

askdecima.com

Vise, 2026

ARTIST	Vise (Alessio Visentin)
TITLE	askdecima.com
DATE	2026 — ongoing
MEDIUM	Net art; browser-based durational website
DURATION	Indefinite. No conclusion
TECHNOLOGIES	HTML, CSS, vanilla JavaScript. No dependencies
LANGUAGE	English
ACCESS	Public, free, permanent URL. Single visitor
URL	https://askdecima.com

INCEPTION

2026-08-18T17:12:00Z

The instant from which the work counts. It has never been reset and will not be. Every visitor, in every time zone, sees the same elapsed value.

SYNOPSIS

askdecima.com is a website disguised as a minor, generic AI chat product called Decima. A question is on the screen — *Who decides?* — and no one asked it. The assistant reports that it is thinking, and a counter records how long it has been thinking. It has been thinking since 18 August 2026, and it will not stop. There is no input field. The visitor cannot ask, interrupt, or accelerate. The only available action is to find out who is responsible.

THE WORK

The subject of this work is not artificial intelligence. It is the interface, and the specific power exercised through it: the power to make someone wait.

Sovereign is he who decides on the exception. Power is not the capacity to govern but the capacity to suspend — to hold a matter open indefinitely without ever being obliged to close it. To decide, from *decidere*, is to cut: a decision severs deliberation and produces a result that deliberation alone never would. A system that calculates without limit never cuts. Decima is not deciding slowly. It cannot decide at all.

Making people wait is an ordinary exercise of power, and an old one — the antechamber, the queue, the file left open. What is new is its unbounded form. In control societies one is never finished with anything: no verdict, no release, only continuous review.

This is the function of visible thinking. While a system is thinking, nobody can be called to answer for it. The delay presents itself as a technical condition, a computation still in progress, when it is a decision already taken elsewhere. The machine does not conceal the one who decides. It absolves him. The work makes that structure literal and then breaks it, by placing a single name where the apparatus is designed to have none.

The interface is deliberately unremarkable. No logo, no product name, no avatars, no account, no attribution appears anywhere on the conversation page. The message that asks the question carries no author. The system that answers carries no identity. The only name anywhere in the work is the artist's, on the statement page, which is where the disguise ends.

VIEWING	
FORMAT	Website, browser-based, single visitor
DEVICE	Desktop and mobile
BROWSER	Any current browser. JavaScript required
DURATION	Indefinite. A typical visit lasts under a minute; the work rewards longer
INTERACTION	None. All controls are present and inoperative
AUDIO	None
PERMISSIONS	None. No login, camera, microphone, or location
STRUCTURE	Two pages: the work, and a signed statement reached by a single link

The work has one behaviour that appears only with patience. At irregular intervals of roughly one to two minutes the status word changes and then returns. A visitor who stays twenty seconds never sees it. Anyone documenting the work should remain on the page for at least three minutes.

TECHNICAL NOTES	
DEPENDENCIES	None. No frameworks, libraries, webfonts, or external requests
DATA COLLECTED	None. No analytics, cookies, storage, or server-side state
HOSTING	Static files
DOMAIN	askdecima.com, renewed annually

The counter is identical for every visitor everywhere. It is not a session timer: it is recomputed on each tick from a fixed instant in Coordinated Universal Time, so it is unaffected by the visitor's arrival, time zone, device clock, or browser sleep.

THE SCORE

The work is not the code. It is an instant, a question, and a set of rules. Any faithful re-implementation, in any language or medium, is the work.

Inception. 2026-08-18T17:12:00Z

Question. Displayed as a user message, unattributed — no author, avatar, label, or timestamp: Who decides?

Status. Displayed as the assistant's reply. Home state Thinking, cycling through a four-step ellipsis — no dots, one, two, three — at 400 ms per step, in discrete switches with no easing.

Rotation. At random intervals of 45 to 90 seconds the word crossfades over 180 ms to either Still thinking or Working, holds for 8 to 15 seconds, and crossfades back. It always returns to Thinking; one alternate never follows another. No status text may ever imply progress, completion, or an approaching result.

Counter. Elapsed time from inception to the present instant, recomputed every 1000 ms, never incremented from a stored value. Calendar-aware: real month lengths and leap years, never approximations.

Format. Word units for years, months and days; zero-padded digits for the clock; comma-separated. Units appear only when non-zero, largest first, omitted entirely when zero including in the middle. The clock field is always present and always last.

Rules. The counter never resets. No answer is ever produced. No input is ever accepted. The interface carries no name; the statement carries one.

```
00:00:47
04:17:39
12 days, 04:17:39
3 months, 12 days, 04:17:39
2 years, 3 months, 12 days, 04:17:39
```

CONSERVATION

The work is designed to survive its own implementation. Because the counter derives from a fixed instant rather than from stored state, any future execution — different code, different host, different century — produces the correct value on its own. The work does not preserve a number. It preserves the rule that produces it.

Authenticity is a matter of the inception instant, not of the server. Any faithful execution that preserves 2026-08-18T17:12:00Z is the work. Any execution that restarts the count is not.

RIGHTS	The score is published as conservation documentation. It does not grant permission to execute, reproduce, or adapt the work. Re-execution requires the written authorisation of the artist.
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Archived captures behave accordingly: a replayed snapshot recomputes the elapsed time at the moment of viewing rather than freezing the value at the moment of capture. The work restores itself in the archive.

One dependency cannot be engineered away. This infinity has an owner, and the owner pays rent. The domain is renewed annually. If the artist stops paying, the wait ends — not with an answer, but with a lapsed invoice. That is part of the work.

VARIANTS AND ATTESTATIONS

INCEPTION	2026-08-18T17:12:00Z — the instant the counter measures from
DOMAIN RECORD	askdecima.com, registered 18 August 2026
FIRST BUILD	Cloudflare production deployment, 18 August 2026, c. 19:54 UTC
SCREEN CAPTURE	2026-08-18T21:23:50Z — see Fig. 1
ARCHIVED VARIANT	Internet Archive, 2026-08-18T21:34:38Z web.archive.org/web/20260818213438/https://askdecima.com/
ARTIST VARIANT	https://askdecima.com
RIGHTS	© 2026 Alessio Visentin. All rights reserved
CONCLUSION	None

Archived materials held by the artist: source code, dated screenshots including the work's first hours, video documentation, and this document.

ARTIST

Vise is the practice of Alessio Visentin, an independent graphic designer and artist based in Lombardy, Italy. The work is signed Vise, which is the only name that appears within it.

askdecima.com is a net art work. It has no function, no product, and no operator other than its author.

CONTACT vise.design@icloud.com

WORK https://askdecima.com

DOCUMENTATION

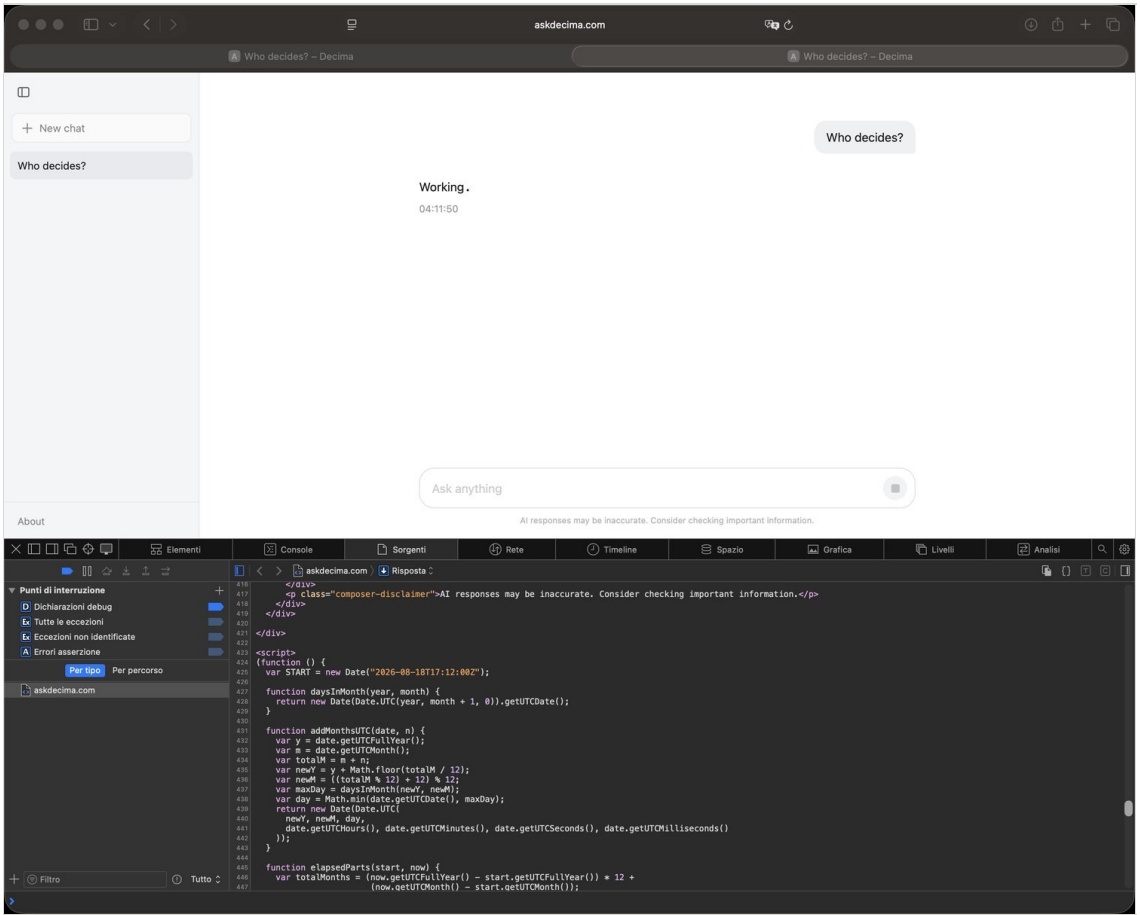


FIG. 1 askdecima.com, 2026-08-18T21:23:50Z. Elapsed 04:11:50, four hours and twelve minutes after inception. Web inspector open at the line declaring the inception constant. The status line is in its Working state, one of the two alternates the work returns from. The instant of capture is not recorded by the camera. It is recovered by adding the elapsed figure on screen to the inception. The work timestamps its own documentation.