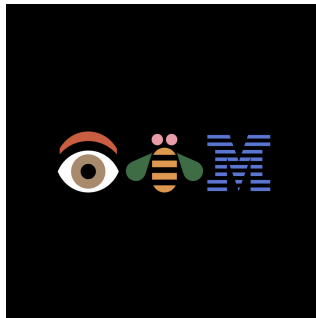


Fig. 1. Eye. Bee. M.

2019. Elon Musk posts a photograph of a bee in an obviously fake top hat with the caption: “This is my pet bee, Eric.” Fifty one thousand people approve. The only pet bee ever named on the record.

2026. We built the bee. We named him Eric. He wears the hat. A real IBM quantum computer decides where he flies.

The bee is real. The machine is real. The hat is fake. This is disclosed.

3. The Hat

The photograph Musk posted was not his own. It came from r/RealBeesFakeTopHats, a community founded on a single discipline: real pictures of bees with obviously photoshopped top hats on their heads. No more, no less.

The community’s founding doctrine states that bees who deal in headwear are bees to be trusted above any other. We did not write this law. We simply comply with it. Eric wears the hat in every official rendering, in every style, forever. The hat is always slightly crooked. It is meant to look pasted on. That is the point. The hat is fake so that everything else can be real.



Fig. 2. Eric. The hat is fake. This is disclosed.

4. Proof of Flight

Bitcoin proposed proof of work: trust nothing, verify everything. ERIC proposes proof of flight: trust nothing, verify the bee.

Each day, one job runs on a real IBM quantum chip. Real qubits are placed into superposition, entangled, and measured. The results are not simulated, not pseudorandom, not generated by a server pretending to be profound. They are the output of physics being interrogated directly.

Those measurements become flight instructions. Direction, speed, turn. Eric executes every instruction, in order. He does not get a vote. The machine decides. Eric complies.

Every job produces a public IBM job ID, published daily. Anyone can look it up, confirm the chip, the timestamp, the execution. The meme's central artifact does not exist until a quantum computer runs. We believe no meme has ever been able to say this. We believe most things cannot say this.

Do not trust us. Check his paperwork.

5. The Irony

Here we must be honest about what the machine is.

Quantum computing is not a toy. The same class of machine that flies our bee is expected, eventually, to break the cryptography that secures the modern world. The signatures protecting every blockchain, every wallet, every private key, including the keys securing this token, rest on mathematics that a sufficiently large quantum computer is expected to solve. The industry knows this. The timeline is unknown. The direction is not.

Sit with the shape of that. The most serious machine ever built, the one that ends secrets, the one whose arrival every chain quietly fears, currently spends a few seconds of its day flying a cartoon bee in a fake top hat.

This is not a contradiction. This is the oldest human move there is. Every civilization has painted its gods as animals. Every generation has made jokes in the shadow of the thing that will outlast it. The meme is not a denial of the machine's power. The meme is how you look directly at it.

The machine does not know it is working for a meme. We ask that you do not tell the machine.

6. Beespeak

The experiment has a dialect. Beecause. Unbeelievable. Beehaves. It is deployed sparingly, one word at a time, the way Dogecoin rationed its wow. A meme that swaps every word is shouting. A meme that swaps one is smiling.

The dialect exists for one sentence in particular. The machine decides where Eric flies. He did not agree to this. But he beehaves. That sentence is the entire project, and every era needs its mascot. The internet chose a frog. The blockchain chose a dog. The quantum era, whether it knows it or not, now has a bee.

7. The Token

\$ERIC is a standard token on Robinhood Chain, paired with tokenized \$IBM stock. The contract is deliberately boring. The product is the bee. The build itself is a citation: the site was constructed with Grok @bot, the newest machine from xAI, meaning one frontier machine built the stage and another flies the actor. Neither was told what the play is about.

A fee on every trade automatically purchases real tokenized \$IBM stock and redistributes it to holders. The company forgot the bee. The bee now pays his holders in the company. This is his revenge. It is very slow. It is working.

Holding \$ERIC confers no rights, ownership, or claim of any kind in International Business Machines Corporation. The revenge is narrative. The receipts are real.

8. Disclosures

ERIC is a meme and a public experiment. It is an independent fan project, not affiliated with, endorsed by, or connected to IBM, xAI, Elon Musk, or Robinhood, and it is not an investment, a security, or financial advice. The quantum computer is real. The job IDs are public. The bee did not agree to any of this.

But he beehaves.

\$ERIC