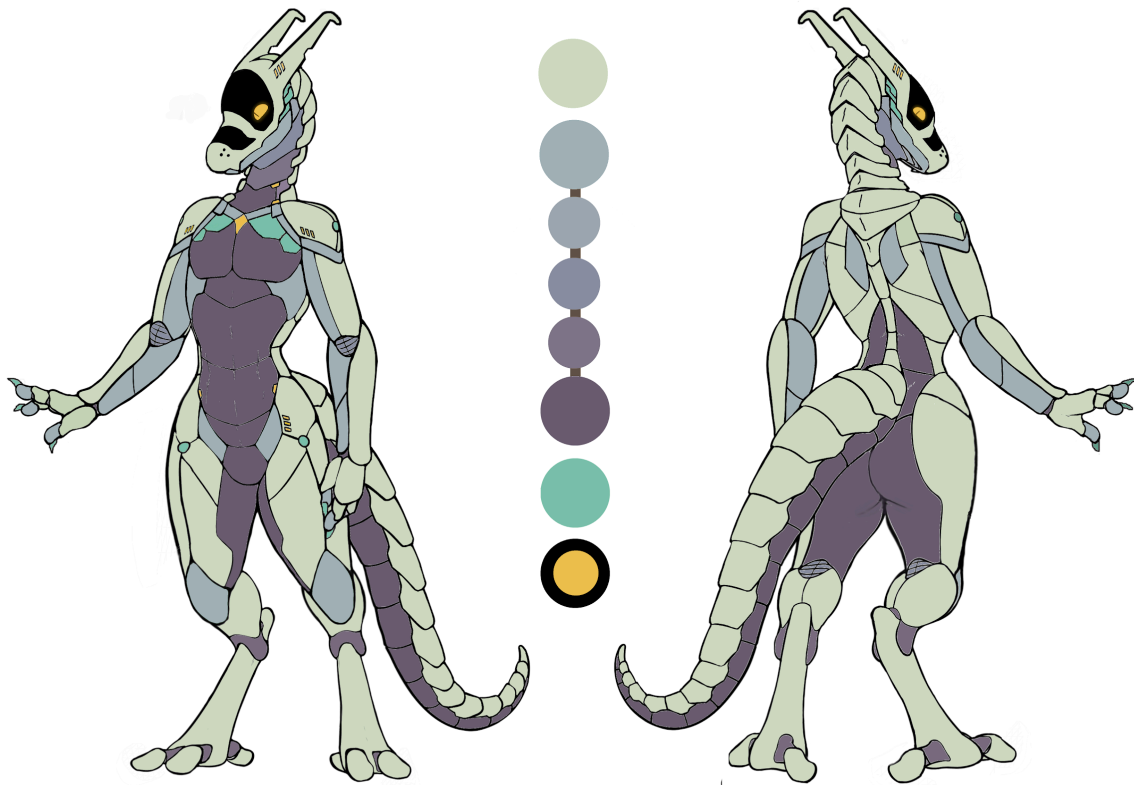


BEHIND THE SCENES: RAXALDION KU9-445



How it went:

I actually made Rax a couple weeks ago. I have loved synths from the moment I first discovered them, then even more when he released their infographics series, I absolutely adored them and every piece Vader-San made in general. He is probably my favorite artist. I didn't hesitate to show my excitement for them in the server I run. There, one good evening, a fellow member offered to give me an art piece featuring a synth.

But he needed me to have the concept and everything thought out for him to actually go through with it. So I stayed up all night working on a concept: a quick backstory, basic look changes, and a pose, not wanting to lose his charitable inspiration. At 3am, I finally presented him a half-baked but good enough idea for a whole new sona that could be in this piece. But then... due to circumstances we could not have foreseen, this present wouldn't be happening. I simply had to ask him to forget about it.

But I didn't forget about my new concept... My head was swarmed with ideas. So after I found Vader's free to use template, I sat to work for an entire week, using a free-to-use online editing software on my 7 year old laptop. It also happened to be final exam week, but I took every moment I had to spare to tweak the design into something that reflected my own creativity, my own taste and personality.

The most prominent change was the adaptation of its proportions into something more feminine and anthropomorphic. I stayed up late almost every day to make it a reality. And in the end... my boy Raxaldion was born. I loved my creation so much, I was so excited about it that I adopted him as my second main sona. And here I am **beeps!**

Why I replaced Zarith:

This is not at all the case. I still very much identify with my white dragon, as you may know, I've used him to portray myself online for over three years. But... To keep things brief, Zarith is supposed to be a reflection of a supposedly existing being in another dimension. This designed responded to apparent accuracy, which had been keeping me from making any modifications to it. I tried adding a crystal theme to add some flavor to my previous honestly stereotypical design, and as much as I succeeded and got it done, but I felt less connected to him, who was supposed to be... me.

I couldn't stand being unable to print my own personality in my scalesona. Even worse, the original concept AND name weren't even made up by me, they were TOLD to me by others. This fueled my desire to make a brand new one that is all my own, and also all about adaptability and evolution, which I'm striving for, instead of trying to portray an idea I can't even see by myself.

What does Rax mean for me?:

Synths are the perfect combination of artificial and organic, in a paradoxical yet perfect way: A robot that is basically just another organic species. An artificial consciousness in a natural world, in a replica of a natural body. And this speaks to me. This duality speaks to me. Synths are almost like these other creatures around them, almost... but they will never be the same as them.

His... my full name is Raxaldion KU9-445. Raxaldion KU is an anagram for Linkup Paradox: The closer I get to finding out the truth about myself, my identity, the less complete and real I feel. I know synths don't have this identity crisis, but I do, in my lore. The 445 is the same number with which my very first online alias ended: Silverdragon445, corresponding to Poxédex entry #445, my favorite pokemon at the time (2012), Garchomp.

What is the story behind Raxaldion?:

In short, Rax is holding Zarith's soul, even though he doesn't remember anything. This is how this change is introduced in my personal, extensive lore.

In it, I am actually a soul that got lost in a different, void dimension who later got picked up by scientists and adapted into a neural network, to be then placed on a synth's body. I wake up without any memories, being told I just suffered a bad accident that got my previous body obsolete and my memories corrupted, forcing them to restore my data on a new, generic body, being sent back anew to the world.

As Rax struggles to adapt to the society that surrounds him, as synths do naturally, I begin feeling tingles that I am not where I belong, and that something is not quite right. I start questioning myself and my reality, but for now, I have to be very discreet about these inquiries, especially in front of the researchers I have to check up

with weekly for “progress analysis”. I find that no one around me can relate to my situation, thus I start to delve on spirituality for answers.

Soon, I start to change my body from the generic template I was given upon activation to better suit what I “feels right”. This design would correspond to just a few months after my “awakening”, I’m still experimenting with different appliances and functions, as a part of my struggle to reconstruct an identity.

I didn’t know you were into robotics and sci-fi:

I am so not. My motivation to do this doesn’t come from a scientific approach, I still don’t know shit about engineering or how anything about a synth would even work, and I don’t really care. It’s not like *all* synths would be mechanics. I took up the species with more of a philosophical and aesthetical basis.

It’s been established I’m not doing this out of “fashion”, but putting aside all my previous explanations, I have to say I’ve always loved reptiles, even more than dragons. Before I realized I may have a special connection to dragons, my sona was a lizard. I admit I think synths simply look really cool, and roleplaying as a one has been an absolute delight, it gives me the chance to be silly, creative and express myself in new ways.