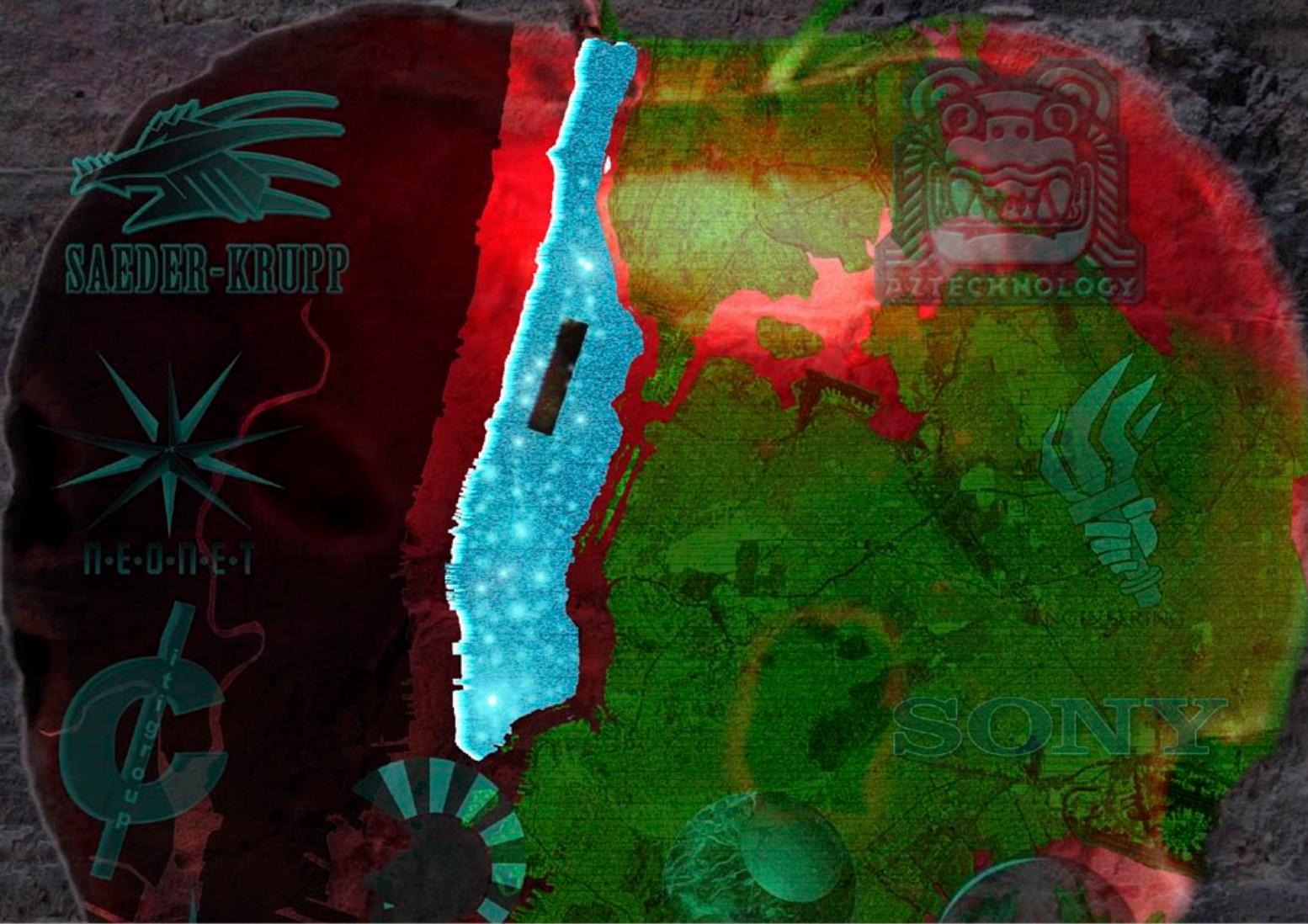


# The Rotten Apple: Manhattan



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# ... TABLE OF CONTENTS ...



<b>MANHATTAN HISTORY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Southside</b>	<b>20</b>
Times Past	5	The Marquee	20
Life in the City	6	Corson Place Hotel	20
<b>MANHATTAN SECURITY</b>	7	<b>The Village</b>	<b>20</b>
Getting In and Around	10	Washington Square Park / NYCU Campus	20
<b>MANHATTAN NEIGHBORHOODS</b>	11	The Cypress Tree	20
Inwood	11	<b>The Pit</b>	<b>20</b>
Washington Heights	12	Orchard Street	21
Newtown	12	C-Squat	21
Riverside/East Riverside	13	<b>Soho</b>	<b>21</b>
Freedom Tunnel	13	Saints and SINners	21
Randall's and Ward's Islands	13	<b>The Towers</b>	<b>22</b>
Westside and Upper Eastside	13	<b>City Center</b>	<b>22</b>
The Prometheus Spire	14	East Coast Stock Exchange	22
MDC Building	14	Frankfurt Bank Association	22
FDR Drive	14	<b>Chinatown</b>	<b>22</b>
The Sea of Fools	14	Lucky Star 99	23
Central Park	14	<b>Battery City</b>	<b>23</b>
Belvedere Castle	15	The Green Building	23
Obelisk	15	Castle Clinton	23
Midtown	15	<b>The Underground</b>	<b>23</b>
Theater District	15	Night Markets	23
Museum of Modern Art	16	<b>THE MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM</b>	<b>24</b>
Grand Central	16	<b>Ares Macrotechnology</b>	<b>24</b>
Penn Station	16	<b>Aztechnology</b>	<b>24</b>
Some Assembly Required	16	<b>Citigroup</b>	<b>25</b>
Zoé	16	<b>Horizon Corporation</b>	<b>26</b>
Lower Westside and Eastside	16	<b>NeoNET</b>	<b>26</b>
Eleemosynary Children's Clinic	17	<b>NYPD, Incorporated</b>	<b>27</b>
Roosevelt Island	17	<b>Prometheus Engineering</b>	<b>28</b>
Pizza Now	17	<b>Renraku Computer Systems</b>	<b>29</b>
Times Square	17	<b>SAEDER-KRUPP</b>	<b>29</b>
Neon City	17	S-K North America	29
Downtown	18	S-K Prime	30
The Empire State Building	18	<b>Shiawase</b>	<b>30</b>
Bowling Green	18	<b>Sony Corporation</b>	<b>30</b>
Waldorf-Astoria	19	<b>Spinrad Industries</b>	<b>31</b>
Stuyvesant	19	<b>Trans-Orbital</b>	<b>32</b>
Terminal	19		
Choke Points	19		
The Apple Press	19		
Firesale	19		



I Connecting Jackpoint VPN ...  
X ... Matrix Access ID Spoofed.  
... Encryption Keys Generated.  
... Connected to Onion Routers.  
> Login  
\*\*\*\*\*  
> Enter Passcode  
\*\*\*\*\*  
... Biometric Scan Confirmed.  
Connected to <ERROR: NODE UNKNOWN>  
"Freedom will soon cease to exist in any form. Absolute obedience to Interested Parties will be the only choice left to us."

23 users currently active in the network

#### Latest News

- \* <sticky> This private p2p MoSoSo network is now gamma. There isn't software anywhere that doesn't have a fault, though, so report any glitches to me. – FastJack
- \* <01171> I've finally updated the JackPoint Filofax and JobBank subsystems so you shouldn't get the 4011 error.[Download 1.8b patch].–FastJack

#### Personal Alerts

- \* Your "xploit3r" agent has 3 new messages for you
- \* You have 2 new private messages
- \* You have 17 messages queued for anonymous re-routing
- \* You have 9 new responses to your Jackpoint posts
- \* Lani has pinged you, she is only 8 blocks away [map]
- \* QuikShip delivery is expected within the next 06:04:33.
- \* Reminder: Dj Bijan tickets on sale in 3 days

Your Current Rep Score: 65  
(85% Positive)

Current Time: October 4, 2072, 1234

PREFERENCES

FEEDS

TASKS

LINKS

HISTORY

Welcome back to JackPoint, omae;  
your last connection was severed:  
**12 hours, 46 minutes, 32 seconds ago**

#### Today's Heads Up

- \* Touring the Eastern Seaboard? We've got the local perspective on everyone's favorite Rotten Apple. Find out what happens in the cracks of an ivory tower. Kay St. Irregular has all of the info. [Tag: [Manhattan](#)]



#### Incoming

- \* With some of the syndicates reeling and others grabbing as much as they can, several gangs are going unchecked. Look into the groups that are growing while the bigger fish look the other way. [Tag: [10 Gangs](#)]
- \* Unless you've been living under a rock, you know the underworld landscape is changing fast out there. The Good Old Boys are struggling, and upstarts are carving out pieces of the pie. Get the lowdown on who's the top dog before the dust settles with our overview of the criminal underworld. [Tag: [Vice](#)]

#### Top News Items

- \* London-based clothier Zaspers announced the grand opening of their first orbital boutique at the Shibanokuji Freefall Resort. Fashionista and executive consultant Marie-Xavier di Pietro commented, "Outer space may be a bleak, miserable wasteland but there's no reason for your sense of style to be!" [Link](#).
- \* Cleanup continues of the wreck of SiouxAir flight 726 which crashed in the Amazonian jungle 25 km southeast of Bogota. Amazonian officials have repeatedly denied requests from various Awakened Aid societies to help in the efforts. Rumors continue to circulate that the flight, which was scheduled for a flight from Denver to Metropole, was hijacked. It is currently unknown how many passengers and what cargo the flight may have been carrying. [Link](#).
- \* The goodwill tour of Queen Michelle Chou, monarch of Shaanxi, continued into its third week today as she visited a Black Cross aid station. As the conflict between the Dega Alliance and the Vietnamese government drags into its seventh year, the Queen commented that the conflict has become the greatest humanitarian crisis of the decade. [Link](#).

CHAT

MESSAGES

FILES

POSTS

NEXUS

SEARCH



CONTINUE

ADVANCED SEARCH

SAVE



Cúchulainn crouched in the darkness; the sound of a soprano's aria seemed unending above him. Over his 'link, Tiny said, "15 seconds left."

With a crash of cymbals, the stage door dropped open above him. Light and smoke from the stage briefly illuminated the area, as the singer dropped through the door.

Before the door had time to close, Cúchulainn caught her and slapped two tranquilizer patches onto the performer. She didn't have time to realize she'd been caught, much less cry out. The door finished closing, and the darkness returned.

He could hear the muffled sounds of the audience erupting in applause, as he placed the unconscious woman on his shoulder. Keying his commlink he turned towards the exit and said, "Target acquired. What's security doing?"

"Nothing, yet," was the immediate response. "You should have about 12 more seconds before she's due on stage to take her bow."

Without responding, Cúchulainn hurried towards the door and the backstage exit from the theater. He could hear the sounds of the orchestra beginning a vamp as actors progressed onto the stage to take their bows. The sounds of applause were becoming more rhythmic.

"There are two guards outside the back entrance," came over the commlink.

"I'm incoming, have Watts take them down now."

As he ran down an empty hallway—the stagehands and the actress's assistant had already been taken care of—towards a dim exit sign, Cúchulainn smelled ozone and heard the muffled sound of electrical arcing. The music coming from the orchestra was starting to repeat again and the applause was starting to falter.

"They're down. Alley's clear. I just picked up a scramble signal for DocWagon, though," came over the commlink as he hit the panic bar on the door.

Waiting on the other side were two unconscious guards in Knight Errant uniforms, and Watts in her riding leathers. "We've got incoming, let's move," she said as she turned and hurried down the alley.

At the entrance to the alley was a Bulldog Step Van emblazoned with the letters "WHRN." The back doors opened as they approached, and a troll gestured hurriedly for them to enter. Watts climbed into the front passenger seat. Over their links, they heard Tiny say, "Get her in the Faraday cage. We'll take care of her signals later."

As he dumped the unconscious performer into the compartment and shut it, Tiny was already driving the van cautiously away from the alley. Cúchulainn smiled at his teammates and said, "No business like show business, huh?"



# MANHATTAN HISTORY

Posted by: Kay St. Irregular

New York was once the most amazing city in the world. While it's only a shadow of its former glory, it's still North America's premiere city—just ask any native. Home to the East Coast Stock Exchange (ECSE), the Statue of Liberty, and the earthbound headquarters of the Corporate Court, Manhattan is the largest contiguous extraterritorial region in the UCAS.

A few years ago, I spent some time working New York. Manhattan, in particular, is a tricky place to work. However, the opportunities are endless, the compensation excellent, and the risks are at the right level to keep things interesting.

## TIMES PAST

In the aftermath of the Quake, it was simply a struggle to survive. Just finding shelter was a chore. The buildings that survived were deathtraps; some continued to fall as long as three years after the Quake. Subway tunnels, sewer lines, ventilation, wiring, and infrastructure tunnels were all weakened or destroyed.. The job became overwhelming and in the end, much of the island was leveled and paved over rather than repaired.

It took almost a decade of round-the-clock work for the progress to be even noticeable. In the meantime, all but the most stubborn and resilient New Yorkers chose to leave. Commuting was impossible. Construction workers and refugees lived in temporary shelters and unstable buildings throughout reconstruction. The Manhattan you see from behind the security fence today is an average of five meters higher and covers over 16 square kilometers more than it did pre-Quake.

- A few buildings that the MDC wanted to keep were raised up to the new level through the combined use of great-form spirits and modern engineering. The only way to tell that the City was lifted is by going to Central Park and a few other locations which weren't picked up.

- Axis Mundi

- Don't forget about the Underground. In the aftermath of reconstruction, some of Manhattan's forgotten tunnels, pipes, streets, and crumbled buildings remain buried under the modern surface streets—places the wageslaves never venture. The Underground would be much smaller if MDC had cleaned up rather than paving over the City and forgetting that the City once had a past. Not that I'm complaining, they have some of the best "rat on a stick" to be found—and no border checkpoints.

- 2XL

Once things got back to a semblance of normalcy, residents found something had changed, and not for the better. It was as if NYC had suddenly been left behind. Industry ground to a halt as did commerce and trade. World spanning deals were struck, but they were cemented somewhere else. The rich and powerful gathered, just not in NYC. The City used to be *the* destination. But that all changed. It changed not just with the City but also with the people.

## THE QUAKE AND THE MDC

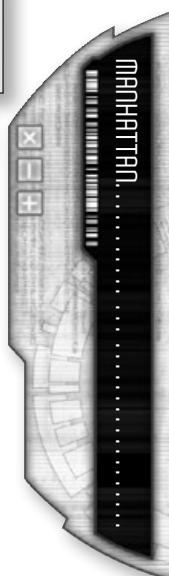
The historical New York City came to a screeching halt on April 12, 2005. By most official accounts, the Quake was only moderate. However, several eyewitness accounts imply a stronger earthquake. Despite numerous warnings that such an earthquake was possible, it took everyone by surprise. Worse, most buildings weren't earthquake proof, virtually guaranteeing a higher death toll. The numbers were staggering, two hundred thousand dead, a million more wounded or dying, and billions of dollars in property damage. Experts agreed that it could have been far worse though.

Those businesses and people who could—including the New York Stock Exchange and the United Nations—fled the City. By all rights, the US government (back then it was still the USA) should have stepped in with disaster relief. Unfortunately, several disastrous foreign aid decisions and numerous legal challenges had all but bankrupted the nation. Enter the corporations and their reconstruction plan.

Several of the larger corps with offices in Manhattan volunteered their own capital to rebuild. In return, they asked for deregulation. Having little alternative, the government agreed. Lawmakers at the time believed the measures were temporary and would be revoked once things settled down. But, as we all know, 2011 brought enough changes to render the issue moot.

Having extracted their pound of flesh, the corporations, now under the aegis of the Manhattan Development Consortium (MDC) or Manhattan Inc., kept their promises. Along the way, they lured the Corporate Court into establishing their terrestrial headquarters in the City, bought up all the land on Manhattan, successfully disassociated it from the rest of the boroughs, and kept the name New York City.

Urgent Message...



To begin, there were more than two hundred thousand fewer people in the City and boroughs. Then Manhattan Inc. instituted new rules which served to insulate the haves from the have-nots. Outside of select neighborhoods filled with surly refugees, the mass of humanity that typified NYC was gone. But there was more to it.

The haves who survived the Quake were afraid to come to NYC. They were afraid of further earthquakes, ruined buildings, scavengers, and other dangers. Telecommuting was



already the rule, and no one seemed eager for that to change. Tourism dollars moved out of the City to neighboring New Jersey as the curious came to gawk at the wreckage. Salarymen began commuting to Boston and other, safer, cities.

The return to business-as-usual took place gradually over the course of forty-odd years. By the end of the reconstruction, the City was a gleaming plastel and ferrocement monument to business. But it would take Crash 2.0 and the return of the ECSE to complete the transformation. The MDC members actively foster an environment attractive to other players, which has certainly helped draw in minor corps and repopulated the local economy.

- Monument to business? More like monument to inhumanity.
- Aufheben
- Maybe so, but business-as-usual keeps me employed.
- Stone

By the 2050s, the City looked very close to its current incarnation. However, it was still missing that distinctive, winner-take-all attitude that had made its previous face so distinctive. Part of that had to do with the ECSE. The Matrix made dealing with the ECSE easy from anywhere on Earth. However, losing it seemed to tarnish NYC's reputation, at least, from the resident's perspective.

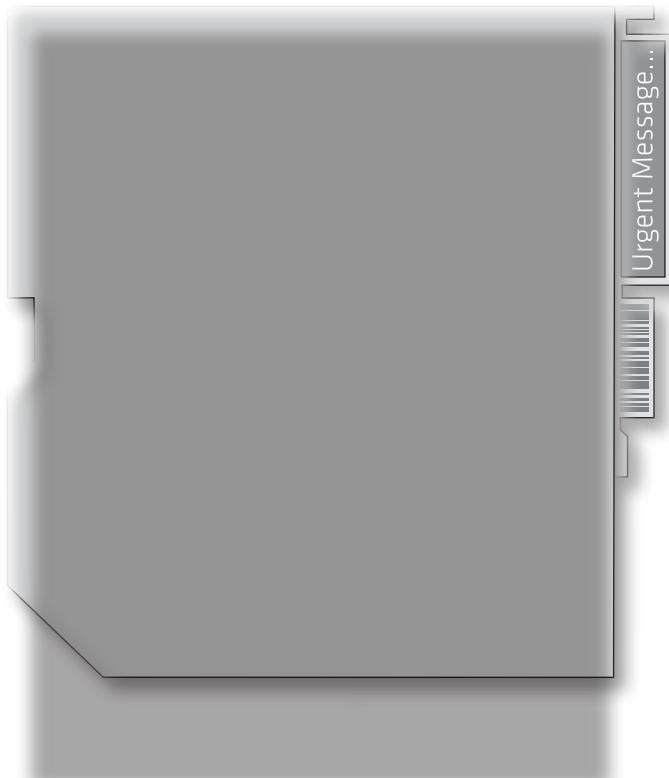
The Crash 2.0 was devastating to NYC. Its lifeblood was commerce and trade. Equipment failed and people died, but in truth, it was far less destructive to the City than the Quake had been. In the wake of the Crash there was little reconstruction to be done and a surprising amount of business. Boston, on the other hand, had been subjected to a City-wide electromagnetic pulse and radioactive fallout. So, with a little nudging by Manhattan Inc. (in particular the newly formed NeoNET), the ECSE was willing to move to their current facilities built on the ruins of the old NYSE.

That simple act seemed to reinvigorate the City. With a collective sigh of relief, NYC residents moved on to the business of business, secure in their corporate sponsored playground. And if corporate monoculture and social structure supplanted the previous cultural diversity, well it seemed a small price to pay. External enemies fell by the wayside and corporate infighting returned with a vengeance. Business as usual. So what is life like in the City?

## LIFE IN THE CITY

Those of you who've been paying attention may have noticed some changes over time. Not the least of which is Manhattan Inc.'s membership changes through the years. That, and several other important points will be discussed later. However, in the interest of perspective, here's what a typical salaryman can expect working in the City.

While most people will say that their lives are filled with different activities every day, the truth is, most of life is routines. It makes things predictable, and predictability reduces stress. That, in turn, leads to increased productivity. Thus, all corporations try to control the predictability of their employees' lives. That control requires leisure activities.



Sports such as football, baseball, urban brawl and a host of others help unify employees as they bask in shared experience. Sports teams are wholly owned by corporations who carefully sculpt the image of both the team and players. Nothing is left to chance; performances are carefully edited for maximum effect.

In addition, there are a seemingly never-ending series of festivals, celebrations, events, etc. sponsored by the corporations. Every spring *Feed The World* sponsored by Aztechnology allows New Yorkers to sample foods from all over the world while lending aid to the SINless.

- Aztechnology helping the SINless? Now I've seen everything.
- Frosty
- There's help and then there's *help*. The funds collected at this event go to third-world nations far from prying eyes. The money is often used to support rebels who just happen to be fighting against Aztechnology competitors, or to unlicensed agents in the employ of AZT.
- Marcos

On Union Day, Ares surrounds the island with fireworks displays. *The Works* illuminates the City in a riot of colors. In the heat of the summer, Horizon's *Stars in the Night* brings the year's most popular entertainers to Central Park. During the weeklong celebration people can see theater, comedy, music, dance and many surprises.

Beyond the specific festivals and events, the member corporations of the Manhattan Development Consortium still maintain the cultural revitalization efforts from their repopulation in 2059. Their plan was to make the City feel, as much as possible, like it did before the Quake. Walking the



## WHO'S PLAYING WHAT

As one would expect, competition is alive and well in the corporate enclave. And everyone in NYC—from the lowliest salaryman all the way to the very top corp directors—knows how their favorite teams are doing this year. By agreement, each MDC member can own one (and only one) sports team. So who are they you ask?

New York Mets (Baseball, non-Augmented division) owned by Renraku.  
 Manhattan Yankees (Baseball, Eastern Division, NAL) owned by NYPD, Inc.  
 New York Nets (Basketball, UCAS East Conference, NABA) owned by NeoNET  
 New York Marauders (Combat Biking, Eastern Conference, WCCL) owned by Spinrad  
 Brooklyn Giants (Football, Eastern Division, Americas Conference) owned by Horizon  
 New York Jets (Football, Eastern Division, UCAS Conference) owned by Citigroup  
 Manhattan Islanders (Hockey, Atlantic Division, UCHL) owned by Prometheus Engineering  
 New York Rangers (Hockey, Atlantic Division, UCHL) owned by Shiawase  
 The Quake (Hurling, UCAS Division, NAHL) owned by Sony  
 The Warriors (Court Ball, ACBL) owned by Aztechnology  
 Lightning (Soccer, Eastern Division, WSL) owned by Saeder-Krupp  
 New York Slashers (Urban Brawl, North American Urban Brawl League) owned by Ares  
 Manhattan Kraak (Urban Brawl, North American Urban Brawl League) owned by Transorbital

streets of Chinatown will give you the smells of incense and noise of tightly packed narrow alleys. In the business districts, sidewalk vendors sell food. All of these micro-enterprises are corp-controlled and sponsored, so the money funnels back into the consortium. The vendors all take corp-scrip and the Price AROs automatically adjust to exchange rates so Jane Wageslave from Horizon doesn't worry about whether she is paying more or less than Joe from Ares.

The one thing that's never changed is the air. The weather may vary from bitterly cold to miserably hot but the air is always polluted. Seventy years into Manhattan Inc.'s tenure as rulers of the City and they still have to seed the clouds every night to try and get some of the crap out. The amount of waste NYC produces is simply beyond the ability of the small corporations to remove, so it piles up until trash boats take it to a spot about 30 km south of Point Lookout and dump it in the ocean. Every once in a while an unexplained fire saves them a trip, but it releases tons of pollutants into the air.

- Just like in Seattle, the megas make the mess and they buy smaller corps to clean it up.

- Sunshine

- This is further proof that MDC is ignoring the consequences of trying to save a few pennies. Most of that waste should be recycled. For the few things that cannot, there are far more appropriate ways to handle it than dumping it and hoping Mother Earth won't notice.

- Axis Mundi

## MANHATTAN SECURITY

As Manhattan was purchased lock, stock, and barrel from the UCAS by the then-nascent MDC, Manhattan is not UCAS jurisdiction. The entire island is, in effect, extraterritorial. Of course, the MDC is not a single corporation, but a conglomerate of many. Rather than have a patchwork of corporate jurisdictions based on who owns what neighborhood, it was decided early on by the founding corps that the public surface of the City would be a single jurisdiction using a unified set of laws, policed by the MDC. Naturally, NYPD, Inc., a founding member of the MDC, has held the policing contract so far. The laws of the MDC are generally pretty similar to what you'd expect in the UCAS, just with a greater emphasis on control.

Corporations that are extraterritorial continue to keep that privilege in Manhattan, so extraterritorial private property may still be patrolled by private security forces that may use lethal force, like anywhere else. However, as the MDC's laws are made by corporations for corporations, cooperation between MDC security forces and private corporate security forces is far greater than just about anywhere else.

- And that makes careless shadowrunners doubly screwed, as the cooperation goes both ways. NYPD, Inc. has the power to deputize any private security personnel to act on the MDC's behalf to help capture criminals for the City, while on the other hand NYPD, Inc. will usually answer calls for help from private security and generally won't make a fuss about extraditing criminals to corporations that lay claim to them.

- Hard Exit

- It can also really play in the favor of smart shadowrunners. Nobody in Manhattan really cares about jailing shadowrunners. If you get caught, you're almost guaranteed to be able to cut a deal. Shadowrunning is like a game in Manhattan, and you're a reusable pawn.

- Stone

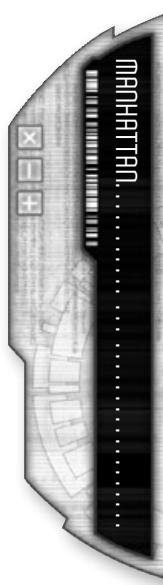
- Data balkanization extends to security. Corporate security forces may accidentally corrupt a file or edit security logs before cooperatively handing them over to NYPD, Inc. Just because they play nicely in the boardroom doesn't mean that a corporation isn't prepared to stab another in the back when necessary. Shadowrunners who affiliate themselves with corporations can earn some of that same protection.

- DangerSensei

- You'd know all about selling out to the Man, wouldn't you?

- Clockwork

To understand Manhattan's security system, you must first understand Manhattan's past. In the aftermath of the



Quake, Manhattan literally became a hellish warzone, as warlords emerged to seize and control the flow of resources amongst the survivors, fighting one another and killing with impunity. The most brutal violence soon abated to a culture of gang violence, scavenging and looting. When the then-nascent MDC really started to take control, the first order of business was establishing the rule of law.

Many people lived in fear, but others embraced the anarchy. Those who couldn't tolerate the fear willingly embraced all the bleeding edge, state of the art, Big Brother security systems the MDC could put up. Others were forced to relocate to the Underground, the Pit or Terminal. People made a conscious decision to trade privacy for security.

- "He who sacrifices freedom for security deserves neither."
- Picador
- Easy to say now, but things were really bad back then. Nothing different than happens everyday in the Barrens, but if you *could* change it, wouldn't you?
- Axis Mundi

Fast forward to post-Crash 2.0. Up until then, Manhattan was regulated by a system of colored passes and checkpoints. The system worked, but it required a lot of boots on the ground to enforce and the verification process was long, clogging up commute time to and from the City. The rise of ubiquitous wireless gave the MDC the opportunity to upgrade the system. Now each SIN is tied to access passes with AR coloring to match the cards from before. The new system is a mesh network of millions of sensor devices scattered all over the City, constantly verifying the access level your commlink broadcasts. Security access privileges now have a finer granularity, too. A visitor pass may allow you access to residential neighborhoods, but not *all* neighborhoods. You may have access to the area around the building you work, but not the area five streets down. Manhattan is divided into thousands of possible zones. Most Resident passes allow for widespread access to encourage wage-slaves to walk the streets and see the sights. Visitors and Restricted passes will layout a corridor of access to allow attendance at certain functions and meetings without unilateral access to the City.

- When buying a fake ID, make sure it is tagged for White or Blue Access. Red and Black access, visitor and restricted respectively, won't let you get everywhere you need to be. And remember if a corp gives you a pass, they can shut it down whenever they want.
- 2XL

One thing that did not change though is the restriction on vehicles. A lot of Manhattan's workforce commutes from the Boroughs every day, but hardly any of them drive in. You still need a Personal Vehicle Pass to drive on Manhattan, and these are pretty much only given to Manhattan citizens (and even then, not everyone). Everyone else makes due with an Authorized Commuter Pass. Manhattan's commute system is highly efficient and controlled. On the Borough side of the shore, workers cram into large train and bus station hubs,

## MANHATTAN LEGAL EXCEPTIONS

Manhattan Inc is all about control. The MDC wants to know who you are, where you are and what you're doing. As such, the MDC enacted a few laws to help them do that. Here are a few notable laws shadowrunners should keep in mind while in the Rotten Apple

1. Everyone is required, by law, to publicly broadcast their Manhattan Pass, SIN and any and all other permits. Failure to do so will result in punishments ranging from imprisonment (SINner or non-corp citizen) to severe beating and expulsion (SINless).
2. Trespassing is a serious crime in Manhattan. If you're caught somewhere you are not allowed to be, as per the access level of your Manhattan Pass, you face huge fines or jail time.
3. A corporate-sponsored citizen can get a permit for nearly any type of firearm or bladed weapons, including even a few fully automatic weapons. Penalties for carrying weapons you don't have permits for are steep and include a minimum 24 hour incarceration. If you're carrying fake permits (because, let's face it, you don't qualify for a real one), make sure they are up to par. Police scans are pretty thorough.
4. The MDC runs several licensed and regulated venues serving chemical drugs and chips (such as CalHots). Even some hard drugs and some BTLS are legal, but require additional permits. All substance intake is monitored and reported to parent corporations to guard against substance abuse problems. Drug-use and possession without a permit, outside of the licensed venues, is illegal.

watched over by intimidating heavily armed police guards who monitor the security system for unauthorized accesses. The trains and buses cross the bridges into Manhattan and then connect to the City's own elevated monorail train, buses and taxis.

The security mesh that covers the City is created from thousand of wifi receivers, overhead flying drones, traffic cameras, microphones, etc. It is easy enough to catch people whose access level does not grant them access to the neighborhood they are in—after all, their PAN is broadcasting everything the system needs to know. It is a crime in Manhattan to not broadcast a signal, such as having no commlink or leaving it in hidden mode. Your PAN must always be publicly broadcasting your ID and Pass. Unauthorized access penalties may





INCOMING FEED.....

range from having to pay a simple fine to actual jail time. The MDC takes trespassing of any kind VERY seriously. To catch these trespassing villains, the MDC's sensor mesh uses a battery of advanced methods of triangulation, sampling and analysis to detect non-broadcasting individuals.

- Basically, 90% of the security budget is used to catch the 10% of non-broadcasting trespassers. Yes, they really do hate you that much.
- Glitch
- Don't forget about Manhattan's MeFeed obsession. Everyone records their lives, their neighbors' lives, what they see out their window, etc. Whatever you can record is fair game to put up on the 'Trix. So even if the City's security apparatus is not recording your every move, odds are someone is.
- Axis Mundi
- MeFeeds work both ways—they are the prime reason why Manhattan police officers are so polite and play everything by the book—at least until they find out you're not a citizen. It's a scandal if the police treat citizens badly, but its tonight's highest rated entertainment show if they brutalize trespassers.
- Kat o' Nine Tales

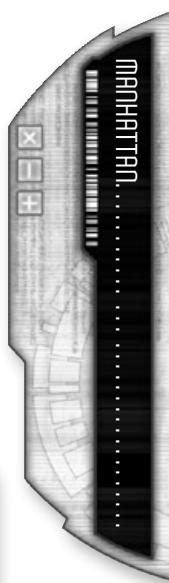
The response for unauthorized access is first a warning. Your commlink will display a big red flashing "Unauthorized Access" warning. If you turn away, no harm done. If you fail to comply

after thirty seconds, first response will most likely be a flying police drone. If that doesn't work, you get intercepted by a police patrol, and then, after that, whatever they can throw at you.

- If you get the Unauthorized Access message, sometimes it's worth turning off your commlink. You'll get a few minutes grace before the system triangulates on you and detects you are not broadcasting, which is better than proceeding ahead with your commlink on, which basically tells the authorities exactly where a crime is being committed. Just whatever happens, make sure you don't get caught not broadcasting.
- DangerSensei

If you happen to not be broadcasting a signal and are SINless as well, odds are you won't get arrested. The cops will just beat the tar out of you. Manhattan is a fascist police state. The police take their task of keeping the riff-raff out very seriously and personally. These guys believe in what they are doing, and they hate nothing more than troublemakers that do not belong in the jewel of civilization that they consider Manhattan to be.

- The MDC lives in fear of the Neo-Anarchists and their ilk—people they can't control. Neo-Anarchist is basically a catch-all term for undesirables in Manhattan. If you get arrested and you hear the cops mutter about Neo-A trash, I'd do my best to talk them down while you still can. The MDC, and Manhattanites in general, turn a blind eye to police violence towards anything labeled "Neo-Anarchist".
- Aufheben



- Sometimes, the cops patrol the edges of The Pit and other Neo-A havens, just looking to catch isolated trespassers. These poor slags are left severely beaten or killed in alleys as a warning to the rest of them.
- Pistons

Notable exceptions to Manhattan's fine comb security mesh are The Pit (aka the Lower East Side), Terminal, and Penn Station. These areas are concentrated Neo-Anarchist nests. The MDC gave up on trying to keep the sensor grid up. Now, they just focus on containing it. The corps would love to bulldoze The Pit and seize back control, but they know the Neo-A cells are well armed and would put up a bloody fight. Public opinion would undoubtedly turn against the MDC and the cost of reclamation would be too high. So, for now, things continue to simmer.

It sounds bad, but really there are ways around the security, if you're smart (and careful). The surveillance net is so good the authorities are complacent, expecting it to be such a deterrent to crime they adopt a reactive rather than proactive approach. As long as you look the part and don't make waves, no one will single you out. Corruption functions like anywhere else: the right people can sometimes be paid (or arm-twisted) to look the other way.

- Or be paid to generate you a decent fake ID. Many of the border guards will happily add a visitor pass to your ID for a few hundred nuyen. O'Henry on the 6-4 shift at the Hudson is a great guy to know. If you only need a temporary solution, it'll get you into Manhattan
- 2XL

The network also varies from neighborhood to neighborhood. The Towers, and City Center are the most secure, where it's impossible to turn around without having your PAN scanned by six sensors. Downtown and Midtown are slightly less intense, but hardly a picnic. When you get into some of the more residential areas, and places where smaller corps have offices rather than MDC members, things almost become navigable.

With the sprawl-wide wireless mesh, it's hard to patrol and secure the entire thing, so spoofing or hacking a single node can go undetected—until you set off an alert, that is. Matrix vandalism is a constant threat—not just from the Neo-Anarchists and other factions, but from AIs. With all that, plus the AI and technomancer scares, few corporations are willing to trust fully automated systems, meaning the “human factor” remains the weakest link.

- This won't stop the automated tracking and detection, but sometimes it makes all the difference just having a scheduled system hardware check moved up. People are easier to bribe than machines...
- Pistons

## AETHERPEDIA WORDSEARCH

**Skimmer** n. A smuggler specializing in human transport, especially in New York, but found across the Eastern Seaboard. Derivation of term is uncertain, but commonly associated with VTOL skimmer technology and profit skimming. See also: *Coyote*, *Snakehead*

## GETTING IN AND AROUND

All in all, Manhattan's security system was designed on the principles that Manhattanites should be royalty on their own island, that the external workforce is not to be trusted, and that undesirables need to be made examples of. Manhattan is a class-divided fascist system and a police state. Manhattan citizens can easily move around by walking, automated cab, or personal car should they be worthy of a vehicle pass. They can leave and enter the City at will, but that right is very rarely exercised. Corporate big-wigs also make extensive use of building-to-building air-taxis. Out-of-town executives flying in usually take helicopter rides from the airport to the City as well. Visiting wageslaves lower down the totem pole use chartered limousines or automated cabs.

For the workforce coming in from the Boroughs, movement is heavily controlled. It is basically just enough for them to get up early in the morning, take the long commute to their workplace, work hard for peanuts, and then take the long commute back, go to bed, and start all over the next morning. Your typical Borough wageslave will need to make her way to one of Manhattan's bridge's or single remaining tunnel, where she will line up to take an overcrowded express bus, or hop into the train to make her way to Penn Station and then onwards to her place of work. Once on Manhattan, travel is done by train, bus, and automated cab. As most of Manhattan's underground was never cleared, the trains are mostly all elevated above ground, only dipping underground occasionally. Public transit requires Commuter Pass access, while automated taxis will scan your access privileges before agreeing to bring you to any stated destination.

Shadowrunners are a special breed. We need to get to places where we very much shouldn't be, and then we generally don't want it logged anywhere we've been there. After reading the above security description, you may be wondering where that leaves us.

Manhattan's security system can be navigated and circumvented just like any other system. The first obvious trick for shadowrunners would be to acquire fake passes. Unsurprisingly, there is a thriving market for fake passes that can get you almost anywhere you need to go. Make sure you find a trustworthy forger though—fake pass quality varies, not to mention that the authorities set up many sting operations to catch forgers and their clients.

Secondly, people smuggling is a huge industry in Manhattan. Various organized crime outfits offer ways to get people in and out of the City. The large Neo-Anarchists family has perhaps the most options. Neo-A affiliated Skimmers can carry you over from the Boroughs' shores to the island via small speedboats, submersibles, the old abandoned tunnels, and even magic. Once on the island, nobody beats the Neo-Anarchist cells in terms of movement. They are expert at creating and maintaining sensor black-out routes, knocking down the MDC's security sensors in back alleys for fun and profit. It is, however, unpredictable just what route will be available. The Neo-As are a disorganized lot, which is both their strength and weakness. It is hard to get assurances ahead of time from Neo-A contacts that you will, indeed, be able to get exactly from point A to point B.

- Almost every Skimmer that makes the crossing from one shore to the other does so in a different way. I'd recommend a Coyote Shaman by the name of Jack, who crosses people over using water and wind spirits.

- Axis Mundi

The other syndicates also have their hand in the smuggling pie, though the Mafia leads the pack. It's an open secret the Cosa Nostra owns many trucking lines, construction outfits, and delivery services. All of these businesses are coincidentally businesses that require Vehicle Passes to operate. For the right price, it will be the Mafia's pleasure to "deliver" you from one place to another. Just don't expect the ride to be comfortable, and do expect a steep fee. Also note that the crime syndicates are small potatoes compared to the might of the MDC. If your situation turns political, don't count on the syndicates not to turn you in. The syndicates on Manhattan are allowed to exist through the good graces of the MDC as long as they keep their business discreet. They won't risk the wrath of the corporations for you.

- I've been to NYC twice, once with the works—full pass and all—and flew into the sub-orbital station outside of the enclave and took the maglev in. The second time, some Guidos packed my cousin and I into the back of a truck. Each of us had our full height, a meter wide for our shoulders and half a meter back to chest. Not much space for a troll.

- 2XL

- That would have been plenty of space for me, I just don't want to think about the smell.

- Lyran

Finally, brave runners can travel through the Underground. After reconstruction began, the corps didn't always have the time or inclination to dig up all the old ruins. They just paved over and built atop a large portion of the old urban landscape. These regions integrated with the existing warren of tunnels to effectively create a gigantic network of passageways underneath the entirety of Manhattan.

Before you start salivating at the logistical implications of this, consider the following. The Underground is as unsafe

as anything you can imagine. It's a genuine maze of collapsed or flooded tunnels, newly dug connections and structurally unsafe passageways. It takes real experts, like the infamous Rat Pack, to not get lost in the pitch black tunnels. Also, the MDC knows about the Underground. They can't police the whole thing, but they do send heavily armed hunter-killer hover drone packs down the widest, easiest to navigate tunnels. These drones are programmed to believe the tunnels uninhabited, so any life must be a security risk to the City, so therefore shoot first and ask questions never. Add to that the gregarious mix of highly dangerous critters, spirits (some toxic, others just hostile), armed and aggressive smuggler gangs, secretive shadowrunners, and the Underground becomes a travel option you think twice before using.

- Remember, just because it was safe when you came in, doesn't mean it will be that way when you leave. I've had to dig out more than one crew who thought they'd use inertial navigation rather than pay a guide for a round trip. And seen more than one smuggler booby-trap the paths for the same reason...

- 2XL

- As mentioned, the Rat Pack is your best bet for navigation down there, but they charge the most and are picky about who they guide. There are plenty of other guides, some who actually live down there in the squatter communities. Just remember, you're putting your life in your guide's hands. Make sure you can trust him.

- Traveler Jones

- There are numerous spirits who make their home in the Underground. They are sometimes willing to escort or protect those who request their help.

- Axis Mundi

## MANHATTAN NEIGHBORHOODS

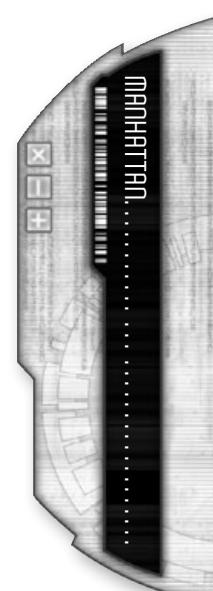
Starting at the northern end of Manhattan, and working southward, these are the primary neighborhoods of Manhattan. Of course, there are sub-communities within almost all of these neighborhoods, but this should give a solid overview of what to expect.

### INWOOD

Perched on the northern end of the City, Inwood clings desperately to pre-Quake ideals. Single-family dwellings—targeted at executives who want to live in a utopian society that's never really existed—are distributed throughout the area. The neighborhood is designed along an escapist model. With a large number of hills and an intentional break from the grid layout of streets, the region feels separated from the rest of Manhattan. Neighbors acknowledge one another as they walk along tree-lined boulevards and even gather at MDC-sponsored block parties. It's faux suburban life at its finest.

- That is, unless you count the recent spate of disappearances. A few salarymen's kids have gone missing. Most are coincidental but a few bodies have shown up in Inwood Park.

- Sunshine



- Not according to NYPD, Inc. Inwood Park is as safe as it ever was, there have been no bodies or anything else happening there in years. Nothing to see here SINizen, just move along.
- Cosmo

The City spends lots of money keeping Inwood Park green. In a basin formed by the raising of the rest of the neighborhood, it sits beneath the residential high rises surrounding the park. Inwood Park has a few caves that were ostensibly homes to members of the Lenape tribe. These were awfully small prior to '61. Now, the caves have expanded with a further settling caused by seismic shifts and a few excavations launched from the Underground to connect the warrens to the surface inconspicuously.

- The MDC chose not to raise the area between the park and the river. This maintained the famous view of the Hudson Bridge from the stands at the Inwood Ampitheater.
- Sunshine

## WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

The Heights is a City of contrasts. On the one hand, it has Columbia University Hospital and the College of Physicians and Surgeons, several beautiful parks and museums. It also boasts the best natural view of the City. The ruins of Fort Washington in Bennett Park stand on the highest point on the island.

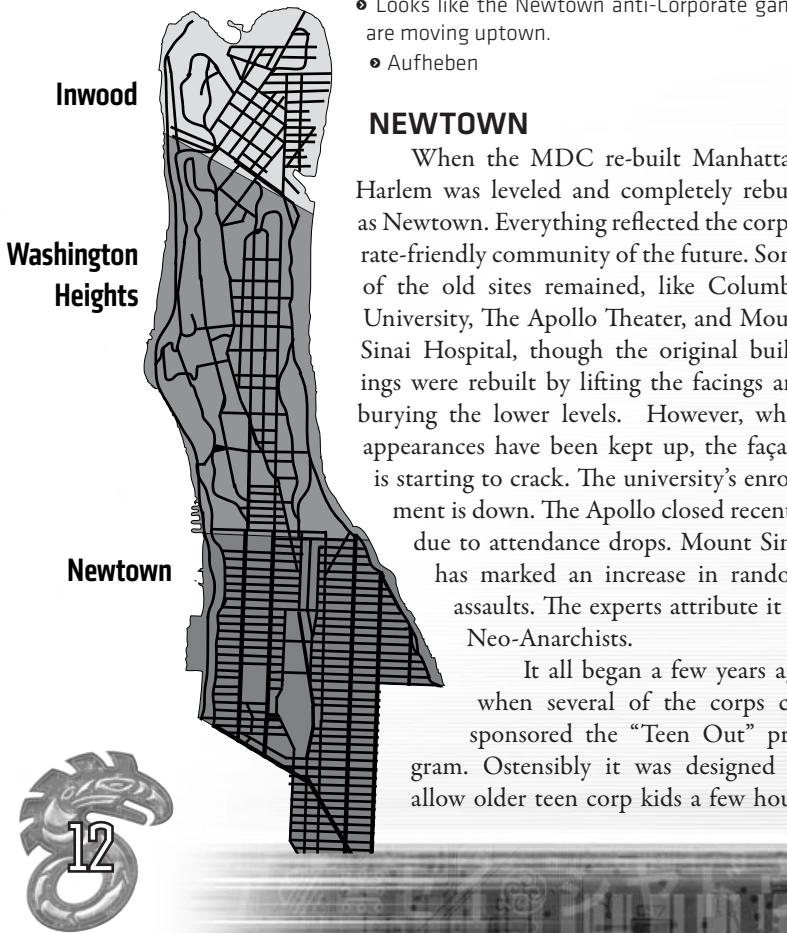
But trouble is brewing. Anti-corporate graffiti and minor property destruction are on the upswing. At this point the corporations and NYPD, Inc. are still able to clean up the mess quickly. But it's taking a toll.

- Looks like the Newtown anti-Corporate gangs are moving uptown.
- Aufheben

## NEWTOWN

When the MDC re-built Manhattan, Harlem was leveled and completely rebuilt as Newtown. Everything reflected the corporate-friendly community of the future. Some of the old sites remained, like Columbia University, The Apollo Theater, and Mount Sinai Hospital, though the original buildings were rebuilt by lifting the facings and burying the lower levels. However, while appearances have been kept up, the façade is starting to crack. The university's enrollment is down. The Apollo closed recently due to attendance drops. Mount Sinai has marked an increase in random assaults. The experts attribute it to Neo-Anarchists.

It all began a few years ago when several of the corps co-sponsored the "Teen Out" program. Ostensibly it was designed to allow older teen corp kids a few hours



## MANHATTAN GEOGRAPHY

A few centuries ago, Manhattan was a hilly island overgrown with trees and wildlife, packed with streams, and lightly populated by members of the Lenape tribes. European colonization changed that. As "civilization" arrived, the hills were largely flattened, the streams overbuilt, and the wildlife extinguished. While there are still a few modest slopes, anyone who has spent time in Seattle or San Francisco would consider the City laughably flat.

Some of the streams still exist, but they're underground now—a few are accessible from building basements, sewage or subway tunnels, or the vast network of utility tunnels. The foliage is limited to public parks and rooftop gardens. Urban scavengers and predators have supplanted the native wildlife.

When the City was rebuilt, they stuck to the original grid pattern. Twelve numbered avenues run north-south, starting with 1st Ave on the eastern side of the City and ending with 12th on the western. 220 numbered streets run east west, beginning with 1st St and ending with 220th St up in Inwood. Of course, there are exceptions to this—places where Manhattan's shape doesn't match the grid, buildings that take up multiple blocks, and streets that run at angles and aren't numbered. Nonetheless, the system makes it easy to navigate.

of alone time. The idea was to give them a sense of responsibility and get them out doing corp-approved activities (under the companies' watchful eyes of course). Unfortunately Neo-Anarchist elements hiding out underneath the area started infiltrating. Normal teen-age rebellion against authority soon morphed into anti-corporate rebellion, and gangs soon followed. The corps quickly shut the whole thing down, but the damage was already done.

Small groups resembling an odd mesh of thrill gangs and hackers, these anti-corp gangs are populated by corp-kids. With mommy and daddy in positions of power, punishment is nowhere near as severe as would be expected in Denver or other cities. Instead, there is tremendous social pressure through corporate scholarships to get back on track which leads the population to turn over quickly, with most members staying in the gang less than six months.

- Seems the good little corporate drones' good little kids have some not-so-good little habits, neh?
- Baka Dabora

## MANHATTAN'S BEST KNOWN FACES

1. **Christopher Arkins** is the Press Secretary for the Manhattan Development Consortium. All of the MDC's press releases, news conferences, and public announcements flow through the debonair elf. Mr. Arkins has held the post for twenty years, through numerous changes in the consortium membership. Even through a number of crises, his approval rating has remained consistently high.
2. **Denise Fairborn** was appointed Safety Director to Manhattan in the fall of 2067. As an employee of NYPD, Inc., she came up through the vice division and established a reputation for cracking down on imported BTLS. Most recently, she's persuaded the MDC to support a crackdown on tempo within Manhattan. The biggest complaint from her political opponents is that she's too obsessed with street crime and too oblivious to all other forms.
3. **David Jacobs** has been the commissioner of the ECSE since the exchange returned to Manhattan. The dwarf is best known for his calm approach in responding to both positive and negative shifts in the marketplace. Recently, he initiated a taskforce to investigate trading practices that are dependent upon extremely fast transfers of large numbers of shares. Since that time, a number of sensationalist stories have begun to circulate about Mr. Jacobs family life.
4. **Phenry** is either an icon shared by several skilled hackers or an artificial intelligence. Either way, the icon has hacked its way into a number of prominent AR feeds in Manhattan to spread the Neo-Anarchist news to the masses. The entity decries the constant surveillance, brutish security practices, intense air pollution, and corporate greed that define life in New York City.

• And they'd better be awfully careful if they don't want their good little asses shot off. The corpsec goons aren't likely to take "normal teenage rebellion" into account if they cross the line from nuisance to threat.

• Cosmo

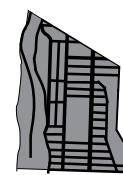
## RIVERSIDE/EAST RIVERSIDE

These two neighborhoods are primarily residential areas, with some corporate structure overflow from Midtown. Many middle-management salarymen live in East Riverside. So, much of the available entertainment is appropriate to that style of life.

### Freedom Tunnel

In Riverside there's the Freedom Tunnel, originally named for the graffiti artist Chris "Freedom" Pape. Some of his art still remains in the train tunnel connecting to the Upper West Side under Riverside Park, but much of it has been painted over or enhanced by the artists who have followed. The Tunnel still operates, as it was remodeled for maglev trains.

### Riverside



### East Riverside



- The anarchists currently occupy Freedom Tunnel, at least the parts that weren't remodeled for maglevs. It's one of the prettier places that the anarchists live, with taggers like "Da Vinci" Collins whose AR mural "*Man Creating AI*" stylizing Michelangelo's work is seen by many travelers.

• Aufheben

The old maintenance access points for servicing the tunnel are still in place. The parts of the Underground which connect to these shafts are controlled by an ork called Siedah Legrange. She's a squatter-turned-community-leader who collects tariffs from anyone who wants to pass through her tunnels. There is an unsteady relationship with the Neo-A's whom Siedah views as wild cards.

### Randall's and Ward's Islands

Across the river from East Riverside is Randall's Island, the home of the City's minimum and moderate-security prisons and Ward's Island, the home of Horizon's Rehabilitation/Psychiatric Center, which is connected to Randall's Island by landfill. The buildings on the islands were designed to be sterile and depressing—all square blocks without any sense of style. On Ward's Island, Horizon is actively rebuilding to make the buildings and landscaping more appealing to their "patients."

- Ward's Island is an astral nightmare. You have 200 years of occupation by the insane, the reburial of thousands of bodies from Madison Square Garden and Bryant Park, and to top it off, a dumping ground for trash. The background counts can vary, but it's decidedly toxic and tends to draw nasty things like flies. Horizon says they're cleaning it up, but I don't know how they'd ever manage it.

• Axis Mundi

The islands were included under the purview of the MDC because they were part of the old Manhattan borough, despite being connected to Queens by the Triborough and Hell Gate bridges. NYPD, Inc. has contracted with the UCAS and MDC to patrol each end of the area.

## WESTSIDE AND UPPER EASTSIDE

Both the Westside and Upper Eastside are primarily residential, with a few business complexes spilling over from Midtown. The Westside is primarily a home to salarymen, with a variety of mid-range shopping options. It comprises an area between 10th Avenue and the Hudson River and

from 52nd Street up to 96th. The Upper Eastside is less commercial and contains the most expensive pieces of residential property in the City.

- Those brownstones overlooking the river require either a soul as payment or a great job of hacking some deserving bastard.
- Pistons

### The Prometheus Spire

Built close to the DeWitt Clinton Park on the Westside, Prometheus Engineering is housed in a 100-story twisted tower that mimics the double helix of DNA. As the primary headquarters for the growing corporation, the spire sees all of the negotiations that Prometheus execs have with their mega-corporate clients. The third floor is devoted to an art gallery of sorts showing their contributions to buildings throughout the world. Some of the most advanced polymers yet discovered were used in the creation of the tower and it has survived terrorist attacks with far less damage than seen in other buildings.

- They do quite a bit of R&D from the Spire, but so far I haven't found any employees that leave the Spire who admit to working above the 40th floor. I'm guessing that's how they keep things tight lipped—the lab rats can't leave.
- Nephrite

### MDC Building

The headquarters of the Manhattan Development Consortium is built over the area that once held Gracie Mansion on the Upper Eastside. It's too short to be a skyscraper, yet it still has a dominating presence. The arc-shaped building is divided into fourteen sections, with thirteen towers atop a ten-story building. The fourteenth section is the shared lobby. While there is subway access nearby as well as vehicle access from FDR Drive, security is top notch with active surveillance and burly security guards.

- The Mayor of New York used to live in Gracie Mansion. I think someone misstated something and the MDC decided to make it clear who was in charge. Now, the Mayor comes to the consortium instead of the reverse.
- Hard Exit
- While there is a serious visible security presence, the area also has some hidden deterrents including popup barricades, heavy weapon mounts, and columns that hum menacingly.
- Plan 9

This building houses all of the City bureaucracy and the off-line data stores maintain archives ranging back to before the MDC took control of Manhattan. Planning commissions and the joint-corporate taskforces all meet in conference rooms in the ninth and tenth floors of the shared column. The other stories are set aside for the legions of clerical workers

needed to keep the MDC organized and disseminate information to consortium members.

### FDR Drive

From 79th to 90th Street, FDR drive runs underground with a promenade under Schurz Park and the MDC building. It has a great view of the river and was bicycle friendly even before the ban on cars.

- The section under the park is weight and motion sensitive up to a few kilograms, monitoring any possible threats to the MDC building above. Don't loiter here, or you'll have a unit of NYPD, Inc.'s finest incoming quickly.
- Mika

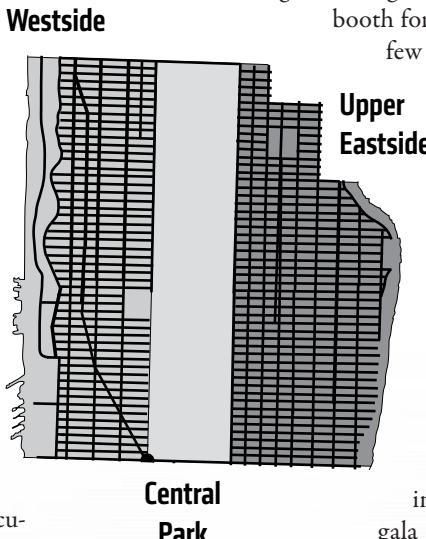
### The Sea of Fools

Between 82nd and 83rd Street on the Upper Eastside, this pub is the best place for viewing MeFeeds. Along with the "over the door" 1.3m trid displaying the number one MeFeed of the day, inside are 45 other trids giving patrons a selection of popular MeFeeds while they consume drinks and pop feel-good Kong chips. There's a Live Stage ARE Karaoke booth for those who want to post new feeds after a few beers and a Live Trid shot of people outside tied to theme-music dependant on how they walk past.

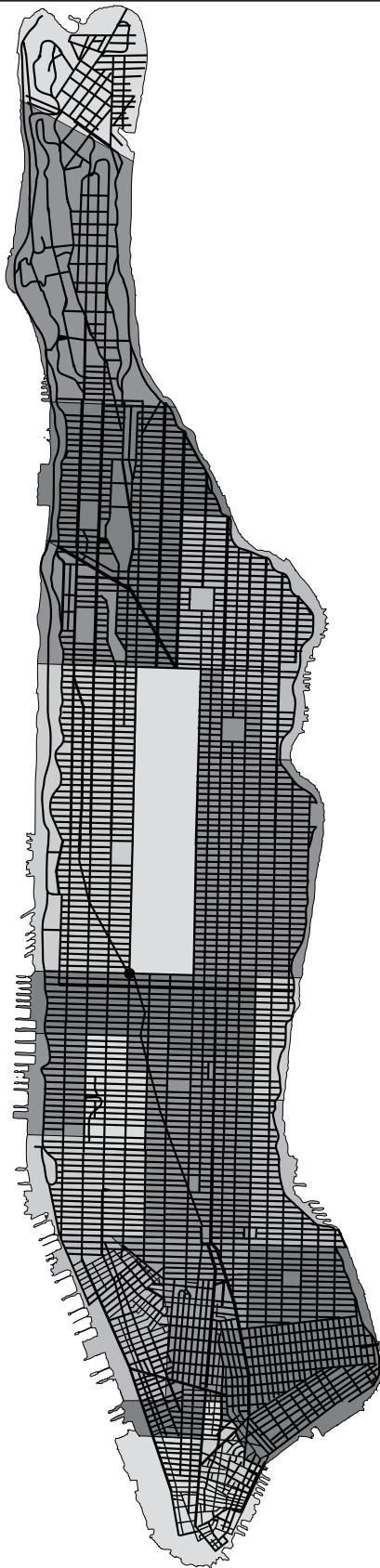
### CENTRAL PARK

Here is where anybody who is anybody in New York lives. When the City was being redesigned, the planners set aside these two great strips on both sides of the park for residential buildings. The strips run from 86th to 60th St and are a City-block wide. Many of the penthouses are owned by MDC member corporations for visiting executives to use or are used for private gala events. The other lofts are for important corporate employees for whom space is willingly sacrificed for luxury. The views are tremendous and build on the fact that the street level is raised above the park. NYPD, Inc. maintains a specialized unit of "Mounted Community Service Officers," to patrol the area from horseback. Tourists come to talk to them and take pictures. Though each officer is technically allowed to make arrests, they generally travel unarmed and are part of the cultural revitalization program.

The Park is still 3.4 square kilometers of natural looking landscape maintained by Shiawase Corporation through various contracts. Inside the park is Central Park Zoo, the Shiawase Heritage Museum displaying villages that occupied the land prior to Central Park, and several bodies of water. It's a great place to hang out, get married, and people watch. However, NYPD, Inc. is in force around the park via their many discrete drones that constantly check to make sure your PAN is in active mode. The horse drawn carriages are the only legal transportation within the park, charging only a small fee



## INCOMING FEED.....



Manhattan

for a ride around the park. Bicycles and all forms of motorized transportation are forbidden from the park.

- The carriages are great moving across the park instead of hoofing it or driving all the way around. Of course, they're also running an ID check while you sit in them. Make sure your ID is up to date.
- Pistons

### Belvedere Castle

The castle rests upon Vista Rock, one of the highest elevation points in the park. It was constructed in 1865 and houses the NY Meteorological Observatory. It also has become a magicians' clubhouse for the Society of Hawks. They've done some restoration of the castle and the Ramble (a woodland walkthrough). While parts of the building are open to the public, most of it is closed off and magically secured.

### Obelisk

The 24-meter tall, 244-ton Obelisk, sometimes known as *Cleopatra's Needle*, has stood in the park since 1879. It's also an astral phenomenon as its structure has influenced the magic within twenty meters of it. People have seen deserts around the obelisk as well as Egyptian speaking spirits. Its tone and background count changes, apparently based upon astronomical phenomena.

- There are obelisks that match this one in Paris and London. The Apep Consortium has been attempting to purchase all three.
- Elijah

### MIDTOWN

Midtown, along with "Uptown" (Upper East and West Side) and Downtown, is one of the three major subdivisions of Manhattan. It covers an area between 14th Street and 59th Street, from the Hudson River to the East River. These 12 square km make up the busiest commercial district in the UCAS. Midtown is the bright and shiny glory of Manhattan with magnificent pinnacles of glass and steel crowning Central Park.

### Theater District

This section runs South from West 53rd Street to West 43rd. The Eastern boundary is formed by Sixth Avenue, and Eighth Avenue to the West. First run theatres line Broadway—the famous "Great White Way," so named for the theatre marques' dazzling nightly light and AR displays. Horizon has gained ownership of several theatres and has been working to incorporate some of their new media techniques into the theater scene from emotive tracks for musicals to re-releases of shows with live simsense feeds. Primarily hosted to cater to the local population, the theatres work with their global media partners to draw in guest actors and entice tourists.

- If you haven't seen it, Atztechnology and Horizon have been throwing around comedies in the last few months. I've been told if you look at them at a higher level, they are a subtle PR battle, poking fun at each other.
- Kat o' Nine Tales

## Museum of Modern Art

Founded in 1929, the Museum of Modern Art between 53rd and 54th Street has been remodeled with a new capacity of almost 60,000 square meters, encompassing the six-story Rockefeller building. MoMA has a theater, a restaurant, shops, and an atrium along with several floors of various art works. Currently on display is Living Art—a traveling exhibit of genetic artwork—located on the fifth floor.

• The museum cycles through exhibits every few weeks. Upcoming exhibits include Heavenly Visions, a study of astral photography, and New Speak, an in depth look of semiotics on visual portrayal of language. I've heard that Heavenly Visions includes everything from macroscopic images of the solar system to so called "virgin casters" manipulating mana for the first time.

• Axis Mundi

## Grand Central

Grand Central is located on 42nd street at Park Avenue. Built in 1913, the glass-and-steel Grand Central Terminal was an engineering achievement rivaling the Eiffel Tower and Glass Palace of the time. It was revitalized in 1998, and expanded, as part of the rebuilding, with the East Side project in 2015 (connecting the Long Island Rail Road's (LIRR) Main and Port Washington lines in Queens to a new terminal below Grand Central). Grand Central is a bustling hub with four levels containing 75 tracks and 48 platforms.

Security is fairly tight around the clock. IDs are checked when moving between levels, exiting and entering Grand Central, and at each platform. Matrix Access for the trains is through the rails and fed through M-42, the secured power center for the rails as well as the LTG for Midtown. In the evening after the commuters have finished, there is a spike in unmanned security as all of the basic goods and produce that the City needs are brought in via rail. Aztechnology is the primary importer, although corps that don't utilize the Azzies distribution networks bring in their own trains.

• M-42 used to be the power plant for all the electric trains since WWII. Now, while the Power plants have been upgraded, it's also been refitted for the Matrix to house the components and primary routing networks. Fiber optics connect M-42 to several corporate skyscrapers. And I've been pestered to say that M-42 is rumored to have a UV Node at the core.

• Slamm-O!

It has five posh restaurants and many other food and shopping choices. With all the food and shopping available in Grand Central, Prometheus Engineering has spent the last 10 years constructing two more floors below Grand Central, developing the beginnings of Grand Central Arcology. They hope to be able to supplant several of the nearby hotels for

tourists by providing accommodations in the heart of the transit terminal.

• That being said, there are many maintenance tunnels, forgotten construction alcoves, and secret stairs around Grand. You only have to worry about security if you move around the mainstream areas. Personally, I get there via Airshaft 7 on 48th Street. A five-second almost freefall, white-knuckling a roller board. Remember to check the timetables.

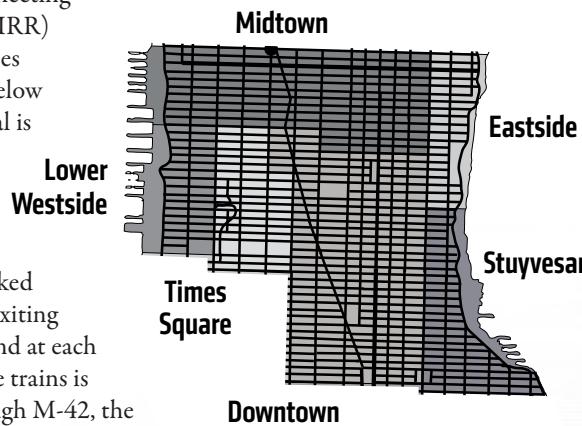
• Mika

## Penn Station

Located on 8th Ave and 31st St, Penn Station is a major rail station connecting DeeCee and Boston with maglev trains. Like vehicle permits, the electric rail service has a special color-code separating it from the subway service. Penn Station connects to Grand Central, which has a different commuter pass for subway use. The only pedestrian access from Penn Station to Terminal is on 8th Avenue.

• This is really only for non-white IDs. If you're broadcasting a blue work pass, you'll have to have a white stripe to use the subway system.

• Traveler Jones



There are a large number of hotels surrounding Penn Station targeting tourists and short-term residents.

These hotels maintain a small fleet of towncars and aircabs to pick up and deliver guests to Grand Central and Penn Stations in addition to any of the corporate buildings in Manhattan.

## Some Assembly Required

Located in Midtown on 5th Street, it's a unique do-it-yourself fajita making restaurant. Its boldness to allow people to make their own meals at a buffet table has given it a solid customer base of middleclass clientele as well as many of the law enforcement who work nearby.

## Zoé

Zoé's flagship store—since 2052—has been in Midtown on the corner of 5th Ave and 57th Street. While the window displays shows off the latest fashions, this store has a "retrovissions" AR collection, presenting almost 20 years of fashions made by Zoé.

## LOWER WESTSIDE AND EASTSIDE

The Lower Westside descends quickly from the splendor of Midtown and the Westside to the low income depths against the walls of Terminal. It's primarily a lower to poor residential zone with a few middle class locations to the north. This is the main area where the corporations that aren't part of the MDC house their low end personnel. Along the Hudson River are port and cargo-handling facilities. It is believed that

the human supervision of these facilities allowed Manhattan to avoid the massive property damage faced by other cities when automated systems were knocked offline by Crash 2.0.

- After getting their asses handed to them by the Cutters in the Pit, the Blood Monkeys—a turf gang with ties to the dockworkers—have pulled back to the Lower Westside to lick their wounds and reinforce their control.

- Aufheben

The Eastside is nicknamed the Land of Lower Managers. Economics dictate that this is about as far as a salaryman can rise without doing something daring or illegal to push through to the Upper East Side class of executives.

- It's a fairly even mix of cultures—Security, Gangs, MeFeeds, Commercial, and Residential. As an example, the drones still fly about watching for PANs in passive mode, but places like FDR Drive by the 63rd street ramp or around the 59th Street bridge depend upon the human element to patrol.

- Pistons

### Eleemosynary Children's Clinic

Located in Hell's Kitchen, a neighborhood roughly between 42nd and 59th Street in the Lower Westside, this free medical clinic takes care of children, regardless of their SIN status. It also can house up to 30 orphans while the clinic finds suitable parents for them. This is one of the locations that Atztechnology sponsors during the *Feed the World* charity drive, focusing attention on the homeless children.

### Roosevelt Island

Now, more commonly known as Penitentiary Island, this is where the City maintains moderate, maximum, and ultra-maximum security prisons near the Eastside. With weapon emplacements on the Queensboro bridge the island is surrounded by tall fences, drones, and spirits. External security is managed collectively by all three prisons, with internal security measures changing based on prisoner needs and population levels.

- While technically secure, there are regular riots and escape attempts. The worst was during Crash 2.0. All three prisons rioted at the same time allowing for a few escapes when security had their hands full. Three escapees from ultra-max have the wageslaves really worried: Robert Moriarty, Kat Kelner, and Rachel Shepherd.

- Sticks

### Pizza Now

Who doesn't want a hot slice of Brooklyn style pizza right now? Pizza Now is a great cheap place for a slice on the Eastside. Nicholas, a fourth generation resident of Manhattan, pedals around his pizza cart, selling pizza by the slice. While most of it is soy, Nicholas insists that he has a secret source for authentic tomato sauce. He's also well tuned in to the Eastside rumor mill.

### TIMES SQUARE

Times Square remains an icon of Manhattan and is one of the more recognizable destinations on the City. The inter-

section of 7th and Broadway creates an "X" shaped area surrounded by glitz and glitter as only Manhattan can provide. Multi-story advertisements, physical and AR, surround you with everything from the latest trends, to the latest news, to the latest stock report out of the ECSE.

- Times Square can be somewhat uncomfortable. Running in hidden or passive mode may get you noticed, but leaving yourself open means the spam gets obnoxious pretty quickly.

- Glitch

- Strolling through Times Square can give you a really good idea of how much the Man has on you. Too many ads for your favorite foods or trailers for the flick you were gonna download tomorrow night, and it might be time for a visit to your favorite forger.

- Slamm-O!

The Square is also the place to go if you've got some nuyen itching to be spent. It's a high class area filled with ritzy restaurants and old-time theaters. Many of the buildings sport an art deco AR theme allowing visitors to experience Manhattan in its hey-day, or at least that's what the tourist brochures say. The City's older theaters, many operational even back in the 20th century, can be found on the side streets around the square. While updated to provide AR feeds and emotive tracks carefully calibrated to provide an audience with the appropriate queues during a performance, a few—most notably the Shubert Theater on 44th between 7th and 8th—have avoided too much modernization and provide "a true theater connoisseur's experience."

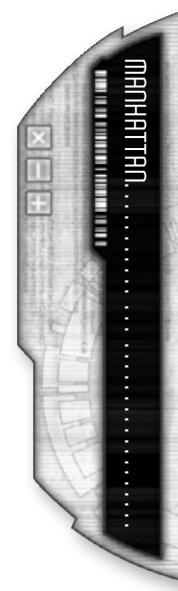
### Neon City

Head south from Times Square and you'll find yourself in Neon City. Located in and representing the old red light district of 42nd street, Neon City is where the elite go to sit back, relax, and pretend they're not elite. Filled with bars designed to give the appearance of shiftiness while still providing the drink menu of an upper-class Midtown establishment, the NC also provides any other "entertainment" that a corporate citizen could want. Within a six block radius, ten different bars licensed to serve CalHots and other mind-benders can be found. Generally companionship in the form of an escort service or full-service brothel and bunraku parlor can be found next-door or across the street.

- If you need a meet with someone too important to be seen with "less desirables," check out *Our Lady of the Bottle*. Tell Tasha that I sent you but watch out for the Guvnah, a cockney free spirit who provides security.

- Axis Mundi

NYPD, Inc. patrols the area, but part of the draw—and the financial success of Neon City—is the taste of antisocial behavior to those that couldn't afford to act that way anywhere else. Unless you're involved in something clearly illegal and you're doing it to someone important enough, they'll turn a blind eye. Doesn't mean you can walk down the street with your intentions just hanging out, even if some of the other employees in the NC are paid to do just that.





- Slamm-O mentioned forgers; whether you need new papers or a new digital permit to get you around the City, if you pay attention-and have the right cred-Neon City is a place to find one.

• Mika

## DOWNTOWN

While other neighborhoods are occupied by 300-story skyrakers, Downtown has kept its concrete charm. Midtown may be the heart of Manhattan, but Downtown is its soul. Downtown contains a mix of business and residential structures with a peppering of MeFeed screens displaying today's popular home trids. Downtown starts at the Empire State building and roughly includes everything below 14th Street. Excluding neighborhoods like The Towers or Battery City, downtown proper has its own unique charms.

- It has a higher rent than Riverside or Battery City, but it's due to location. While there's a decent law enforcement presence, gangs still drift through-local gangs from the Pit or Ancients from the Southside.

• Pistons

## The Empire State Building

Completed in just over a year, back in 1931, the Empire State Building is the only building over twenty stories to survive the Quake undamaged. Long term forecasting of the lifespan of the building during its design phase has allowed ease

of upgrades to modern conveniences including fiber optics. It is currently privately owned; with the lower fifty floors being leased out to various corporations. Due to its historic significance, the Empire State Building was one of the buildings which went through the expensive process of being lifted to the new street level.

- The top thirty floors are secured very tightly including a powerful ward that screams "Go Away!" The most popular rumor of the moment is that the mysterious private owner that no one knows lives up there and doesn't leave. Another rumor is that the Four Hundred, a secret society of corporate elite, hold meetings up there to decide what happens in the corporate world.

• Plan 9

## Bowling Green

A wedged shaped plaza, formed by the splitting of Broadway into Whitehall and State Street, is the oldest public park in Manhattan and has been the center of activity since 1635. Bowling Green features the sculpture *Charging Bull* as well as a fountain and places to sit and chat. There are plenty of licensed street vendors for food and goods.

- The Bowling Green subway station is still abandoned after being deemed unsafe and not worth the expense of repairing. Now vendors from the Underground scurry closer to the surface to trade black and grey goods to the residents of downtown at Bowling

Green. If it gets too hot with NYPD, Inc., they flee to the subway tunnels like roaches.

- Traveler Jones

### Waldorf-Astoria

A 47-story, art deco, luxury hotel, the Waldorf is owned by Citigroup. It contains three restaurants serving Amerindian, Classic American, and Classic European dishes, and a beauty parlor just off of the main lobby. Interestingly enough, there is a more luxurious virtual 'hotel within the hotel' tied to a private platform below the hotel and maglev train.

• If you've got the nuyen, this is the posh way to stay in Manhattan. It used to be for President Roosevelt, complete with an elevator to take his motorcar up from the platform to the street.

- Kat o' Nine Tales

### STUYVESANT

This is an ultra-rich neighborhood, with security levels to keep it that way. For the most part, the buildings are single-family residences, though most of us would call them mansions. Little is as it appears at these residences. There are shrubs, lawn ornaments, bricks in the walls, and even sparrows that are armed drones. Enter at your own risk.

• I ran across a statue of Zeus that "fired" lightning bolts at me. The statue had an Ares Laser mounted in the fully articulated arm. I didn't stay around to see if it could move from its pedestal.

- Stone

### TERMINAL

For the most part, Terminal is a place of desperation, where those on the way down end up. It has the cheapest coffin hotels in the City, the ones where you may wake up short a few personal items—like organs—or not wake up at all.

Terminal is where Manhattan comes when they want cheap drugs and prostitutes willing to do anything. You can use what you want, get into brawls, have fun with the street-walkers, and not have any of it show up on multiple MeFeeds.

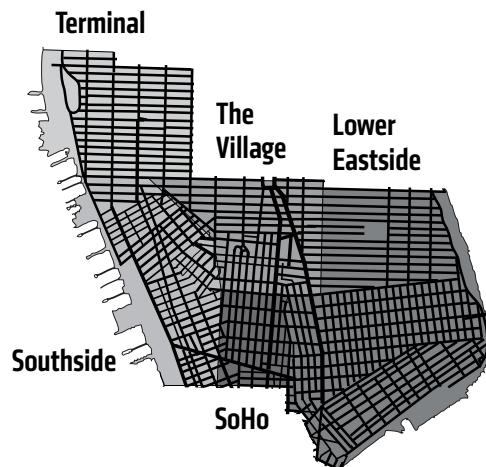
After Crash 2.0, the MDC made a few changes to the place, with lots of NYPD, Inc. on hand to make sure that the locals cooperated. They upgraded the chokepoints to reduce the chance of go-gangs being able to barrel through them, they reworked a few of the streets, and they did some necessary urban infrastructure maintenance.

• They didn't do all those infrastructure repairs for the ease or comfort of the locals, but because the raw sewage stench that was wafting out into better neighborhoods was starting to make the beautiful people turn green.

- Plan 9

Smuggling, drugs and black market goods are flourishing in Terminal. If it can be had, chances are that you can get it here. Delivery outside of Terminal usually results in a significant markup.

The rundown and decrepit docks in Terminal are the entryway for most of the illicit goods coming into Manhattan. The



smugglers are fast and efficient, so much so that most believe that they are corp personnel following orders or moonlighting.

The drug dealers keep the area around Penn Station under control, with enough enforcers that the area could almost be rated as a B. They want their customers coming back. With the reduction of the Port Authority's power, they have had to rent out part of their facility to others to stay solvent. A couple of street docs now have cyberclinics in the basement.

The Neo-Anarchists have made it a point of taking out any sensors that Manhattan Inc or NYPD, Inc. put up in Terminal. While all of the infrastructure repairs were being done, NYPD, Inc. inserted a large number of sensors in as many structures (including the road beds, sidewalks and sewers) as they could. The Neo-Anarchists were busy for a couple of months, but they believe that they got all of the sensors.

### Choke Points

These are set up at 42nd and 10th, 42nd and 7th, 38th and 7th, and 34th and 7th. They don't really care who goes into Terminal, but proper ID and passes are required to reenter Manhattan.

• They have two nasty surprises for those trying to bull their way through. The first is a monowire fence that can spring up. The second are RFID sprayers that mix regular, stealth, and security RFIDs. A trip through the Underground is usually your best option.

- Pistons

### The Apple Press

The Apple Press is an independent news firm serving as a front for the Neo-Anarchists. Beyond producing anti-authoritarian ARPs and viral propaganda, it does a lively business on the ground floor as a coffee and teahouse. If you need the Anarchist Black Cross, this is the place to start looking.

### Firesale

A hacker hangout, the owner Demian has a strong bias against technomancers. The dwarf stomps around squashing tales of self-enlightenment and selling warez under the guise of a legitimate software retailer. Legal purchases can be made above board, though he only deals in certified for shad-

owy purchases. There are rumors that Demian was an otaku who faded before the others became technomancers, but he's threatened to shoot anyone who discusses that line of thought.

## SOUTHSIDE

Through most of Southside, the security and habitats are similar to those of downtown. It's a mix of smaller corps, residences, and commercial construction. However, the northern end, where it abuts Terminal, gets quite a bit seedier. The security network is frequently off-line and thrill gangs tend to spontaneously form and collapse in the area.

### The Marquee

The Marquee is a century old nightclub off of 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Fashion is strictly enforced at the club—only those who are wearing up to date clothing are allowed inside. The Marquee is for salarymen who seek the Downtown feel, without the extra travel.

### Corson Place Hotel

The Corson Place Hotel is a bit seedy, but it's close enough to The Towers that it still manages a steady business in private corporate meetings. It's especially popular for meetings that need to be kept off the books, for any number of reasons. The staff practices discretion largely by being completely oblivious to the world around them.

## THE VILLAGE

The Village is like an aging rocker who should have stopped wearing his synthleather pants twenty years ago: it's clinging sadly to the wrong part of its past. Over a hundred years ago, this neighborhood was the home to starving artists and other bohemians. Now, it's largely populated by corporate-sponsored and approved hippies and free-spirits (not the mojo kind) who run kitschy stores. These storefronts give the illusion of art and bohemia to wageslaves without the dogma.

### Washington Square Park / NYCU Campus

Still the spiritual heart of the Village with its historical arch and weekend bazaars, this open-air rectangle looks less like a park and more like a cave with each passing decade thanks to the ever-growing buildings surrounding it—most owned by NYCU. New York City University is a huge research university with centuries-old ties to the City. They keep a near-Alexandrian academic library covering a multitude of subjects ranging from medicine to art history to corporate law, both hard copy and on a firewalled Matrix nexus. Manhattan residents can apply for day passes which grant limited access.

- By limited, they mean a fifth or so. That's plenty for Citizen Joe, but this place is vast. Consider making at least one of your fake IDs a student at NYCU. This way you get full access to the college of your choosing for the duration of your stay.

- Pistons

NYCU does not have an isolated campus, but more than half of the buildings in a five-block radius from the arch

belong to them: dorms, classrooms, offices, research laboratories covering everything from nanotech to chemistry, a teaching hospital, and, of course, the library. The university survives on grants and tuition which is generally paid by corporate scholarships. Corporate recruiters draw promising students out of high schools and after a few years of college, offer them permanent positions in their corporations. There is a gentleman's agreement between the corporations to not poach each other's candidates from NYCU—an agreement which simply pushes the corporations to act more circuitously.

### The Cypress Tree

On Mercer, between 3rd St and Bleeker is one of the best-kept secrets in The Village. The Cypress Tree restaurant has the sole claim of being family-owned for almost 150 years thanks to a forward-thinking cousin petitioning to be allowed to resume control of the restaurant during the revitalization project. Restaurant by day, bar and club by night, they've survived by adapting with integrity. They boast the latest in AR and security, while maintaining a relaxed appearance with real brick and wood throughout. All the tables are antique shale, and bowls of chalk encourage customers to doodle or diagram to their heart's content.

- The booths have privacy generators you can turn on for a small fee. I've found this a great place to meet contacts and make plans, though you might not want to trust it for a first meet with a Johnson.

- Glitch

## THE PIT

The Lower Eastside is an area roughly south of East Houston Street and west of the East River. The borders of the Pit are more dependent upon where NYPD, Inc. stops enforcing. Since the Quake, it's been filled with roving gangs, giving it the nickname of "The Pit." Unable to focus on the eradication and gentrification of the area immediately, MDC took a containment approach. They locked down the area and control people leaving the zone. If it weren't for Crash 2.0, programs of systematic destruction and redevelopment would have been implemented. The timeline was moved from completion in 2075 to completion by 2085.

Today, however, the Lower East Side is working towards cleaning up its image without MDC involvement. Non-Corporate groups such as Urban Assistance and Lower East Heritage have been cleaning up abandoned buildings and restoring historical ones such as St. Theresa's and the Eldridge Synagogue. These groups have lobbied for control of the Lower East Side with mild MDC oversight if they are capable of cleaning it up on their own. So far the MDC hasn't made any promises, but seems satisfied to take the social improvements without spending a dime.

The Pit lacks the constant security oversight present in almost all of Manhattan. It's not a safe place to live or work, but, because of concerted effort to improve the area, it moved from a "Post-apocalyptic" war zone to a "Bring your own law" frontier zone.

## NEW YORK HARBOR ISLANDS

Three smaller islands in New York Harbor fall under the purview of the MDC.

### Liberty Island and Ellis Island

Home to the Statue of Liberty, Horizon acquired the property rights to both Liberty and Ellis Islands from Citigroup in a deft bit of real estate dealing last year. The islands are currently closed to the public, though they are expected to re-open as Virtual World Liberty Park in the spring of 2073. Both islands are being re-worked into an amusement park with a theme of the American Revolutionary War. A high-speed train running under the harbor will connect the two islands.

### Governors Island

Ares holds extraterritorial rights to all of Governors Island. The island is extremely well secured, and used for riot training and non-lethal weapons testing. The majority of the units stationed there are Knight Errant employees engaged in retraining—a fact that keeps NYPD, Inc. perpetually concerned. It is rumored that Ares also contracts out use of their training facilities to a number of mercenary units for urban combat exercises. Though the MDC has no control over what happens on the island, due to Ares' extraterritoriality, they do keep an eye on it through satellites and surveillance drones to ensure that the actions do not pose a threat to Manhattan's security.

- The Lower East Heritage group has some family ties to give them extra protection while in the Pit, but the serious push here has been with the Cutters. Originally, you had turf gangs such as the Blood Monkeys, Axemen, Duelists, Merlyn's Pride, The Sisters Sinister, Night-Spawn, and the psychotic thrill-kill Billyboys. Now, in the Cutter's terms, there's been a hostile takeover, restructuring, and some downsizing.
- 2XL

- Not everyone is happy with this, especially the anarchists. Not only do they have to deal with MDC, now they have to deal with a gang who thinks like a corporation.
- Aufheben

### Orchard Street

Considered the heart of the Pit, Orchard Street runs the length of the Lower East Side, and is the place to shop. Every week, sections of the street are turned into a bazaar. Several restaurants create outdoor venues serving ethnic food and drinks.

• The gang battles kept many people off the street, leaving the vendors selling only weapons and armor. Now, there's more out there—clothes, salvage, and pirated trids. I can start at Division, where I pick up some dinner and a cool shirt. By the time I reach East Houston, I'll have a new pistol in one hand and a chilled beer in the other.

- Traveler Jones

### C-Squat

The Urban Assistance group purchased eleven abandoned buildings from MDC for a nod and a handshake, including the building now named C-Squat, and then used local labor to renovate them. C-Squat is still a squat house, but it includes a skate park in the basement and regularly has techno-punk concerts. With the renovations, the UA has been able to draw squatters who had snuck in during the Crash and hidden in high rises into a safe area where the squatters won't be abused by NYPD, Inc. In exchange for a safe place to live, the squatters serve as untrained labor and help clear out buildings and roadways to help renovation.

• And of course hiding behind UA is the Cutters. They could be setting up a new eastern headquarters, but the real question is what kind of deal they are making with the Consortium.

- Plan 9

• It looks pretty obvious; MDC is getting an eyesore cleaned up without paying for it. When the job is done, MDC can roll in, kick out the SINless who don't belong in the City and march lockstep forward pushing any resistance right off the island and into the river. If the Cutters thought they'd win, they were mistaken.

- Red Anya

• Is that how you'd do it back in Moscow?

- Pistons

### SOHO

SoHo stands for "South of Houston," but the cultural line is not that sharp. The further south you go, the more authentic culture you get: art galleries, arcane shops of substance, and old men playing chess. Here is where you meet the real "smart people" of the City, intermixed with the fakers hired to play the role.

### Saints and SINners

This shop is located near the corner of Spring and Wooster. At first glance it's a curio shop, filled with small treasures from the world's religions targeted mostly at tourists. Look with the right set of eyes; however, and you'll see talismans and fetishes for sale at reasonable prices, enchanted and ready for attuning. What the owner will never tell you is that everything in the store is developed by MCT and sold in Pentagram Publishing on Broadway for fifteen percent less. MCT utilizes the shop as a feeder for their cultural investment quota and marks up their products to cover the additional overhead.

• The model of having a small family-owned store that actually belongs to a mega is part and parcel of their cultural revitalization. Create the illusion of culture without sacrificing the bottom line.

- Kay St. Irregular

## THE TOWERS

The three, 250-story tall onyx towers once called “Fuchi-Town” dominate the skyline of Lower Manhattan. Fitting, given that the Corporate Court has made it their terrestrial headquarters. Externally, the renovated towers appear to be as pristine and manufactured as the rest of Manhattan. A closer look, however, reveals The Towers to be the most secure square quarter-mile in the world.

The Towers had been in a state of disrepair following the gutting of Fuchi Industrial Electronics in 2060. Trapped in legal limbo for years, Fuchi-Town became a crumbling testament to the fall of Fuchi and the bitterness created by the circumstances surrounding the collapse. Former Fuchi execs working for Renraku and Shiawese used their pull with the MDC to prevent Novatech from gaining full ownership of The Towers. With the ownership of The Towers in limbo, none of the corps involved were willing to invest in its upkeep. The Towers became a white-collar slum, home to only the most expendable of wageslaves.

That all changed after Crash 2.0, when an ascendant NeoNET turned to the only force in the world capable of breaking the stalemate over The Towers. By shrewd politicking, NeoNET convinced the Corporate Court to take control of The Towers and its associated assets. This gave the Court an earthbound home from which it could directly monitor the activities of the Big 10. The Corporate Court's decision to move into the complex was instrumental in persuading the East Coast Stock Exchange to return to City Center. Today it is home to a growing army of Corporate Court workers, from accountants to security specialists.

- NeoNET scored big on this move. They lost physical ownership of the The Towers, but they gained one of the largest contracts in Matrix history; building the wireless infrastructure for the Corporate Court's dirtside home. Kicking Fuchi old guard in the teeth was only an added bonus.
- Mr. Bonds

## CITY CENTER

The collection of drab civic buildings that makes up City Center lives in the shadow of The Towers. This is true in more ways than the MDC would like to admit. City Hall and the headquarters of NYPD, Inc. are here, along with the civil and criminal courts. The rebuilt and modernized East Coast Stock Exchange resides here and its unique Neo-Deco Revival architecture makes it a popular stop for City tours.

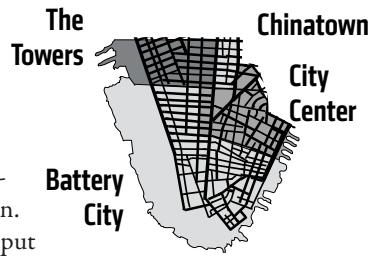
- The Towers, MDC's City Center, and the ECSE all share portions of a common Matrix corridor. I've noticed Renraku white hats poking around lately, looking for weaknesses in NeoNET's Matrix architecture.
- Netcat

## East Coast Stock Exchange

Following the events in Boston, the ECSE returned to Manhattan and retook its place on the site of the old NYSE building. The return of the ECSE was a major coup for the MDC as a way of affirming that Manhattan is in fact the

economic powerhouse of the UCAS. David Jacobs has been the commissioner of the ECSE since the exchange returned to Manhattan. He has been trying to put

a stop to future nanosecond buyouts and take control out of the computerized machinations to quell public fears of AI interference.



## Frankfurt Bank Association

One of the oldest financial agencies, the Frankfurt Bank Association (FBA) has a local office near the ECSE. Like several other financial institutions, they followed the ECSE and took the wealth and prestige that their bank promises to a city with them. Beyond their investments and ability to trade directly within the exchange, the FBA offers banking services to corporations lacking their own internal structures. While the megacorporations don't need the FBA, all of them meet with Janik Stueller when he requests. Janik, the regional vice-president, keeps very difficult hours as he needs to be available for his home office in Frankfurt and still see important investors in Manhattan.

## CHINATOWN

Chinatown has endured for over two hundred years, virtually unchanged save for some vertical expansion in the last five years. Residents have worked tirelessly to prevent corporate intrusion and made deals with Spinrad Industries to control “revitalization”. The glossy coat of PR paint the MDC has slathered on the rest of the City is evident only at ground level. It is an excellent metaphor for the two faces of Chinatown. Its public face is disarming—chintzy, overpriced knockoffs peddled out of claustrophobic storefronts to tourists paying for the authentic bartering experience. “Traditional” festivals are celebrated regularly and loudly for the benefit of visitors.

Chinatown's true face, however, can be found in a vibrant gray market run out of traditional apothecaries and seen in deals conducted over Mah Jong and imported cigarettes. It is this face that runners are typically interested in, particularly those looking for unusual telesma or to conduct business with the Triads. Navigating Chinatown's winding warren of side-streets and sub-basements can be confusing, possibly dangerous, for the uninitiated; but rewarding to those respectful enough to inculcate themselves with Chinatown's tradition minded denizens.

- Chinatown is home to one of my favorite exotic foods markets. Staggering selection if you know what to talk to.
- Hannibelle
- The MDC legalized gambling in their territories quickly making Chinatown the Macau of the East Coast. High roller red passes are a common sight in upscale casinos and parlors.
- Traveler Jones

## Lucky Star 99

A combination teahouse and ethnic market, Lucky Star 99 is a great place to find all sorts of imports—not just edible ones. The Large Circle Triad runs the place. If you need to make contact with them, this is where to start. Just keep in mind that they also handle security for the establishment—there are always at least a few enforcers sipping tea and watching the clientele.

## BATTERY CITY

Battery City is primarily a residential community with large multi-story apartments for fixed income and lower-middle class tenants and a small park. Battery City is a half a square kilometer area located at the southern most tip of Manhattan built with landfill centuries ago. From Battery City to the southwest is a great view of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and Governor Island.

- It isn't the nicest place in the world, but at least it isn't the Pit. Its home to the poor or low-income wageslaves that for some, sacrificed luxury for security clearance. From Battery City, you can get some great surveillance of Governors Island/Port Authority complex.

- Pistons

This area is commonly used by the megacorporations to house their cultural and blue-collar workers. With the variety of talents and cultures crammed into such a small place, you would expect rivalries to form quickly. Instead, the area has grown close and many of the apartment buildings have their own scheduled festivals independent from the corp-sponsored events across the island.

## The Green Building

The Green Building is basically a fifteen story green house. It was planned to make several of them to feed the world, but the Crash and Quake destroyed the company who would have made them. Each floor is a 60 square meter garden with fiber optic lighting and either hydroponic or lightweight soil for several crops.

- It was abandoned by the corporation, but snatched up by the nearby tenants. It's been restored as a community farm, but since it's nice, the local gangs have been trying to muscle in on the real foodstuff. If you're into a non-soy reward, there's security work available at the Green Building.

- Axis Mundi

- A little explanation would go a long way on that.
- Haze

## Castle Clinton

Originally known as West Battery, to defend New York against the British forces, Castle Clinton has been retired from military use and designated a historical monument. It's been an aquarium, emigrant landing depot, opera house, and garden. Currently, it's a public building with no one specific use.

- Castle Clinton is a great place to meet, as you can see anyone coming up on the Castle both from land and sea. Unfortunately, you have abandoned tunnels connecting Battery Park to Bowling

Green. Your meet could be interrupted as smugglers come up from the Bay.

- 2XL

## THE UNDERGROUND

No tour of Manhattan would be complete without mentioning the Underground. A maze of tunnels, flooded subway lines and the remnants of buildings from the Quake form the Underground and shelter a community of squatters. The Rat Pack, a small initiation group, are believed to be the controlling influence below the streets. Despite the direct control that MDC espouses the group as having, the Rat Pack is one of several outfits that have staked out their own piece of land, helping only where it's needed.

NYPD, Inc. and several of the corporate security teams make regular forays into the Underground to setup security systems to track the squatters and laser tripwires to alert the City if the squatters are coming topside. These security measures are torn down almost as fast as they go up. Beyond the active countermeasures, the squatter community runs markets and bazaars where you can buy "rat on a stick" and other delicacies or black market goods. These bazaars have formed a tight knit community which spreads news about raids and warns residents if people are looking for them.

- Just because everyone sounds like a big happy community, don't be fooled. Small communities and strong men will settle on junction points and charge tolls to move through their "territory."

- 2XL

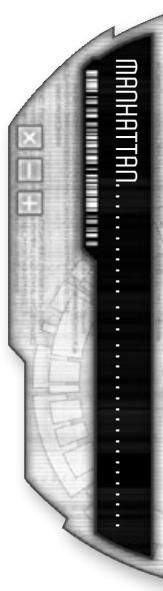
The community survives by smuggling items and people in and out of Manhattan. Depending on how much you are willing to pay, the trips vary from speedboats across the bay and swimming through flooded tunnels to riding in the back of a garbage truck across the bridge. The connections between the Underground and the surface are closely watched and the squatters look out for their own. If you are running hard from NYPD, Inc. and drop into the Underground, be prepared to be pushed back onto the surface if the cops are too close.

## Night Markets

Night markets are conducted by guerilla street vendors and coordinated via commlink and word of mouth. When the signal is passed, these vendors rush to the surface into a designated alley and assemble their stalls in seconds. Vendors hawk all manner of wares and services, from traditional snack foods to commlinks with forged pass upgrades. Lookouts are posted at key intersections and use simple coded comm sequences to alert vendors if the police are en route. Once alerted, the stalls are broken down in seconds and the vendors simply fade into the night.

- The Night Markets are often visited by the teenage children of wageslaves. NYPD, Inc. cracks down on the markets whenever they are found, but the kids get off with a slap on the wrist. Now NYPD, Inc. is trying to infiltrate the Underground to find out how the Markets are coordinated.

- DangerSensei



# THE MANHATTAN DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

The MDC was founded to coordinate construction, share governance, and maintain extraterritoriality of Manhattan between the leading corporations of the City. These corporations attempt to maintain complete control over very nearly every activity in Manhattan. While the membership does change, the following are believed to be the current members.

## ARES MACROTECHNOLOGY

Ares maintains their Manhattan presence largely to stay well informed of the activities at the earthbound Corporate Court headquarters. Rather than coordinating through their global divisions, the megacorp has an independent division, Ares Manhattan, for this purpose. Housed in Midtown at the spire-like Condatis Tower, Ares Manhattan oversees business with MDC and New York City as a whole. Its director, Dominique Vittoria, is an energetic and shrewd businesswoman who works closely with MDC and City leadership.

- If by "works closely" you mean "coldly manipulates," then you've got it. Vittoria wants everything, and she's willing to use negotiation, threats, violence, intrigue, or anything else that occurs to her to get it.
- Axis Mundi

Ares Manhattan is the major supplier for the City's transportation infrastructure. Some 65% of the vehicles you can see on the streets of greater New York were manufactured by an Ares subsidiary. In Manhattan, that number rises to nearly 80%. Ares also handles the subways, trains, and other public transportation for all of the counties.

The corp is also the source of most of the security equipment in the region and almost all of it in the City of Manhattan proper. Even other MDC member corporations find it cheaper to buy from Ares than to import their own armaments and ordinance. NYPD, Inc. is unequivocally Ares Manhattan's best customer.

- Vittoria wants to put NYPD, Inc. out of business. She believes that Knight Errant should be running security in Manhattan, rather than just the Condatis Tower. She's willing to sacrifice anyone and anything to make that happen.
- Axis Mundi

- That's two comments on Vittoria in the same section. Have you got something against Ares Manhattan? Most people that work with the division and Vittoria find her reasonable and willing to negotiate arrangements that are satisfactory to both sides. Rumors that she is a successful psychopath are, at best, unsubstantiated.
- Snopes



Ares Global Entertainment (AGE) uses Manhattan as their North American headquarters and controls the top five floors of the so called "subsidiary tower." AresSpace maintains their own three levels with scientists and lawyers rubbing shoulders as they coordinate satellite launches and attempt to write a new system of laws for interplanetary research and property. Several of the services subsidiaries divide up the other twenty floors. These range from Victory Sportswear and Info-Santé administrative clusters to the harbor management division of Ares Aquatics.

Ares and its subdivisions is a prominent part of the Manhattan community. It is the number one supporter of fine arts and education programs throughout the City. It sponsors clean-up drives and neighborhood watch organizations in a number of neighborhoods, as well as soup kitchens and free clinics to those who live in Terminal and other less fortunate areas. It runs a work release program for inmates of NYPD, Inc.'s Roosevelt Island prisons.

## AZTECHNOLOGY

Most Manhattanites don't know how much they owe the Big A for the look of their City. After the Quake, Aztechnology poured reconstruction capital into the City, but they also snagged an overall architectural contract. Aztechnology did for Manhattan what they did for Technotitlan—it gave the City a unified look based on its glory days. That's why so many of Manhattan's buildings are Modernist and Futurist in design, recalling to the City's glory days of the 1920s. A new construction boom, spurred by the return of the ECSE to Manhattan, has continued to involve Aztechnology into the design of the City. The new generation of builders seems to care less about Manhattan's unified look, and more about hiring pricy Aztechnology design consultants for every project. However, Aztechnology is not one to shy away from "reminding" developers about the importance of New York's look.

Aside for that bit of history, Aztechnology is heavily invested in the City. The megacorporation dominates the City's lucrative retail business. From massive multi-story arko-malls to small ultra-expensive designer boutiques, Aztechnology controls the entire vertical. They harvest the materials needed for fabrication, make the goods, from cheap consumer electronics to trendsetting designer clothing, advertise the products with highly effective marketing campaigns and distribute them in their stores, all under an astounding number of brands and names.

The Big A uses New York as a launching pad for many of its new products. Marketing is, on one hand, cleverly designed to cater to the ego of New Yorkers by making them feel like trendsetters, and on the other hand, the rest of the UCAS



is fed the idea that any product adopted by New Yorkers is a product worth consuming.

- Genetique, the Azzie biosculptor, offers exclusive access to the City for new products thirty days before being released publicly. Several of the corporate managers use these services to make sure that they have the latest and greatest rejuvenation.

- Kat o'Nine Tales

Aztechnology's Manhattan offices are staffed by the best employees from the East Coast. It is seen as a privilege to be promoted to Manhattan. And indeed, Aztechnology offers its workers the best private schools for their children, the best housing units, the best nightlife passes, etc. Of course, Aztechnology has passed mastery of creating wage slaves. Most employees soon discover their "temporary" assignment to New York becomes a permanent one once they realize the Manhattan lifestyle they have become addicted to has also indentured them to the corporation.

Aztechnology takes advantage of every aspect of the New York work force. They staff their cutting edge biotech laboratories with highly educated personnel and fill their sweat shop assembly plants in Jersey with desperate locals. Aztechnology is a huge part of the Rotten Apple's everyday life, and in turn products designed and manufactured here find themselves in stores all over the East Coast. The New York area is the hub of Aztechnology's East Coast production, with goods being shipped out by land, sea, and air to the rest of the region.

- Aztechnology long ago ran the math on the profitability of endless SINless quasi-slave labor versus maintenance-heavy mechanized assembly plants. Go out to Jersey and see what I mean. Makes those concentration camps from last century look like garden parties.

- Sunshine

- The Azzies have learned how to make the astral space, tainted by despair and loss, work for them.

- Axis Mundi

The megacorp handles its MDC relationships with extraordinary care. Its representatives are known to talk circles around proposals and commitments for hours. But this is a tactic, not indecision. Aztechnology plays like someone with all the time in the world, tiring opponents until they make mistakes, and then they pounce in for the kill, having made secret backroom deals with other members in the meantime. More than one "sure bet" proposal submitted by a member was utterly crushed at the last minute during voting by Aztechnology backroom politics, leaving the submitting corporation clueless as to what the fuck just happened.

- This is exactly what happened with Horizon's bid to integrate the MeFeeds with their P2.0 network. Horizon is still trying to figure out what happened.

- Dr. Spin

## CITIGROUP

At the turn of the century, Citigroup was the world's largest bank and it was based in Manhattan. When the Quake hit, it nearly brought the financial giant down with it. As its insurance divisions and subsidiaries went bankrupt one after the other, a chain reaction grew that nearly took down the entire corporation. However, at that time, Citi made a major gamble that paid off. They leveraged their overseas assets and poured money into Manhattan, funding much of the reconstruction. This decision was not made unanimously by the board—internal strife and splintering wracked the corporation from the inside. Fortunately, Leon Dexter, Citigroup's strong and visionary CEO of the time, held everything together.

- Strife exists to this day within the board. It may seem like a brilliant and successful move now, but Dexter's plan came at the cost of many shareholders' dissent and board member's alienation. Factions within the corporation still disagree with the direction Citi is taking and actively try to steer it elsewhere

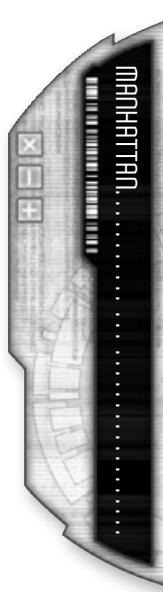
- Mr. Bonds

For years, Citi was a shade of its former glory, but the corporation's fortunes rose as Manhattan's own did. Today, Citi is climbing its way back to the top. It is currently North-America's largest bank, with the rest of its international subsidiaries not far behind. Following the momentum it built buying up Manhattan real-estate, the corporation continued to buy land and property everywhere it could.

Citigroup now owns more real estate, in New York and in the rest of the world than any other corporation. It dominates the personal banking business in the UCAS. Chances are, if you live in New York, your banking needs are handled by a Citigroup subsidiary.

Citigroup also serves the banking needs of other corporations. The investments they poured into New York corporations trying to rebuild themselves after the Quake reaped massive profits for Citi, which it continued to invest in other corporations. Citigroup specializes in financing promising start-ups and medium sized companies looking to make the jump to an A rating. Citigroup thus owns stock in many corporations in all sectors of activity. Perhaps more so than any other corporation with the possible exception of SK Prime, Citigroup employs a veritable army of shadowrunners, spies and troubleshooters to maintain control of the growth of their investments.

- Let's not forget about Citi Private Banking, the division that exclusively handles extremely rich bastards' personal wealth. Citi Private Banking is very secretive, but it has a reputation for making



the rich more rich. And in the shadows, it has a reputation for an insatiable appetite for shadowrunners. Citi's clients, oh-so-surprisingly, do not like to play by the rules when it comes to knowing where to invest.

• Mr. Bonds

Like other global banking firms such as the Frankfurt Bank Association, Citigroup globally maintains offices near each of the major exchanges. Several of their subsidiaries are insurance and brokerage firms, rebuilt from the bankrupted husks of the post-Quake era. These brokerage firms buy and trade stocks amongst themselves allowing a shell-game to be played with investments and capital. Beyond money laundering, Citigroup is also capable of influence peddling by creating and breaking voting blocks within small corporations.

Citigroup also has a nasty reputation as unapologetic short-sellers. In this day and age of shadowrunners, short-sellers often come under the scrutiny of the authorities, but so far Citi investors have never been indicted of anything. This has fueled rumors that Citi has ECSE regulators in its pockets, but it seems that Citi has few real friends there. Citigroup behaves as if it is superior to the Stock Exchange—this is very dangerous and is building towards a serious confrontation.

These days, fat from the fruits of the growing returns on their investments, Citigroup has begun aggressive acquisitions, poaching vulnerable subsidiaries of megacorporations and even of other MDC members. The acquisitions have so far been brilliantly conducted, prompting rumors that Citi is employing powerful AIs to discover (or even engineer) weaknesses and perform microsecond buyouts of companies. Whether or not those rumors are true, Citigroup's aggressive rise in power has not gone unnoticed by the other members of the MDC.

• These microsecond buyouts and the confrontational approach that Citigroup has taken with the ECSE may be one of the sparks behind Commissioner Jacobs' new regulations.

• Mr. Bonds

## HORIZON CORPORATION

The megacorporate world's newest face is also the newest member of the MDC. One of Horizon America's largest complexes in the UCAS can be found in Midtown, where they provide the funding for all sorts of creative endeavors: from professional street performers to artist's way adepts. It's even rumored that they've cozied up to an AI born out of an event scheduling system for Times Square that fancies itself a writer of musical theater. If the rumors prove true, next summer's *The Sojourner Affair* may be the first Broadway show to be written by an AI.

• They're more than rumors. She calls herself Prima Donna, though I can't speak to her artistic capabilities—I think she evolved from a sim editing suite. You can find her in Times Square, if you know what node to look for.

• Netcat



It's undeniable that the NYC MeFeeds provided the inspiration for Horizon's Persona 2.0 network. MeFeeds are less popular in Manhattan than P2.0 is in L.A., but Horizon nonetheless quickly realized the data potential of the networks. Their systems work night and day to analyze and identify emerging trends among Manhattan's populace learning where we eat, sleep, work, and play. The atmosphere of Manhattan, Inc. means that this data is often provided to other members of the MDC through legitimate bureaucratic channels, but, sometimes, that takes a little too long and this data is often a target for rival shadowrunners.

• Horizon's Matrix programming subsidiary, Singularity, has put together some top-notch voice recognition systems allowing Horizon to listen for keywords and phrases being spoken throughout Manhattan. Watch what you say if you have a feed or if you're chatting with someone who might.

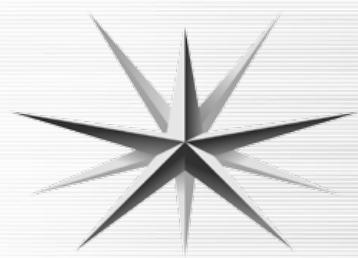
• Slamm-O!

Aztechnology has been resisting Horizon's efforts to muscle in on businesses in Manhattan, importing their conflict from southern California. Though the Azzies couldn't keep them out of the MDC, they've been able to defend against Horizon's attempts to become the premier entertainment and pharmaceutical provider in NYC. It's rumored that Aztechnology was the vote that kept the MeFeeds a separate network from P2.0, something Horizon was desperately seeking.

The tension between these two giants of the corporate world has been providing a near limitless supply of shadow opportunities. While Aztechnology is playing defense, Horizon has been aggressively targeting Aztechnology businesses and entertainment venues—including advertisements for the same—in an effort to win a PR campaign aimed at smearing Aztechnology and convincing the average person that the Aztech brand is weaker than their own.

## NEONET

Manhattan has NeoNET to thank for their wireless Matrix infrastructure. When the Jormungand turned the entire New York Matrix into hot slag, they wasted no time turning a digital wasteland into a pet project. With Villiers' reputation, NeoNET met little resistance when they began to expand their Wireless Matrix Initiative into the area to rebuild the City's online presence. To this day, NeoNET still enjoys a positive reputation among locals, a fact they haven't been shy about using to their advantage.



N-E-O-N-E-T

• I think some of the local Neo-A's would beg to differ on this. They largely viewed NeoNET's Matrix development as using a citywide crisis in order to spread an even more pervasive and corrupting corporate influence on the denizens of New York.

• Cosmo



MANHATTAN

NeoNET has also become successful as a Matrix Service Provider. They have a near monopoly on MSP market share in the area, much of it created by buying up smaller providers after they have built up a customer base and then consolidating their users into their Synergy Matrix Services subsidiary. A recent estimate of NeoNET's market share puts them around 85 percent with the vast majority of that owned by Synergy. The rest is divided among lesser known front companies. NeoNET leaves the remaining 15 percent as a bone for the dogs to fight over, leaving the other corps and independents in a bloody digital turf war.

- Word around the online campfire is that Renraku has been doing a marvelous job of getting more of that last fifteen percent than NeoNET is comfortable with. It wouldn't surprise me if some well-paying hacker jobs start hitting the streets soon as a result of these tensions.

- Cosmo

Beyond their role as MSP, NeoNET has offices for their subsidiaries in Manhattan and markets customized cybersuites to "the most competitive corporate environment on earth." Transys Neuronet and Erika Systems are both working in the wings, along with KorSys Operations. Though the major stockholders all agree that control of the MSP is important to

their position in Manhattan, all three of them carry on their shadow war along the East Coast and throughout the City.

- Despite the belief that KorSys is nothing but a pet project of Celedyr to shield his Knights of Rage, there isn't any hard proof that the dragon is involved. KorSys deals with mesh design and has nothing to do with R&D.
- Dr. Spin
- C'mon doc, when was the last time a dragon took the straight and narrow path?
- Frosty

### NYPD, INCORPORATED

While the letters in this corporation's name are not officially an abbreviation, NYPD, Inc. still values the reputation of the organization from which it was born when the New York City Police Department was privatized in 2050. The corp now provides security and law enforcement services to Manhattan and parts of New York and Jersey City, supplementing Lone Star forces in those areas.

- NYPD, Inc. is surprisingly easy to work with. Usually, shared jurisdiction is just asking for a power struggle between security service providers, but most of the time the boys in black are polite and evenhanded.
- Hard Exit

The company is unique among the MDC corporations in that it has no physical central headquarters. The company is housed in over a hundred different buildings around Manhattan and New York City. Its main headquarters is entirely in the Matrix, in a node sculpted as a grand building in the shape of an NYPD, Inc. badge logo. Most of the administrative personnel telecommute.

NYPD, Inc. employees maintain a friendly and outgoing demeanor. The company's mission statement includes the phrase, "enforce the laws, keep the peace, reduce fear, and create a safe environment." Employees, all along the chain of command, work to keep themselves worthy of the title, New York's Finest.



- This is only true if you're a salaryman, a wage slave, or have plenty of money. Remember the incident at Terminal Gate 17? Or the "arrest" of Shanta Geoly? Or the Midtown Tunnel Massacre? No? Do a quick Matrix search, but I bet you'll only find references to open investigations. Dig deeper, and you'll find NYPD, Inc. enforcing laws, keeping peace, reducing fear, and creating a safe environment for the privileged. Busting the heads of everybody else—that's the NYPD, Inc. the rest of us know.

- Slamm-0!

- Slamm-0!, that's because "everybody else" is trespassing. NYPD, Inc. isn't there to support UCAS laws, they uphold the MDC laws because everything is extraterritorial. It ain't right, it just is.

- Sticks

NYPD, Inc. has only recently begun to branch out from New York City. Aside from its Jersey City contracts, it has begun to provide security services to areas of London, Hong Kong, Neo-Tokyo, Dubai, and Cape Town. Its recent hiring campaign is probably tied to rumors of subcontracts from Knight Errant.

## PROMETHEUS ENGINEERING

Manhattan's Westside is the home of the double-helix global headquarters for Prometheus Engineering. With a primary focus on material engineering, the corporation has subcontracted on nearly every large-scale project in Manhattan. The buildings may be covered with AAA logos and branding, but the advanced polymers and materials used to create each of them is the product of Prometheus engineers. Due to their lack of public branding, the corporation has been working hard over the last decade to become a house-



hold name throughout the UCAS. The primary development which they have self-branded is the nascent arcology beneath Grand Central.

- Grand Central is on one of the shearing lines for seismic activity. Prometheus is the best suited to develop materials to handle those stresses, but God help them if they screw up.

- Plan 9

Prometheus saw a huge number of gains as they contracted the reconstruction and development of half of Manhattan. They are constantly building and redesigning existing structures to outdo last year's marvel. Whether it's height and ingenuity or functional design and energy conservation, their skyscrapers continue to impress and amaze. In the last four years, they have also built several new towers in the Boroughs. With those towers being better and nicer than ones inside Manhattan, Prometheus was hired to renovate and redesign key buildings in the City. Each new project heralds innovative techniques and has caused the company to come up with new materials.

- Prometheus isn't working alone. There have been a dozen or more special trips to work with the Genesis Consortium. The SouthAms have been developing biotech materials and Prometheus has worked side by side to develop stronger and faster ways to "grow" houses and towers.

- Marcos

Beyond their materials studies, Prometheus has expanded their small line of drones to include several micro-drones. They have made several recent advances in the cybernetics and telemechanics fields. Several virologists and microbiologists have joined the research think-tank to support their cross-discipline approach to new technologies. Within the shadows, the laboratories inside their corporate headquarters have been targeted for numerous extractions. The structure of the building lends itself well towards layered security, with the outer ring serving as administrative offices and the core being research labs.

- Last year, Prometheus contracted several matrix jobs to collect e-ghosts and developing AIs. With their continued research into smart nanites, it's not that far of a leap for them to investigate programs which have developed self-awareness.

- Netcat

- Beyond AIs, there is current research into nanite behavioral processes. Nanites lack the processing power to respond with human intelligence, but learning appears feasible.

- Plan 9

Corporate analysts currently project Prometheus Engineering as one of the most stable members of the MDC outside of the AAAs. Since taking a seat on the council, the smaller corporation has routinely been part of the majority-voting bloc, siding with their contractual partners. Their tendency to side with the hand that feeds them is not an inviolable rule, and the smaller corporation has held the line against Ares and Saeder-Krupp in the past.

## RENRAKU COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Recently, Renraku has been swimming in nuyen from providing Matrix security solutions for New York area businesses and even some lower-ranked corporations operating within Manhattan. Following some meticulous "talent acquisition," their software R&D departments have been working overtime developing smarter IC, "hack-proof" firewalls, and security protocols guaranteed to keep out undesired online intruders. They've made promises to help their customers take back Manhattan's Matrix grid and protect it from the online vandals and saboteurs who brought it down back in '64.



• Yeah, I've seen the AR spam ads promoting their latest lines of software. They play up heavily on last year's technomancer scare, showing dramatizations of technos sleazing their way into your home terminal, emptying your bank account, and erasing your SIN. It's quite an odious ad campaign, but from a marketing perspective, quite effective. Makes you wonder if the products can deliver what the hype promises.

• Dr. Spin

• I've heard that some of the aforementioned "talent acquisition" includes technomancers—and that the technos are not *willing* employees. I wouldn't be surprised if things did get a little nastier—Renraku may be holding them on a short leash, but eventually the corp will get bit. Hopefully sooner than later.

• Netcat

Renraku has also made no secret of the fact that they've begun enlisting the aid of metasapient AIs for security and research purposes. Rumor has it that one in particular, named Xerxes, is obsessively working on state of the art Matrix utilities for use by their in-house security teams. The sheer effectiveness of these programs has caused Renraku's Matrix security market share in Manhattan to nearly double in the past six months, though the numbers are now beginning to stabilize.

• I think I took a hit online from a program created by this little monster. The security hacker I bumped into was a novice, but his utility hit like a bullet train. I got dumped before I was barely even in.

• Slamm-O!

• SOTA's a bitch, ain't it?

• FastJack

Japanacorps are known for holding grudges, and Renraku has never fully forgotten about NeoNET's Matrix takeover of the Corporate Court buildings in The Towers. Former Fuchi execs still working in Renraku continue to use their positions to harass NeoNET at every turn. Actions range from hostile buyouts of NeoNET's struggling subsidiaries to organizing blocs of countervotes at MDC sessions. Beyond the grudge,

several of the Manhattan execs are pushing for the City to become the North American operational headquarters. Their successes against NeoNET have pushed the fight to the boroughs and even other sprawls. The aggressive operations have been risky but successful.

- They have learned to never stand begging for that which you have the power to earn.
- Picador

Like the other megas in Manhattan, Renraku can't afford to only be one thing. Beyond their Matrix games, Renraku is one of the leading suppliers of consumer electronics and household drones. They also lease and maintain all of the Sanitation Department drones that keep the streets clean.

## SAEDER-KRUPP

It shouldn't be surprising that the largest company on Earth has quite a bit of business in and around NYC. So much in fact, it's almost easier to describe what they aren't involved in. However, there are really two S-K's at work in NYC, S-K North America and S-K Prime.



### S-K North America

Given their most lucrative businesses in NYC, it's easy to say that S-K is the foundation upon which the City is built. To begin, Krupp Manufacturing provided and maintained the heavy machinery which rebuilt the City. A function they continue to serve today. AZT may have designed the City, but Krupp put it together.

• S-K frequently sends maintenance and repair crews into various buildings around the City. Keeping an eye out for opportune moments can frequently give you an opening you might otherwise have missed.

• Mika

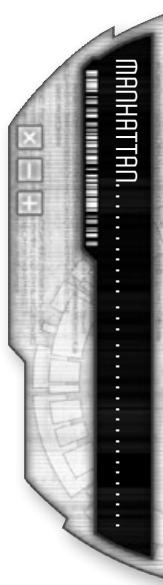
• That is if the armed S-K crews don't take offence to your rude interruption.

• Ma'Fan

The raw materials which are so resistant to corrosion from pollution were provided by Krupp Specialist Engineering. Moreover, while NeoNET supplied the software and knowledge for the wireless Matrix, it was Orbital Dynamics who provided the communications towers and orbital satellites that make it all possible.

- I know a few execs who might argue their relative importance.
- Mr. Bonds

S-K North America also houses studios for the American Broadcasting Service, an S-K media subsidiary, and corporate



offices for Saedder-Krupp's finance departments. The mega-corp's internal banking system carefully watches the market and has nearly a hundred analysts and brokers in the ECSE, both physically and virtually, manipulating the market to their best interest.

### S-K Prime

In the heart of the City, right across the street from the Towers, is an unassuming little 10-story building that's home to S-K Prime. Like the rest of the division, this location deals with problems. However, Manhattan S-K Prime deals with problems in the Corporate Court. The Manhattan office houses over a thousand lawyers and lobbyists, and a virtual army of support staff. Their sole goal is to deal with the challenges, rulings, and other legal minutiae which have the potential to affect Saeder-Krupp's bottom line.

- I call bullshit.
- Kane
- Not so much bullshit as a careful choice of words. For example, that "army of support staff" contains some of the best fixers, Johnsons and black-ops strike teams on the East Coast. Their goal is to deal with that "minutiae" either by hiring outside help, or when it's more expedient to make the problem just go away, sending in the big guns. If you're hired by S-K in NYC, chances are your Johnson works here.
- Kay St. Irregular
- If she doesn't, watch out for a double-cross.
- Fianchetto

### SHIAWASE

Shiawase's most public project in Manhattan is their maintenance contract for Central Park. Frankly, their Envirotech division has done a hell of a job of making sure that the plants keep growing and that Central Park remains "safe." Of course, that's also given them a monopoly on anything affiliated with it. Signs bear the Shiawase logo, all of the vendors carry only Shiawase produced souvenirs and foodstuffs, and even the street entertainers pay Shiawase for a license. In spite of this omnipresent monopoly, Manhattanites still enjoy Central Park. That means Shiawase gets some fantastic marketing out of the contract.

- Shiawase Envirotech took on a number of other City contracts in order to get that one. They also handle all of Manhattan's waste management, recycling, and air quality management. Of the three, air quality's their biggest problem. Their filtration system must be doing something; it just doesn't seem that air cleaning is one of its designed functions. The waste management contract, though, means that Shiawase trucks can drive throughout the City at all hours virtually unchallenged.
- Cosmo



SHIAWASE

Shiawase Biotech operates several biotech clinics in Manhattan. The most prominent of these is Shiawase Bellevue Hospital in Stuyvesant. Their psychiatric department is the primary North American testing center for Shiawase's latest developments in psychotropic programming. Most of the patients being treated there are for typical stress disorders and addictions, but a few of the psychiatrists do contract and research work for NYPD, Inc.'s facilities on Randall's Island. Most of their other facilities are focused on biosculpts, implants for corporate success, and sports medicine. In spite of that, while DocWagon handles Manhattan's emergency response, their patients universally go to hospitals operated by Shiawase.

Vector Matrix Services inherited most of Fuchi's now obsolete wired Matrix infrastructure way back when Fuchi collapsed. Though VMS is now involved in providing Matrix security for many smaller corps within Manhattan, they also own thousands of miles of dark cable that remain strung throughout Manhattan's infrastructure. Some bits of this are used by the Neo-A's, some bits are still in use as backup systems, but most of it remains in place deteriorating.

- Given a properly equipped microdrone, these cables are the perfect way for smuggling data out of a "secure" facility without needing to use any wireless signals.
- Glitch

Arboritech, a fully owned subsidiary of Shiawase, holds a contract from the MDC to develop new solutions to clean up the pollution. They've been working on developing plants which purge the harmful chemicals from the air and breakdown the complex pollutants. Some of these plants have been spread throughout Central Park and the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens to measure the success of the process. Arboritech shares their offices with a consultant team from Shiawase Energy, based in Washington DC. The energy company is negotiating to take over management of the City's power and utilities infrastructure, though the current contract does not expire until 2075.

### SONY CORPORATION

Sony Corporation behaves in the UCAS the same as it behaves back in Japan: a stable baseline with all-or-nothing ventures. For Americans, Sony is synonymous with consumer electronics products, along with games and entertainment. That is the stable baseline mentioned above. Sony uses advertising campaigns that ensure its products are always in view of the consumers. From ads televised on Sony ruthenium polymer screens and animated AR popups to their hovering fleet of advertisement drone blimps, the Sony brand is never far from the consumer's mind.

Sony Corporation has matched Neo-Tokyo's growing success here in the New York market in regards to one-meta-human-vehicles, but where Sony has innovated in NYC is the growing success of its line of Humanoid Walker Household

**SONY**

Drones, marketed under the name of Sony Personal Butler. Sony Corporation America has been able to push the boundaries of Sony's trademark RSSComps near-AI software, as it does not face the same market restrictions in regards to AI fear as Neo-Tokyo. These Personal Butlers are very popular with Manhattan's and other cities' overworked corporate climbers, as the clever personality software allows the anthropomorphic forms to act as surrogate friends and companions, as well as helpers who never complain.

- Sad.
- Dr. Spin

- The research being done into AI programs, which are much closer to real AI than in Japan, are risky for Sony's image. The corp's position has been to purposefully avoid true AI research. Sony doesn't need its brat American division to screw that up for them. I expect to see a contingent of Japanese envoys come "talk" to the American leadership soon.

• Kia

Otherwise, Sony's consumer electronics crowd stores throughout the UCAS and the brand is seen as both dependable and above-average by consumers, while their entertainment offerings generally enjoy high ratings. Sony Music talent scouts are known to be able to pick out the next big pop star, though they generally overlook and lose smaller, edgier bands to companies like Horizon or Ares. Sony can rarely match its Triple A rivals' budget, but it makes up lost ground in nimbleness. Executives, be it for new electronic products or new movies, are encouraged to act quickly and decisively, resulting in short time-to-market development cycles – as well as the occasional product dud.

Sony has been on the MDC's board for some time, though not without hiccups. The corporation is often bold in its political maneuvering, and that has cost it dearly a few times, though it has also paid off handsomely on some occasions. The consumer electronics market is a crowded field, and Sony must constantly work to maintain its share. The corporation has built an extensive network of shadow resources, allowing it to often resort to extracting competitor's talents and stealing or sabotaging rival projects. Many within the boardroom feel the direction the corporation is taking is dangerous and is leading to a no-confidence vote from the MDC, but so far this internal division has not resulted in a change in direction.

## SPINRAD INDUSTRIES

SpIn's best known for their cutting edge augmentations and their flamboyant owner, Johnny Spinrad. There are Spin Shops present throughout all five boroughs of New York. These cater primarily in high-end cyber, especially the Spin-X line of suites that are designed for extreme lifestyles. Of course, they're also willing to custom design suites for clients—at boutique pricing.



- At Spin Shops, you get what you pay for. They do offer a lot of 'ware that's little more than flash—it's what keeps them in business. However, if you pay for custom integration and tip your biomechanical engineer, you can get world-class work. Many of their managers are also willing to turn a blind eye on matters of permits and legality.

• Butch

- The Large Circle League Triad provides many of their less legal components. It's a business relationship—the triad smuggles the equipment into Manhattan and SpIn pays for it through installation surgeries for triad members.

• Ma'fan

Johnny is rarely in New York, these days. In spite of that, he still stays in the public eye. In addition to his regular appearances in the tabloids, Johnny remains the poster child for the corp's advertising campaigns—even though most of that work has been contracted out to Charisma Associates. With the success of the Soroyama line and a few other cybersuites, Spinrad has seen the influx of capital that he needed to revitalize his corporation. SpIn's advertising campaign has been focusing heavily on the North American market with Manhattan serving as the beachhead to dive full bore into the UCAS and elsewhere.

Building on the charisma of its founder, Spinrad Industries sells machismo, sex, and success in a tightly woven package. Through custom tailored products and strategic alliances, SpIn produces and markets cyber and bioware meeting the exact specifications and needs of their clients. The wagerslaves have been buying the illusion of being part of the Grand Tour up as fast as it can be produced. That illusion plus the proven success in Manhattan is creating a demand along the East Coast and throughout the UCAS.

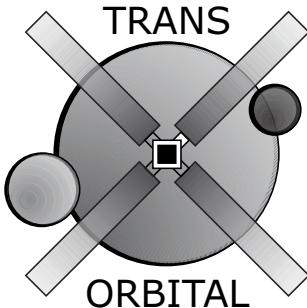
Spinrad Industries maintains a cyberware testing and design facility on Staten Island, where the majority of their employees are extractees from other research facilities based in Manhattan. This is tolerated, primarily, because SpIn makes a point of providing a "Yes" vote on almost every issue that comes up with the MDC. They've also developed close contractual relationships with Ares, Horizon, NYPD, Inc., and Prometheus, which have helped to secure their place in the MDC. While they aren't exactly stable, the corp has done a masterful job of balancing the politics involved to hold onto the seat through several challenges.

- SpIn no longer maintains their constant harassment policy towards S-K. It remains uncertain whether this is a ruse or a long-term change in their business practices.

• Cosmo

## TRANS-ORBITAL

Trans-Orbital has long been a fixture on the MDC board. While its claim to fame in Manhattan is the aerospace technology that permits the City to seed the clouds for that famous nightly rain, the corporation has many more interests in and around Manhattan. During the Matrix 2.0 wireless upgrading of the City, Trans-Orbital managed to corner numerous contracts for satellite uplink connectivity integration from many of the corporate towers of the City.



- Satellite uplinks cause real lag on your connection, but if you can stand the performance hit, hacking through a sat can ensure you don't jack out just to find a corp hit team at your doorstep.
- Glitch
- New York's enterprising hackers maintain numerous backdoors to corporate sat uplinks. A lot of these corps maintain uplinks just-in-case, and don't really pay attention to who uses them. Just remember, don't plan a hack into Trans-Orbital systems using Trans-Orbital satellites, kids.
- Slamm-O!

The corporation has made a killing servicing and upgrading government and corporate satellite fleets, especially since the scare with an AI taking over a military satellite. Organizations are scrambling to upgrade the firmware of their satellites to strengthen them against AI invaders. Rumors are Trans-Orbital has forged alliances with some big corporations of the likes of Renraku and NeoNET to develop AI-specific countermeasures. In any case, they have snagged some very lucrative contracts from intelligence organizations away from AresSpace. Not enough to hurt the bigger corporation, but enough to get a few warning shadow ops aimed at Trans-Orbital assets.

Megacorporations aren't the only ones that Trans-Orbital is selling to. As the space race takes off, dozens of A and AA corps are trying to get their feet wedged in the door. With many of these corporations in New York, the Manhattan sales team has mobilized in force to make business to business the primary profit center. Sales managers and account executives have been busy selling satellites, air space, and finding new partners who haven't yet launched a million nuyen of silicon and steel into space.

Trans-Orbital maintains its headquarters in the City as well as a smattering of other buildings, mostly used to monitor its impressive fleet of satellites. The corporation also does a lot of its research here in Manhattan, in an ominous looking jet black building in Washington Heights. While security around R&D facilities is always tight, it is said that measures in that building go well above what would normally be expected, fueling many rumors about secret projects ranging from black ops spy sat monitoring to extra-terrestrial intelligence communication programs.

- "Extra-terrestrial intelligence communication program"? You gotta be kidding me.
- Snopes
- Some of the rumors are pretty out-there, but the security is real.
- DangerSensei

Trans-Orbital maintains its Manhattan Development Consortium seat the same way it maintains its business—by acting as a partner and facilitator to other, larger, corporations. Trans-Orbital has had a very useful seat on the MDC for many years, and they plan to keep it that way. Their representatives are quick to attach themselves and back proposals from members in favors and even quicker to abandon sinking ships. Their mercenary attitude and double-dealing always angers someone, but shrewdly, they always seem to be aligned with the faction-of-the-day that calls the shots. That Trans-Orbital has never had a vote of no-confidence brought up against it in all its years of being on the MDC is a testament to their political savvy.