

THE CYNJA

VOLUME 1

STORY BY

CHASE CUNNINGHAM & HEATHER C. DAHL

ILLUSTRATED BY

SHIROW DI ROSSO

Hidden deep inside our planet's virtual world, lurking in the darkened cyber alleys of our digital neighborhoods, a new generation of bad guys has risen.

Zombies, worms, botnets – all threaten our happiness and future.

But there is hope.

A lone warrior battles this new sinister cyber evil.

He is the Cynsei.

The Cynsei is trying to keep us safe.

But the guardian of all things noble in cyberspace cannot fight alone.

His enemies are too numerous.
If the Internet is to escape falling into darkness, the Cynsei needs help.

But who would be brave enough to travel into the depths of malicious networks?



A Cynja, that's who.

ANONYMOUS PROXY SERVER

These computers have applications that download webpages without revealing the user's identity. They help bad guys hide while traveling and launching attacks in cyberspace.

0100001
01111001
01101110
01101010
01100001

CIPHER

Secrets are shared in cyberspace by encrypting information. But beware; some bad guys can break your secret code.

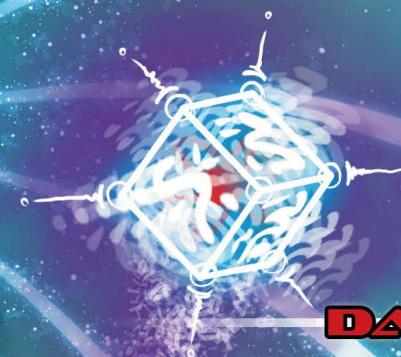
DNS SINKHOLE

A sinkhole helps stop botnets. Good guys disguise a DNS server as a target. Zombies attack the decoy instead because they don't know any better.



BINARY CODE

Computers speak in code. Binary code is based on two digits, 0 or 1. By creating different combinations of these two digits, programmers tell a computer what to do.

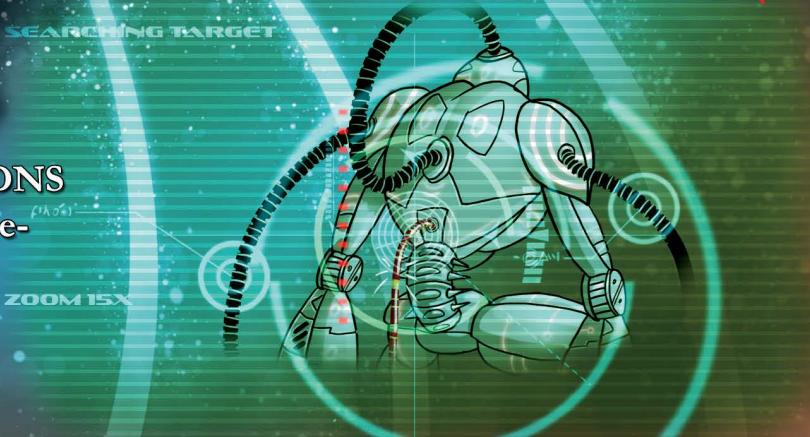


DARKNET

Cyber criminals often use a private network to hide their illegal activities.

SEARCHING TARGET

ZOOM 15X





FOR RODNEY JOFFE.

**YOUR PASSION FOR CYBERSECURITY IS WHAT BROUGHT US
TOGETHER TO WRITE THIS BOOK. YOU'RE THE NOBLE WARRIOR WE
HOPE OUR NEXT GENERATION WILL BECOME.**

- CHASE & HEATHER

**FOR MY WONDERFUL LITTLE GIRLS, CALLIE AND CAELYN.
LEARN SOMETHING EVERYDAY AND LOOK FOR THE MAGIC IN
EVERYTHING. DADDY LOVES YOU.**

- CHASE

**FOR THE SPECIAL YOUNG CYBER WARRIORS IN MY LIFE WHO ARE
MY INSPIRATION FOR THIS BOOK, GRANT, HANNAH, OWEN AND
HENRY.**

- HEATHER

**FOR MY WONDERFUL WIFE STARLA WITHOUT WHOM THIS WOULD
HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE AND MY TWO CYNJETTES SAKURA AND
HINATA.**

- SHIROW

OUR BATTLES ARE JUST BEGINNING!

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**CHASE CUNNINGHAM
&
HEATHER C. DAHL**

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THANK YOU



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illustrated by Shirow Di Rosso.

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SUMMARY: Deep inside the planet's virtual world, lurking in
the darkened cyber alleys of digital neighborhoods, zombies,
worms, and botnets all threaten the cybercitizens'
happiness and future.

Audience: Ages 6-12.

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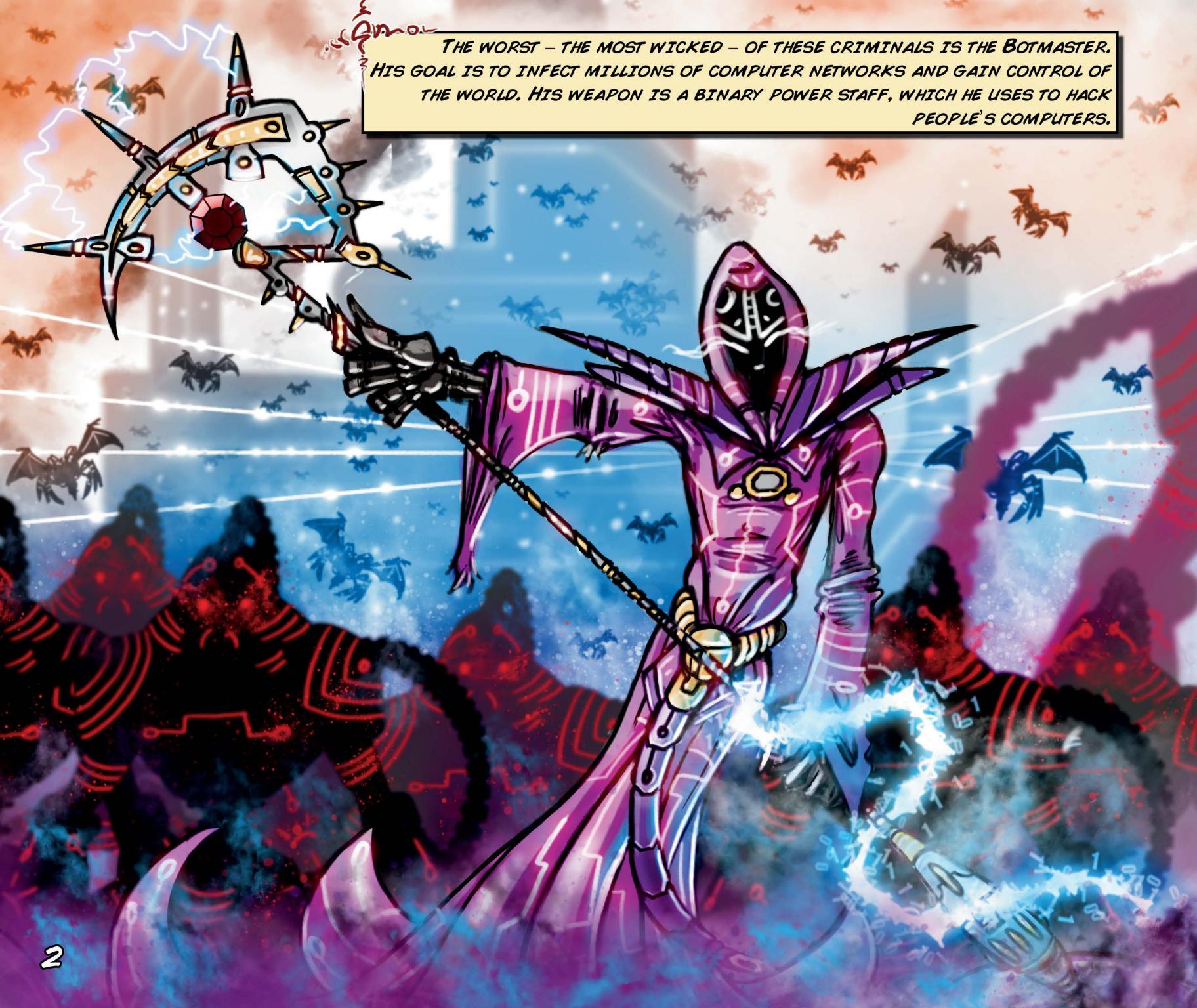
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THIS IS THE WORLD WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE,
BUT THERE IS A DARKER SIDE TO IT ALL....

DIGITAL CHAOS IS WREAKING HAVOC ON OUR LIVES.
IT'S AN ERA WHEN CRIMINALS ARE HIDDEN DEEP INSIDE
THE PLANET'S CYBER ALLEYS AND NEIGHBORHOODS.
OUR HAPPINESS AND FUTURE ARE BEING THREATENED.
THE BAD GUYS ARE ONLY GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
THEY'RE SUBVERTING OUR LIVES AND INFECTING OUR
COMPUTERS. THESE CYBER OUTLAWS ARE INVISIBLE TO
ALL BUT A FEW. ONLY THOSE TRAINED
IN THE POWERS OF
CYBERSPACE CAN SEE
THESE ENEMIES.

Amo

THE WORST - THE MOST WICKED - OF THESE CRIMINALS IS THE BOTMASTER.
HIS GOAL IS TO INFECT MILLIONS OF COMPUTER NETWORKS AND GAIN CONTROL OF
THE WORLD. HIS WEAPON IS A BINARY POWER STAFF, WHICH HE USES TO HACK
PEOPLE'S COMPUTERS.



ONCE THE BOTMASTER HAS HACKED A WEAK COMPUTER, IT BECOMES A ZOMBIE – AND IS UNDER HIS CONTROL. AS HE HACKS COMPUTER AFTER COMPUTER, HIS ZOMBIE ARMY GROWS, STEALTHILY, INTO A BOTNET. ONCE THESE NASTY BOTS ARE STAGED ALONG THE DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM THEY ARE READY TO ATTACK.



THE BOTMASTER DOWNLOADS A DEADLY PIECE OF COMPUTER CODE, CALLED MALWARE. HE THEN STEALS MONEY FROM PEOPLE'S ACCOUNTS AND PASSWORDS FROM HARD DRIVES. "NOTHING IS SAFE FROM MY BOTS!" BRAGS THE BOTMASTER.



BUT THE BOTMASTER HAS A NEMESIS –
SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES THE DIGITAL
WORLD SHOULD BE SAFE FROM HIS
MENACING COMMAND.



A LONE WARRIOR IS FIGHTING
AGAINST THE MOST SINISTER OF
CYBER TERROR. HE IS THE
GUARDIAN OF ALL THINGS NOBLE
IN CYBERSPACE. HE WATCHES
OVER THE WORLD'S INTERNET,
PROTECTS DOMAINS, SUCKS
MISCHIEVOUS TRAFFIC INTO
SINKHOLES AND KILLS MALWARE
AT WILL.



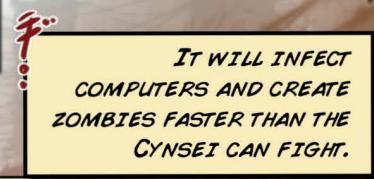
HE IS THE CYNSEI!

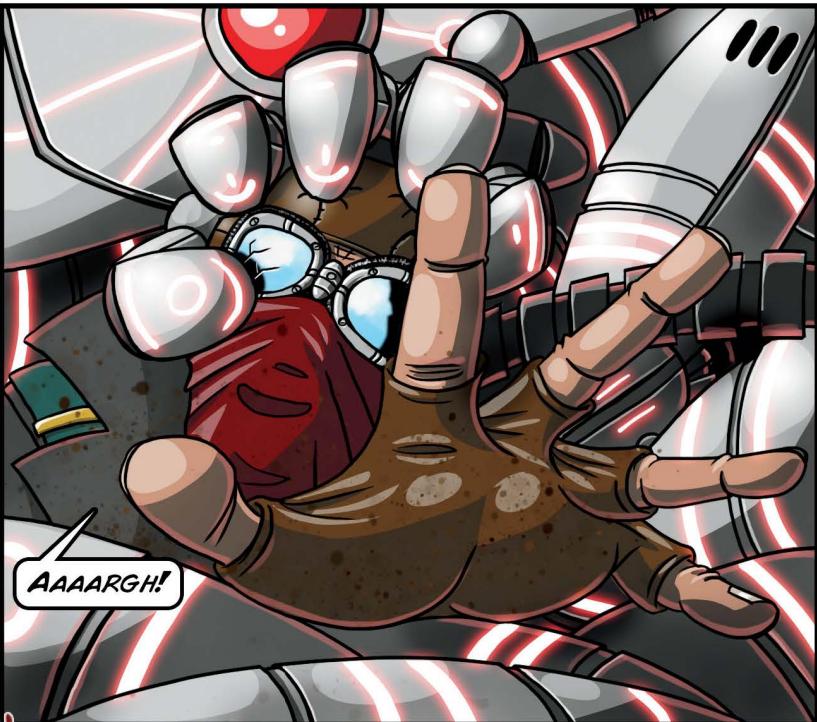
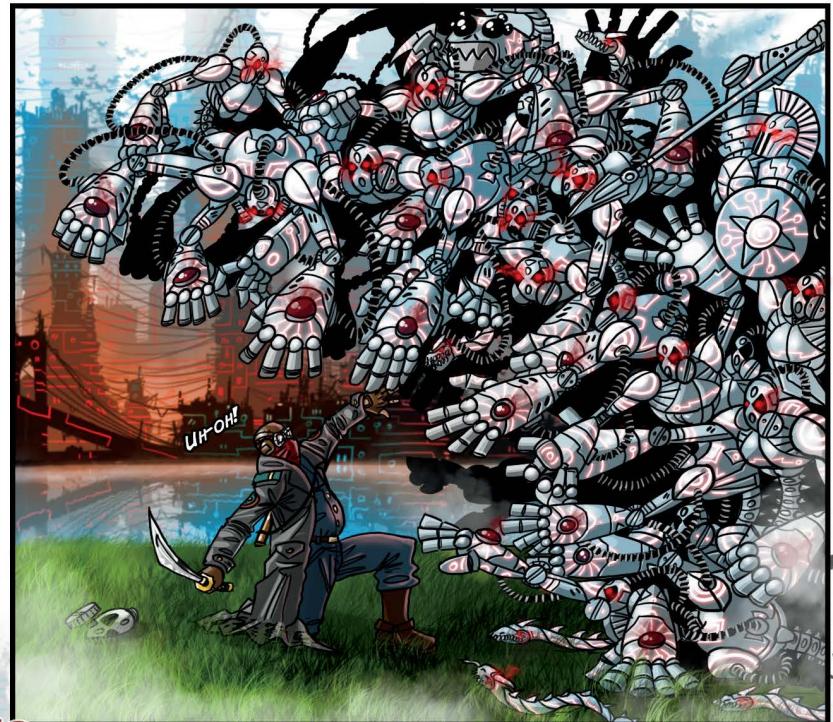


THE CYNSEI REACHES FOR HIS SECURITY MONITOR AND SEES THE BOTMASTER IS BACK TO FIGHT AGAIN.



THE BOTMASTER IS A RELENTLESS FOE, DEVIOUS, MORE CLEVER THAN ANY CRIMINAL IN HISTORY. AND HE IS ABOUT TO UNLEASH THE MOST PERILOUS MALWARE OF OUR GENERATION, ZEUS.





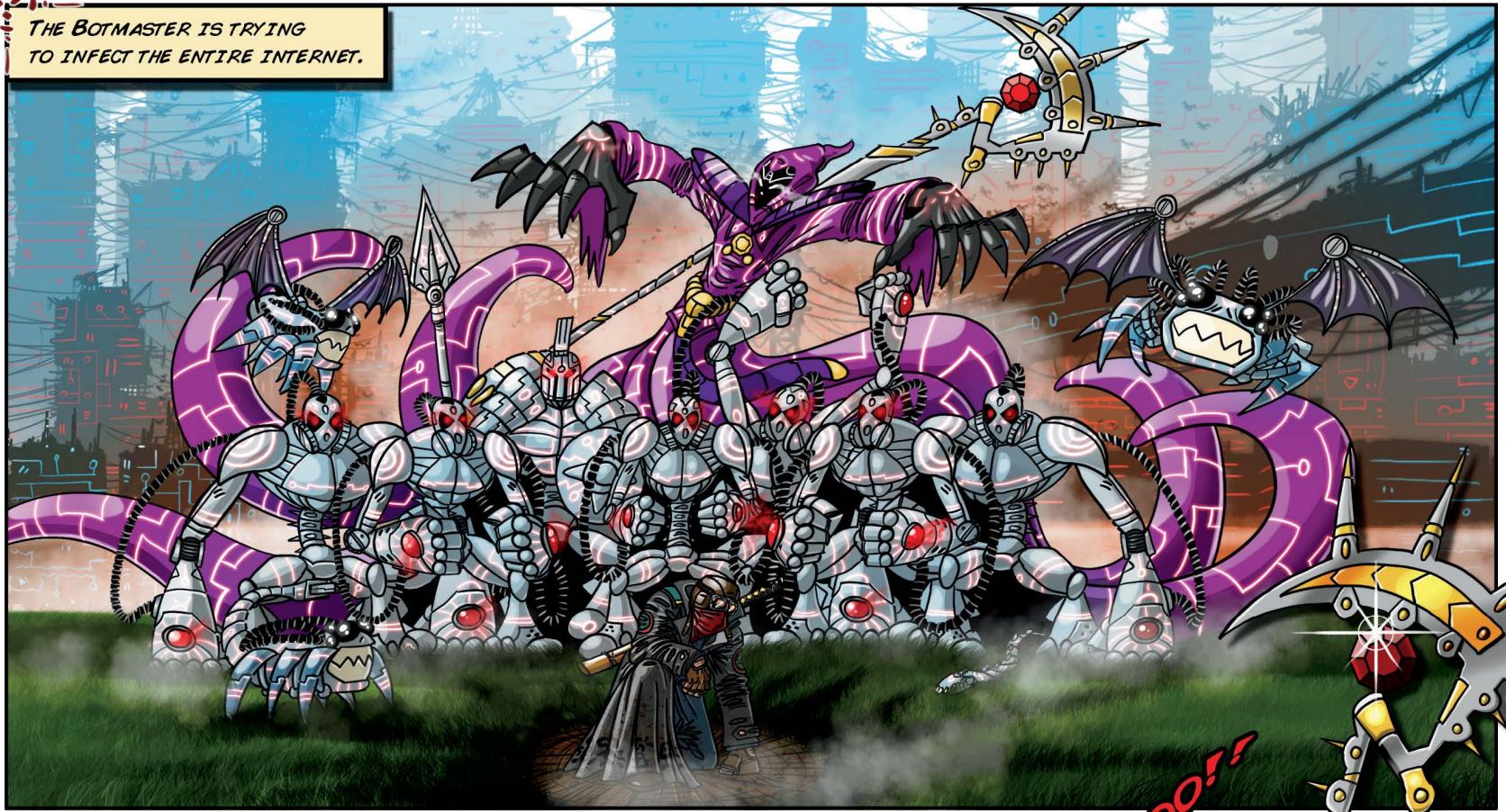
THE INTERNET IS AT RISK. AS SOON AS THE CYNSEI FINDS WHERE A BAD GUY HAS INFILTRATED A PROTECTED DOMAIN, ANOTHER BAD GUY ATTACKS FROM A DIFFERENT VECTOR.

HE KEEPS PLUGGING HOLES.
A FEW YEARS AGO THE CYNSEI WAS WINNING,
BUT NOW NEW SECRET TROJANS, INFECTIOUS WORMS
AND MENACING BOTNETS ARE GAINING SPEED.

ENOUGH!

THE GUARDIAN OF ALL THINGS GOOD IN CYBERSPACE IS ON THE VERGE OF LETTING THE INTERNET SLIP INTO DARKNESS.

THE BOTMASTER IS TRYING TO INFECT THE ENTIRE INTERNET.



AND THE CYNSEI KNOWS THAT IN ORDER TO PROTECT ALL GOOD PEOPLE AGAINST DIGITAL ENEMIES HE NEEDS HELP. BUT WHO WOULD BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO TRAVEL INTO THE DEPTHS OF MALICIOUS NETWORKS? A SPECIAL CYBER WARRIOR WHO WILL DEMOLISH ANY EVIL LURKING INSIDE OUR COMPUTERS.



JEFFERSON
MIDDLE SCHOOL



WHEN GRANT TURNED 11 YEARS OLD HIS PARENTS GAVE HIM A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GIFT, HIS VERY OWN COMPUTER.



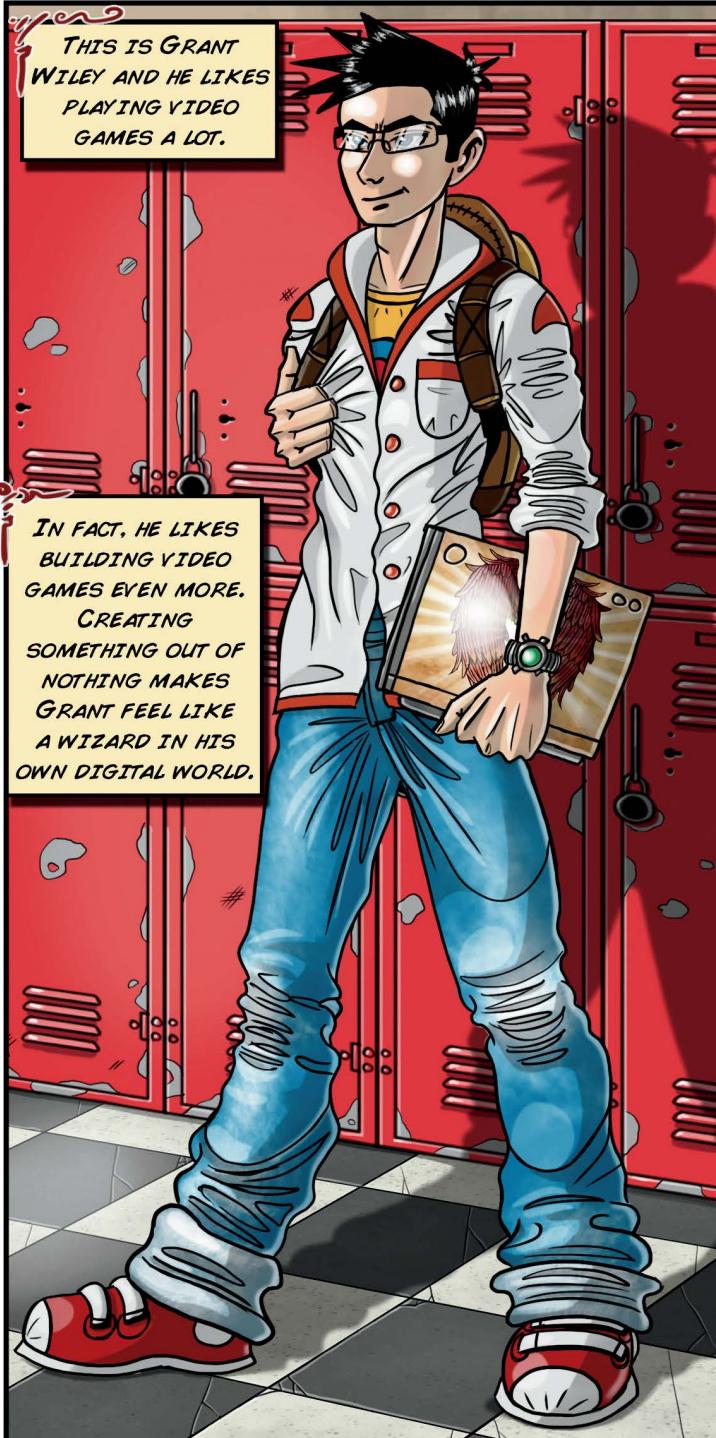
BUT GRANT WASN'T USING THE COMPUTER FOR HIS STUDIES LIKE OTHER STUDENTS—



INSTEAD HE WAS SECRETLY SCRIPTING PROGRAMS.



THIS IS GRANT WILEY AND HE LIKES PLAYING VIDEO GAMES A LOT.

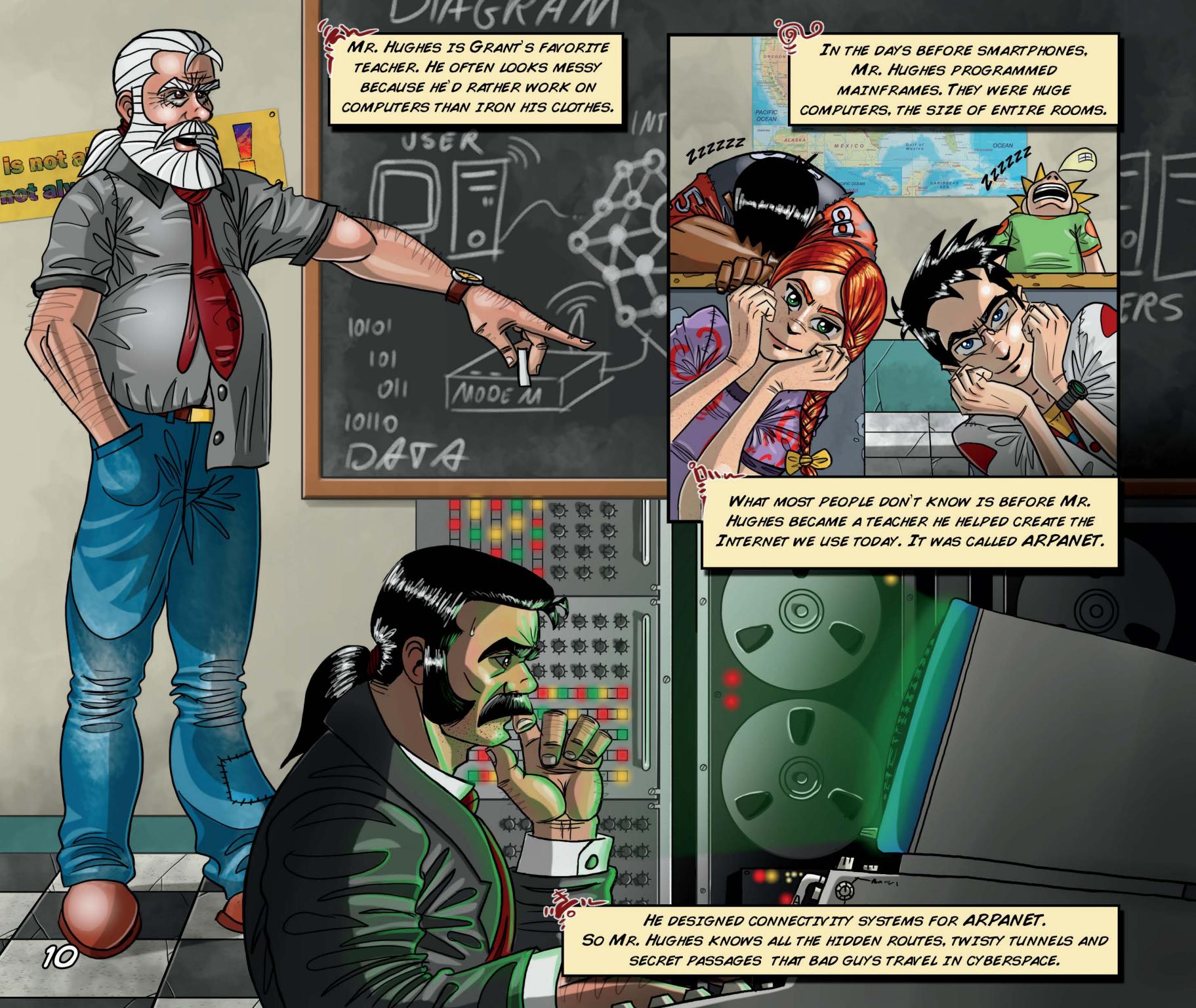


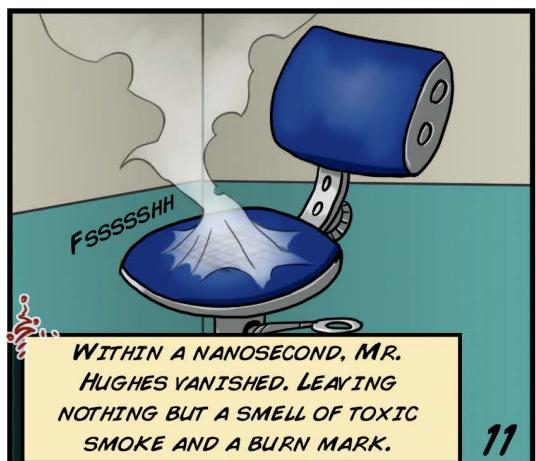
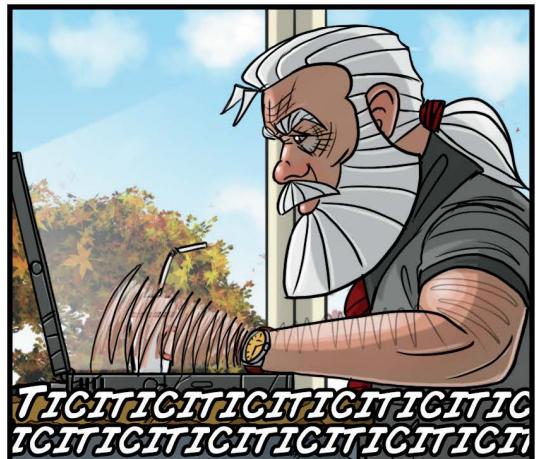
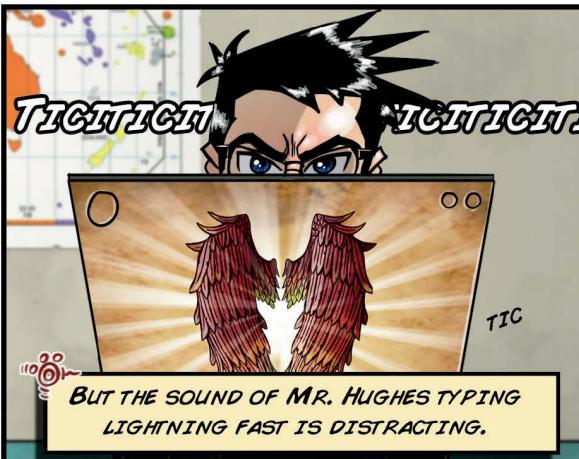
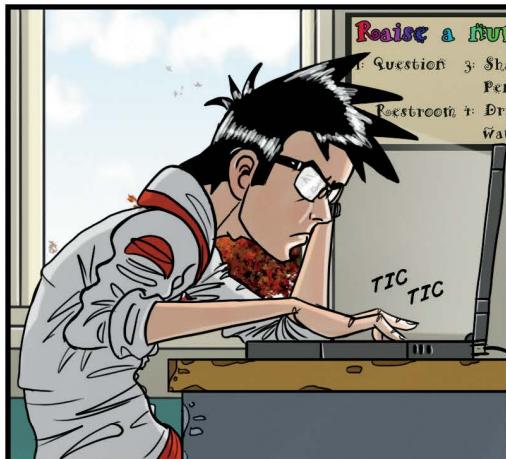
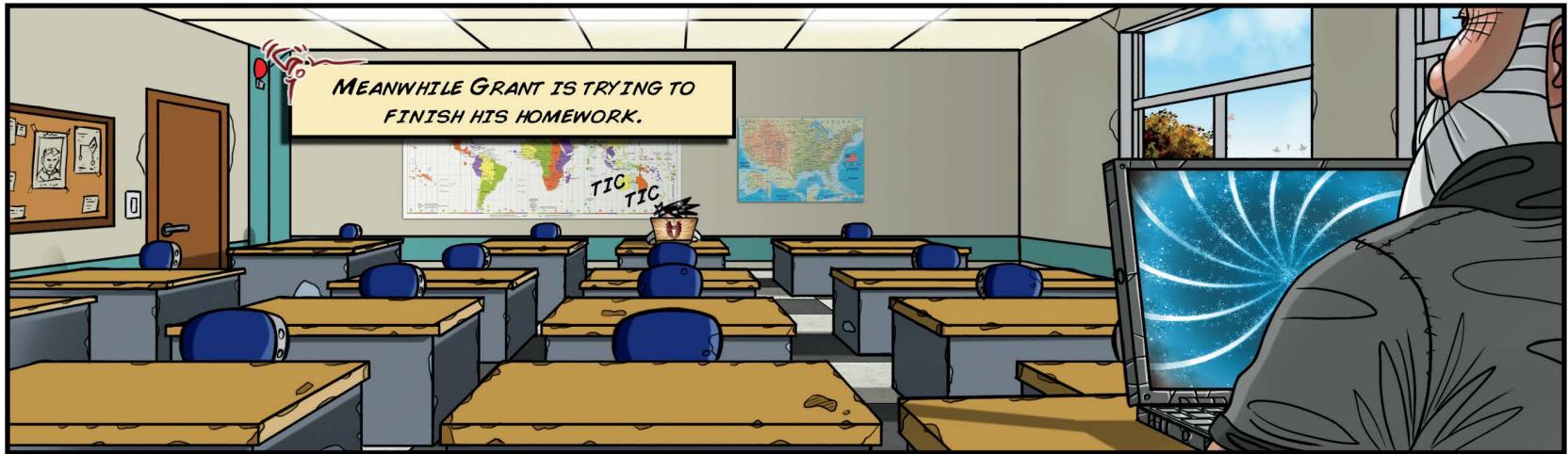
S.H.

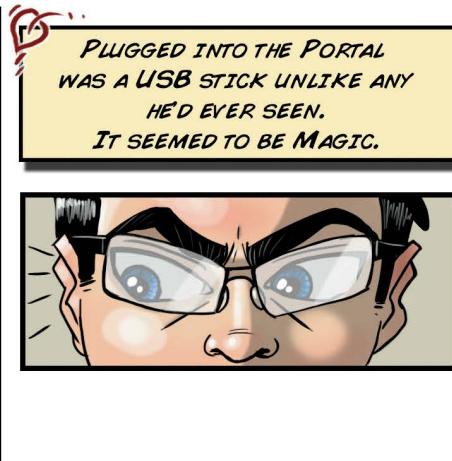
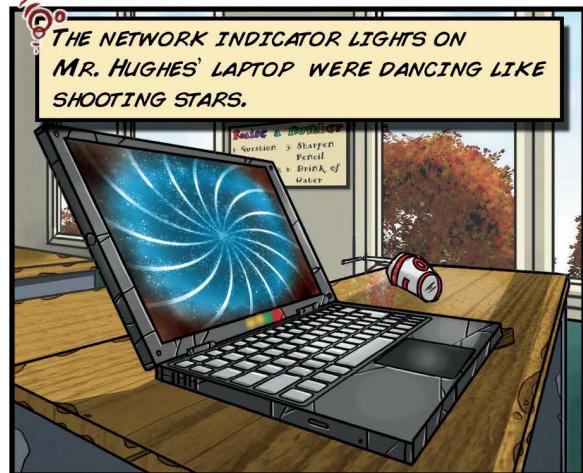
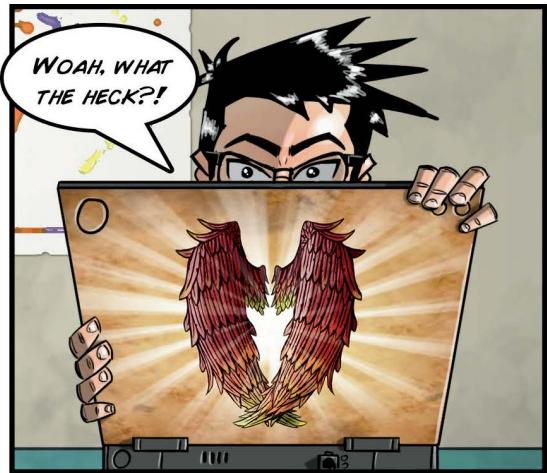
AND THAT'S WHY GRANT HAD TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL ON THIS FATEFUL DAY.

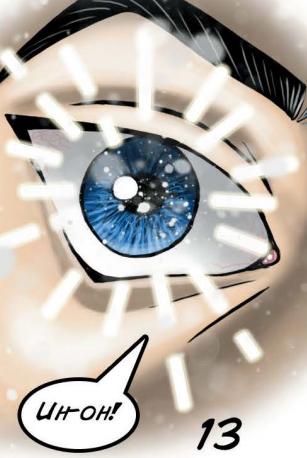
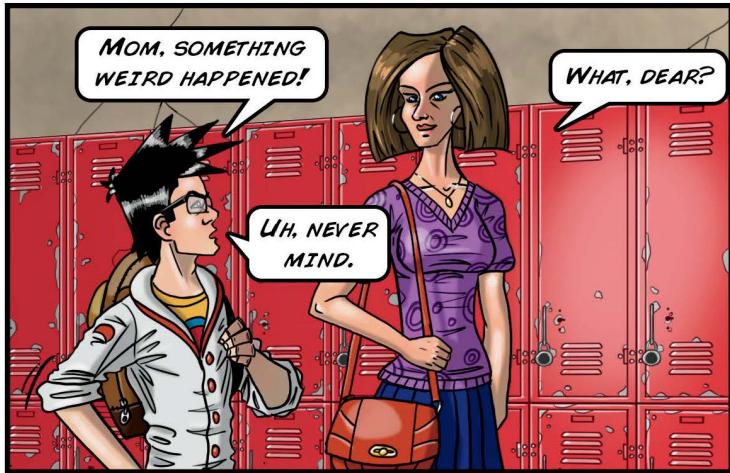
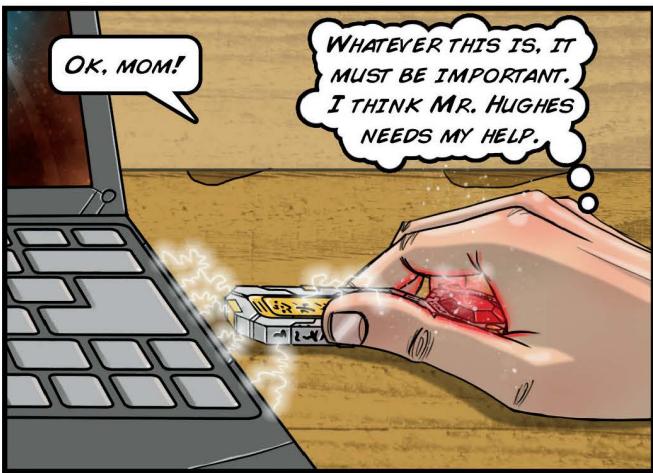
GRANT WAS PROGRAMMING A NEW GAME INSTEAD OF FINISHING HIS WORK.



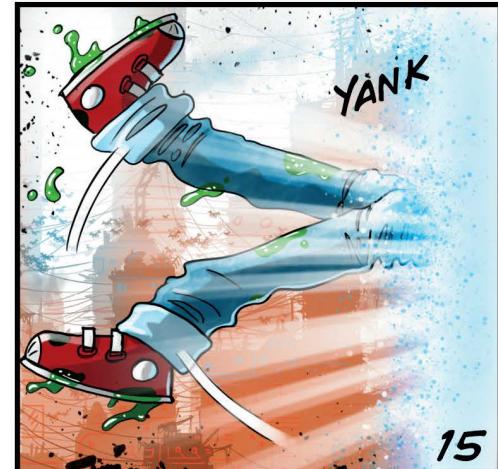
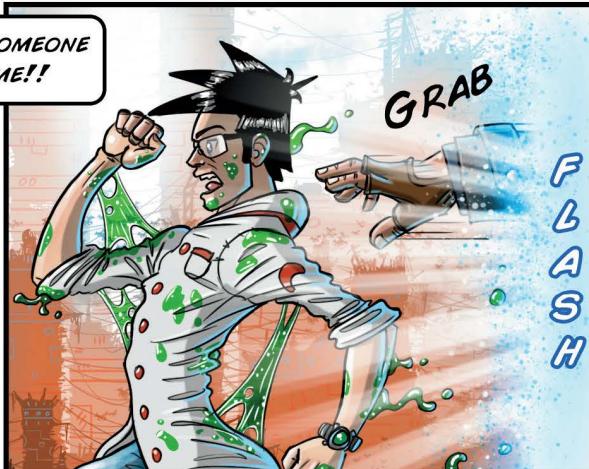
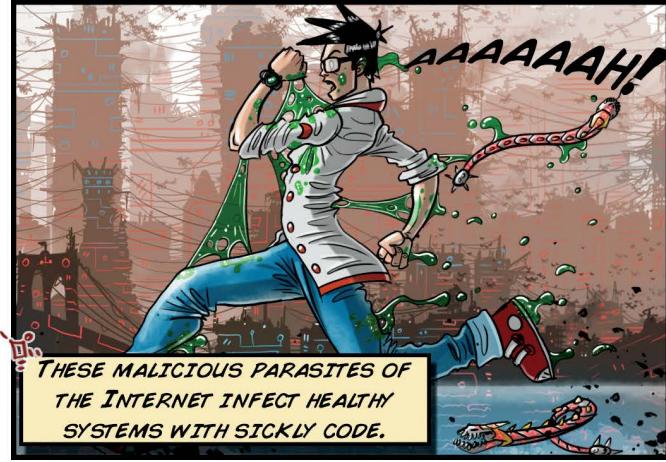
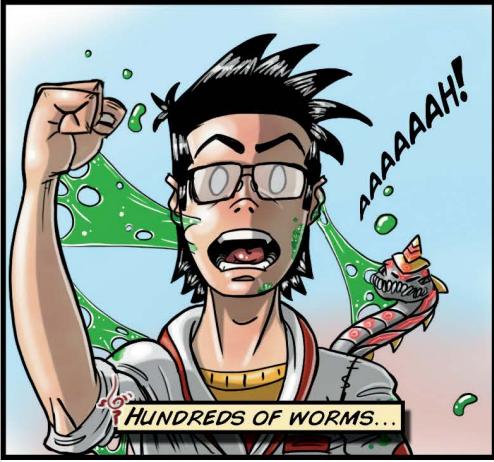
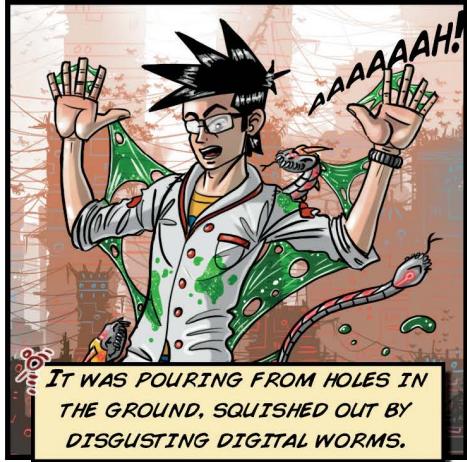


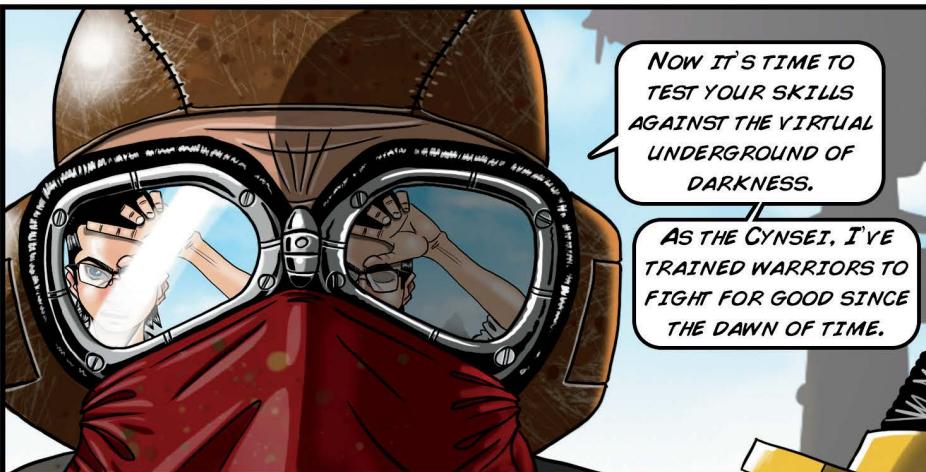
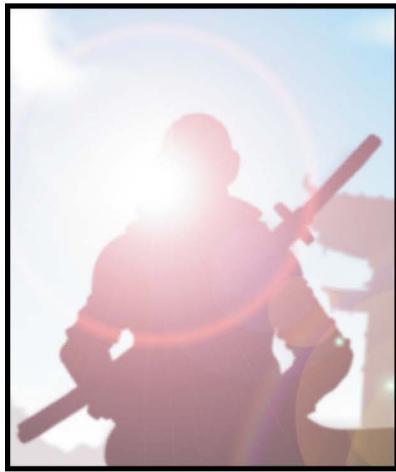


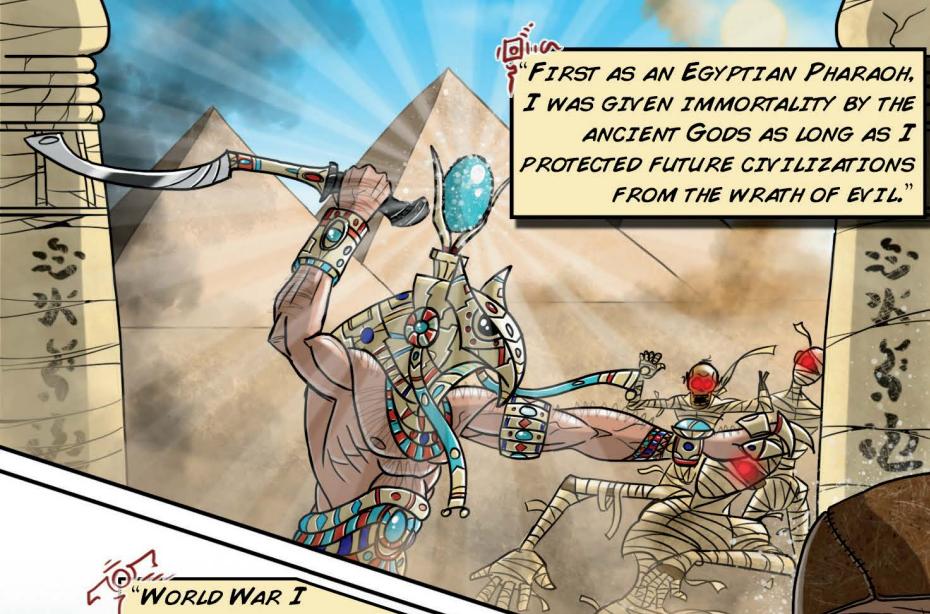








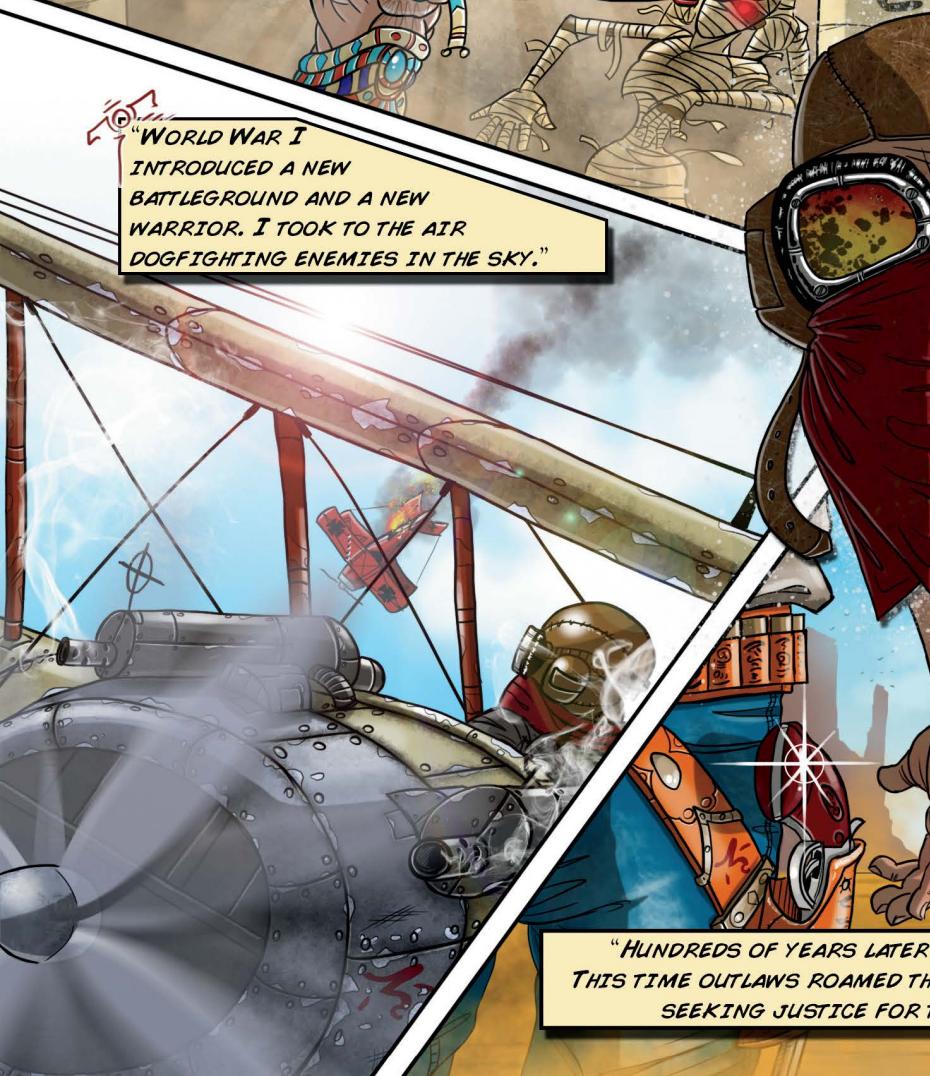




"FIRST AS AN EGYPTIAN PHARAOH, I WAS GIVEN IMMORTALITY BY THE ANCIENT GODS AS LONG AS I PROTECTED FUTURE CIVILIZATIONS FROM THE WRATH OF EVIL."



"IN THE MIDDLE AGES, A KING GRANTED ME KNIGHTHOOD SO I COULD PROTECT OUR CODE OF HONOR AGAINST BARBARIANS."



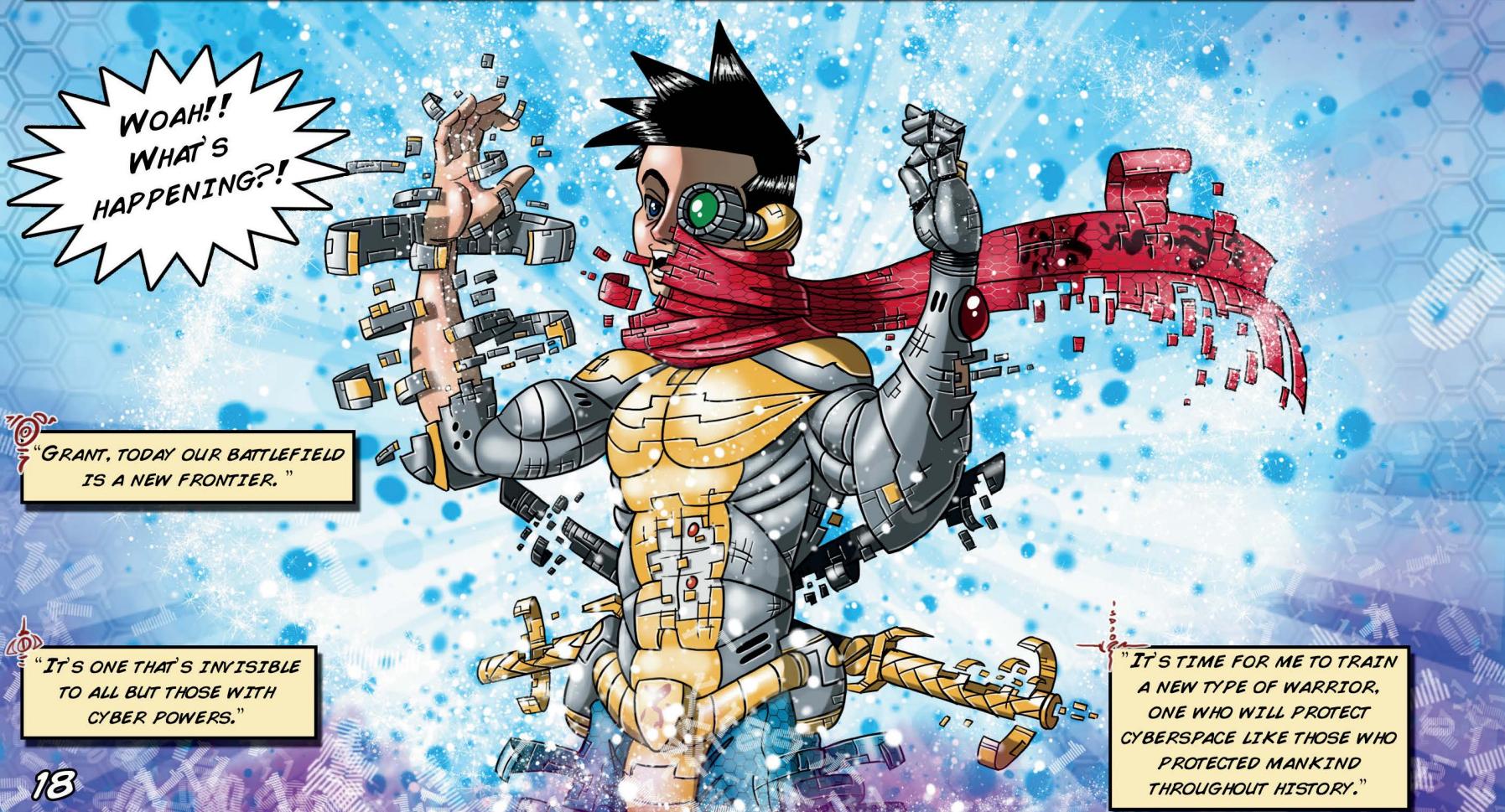
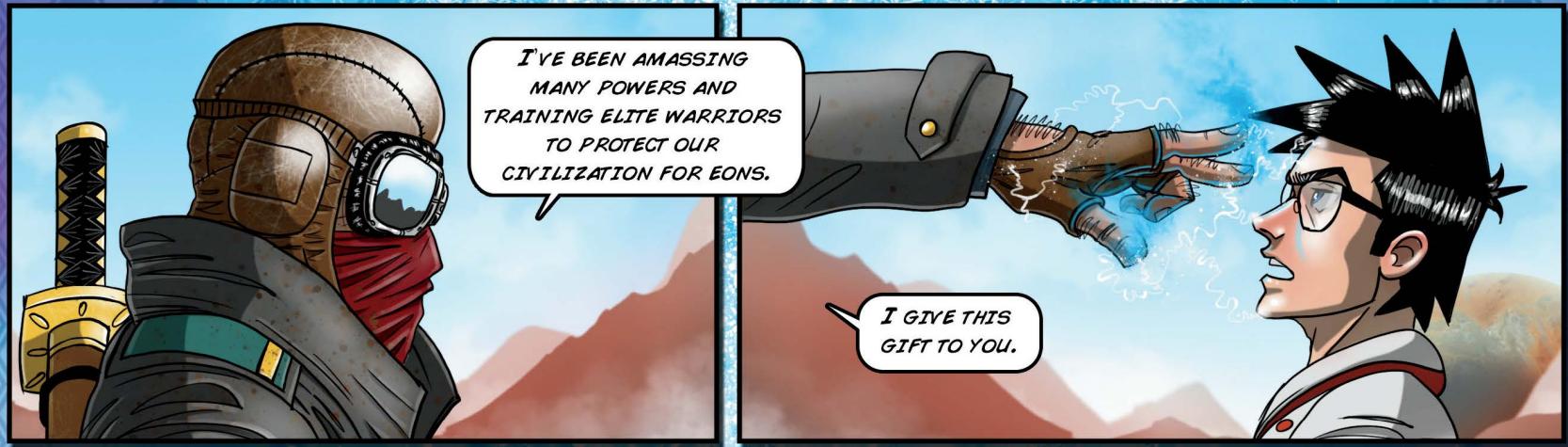
"WORLD WAR I INTRODUCED A NEW BATTLEGROUND AND A NEW WARRIOR. I TOOK TO THE AIR DOGFIGHTING ENEMIES IN THE SKY."

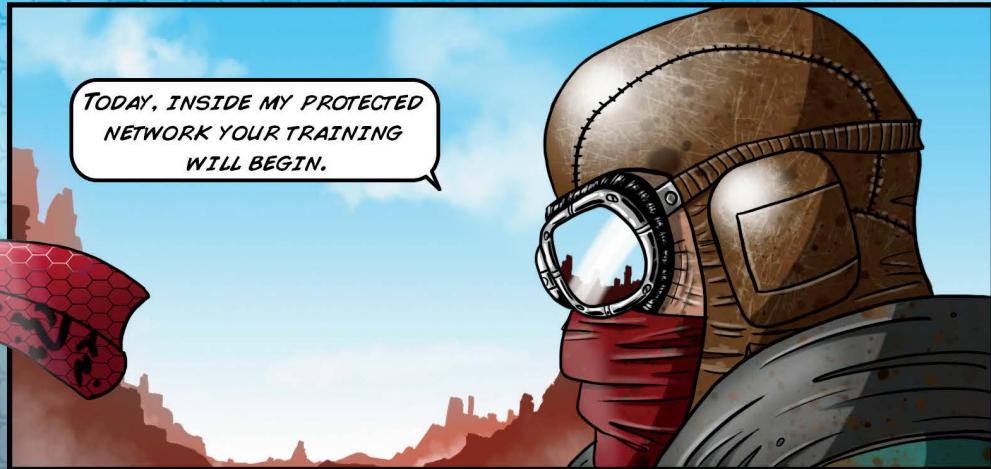
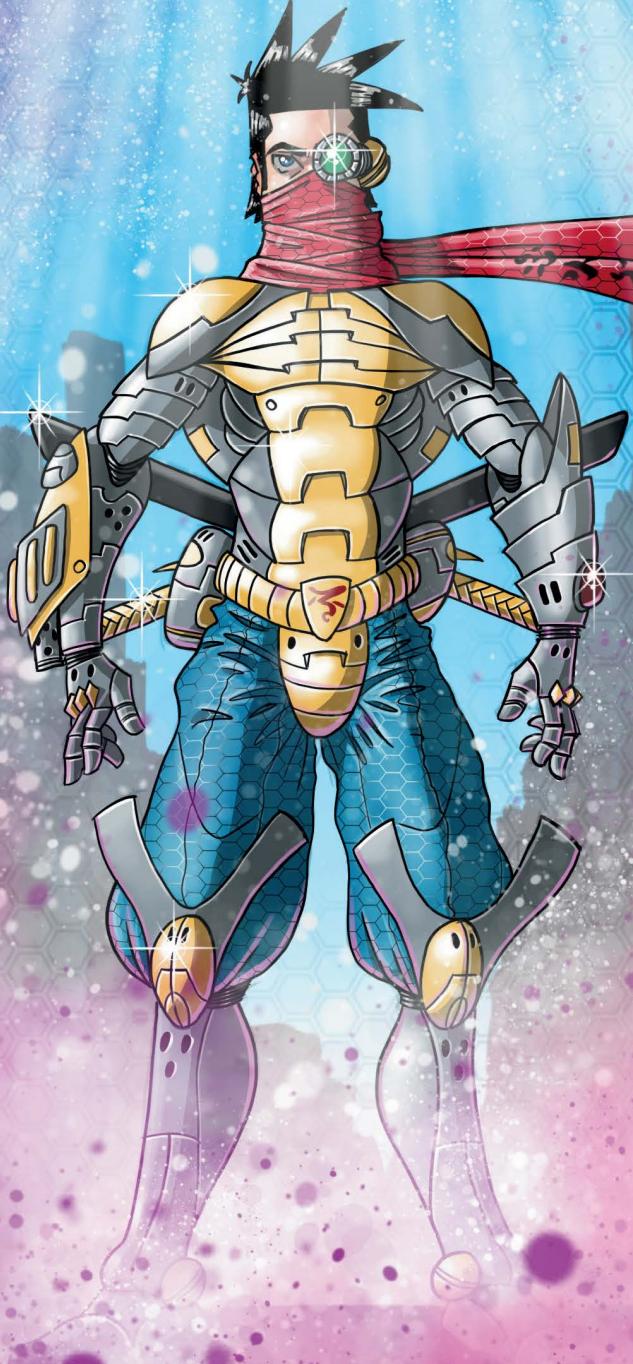


"EVENTUALLY I BECAME A SAMURAI AND UNLEASHED MY DEADLY MARTIAL ARTS ON THE ENEMY."

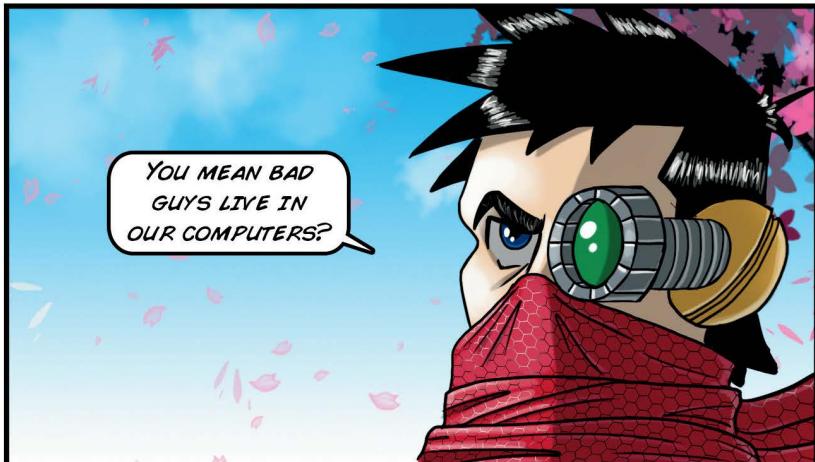


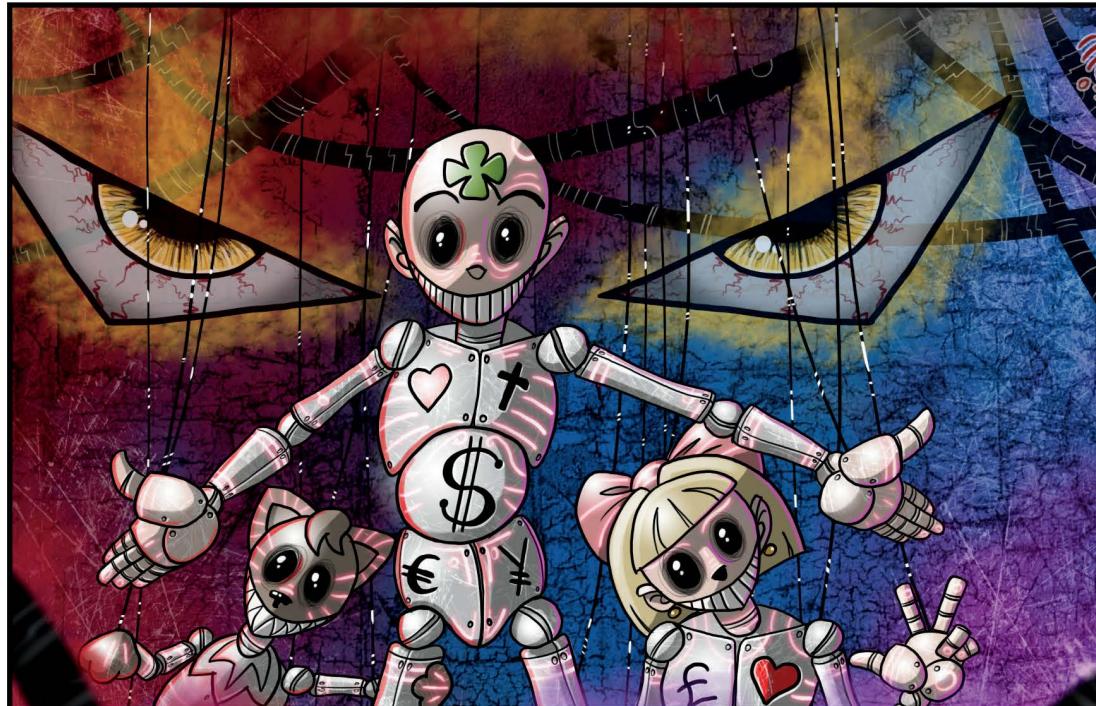
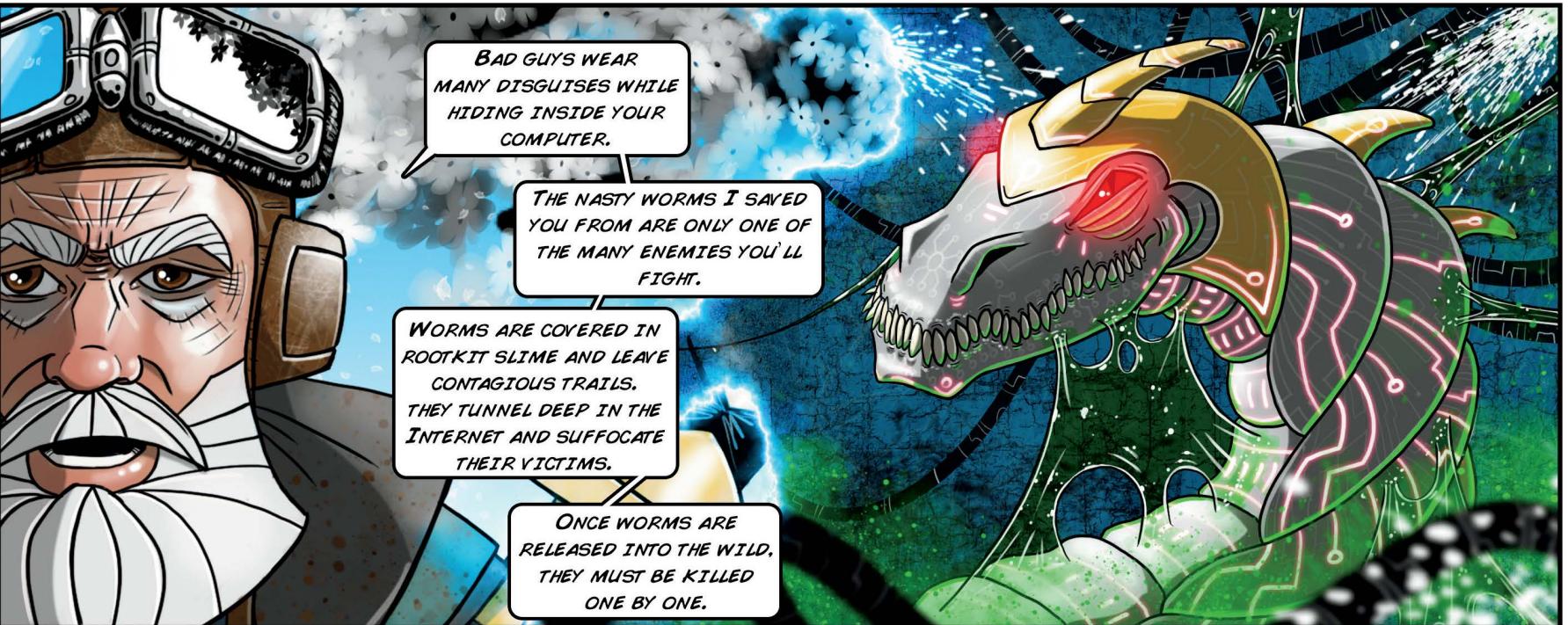
"HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER THE WORLD CHANGED AGAIN. THIS TIME OUTLAWS ROAMED THE WILD WEST. I WAS A COWBOY SEEKING JUSTICE FOR THOSE WHO KNEW NONE."





WOAH, MR. HUGHES?
YOU'RE THE CYNSEI!!!!





CYBERSPACE IS A COMPLEX WORLD WHERE EVEN THE SMARTEST WARRIOR GET TRICKED. SOMETIMES A BAD GUY WILL LOOK LIKE A GOOD GUY.

THIS IS CALLED SPEARPHISHING.

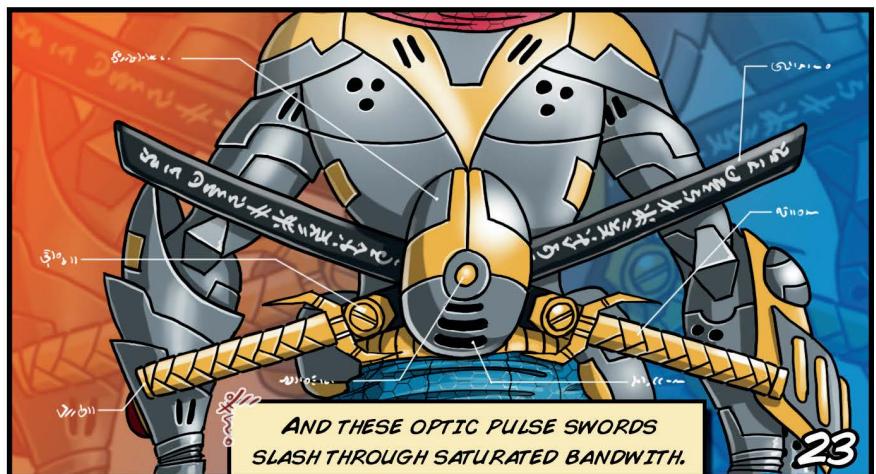
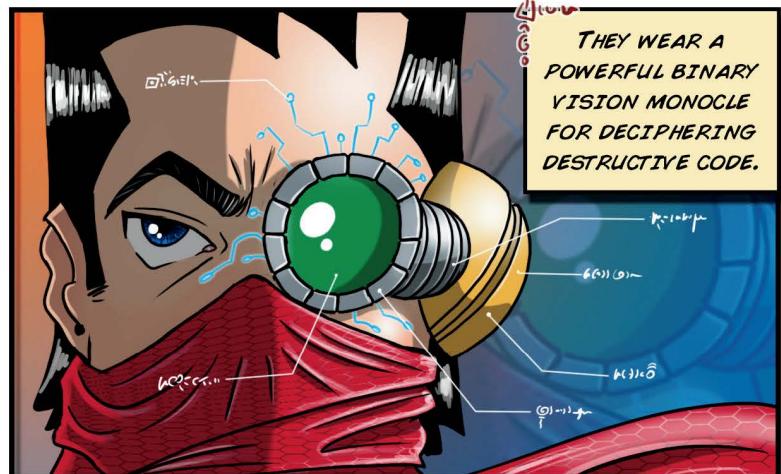
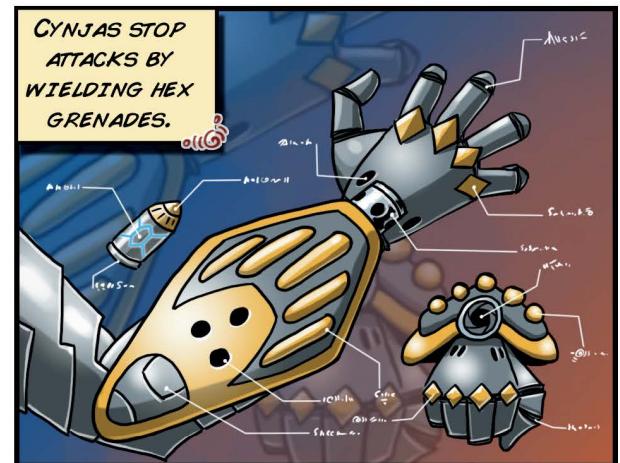
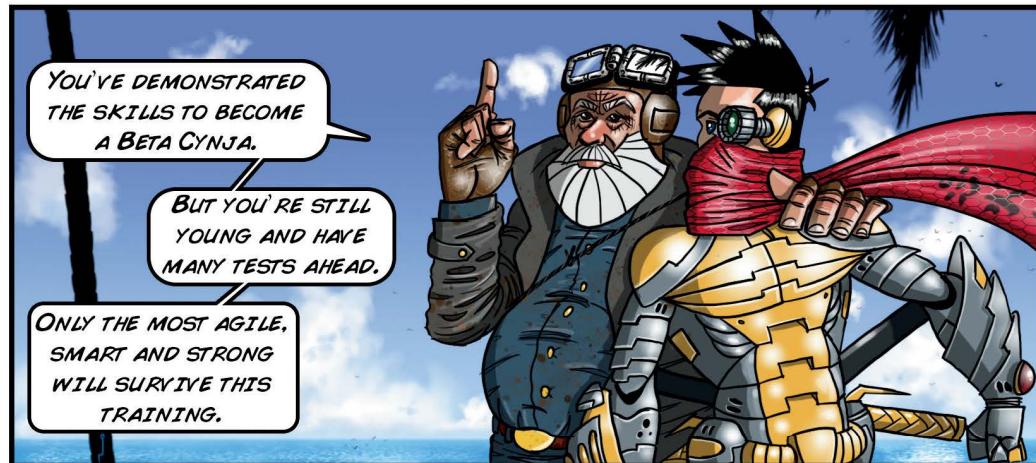
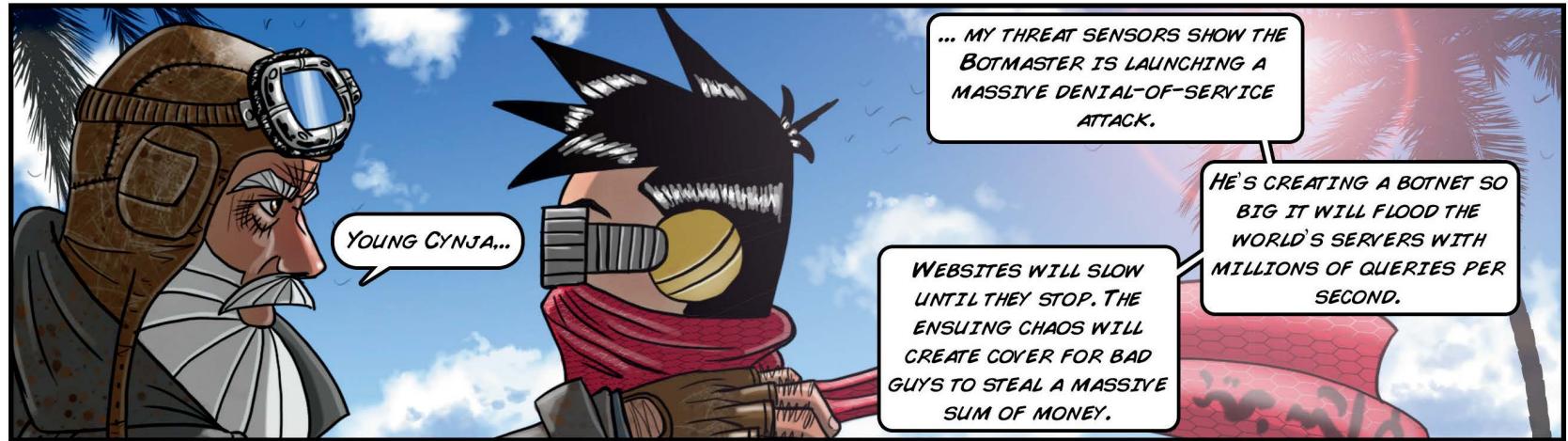
THEY TRICK YOU BY SENDING AN EMAIL THAT LOOKS SAFE, BUT IT'S NOT. THESE CRIMINALS MAY EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME OR LOOK LIKE A FRIEND.

THAT'S BECAUSE THESE VILLAINS LURE YOU WITH PROMISES OF HAPPINESS, HOPING YOU'LL BE NICE AND WELCOME THEM INTO YOUR COMPUTER.

ANOTHER ENEMY WE MUST BATTLE IS THE DEVIOUS TROJAN.

THEY APPEAR HARMLESS BECAUSE THEY LOOK NICE. SOME WANT YOU TO BELIEVE THEY'LL MAKE YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM WORK BETTER. BUT DON'T FALL FOR THEIR DECEPTION. BEHIND THEIR PRETTY FACES, TROJANS ARE UGLY.

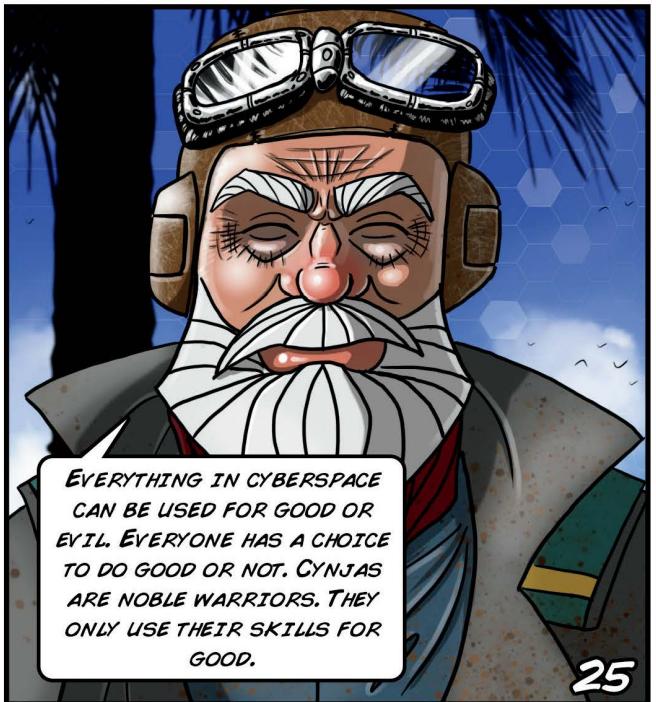
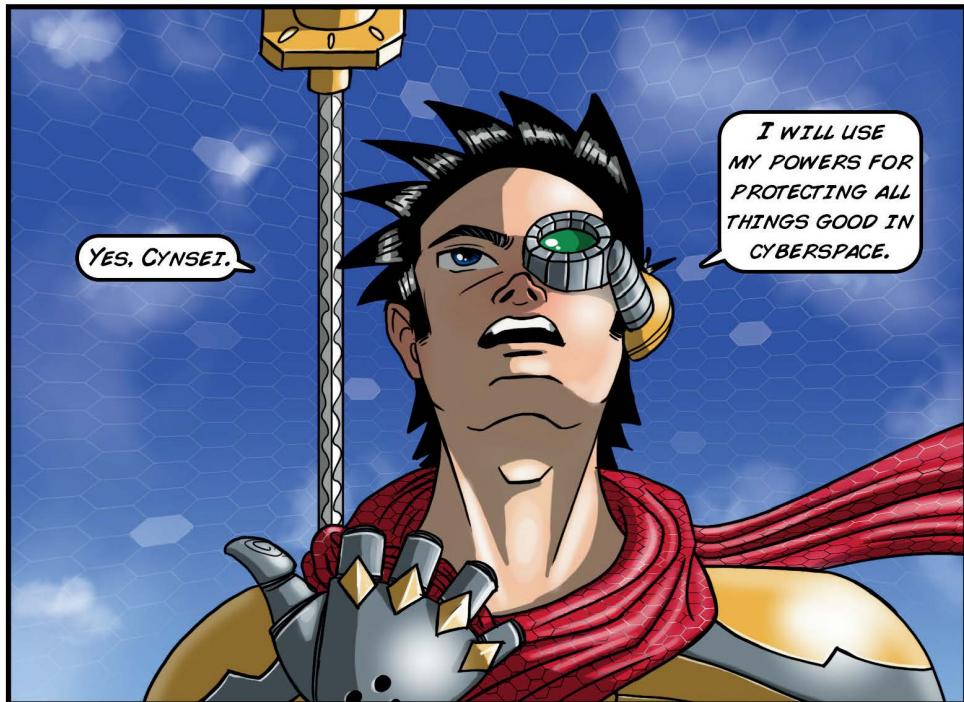
THEY GIVE BAD HACKERS REMOTE CONTROL OF YOUR COMPUTER TO MAKE MISCHIEF. IT'S POSSIBLE TROJAN MALWARE MIGHT STEAL YOUR FAMILY'S MONEY OR EVEN DESTROY YOUR ENTIRE COMPUTER.

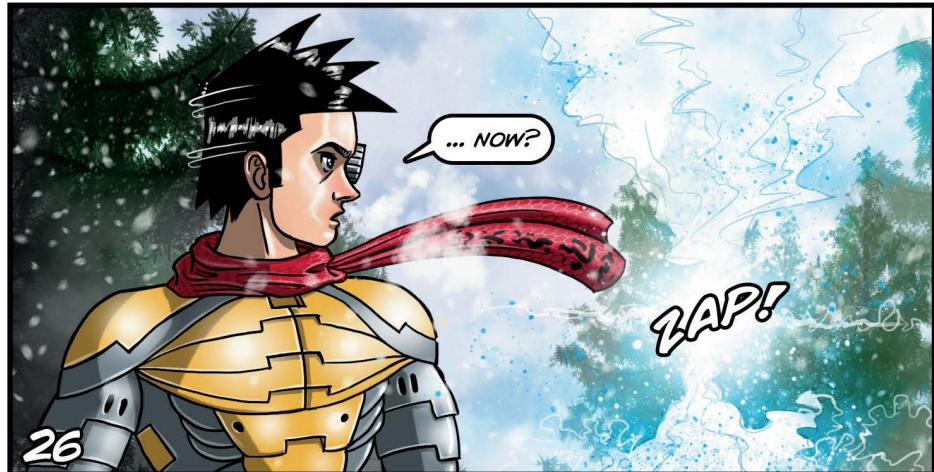
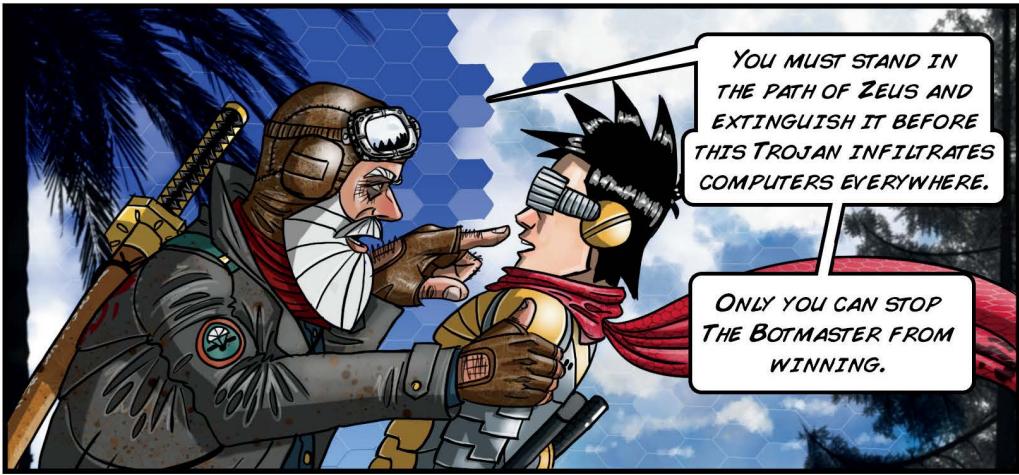


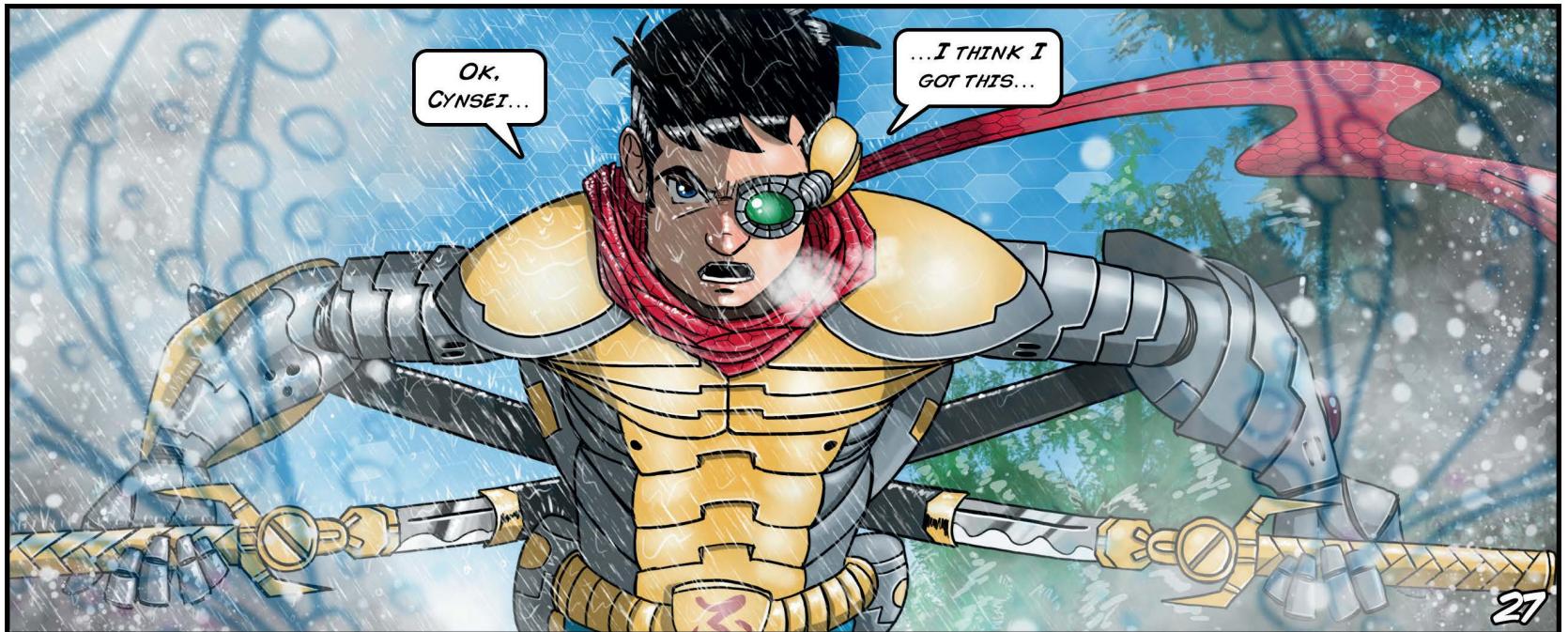


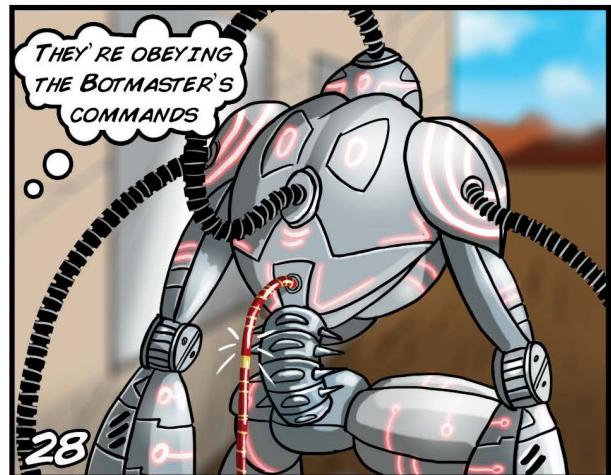
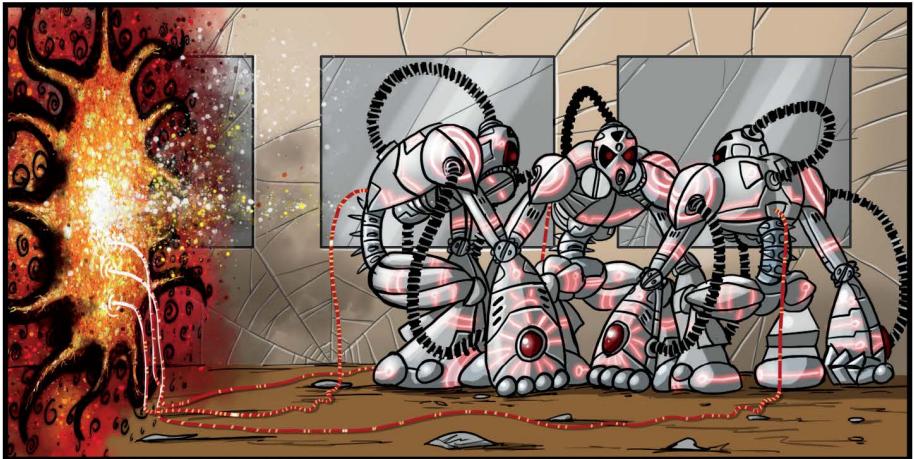
CYNJAS RIDE ON PACKETS USED FOR TRANSPORTING DATA ACROSS CYBERSPACE, LIKE EMAIL AND WEBPAGES. BECAUSE CYNJAS KNOW ALL OF THE INTERNET'S BEST ROUTES, THEY TRAVEL AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

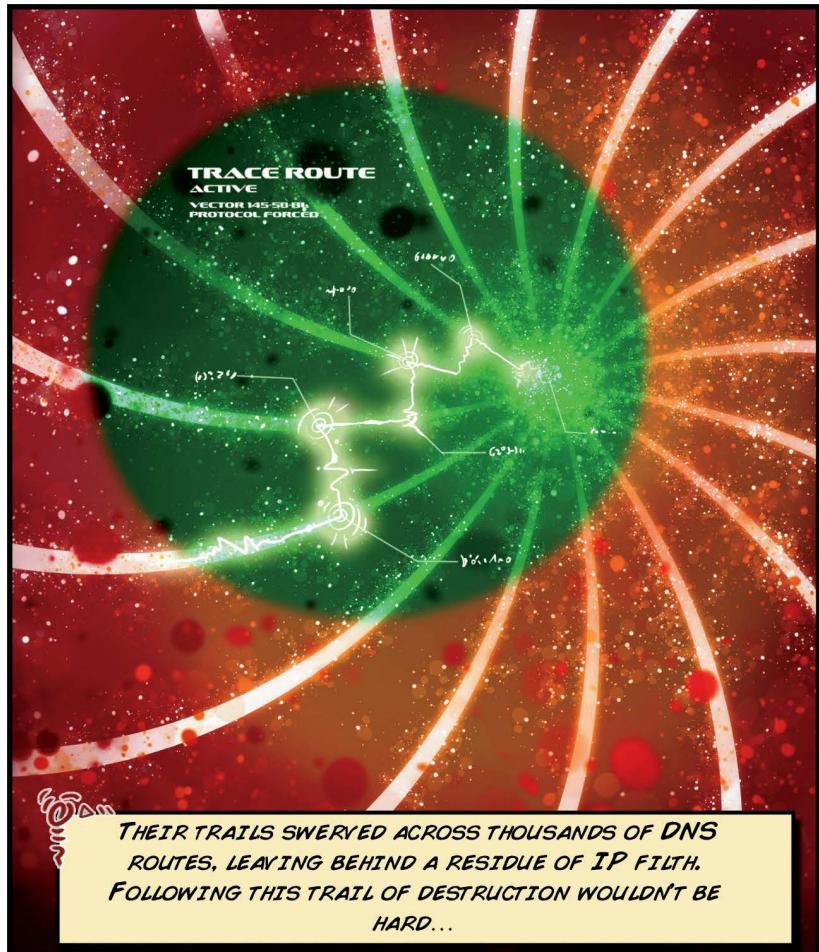
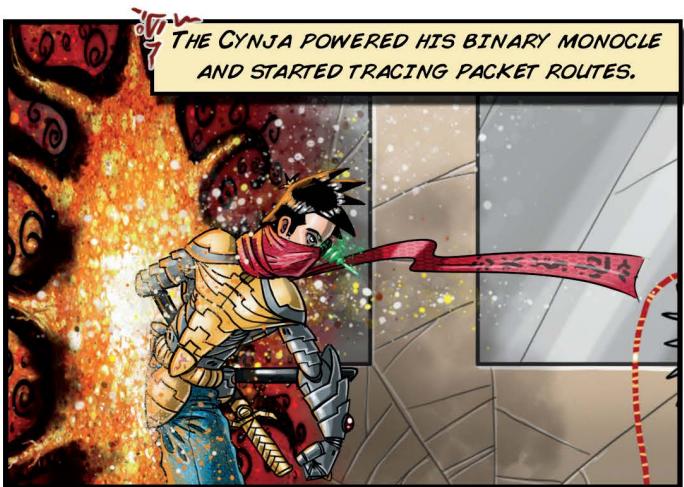
ONLY THE VERY BEST CYNJAS WILL WIN. YOUR POWERS WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT. YOUR CYBER ADVERSARIES ARE RELENTLESS; YOU MUST NEVER GIVE UP.

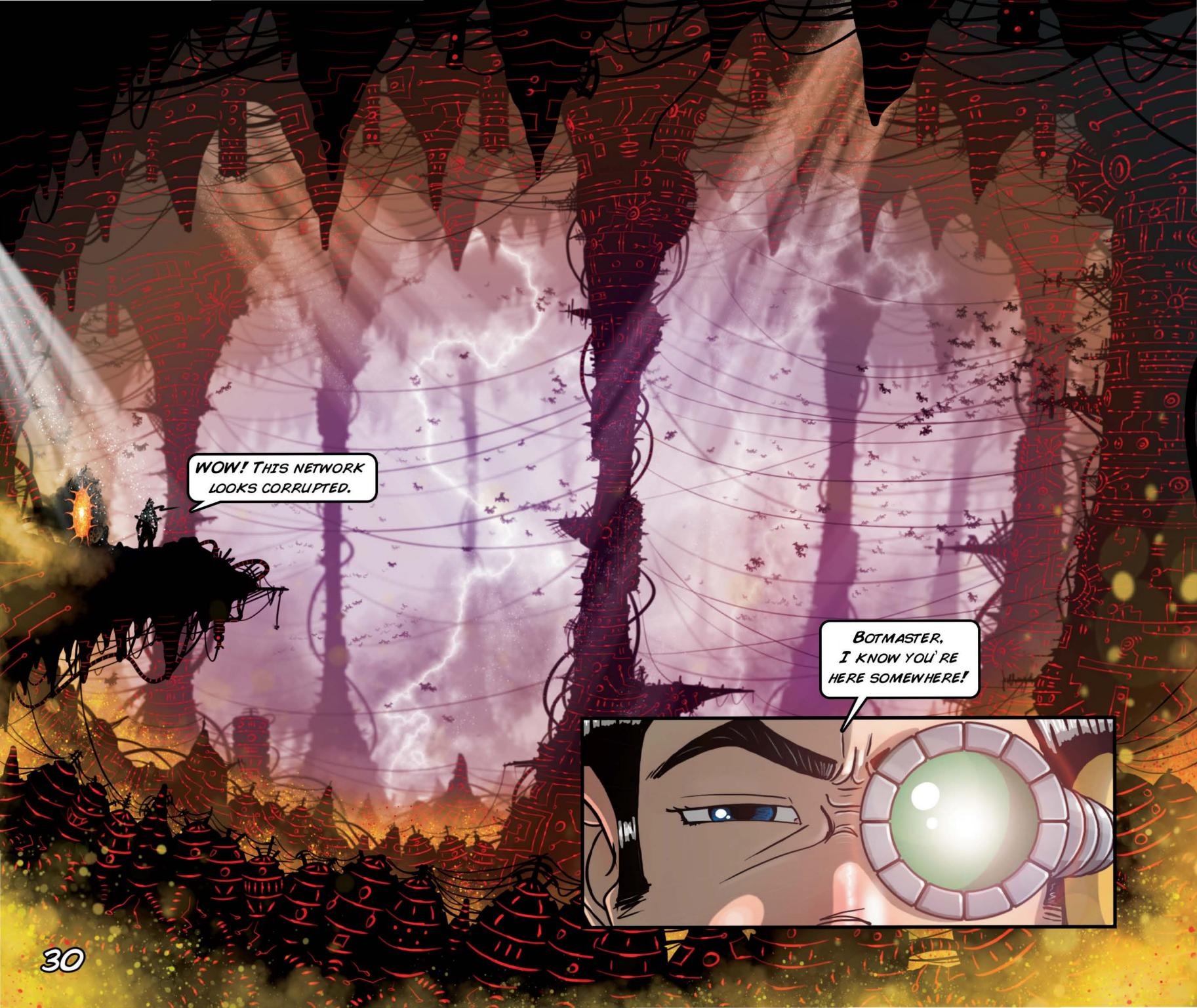


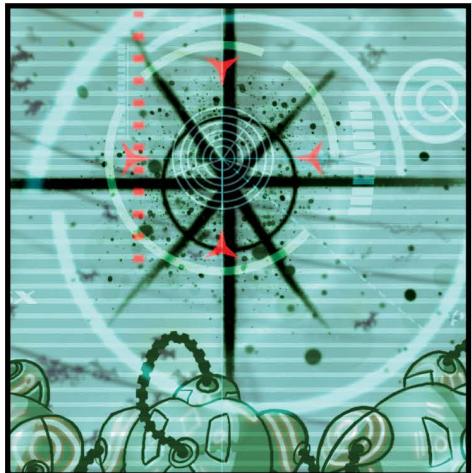
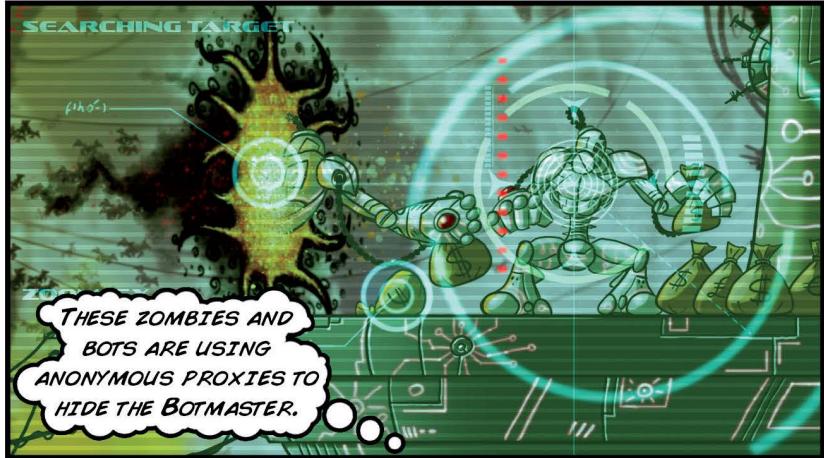
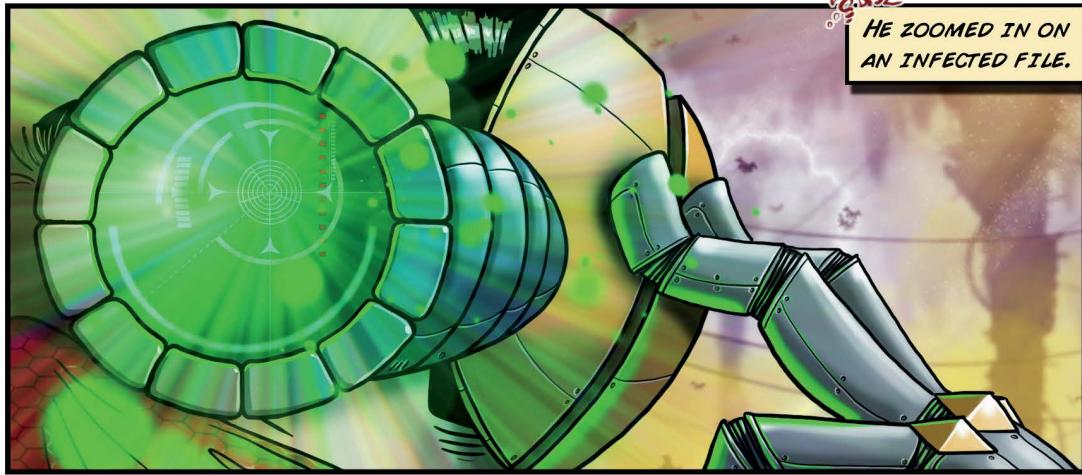




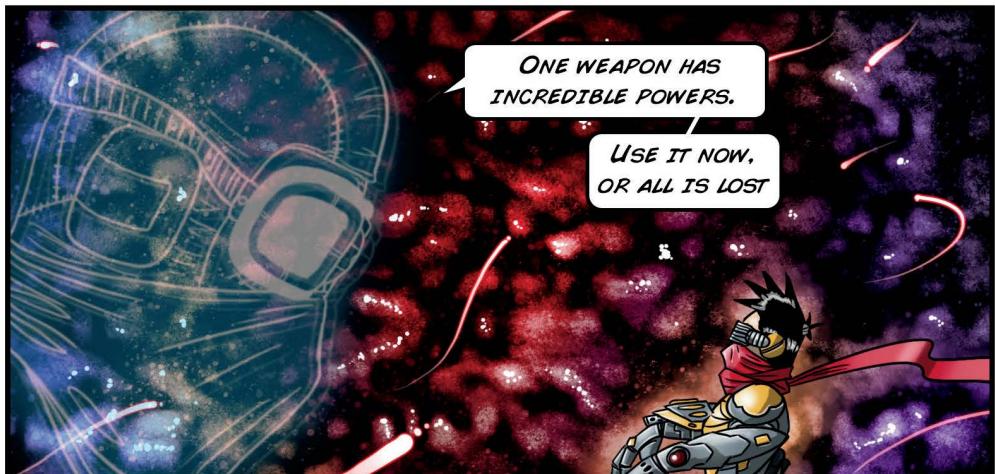


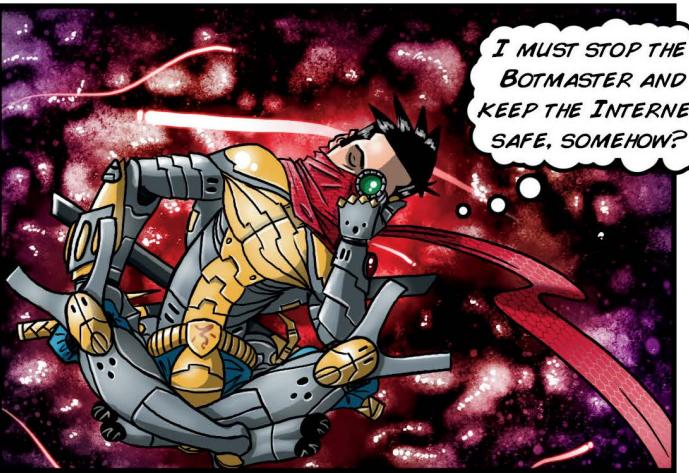




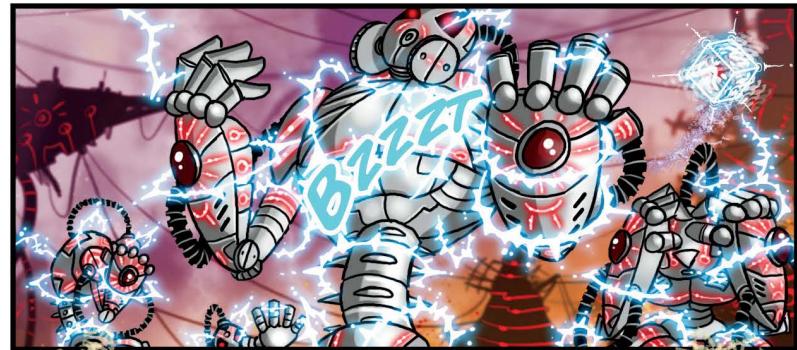




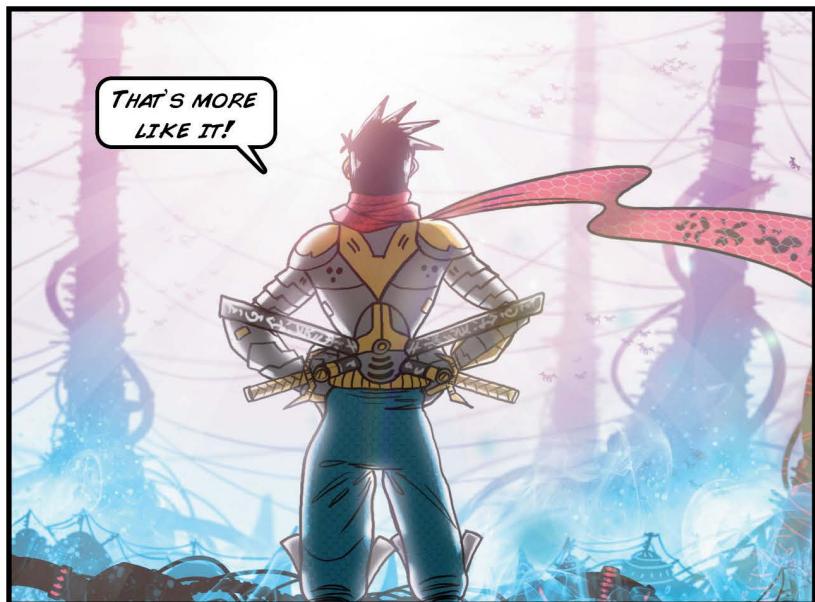








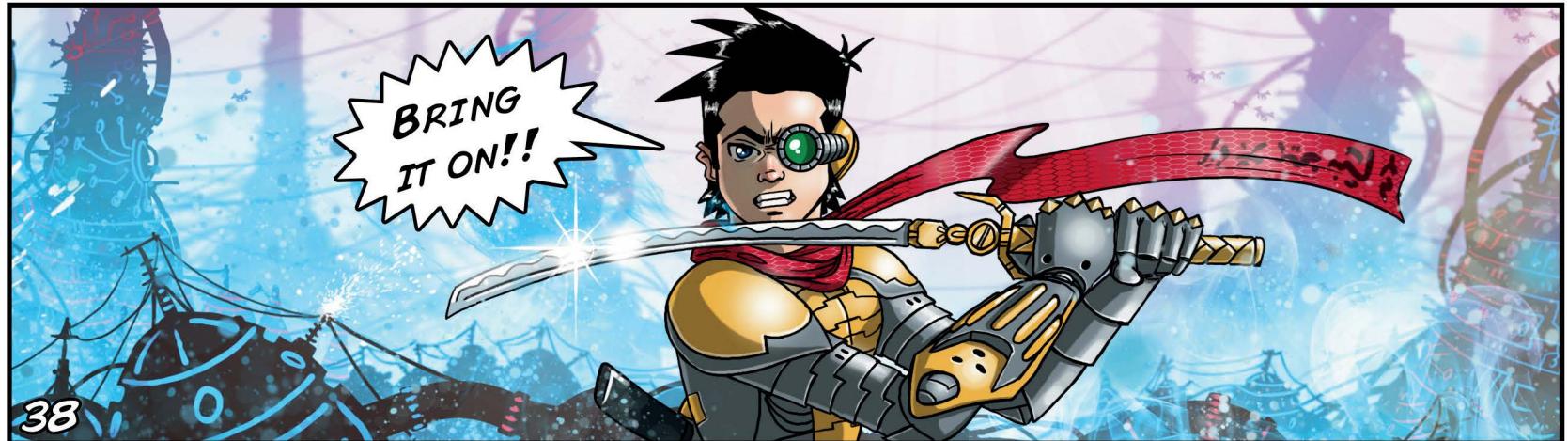
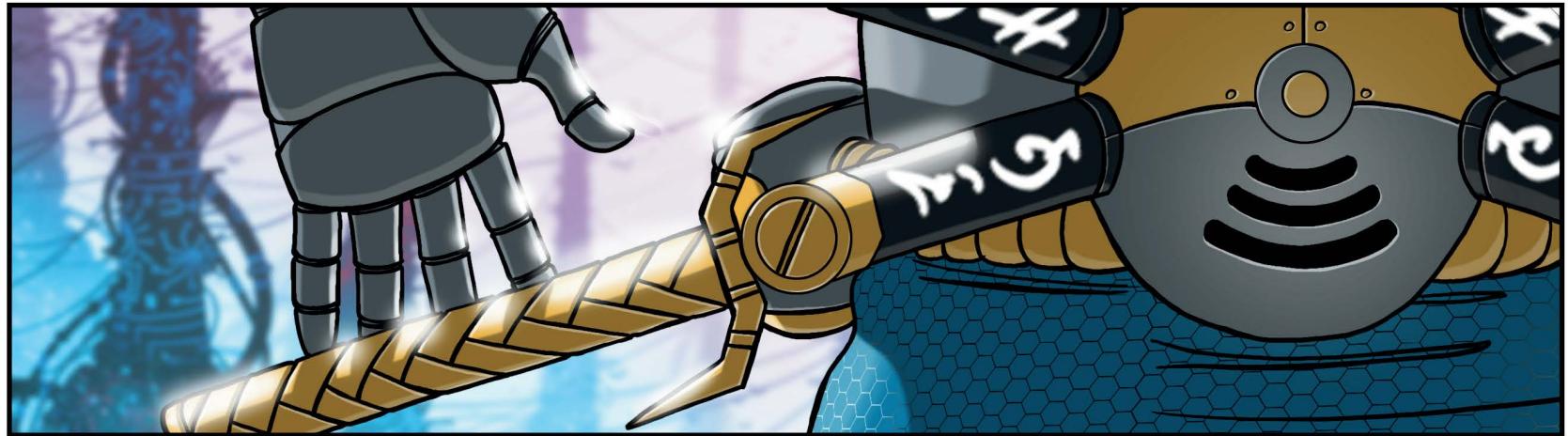
HIS CIPHER CUBE LAUNCHED INTO ACTION.
IT QUICKLY SCANNED FOR VIRAL SIGNATURES AND
QUARANTINED INFECTED FILES. ONE BY ONE
ZOMBIES MUTATED INTO HARMLESS CODE.

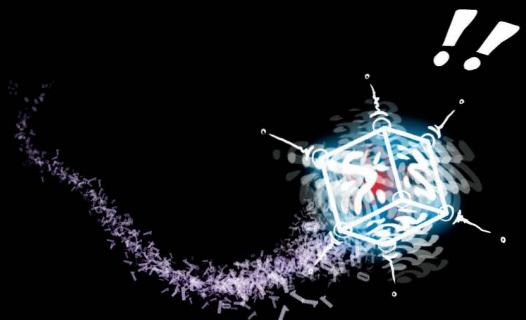


THE CYNJA WAS CERTAIN THE BOTMASTER MET HIS DOOM.
HOWEVER, THAT WAS A NAÏVE ASSUMPTION FOR OUR YOUNG CYNJA.
AS THE SMOKE CLEARED, HE COULD SEE WHERE THE EVIL LEADER
ONCE STOOD.

THE BOTMASTER WAS GONE.

BUT TRACE ROUTE PACKETS FROM HIS
BINARY STAFF LINGERED. AT THAT
MOMENT THE CYNJA KNEW... THE
BOTMASTER ESCAPED HIS FATE
UNDER A STORMY HAZE OF CODE.





DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM

Its nickname is DNS. This system translates website names into a numerical IP address. An IP address shows where information lives in cyberspace.



FIREWALL

It protects against bad guys by controlling the data coming in or going out of a computer network.

208.109.164.43

INTERNET PROTOCOL ADDRESS

Every device connecting to the Internet is assigned a unique number called an IP address. This number sometimes shows your location. .

MALWARE

It's short for malicious software that's programmed by bad guys to steal information, send spam, launch attacks or damage your computer. Viruses, worms and Trojan horses are all types of malware.

WWW.ITHECYNJA.COM

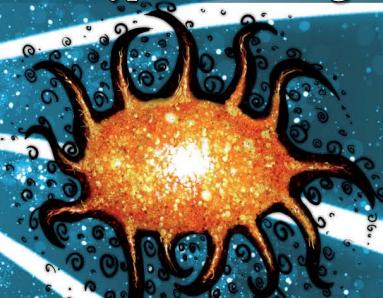
WOW.ITHECYNJA.COM

WOB.TOGCYNJA.G

208.109.157.41

ENCRYPTION

This is how you make messages secret. Using a special key, information is coded so it looks like nonsense. But if someone else has your key they can decrypt the message and read it.



208.109.157.41



NETWORKS

Computers exchange information through a complex highway of connections called a network.



SOURCE CODE

These are rules and instructions your computer must obey.



ZOMBIE

When a bad guy hacks a computer and makes it his own, it's called a zombie. Groups of zombies are called botnets. They're used to launch attacks, send spam or steal information. Sometimes you don't even know your computer has turned into one.



One kind of port is a cable plug-in which connects a computer to another device. Another type helps route data from your computer across the Internet. When a port number is added to your computer's IP address, it tells a server where to deliver the information you've requested while surfing the web or sending emails.

X2=n2;
d_to_b(n2,binary);
for(i=0;binary[i]!='\0';++i)
bn2[i]=binary[i];

VIRAL SIGNATURE

Computer viruses contain a unique fingerprint also known as a code signature. Some malware detection works by scanning files for signatures that belong to known bad guys.



**CHASE CUNNINGHAM
FIGHTS BAD GUYS IN
CYBERSPACE.**

**HE BEGAN HIS CYNJA
TRAINING
SERVING IN THE U.S. NAVY
WHERE HE DESIGNED THE
DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE'S NETWORK
EXPLOITATION PROGRAM.**

**HE LIVES IN NORTHERN
VIRGINIA WITH HIS TWO
YOUNG CYBER WARRIOR
CALLIE AND CAELYN.**

**CHASE ALWAYS KEEPS HIS
PASSWORDS SECRET.**

McNinja



**HEATHER C. DAHL
WRITES ABOUT THE MAGIC
IN TECHNOLOGY.**

**SHE'S A JOURNALIST WHO
HAS COVERED POLITICS
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON
THE GROUND AND NOW
SHE RESEARCHES BATTLES
IN CYBERSPACE.**

**HEATHER'S AN OREGONIAN
LIVING IN WASHINGTON,
DC.**

**SHE NEVER SHARES HER
USB DRIVE WITH ANYONE.**

McNinja



**SHIROW DI ROSSO
IS THE ARTMASTER.**

**AFTER YEARS OF
WORKING AS AN
IT ENGINEER, HE'S NOW
BRINGING CYBERSPACE TO
LIFE THROUGH DRAWING.**

**SHIROW LIVES NEAR
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM WITH
HIS AWESOME WIFE AND
TWO CYNJA DAUGHTERS
SAKURA AND HINATA.**

**HE MAKES SURE TO FUEL
THE FLAMES OF HIS
FIREWALL ON A REGULAR
BASIS.**



**"GRANT,
TODAY OUR BATTLEFIELD IS
A NEW FRONTIER.
IT'S ONE THAT'S
INVISIBLE TO ALL BUT
THOSE WITH
CYBER POWERS.
IT'S TIME FOR ME TO
TRAIN A NEW TYPE OF
WARRIOR, ONE WHO
WILL PROTECT
CYBERSPACE LIKE THOSE
WHO PROTECTED CIVILIZATION
THROUGHOUT HISTORY."**

- THE CYNSEI

THE CIRCLE OF CYNJAS
VISIT WWW.THECYNJA.COM FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON BECOMING PART OF OUR COMMUNITY.