

DISKS



DAEMONS

BECOME A ROGUE USER

BREACH THE FIREWALL

FEED THE DAEMONS



INCOMING TRANSMISSION

MESSAGE RECEIVED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Hey, FIST! It's JRH, your favorite "hacker!" Ha, that's what the news called me. The lab just got some "office productivity" chairs that beam your brain into the mainframe! I found some classified files with your name on them. You should take a look for yourself...

BRIEFING

The year is 198X. Higher learning institutions and private defense contractors have linked mainframe computers via the **ARPANET Project**. The stated goal is sharing of resources and communication. A (likely intentional) bug in the encryption scheme allows easy access to any system. You recently exploited this with the help of **JRH**, a graduate student in Cambridge.

A tool developed in Palo Alto, CA by a **CYCLOPS** proxy company allows beaming of human consciousness into a virtual office environment named the **Ideospace**. Computer labs have installed these beaming chairs for development or demonstration, and some are used every day. Publicly, there are no known side effects...

INSIDE THE IDEASPACE

State of the art technology provides high-res 2-bit monochromatic graphics. There is a lot of dithering, but text looks really good. Users can conduct common tasks like document editing, programming, or system administration. They can even access any ARPANET server.

FLOOR TRANSMISSION

You're breaching the ARPANET with a hacked up tech demo – don't expect to go unnoticed with all your bits intact. Roll **1D6** to determine what happens when FIST moves to a new floor, consequences apply to everyone:

1. **Data corruption.** Consume a PARITY BIT or gain a level of DATA LOSS (see below).
2. **Noise.** Consume a PARITY BIT or take 1 DAMAGE.
3. **Interference.** Consume a PARITY BIT or lose an item.
4. **Big footprint.** Set the CYBERCLOCK to 4.
5. **Session logged.** Reduce the CYBERCLOCK by 1D6.
6. Mercifully, a clean and quiet transmission.

At 3 levels of **DATA LOSS** an operative is experiencing **Achiba Syndrome** - their mind treats the Ideospace as real and cannot return to their original body. A separate rescue mission is required if this is undesired.

USERS & DAEMONS

Users represent a person's Ideospace session, full-beam or otherwise: gray capsules in a roughly humanoid shape. JRH's hacks disguise you as one of them, but not all are fooled - you're *rogue*, not authorized to be there.

Daemons represent a system process, (re)generated as needed. Common Daemons are "cute" to discourage attacks from new Users: about three feet tall, rotund, with conical horns. They love **TOKENS**, eating them like candy or cigarettes, and perform their only programmed task (save a file, message a User, fetch news, etc.) in exchange for one. Other Daemons are modeled after fantasy creatures and have complex programming.

INSPIRATION & TOUCHSTONES

- **Procedures & Generation:** *HAZARD FUNCTION*, *The Underclock*, *Wallet Dungeons*, *Five Torches Deep*, *die-drop dungeons*
- **Games:** *Rogue*, *DRL*, *Coded Arms*, *SMT NINE*
- **Books:** *Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution*
- **Sites:** *The Hacker Jargon File*, [TEXTFILES.COM](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)
- **Films:** *TRON* (1982), *WarGames* (1983)

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greetz to the FIST server, the NSR Cauldron, & Dice Exploder.

ENCOUNTERS

Use the CYBERCLOCK to determine when FIST encounters a wandering net denizen. It starts at **10** on a new floor. Subtract **1D6** when FIST enters a new room, travels through three visited rooms, or causes notable chaos. At 0 or 1, foreshadow the next encounter, then set to 1. Below 0, the encounter occurs. After, set to 10.

If a denizen's reaction to FIST is not obvious, roll **1D6**:
☐ hostile, ☐ wary, ☐ neutral, ☐ curious or friendly.

Roll **2D6** to determine an encounter. The third random encounter is always a **CERBERUS** or **CRO DIAL TONE**.

- 2 **CERBERUS** (10 HP, 1 ARMOR, 1D6+1 DAMAGE). Three-headed guard dog. Demands a valid **TOKEN** from each member of FIST, attacks if unsatisfied.
- 3 **NAME DRAGON** (8 HP, 1D6 DAMAGE). Greets Users with the message of the day (funny picture) and accounts their name and actions. Wise and curious.
- 4 **PHANTOM** (7 HP, 1D6 DAMAGE). A long-lived Daemon spawned by the system. Watches an external connection of some kind - news wire, printer spooler, etc.
- 5 **SERVER DAEMON** (5 HP, 1D6 DAMAGE). Single-minded and determined. Performing a job for a User:
☐ mail, ☐ save/load file, ☐ math, ☐ networking
- 6 **D3 DAEMONS** (4 HP, 1D6 DAMAGE). Lurking around, waiting for a task, itching for a **TOKEN**.
- 7 **D6 BUGS** (3 HP, 3 DAMAGE). No matter how hard the programmers try, these things keep showing up.
- 8 **D3 USERS** (4 HP, 3 DAMAGE). Low clearance, low familiarity. Often annoying or downright stupid.
- 9 **HACKER** (5 HP, 1D6 DAMAGE). Speaks the dialect of the Daemons, likes puzzles, knows little else. More loyal to the system than to their employer.
- 10 **MANAGER** (5 HP, 3 DAMAGE). High clearance, not hired for technical skills. Has an **ACCESS CARD**.
- 11 **SYSOP** (8 HP, 1D6+1 DAMAGE). A system operator. Wields a custom **GUN.EXE**, loves excuses to use it.
- 12 **CRO DIAL TONE** (15 HP, 1D6+1 DAMAGE).
DROPPED CALL: A **CYCLOPS** analyst sent into the Ideospace to covertly install monitoring software. They lingered too long and developed **Achiba Syndrome**. Now designated **DIAL TONE**, they speak with snippets from system messages & automated phone lines.
NO CARRIER (BOSS MOVE): Attacks FIST's connection directly. Roll **+TAC: 10+** you're fine, **7-9** dazed for one round, **6-** gain a level of **DATA LOSS**.

FLOOR PLAN GENERATION

The Ideaspace is visualized as a series of floors. Decide the number of floors until vital intel relating to a member of FIST's Roles is found. Use the presented floor order or choose another (like D3+floor number). Each floor has stairs downwards, but not back up. See [Floor transmission](#) for the risks.

Gather 12 D6's. Choose 3 of the same color (i.e., black) to represent *negative space*. Other dice represent *rooms*.



To generate a floor, roll its dice and gather them into a 3 by 3 grid, like the one on the left. The floor describes the theme and contents of each room, and the locations of the entrance and exit stairs. Adjacent rooms are connected via doors.

CONTENTS OF ROOMS

In addition to the special features of a room:

☐☐☐ **Even rooms** contain a denizen. Roll on the [encounter table](#) to learn who is there when FIST arrives.

☐☐☐ **Odd rooms** contain a text file on a disk. Choose or roll: ☐ meeting minutes, ☐ TPS reports, ☐ bad puns, ☐ documentation, ☐ Usenet thread, ☐ warez or philez

☐☐☐ **Minor rooms** have a 4-in-6 chance of containing a *common item* ([FIST: Ultra Edition](#), pg. 85). These are GUI wrappers over an appropriate utility program.

☐☐☐ **Major rooms** contain an item. Choose or roll:

☐ GUN.EXE (1D6 DAMAGE) ☐ Obscure source code or script ☐ Game (advent, rogue, spacewar)

☐ Patch kit (heals 1D6 DAMAGE) ☐ D6 TOKENS (Daemon treat) ☐ D3 PARITY BITS (preserves data)

NEGATIVE SPACE (SAME FOR ALL FLOORS)

☐ Nothing. Solid concrete, an elevator shaft, or the digital void. ☐ A secret passage linking two adjacent rooms. No lighting, dark inside.

☐ Pipes, wiring, air ducts; behind thick walls. Not user serviceable. ☐ A secret passage linking all adjacent rooms. Peepholes by doors.

☐ An empty, florescent-lit corridor linking all adjacent rooms. ☐ As 5. Also contains something important, like an item or intel.

If a room would be cut off due to negative space, replace a negative space die with a ☐ corridor so all rooms are reachable.

OFFICE OF THE FUTURE

Decor: Ultra-modern office, with fake windows displaying views from real skyscrapers.

Entrance: Lowest room die. You awake in a brain beaming chair like the one you sat in.

Exit: ☐ or highest room die. Spiral staircase.

☐ Computer room. Rows of mainframes along the walls, across the floor. ☐ Break room. Only food is a Daemon-operated sandwich machine.

☐ An open-plan office. Smells like burnt coffee. No coffee to be found. ☐ Reception area. Piles of technical magazines, uncomfortable chairs.

☐ A conference room or meeting room, no Users. Plastic fruit on table. ☐ Middle manager office. Bookshelves hold blank encyclopedia set.

NETWORK TRAFFIC HUB

Decor: Bustling post office, a cubic honeycomb of boxes and machinery. Lines on the floor.

Entrance: Lowest room die. Automatic door.

Exit: Highest negative space die. Has a big "EXIT" sign leading to a fire stairwell.

☐ Mail counter. A cordoned queue snakes around, Daemons waiting in line. ☐ Monitoring room. Screens flash data, faster than you can read.

☐ Mail box room. Reinforced locked doors cover the walls. ☐ Data validation. Stand on a circular platform to generate a PARITY BIT.

☐ Receiving room. Large crates of packets stacked to the ceiling. ☐ Sorting room. High speed machines move mail towards destination.

DATA WAREHOUSE

Decor: Warehouse, weapons depot, or dock-yard. Shipping containers and shelves of crates.

Entrance: Lowest room die. Garage door.

Exit: ☐ or highest room die. Access hatch with OSHA-approved ladder (very long).

☐ A maze of shelves filled with crates. Close angles and small gaps. ☐ Armory. Holds 2 items inside a cage – door requires ACCESS CARD.

☐ Random data source – a Daemon constantly rolling a pile of dice. ☐ Punch card catalog, meticulously organized. Personnel data.

☐ Forklift garage. Machines and parts in various stages of assembly. ☐ Guard post. Daemon on duty demands to see an ACCESS CARD or bribe.

SECURITY LAYER (FIREWALL)

Decor: Military base, lots of fences. Users here carry an ACCESS CARD, Daemons expect one.

3-in-6: walls appear to be literally made of fire.

Entrance: Highest room die. High-security door.

Exit: Lowest room die. Very clean garbage chute.

☐ Gateways sealing off ports. Not even Daemons are allowed through. ☐ Data encryption center. Long line of Users. You have the master key.

☐ Inspection station. Packet-sniffing Daemons can tell you're *rogue*. ☐ A CERBERUS' den. Dog bed and jars of TOKENS it can track by scent.

☐ An empty corridor, modified with a trap ([FIST](#) p.92). ☐ Security camera office. Monitors display views of other rooms and floors.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Decor: Series of laboratories littered with equipment and chunks of half-finished Daemons.

Entrance: Lowest room die. Airlock.

Exit: Highest room die. An excessively ornate doorway labeled "PRODUCTION READY."

☐ "The Clean Room." Empty, plain white, fullbright lighting. ☐ Media room. A screen plays pirate recordings of various TV shows.

☐ Physics debug room with a basketball and hoop. Encounter wants a game. ☐ Global thermonuclear war simulation room. Neural nets battle.

☐ /dev/null – the garbage room. Poorly secured hatch to oblivion. ☐ Patch room. Automated machine heals 1D6 HP if you hold still under it.

C-SUITE (RESTRICTED ACCESS)

Decor: Skyscraper penthouse, a superyacht, a private island, etc. Overuse of marble and silver.

Entrance: ☐ or lowest room die. Double doors.

Exit: Next lowest room die. Stairs into a dark room with files on a pedestal. Not a trap. :)

☐ Indoor hot tub, lounge chairs, muzak. Empty bottles of champagne. ☐ Situation room. Screens display stock tickers and news feeds.

☐ Reception desk. Encounter asks to check your ACCESS CARD. ☐ Cigar room. Digital stogies make cool smoke clouds, but little else.

☐ City planning room. Highly detailed diorama of a major American city. ☐ Lavishly decorated office, potted plants and a desk with a carapace chair.