

# An Evolutionary Upgrade

The Crash of 2064 ruined the lives of

millions. Some died in the Matrix or went insane, many lost everything they owned, and still others found their identities completely erased. A small percentage changed into something altogether different, with the strange and inexplicable

ability to affect the new Matrix with their minds. Now, in 2070, the existence

of these technomancers becomes front-page news, leading to widespread paranoia and witch hunts. The *Emergence* campaign setting involves the runners in a series of pivotal events that may change the way they view the world and the Matrix—and each other.



SHADOWRUN

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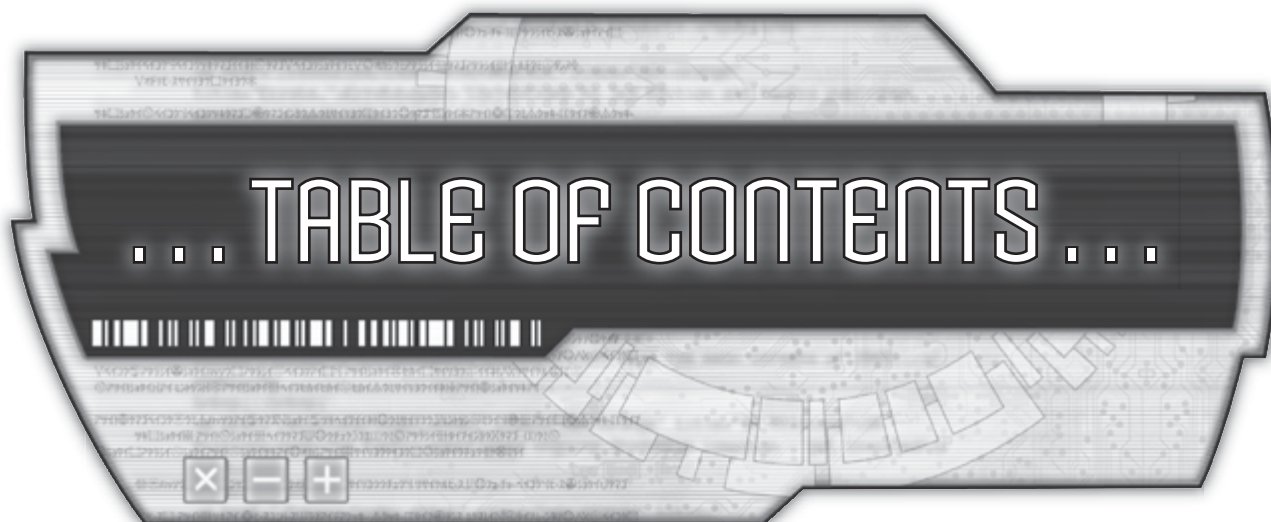
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# EMERGENCE



Catalyst Game Labs



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**Inspiration:** People's Republic of Europe and Communication Zero (dev-editing music). The idea that "People who choose security over freedom get neither."

**Shout-Outs:** Everyone who's contributed to the otaku/AI/Matrix plotlines of the past, everyone playing a technomancer, everyone who's ever had to come out of the closet. Thanks also to Elissa Carey, John Dunn, Adam Jury, Jong-Won Kim, Christian Lonsing, Michelle Lyons, Costan Sequeiros, and Jon Szeto for ideas and feedback.

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<http://www.dumpshock.com>  
(Shadowrun fan forum)



Connecting Jackpoint VPN ...  
... Matrix Access ID Spoofed.  
... Encryption Keys Generated.  
... Connected to Onion Routers.  
> Login  
\*\*\*\*\*  
> Enter Passcode  
\*\*\*\*\*  
... Biometric Scan Confirmed.  
Connected to <ERROR: NODE UNKNOWN>  
"Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity."

## JackPoint Stats

52 users currently active  
in the network

### Latest News

\* <sticky> This private p2p MoSoSo network is still in beta-test, so pardon the mess and report any glitches to me. — FastJack  
\* <080670> I'm conducting a security audit this week—along with some trusted technomancer friends—to see how well this network holds up against technomancer/sprite hacks. Please log any bugs you experience and send them to me.—FastJack

### Personal Alerts

\* You have 600 new private [messages](#)  
\* You have 5 new re-routed, anonymized, sanitized messages from "In UR Head, Hacking UR Brain"  
\* You have 2 new [responses](#) to your Jackpoint posts  
\* You have finished downloading 1667 [music files](#)  
\* A [DeathMatch3K](#) avatar in the immediate vicinity has challenged you to a [duel](#)

### First Degree

You are hidden from all contacts.

Your Current Rep Score: 44  
(96% Positive)

Current Time: August 7, 2070, 0527

PREFERENCES

FEEDS

TASKS

LINKS

HISTORY

Welcome back to Jackpoint, omae; your last connection was severed: 16 hours, 23 minutes, 42 seconds ago

## Today's Heads Up

The technomancer controversy has created quite a bit of back and forth over the past year, even here among the Jackpoint network. I've compiled the relevant news items, chats, and flamewars under the [Emergence](#) tag for easy reference. [\[Link\]](#) [\[Guests\]](#)

## Incoming

- \* Clockwork and Picador are scraping together some fun facts on the latest guns, toys, and vehicles. [\[Tag: Arsenal\]](#)
- \* Just back from a working vacation in a nice, quiet, secure, gated community? Review your fave biz zones here. [\[Tag: Corporate Enclaves\]](#)
- \* Ready for an upgrade? Before you tink your parts with that shady cyberdoc again, check out our upcoming primer on personal technological enhancements. [\[Tag: Augmentation\]](#)

## Top News Items

- \* ANZAC counterinsurgency troops were sent to quell a violent disturbance in a remote mountainous village in Papua New Guinea today. Reports indicate the situation was allegedly sparked by a gun battle between shadowrunners and a cult practicing metahuman sacrifices. [Link.](#)
- \* An attempt by private operatives to repossess the Aztec Express, a 700-foot cargo vessel, from privateers in Cape Town fared poorly. Though the Proteus freighter was successfully commandeered, it was sabotaged and partially sunk before it could leave the harbor. [Link.](#)
- \* Pueblo authorities are investigating a significant cache of explosives discovered after a raid on a gang hideout on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Police believe the gang was planning on using the explosives to breach the Covina Floodwall, which holds floodwaters back from residential areas. [Link.](#)
- \* SecuriTech International is warning its customers to immediately update their firewall software after discovering that its latest security update—downloaded by hundreds of thousands of users—had been infected with a trojan horse program. SecuriTech is holding an internal security audit to determine how the malicious software was inserted. [Link.](#)

CHAT

MESSAGES

FILES

POSTS

NEXUS

SEARCH

Active

ComStar Firewall

Active

Jack-in-the-Box Antivirus

Active

SpamWitch Filter

On/Receiving

Commcode

Excellent

Signal

Active

Hidden Mode

Local Map

## Emergence

Invited Guests  
<none>

Posts/Files tagged with

"Emergence":

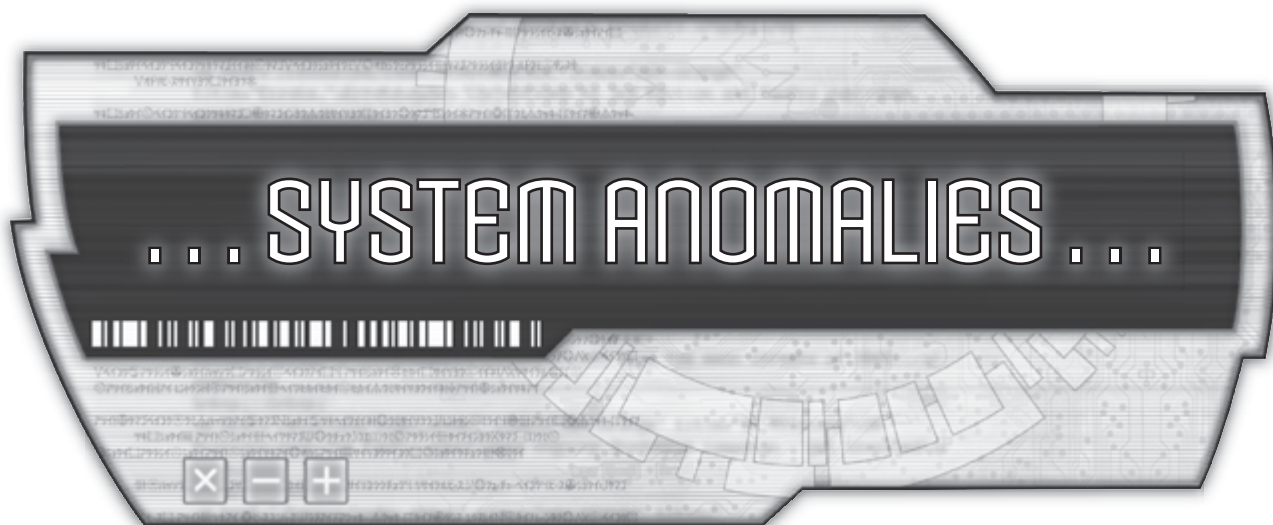
- \* System Anomalies
  - \* Revelations
  - \* Witch Hunt
  - \* The Soul of a New Machine
- [\[More\]](#)

CONTINUE

ADVANCED SEARCH

SAVE





Sneaker's low-light revealed every crack in the hallway's worn linoleum tiling. Doors with silent, black portholes lined up to the right. Eerie red lights blinked steadily on the keypad next to each, signaling that the automatic locks were still engaged. Heavy rain pummeled the windows, and the occasional flash of lightning interfered with his night sight. *No doubt about it, this place gives me the creeps*, Sneaker thought. He signaled Shane and Walks-the-wyld to move forward toward their target, held by the cell three doors down. He'd had a bad feeling about this extraction, ever since Johnson first mentioned the target's location ...

"The Renton mental asylum?" Duster asked, her sleek elven eyebrows rising.

"I assure you, the subject poses no danger to your team," Johnson answered as if he had the conversation scripted.

"Yeah, right!" Duster snapped. Sneaker cut her off with a look.

"Why's he being kept there in the first place?" he asked. "It isn't a penitentiary institution, so he's probably not a criminal."

"I assume in your ... line of work, you have heard of Artificially Induced Psychotropic Schizophrenia?"

"You mean the guy's ridin' the 'trix-monkey? He's got the Apes?" It was hard not to have heard about Artificially Induced Psychotropic Schizowhatever, aka the "Apes." People trapped online when the global network went down in '64 expressed all sorts of weird disorders—if they survived and weren't turned into vegetables, that is. The more treatments they tried on these poor souls, the fewer successes were reported.

"As I said, Mr. Sneaker, he poses no danger to you or any member of your team. Now, do we have a deal?"

"Sneak, you comin' or what?" Shane's voice over the link ripped Sneaker's attention back to his crew huddled around the cell door. "Get this—a manual keypad! Everything here's old-style! The sec-system's isolated from their main network, cameras and all—waste of time that hack was. Pickin' up wi-fi emissions, though. 'Ack, freakin' tiny wires ... got it. Boss?"

Taser in hand, Sneaker pulled the door open. Inside the padded cubic cell, a teenage ork cowered in a corner, shielding his eyes from the flashlights. "Go away."

"We're here to—" Sneaker was interrupted by Duster's sudden curse.

"GO AWAY!" The kid's voice boomed like thunder in the runners' ears, sending them reeling. *Did that just come over my link?* Sneaker wondered, doubling over in pain. Duster's fingers danced frantically over an invisible AR display as she tried to regain control of her commlink, a thin thread of blood oozing from an ear. Walks-the-wyld leaned against the doorjamb, ripping the commlink plug out of his ear.

"THE VOICES! YOU BRING THE VOICES! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!"

Sneaker raised his hands in appeasement, "Kid, nobody's gonna hurt you, we're—"

"GO AWAY! THEY'RE CALLING ME, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO! LEAVE ME ALONE!"

Sheer volume brought Sneaker to his knees. Waves of digital icons, and diagnostic screens flooded his vision. Swamped with nausea and vertigo, he fell to the floor, clutching his head. Too late, the safety cutout on his screeching earplugs kicked in. Deaf and disoriented, he could not hear his teammate's muffled screams.

