About Jeff Bezos's 10,000 year clock ...

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The Amazon founder is building a clock that will last for 1,000 decades. Wait, what?

By Anne VanderMey, reporter

Bezos with more ephemeral products.

FORTUNE -- As any Amazon (AMZN) investor will tell you, Jeff Bezos believes in **long-term thinking**. Make that really, really long-term thinking. So long, in fact, that he's spending at least $42 million to build a giant clock that will tick for 10,000 years deep inside a mountain in West Texas.

The clock is being constructed by the **Long Now Foundation**, which aims to promote a more patient, far-sighted mindset in an increasingly fast-paced world. The clock will play a new tune every year, century, and millennium, and will not repeat a melody throughout its entire lifespan. It doesn't have a practical purpose, per se, and it certainly won't make money. It's more of a conceptual art piece designed to encourage people to be good stewards of humanity's distant future. Journalists can only hope that Bezos's purchase of the profit-challenged Washington Post will be similarly philosophically driven.

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Here are four articles you should read about the world's most permanent timepiece:

- **The basics** on how the clock works, from the Long Now Foundation.
- "**What Makes Jeff Bezos Tick?** A $42 Million Clock, for Starters," includes details about the cell phone air bag Bezos is working on, from The Wall Street Journal.
- The gritty details on "**How to Make a Clock Run for 10,000 Years,**" from Wired.
- And Michael Chabon writes about **what the clock represents** in Details.

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