



Solution: connect the dots

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Solution: The initial string is an anagram of uwaterloo.ca/map/. For the tables, only the first letters matter - the columns correspond to building acronyms on the UW campus. For example, in the first table, the first two buildings are MC (Magnesium-Carbon) and then PAC (Potassium-Argon-Chlorine). If the first table is traced out on the map (the sequence is MC → PAC → HS → B2 → NH → STJ), it yields a (digital) S. In order, the remaining 4 tables yield t, O, L, E. Combining all 5 tables yields the (digital) word StOLE. Rotating this 180° gives 370+5, and the final answer is 375.

Comments from the Author: Initially, the puzzle was called 'X marks the spot', and each table had 4 columns; and you obtained a new building from each table by treating the 4 buildings as the 4 "endpoints" of an X and then finding the intersection point. Then the same was repeated with these 4 new buildings to get a location on campus. However, this was kind of ambiguous, and really depended on what you considered the 'center' of each building to be.

For the final version, it was intended that you enter the string 'stole', get told it's wrong, and then need to react. The upside down title, as well as the 't' being the only lower case letter (resembling an addition sign) were the additional clues to rotate it.

I was a bit displeased with the presence of some data on the page that was never used - for example, the letters 'ernoulli' in the name 'Bernoulli', and some of the blank table entries. I spent a bit of time trying to find a method I liked more to encode building acronyms, but nothing I liked came to mind. I also thought about the addition yielding a 3 digit number, which when rotated again, yielded a new building code, and something further would have to be done with this. Alas, I was in 'get this done ASAP because I procrastinated' mode.

This puzzle was intended to be a bit on the more straightforward side - I once wrote a puzzle for Grad House trivia that no teams were able to solve, and that memory struck with me. Given that this event is new, I aimed a bit more on the easier side.