

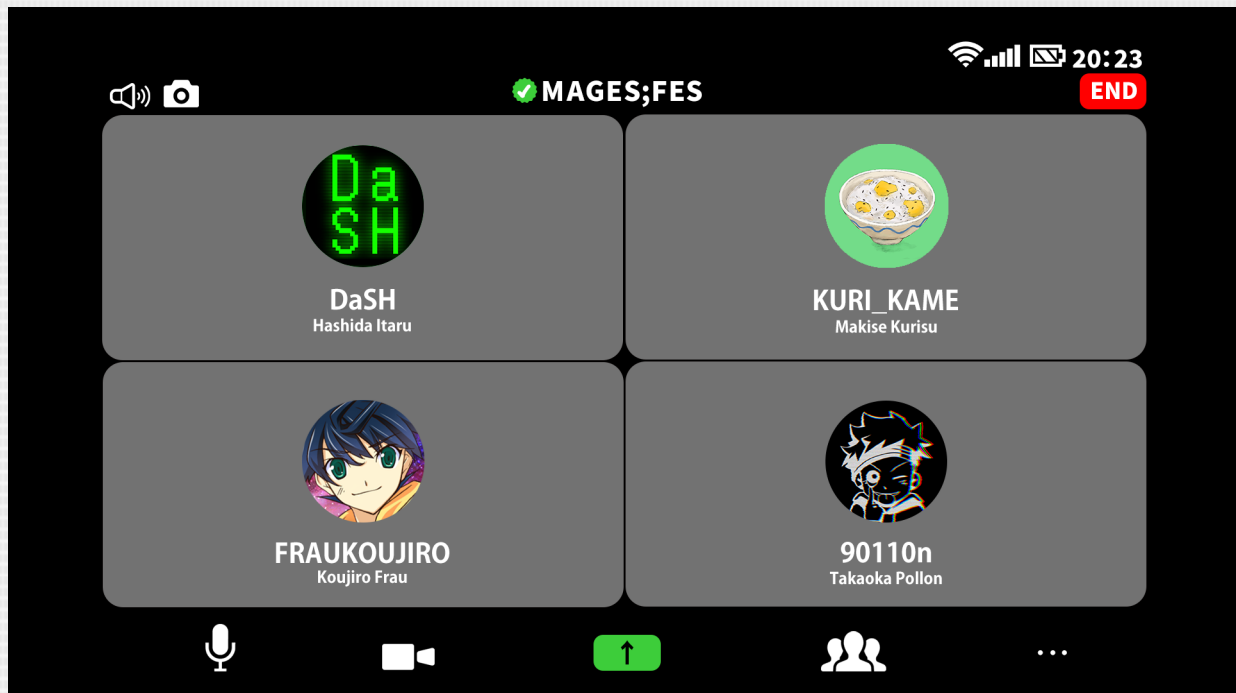
MAGES;FES 2023

Live-reading

Hackers' Crosstalk



Hackers' Crosstalk



\\Sound effect: crosstalk static

\\Four icons populate the screen

BGM: bgm_roudoku01

Kurisu: “All right, go ahead and recap the current situation.”

Pollon: “The four of us live in either 2010, 2019, or 2037, and somehow or other, our lines formed a connection spanning space-time.”

Itaru: “That’s about the gist of it.”

Frau: “Exactamente. Th-That’s pretty much it.”

Itaru: “So, err... I was doing some reworks on the PhoneWave when the thing went totally haywire. I was fiddling with it here or there, and it just sorta happened.”

Pollon: “Meaning at the moment, our conversation spans time itself.”

Kurisu: “Yeah, yeah... That’s enough lore out of you.”

Itaru: “Do you not believe us, Ms. Makise?”

Kurisu: “Obviously not. Aren’t these guys your hacker buddies just pulling out another trick?”

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Itaru: “Pulling out their what?!”

Kurusu: “Shut it, perv.”

Pollon: “I’m a pro hacker, if you can believe it. And you guys are hackers too, it seems?”

Kurusu: “Hashida here seems to be what’s known as a ‘super hacka.’”

Itaru: “It’s *hacker*, not hacka.”

Frau: “My day job is being something of a stay-at-home security guard.”

Pollon: “Stay-at-home security? Is that an actual job?”

Frau: “Oof! W-Was that on purpose?! Are you trying to make me spit out the actual truth?! Th-Th-That’s right, then! As a matter of fact, I’m nothing but a shut-in misfit, thank you very much!”

Pollon: “I-I’m sorry, I guess...”

Frau: “I’d rather a thin book than an apology!”

Kurusu: “This girl’s hopeless, just as cringe as Hashida.”

Itaru: “Well anyway, Mr. Pollon is from 2037, isn’t he? Hey, gimme the dirty deets on life in that era, if you catch my drift.”

Frau: “A-Any thin books?”

Itaru: “How about eroge?”

Frau: “Or ComiMa?”

Kurusu: “Do you people have nothing else on your minds...?”

BGM: bgm_roudoku03

Pollon: “You all lost me ages ago... Do you mean things like Carrianodes?”

Itaru: “Carrianodes? Whuzzat?”

Pollon: “It’s a terminal for your BMI. You pierce your ear with an electrode, then clip it right on. From there, it can augment electronic data into your field of vision.”

Kurusu: “Hmm... A brain-machine interface? A knowledgeable one, aren’t you? That 2037 lore must be paying o—”

Itaru (interrupting): “Oh, Ms. Makise. Say the thing.”

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Kurisu: “Hm? What thing?”

BGM: bgm_roudoku04

Itaru: “You know, the whole ‘I’m gonna stick electrodes in your brain’ thing.”

Kurisu: “Listen, you... Who the hell do you take me for?”

Itaru: “Someone who sticks electrodes into brains.”

Kurisu: “Keep pushing me and we’ll find out just how true that is!”

Itaru: “Thank you very much!”

Pollon: “Kurisu seems... like something of a mad scientist.”

BGM: bgm_roudoku02

Kurisu: “H-Hey! Absolutely not! If anything, that’s Okabe!”

Frau: “So, u-using a Carrianode, I can just digitize all my thin books and read them 24/7? If that’s the case, I so plan on enjoying myself with some of my own EyeSen thin books... with them standing there none the wiser right in front of me. Duhuhu.”

Pollon: “‘EyeSen’? Is that old hacker slang for something?”

Frau: “It’s clear as day that Four Eyes would be topping and Yashio-senpai would be bottoming. EyeSen is justice, and SenEye is an absolutely unforgivable misinterpretation of their dynamic.”

Kurisu: “In Japanese, please?”

Pollon: “Topping and bottoming... Do you mean, like, top-tier hackers going after bottom-tier systems?”

Frau: “Imagine, for instance, a pencil and a pencil sharpener having a real fappy relationship... Take a guess who gives it from up top and who takes it from the bottom! BTW, my fetish with pencil sharpeners is seductive bottoms!”

Itaru: “She’s rotten to the core... It’s far too late to save her now...”

Pollon: “Man, I haven’t got a damn clue what you two are on about. It’s only been twenty years—how can one language change so damn much?!”

Kurisu: “Don’t sweat it. You’re not the only one who’s lost.”

Hackers' Crosstalk

Itaru: “Mr. Pollon, hey. Been meaning to ask: How are the maid cafés in 2037? Does my future contain even more cat-eared maids like Faris-tan?”

BGM: bgm_roudoku05

Pollon: “Do you mean, like... AR cafés? There are some BMI-dependent places sorta like that, but, uh...”

Itaru: “Spill the beans already.”

Pollon: “I stopped and checked one out once, but when I toggled off my BMI, everyone working there was in tank tops and had total dad bods...”

Itaru (excited): “*Gulp*...!”

Frau (excited): “YOOWOOO!”

Kurisu: “Really, you two? *That’s* what has you on the edge of your seats?”

Itaru: “You know me, I’m all for that. As long as they’re cute, they can be any gender they want—doesn’t matter to me!”

Frau: “If that’s what you’re into, then lemme say there’s some tera eros in older guys acting out being pretty-girls. Y’know, we’ve already got plenty of older guys being girls in my era—just look at VTubers.”

Itaru: “Wait, you’re telling me the future comes as early as 2019? Ms. Frau, you gotta tell me all about VTubers!”

Frau: “We’ve got older guys running livestreams and using pretty-girl avatars. Th-There’re some who use voice changers to give themselves a pretty-girl voice, but there’s also some with pretty-girl avatars who just talk in their normal old dude voices. Either option has otaku on their knees in celebration. We live in the midst of the Every Older Guy Pretty-girlification Project. There’s even plenty of older guys simping over other older guys. They’re practically tossing their money in the dumpster with how much they pay in superchats.”

Kurisu: “What... even...”

Pollon: “I’ve sorta heard about that. That’s called babiniku, yeah?”

Kurisu: “Babiniku?”

Frau: ““BAacharu na B!shoujo ni juNIKU suru’... Assuming the flesh of a virtual pretty-girl.”

Hackers' Crosstalk

BGM: bgm_roudoku06

Kurusu: “Japan is such a... such a terrifying country!”

Itaru: “Ohhhh, I see. I’ve always *really* enjoyed becoming an eroge protagonist and making out with pretty-girls like that, but... to become a pretty-girl myself? I’ve never thought of that. I mean, it wouldn’t hurt to try, I guess?”

Kurusu: “Just what the hell are you talking about...?”

Itaru (clearing throat): “Hmm... Aaaah. Test, test.”

Itaru (female voice): “Hey, everyone! Daru-Daru, hiiii, Titor! I’m the real-deal hacking VTuber, Itarun!”

Itaru (female voice): “Itarun loves Daru the most out of anyone in the whooole wide world!”

Itaru (suave male voice): “Back at you, Itarun. C’mere, lemme grab that bod of yours.”

Itaru (female voice): “Oooh, Daru, you’re such a scoundrel. But... you’re sooo warm...”

Itaru (suave male voice): “You won’t be getting any sleep tonight.”

Pollon: “Man, what even?! I can’t follow any of this shit! Is some wizard-class hacker just screwing with my head?!”

Frau: “Nay! For this...! For the first time in history, is the emergence of a same-bodied VTuber couple whose voice possesses both masculine suavity and feminine grace! Just think about it—the superchats will come rolling in, and you’ll be on top of the world in no time!”

Itaru (female voice): “Oh, goodness... I couldn’t bear to have that much attention on me...”

Itaru (suave male voice): “You’re so clueless. Just keep your eyes on me, baby.”

Kurusu: “Is this ever going to end...?”

Itaru (female voice): “Heyyy, Daru... That experiment-loving peeervert over there is saying something.”

Itaru (suave male voice): “She’s just jealous of our dirty talk, hun. Forget about her.”

Kurusu: “I’m gonna steep your brain in ponzu sauce!”

Itaru: “Whew, my delusions are getting the best of me. For real, though, doesn’t the future sound way too good to be true?”

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Frau: “T-Totes agree. It’s a bright world for otaku everywhere.”

BGM: bgm_roudoku07

Itaru: “Right, then, Mr. Pollon, mind if I head to your era now? I’d like to carve out a life there.”

Kurusu: “You say that, but how do you plan on getting there?”

Itaru: “The time machine on the roof of Radi-Kan, I guess. I apparently made the thing myself—”

Kurusu: “Stop neglecting the lore you already have.”

Itaru: “Well then, Ms. Makise, send my memories to the future with the Time Leap Machine this very second! And make it snappy! Whatever happens, happens!”

Kurusu: “That’s physically impossible!”

Frau: “Well, I don’t know about you, but I’ll be heading to 2037 with cold sleep. I’ll have to hit up Kimijima Kou after this.”

Pollon: “I’d rather none of you come to my era... I get a bad feeling that the world would be in danger if you did...”

Itaru & Frau: “But I refuse.”

Itaru: “2037, here we come!”

Frau (cheering): “Here we come!”

Itaru: “Here we come!”

Frau: “HERE WE COME!”

※Daru and Frau continue their shouting until it all comes to a close.

Pollon: “Hey! Kurisu! How are we supposed to stop this?!”

Kurusu: “We don’t have a choice but to physically cut the line. And after that? Just forget all this ever happened.”

Pollon: “What line are you talking about?! We don’t use antique terminals over here!”

Kurusu: “Sheesh, spare me the details! Just forcibly disconnect the line, got it?!”

Pollon: “F-Fine!”

Kurusu: “On my mark!”

Hackers' Crosstalk

\\Crashing SFX

\\Screen fades out

\\Complete blackness



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