THE SYSTEM

- **Eclipse Phase** uses a d100/percentile system. It’s fast, simple and streamlined so players can immerse themselves in the setting without being burdened by complex rules.
- Characters are skill-based, with no classes, but customizable templates provide recognizable roles and sample builds for new players.
- A unique set of mesh rules enables all characters to take advantage of information resources and ubiquitous networking and sensor technology via mental implants.

FOR PLAYERS

- Join Firewall, a cross-faction conspiracy that seeks to save transhumanity—at any cost. Alternately, play a character with their own agenda.
- Switch your body at need, from genetically-modified transhumans to synthetic robotic shells, optimizing your form for specific missions.
- Back up your character’s mind and be restored from backup in case of death—a built-in system of “save points” and near-immortality.

FOR GAMEMASTERS

- The setting is our solar system in the post-Singularity future. Challenge your players with deadly political intrigues on Venus & Mars, high-tech dungeon crawls aboard derelict space stations, mind-scarring encounters with alien enigmas, and dangerous exploration of worlds beyond our system via wormhole gates.
- Build stories with an eclectic assortment of intriguing factions, from techno-anarchists to ruthless hypercorps, soul-trading criminals to uplifted animals.
- Choose from a range of NPC antagonists, including rogue AIs and their mechanical servitors, vicious posthuman factions, alien merchants with an unknown agenda, and transhumans infected and transformed by the mysterious Exsurgent virus.

CREDITS

OSR material pulled from the Eclipse Phase Core Rulebook, written and designed by Lars Blumenstein, Rob Boyle, Brian Cross, Jack Graham, and John Snead, with additional material by Randall N. Bills.

Mind the WMD Writing: Rob Boyle
Editing and Development: Randall N. Bills, Rob Boyle
Art Direction: Rob Boyle, Brent Evans
Graphic Design and Layout: Adam Jury
Artwork: Justin Albers, Leanne Buckley, Ben Newman, Will Nichols
Maps: Matt Heerdt
Proofreading: Phil Bordelon, Melissa Rapp, Zak Strassberg

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We humans have a special way of pulling ourselves up and kicking ourselves down at the same time. We’d achieved more progress than ever before, at the cost of wrecking our planet and destabilizing our own governments. But things were starting to look up.

With exponentially accelerating technologies, we reached out into the solar system, terraforming worlds and seeding new life. We re-forged our bodies and minds, casting off sickness and death. We achieved immortality through the digitization of our minds, resleeving from one biological or synthetic body to the next at will. We uplifted animals and AIs to be our equals. We acquired the means to build anything we desired from the molecular level up, so that no one need want again.

Yet our race toward extinction was not slowed, and in fact received a machine-assist over the precipice. Billions died as our technologies rapidly bloomed into something beyond control … further transforming humanity into something else, scattering us throughout the solar system, and reigniting vicious conflicts. Nuclear strikes, biowarfare plagues, nanoswarms, mass uploads … a thousand horrors nearly wiped humanity from existence.

We still survive, divided into a patchwork of restrictive inner system hypercorp-backed oligarchies and libertarian outer system collectivist habitats, tribal networks, and new experimental societal models. We have spread to the outer reaches of the solar system and even gained footholds in the galaxy beyond. But we are no longer solely “human” … we have evolved into something simultaneously more and different—something transhuman.
ECLIPSE PHASE FACTIONS

One would have thought a cataclysmic event such as the Fall would bring surviving transhumanity closer to each other in an attempt to jointly dedicate themselves to the repopulation of the solar system and continued prosperity. While some of the post-Fall economic, social, or political powers do indeed pursue philanthropic or altruistic agendas, the remoteness and physical isolation of transhuman colonies and habitats stretched across the solar system, the disembodiment of the info-morph refugees, and the ubiquity of the mesh’s myriad of memes and ideologies have promoted the evolution of a wide spectrum of philosophies, agendas, and political models. Today, transhumanity couldn’t be further from walking a united path toward its future.

THE HYPERCORPS

The hypercorps both evolved from and superseded the old earthbound transnational corporations, economic giants whose influence (direct or covert) extended into the governments and nations of old. The transformation of some of those monolithic transnationals into the slimmer, future-embracing, more flexible and faster hypercorps known today preceded the Fall and allowed these financial sharks to adapt to transhumanity’s challenges and navigate the swiftly changing economic waters rapidly and efficiently.

Most hypercorps are decentralized, non-asset-based legal entities (sometimes entirely virtual) relying on an intricate system of specialized internal subsidiaries and partner companies to develop, produce, and market their products and services. Nearly complete automation, advanced robotics, morph technology, mesh networking, and cornucopia machines allow the hypercorps to abstain from mass employment for labor or production. Many administrative tasks are performed in virtual environments and simulated offices. The need for physical labor has mostly been reduced to tasks associated with habitat construction or deep-space mining, which benefit heavily from the overabundance of info-morph refugees desperate to regain a physical presence.

POLITICAL Factions

Transhumanity’s social, cultural, and ideological diversity, as well as its scattered and isolated presence in habitat clusters throughout the solar system, allowed the manifestation of a wide range of political ideologies and factions that advocate equally diverse models or systems. Naturally, controversial regimes don’t achieve stability overnight or evolve without dissent, and even established ideologies over time rarely remain free of diluting or even corrupting influence from outside factors or groups seeking to promote their own agendas.

HYPERCORPS

The following is a small sampling of hypercorps.

COMEX
Comet Express specializes in delivery services, interstellar logistics, supply chains, and shipping. They maintain a presence on almost every transhuman habitat in the solar system, often via local subcontractors. ComEx maintains orbital hubs equipped with slingshot accelerators at strategic waypoints throughout the system and a fleet of cargo vessels and courier drones.

DIRECT ACTION
This apolitical mercenary corp, descended from the remnants of several pre-Fall militaries, provides security and public police services to self-governing habitats or hypercorp installations.

ECOLOGENE
Ecologene specializes in genetically-engineered bio-architecture and environmental nanotech with a strong ecologically-conscious approach.

FA JING
Fa Jing dominates mining and energy production with a business philosophy that emphasizes network-building and social responsibility-sharing.

GATEKEEPER CORPORATION
Born from the merger of several scientific institutions and their corporate financiers, this hypercorp made a name for itself when it decoded and opened the wormhole gateway discovered on Saturn’s Pandora moon. The consortium today funds gatecrasher explorations through the Pandora Gate.

SKINThETIC
Specializing in neogenesis and extensive, radical bio-modifications, this anarcho-capitalist company pushes the envelope of cloning, genetics, and morph design.

SOLARIS
Solaris is the system’s leading banking and financial investment hypercorp, dealing in insurances, futures markets, info-brokerage and high-risk investments. Solaris is a virtual corporation, with each banker acting as a nomadic office.
**ECLIPSE PHASE TIMELINE**

All dates are given in reference to the Fall. BF = Before the Fall. AF = After the Fall. (e.g., BF 10 = 10 years before the Fall.)

BF 60+
- Crisis grips the globe in the form of drastic climate changes, energy shortages, and geopolitical instability.
- Initial space expansion creates stations at the Lagrange Points, Luna, and Mars, with robotic exploration of the entire system.
- Construction begins on a space elevator.
- Medical advances improve health and organ repair. The rich pursue gene-fixing and transgenic pets.
- Computer intelligence capabilities equal and exceed that of the human brain. True AI not yet developed.
- Robotics become widespread and start to replace/validate many jobs.
- Modern nations expand their high-speed wireless networks.

BF 60–40
- Efforts to undertake mega-scale geoengineering on Earth cause as many problems as they fix.
- Major colonies established on the Moon and Mars; outposts established near Mercury, Venus, and the Belt. Explorers reach Pluto.
- First space elevator on Earth finished. Two others in progress. Space traffic booms.
- Mass driver built on the Moon.
- Terraforming of Mars begins.
- Fusion power developed and working plants established.
- Genetic enhancements, gene therapies (for longevity), and cybernetic implants become available to the wealthy and powerful.
- First non-autonomous AIs are secretly developed and quickly put to use in research and netwar.
- Experience playback (XP) technology developed and put into public use.

BF 40–20
- Violence and destabilization wreak the Earth; some conflicts spread into space.
- Argonauts split from hypercorps, taking resources to autonomist habitats.
- Space expansion opens up legal/ethical loopholes for tech development and allows for increased direct human experimentation.
- Human cloning becomes possible and available in some areas.
- Development of first transhuman species.
- First dolphins and chimpanzees uplifted to sapience.
- Fusion-drive spacecraft enter common usage.
- Extended colonization and terraforming of Mars continues. Belt and Titan colonized. Stations established throughout the system.
- The starving masses volunteer themselves for indentured servitude on hypercorp space projects.
- Augmented reality becomes widespread.
- Most networks transformed into self-repairing mesh networks.
- Personal AI aides become widespread.

BF 20–0
- Earth continues to suffer, but the pace of technology allows for some interesting developments.
- Expansion throughout the system, even into the Kuiper Belt.
- Transhuman species become widespread.
- Nanotech assemblers become available, but are strictly controlled and jealously guarded by the elite and powerful.
- Uploading and the digital emulation of memory and consciousness made possible.
- More species (gorillas, orangutans, octopi, ravens, parrots) uplifted to sapience.
- Pods see common usage, amid some controversy.

The Fall
- The TITANs evolve from a high-level distributed netwar experiment into self-improving seed AIs. For the first few days, their existence is unsuspected. They advance their awareness, knowledge, and power exponentially, infiltrating the mesh both on Earth and around the system.
- Large-scale netwar incursions break out between rival states on Earth, sparking numerous conflicts. These attacks are later blamed on the TITANs.
- Simmering tensions on Earth escalate into outright hostilities and warfare.
- Massive netwar breaks out and major systems crash as TITANs begin open attacks, also using autonomous war machines.
- Conflict quickly spirals out of control. The use of nuclear, biological, chemical, digital, and nanotech weapons reported by all sides.
- TITANs engage in mass forced uploading of human minds.

AF 0–10
- A wormhole gateway is discovered on Saturn’s moon Pandora, left by the TITANs. Four others are later found (in the Vulcoids, on Mars, on Uranus, and in the Kuiper Belt); these are collectively referred to as "Pandora Gates."
- Expeditions are sent to extra-solar worlds via the Pandora Gates. Numerous exoplanet colonies established.
- First contact with the aliens known as the Factors shocks the system. Claiming to act as ambassadors for other alien civilizations, they provide little information about life outside the solar system and warn transhumans away from both seed AI and the Pandora Gates.
- An attempt to raise a generation of children using force-grown clones and time-accelerated VR fails miserably when most of the children die or go insane. Dubbed the Lost Generation, the survivors are viewed with repugnance and pity.

AF 10
- Present day.
THE MESH

The mesh, as it exists in Eclipse Phase, is only possible thanks to major developments made in computer/communication technologies and nanofabrication. Wireless radio transceivers are so unobtrusively tiny that they can literally be factored into anything. As a result, everything is computerized and connected.

Data storage technology has advanced so that even an individual user’s surplus storage capacity can maintain an amount of information surpassing the entire 20th-century internet. Lifeloggers literally record every moment of their life and never fear about running out of room.

Processing capabilities also exist at hyper-efficient levels. Modest handheld devices can fulfill almost all of your needs, even while simultaneously running a personal AI assistant, downloading media, uploading porn, and scanning thousands of newsfeeds. Within the mesh network, devices that near their processing limits simply share the burden with devices around them.

Similarly, transmission capacity now far exceeds most citizens’ definition of need. Anyone born within the last several generations has always lived in a world in which hyper-realistic, multi-sensory media of nearly any length is available for instantaneous download. Massive databases and archives are copied back and forth with ease. Bandwidth is such a non-issue that most people forget it ever was. The mesh is also never down. As a decentralized network, if any one device is taken offline, connections merely route around it, finding a path via thousands of available nodes.

Almost everyone is equipped with implanted personal computers, directly wired to the user’s cerebral functions. Thought-to-communication emulations enables the user to control the implant just by thinking and to communicate without vocalizing. Input is transmitted directly into the brain and sometimes perceived as augmented reality, overlaid on the user’s physical senses.

Socio-Political Entities

ARGONAUTS
The Argonauts are an open organization of techno-progressives that advocate the socially responsible use of technology. The Argonauts offer consultation services to political and economic powers throughout the solar system, but otherwise strictly refuse to be drawn into the solar system’s political affairs.
Memes: Information freedom, social responsibility, technological advancement
Major Stations: Mitre Station (Lunar Orbit), Pelion Station (Kuiper Belt)

AUTONOMISTS
The Autonomists are a loose alliance of several libertarian factions—anarcho-communists, anarcho-capitalists, and techno-socialists—that promote egalitarian social models based on the pillars of direct democracy, individual/collective empowerment, social networks and reputation-building, and economic communism enabled by equal access to cornucopia machines, shared resources, and new technologies.
Memes: Anarchism/Communism, Morphological Freedom
Major Stations: Extropia (Belt), Locus (Trojans), Titan

JOVIAN REPUBLIC
A coup staged during the Fall brought a group of stations and habitats under military control and the Jovian Republic—also known as the Jovian Junta—was born. The Republic’s authorities take a bio-conservative stance against many transhuman technologies and strictly control information channels and travel.
Memes: Bio-conservatism, Nationalism, Security
Major Stations: Liberty (Ganymede)

PLANETARY CONSORTIUM
The Planetary Consortium is an alliance of hypercorporate interests that jointly controls a number of stations and habitats, particularly in the inner system. The Consortium maintains a facade of democratic rule, facilitated by real-time online referendum voting, but it is an open secret that the hypercorps call the shots.
Memes: Corporatism, Cyberdemocracy, Gerontocracy
Main Stations: Progress (Deimos), Elysium (Mars)

SCUM
The derogative term “scum” describes large tribes of nomadic space gypsies, travelling from station to station in heavily modified barges or swarms of smaller space vessels, mostly former colonial ships. Part traveling carnival, part black market, the scum openly embrace body modification and experimentation.
Memes: Lifestylism, Morphological freedom

ULTIMATES
This controversial faction uses applied eugenics to further its goal, the development of the ultimate transhuman species. Aside from sophisticated reprogenetic engineering and strict psychological training, their culture visualizes life in the universe as an evolutionary battle for survival and is built around the victory of the superior transhuman over its peers.
Memes: Asceticism, Eugenics, Objectivism
Major Stations: Xiphos (Uranus)


**TERMINOLOGY**

- **AGI**: Artificial General Intelligence. An AI that has cognitive faculties comparable to that of a human or higher. Aka “strong AI” (differentiating from “seed AI” or more specialized “weak AI.”)
- **AI**: Artificial Intelligence. Generally used to refer to weak AIs; i.e., AIs that do not encompass (or in some cases, are completely outside of) the full range of human cognitive abilities. AIs differ from AGIs in that they are usually specialized and/or intentionally crippled/limited.
- **AR**: Augmented Reality. Information from the mesh (universal data network) that is overlaid on your real-world senses. AR data is usually entoptic (visual), but can also be audio, tactile, olfactory, or kinesthetic (body awareness), emotional, and other senses.
- **Bots**: Robots.
- **Brinker**: Exiles who live on the fringes of the system, as well as other isolated and well-hidden nooks and crannies. Aka isolates, fringers, drifters.
- **Cornucopia Machine**: A nanofabricator.
- **Cortical Stack**: An implanted memory cell used for ego backup. Located where the spine meets the skull; can be cut out.
- **Ecto**: Personal mesh devices that are flexible, stretchable, self-cleaning, translucent, and solar-powered. From ecto-link (external link).
- **Ego**: The part of you that switches from body to body. Aka ghost, soul, essence, spirit, persona.
- **Ego-casting**: Term for sending egos via farcasting.
- **Entoptics**: Augmented-reality images that you “see” in your head. (“Entoptic” means “within the eye.”)
- **Factors**: The alien ambassadorial race that deals with transhumanity. Aka Brokers.
- **The Fall**: The apocalyptic event when they started their takeoff toward the singularity—something that changed them. They point to the wide range of multi-vector virii that ran loose during the Fall, and how even many of the TITANs seem to have succumbed to these infections. They also reference a disturbing number of accounts of events during the Fall that are inexplicable … things like people being transformed into strange, alien creatures … or phenomena that seem to defy certain physical laws, as if something was at times ignoring what we know of physics and just doing whatever it felt like … Some of these voices within Firewall even think that the TITANs may not have been responsible for the Pandora Gates … They have a name for this mystery infection. They call it the Exsurgent virus.
- **Firewall**: The secret conspiracy that works to protect transhumanity from “existential threats” (risks to transhumanity’s continued existence).
- **FTL**: Faster-Than-Light.
- **Gate Crashers**: Explorers who take their chances using a Pandora Gate to go somewhere previously unexplored.
- **Iktomi**: The name given to the mysterious alien race whose relics have been found beyond the Pandora gates.
- **Infomorph**: A digitized ego; a virtual body. Aka datamorphs, uploads, backups.
- **Infugee**: “Infomorph refugee,” or someone who left everything behind on Earth during the Fall—even their own body.
- **Isolates**: Those who live in isolated communities far outside the system (in the Kuiper Belt and Oort Cloud); aka outsters, fringers.
- **Lost Generation**: In an effort to repopulate post-Fall, a generation of children were reared using forced-growth methods. The results were disastrous: many died or went insane, and the rest were stigmatized.
- **Mercurials**: The non-human sentient elements of the transhuman “family,” including AIs and uplifted animals.
- **Morph**: A physical body. Aka suit, jacket, sleeve, form.
- **Muse**: Personal AI helper programs.
- **Neo-Avians**: Uplifted ravens and gray parrots.
- **Neo-Hominids**: Uplifted chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans.
- **Pandora Gates**: The wormhole gateways left behind by the TITANs.
- **Pods**: Mixed biological-synthetic morphs. Pod clones are force-grown and feature computer brains. Aka bio-bots, skinjobs, replicants. From “pod people.”
- **Reclaimers**: A transhuman faction that seeks to lift the interdict and reclaim Earth.
- **Reinstantiated**: Refugees from Earth who escaped only as bodiless infomorphs but have since been resealed.
- **Resleeving**: Changing bodies. Aka morphing, reincarnation, shifting, rebirthing.
- **Seed AI**: An AGI that is capable of recursive self-improvement, allowing it to reach god-like levels of intelligence.
- **Shell**: A synthetic physical morph. Aka synthmorph.
- **Singularity**: A point of rapid, exponential, and recursive technological progress, beyond which the future becomes impossible to predict. Often used to refer to the ascension of seed AIs to god-like levels of intelligence.
- **Skin**: A biological physical morph. Aka meat, flesh.
- **Splicers**: Genetically modified to eliminate genetic diseases and some other traits. Aka genefixed, clean genes, tweaks.
- **Synthmorph**: Synthetic morph. A robotic shell possessed by a transhuman ego.
- **TITANs**: The human-created, recursively improving military AGIs that underwent a singularity and prompted the Fall. Original military designation was TITAN: Total Information Tactical Awareness Network.
- **Transhuman**: An extensively modified human.
- **Uplifting**: Genetically transforming an animal species to sapience.
- **Xenomorph**: Alien life form.
- **XP**: Experiencing someone else’s sensory input (in real-time or recorded). Aka experia, sim, simsense, playback.
- **X-Risk**: Existential risk. Something that threatens the very existence of transhumanity.
CRIMINAL FACTIONS
Where there is humanity, there will be an underworld and the organizations that run it. The following are a sample of the major players.

TRIADS
The only syndicate that survived the Fall almost unscathed, the Triads dominate the solar system’s underworld by their sheer membership size and a history of centuries of economic and political influence. Having evolved into legit enterprises and small economic consortiums before the Fall, the Triads had the resources to ensure their survival during the evacuation from Earth and the connections throughout all major habitats to gain a foothold early on in the colonization of space.

NIGHT CARTEL
Progressive in both entrepreneurial and criminal vision, the Night Cartel emerged from the remnants of Earth’s underworld syndicates, merging the best qualities of each. Depending on the field of operations, the Night Cartel even holds legitimate hypercorp status in certain habitats, while working outside the law elsewhere. The Night Cartel is involved in all kinds of criminal activity, from traditional racketeering, extortion, and prostitution to nanofabber piracy, electronic stimulants, and designer drugs.

INTELLIGENT DESIGN CREW (ID-CREW)
The ID crew specializes in electronic crimes and information brokerage, including credit and rep fraud, identity counterfeiting, and datatheft. The ID crew is believed to have grown from several hacker gangs assimilated under the leadership of an infomorph consortium. Due to its service sector, the ID crew maintains a minimalist physical profile, but can be found in almost any habitat’s or station’s mesh.

NINE LIVES
This widespread network of soul-traders specializes in the acquisition and trafficking of transhuman egos. Stealing backups, forknapping, and intercepting egocasts are all part of their repertoire. Nine Lives are known to run illegal fork-slave colonies as well as organize pit fights with all manner of physical bodies (synthetic shells, pods, uplifts, smart animals) and all manner of egos (human, AI, animal, etc).

INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS
The following information is always available for most meshers in a normal habitat or city.

LOCAL CONDITIONS
- Local maps showing your current location, annotated with local features of personal interest (according to your personal preferences and filters) and your distance from them/directions to them. Details regarding private and restricted areas (government/hypercorp areas, maintenance/security infrastructure, etc.) are usually not included.
- Current habitat life support (climate) conditions, including atmosphere composition and temperature.
- Current solar system and habitat orbit map with trajectory plots and communication delays.

LOCAL MESH
- Public search engines, databases, mesh sites, blogs, forums, and archives, along with new content alerts.
- Syndicated newsfeeds in a variety of formats, filtered according to your preferences.
- Sensor feeds from any public area of the habitat.
- Automatic searches for new online references to your name and other subjects of interest.
- Facial/image recognition searches of public mesh/archives to match a photo/vid still.

PERSONAL INFORMATION
- Morph status indicators (medical and/or mechanical): blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, white cell count, nutrient levels, implant status and functionality, etc.
- Location, functionality, sensor feeds, and status reports of your possessions (via sensors and transmitters in these possessions).
- Access to one’s life-spanning personal audio-visual/XP archive.
- Access to one’s life-spanning personal file archive (music, software, media, documents, etc.).
- Reputation score, social network status, and credit account status.
Eclipse Phase is a post-apocalyptic game of conspiracy and horror. Humanity is enhanced and improved, but also battered and bitterly divided. Technology allows the reshaping of bodies and minds, but also creates opportunities for oppression and puts the capability for mass destruction in the hands of everyone. And other threats lurk in the devastated habitats of the Fall, dangers both familiar and alien.

In this harsh setting, the players participate in a cross-faction conspiracy called Firewall that seeks to protect transhumanity from threats both internal and external. Along the way, they may find themselves hunting for prized technology in a gutted habitat falling from orbit, risking the hellish landscapes of a ruined earth, or following the trail of a terrorist through militarized stations and isolationist habitats. Players may even find themselves stepping through a Pandora Gate, a wormhole to distant stars and the alien secrets beyond...

WHAT’S A ROLEPLAYING GAME?
Roleplaying games require one or more players and a gamemaster. The players control the main characters of the story. The gamemaster (GM) directs the action of the story and controls all other characters (known as non-player characters, or NPCs), the props, the setting, and everything else the player characters may encounter. Players and gamemasters work together to build an intense and interesting adventure. As a player, you control a player character (PC). All of the character’s statistics and information are noted on your Character Record Sheet. During the course of the game, the gamemaster will describe events or situations to you. As you roleplay through some situations, the gamemaster will probably ask you to roll some dice, and the resulting numbers will determine the success or failure of your character’s attempted action. The gamemaster uses the rules of the game to interpret the dice rolls and outcome of your character’s action.

QUICK-START RULES
We have specifically designed these quick-start rules (QSR) to drop you straight into the maelstrom of a universe torn asunder by out-of-control technologies, warring factions, aloof alien races, and darker, more ominous secrets waiting in the darkness.

Read through these quick-start rules, including the parts of the adventure for players (p. 23), once… it won’t take long.

A NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY AND GENDER
The Eclipse Phase setting raises a number of interesting questions about gender and personal identity. What does it mean when you are born female but you are occupying a male body? When it comes to language and editing, this also poses a number of interesting questions for what pronouns to use. The English language has a bit of a bias towards male-gendered pronouns that we hope to avoid in these rules.

For purposes of this game, we’ve sidestepped some of these gender neutrality quandaries by adopting the “Singular They” rule. What this means is that rather than just going with male pronouns (“he”) or switching between gendered pronouns (“he” in one chapter, “she” in the next), we have adopted the use of “they” even when referring to a single person.

When referring to specific characters, we use the gendered pronoun appropriate to the character’s personal gender identity, no matter the sex of the morph they are in.

THE ULTIMATE RULE
There is one rule in Eclipse Phase that outweighs all of the others: have fun. Don’t let the rules get in the way of the game. If you don’t like a rule, change it. If you can’t find a rule, make one up.

Then jump right into playing the adventure, which will have you practicing what you’ve just read, and enjoying all that Eclipse Phase has to offer in minutes!

DICE
Eclipse Phase uses two ten-sided dice (each noted as a d10) for random rolls. In most cases, the rules will call for a percentile roll, noted as d100, meaning that you roll two-ten sided dice, choosing one to count first, and then read them as a result between 0 and 99 (with a roll of 00 counting as zero, not 100). The first die counts as the tens digit, and the second die counts as the ones digit. For example, you roll two ten-sided dice, one red and one black, calling out red first. The red one rolls 1 and the black die rolls a 6, for a result of 16.

Occasionally the rules will call for individual die rolls, with each ten-sided die as a d10. If the rules call for several dice to be rolled, it will be noted as 2d10, 3d10, and so on. When multiple ten-sided dice are rolled together, the results are added up. A 3d10 roll of 4, 6 and 7, for example, counts as 17. On d10 rolls, a result of 0 is treated as a 10, not a zero.

DEFINING YOUR CHARACTER
In order to gauge and quantify what your character is merely good at and what they excel in—or what they are clueless about and suck at—Eclipse Phase uses a number of measurement factors: stats, skills, traits, and morphs.

CHARACTER RECORD SHEET
Character Record Sheets note the game statistics (numbers and information) that allow the character to interact within the framework of Eclipse Phase’s game system. In other words, as you move, interact with people and fight, all the information you need to know for those actions
**EGO VS. MORPH**

Your body is disposable. If your body gets old, sick, or too heavily damaged, you can digitize your consciousness and download it into a new one. The process isn’t cheap or easy, but it does guarantee you effective immortality—as long as you remember to back yourself up and don’t go insane. The term *morph* is used to describe any type of form your mind inhabits, whether it be a vat-grown clone sleeve, a synthetic robotic shell, a part-bio/part-flesh pod, or even the purely electronic software state of an infomorph.

A character’s morph may die, but the character’s ego may live on, transplanted into a new morph, assuming appropriate backup measures have been taken. Morphs are expendable, but your character’s ego represents the ongoing, continuous life path of your character’s mind, personality, memories, knowledge, and so forth. This continuity may be interrupted by an unexpected death (depending on how recent the backup was made), but it represents the totality of the character’s mental state and experiences.

Some aspects of your character—particularly skills, along with some stats and traits—belong to your character’s ego, and so stay with them throughout the character’s development. Some stats and traits, however, are determined by morph, as noted, and so will change if your character leaves one body and takes on another. Morphs may also affect other skills and stats, as detailed in the morph description.

While these QSR provides ready-made characters for use and simplified rules within the adventure for resleeving between morphs, one of the most unique aspects of the full rules of Eclipse Phase—including its character creation system—is the Ego vs. Morph.

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**INITIATIVE (INIT)**

Your character’s Initiative stat helps to determine when they act in relation to other characters during the Action Turn.

**SPEED (SPD)**

The Speed stat determines how often your character gets to act in an Action Turn. Certain morphs, implants, and other advantages may boost this up to a maximum of 4.

**DURABILITY (DUR)**

Durability is your morph’s physical health (or structural integrity in the case of synthetic shells, or system integrity in the case of infomorphs). It determines the amount of damage your morph can take before you are incapacitated or killed.

**WOUND THRESHOLD (WT)**

Your Wound Threshold is used to determine if you take a wound each time you take physical damage. The higher the Wound Threshold, the more resistant to serious injury you are.

**LUCIDITY (LUC)**

Lucidity is similar to Durability, except that it measures mental health and state of mind rather than physical well being. Your Lucidity determines how much stress (mental damage) you can take before you are incapacitated or driven insane.

**TRAUMA THRESHOLD (TT)**

Your Trauma Threshold determines if you suffer a trauma (mental wound) each time you take stress. A higher Trauma Threshold means your mental state is more resilient against experiences that might inflict psychiatric disorders or other serious mental instabilities.

**MOXIE**

Moxie represents your character’s inherent talent at facing down challenges and overcoming obstacles with spirited fervor. More than just luck, Moxie is your character’s ability to run the edge and do what it takes, no matter the odds. Moxie points may be spent for any of the following effects:

- The character automatically succeeds at a Success Test. The Moxie point must be spent before dice are rolled, and this option may not be used in combat situations. If the test calls for a Margin of Success, the MoS is 10.
- The character may flip-flop a d100 roll result (for example, an 83 would become a 38).
- The character may ignore a critical failure (treat it as a regular failure instead).

**DAMAGE BONUS**

The Damage Bonus stat is how much extra oomph your character can give their melee and thrown weapons attacks.

**CHARACTER SKILLS**

Skills represent your character’s talents. Skills are broken down into *aptitudes* (ingrained abilities that everyone has) and *learned skills* (abilities and knowledge picked up over time). Skills determine the target number used for tests (see Making Tests, p. 10).

**APTITUDES**

Aptitudes are the core skills that every character has by default. They are the foundation on which learned skills are built.
are built. They represent the ingrained characteristics and
talents your character has developed from birth, and they
stick with your character even when changing morphs.  
Eclipse Phase has seven aptitudes:
- **Cognition (COG)** is aptitude for problem-solving, logical
  analysis, and understanding. It includes memory and recall.
- **Coordination (COO)** is skill at integrating the actions of
different parts of a morph to produce smooth, successful
movements. It includes manual dexterity, fine motor control, nimbleness, and balance.
- **Intuition (INT)** is skill at following gut instincts and
  evaluating on the fly. It includes physical awareness, cleverness, and cunning.
- **Reflexes (REF)** is the capacity to act quickly. It encompasses reaction time, gut-level response, and the ability
to think fast.
- **Savvy (SAV)** is mental adaptability, social intuition, and
  proficiency at interacting with others. It includes social awareness and manipulation.
- **Somatics (SOM)** is skill at pushing a morph to the best
  of its physical ability, including the fundamental use of
  the morph's strength, endurance, and sustained positioning and motion.
- **Willpower (WIL)** is self-control, a character's ability to
  command their own destiny.

**LEARNED SKILLS**

Learned skills encompass a wide range of specialties and education, from combat training to negotiating to astrophysics. Each learned skill is linked to an aptitude, which represents the underlying competency in which the skill is based. Like aptitudes, learned skills stay with the character even when characters change morphs, though certain morphs, implants, and other factors may sometimes modify the character's skill rating. If your character lacks a particular skill that a test calls for, you can in most cases default to the linked aptitude for the test (see Defaulting: Untrained Skill Use, p. 11).

**THINGS CHARACTERS USE**

In the advanced technological setting of Eclipse Phase, characters don't get by on their wits and morphs alone. Characters take advantage of their credit and reputation to acquire gear and implants, and make use of their social networks to gather information.

**IDENTITY**

In an age of ubiquitous computing and omnipresent surveillance, privacy is a thing of the past—who you are and what you do is easily accessed online. Characters in Eclipse Phase, however, are often involved in secretive or less-than-legal activities, so the way to keep the bloggers, news, paparazzi, and law off your back is to make extensive use of fake IDs. While Firewall often provides cover identities for its sentinel agents, it doesn't hurt to keep a few extra personas in reserve, in case matters ever go out the airlock in a hurry. Thankfully, the patchwork allegiances of city-state habitats and faction stations means that identities aren't too difficult to fake, and the ability to switch morphs makes it even easier. On the other hand, anyone with a copy of your biometrics or geneprint will have an edge in tracking you down or finding any forensic traces you leave.

**SOCIAL NETWORKS**

Social networks represent people the character knows and social groups with which they interact. These contacts, friends, and acquaintances are not just maintained in person, but rely heavily on the Mesh. Social software allows people to easily keep updated on what the people they know are doing, where they are and what they are interested in—by the minute.

In gameplay, social networks are quite useful to characters. Their friend list is an essential resource—a pool of people a character can use to poll for ideas, troll for news, listen to for the latest rumors, buy or sell gear from, hit up for expert advice, and even ask for favors (see Reputation and Social Networks, p. 14).

**REP**

Capitalism is no longer the only economy in town; in many areas its not money but reputation that matters. Your reputation score represents your social capital—how esteemed you are among your peers. Rep can be increased by positively influencing, contributing to, or helping individuals or groups, and it can be decreased with antisocial behavior. In anarchist habitats, your likelihood of obtaining things you need is based entirely on how you are viewed by others.

Reputation is easily measured by one of several online social networks. Your actions are rewarded or punished by those with whom you interact, who can ping your rep score with positive or negative feedback. All factions use these networks, as reputation can affect your social activities in capitalist economies as well. For more information, see Reputation and Social Networks, p. 14.

**MAKING TESTS**

In Eclipse Phase, characters are bound to find themselves in adrenalin-pumping action scenes, high-stress social situations, lethal combat, spine-tingling investigations, and similar situations filled with drama, risk, and adventure. When your character is embroiled in these scenarios, you determine how well they do by making tests—rolling dice to determine if they succeed or fail, and to what degree.

You make tests in Eclipse Phase by rolling d100 and comparing the result to a target number. The target number is typically determined by one of your character's skills (discussed below) and ranges between 1 and 98. If you roll less than or equal to the target number, you succeed. If you roll higher than the target number, you fail.

A roll of 00 is always considered a success. A roll of 99 is always a failure.
**TARGET NUMBERS**

As noted above, the target number for a d100 roll in *Eclipse Phase* is usually the skill rating. Occasionally, however, a different figure is used. In some cases, an aptitude score is used, making for a much harder test as aptitudes usually fall well below 50. In others, the target number is an aptitude rating x 2 or two aptitudes added together. In these cases, the test description notes what rating(s) to use.

**WHEN TO MAKE TESTS**

The gamemaster decides when a character must make a test. As a rule of thumb, tests are called for whenever a character might fail at an action and when success or failure may have an effect on the ongoing story. Tests are also called for whenever two or more characters act in opposition to one another (for example, arm wrestling or haggling over a price). It is not necessary to make tests for everyday, run-of-the-mill activities, such as getting dressed or checking your email (especially in *Eclipse Phase*, where so many activities are automatically handled by the machines around you). Even an activity such as driving a car does not call for dice rolls as long as you have a modicum of skill. A test might be necessary, however, if you happen to be driving while bleeding to death or are pursuing a gang of motorcycle-riding scavengers through the ruins of a devastated city.

Knowing when to call for tests and when to let the roleplaying flow uninterrupted is a skill that every gamemaster must acquire. Sometimes it is better to simply make a call without rolling dice in order to maintain the pacing of the game. Likewise, in certain circumstances the gamemaster may decide to make tests for a character in secret, without the player noticing. If an enemy is trying to sneak past a character on guard, for example, the gamemaster will alert the player that something is amiss if they ask the player to make a perception test.

**DIFFICULTY AND MODIFIERS**

The measure of a test’s difficulty is reflected in its modifier. Modifiers are adjustments made to the target number (not the roll), either raising or lowering it. A test of average difficulty has no modifiers, whereas actions that are easier have positive modifiers (raising the target number, making success more likely) and harder actions have negative modifiers (lowering the target number, making success less likely).

Other factors might also play a role in a test, applying additional modifiers. These factors include the environment, equipment (or lack thereof) and the character’s health, among other things. The character might be using superior tools, working in poor conditions, or even wounded, for example. Each of these factors must be taken into account, applying additional modifiers to the target number and affecting the likelihood of success or failure.

For simplicity, modifiers are applied in multiples of 10. The Test Difficulty Table and Modifier Severity Tables provide an easy reference for modifiers based upon the situation. The gamemaster must determine if a particular test is harder or easier than normal, and to what degree, and must apply appropriate modifiers as described above. Any number of modifiers may be applied, as the gamemaster deems appropriate, but the cumulative modifiers may not exceed plus or minus 60.

**EXAMPLE**

Twitch is attempting to use his Free Fall skill (with a 65 rating) to quickly move through a derelict habitat, while something he does not want to encounter is chasing him.

Though the habitat is large, it’s been abandoned for some time, lacks air pressure, is exposed to vacuum, and is cluttered with floating debris, making it a dangerous place to move through in the best of times. Therefore, after looking at the Test Difficulty and Modifier Severity tables, the gamemaster applies a Challenging Test Difficulty penalty of –20. It gets worse, however. Twitch has just entered a section of the habitat where major battles occurred in the station’s lost past, so the area is even more twisted and littered with junk. The gamemaster raises the modifier to –30. That means if Twitch is going to successfully use his Free Fall skill to navigate this section and escape whatever’s hunting him—all the while avoiding slaming into a bulkhead or impaling himself on a jagged piece of floating metal—he’s got to make a d100 roll of 35 or less. Let’s hope luck is with him today.

**CRITICALS: ROLLING DOUBLES**

Any time both dice come up with the same number—11, 22, 33, 44 and so on—you have scored a critical success or critical failure, depending on whether your roll also beats your target number. Double-zero (00) is always a critical success, whereas 99 is always a critical failure. Rolling doubles means that a little something extra happened with the outcome of the test, either positive or negative. Criticals have a specific application in combat tests (see Step 5: Determine Outcome and Step 6: Modify Armor, p. 18), but for all other purposes the gamemaster decides what exactly went wrong or right in a specific situation. Criticals can be used to amplify a success or failure: you finish with a flourish or fail so spectacularly that you remain the butt of jokes for weeks to come. They can also result in some sort of unexpected secondary effect: you repair the device and improve its performance, or you fail to shoot your enemy and hit an innocent bystander. Alternatively, a critical can give a boost to a follow-up action (or hinder one). For example, you not only spot the clue, but you immediately suspect it’s a red herring; or you not only fail to strike the target, but your weapon breaks, leaving you defenseless. Gamemasters are encouraged to be inventive with their use of criticals and choose results that create comedy, drama or tension.

**DEFAULTING: UN-TRAINED SKILL USE**

Certain tests may call for a character to use a skill they don’t have—a process called defaulting. In this case, the character instead uses the rating of the aptitude linked to the skill in question as the target number.
Not all skills may be defaulted on; some of them are so complex or require such intensive training that an unskilled character can’t hope to succeed. Skills that may not be defaulted on are noted in italics on the Character Record Sheets.

In rare cases, a gamemaster might allow a character to default to another skill that also relates to a test. When allowed, defaulting to another skill incurs a –30 modifier.

TEAMWORK
If two or more characters join forces to tackle a test together, one of the characters must be chosen as the primary actor. This leading character is usually (but not always) the one with the highest applicable skill. The primary acting character is the one who rolls the test, though they receive a +10 modifier for each additional character helping them out (up to the maximum +60 modifier).

TYPES OF TESTS
There are two types of tests: Success and Opposed.

SUCCESS TESTS
Success Tests are called for whenever a character is acting without direct opposition. They are the standard tests used to determine how well a character exercises a particular skill or ability.

Success Tests are handled exactly as described under Making Tests, p. 10. The player rolls d100 against a target number equal to the character’s skill +/– modifiers. If you roll equal to or less than the target number, the test succeeds, and the action is completed as desired. If you roll higher than the target number, the test fails.

TRYING AGAIN
If you fail, you can always try again. Each subsequent attempt at an action after a failure, however, incurs a cumulative –10 modifier. That means the second try suffers –10, the third –20, the fourth –30 and so on, up to the maximum –60.

TAKING THE TIME
Most skill tests are made for Automatic, Quick or Complex Actions (p. 17) and so are resolved within one Action Turn (3 seconds). Tests made for Task actions (p. 17) take longer.

Players may choose to take the time when their character undertakes an action, meaning they choose to take extra time to complete the test in order to raise the odds of success. For every minute of extra time they take, they increase their chances by +10. Once they’ve modified their target number to over 99, they are practically guaranteed success, so the gamemaster can waive the dice roll and grant them an automatic success. The maximum +60 modifier rule still applies, so if a character’s skill is under 40 to start with, taking the time still may not guarantee a favorable outcome. Players may take the time even when defaulting (p. 11).

Taking the time is a solid choice when time is not a factor for the character, as it eliminates the chance of rolling a critical failure and allows the player to skip needless dice rolling. For certain tests it may not be appropriate, however, if the gamemaster decides that no amount of extra time will increase the likelihood of success. In that case, the gamemaster simply rules that taking the time has no effect.

For Task action tests (p. 17), which already take time to complete, the duration of the task must be increased by 50 percent for each +10 modifier for taking the time.

Example
Toljek has just arrived at a Jovian Junta habitat, trying to hide in plain sight by walking through the front hatch as though he belongs there. However, they don’t just let anyone inside. At another station or with other groups, the gamemaster might allow the player to use his Persuasion or Deception Skill. However, because of that tight-knit society fabric, the gamemaster insists that Toljek use his Protocols Skill. Unfortunately, Toljek doesn’t have that skill, so he has to default. Protocol is linked to Savvy, so Toljek needs to make a SAV Test. What’s worse, it’s still difficult to get inside by talking his way in, so the gamemaster assigns a –10 modifier. With a Savvy rating of 15, Toljek must roll a 5 or less on d100! Maybe he should’ve tried sneaking in.

MARGIN OF SUCCESS/FAILURE
At times, a character may not only need to succeed, but kick ass and take names while doing it. This is usually true of situations where the challenge is not only difficult but the action must be pulled off with a fair bit of finesse. Tests of this sort may call for a certain Margin of Success (MoS)—an amount by which the character must roll under the target number. For example, a character facing a target number of 55 and an MoS of 20 must roll equal to or less than 35 to succeed at the level called for by the situation.

At other times, it may be important to know how badly a character fails, as determined by a Margin of Failure (MoF)—the amount by which the character rolled over the target number. In this case, a test may note that a character that fails with a certain MoF may suffer additional consequences for failing so dismally.

Example
Srit is attempting to create a unique modification for her morph. It’s not something she can buy on the open market and she can’t find it through her networks, so she’s taken advantage of a company’s nanofabrication unit; they don’t have nearly the security they think they do. She’s got her own nanofabrication unit, of course, but for what she wants to do the gamemaster has told her she needs something more robust.

Though she’s on a clock, she’s got a pretty low Programming skill and the gamemaster is going to pile on the modifiers for the difficulty of this Task Action Test. The GM has already told her it’ll take 10 minutes. She can’t risk staying inside more than 20 minutes, as she’s got to leave room for the machine to finish and for her to slide out, leaving the company none the wiser, before her window closes. She spends an additional 5 minutes (50 percent of the original 10 minutes for the task), for a total of 15 minutes to receive an additional +10 modifier to her Programming Skill Test.

Example
Srit makes the roll for her Programming Skill Test, d100 against a target number of 30. With a result of 21, she succeeds! Just in case it’s needed, she notes her MoS of 9.

OPPOSED TESTS
An Opposed Test is called for whenever a character’s action may be directly opposed by another. Regardless of who
initiates the action, both characters must make a test in con-
test with each other, with the outcome favoring the winner.

To make an Opposed Test, each character rolls d100 against a target number equal to their skill +/– modifiers. If only one of the characters succeeds (rolls equal to or less than their target number), that character has won. If both succeed, the character that gets the highest dice roll wins. If both characters fail, or they both succeed but roll the same number, a deadlock occurs—the characters remain contested until one of them has another action and either breaks away or makes another Opposed Test.

Care must be taken when applying modifiers in an Opposed Test. Some modifiers affect both participants equally, and should be applied to both tests. If a modifier arises from one character’s advantage in relation to the other, however, that modifier should only be applied to benefit the favored character; it should not also be applied as a negative modifier to the disadvantaged character (in order to avoid double jeopardy).

**EXAMPLE**

Kylor was a member of a pirate band working between the asteroid belt and the Jovian Junta habitats, raiding Scum long haulers (one of their favorite pastimes). Despite his deep and long relationship with the leader of the group, Xtyl, when given the opportunity Kylor betrayed them all.

Xtyl is out of jail and has a new pirate band together. Kylor’s been hired to infiltrate this group and bring them down again. Even though he’s re-sleeved from a skin to a shell to help hide his identity—he never wore a synthetic morph around Xtyl—the gamemaster determines that at their first meeting, Xtyl might still recognize Kylor’s mannerisms. They lived, whored, and raised together for almost a decade, after all.

Luckily for Kylor, he’s rolling against his Disguise skill, while Xtyl is rolling against her Intuition aptitude. However, the gamemaster decides to throw a +20 bonus toward Xtyl … she has a gut instinct that has gotten her out of half a dozen situations where she should’ve died, including Kylor’s betrayal. And she has a burning itch for revenge against him, if she ever finds him.

Kylor rolls d100 against a target number of 70, with a result of 54. Xtyl rolls d100 against a target number of 35 with a result of 23. Though they both succeeded, Kylor rolled the higher number and so manages to dupe his former comrade. He is accepted into the fold.

**OPPOSED TESTS AND MARGIN OF SUCCESS/FAILURE**

In some cases, it may also be important to note a character’s margin of success or failure in an Opposed Test, as with a Success Test above. In this case, the MoS/MoF is still determined by the difference between the character’s roll and their target number—it is not calculated by the difference between their roll and the opposing character’s roll.

**NETWORK INTRUSION**

Often players will need to go beyond simply accessing the mesh and instead hack into a secured area to find the information they’re hunting. Whether sneaking wirelessly into a user’s ecto or breaking into a heavily monitored hard network, the actual penetration of a network’s defenses is the true challenge facing an intruder.

To hack a network, a player makes an Intrusion Test using Infosec skill. The gamemaster applies a modifier based on the difficulty of the network in question, using the Test Difficulty and Modifier Severity Tables (p. 11). For example, trying to slip into a local detection system to find his client list might only apply a –10 modifier, but attempting to hack into a darkcast database to see who made the latest illegal egocast could apply a –40 or even –50 modifier penalty.

**SUBVERSION**

Once in a network, a character may attempt to obtain information, mess with the systems controlled by the network, or hijack the entire network. To subvert the network, the intruder must succeed in a Subversion Success Test made with the Interfacing Skill.

The difficulty of the test depends on the severity of subversion the character wants to achieve (see Subversion Difficulties Table). For example, monitoring the traffic of a network is a rather simple task (adding a positive modifier to the test), but crashing or totally subverting a network (colloquially known as zombifying) is demanding and hard to accomplish.

Scofas needs to drop the lights in a quarter of the long hauler’s currently on. They’ve been incognito as vacworkers to repair the ancient vessel and they’re nearing the spot where their ship has been hiding in wait. It’s time to grab their target morph who’s fleeing justice from the inner system and hop ship. The team is ready, now they just need Scofas to work his magic.

He first makes a Network Intrusion Test. Even on this decrepit tub they’ve got wireless, and so he’s able to keep well hidden as he tries to mesh. What’s more, the long hauler’s battered state (why would anyone want anything on this tub?) and the fact that they’ve been on it for months keeping their heads down earns Scofas a +20 modifier from the gamemaster for the test, giving him a final target number of 80. He rolls a 21!

Next, it’s time to subvert the network. Scofas is only supposed to try to turn off the light, but he goes for broke to shut down the entire system in this section of the ship. A –30 modifier for the shut down network subversion attempt is applied to Scofas’ Infosec skill of 60, so he’s rolling against a target number of 30.

The controlling player of Scofas realizes that the chances of rolling 30 or less on d100 are pretty slim. Before the dice are rolled he has a change of heart and decides to spend a point of Moxie to guarantee a successful roll. The entire mesh in that area goes silent and his team moves into action.
REPUTATION AND SOCIAL NETWORKS

The reputation economy is one in which the material plenty created by micro-manufacturing and the longevity granted by uploading and backups have removed considerations of supply versus scarcity from the economic equation. However, material abundance hasn’t eliminated the value of certain goods and services. What if you need gene therapy on your morph to grow infrared sensing cells on your face? How about someone to assassinate your renegade beta fork after she set off a hallucinogen grenade at your gallery opening and kidnapped your boyfriend? You call on your social network. If your network is sufficiently deep and numerous, someone will help you out.

In the Inner System, the reputation economy doesn’t replace money for the exchange of goods and services, but it does hold sway over the network of favors and influence. Calling on contacts, getting information and making sure you’re in the best place to see and be seen all involve calling on your social network.

SOCIAL NETWORKS

Social networks represent the people you know, and the people they know, and so on. In the always-online, fully-meshed universe of Eclipse Phase, this goes even further, encompassing all the people you’ve linked to via social mesh networks, everyone who watches your blog/lifestream updates, and everyone you interact with on various mesh forums.

The exact uses for which you may exploit your social networks are noted below. While in some cases, the defining element is who you know and how good you are at reaching out to them, in others the defining element is how known you are. You might be connected to thousands of people, but if you don’t have clout, your efforts to make use of these connections are limited. This is where reputation comes into play.

REPUTATION

Reputation is a measurement of your social currency. In the gift economies of the Outer System, social reputation has effectively replaced money. Unlike credit, however, reputation is far more stable.

In Eclipse Phase, reputation scores are facilitated by online social networks. Almost everyone is a member of one or more of these reputation networks, and it is a trivial matter to ping the current rep score and history of someone you are dealing with—your muse often does this automatically, marking an entoptic rep score badge on anyone with whom you interact, updated in real time.

EXAMPLE

Vijay needs some backup on a solo mission. He’ll be planting some nanoscale recording devices in a hypercorp bio-experimentation facility. Sneaking the tiny robots inside will take all of his concentration, so he asks Blythe, anarchist hacker in his @-Rep social network, to act as his lookout throughout the mission. Briefing, doing the job, and cleaning up will take the better part of a day and has a minor element of risk. The gamemaster, after referencing the Test Difficulty and Modifier Severity tables, therefore assigns the roll a –10 modifier. With a Rep Score of 55 for the @-list, Vijay now has to roll 45 or less on d100. Rolling, he comes up with a 79. That’s not going to do it. He really needs to make his move now and so despite having to spend another 60 minutes, he tries again, knowing the gamemaster is going to apply an additional –10 modifier. He rolls a 34, just under the 35 he needs!
**Action and Combat**

Game play in *Eclipse Phase* is broken down into intervals called Action Turns. Each Action Turn is 3 seconds in length (meaning there are 20 Action Turns per minute). The order in which characters act during a turn is determined by an Initiative Test (see *Initiative*, p. 16). Each character is limited in the amount of actions they can take in a turn, as determined by their Speed stat (see *Speed*, p. 16).

**Action Turns**

Action Turns are meant to be used for combat and other situations where timing and the order in which people act is important. If it is not necessary to keep track of who’s doing what so minutely, you can drop out of Action Turns and return to “regular” freeform game time.

Each Action Turn is broken down into distinct stages:

**Step 1: Roll Initiative**

At the beginning of every Action Turn, each character involved in the scene rolls Initiative to determine the order in which each acts. For more details, see *Initiative*, p. 16.

**Step 2: Begin First Action Phase**

Once Initiative is rolled, the first Action Phase begins. Everyone gets to act in the first Action Phase (since everyone has a minimum Speed of 1), unless they happen to be unconscious/dead/disabled, starting with the character with the highest successful Initiative roll.

**Step 3: Declare and Resolve Actions**

The character going first now declares and resolves the actions they will take during this first Action Phase. As some actions the character makes may depend on the outcome of others, there is no need to declare them all first—they may be announced and handled one at a time.

As described under Types of Actions (p. 17), each character may perform a varying number of Quick Actions and/or a single Complex Action during their turn. Alternatively, a character may begin or continue with a Task Action, or delay their action pending other developments (p. 17).

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**Acquire Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+0</td>
<td>Average Favor: Perform services for an hour. Help someone move to a new cubicle. Rough someone up. Lend a vehicle. Provide an alibi. Healing vat rental. Minor hacking assistance. Basic legal or police assistance. Lend 250 credits. Other low cost services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-10</td>
<td>Difficult Favor: Perform services for a day. Help someone move to a habitat in the same cluster. Serious beatings. Lookouts. Short-distance egocast. Short shuttle trip (under 50,000 km). Minor psychosurgery. Uploading. Reservations at the best restaurant ever. Major legal representation or police favors. Lend 1,000 credits. Other moderate cost services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Acquire Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-20</td>
<td>Common Information: Where to eat. What biz a certain hypercorp is in. Who’s in charge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+0</td>
<td>Public Information: Make gray market connections. Where the “bad neighborhood” is. Obscure public database info. Who’s the local crime syndicate. Public hypercorp news.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Quick-Start Rules**

15
A character who has delayed their action may interrupt another character at any point during this step. That interrupting character must complete this step in full, then the action returns to the interrupted character to finish the rest of their step.

**STEP 4: ROTATE AND REPEAT**

Once the character has resolved their actions for that phase, the next character in the Initiative order gets to go, running through Step 3 for themselves.

If every character has completed their actions for that phase, return to Step 2 and go to the second Action Phase. Every character with a Speed of 2 or more gets to go up through Step 3 again, in the same Initiative order. Once the second Action Phase is completed, return to Step 2 for the third Action Phase, where every character with a Speed of 3 or more gets to go for a third time. Finally, after everyone eligible to go in the third Action Phase has gone, return to Step 2 for a fourth and last Action Phase, where every character with a Speed of 4 can act for one final time.

At the end of the fourth Action Phase, return to Step 1 and roll Initiative for the next Action Turn.

**INITIATIVE**

Timing in an Action Turn can be critical—it may mean life or death for a character who needs to get behind cover before an opponent draws and fires his gun. The process of rolling Initiative determines if a character acts before or after another character.

**INITIATIVE ORDER**

A character’s Initiative stat is equal to their Intuition + Reflexes aptitudes x 2, or: (INT + REF) x 2. This score may be further modified by morph type, implants, drugs or wounds; for these quick-start rules, such modifiers are automatically reflected in the applicable character’s Initiative stat as noted on the record sheet.

In the first step of each Action Turn, every character makes an Initiative Test, rolling d100 and adding their Initiative stat. Whomever rolls highest goes first, followed by the other characters in descending order, highest to lowest. In the event of a tie, characters go simultaneously.

**INITIATIVE AND MOXIE**

A character may spend a point of Moxie to go first in an Action Phase, regardless of their Initiative roll (see Moxie, p. 9). If more than one character chooses this option, then order is determined as normal first among those who spent Moxie, followed by those who didn’t.

**SPEED**

Speed determines how many times a character can act during an Action Turn. Every character starts with a default Speed stat of 1, meaning they can act in the first Action Phase of the turn only. Certain morphs, implants, drugs and other factors may increase their Speed to 2, 3 or even 4 (the maximum), allowing them to act in further Action Phases as well. For example, a character with Speed 2 can act in the first and second Action Phases, and a character with Speed 3 can act in the first through third Action Phases. A character with Speed 4 is able to act in every Action Phase. This represents the character’s enhanced reflexes and neurology, allowing them to think and act much faster than non-enhanced characters. As with Initiative, for these quick-start rules, such modifiers are automatically reflected in a character’s Initiative stat as noted on the record sheet.

If a character’s Speed does not allow them to act during an Action Phase, they can initiate no actions during that pass. Such characters may still defend themselves, and any automatic actions remain “on” (see Automatic Actions, p. 17). Any movement the character initiated is considered still underway even during the Action Phases in which they do not participate (see Movement, below).

**MOVEMENT**

Movement in *Eclipse Phase* is handled just like any other action, and may change from Action Phase to Action Phase. Walking and running both count as Quick Actions, as they do not require your full concentration. The same applies to slithering, crawling, floating, hovering or gliding. Running, however, may inflict a −10 modifier on other actions that are affected by the jostling movement. Even more, sprinting is an all-out run, and so requires a Complex Action.

At the gamemaster’s discretion, other movement may also call for a Complex Action. Hurdling a fence, pole vaulting, jumping from a height, swimming, or free-running through a habitat in zero-gravity all require a bit of finesse and attention to detail, and so would count as Complex Actions and would apply the same modifier as running. Flying generally counts as a Quick Action, though intricate maneuvers call for a Complex Action.

**MOVEMENT RATES**

Sometimes it’s important to know not just how you’re moving, but how far. For most of transhumanity, this movement rate is the same: 4 meters per Action Turn.
walking, 20 meters per turn running. That breaks down to 1 meter walking per Action Phase, 5 meters running. Movement such as swimming or crawling benchmarks at about 1 meter per Action Turn, or 0.25 meters per Action Phase. If the player spends a Complex Action, their character can sprint up to 30 meters per turn. Vehicles, robots, creatures and unusual morphs have individual movement rates listed in the format of walking rate/running rate in meters per turn.

**TYPES OF ACTIONS**
The types of actions a character may take in an Action Turn are Automatic, Quick, Complex and Task actions.

**AUTOMATIC ACTIONS**
Automatic Actions are “always on” and require no effort from the character, assuming the character is conscious. Examples: basic perception.

**QUICK ACTIONS**
Quick Actions are simple and easy; they can be done fast and can be multi-tasked. The gamemaster determines how many Quick Actions a character may take in a turn. Examples: talking, switching a safety, activating an implant, standing up.

**COMPLEX ACTIONS**
Complex Actions require dedicated concentration or effort. The number of Complex Actions a character may take per turn is determined by their Speed stat (see Speed (SPD), p. 9). Examples: attacking, shooting, acrobatics, disarming a bomb, detailed examination.

**TASK ACTIONS**
Task actions are any action that requires longer than 1 Action Turn to complete. Each Task Action has a timeframe, usually listed in the task description or otherwise determined by the gamemaster. The timeframe determines how long the task takes to complete, though this may be reduced by 10 percent for every 10 full points of Margin of Success/Failure, p. 12. If a character fails on a Task Action test roll, they work on the task for a minimum period equal to 10 percent of the timeframe for each 10 full points of MoS before realizing it’s a failure.

For Task Actions with timeframes of 1 day or longer, it is assumed that the character only works 8 hours per day. A character that works more hours per day may reduce the time accordingly. Characters working on Task Actions may also interrupt their work to do something else, picking up where they left off, unless the gamemaster rules that the action requires continuous and uninterrupted attention.

Similar to taking the time (p. 38), a character may rush the job on a Task Action, taking a penalty on the test in order to decrease the timeframe. The character must declare they are rushing the job before they roll the test. For every 10 percent they reduce the timeframe, they incur a –10 modifier on the test (to a maximum reduction of 60 percent and a maximum modifier of –60).

**DELAYED ACTIONS**
When it’s your turn to go during an Action Phase, you may decide you’re not ready to act yet. You may be awaiting the outcome of another character’s actions, hoping to interrupt someone else’s action, or may simply be undecided about what to do. In this case, you may opt to delay your action.

When you delay your action, you’re putting yourself on standby. At some later point in that Action Phase, you can announce that you are now taking your action—even if you interrupt another character’s action. In this case, all other activity is put on hold until your action is resolved. Once your action has taken place, the Initiative order continues where you interrupted.

You may delay your action into the next Action Phase, or even the next Action Turn, but if you do not take it by the time your next action comes around in the Initiative order, then you lose it. Additionally, if you do delay your action into another phase or turn, then once you take it you lose any action you might have in that Action Phase.

In an Action Turn, the Initiative order is Bob, Cami and then Adam. However, Bob’s character is a dozen meters back from the main scene of the combat, having just turned the corner in the habitat when Cami and Adam’s characters were ambushed. Additionally, the line of sight from Bob’s character to the opponent NPC is blocked at this point. So he decides to delay his action to see how the scene unfolds.

Cami’s character takes her action and steps to the side as she fires her weapon. According to the Initiative order, it’s now time for the NPC to take his action. However, since Cami moved aside, Bob’s character now has line of sight, so he immediately interrupts the order of action and takes a shot. The shot hits and wounds the NPC. After Bob’s character’s action is finished, Initiative would normally have returned to the NPC, but the wound dropped that NPC’s Initiative below that of Adam’s character. This means Adam’s character takes his action first and then finally the NPC ends that Action Phase by taking their turn.

**COMBAT**
Sometimes words fail, and that’s when the knives and guns come out. All combat in *Eclipse Phase* is conducted using the same basic mechanics, whether it’s conducted with claws, fists, guns or other weapons: an Opposed Test between the attacker and defender(s).

**RESOLVING COMBAT**
Use the following sequence of steps to determine the outcome of an attack.

**STEP 1: DECLARE ATTACK**
The attacker initiates by taking a Complex Action to attack on their turn during an Action Phase. The skill employed depends on the method used to attack. If the character lacks the appropriate Combat skill, they must default to the appropriate linked aptitude.

**STEP 2: DECLARE DEFENSE**
Once the attack is declared, the defender chooses how to respond. Defense is always considered an Automatic Action unless the defender is somehow incapacitated and incapable of self-defense.

Melee: A character defending against melee attacks uses their Fray skill, representing dodging (a character lacking this skill may default to Reflexes).
Ranged: Against ranged attacks, a defending character may only use half their Fray skill (round down).

Full Defense: Characters who have taken a Complex Action to go on full defense (p. 19) receive a +30 modifier to their defensive roll.

**STEP 3: APPLY MODIFIERS**

Any appropriate modifiers are now applied to the attacker’s and defender’s skills. See the Combat Modifiers Table (p. 19) for common situational modifiers.

**STEP 4: MAKE THE OPPOSED TEST**

The attacker and defender both roll d100 and compare the results to their modified skill target numbers.

**STEP 5: DETERMINE OUTCOME**

If the attacker succeeds and the defender fails, the attack hits. If the defender succeeds but the attacker fails, the attack misses completely.

If attacker and defender succeed in their tests, compare their dice rolls. If the attacker’s dice roll is higher, the attack hits despite a spirited defense; otherwise, the attack fails to connect.

If the defender rolls a critical success, the attacker’s weapon breaks, jams, gets stuck somewhere, or otherwise malfunctions or gets dropped.

**STEP 6: MODIFY ARMOR**

If the target is hit, their armor will help to protect them against the attack. Determine which type of armor is appropriate to defending against that particular attack (see Armor, p. 19). The attack’s Armor Penetration (AP) value reduces the armor’s rating, however, representing the weapon’s ability to pierce through protective measures.

If the attacker rolls a critical success, the attack is armor-defeating, meaning that the defender’s armor is bypassed—some kink or flaw was exploited, allowing the attack to get through.

**STEP 7: DETERMINE DAMAGE**

Every weapon and type of attack has a Damage Value (DV, p. 20). This amount is reduced by the target’s AP-modified armor rating. If the damage is reduced to 0 or less, the armor is effective and the attack fails to injure the target. Otherwise, any remaining damage is applied to the defender. If the accumulated damage exceeds the defender’s Durability, they are incapacitated and may die (see Durability and Health, p. 19).

**STEP 8: DETERMINE WOUNDS**

The damage inflicted from a single attack is then compared to the victim’s Wound Threshold. If the armor-modified DV equals or exceeds the Wound Threshold, the character suffers a wound. Multiple wounds may be applied with a single attack if the modified DV is two or more factors beyond the Wound Threshold. Wounds represent more serious injuries and apply modifiers and other effects to the character (see Wounds, p. 20).

**FIRING MODES AND RATE OF FIRE**

Every ranged weapon in *Eclipse Phase* comes with one or more firing modes that determine their rate of fire. These firing modes are described in detail below; for these quick-start rules, each weapon on a character’s record sheet notes which rate of fire applies.

**SINGLE SHOT (SS)**

May only be fired once per Complex Action.

**SEMI-AUTOMATIC (SA)**

Semi-automatic weapons are capable of quick, repeated fire. They may be fired twice with the same Complex Action. Each shot is handled as a separate attack.

**BURST FIRE (BF)**

Burst-fire weapons release a number of quick shots (a “burst”) with a single trigger pull. Two bursts may be fired with the same Complex Action. Each burst is handled as a separate attack. Bursts use up to 3 shots’ worth of ammunition.

A burst may be shot against a single target (concentrated fire), or against two targets standing within one meter of each other. In the case of concentrated fire against a single target, double the applied DV.

**BOTS, SYNTHMORPHS AND VEHICLES**

AI-operated robots and synthetic morphs are a common sight in *Eclipse Phase*. Robots are used for a wide range of purposes, from surveillance, maintenance and service jobs to security and policing—and so may often play a role in action and combat scenes. Though less common (at least in habitats), AI-piloted vehicles are also frequently used and encountered. (Though vehicles are also robotic—driven by an AI—the term “vehicle” is used to denote that it is designed to carry passengers.)

Like synthmorphs, bots and vehicles are treated just like any other character: they roll Initiative, take actions and use skills. A few specifics merit special consideration.

**BOT AND VEHICLE STATS**

Just like synthmorphed characters, certain bot and vehicle stats (Durability, Wound Threshold, etc.) and stat modifiers (Initiative, Speed, etc.) are determined by the actual physical shell. Other stats are determined by the bot/vehicle’s operating AI. Bots and vehicles may also have traits that apply to their AI or physical shell. Bots and vehicles have their own movement rates listed; for these quick-start rules, any bots and vehicles will include stats for their movement rates.

**Handling:** Bots and vehicles have a special stat called Handling, which is a modifier applied to all tests made to pilot the bot/vehicle.

**BOT AND VEHICLE SKILLS**

The skills and aptitudes used by a bot/vehicle are those possessed by its AI; for these quick-start rules, any bot and vehicle skills are included with the rest of its game stats.

**CRASHING**

Bots and vehicles that suffer wounds during combat may be forced to make a Pilot Test to avoid crashing or may crash automatically. The exact circumstances of a crash are left up to the gamemaster, as best fits the story—the bot may simply skid to a stop, plow into a tree and fall from the sky, smash clear through the side of a building, or hit...
COMBAT MODIFIERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL</th>
<th>MODIFIER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Character using off-hand</td>
<td>−20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character wounded</td>
<td>−10 per wound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character has superior position</td>
<td>+20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch-only attack</td>
<td>+20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Called shot</td>
<td>−30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small target (child-sized)</td>
<td>−10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very small target (mouse or insect-sized)</td>
<td>−30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large target (car-sized)</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very large target (side of a barn)</td>
<td>+30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility impaired (minor: light smoke, dim light)</td>
<td>−10</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MELEE COMBAT (ATTACKER)</th>
<th>MODIFIER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attacker charging</td>
<td>+20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attacker hidden</td>
<td>−60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attacker in melee combat</td>
<td>−30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defender has minor cover</td>
<td>−10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<th>MODIFIER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attacker charging</td>
<td>+20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attacker behind cover</td>
<td>−10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attacker running</td>
<td>−20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defender has minor cover</td>
<td>−10</td>
</tr>
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<td>−30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defender has minor cover</td>
<td>−10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Defender has moderate cover | −20 |
| Defender has major cover | −30 |
| Defender prone and far (10+ meters) | −10 |
| Defender hidden | −60 |
| Aimed shot (quick) | +10 |
| Aimed shot (complex) | +30 |
| Multiple targets in same Action Phase | −20 per additional target |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANGE</th>
<th>MODIFIER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Point-blank range (2 meters or less)</td>
<td>+10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short range</td>
<td>−</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium range</td>
<td>−10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long range</td>
<td>−20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme range</td>
<td>−30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

an obstruction, soar through the air, flip over and land on a group of bystanders. Bots and vehicles that strike other objects when they crash typically take further damage from the collision (up to the gamemaster’s discretion).

**FULL DEFENSE**

If you’re expecting to come under fire, you can expend a Complex Action to go on full defense. This represents the fact that you’re expending all your energy to dodge, duck, ward off attacks and otherwise get the hell out of the way until your next Action Phase. During this time, you receive a +50 modifier to defend against all incoming attacks.

Characters on full defense may use Freerunning (if they possess it) rather than their Fray skill to dodge attacks, representing the gymnastic movements they are making to avoid being hit.

**ARMOR**

As noted in Step 7: Determine Damage (p. 18), the armor rating reduces the damage points of the attack.

**ENERGY VS. KINETIC RATINGS**

Each type of armor has two ratings—Energy and Kinetic—representing the protection it applies against these respective types of attack. These ratings are listed in the format of “Energy armor/Kinetic armor.” For example, an item with a listed armor rating of 5/10 provides 5 points of armor against energy-based attacks and 10 points of armor against kinetic attacks.

Energy damage includes damage caused by beam weapons (laser, plasma, etc.) as well as fire.

Kinetic damage is the transfer of energy when an object in motion (a fist, knife, club or bullet, for example) hits another object (the target).

**ARMOR PENETRATION**

Some weapons have an Armor Penetration (AP) rating. This represents the attack’s ability to pierce protective layers. The AP rating reduces the value of armor used to defend against the attack (see Step 6: Modify Armor, p. 18).

**LAYERED ARMOR**

If two or more types of armor are worn, the armor ratings are added together. However, wearing multiple armor units is cumbersome and annoying. Apply a −20 modifier to a character’s actions for each additional armor layer worn.

Items specifically noted as armor accessories—helmets, shields, etc.—do not inflict the layered armor penalty; instead, they simply add their armor bonus. The armor inherent to a synthetic morph or bot’s frame likewise does not constitute a layer of armor.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Two methods are used to gauge a character’s physical health: damage points and wounds.

**DAMAGE POINTS**

Any physical harm that befalls your character is measured in damage points. These points are cumulative, and are recorded on your Character Record Sheet. Any source of harm that inflicts a large amount of damage points at once, however, is likely to have a more severe effect (see Wounds, p. 20).

**DAMAGE TYPES**

Physical damage comes in two forms: Energy and Kinetic. The weapons listed on the Character Record Sheets—as well as the NPCs in the adventure—in these quick-start rules use generic names to easily identify their type, such as “Kinetic Pistol”. The only exception are the Agonizer Pistol, which is an energy weapon, and the Shredder, which is a kinetic weapon.

**DURABILITY AND HEALTH**

Your character’s physical health is measured by their Durability stat. For characters sleeved in biomorphs, this figure represents the point at which accumulated damage points overwhelm the character and they fall unconscious. Once your character has accumulated damage points equal to or exceeding their Durability stat, they immediately collapse from exhaustion and physical abuse. They remain unconscious and may not be revived until their damage points are reduced below their Durability, either from medical care or natural healing.

If your character is morphed in a synthetic shell, Durability represents the shell’s structural integrity. Your
character becomes physically disabled when their accumulated damage points reach the character's Durability. Though the morph's computer systems are likely still functioning and your character can still mesh, the morph is broken and immobile until repaired.

Death: An extreme accumulation of damage points can threaten your character's life. If the damage reaches your character's Durability x 1.5 (for biomorphs) or Durability x 2 (for synthetic morphs), their body dies. Synthetic morphs that reach this state are destroyed beyond repair.

**DAMAGE VALUE**

Weapons (and other sources of injury) in *Eclipse Phase* have a listed Damage Value (DV)—the base amount of damage points the weapon inflicts. This is presented as a variable amount, in the form of a die roll; for example, 3d10. In this case, you roll three ten-sided dice and add up the results (counting 0 as 10). Sometimes the DV will be presented as a dice roll plus modifier; for example, 2d10 + 5. In this case you roll two ten-sided dice, add them together and then add 5 to get the result.

When damage is inflicted on a character, determine the DV (roll the dice) and subtract the modified armor value, as noted under Step 7: Determine Damage (p. 18).

**EXAMPLE**

While scavenging through the wreckage of a fallen colony on Mars, Adam’s character is attacked. Adam and the gamemaster roll Initiative and begin to resolve combat.

Adam’s character has the highest Initiative and so goes first. Since he’s feeling a little exposed in his current position and doesn’t know the location of all the attackers, he spends a Complex Action and goes on full defense.

Next, the first opponent NPC attacks Adam’s character. First Adam adds up his numbers. Because it’s a ranged attack, he uses half his Fray skill, rounding down, which gives him a 22. Because he spent a Complex Action to go on full defense, he can add a +30 modifier, giving him a 52. He then determines if any Combat Modifiers apply for his character. He looks at the General Modifiers section of the Combat Modifiers Table and asks the gamemaster if he’s got a superior position to the guy attacking. The gamemaster decides that’s the case and allows Adam to add a +20 modifier, giving him a final modified target number of 72.

Next the gamemaster adds up the numbers for the NPC. He’s firing a kinetic weapon, and so uses his Kinetic Weapon skill of 52. There’s dim light on the battlefield, which applies a −10 modifier. The attacker is also behind cover, which applies another −10 modifier. Finally, the range is long, applying a −20 modifier, resulting in a final target number of 12.

Adam and the gamemaster roll d100. The gamemaster rolls a 78, while Adam rolls a 65. The NPC failed, but so did Adam (even if Adam spent a point of Moxie to flip the roll from 65 to 56, he still failed), and so the shot missed. It’s the same 49 for the second shot. However, despite the speed of the situation, the gamemaster decides that –10 for distraction as a missed laser shot near the NPC has brought the man back to his senses, leaving him with a final target number of 27.

Again, Adam and the gamemaster roll d100. The game master rolls a 43, while Adam rolls a 33! Not only a hit, but a critical hit! Now the gamemaster looks at his notes and sees that the NPC is wearing armored clothing. Normally that would provide an Armor Value of 2 for an energy weapon attack, and Adam’s pulse gun doesn’t have an Armor Penetration rating. However, Adam’s critical success roll allows him to bypass the opponent’s armor.

Adam now determines the Damage Value. Checking his sheet again, he notes the Damage Value of the pulse laser gun is 2d10. He rolls for a result of 6 and 7, which gives him a final Damage Value of 13.

The gamemaster notes that value down; the NPC’s Durability is 31, and the gamemaster already gave him 5 points of damage for the backfired weapon. Only 15 more points and the NPC will fall unconscious. However, the gamemaster notes that the NPC’s Wound Threshold is 6. With a Damage Value of 13, that means the NPC sustained 2 wounds! The gamemaster notes that he’ll need to apply a −20 modifier to any future actions made by the NPC, and he also must make an immediate Knockdown and Unconsciousness Test.

Adam lets the gamemaster know the rule: don’t mess with Adam!
again apply. If they fail, they have been knocked unconscious. Bots and vehicles that take 2 or more wounds at once automatically crash (see Crashing, p. 18).

**Bleeding:** Any biomorph character who has suffered a wound and who takes damage that exceeds their Durability is in danger of bleeding to death. They incur 1 additional damage point per Action Turn (20 per minute) until they receive medical care or die.

**MENTAL HEALTH**

The mind-expanding setting of Eclipse Phase means mental health is often just as important as physical health. Two methods are used to gauge your character’s mental health: stress points and trauma.

**STRESS POINTS**

Stress points represent fractures in an ego’s integrity, cracks in a character’s mental self-image. Stress points may be reduced by long-term rest, psychiatric care and/or psychic surgery (all of which fall outside the purview of these rules).

**LUCIDITY AND STRESS**

The Lucidity stat benchmarks your character’s mental stability. If your character builds up an amount of stress points equal to or greater than their Lucidity score, your character’s ego immediately suffers a mental breakdown. The character effectively goes into shock and remains in a catatonic state until their stress points are reduced to a level below their Lucidity stat.

Extreme amounts of built-up stress points can permanently damage your character’s sanity. If accumulated stress points reach your character’s Lucidity x 2, your character’s ego undergoes a permanent meltdown. The character’s mind is lost, and no amount of psych help or rest will ever bring it back.

**STRESS VALUE**

Any source capable of inflicting cognitive stress is given a Stress Value (SV). This indicates the amount of stress points the attack or experience inflicts on a character. Like DV, SV is often presented as a variable amount, such as 1d10, or sometimes with a modifier, such as 1d10 + 5. Simply roll the dice and total the amounts to determine the stress points inflicted in that instance.

**TRAUMA**

Traumas represent severe mental shocks, a crumbling of personality/self, delirium, paradigm shifts and other serious cognitive malfunctions. If your character receives a number of stress points at once that equals or exceeds their Trauma Threshold, they have suffered a trauma. If the inflicted stress points are double or triple the Trauma Threshold, they suffer 2 or 3 traumas, respectively, and so on. Traumas are cumulative and must be recorded on your Character Record Sheet.

**TRAUMA EFFECTS**

Each trauma applies a cumulative –10 modifier to all of the character’s actions. A character with 2 traumas, for example, suffers a –20 modifier to all actions. These modifiers are also cumulative with wound modifiers.

**Disorientation:** Any time a character is inflicted with a trauma, they must make an immediate WIL x 3 Test.

**EXAMPLE**

Since Adam practically taunted the gamemaster in their last session after the quick combat, it’s payback time. After entering another new area of the fallen colony on Mars, Adam’s character runs into the aftermath of a nanoswarm attack against the inhabitants. Gruesome doesn’t begin to describe it, with bodies half-eaten, others absorbed and changed into something … else. Despite the hard-bitten nature of Adam’s character, even he’s never seen anything like this.

The gamemaster decides to roll a 2d10 Stress Value. He rolls with results of 4 and 7, netting him an 11. Adam notes down the 11 stress points. This is a little too close for comfort, as he already had 6 points of stress built up from previous events, bringing his total stress to 17. His Lucidity is only 20. If he gets 3 more points, he’s going to lose his mind. Literally.

Additionally, the stress points equal more than twice his Trauma Threshold of 4, so Adam’s character receives 2 traumas. This means a –20 modifier is now applied to all the character’s actions—which is cumulative with any wounds the character might have—and Adam has to make an immediate WIL x 3 Test for disorientation.

Finally, Adam’s character has suffered 2 derangements. After a quick discussion with Adam, the gamemaster and he agree that his character will blank out for 1d10 seconds any time someone mentions nanoswarms, and then get the shakes for another 1d10 minutes after he “returns” from this state.

Time for Adam’s character to find some psychiatric help … and perhaps not taunt the gamemaster next time!

**DERANGEMENTS**

Derangements are temporary mental conditions that result from traumas, such as mood swings, nausea, anxiety, hallucinations and so on. The gamemaster and player should cooperate in choosing which derangement to apply, as appropriate to the scenario and the character’s personality.

Derangements last for 1d10 + 2 hours (round down), or until the character receives psychiatric help, whichever comes first. At the gamemaster’s discretion, a derangement may last longer if the character has not been distanced from the source of the stress, or if they remain embroiled in other stress-inducing situations.

Derangement effects are meant to be roleplayed. The player should incorporate the derangement into their character’s words and actions. If the gamemaster doesn’t feel the player is stressing the effects enough, they can emphasize them. A gamemaster may also call for additional modifiers or tests for certain actions, if they seem appropriate.

For these quick-start rules, the adventure will note specific instances when the characters may run into a situation where a derangement may occur, as well as what the derangement is and its effects in the game.
Welcome to Firewall

For those new to our private network, Firewall is an organization dedicated to protecting transhumanity from threats—both internal and external—to our continued existence as a species. The Fall may have reminded us that our ability to survive and prosper is not guaranteed, but our kind has a remarkably short attention span. Despite our achievement of functional near-immortality, we continue to face numerous dangers that may contribute to our extinction. Some of these risks come from our own factionalism and divisiveness, combined with universally available technology that could cause widespread destruction and untold deaths in the wrong hands. Some stem from our short-sightedness, failing to see the dangers in which we place ourselves and our environments through careless actions. Some arise from our own creations turned against us, as the TITANs proved. Other risks may come from alien intelligences whose motivations we cannot yet fathom, and of whom we may not even be aware. Still others may threaten us by sheer chance and the mindless but deadly cause-effect of a universe in which we are but an insignificant speck.

Firewall exists to identify, analyze, and counter these risks. We are all volunteers. We are all placing our own lives at risk in order to ensure the survival of transhumanity.

Firewall has existed, under other names and guises, since before the Fall. Numerous agencies with a similar agenda banded together in the wake of those cataclysmic events to assess our situation and prepare for the worst. Now we operate under a single umbrella.

We are a private network for two reasons. First, our existence and operational abilities are protected by our secrecy. The less our opposition knows about us, the more effectively we can counter them. Similarly, certain authorities might be hostile to an organization such as ours operating in their claimed territory. Though some may be aware of our existence, we bypass numerous legal and jurisdictional hurdles that might otherwise hamper our actions and goals. Second, our mission sometimes brings to light information that is not only dangerous in the wrong hands, but might even trigger widespread panic if made public. In some cases, the very existence of such knowledge could be problematic. By retaining secrecy and operating on a need-to-know basis, we automatically counter certain risks.

Firewall is a decentralized, peer-to-peer network. We have minimal hierarchy and we answer to no one but ourselves. Our node structure enables us to share resources and talents without sacrificing the privacy and security of our operatives.

You have been recruited because of your knowledge, assets or skills, and/or because you have come into contact with certain restricted data. You have proven yourself willing to support our goals. Our lives and existence—and the future of transhumanity—may rest in your hands.

So here’s to the future—may we all live to see it.

[End Message] [This Message Has Self-Erasen]

What You Really Need To Know

[Incoming Message Received. Source: Unknown]
[Quantum Analysis: No Interception Detected]
[Decryption Complete]

Greetings,

Your references and background have been triple-checked and confirmed, and you are now vetted as a sentinel operative. Welcome to Firewall.

For those new to our private network, Firewall is an organization dedicated to protecting transhumanity from threats—both internal and external—to our continued existence as a species. The Fall may have reminded us that our ability to survive and prosper is not guaranteed, but our kind has a remarkably short attention span. Despite our achievement of functional near-immortality, we continue to face numerous dangers that may contribute to our extinction. Some of these risks come from our own factionalism and divisiveness, combined with universally available technology that could cause widespread destruction and untold deaths in the wrong hands. Some stem from our short-sightedness, failing to see the dangers in which we place ourselves and our environments through careless actions. Some arise from our own creations turned against us, as the TITANs proved. Other risks may come from alien intelligences whose motivations we cannot yet fathom, and of whom we may not even be aware. Still others may threaten us by sheer chance and the mindless but deadly cause-effect of a universe in which we are but an insignificant speck.

Firewall exists to identify, analyze, and counter these risks. We are all volunteers. We are all placing our own lives at risk in order to ensure the survival of transhumanity.

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[End Message] [This Message Has Self-Erasen]
**MISSION: MIND THE WMD**

**STOP! READ THIS!**
If you’re going to gamemaster (“run”) the adventure, you need to read this section. But if you’re going to play in the adventure, don’t read it—you’ll ruin some of your fun.

**SYNOPSIS**

*Mind The WMD* is a mission for starting players and gamemasters. It is designed to be played with 1 gamemaster and 4 players. It can be played using these *Eclipse Phase* Quick Start Rules, or it can be used with the *Eclipse Phase* core rules with minimal modifications. Four pre-generated characters are provided (p. 30–33), one for each player. Only the gamemaster should read any further, so as not to spoil the plot for the players.

This scenario begins with the four player characters aboard the Scum barge *Ecstatic Metamorphosis*. They are contacted by Firewall and assembled as a team for an operation on the barge. Their job is to investigate rumors that a black market weapons dealer is offering some sort of devastating weapons technology for sale. If the goods are deemed to pose an existential risk, they are to be acquired or destroyed by any means necessary.

The sentinels eventually track down the arms dealer and arrange a meeting, posing as buyers. The meet takes place on the dealer’s ship, which is docked with the Scum barge. As soon as the characters ascertain the nature of the weaponry, however, the meeting is attacked by a third party seeking to steal the technology. In the heat of combat, the weapon system is activated, releasing a highly dangerous, self-replicating nanoswarm. In order to prevent the whole barge from becoming infected, the characters must detach the dealer’s ship from the barge. Shortly afterwards it is destroyed—most likely with the characters still aboard.

Part two of the scenario sees the characters being rearmed on Mars—either restored from their backups or farcast from the Scum swarm. After investigating the arms dealer and tracking their past activity, Firewall believes they may know where the nanoswarm came from. The characters are sent into the Martian wasteland to investigate the ruins of a dome habitat destroyed during the Fall. When they arrive, they discover a cache of weapons created and left behind by the TITANs.

Unfortunately for the characters, the group that attacked their meeting with the arms dealer has successfully tracked them to the cache. The characters must fend off their opponents without letting the devastating weapons fall into their hands.

**SCENE 1: SWIMMING IN SCUM**

At the start of the mission, each of the characters is independently aboard the *Ecstatic Metamorphosis*, a former colony ship retrofitted as a nomadic city by the Scum faction (*see The Scum Barge, p. 23*). Each character is an established Firewall operative, but they do not know each other and have never worked together before.

**ASSIGNING THE MISSION**

While going about their personal business, each character simultaneously receives an encrypted message via the Mesh. This message comes with information that allows each character to contact and track the other player characters via the Mesh.

**MEETING UP**

The first order of business will likely be for the characters to meet up, or at least to establish contact online. Let the players handle this however they wish, but encourage roleplaying. This is a good opportunity for the players to start to define their characters, so allow them to describe their personal looks to the others in detail and otherwise pinpoint what characteristics stand out.

**THE SCUM BARGE**

The characters are traveling on a massive ship that is literally carrying thousands of people, like a floating city in space. The ship’s central cylinder is rotated for light gravity (0.4 G), but the rest of the ship is without gravity. The ship’s primary operators are adherents to the so-called Scum faction, lifestyle anarchists who endorse full personal control over one’s own body and mind and who embrace body modification and experimentation. Scum barges are nomadic festivals where almost anything goes, a mobile black market. There are no police and few restrictions as long as you do not endanger the ship. The barge itself does not travel alone; a swarm of smaller craft surrounds and accompanies it.

This is a good opportunity for the characters to wander around and interact with others, and for the gamemaster to provide a description of transhumanity at its most eclectic. Scum barges are crossroads for people of all factions, morphs and ideologies, each coming here to pursue business without restrictions, to vacation and party, or to simply catch a lift to the next destination. Parts of the ship are open bazaars, others are non-stop nightlife, and there are even some areas where you can seek out some rest or privacy.

**TRACKING DOWN THE DEALER**

In order to track down the dealer, the characters must engage in a bit of legwork. They have two options for turning up the information they need: face-to-face, or by using rep.

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This message comes with information that allows each character to contact and track the other player characters via the Mesh.

**Ni hao, friend. Your urgent assistance is needed. It has come to our attention that an unknown art dealer in your vicinity is seeking to sell certain masterpieces to the highest bidder. Please investigate and ascertain the nature of the artwork and its potential impact on the public. If it is truly of masterpiece quality, do whatever it takes to keep this artwork from falling into a private collection. You have three collaborators in your vicinity to help with your assessment. Keep us apprised of your progress.**

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FACE-TO-FACE BRIBES/THREATS
Option one is for the characters to simply start asking around. This can go well or poorly, depending on whom they approach and how they deal with them. The gamemaster must determine how well this tactic works, depending on how the characters go about it. For example, if the characters use their knowledge and perceptive skills to find someone who seems to be of the criminal persuasion and discreetly offer that person a bribe for the information they need, they’re off to a good start. If they just pick someone at random and start making threats, not so much.

Ultimately, this method relies on successful use of skills such as Persuasion, Protocol or Intimidation, perhaps bolstered by credits or realistic threats. It is also a good way for the characters to meet some NPCs.

USING REP
Option two is for the characters to rely on their social networks and reputation. This type of negotiation is typically handled via the Mesh, as the character queries their buddy lists and friends-of-friends, relying on their reputation score to induce someone’s help. This requires a test using an appropriate rep score—in this case, either g-Rep or @-Rep.

THE DETAILS
Each successful roll should get the player characters a little closer to the information they need. First they should find out that there is indeed an arms dealer on the ship who is taking bids on some sort of impressive weapons technology. The details on the actual weaponry remain sketchy, but the characters should discover that the dealer is known as Gray Xu, a broker loosely affiliated with the Night Cartel. Further research will indicate that several parties have expressed interest in the goods, but no one is saying who.

ARRANGING A BUY
If the characters dig a little more, they will be able to arrange their own meeting with Gray Xu, which is the easiest way for them to analyze the threat level posed by what she’s selling. The meeting is slated to take place aboard Gray Xu’s private spacecraft, which is currently docked with the Scum barge.

TWEAKS
If the characters are having a hard time tracking down the dealer, give them a break by having one of the dealer’s contacts approach the character with the highest g-Rep. She is looking for buyers, after all.

If the gamemaster wants to spruce up this scene, make digging up the dirt a bit harder. Perhaps Gray Xu already has a potential buyer lined up, and neither party is excited about having someone nosing around in their business. In this case, the characters might get an unfriendly visit from some of Xu’s enforcers (if they come out on top, this could give them the break they need).

SCENE 2: DEALS GONE BAD
Now that the characters have located their quarry, the real action begins. This scene explodes with danger quickly—and ends with a bang.

THE MEET
Gray Xu’s ship is much smaller than the Scum barge, but still sizable. A refitted ore freighter, it features more than a dozen separate compartments in addition to its ample-size storage bay. The ship is tethered to one of the barge’s aft docking stations, meaning that the ship and the barge in this area have zero gravity. Characters who want to move around normally in zero-G should have no problem, but anyone that wants to try something tricky or fancy will have to make a Freefall Test.

THE DEALER’S SECURITY
Gray Xu is relying on four well-armed enforcers to provide ample protection. Two slitheroids (snake-like robotic morphs) guard the airlock, greeting the characters with a thorough scan and search when they arrive, and confiscating any non-implanted weaponry. Two neo-hominids (uplifted gorillas) then escort the characters into the ship, down to the hold where Gray Xu waits. These neo-hominids are graceful in zero-G, but they are incomplete uplifts incapable of human speech.
THE WEAPONS
A large space has been cleared out of the hold, where Gray Xu waits to negotiate. She floats easily in her bouncer morph, well suited to zero-G. Her skin is deep gray, with a shock of white hair and white eyes. Between her prehensile feet she holds an unremarkable metal canister.

Gray Xu will greet the characters with the courtesy due to any prospective customers. She will not waste time diving into her sales pitch, however, instead providing entoptic information displays on her goods.

She claims that the item for sale is a relic of the TITANs, the AIs blamed for the Fall, recovered from some hidden weapons cache. In her analysis, the canister contains a dangerous and intelligent autonomous nanoswarm, similar to those unleashed on Earth and Mars during the Fall. This swarm sends out a horde of invisible nanites with adaptive and self-replicating capabilities—technology that is years beyond current transhuman tech levels. Such swarms are capable of converting matter from the molecular level into almost anything needed for them to overcome whatever lies in their path.

WHAT WOULD FIREWALL DO?
The characters will instantly recognize this technology as exceptionally dangerous—such nanoswarms enveloped and destroyed entire cities during the Fall. Technology of this sort most definitely falls under the umbrella of Things to Capture or Destroy at All Costs.

UNINVITED GUESTS
As the characters are undoubtedly silently debating (via their mesh implants) how to buy, steal and/or destroy the canister, the unexpected happens—Xu’s ship comes under attack. Their negotiations are suddenly interrupted by the sounds of combat as an unknown third party storms onto Xu’s ship, making short work of the slitheroid guards. The characters find themselves in a tense situation, as Xu’s neo-hominid bodyguards move to protect her while keeping the characters carefully covered—for all they know, the characters are responsible for this sudden raid.

The characters will have less than half a minute to somehow put Xu’s fears to rest, a challenging task no matter how persuasive they are (–30 to Persuasion Tests). Alternatively, they can make a move of their own; though they outnumber Xu and her gorillas, they are heavily outgunned. The gamemaster should attempt to run this scene in real-time using roleplaying, keeping a sharp eye on how much time passes.

Around 30 seconds after the first sign of trouble, the attackers reach the door to the cargo hold. The characters will find themselves unarmed and in a crossfire—in zero-G to boot. Luckily, Xu’s side and the attackers will concentrate on each other, only going after the characters if they pose a threat or otherwise draw attention to themselves. Give the characters a chance to take cover behind other cargo, or even to escape the hold via another exit.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO
Just when the situation is looking bad, it gets catastrophic. Either the canister is hit by a stray shot, or Xu accidentally or intentionally triggers it. Either way, there is a loud bang, distinctly different from the other sounds of combat, and suddenly a large cloud of scintillating silver mist envelopes the area around Gray Xu—the nanoswarm has been released. A temporary lull in combat ensues as both sides stare in shock. For a long moment the fog will seem to linger, slowly expanding, until parts of it suddenly come to life, moving in ways unnatural for zero-G to boot. Luckily, Xu’s side and the attackers will concentrate on each other, only going after the characters if they pose a threat or otherwise draw attention to themselves. As the gorillas and attackers begin shooting once again, take a moment to make sure the characters understand the direness of the situation. The nanoswarm,

GRAY Xu

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Reputation: @-Rep 35, c-Rep 40, g-Rep 60
Implants: Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Grip Pads (+30 Climbing), Oxygen Reserve, Prehensile Feet, Spray Weapons 30
Gear: Body Armor (10/10), Shredder (Flechette Spray Weapon, SA/BF/FA, AP –10, DV 2d10 + 5, ammo 100)

NEO-HOMINID BODYGUARDS

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Reputation: g-Rep 40
Skills: Climbing 50, Clubs 50, Fray 50, Freefall 40, Freerunning 40, Intimidation 70, Kinetic Weapons 45, Perception 25, Unarmed Combat 50
Implants: Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Cyberclaws (AP –2, 1d10 + 5 DV)
Gear: Body Armor (10/10), Medium Kinetic Railgun Pistols (SA/BF/FA, AP –5, DV 2d10 + 4, ammo 12)

UNKNOWN ATTACKERS IN SPLICER MOPHRS (10)

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Reputation: 2 30 6 20 4 40 1
Implants: Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack
Gear: Armor Clothing (4/4), Vibroblades (AP –2, DV 2d10 +2), Medium Kinetic Pistols (SA/BF/FA, AP –2, DV 2d10 + 2, ammo 12)
now loose, is nearly unstoppable. It is spreading rapidly, and poses a great danger to everyone on the ship. In fact, if the swarm is not somehow contained on the ship, it could threaten the entire barge. And it’s coming their way. All characters viewing the nanoswarm must make a WIL x 3 Test or suffer 1d10 + 2 (round down) stress.

If any character comes into contact with the nano-swarm, they immediately suffer 1d10 damage (armor does not protect against it) as well as 1d10 stress as they realize they have been infected (derangements that result might include anxiety, nausea or fixation on the infected part of their body). At the end of each Action Turn after that, they will suffer additional damage, starting at 1d10 + 2, and increasing by +2 each additional round, until dead. Their last moments are likely to be horrifying and painful.

SAVING THE BARGE

As members of Firewall, the characters’ duty is to contain this threat and protect the barge. To this end, they need to seal the ship, though that is only a temporary measure. A far safer one would be to cast it free from the barge entirely.

There are several ways the characters can go about the first part. One is to get past the attackers—either by taking a separate exit from the hold and sneaking past any others roaming the ship, or by overcoming them—and manually seal the airlock. Another is to hack the ship’s network and instruct it to seal the airlock.

Moving the ship away from the barge is more difficult. Even if a character manages to make it to the ship’s bridge, the ship’s onboard AI will not allow an unauthorized person to pilot the ship. The characters’ only choice is to hack the controls—or somehow force Gray Xu to make the order. Hacking the ship requires a Network Intrusion Test at −30 to infiltrate the system, and then a Subversion Test, with a modifier based upon the type of commands the players wish to send (as determined by the gamemaster).

If any of these attempts fail, Gray Xu might order the ship to seal itself off, decouple and move away from the barge, either as a last act of altruism or simply to isolate her attackers.

FRIENDLY FIRE

At some point, the characters are likely to report their situation back to Firewall. If they don’t, the situation will continue, with the nanoswarm slowly spreading throughout the ship, killing and/or transforming everyone and everything in its path. The swarm is intelligent, capable of evaluating any threats and of combining nanites together to form larger-scale objects, such as grasping tentacles or shredding tools to cut through barriers—almost anything imaginable. It is also effectively immune to most attacks. If the characters are quick, they might be able to reach an airlock, grab a spacesuit and jump free into space. Any character abandoning the ship must make a WIL x 3 Test or suffer 1d10 + 2 (round down) stress as they leap into space, risking death (resulting derangements might include vertigo, fear of the dark or fear of open spaces).

If the characters fail to contact Firewall, at some point Firewall will contact them to check on their situation—especially if Xu’s ship has suddenly and inexplicably cast itself free against all safety warnings and gone drifting into space.

Once Firewall becomes aware that a nanoswarm threat is loose inside the ship, it will immediately implement an emergency plan to eliminate the danger. Unfortunately for the characters, this means that another Firewall agent placed on board another ship in the swarm will target Xu’s ship with a missile. If Firewall is feeling nice, it may give the characters 20 or 30 seconds’ warning to get to an airlock. Otherwise, the only warning the characters may have is from the ship’s AI, as it broadcasts an alert of an incoming missile impact. Despite the AI’s attempt to maneuver away, the missile will strike and obliterate the ship.

SCENE 3: GET YOUR ASS TO MARS

Whether they survived or died, the characters’ mission is not yet complete. Firewall has traced Gray Xu’s previous activities and believes they may know where she acquired the TITAN nanoswarm, and so the characters are sent to Elysium on Mars.

RESLEEVING

Any character that died in the previous part of the mission is resurrected on Mars. If their cortical stack was retrieved (i.e., their body was not lost or totally destroyed), they are downloaded from that. In this case, however, they remember their moment of death. Such characters suffer 1d10 + 3 stress (resulting derangements likely include phobias or detachment, or somehow relate to the manner of death). Characters who were killed (or already dead) when the missile struck the barge have a slight chance of having their cortical stack recovered from the wreckage; they must roll less than 20 on d100, or permanently burn 1 point of Moxie.

If their cortical stack was not retrieved, they must be restored from a previous archived backup. In this case, they undergo a slight loss of continuity (part of their life is missing), and so suffer 1d10 + 2 (round down) stress. The character will not remember the previous part of the mission or their death, and so Firewall will have to bring them up to speed on what happened.

Characters who survived the previous part of the mission fare better, but they must still have their ego uploaded and transmitted to Mars, where they are downloaded and re-sleeved in a new morph.

All of the characters wake up in a new body, provided for free courtesy of Firewall, in a re-sleeving facility in Elysium. While they recuperate from the procedure, Firewall updates them. Getting used to a new morph is not easy, however. Each character must make a WIL x 3 Test, suffering 2 points of stress if they succeed and 4 if they fail (possible derangements typically include body dysmorphia). Likewise, each character suffers a −20 modifier to all physical actions as they get accustomed to their new body. Reduce this modifier by 5 for every 12 hours that passes.

WELCOME TO MARS

The characters will find themselves in Elysium, one of the largest cities on Mars, and a center of entertainment, fashion and hypercorp culture. It is situated within a large chasm, covered by multiple domes. Its shiny structures, glittering holograms, omnipresent entoptics, buzzing air traffic and non-stop nightlife should stand in sharp contrast to the dingy corridors of the Scum barge. Gravity is a light 0.38 G.
**EXPERIMENT**

The characters' mission is to leave Elysium and travel more than a thousand kilometers to a former habitat known as Ebb 6, which was destroyed during the Fall. According to the records, the dome surrounding the small settlement was breached during an attack by AI killbots. Hundreds succumbed to the depressurization and change of atmosphere, with more dying when the machines overran the base. With little need to reclaim the settlement, it remains a desolate ruin. It lies in an area considered dangerous, still roamed by surviving constructs left behind by the TITANs.

The characters are given a buggy to drive out to the ruins, as a direct flight would likely attract too much attention. Characters in ruster or synthetic morphs can easily get by in the partly terraformed Martian atmosphere, but other biomorphs will be forced to wear rebreathers as well as heated clothing. Firewall also equips the characters with a portable nanofabrication device, which enables the characters to create almost any gear they need, constructed from the molecular level on up, given enough time.

**NANOFABRICATION**

A character that wishes to construct something in the nanofabricator must make a successful Programming Test. This is a Task Action, with a timeframe of 10 minutes. Once the nanofabricator is programmed, it runs on its own. The amount of time it takes to manufacture an item depends on the complexity: 1 hour for simple tools (hammer, crowbar, tent, etc.), 6 hours for moderately difficult gear (night-vision gear, rebreather, etc.), and 1 day for highly complex objects (firearms, computers, etc.). The gamemaster should apply difficulty modifiers as appropriate to the item in question. At the gamemaster’s discretion, the fabricator may not create some items that are too complex or too dangerous.

**MARTIAN DANGERS**

Traveling to the destroyed dome will take approximately 12 hours, though the characters can drag this out longer if they choose. They may encounter several difficulties along the way, though it is up to the gamemaster which to include depending on the pacing of the game:

**Terrain.** The characters’ buggy may run across crevasses, craters, fields of boulders or similar difficult ground. Similarly, the terraforming efforts have created new challenges such as mudslides, sandstorms, flash floods, etc. The buggy’s AI is capable of driving itself, and of using navigation systems, satellite mapping and weather tracking to avoid such obstacles, but such systems are not infallible. Circumventing this terrain may require a Pilot: Ground Test or creative thinking.

**Hostile Martians.** The Martian wilderness is relatively unpopulated, but it is not unheard of for travelers to run across nomadic rural rusters who are hostile to interlopers or even outright brigands who will raid the characters for supplies.

**AI Relics.** As noted above, dangerous TITAN-spawned machines still roam this area of Mars, attacking transhuman life. These may range from tank-like war machines bristling with weaponry to flying drones designed to decapitate transhumans and forcibly upload their minds.

### SCENE 4: RUMBLE IN THE RUINS

After a long journey, the characters finally reach their destination—the deserted remains of the Ebb 6 station. Their instructions are clear: find out how Gray Xu acquired the nanoswarm, locate any other remaining dangers and eliminate them.

**SCOUTING THE HABITAT**

Time has taken its toll on Ebb 6. Most of the damaged dome has been stripped away, leaving only a tattered framework and some remaining panels. Inside, approximately two dozen structures are half-buried in Martian sands. Most show obvious signs of damage from the attack that destroyed this settlement or the weather in the decade since. Inside some of the ruins lie the remains of the unfortunate former inhabitants—some possibly with intact cortical stacks.

Presumably the characters will carefully survey the ruins from a distance before rolling in. Any character who monitors the ruins for at least an hour and who makes a successful Perception Test will notice small signs of motion or activity, such as a flash of movement between two buildings, or a small servitor bot completing some task. Characters with enhanced vision can see in the dark, spot heat traces and even see through thin walls. It should quickly become apparent that someone inhabits the ruins, and that they’re up to something.

If the characters stroll right in, give them a similar chance to notice such activity before they give themselves away. If they hide, allow them to make an Opposed Test, pitting their Infiltration skill against a Perception Test from one of their opponents. If the characters are spotted, they will be confronted by the small band of Night Cartel scavengers who are slowly but steadily unearthing a cache of weaponry left by the TITANs.
NIGHT CARTEL SCAVENGERS
The scavenging group consists of 4 Night Cartel mobsters in rusted morphs. Gray Xu employed this team to continue searching the ruins after one of them discovered the nanoswarm canister here. To their delight, they found evidence of an entire cache of TITAN technology, buried in a bunker beneath one of the ruined structures. For several weeks, the scavengers have employed a number of servitor robots to carefully dig up the stash, wary of possible booby traps. Only recently have they gained access to the treasures within, which they are still carefully archiving and examining.

THE CACHE
The weapons depot left by the TITANs is small but potent. It contains a number of deactivated warbots, several sealed canisters of unactivated nanoswarms (similar to the one being sold by Gray Xu), several vats of unidentified chemical compounds, several items that are completely unrecognizable as to their purpose, and one antimatter explosive device (containing a minuscule amount of antimatter, but more than enough to destroy the whole settlement).

PARTY-CRASHERS REDUX
At whatever point the gamemaster deems most appropriate for dramatic effect, the mysterious third party once again arrives and intervenes. If the players are taking too long to decide on a course of action, the gamemaster can use this event to spur them into motion. If they wandered in and find themselves captured or in a losing fight with the scavengers, this group may arrive just in time. If the characters have already dealt with the scavengers effectively, this event can catch them off guard, possibly forcing them to hole up in the ad-hoc bunker. Keep in mind that this third group has been tracking the characters,

UNKNOWN ATTACKERS IN OLYMPIAN MORPHS (4)

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Skills: Climbing 40, Clubs 20, Fray 35, Freerunning 50, Infiltration 30, Kinetic Weapons 40, Perception 40, Unarmed Combat 50

Implants: Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack

Gear: Standard Vacsuits (7/7), Chameleon Cloaks (+20 Infiltration), Kinetic SMGs (SA/BF/FA, AP –2, DV 2d10 + 3, ammo 20)

SNIPER BOT

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Skills: Fray 20, Infiltration 20, Kinetic Weapons 40, Perception 30, Pilot: Aircraft 30

Gear: Armor 6/6, Kinetic Railgun Sniper Rifle (SA/BF/FA, AP –15, DV 2d10 + 12, ammo 40)
hoping they would lead them to the cache, which they 
did. They are likely to time their arrival in a way that 
benefits them best.

This time, the third party consists of four well-armed 
and armored grunts in buff olympian morphs. They 
arrive in their own buggy, which they leave parked at 
a safe distance out of sight, sneaking up using the rocky 
terrain as cover. Their mission is to seize the cache for 
themselves, call in backup to ship it out and kill anyone 
else involved. They are not interested in negotiating or 
taking prisoners.

This team also has an ace up their sleeve: a sniper 
drone. This AI-operated robot is essentially a small 
helicopter with a gun. It is instructed to keep a distance 
and back the four team members up if they run into dif-
ficulty. Spotting it from a distance will be difficult (~30 to 
Perception Tests), and attacks made by or against it will 
suffer a similar long-range modifier.

RUNNING THE COMBAT

There are numerous ways in which this final scene can 
wrap up—the direction is entirely fluid and up to the 
actions of the characters and the ruthlessness of the 
gamemaster. It’s highly likely that the characters will find 
themselves in a three-way fight, with one party holed up 
in the cache bunker and another caught in the crossfire.

Perhaps luckily for the characters, there is plenty of 
rocky terrain and ruined structures to use as cover, pos-
sibly turning the battle into a running game of cat-and-
mouse. Characters can make ample use of their Infiltra-
tion skills to sneak around, their Perception skills to spot 
opponents, their Climbing skills to gain higher ground, 
their Freerunning skills to vault obstacles and otherwise 
move unimpeded, and their Fray skills to dodge and go 
on full defense.

The gamemaster is in control of both opposing forces, 
and so can choose to make the combat easier by having 
these opponents take each other out or more difficult by 
having each side maneuver and fight with intelligence 
and ruthlessness.

DEALING WITH THE CACHE

The characters’ ultimate goal is to capture or destroy 
the cache. If the characters are unable to beat their op-
opponents in combat, their only choice is to try to keep 
anyone else from claiming it. The characters can go about 
this in two ways.

The first is to access the cache, peruse it and find the 
antimatter bomb. That device is more than capable of 
destroying the entire cache, and most of the ruins with 
it. Unfortunately, there is no easy way for the charac-
ters to set this bomb off remotely—meaning that one of 
them will need to set it off, dying in the process (perhaps 
requiring a WIL x 3 Test and inflicting 1d10 mental 
stress). If the characters think of it and the gamemaster 
allows it, a remote detonator or timing device can be 
jury-rigged to activate the bomb safely, but constructing 
this will require a Demolitions Test with a –30 modifier 
and a timeframe of 30 minutes. In the heat of combat, 
the characters may not have enough time. Alternatively, 
one of the scavengers’ servitor bots could be hacked and 
instructed or remote-controlled to detonate the bomb 
once the characters are safely away.

The second option is to set off a smaller explosion in 
the cache room, which will breach the antimatter’s con-
tainment device and cause that bomb to go off as well. 
This requires making some sort of improvised explosive 
(a Demolitions Test at –30), crashing a vehicle into the 
cache or hacking the sniper or a servitor bot and crashing 
one of those into the cache. It is entirely possible that the 
characters might do this without realizing the antimatter 
 bomb is within ...

Creative players may generate other ideas, such as 
using their nanofabricator to generate a corrosive com-
 pound to melt the cache (though this will also trigger 
the antimatter bomb when its container is breached). As a 
last resort, if the players have no other options and/or 
are losing to one of the other sides, they can place a call 
to Firewall and let the organization know of the cache’s 
location and imminent danger. Through its network of 
agents, Firewall can look into some other method of 
dealing with the cache, such as sending a better-armed 
team or “accidentally” dropping a large rock on the ruins 
from orbit. Any such actions will likely be of little com-
fort to the characters, however, who are on their own for 
the time being.

AFTERMATH

Whether or not the characters survive, Firewall will 
make an effort to retrieve their cortical stacks. This will 
not be possible for any characters caught in the antimat-
ter blast—their stacks have been atomized, and they will 
have to be restored from backup. If the characters were 
all slain or captured by one of the opposing teams, their 
cortical stacks may have been removed—either for inter-
rogation purposes or to sell on the black market. Retriev-
ing those stacks could become an adventure in itself. One 
way or another, the Night Cartel will likely have lost 
their secret stash of profitable weaponry, but they have 
many other methods of making money. Whether or not 
Gray Xu managed to survive the nanoswarm and the 
destruction of her ship is up to the gamemaster.

The characters may be intrigued by the open ques-
tion—who is this mysterious third party? If they hap-
pened to retrieve the cortical stacks from any of their 
slain opponents, they may have a chance to find out 
through some interrogative psychosurgery. Alternatively, 
Firewall may ask the characters to look into their attack-
ers’ identity, worried that they may be dealing with some 
sort of rival organization.

PLAYER CHARACTERS

Players may choose from one of the following four 
characters. Each character is listed twice. The first list-
ing represents the character in the morph in which they 
start the scenario. The second represents the character 
after re-sleeving subsequent to the events of Scene 2. It 
is highly recommended that the gamemaster only use the 
first set of stats for the character in the beginning, and 
then switch to the stats with the second morph at the 
beginning of Scene 3.
### Gavin Gladwell (Criminal Con Artist)

**Background:** Fall Evacuee
**Faction:** Criminal
**Sex:** Male
**Gender Identity:** Male

**Sylph Morph**
Sylph morphs are tailor-made for media icons, elite socialites, XP stars, models and narcissists. Sylph gene sequences are specifically designed for distinctive good looks. Ethereal and elfin features are common, with slim and lithe bodies.

**Striking Looks:** The character receives a +10 modifier on social skill tests where the sylph’s beauty is an influencing factor. This is only applicable against other biomorphs (but not uplifts).

**REP**
- a-rep: 30
- c-rep: 50
- f-rep: 30
- g-rep: 60
- i-rep: 30

**EQUIPMENT**
- Primary Weapon: Agonizer Pistol (SA, inflicts pain, target must make WIL Test or immediately flee)
- Starting Credit: 1,500
- Implants: Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Clean Metabolism, Cortical Stack, Enhanced Pheromones (+10 to in-person social skill tests with other biomorphs)
- Gear: None

Gavin was an adolescent when the Fall struck, leaving him an orphaned refugee. Since then, he has grown up and thrived on the fringes of the Planetary Consortium’s hypercorp-based society, making do however he could—which often meant selling himself and/or breaking the law. His quick wit and sneaky tongue opened up some opportunities, and so Gavin has worked with minor criminal syndicates and independently as a grifter, scammer and petty crook. Gavin was inducted into Firewall when he was unfortunate enough to be the victim of some sort of outbreak on a minor Lunar outpost. The incident was so jarring that Gavin intentionally went to great lengths to have the major details erased from his memory, but he is still plagued by nightmares and a bit of mental instability.

**Roleplaying Tips:** Gavin is smooth enough to sell water to a fish. In fact, he’s so good at talking people into things that he’s developed an amazing ability to talk himself into things that are not always in his best interest (like working for Firewall). Though he projects a confident façade, Gavin occasionally cracks under pressure.

**Special Trait:** Paranoic Schizophrenia Disorder—Gavin sometimes hears voices and becomes extremely (and unreasonably) paranoid, especially in situations of high stress.

"You? You couldn’t negotiate your way out of a paper bag. Let me do the talking."
ZORA MÖLLER (ANARCHIST SABOTEUR)

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Zora is best described as a saboteur. She spends much of her time infiltrating hypercorp society, organizing dissent and engaging in direct action intended to expose or hinder authoritarian social practices. Zora considers herself a libertarian socialist, but is not content to spend her time in autonomist habitats. She feels a responsibility to bring about the downfall of repressive capitalist structures. She was recruited into Firewall several years ago, when an operation to expose a gerontocrat's corruption unveiled that her target was actually infected by the TITANS-spread exsurgent virus. She's onboard the Scum barge in order to acquire supplies for her cell's next mission.

Roleplaying Tips: Zora is a serious and determined radical, with a keen sense of fairness, justice and social responsibility. She doesn't tolerate people who abuse their authority very well. She can be a bit dry and humorless at times, especially when politics or social inequalities are in the way.

Background: Original Space Colonist
Faction: Anarchist
Sex: Female
Gender Identity: Female
Ghost Morph
Ghost morphs are designed for stealth and combat infiltration. Their genetic profile encourages speed, agility and reflexes, and their minds are modified for patience and problem-solving.

Starting Credit: 4,000
Implants: Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Adrenal Boost (+10 REF, can ignore 1 wound when activated), Chameleon Skin (+20 Infiltration), Enhanced Vision (+20 to visual Perception Tests), Grip Pads (+30 Climbing)
Gear: None

REP
@-rep: 60
c-rep: 40
g-rep: 30
i-rep: 20

EQUIPMENT
Armor: Smart Skin Armor [32]
Primary Weapon:
Medium Kinetic Railgun Pistol (SA/BF/FA, AP –5, DV 2d10 +4, ammo 12) with 100 shots regular ammo

"The corps don't listen to reason and they're immune to public pressure.
The only way to get them to listen is to make it worth their while—by raising the costs of business as usual if they don't."
ELIS MENEZES (SCUM TECHIE)

Aptitudes

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Background:
Reinstantiated
Faction: Scum
Sex: Female
Gender Identity: Female
REP @-rep: 60
i-rep: 40

EQUIPMENT
Armour: Light Smartfabric
Vaccsuit [5/5]
Primary Weapon: Shock Gloves (use Unarmed Combat skill, target makes
DUR + Energy Armor Test, or is incapacitated for 1
Action Turn per 10 points of MoF)
Starting Credit: 4,000
Implants: Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack
Gear: Utilitool (+10 Hardware Tests)

Elis died on Earth during the Fall, but a backup of her mind
was transmitted off-world. She spent several years as an infu-
gie in cold storage in the Jovian Republic before being revived
and re-sleeved in a cheap synthetic morph, the cost of which she
had to pay off by helping to build new habitats. Desperate to escape
her situation, Elis volunteered to the Gatekeeper Corp and was
selected to be a gatecrasher. She survived three missions, one of
which brought her into contact with the relics of a long-dead
alien race, which resulted into her being recruited into Firewall.
After retiring from gatecrashing, Elis
found a berth aboard the Ecstatic Metamorphosis and immersed
herself in Scum culture, trading her tech service skills for her
wants and needs.

Roleplaying Tips: Elis has a mul-
tifaceted personality. She can
take hardship like a pro, and is
more than willing to let her hair
down and party away when she
gets a breather. She likes to get
dressed up and glam herself out
with exotic bodytints, nanotats,
piercings, and other body mods,
but she’s also willing to spend
day taking apart an air compres-
sor with grease up to her
elbows. She’s a flagrant abuser
of social networks.

Splicer Morph

Splicers are genefixed humans. Their genome has been
cleansed of hereditary diseases and optimized for looks and
health, but has not otherwise been substantially upgraded.

“Please put down the weapon, I do not wish to hurt you.”
AHMIR SEKTIIOUI (BRINKER SECURITY SPECIALIST)

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Bouncer Morph

Bouncers are humans genetically adapted for zero-G and microgravity environments. Their legs are more limber, and their feet can grasp as well as their hands.

Limber: Bouncers are especially flexible and supple, and so receive a +10 modifier on any test involving contortion or flexibility, such as escaping from bonds or squeezing through small spaces.

EQUIPMENT

Armor: Body Armor [10/10]
Primary Weapon: Medium Kinetic Pistol (SA/BF/FA, AP -2, DV 2d10 + 2 ammo 12) with 100 shots regular ammo
Starting Credit: 4,000

Ahmir was one of the millions who took a job as a near-indentured servant in space before the Fall in order to escape crushing poverty on Earth. He has now spent almost two decades working various manual labor and menial jobs around the system. Most recently, he has been hired himself out as a bodyguard or as ship security for traders and others traveling to and from the fringes of the solar system. He became involved with Firewall several years back when an associate hired him on as an extra gun on a Firewall-sponsored mission to eradicate an Exhuman faction outpost in the Kuiper Belt. Ahmir is aboard the Scum barge looking for new employment.

Roleplaying Tips: Ahmir is generally quiet and keeps to himself, having spent much time on long journeys and in the isolation of deep space. He is honestly friendly and sociable with others, however, greeting any new friends with a large grin and going out of his way even for complete strangers. Ahmir is a bit of an ascetic and his current morph is neuter-sex, as he considers sexual urges a distraction.

“Please put down the weapon, I do not wish to hurt you.”
Gavin Gladwell (Criminal Con Artist)

**Aptitudes**

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**EQUIPMENT**

- **Armor:** Body Armor [10/10]
- **Primary Weapon:** Agonizer
- **Pistol** (SA, inflicts pain, target must make WIL Test or immediately flee)
- **Implants:** Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Enhanced Respiration, Temperature Tolerance
- **Gear:** Specs (+10 visual Perception Tests)

**Background:** Fall Evacuee

**Faction:** Criminal

**Sex:** Male

**Gender Identity:** Male

**Ruster Morph**

Adapted for survival with minimum gear in the partially terraformed Martian environment, these transgenic morphs feature insulated skin for more effective thermoregulation and respiratory system improvements to require less oxygen and filter carbon dioxide, among other mods.

**Starting Credit:** 1,500 (minus any spent in Scenes 1 and 2)

**Starting Credit:** 1,500 (minus any spent in Scenes 1 and 2)

**Roleplaying Tips:**

- Gavin is smooth enough to sell water to a fish. In fact, he’s so good at talking people into things that he’s developed an amazing ability to talk himself into things that are not always in his best interest (like working for Firewall). Though he projects a confident façade, Gavin occasionally cracks under pressure.

**Special Trait:** Paranoid Schizophrenia Disorder—Gavin sometimes hears voices and becomes extremely (and unreasonably) paranoid, especially in situations of high stress.

“How about we put down the weapons and discuss this reasonably?”

---

Gavin was an adolescent when the Fall struck, leaving him an orphaned refugee. Since then, he has grown up and thrived on the fringes of the Planetary Consortium’s hypercorp-based society, making do however he could—which often meant selling himself and/or breaking the law. His quick wits and sly tongue opened up some opportunities, and so Gavin has worked with minor criminal syndicates and independently as a grifter, scammer and petty crook. Gavin was inducted into Firewall when he was unfortunate enough to be the victim of some sort of outbreak on a minor Lunar outpost. The incident was so jarring that Gavin intentionally went to great lengths to have the major details erased from his memory, but he is still plagued by nightmares and a bit of mental instability.
Zora Möller (Anarchist Saboteur)

Zora is best described as a saboteur. She spends much of her time infiltrating hypercorp society, organizing dissent and engaging in direct action intended to expose or hinder authoritarian social practices. Zora considers herself a libertarian socialist, but is not content to spend her time in autonomist habitats. She feels a responsibility to bring about the downfall of repressive capitalist structures. She was recruited into Firewall several years ago, when an operation to expose a gerontocrat’s corruption unveiled that her target was actually infected by the TITANs-spread exsurgent virus. She’s onboard the Scum barge in order to acquire supplies for her cell’s next mission.

Roleplaying Tips: Zora is a serious and determined radical, with a keen sense of fairness, justice and social responsibility. She doesn’t tolerate people who abuse their authority very well. She can be a bit dry and humorless at times, especially when politics or social inequalities are in the way.

“This area is under hypercorp protection? I feel safer already.”

Background: Original Space Colonist  
Faction: Anarchist  
Sex: Male  
Gender Identity: Female  

Neotenic Morph  
Neotenics are transhumans modified to retain a child-like form. They are smaller, more agile, inquisitive and less resource-depleting, making them ideal for habitat living and spacecraft. This particular morph has been customized and comes with a Reflex Booster implant. Neotenics are stigmatized in some circles, as some people find them distasteful, especially when employed in media or sex work capacities. Neotenics count as a small target and so are –10 to hit in combat.

REP  
@-rep: 60  
c-rep: 40  
g-rep: 30  
 i-rep: 20

Starting Credit: 4,000 (minus any spent in Scenes 1 and 2)

Equipment  
Armor: Light Vacsuit (5/5)  
Primary Weapon: Medium Kinetic Railgun Pistol  
(SA/BF/FA, AP –5, DV 2d10 + 4, ammo 12)

Implants: Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Reflex Boost (+10 REF, +1 Speed)

Gear: Specs (+10 visual Perception Tests)
Elis Menezes (Scum Techie)

**Background:** Reinstantiated

**Faction:** Scum

**Sex:** Female

**Gender Identity:** Female

**Ruster Morph**
Adapted for survival with minimum gear in the partially terraformed Martian environment, these transgenic morphs feature insulated skin for more effective thermoregulation and respiratory system improvements to require less oxygen and filter carbon dioxide, among other mods.

**REP@-rep:** 60

**i-rep:** 40

**EQUIPMENT**

- **Armor:** Body Armor ([10/10])
- **Primary Weapon:** Shredder (Flechette Spray Weapon, SA/ BF/FA, AP –10, DV 2d10 + 5, ammo 100)
- **Starting Credit:** 4,000 (minus any spent in Scene 1 or 2)
- **Implants:** Basic BioMods, Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Enhanced Respiration, Temperature Tolerance
- **Gear:** Nanocable Spindle, Portable Nanofabricator, Repair Spray (+20 to Hardware Tests), Shelter Dome, Specs (+10 visual Perception Tests)

Elis died on Earth during the Fall, but a backup of her mind was transmitted off-world. She spent several years as an infugee in cold storage in the Jovian Republic before being revived and re-sleeved in a cheap synthetic morph, the cost of which she had to pay off by helping to build new habitats. Desperate to escape her situation, Elis volunteered to the Gatekeeper Corp and was selected to be a gatecrasher. She survived three missions, one of which brought her into contact with the relics of a long-dead alien race, which resulted into her being recruited into Firewall. After retiring from gatecrashing, Elis found a berth aboard the Ecstatic Metamorphosis and immersed herself in Scum culture, trading her tech service skills for her wants and needs.

**Roleplaying Tips:** Elis has a multifaceted personality. She can take hardship like a pro, and is more than willing to let her hair down and party away when she gets a breather. She likes to get dressed up and glam herself out with exotic body tints, nanotats, piercings, and other body mods, but she’s also willing to spend all day taking apart an air compressor with grease up to her elbows. She’s a flagrant abuser of social networks.

“Sure, I can fix that, but you’ll owe me a dance. A sexy dance.”

Firewall provides Elis with a ruster morph for Scene 3.
Ahmir Sektiouvi (Brinker Security Specialist)

**Background:** Original Space Colonist  
**Faction:** Brinker  
**Sex:** Bot  
**Gender Identity:** Male

**Arachnoid Morph**
Arachnoid robotic shells are 1 meter in length, segmented into two parts, with a smaller head like a spider or termite. They feature four pairs of 1.5-meter-long retractable arms/legs, capable of rotating around the axis of the body, with built-in hydraulics for propelling the bot with small leaps. The manipulator claws on each arm/leg can be switched out with extending mini-wheels for high-speed skating movement. A smaller pair of manipulator arms near the head allows for closer handling and tool use.

**Equipment**
- **Armor:** Arachnoid Armor [8/8]  
- **Primary Weapon:** Kinetic SMG (SA/BF/FA, AP –2, DV 2d10 + 3, ammo 20) with 100 shots regular ammo  
- **Secondary Weapon:** Plasma Rifle (SS, AP –8, DV 3d10 + 12, ammo 10)  

**Starting Credit:** 4,000 (minus any spent in Scene 1 or 2)  
**Enhancements:** Basic Mesh Inserts, Cortical Stack, Cyberbrain, Enhanced Vision (+20 to visual Perception Tests), Extra Limbs (6 Arms/Legs), Lidar, Pain Filter (ignore wound modifiers, but they suffer –30 on any tactic-based Perception Tests and will not even notice they have been damaged unless they succeed in a Perception Test), Pneumatic Limbs (can leap 2 meters up, +20 Freerunning Tests, +1d10 DV when used in Unarmed Combat), Radar, Reflex Boost (+10 REF, +1 Speed)  
**Gear:** Nanobandage (heal 1 wound and 1d10 DUR in 1 hour)

**Interacting with Ahmir:**
Ahmir was one of the millions who took a job as a near-indentured servant in space before the Fall in order to escape crushing poverty on Earth. He has now spent almost two decades working various manual labor and menial jobs around the system. Most recently, he has been hired out as a bodyguard or as ship security for traders and others traveling to and from the fringes of the solar system. He became involved with Firewall several years back when an associate hired him on as an extra gun on a Firewall-sponsored mission to eradicate an Exhuman faction outpost in the Kuiper Belt. Ahmir is aboard the Scum barge looking for new employment.

**Roleplaying Tips:** Ahmir is generally quiet and keeps to himself, having spent much time on long journeys and in the isolation of deep space. He is honestly friendly and sociable with others, however, greeting any new friends with a large grin and going out of his way even for complete strangers. Ahmir is a bit of an ascetic and his current morph is neuter-sex, as he considers sexual urges a distraction.

**Take cover, this is going to heat things up.**
MAKING TESTS
- Roll d100 (two ten-sided dice, read as a percentile amount).
- Target number is determined by the appropriate skill (or occasionally an aptitude or two aptitudes added together).
- Difficulty is represented by modifiers.
- 00 is always a success.
- 99 is always a failure.
- A roll of doubles (00, 11, 22, 33 and so on) equals a critical success or failure.

SUCCESS TEST
- To succeed, roll d100 and score equal to or less than the skill +/- modifiers.

OPPOSED TEST
- Each character rolls d100 against their skill +/- modifiers.
- The character that succeeds with the highest roll wins. If both characters fail, or both succeed but tie, deadlock occurs.

DEFAULTING
- If a character does not have the appropriate skill for a test, that character may default to the skill’s linked aptitude.

MODIFIERS
- Modifiers always affect the target number (skill), not the roll.
- Modifiers (positive or negative) come in 3 levels of severity:
  - Minor (+/- 10)
  - Moderate (+/- 20)
  - Major (+/- 30)
- The maximum modifier that can be applied is +/- 60.

TEAMWORK
- One character is chosen as the primary actor; they make the test.
- Each additional helper character adds a +10 modifier (maximum +60).

TAKING THE TIME
- Character may take extra time to complete an action.
- On Complex Actions, each minute taken adds +10 to the test.
- On Task actions, every 50 percent the timeframe is extended adds +10 to the test.

APTITUDES
- Aptitudes range from 1 to 30 for baseline unmodified humans.
- Aptitudes are: Cognition, Coordination, Intuition, Reflexes, Savvy, Somatics and Willpower.

LEARNED SKILLS
- Skills range from 1-99 (average 50).
- Morphs, gear, drugs, etc. may provide skill bonuses or penalties to individual skills.

STRESSFUL EXPERIENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITUATION</th>
<th>SV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failing spectacularly in pursuit of a motivational goal</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helplessness</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betrayal by a trusted friend</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended isolation</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme violence (viewing)</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme violence (committing)</td>
<td>1d10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness that your death is imminent</td>
<td>1d10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiencing someone’s death via XP</td>
<td>1d10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Losing a loved one</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watching a loved one die</td>
<td>1d10 + 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being responsible for the death of a loved one</td>
<td>1d10 + 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encountering a gruesome murder scene</td>
<td>1d10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture (viewing)</td>
<td>1d10 + 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture (moderate suffering)</td>
<td>2d10 + 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torture (severe suffering)</td>
<td>3d10 + 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encountering aliens (non-sentient)</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encountering aliens (sentient)</td>
<td>1d10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encountering hostile aliens</td>
<td>1d10 + 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encountering highly-advanced technology</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encountering Exsurgent-modified technology</td>
<td>1d10 ÷ 2 (round down)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encountering Exsurgent-infected transhumans</td>
<td>1d10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encountering Exsurgent life forms</td>
<td>1d10 + 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exsurgent virus infection</td>
<td>Varies; see p. 366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessing psi-epsilon sleights</td>
<td>1d10 + 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIALIZATIONS
- Specializations add +10 when using a skill for that area of concentration.
- Each skill may have only one specialization.

ACTION TURNS
- Action Turns are 3 seconds in length.
- The order in which characters act is determined by Initiative.
- Automatic Actions are always “on.”
- Characters may take any number of Quick Actions in a turn (minimum of 3), limited only by the gamemaster.
- Characters may only take a number of Complex Actions equal to their Speed stat.

TEST DIFFICULTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIFFICULTY LEVEL</th>
<th>MODIFIER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effortless</td>
<td>+30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>+20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>+10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>+0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficult</td>
<td>-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Challenging</td>
<td>-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hard</td>
<td>-30</td>
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MODIFIER SEVERITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEVERITY</th>
<th>MODIFIER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>+/- 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>+/- 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>+/- 30</td>
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