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# BLOODY BUSINESS



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## **BLOODY BUSINESS**

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# JACKPOINT

CONNECTING TO JACKPOINT VPN...  
...IDENTITY SPOOFED  
...ENCRYPTION KEYS GENERATED  
...CONNECTED TO ONION ROUTERS

>>>LOGIN: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
>>>ENTER PASSCODE: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
...BIOMETRIC SCAN CONFIRMED  
YOU'RE IN. USE IT WELL.

“ALL MONEY IS A MATTER OF BELIEF.” -ADAM SMITH

## JACKPOINT STATS

Interaction rate: +23%  
Posts per hour: +19%  
Today's content quality  
(signal:noise): 1:1

## LATEST NEWS

◦ <020777> I understand that people think tolerance for Als is important. But that doesn't mean you all are authorized to issue invitations to them at will. Knock it off. -Glitch

## PERSONAL ALERTS

◦ You have 4 new private messages.  
◦ Your internal Q score is 34 (down 23 points)  
◦ You have 8 new responses to your JackPoint posts.  
◦ You have 7 new friend requests; 9 friends have dropped you.  
◦ PDA: Today's anti-Brackhaven protest is expected to draw only 2,500 people, so traffic should not be overly affected.  
◦ PDA: Your complimentary all-access pass to Urubia's Funhouse expires in 36 hours.

## THE INNER CIRCLE

You are visible to your closest 1 level of contacts.  
Your Eyes Only posts have been viewed 32 times  
**Current Time:** Feb. 7, 2077, 10:54

## WELCOME BACK TO JACKPOINT, OMAE:

Your last connection was severed:10 hours, 25 minutes, 33 seconds ago.

## TODAY'S HEADS UP

◦ Things are bad now. Inevitably, they're going to get worse. [\[Tag: Lockdown\]](#)  
\* Time for some tips for exploring the final frontier that's sitting on your hip.  
[\[Tag: DataTrails\]](#)

## INCOMING

◦ It's like being a regular person, but stronger, faster, and shinier [\[Tag: Chrome Flesh\]](#)  
◦ The real action doesn't start until you head for the caverns. [\[Tag: Butte\]](#)

## TOP NEWS ITEMS

◦ UCAS Secretary of Defense Ronald Despain deflects question about easing the Boston quarantine by saying "they've adjusted to it pretty well by now." [Link](#)  
◦ Maersk, Zeta-Imp Chem, Lone Star to call rare joint press conference. [Link](#)  
◦ Ghostwalker spokesperson Nicholas Whitebird says that interpreting the lack of retaliation against Aztlan for their incursion into Denver as acceptance of the new status quo would be "a mistake." [Link](#)

## BLOODY BUSINESS

### WHAT TO WATCH FOR

◦ Details on the Megacorporate Audit  
◦ The bleeding edge of industrial sabotage  
◦ Travels around the globe at the bequest of any megacorp that doesn't hate you  
◦ Increasing instability, increasing desperation, increasing paydays

### POSTS/FILES TAGGED WITH "BLOODY BUSINESS"

◦ The Megacorporate Audit  
◦ Plummeting Prospects  
◦ A Place to Hang Your Hat  
◦ Running in a ToxicWasteland  
[\[More\]](#)



## INTRODUCTION

The megacorporations of the Sixth World have a particular strategy for dealing with times when crises are rising, business is tough, and they need to work hard to avoid being swamped by the competition. They launch dozens of shadowruns to gather detail on their opponents' plans, sabotage their productions, steal their best employees, and otherwise play havoc with their operations. While they're at it, they pressure government officials under their thumb for prime concessions, see just how much fear they can inspire from their employees, aggressively takeover vulnerable businesses, and otherwise exercise their corporate muscle however they can.

It may well be asked, how is this different from how they operate when things are good? The answer is simple: Operations in bad times are pretty much the same as those in good times. The bad times are just more intense.

Early 2077 in the Sixth World is one of those times when there are plenty of crises to go around, the stakes seem heightened, and the money spigot flowing into the shadows is on. *Bloody Business* provides a look into what is going on in the various megacorporations of the world, showing how they are dealing with the problems at hand and the exact nature of some of the skullduggery they are involved in.

The first chapter of the book, **The Megacorporate Audit**, shows how the Big Ten of the Sixth World are reacting to some of their problems and re-asserting their authority. The next nineteen chapters are short adventures that start with in-universe material to establish some of the situations and problems sucking up corporate attention, and then present plot points gamemasters and players can follow to play through a storyline tied to those incidents. The chapters can be used individually as short adventures taking one (or possibly a handful) of sessions, or they can be tied together for a longer, corporate-themed campaign. Also, don't miss the **Character Trove** at the end of the book that presents a wide range of NPCs that can be used in any *Shadowrun* adventure or campaign.

Gamemasters are encouraged to configure adventures as they see fit, but here are some examples of how chapters could be tied together:

- *The Revision*: The last three adventures—**The Uprising**, **M&A-Dness**, and **Survival Instinct**—are all tied to the **Megacorporate Audit** plotline and could be played in sequence.
- *The Clash over CFD*: Cognitive fragmentation disorder is now a serious problem in the Sixth World, and the corporations are working hard both to discover a cure and deflect blame from themselves. Runners can help NeoNET find a new base of operations (in light of the Boston quarantine) in **A Place to Hang Your Hat**. That can earn them the trust of NeoNET, who refers them to Evo to look for information about CFD treatments in **Bitter Pills**. NeoNET and Evo then work together to have the runners uncover other scandals committed by megacorps to take attention off them. One such scandal is research done on technomancers; exposing this information is part of the story of **Knives Out**.
- *The Japanese Alliance*: The Japanacorps (MCT, Shiawase, and Renraku) compete fiercely in Japan but have been working together outside of those borders. A campaign could be based on the runners helping further the strength of this alliance. First, Horizon and Renraku work together to have the runners look into a report that a new release will fail in **At the Speed of Bad News**. Renraku then refers the runners to Shiawase, who have them look into research into technomancers in **Knives Out**. Assuming Shiawase is duly impressed with the runners, they “reward” them by sending them to the toxic sections of the Tsimshian Protectorate in **Running in a Toxic Wasteland**.

Those are only a few short ideas. Dive into a book for both a wealth of knowledge of what corporations in the Sixth World are currently up to, and information about the specific ways they will be screwing with each other.

Because good times or bad, that's what megacorps do.



# MEGACORPORATE AUDIT

## POSTED BY: MR. BONDS

Today, at 10 p.m. EST, the corporate world went ballistic.

While rumors have existed for two years—since an internal Corporate Court Committee assessment report was leaked by *Financial Times News* (I covered this in my blog back then)—today the Corporate Court finally got serious by announcing a Megacorporate Revision, an internal audit of all registered AA+ corporations that will put their status on trial

- Holy frag.
- Bull

After revising their own terms for qualification for extraterritorial or even megacorporate status (without going into detail, these have yet to be published, and may never be released to the public at all), the Corporate Court plans to re-evaluate all corporations within the next five years.

- Naturally the Big Ten will make sure that they stay within the guidelines without anyone else qualifying for triple-A status. That would require them to create another seat, dilute the shares of the Zurich Orbital Gemeinschaftsbank, and further complicate the decision-making process in the CC, which can be quite dysfunctional at times.
- ~~exhib~~

## POSTED BY: MR. BONDS

A report leaked today by the Financial Times News Feed caused quite a stir in the megacorporate world, leading to major ups and downs in the global stock exchanges and significant drops in the stock prices of a number of smaller AA companies.

According to unknown sources, the Corporate Court is currently revisiting the process for multinational corporations to qualify for extraterritorial megacorporate status. Many suspect that the reforms of Matrix protocols and the authorization to build grid architecture based on corporate standing and abilities are the reasons for this revision, but others believe the recent re-evaluation of German AG Chemie, whose status had been officially challenged by major competitor Komatsu in 2071 (and supported by the Japanese megas), was the spur for the new debate.

Recent decades saw an increase in the number of AA corporations that—based on the Business Recognition Accords—were granted extraterritoriality by the CC and any signing nations. While there is no doubt that those corporations earned their status at the time using whatever processes were then in place, many economists have argued (especially after Crash 2.0) that both the process and the status of a number of those corporations are not up to date due to a lack of megacorporate supervision and changes in the global economy, including crises and economic recessions in a number of markets and countries.

If the rumors are true and the CC is aiming to review the

## JACKPOINT #MEGAWATCH FEED# AA STATUS ON TRIAL?!

status of all AA corps, it could throw the corporate world into turmoil. Most corps would risk everything to retain their high status—a status that includes armed protective forces, land rights, and jurisdiction over corporate holdings. And I don't mean just shadow campaigns to gobble up assets to strengthen their portfolios; I am talking about small corporate wars as well. This could result in the CC thinning the corporate herd a bit, leading to the strongest corps surviving and a general cleaner slate at the AA level.

Sources from our friends at Brokerage X, however, have told me there is another explanation. A lot of the larger, more established AA megacorps that never made the top slot (such as Z-IC, Universal Omnitech, Maersk, and Monobe) have been feeling disregarded and overlooked by the Corporate Court (especially with upstarts like Horizon moving past them) for quite a long time now. Using their leverage with Eurocorps (especially those politically active in the NEEC) or Japanese compatriots (Sony, Yakashima, Komatsu to name just a few), they have been campaigning for a reorganization of the Corporate Court with a "House of Commons" that would give a seat to all extraterritorial corporations ranked by the CC. The apparent leak and threat of status revision could also very well be a move by the Big Ten to silence a number of the lesser AAs.

This could get very interesting ...