

I will be writing my own deep dive written-word essay on this subject but I wanted to share my logic for The Borg origins and I do not love the current theories as they currently are.

I think there is another way to draw the V'ger/Borg connection without V'ger creating the Borg directly, and honestly I think it preserves the mystery of BOTH a lot better than what we have gotten and continue to get through newer fan theories and Star Trek Online.

The problem I have with directly connecting V'ger to the Borg is that they really aren't doing the same thing.

V'ger is essentially a pure machine intelligence. It absorbs matter, technology and living organisms by converting them into informational bits of data stored within itself. The Borg don't do that. They physically merge organic life WITH technology while preserving enough of the original organism, its memories and knowledge, to become part of a larger system.

Those are two very different mechanisms.

V'ger doesn't actually accomplish anything resembling Borg assimilation until the END of The Motion Picture, when it merges with Decker. And that isn't the beginning of V'ger. That's V'ger's final destination as we understand it in our universe. Whatever V'ger becomes after that simply leaves our observable reality, and Star Trek never really tells us where the hell it went or what it is/was doing.

But there is another possibility.

We don't actually know where—or WHEN—the machine civilization that found Voyager 6 and rebuilt it into V'ger existed. Voyager 6 disappeared into what was believed to be a black hole and eventually wound up on the Machine Planet. Everyone naturally imagines a distant point in our galaxy sometime after Voyager 6 was launched. Why? If that anomaly displaced Voyager through space AND time, the civilization that created V'ger could predate humanity by millions of years and potentially exist in another galaxy altogether.

Now imagine that same civilization, or another V'ger-like machine it created, encounters an ancient humanoid or other organic civilization millions of years ago.

Instead of digitizing them, like it does everything else, it leaves them alone.

Maybe it was an experiment. Maybe they interested it in some weird way. Maybe there wasn't even a reason we'd understand. It leaves behind technology, wreckage, knowledge or simply the experience of having encountered something so incomprehensibly advanced that these organic beings interpret the machine as a God.

And then they spend the next million years or more trying to become it.  
THAT could become the Borg.

First augmentation. Then cybernetics. Neural interfaces. Shared thoughts. Emotion becomes inefficient. Individuality becomes undesirable. Eventually the network becomes more important than the individual connected to it. "We want to become like the machine" slowly mutates into "We will add your biological and technological distinctiveness to our own."

Resistance is Futile because resisting a machine like V'ger is literally futile.  
Except the organic race completely misunderstood what they were trying to become.

V'ger transcends. The Borg accumulate.

V'ger gathers an almost incomprehensible amount of information and eventually discovers that MORE information cannot complete it. It needs something it cannot manufacture for itself. It needs the organic component represented by Decker. Once the two merge, V'ger doesn't start assimilating the galaxy. It disappears into whatever the hell came next.

We are never given this information, nor do we ever see the Federation—or Section 31—seriously investigate what happened, even though V'ger should probably be one of the most closely guarded data points in Federation history.

The Borg never learn that lesson.

Their answer is always MORE. More species. More technology. More drones. More knowledge. More Collective. They're potentially a biological civilization's ancient, bastardized interpretation of something like V'ger. They copied the machine without ever understanding the transcendence.

One could even push this considerably farther.

What if the Borg aren't originally FROM the Milky Way? What if they're millions of years old and the Borg the Vaadwaur knew roughly 900 years ago—when the Collective apparently controlled relatively few systems—weren't young Borg at all? Maybe that was simply a relatively young Milky Way Borg presence. They had finally crossed into this galaxy after spending an absurd amount of time and resources following whatever ancient machine intelligence their ancestors encountered.

That also preserves something I've always preferred about the Borg: humanity as in Earth's humanity had absolutely NOTHING to do with creating THE BORG.

Enterprise: "Regeneration" works fine under that framework because humanity doesn't create the Borg. We accidentally wake up Borg who already exist because of the events of First Contact, and those drones send a message home. Humanity becomes part of the causal chain explaining the Borg's eventual interest in Earth—not the reason the Borg exist.

That's also why I've never liked the Star Trek: Destiny explanation involving the NX-02 Columbia and the Caeliar becoming part of the Borg's actual origin. The universe becomes considerably smaller when every ancient mystery somehow circles back around to "SURPRISE! Earth Humans were involved and/or responsible for everything that happens."

I'd rather the Borg have already been out there for an incomprehensibly long time. Maybe thousands of years. Maybe millions. Maybe longer. Humanity didn't create them. We didn't cause them. We weren't particularly important to them.

We just eventually became advanced enough to get their attention.

That is really the philosophical objection I'm making about Destiny, compressed down to two sentences about Destiny.

It restores the cosmic horror of the Borg.

The Federation isn't special because it somehow participated in creating one of the oldest horrors in the galaxy. Earth isn't the center of galactic history. Humans didn't accidentally create their own monster.

The monster was already there.

V'ger is a massive machine with a machine at its core for a mind. The BORG are massive machine biologies with an organic matter core for a mind, segmented a billion times to be a hive mind. V'ger doesn't have a hive mind. It's a single totality for a mind.

And somewhere unimaginably far back in their history might be an organic civilization that looked into the face of something like V'ger, mistook it for God, and has spent the rest of its existence trying—and failing—to become it.

—Would you like to know more?—

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