

# Crisisverse History

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## Meta-verse Overview

In this version of the Meta-Verse, comic books are the number one form of entertainment, accounting for a larger portion of the GDP of the US than television, movies, video games, books, etc. Sentinel Comics is the 800-pound gorilla of the comic book world, so large that they have even been investigated for violating anti-trust laws.

Behind them are an average of 12 companies fighting to be number 2. The exact make-up of this list of 10-14 companies varies over the decades. DC Comics and EC Comics are pretty much always on the list. Allied Comics is often there until mismanagement during the 1990s speculator craze sends them into bankruptcy. Marvel spends much of the Silver Age on the list, drops off for a while before returning only to collapse when their attempt at a "Cinematic Universe" fails miserably. Abstract Tales is another consistent member of this group.

An outlier, that many people don't consider a "true" comic book company is Vintage Comics. For 75 years they have made a lot of money by buying up the Intellectual Property of failing comic book companies and publishing "Collected Editions" of popular characters or runs by popular writers or artists. While they do occasionally publish original works (almost always based on IP they have purchased), well over 90% of their output is reprints. They are the current owners of AC and Marvel among many others.

Beyond the "Big Guns" there are dozens of mid-sized companies and hundreds of smaller companies, and hundreds more individual artists putting out titles every month.

Popular Writers and Artists are celebrities in this world, recognized wherever they go, and the subject of constant tabloid speculation. Top talent can earn 7 figure annual salaries and when a really big name becomes available, bidding wars occur and are considered newsworthy when they happen.

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## Crossover Crisis in the Meta-verse (2008)

This is the world in which Crossover Crisis was conceived. The brainchild of super-star writer/artist E.B. Webb, he saw the potential for a cross-publisher event. Not just minor crossovers like the DC vs EC books from the 1960s or the Marvel meets Allied Comics of the 1970s, but a true mash-up of perhaps a dozen or more characters from different publishers. While publishers like DC, WildStorm, and Vintage Comics were all onboard with the idea, it was all conditioned on getting SC to join, something the "smaller" publishers never really thought would happen. To everyone's surprise, SC was all-in, even creating an Imprint to tell some stories (written by Webb) to set up a Disparation Universe to be the site of the crossover (later known as the Raniverse). The other publishers followed suit, using One-Shots or Limited Series to set up alternate versions of their characters. What Webb saw as a 4-issue "prestige format" mini-series, got expanded to a 12-issue mega-series of double-sized prestige format issues. (The premiere issue, the finale, and issue #5 all ranked in the All-Time Top 20 titles by initial sales.) The series was published under the newly minted Rift Comics, with Webb as publisher and 52% owner (with the other 48% split evenly among 12 publishers).

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## Crossover Crisis (In-Verse)

Various crises have occurred across the Mega-Verse (the multi-verse of individual publishers' multi-verses), including SC's "Shattered Timelines," DC's "Crisis on Infinite Earths," and AC's "Twisted Time" and "Future War," which have resulted in a Rift opening up across multiple diverse universes. Over a dozen Heroes (or Hero Teams) find themselves pulled through to the Raniverse (so named due to the Ra-centric storylines that were used to set it up). After fighting villains from many of their home universes, they uncover the plot that has led them all here. Tempora, the Mistress of Time, is plotting to collapse the entire Mega-verse into a single universe that she alone will rule as she sees fit. Spoiler: they defeat her, but as the rift closes, some of the Heroes (or Hero Teams) don't make it back home, but instead end up trapped together in what becomes known as the Crisisverse.

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## After "Crossover Crisis" in the Metaverse

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Since that time, Webb has been allowed to publish "Crisis Annual," an anthology telling stories of the Heroes trapped in the Crisisverse, recruiting some of the top tier of artists to illustrate the tales. Sentinel Comics has also kept the Raniverse alive with Raniverse Quarterly. Neither is allowed to expressly reference the existence of the other, nor directly reference the events of the Crossover Crisis mega-series, though both hint at them regularly.

The success of Crossover Crisis was such that talk immediately began of a follow-up, perhaps even making it a trilogy ("Crisis II: Crossing Over" and "Crisis III: Crossing Back" were Webb's suggested titles). However, infighting among the publishers over character exposure and profit distribution eventually led to the project being shelved indefinitely. Several years later a rough draft that was purported to be the script for Crisis II appeared online. While neither Webb, nor anyone else would ever confirm or deny the veracity of the script, many people suspected it was a ploy (likely by Webb) to reignite interest in the project. As of 2024, talks are still ongoing...

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## The state of the comic book industry in the Meta-verse in 2024

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### Sentinel Comics

- Around 30 Ongoing monthly titles.
- Around 15 other titles (mini-series, annuals, one-shots, holiday specials, etc.) per month.
- Around 33% market share.

### Vintage Comics

- Quarterly Catalog of upcoming collections and on-hand archive of previous titles.
- Owns the IP of Allied Comics, Marvel, Sterling Comics, and many more.
- Sales figures, when available, are not typically included in industry analysis.

### The "Big Guns"

- In 2024, includes, DC Comics, EC Comics, Dark Horse, Abstract Tales, and around 10 others.
- Each of these companies has around 10-12 monthly Ongoing, with around 5-6 other titles.
- Collectively, they control around a 33% market share.

### Mid-Sized Comic Book Companies

- Around 100, including Teraphim Comics, WildStorm Comics, etc.
- Each typically publishes around 3-9 monthly Ongoing with 0 to 4 other titles.
- Collectively, they control around a 25% market share.

### Independent Publishers and Individual Creators

- Rift Comics, though it is a major focus of this document, actually falls in this category.
- There is no reliable count, but at least 1000 titles appear in any given quarter (roughly 77 titles per week).
- Typically 1-3 titles with wildly varying release schedules
- The remaining 9% of market share is here.

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## Additional Details: DC Comics

While the exact list of their titles varies, long-running/multi-volume ones include:

- Action Comics / (Adventures of) Superman
- Detective Comics / Batman and/or Dark Knight
- Adventure Comics / Green Arrow and/or Emerald Archer
- Sensation Comics/ Wonder Woman
- All-Star Comics, The Brave & the Bold, Star Spangled Comics, World's Finest Comics

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## Additional Details: Sentinel Comics (Vanguard Imprint (Canada))

### The Raniverse (typical cast):

- Ra / Bastet / Pergamon / The Ogdoad / Fanatic / Tempest / Stuntman / Mainstay / Grandpa Legacy / Chrono-Ranger / Michael Saintjohn
- Freedom 5 (teenage versions) / Haka (mentor)

### Raniverse Quarterly #64 (Oct 2024):

--typical layout:

- 15 page Team Ra story
- 15 page Rogue Warriors story
- 10 page Freedom Teens story
- 10 page story (cast varies)
- 14 pages, content varies

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## Additional Details: Rift Comics

E.B. Webb took advantage of the terms of the original contract to start publishing Crisis Annual even before the collapse of the negotiations for the proposed sequels to Crossover Crisis, writing the tales but bringing in top talent to handle the art chores. His frequent collaborator, Alexandria Falcone, drew the covers.

### Crisis Annual:

--Characters: In addition to the Crisisverse Heroes (Fatale, Safari Girl, Spaceflame!, Team 7, Tomboy, Violet Parr, Yak Guardian, and Young Justice), the contract with SC allowed Rift Comics to use versions of Ra (Urban Ra: Sun God for Hire; no references to the Staff of Ra nor to him being the alter-ego of Blake Washington Jr.) and Baron Blade (never referred to as "Baron" nor named Ivan Ramonant).

### Crisis Annual #1 (2009):

The Crisisverse Heroes deal with the last of Temporia's Timelings and start to deal with the fact that they are trapped in a universe that is not their own.

### Crisis Annual #5 (2013):

Entire issue devoted to short "A Day in the Life" stories of each of the major characters of the Crisisverse.

### Crisis Annual #11 (2019):

When a group of schoolchildren stumbled upon one of Temporia's traps, the Crisisverse Heroes spring into action to rescue them from three different time periods.

### Crisis Annual #16 (2024):

The Crisisverse Heroes attempt to spend a quiet day at the beach is interrupted by Ocean Lord Blade and his latest world domination scheme.

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