

# CLOSE TO THE EDGE

Life in the shadows has never been as dangerous, and runners need every edge they can get. *Runner's Companion* opens up a world of expanded options for *Shadowrun* players with dozens of New Qualities, Advanced Contact and Lifestyle Rules, and handy tips on running, travelling and smuggling, and operating in a surveillance society.

This core book for *Shadowrun, Twentieth Anniversary Edition* also introduces Metavariants, Changelings, and the Infected as player character options, and expands the scope of the game to include unique non-metahuman characters such as Shapeshifters, Free Spirits, and a new generation of AIs among others.

Sample file

## SHADOWRUN

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# RUNNER'S COMPANION™



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Connecting Jackpoint VPN ...  
... Matrix Access ID Spoofed.  
... Encryption Keys Generated.  
... Connected to Onion Routers.  
> Login  
\*\*\*\*\*  
> Enter Passcode  
\*\*\*\*\*  
... Biometric Scan Confirmed.  
Connected to <ERROR: NODE UNKNOWN>  
*"There is a monster in all of us ... not figuratively, literally.  
Go to sleep yourself, wake up something ... different."*

### JackPoint Stats

44 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
- \* 3 new members have joined this network

#### Personal Alerts

- \* Your "xploit3r" agent has 1 message for you
- \* You have 5 new private messages
- \* You have 3 messages queued for anonymous re-routing
- \* You have 11 new responses to your Jackpoint posts
- \* Tarislar safe house payment due in 73 hours, 2 minutes and 4 seconds
- \* You have an urgent message from cult member contact [\[ignore\]](#)

#### First Degree

You are hidden from all contacts.

Your Current **Rep Score**: 50  
(94% Positive)

Current Time: July 15, 2071, 1115

PREFERENCES

FEEDS

TASKS

LINKS

HISTORY

Welcome back to JackPoint, omae;  
your last connection was severed:  
2 hours, 23 minutes, 1 second ago

### Today's Heads Up

Do you need a new contact? Are you afraid you'll wake up SURGED? Looking for that new smuggling route? Perhaps you're in the market for a new pad, or are new to the shadows and wondering how to stay off the grid? We've compiled an eclectic list of files...they may not all be down your alley, but you'll find something useful. [\[Link\]](#)[\[Guests\]](#)

### Incoming

- \* A new street drug seems to be creating a lot of buzz. Catch the latest gossip on its effects and the rise of the outfit behind it. [Tag: [Ghost Carrels](#)]
- \* If you've been to the wild side and returned to yak about it, how about sharing your thoughts on our guide to the great urban wildernesses of the day? [Tag: [Feral Cities](#)]

### Top News Items

- \* The 4,600 page "Sapience Report" has caused a backlash across the UCAS/CAS by Humanis Policlubs and even stirred more moderate-minded organizations. The report was commissioned as a trans-disciplinary review of racial diversity and sapience to aid legislation in deciding who (or what) qualifies for civil rights and possess criminal responsibility. However, the "humans first" groups are calling it an attempt to push the meta-human agenda, citing that 10 of the 15 members of the research panel hail from the Green/Awakened bloc. [Link](#).
- \* Omar Chavez, widely believed to be the Sottocapo of the Chavez Mafia in Denver, died yesterday in helicopter crash over the CAS sector of Denver. The incident is under close scrutiny by both the CAA and the ZDF. Chavez was 94. [Link](#).
- \* Early this morning, an explosion powerful enough to register on seismographs as far away as New Delhi and Neo-Tokyo was detected in Shaanxi. Triangulation suggests that it came from the vicinity of the tomb of Shih Huang Ti. Reporters have been prevented from accessing the region and the Shaanxi government is refusing to comment at this time. [Link](#).

CHAT

MESSAGES

FILES

POSTS

NEXUS

SEARCH

Active



Non-Net  
Firewall

Active



Non-Net  
Antivirus

Active



Non-Net  
Filter

On/Receiving



Commcode

Excellent



Signal

Active



Hidden  
Mode



Local  
Map

#### RUNNER'S COMPANION

Invited Guests  
<none>

#### Posts/Files tagged with "Runner's Companion":

- \* Starting Out
- \* Survival Tips
- \* Contacts
- \* Life on the Run
- \* Metavariants

[More]

CONTINUE

ADVANCED  
SEARCH

SAVE



# ... STARTING OUT ...

Look, regardless of what you've heard, shadowrunners aren't just people who shoot other people right in the face for money. I've met dozens of runners worthy of the tag, and every one of them has a different story. Nobody chooses this life, it chooses them, and anybody who tells you otherwise has been watching too many old sims.

It's not an easy life. Right now, I can tell you three ways I can get out of this restaurant, and I already know how I'm going to kill you if I need to. Chill, I'm not going to kill you unless I have to. You asked lady, I'm just telling you like it is.

Hell, most of us don't even choose our own street names. When I started out doing corporate work in Sekondi, I jumped an anti-corp insurgent, stabbed him with a poisoned knife, and then got back into hiding to let him slowly die. My squad-mates started calling me *Auwa* after that. That's not what I'm called now, of course, but you get the idea.

I was originally taught close quarters combat, but I've also picked up some sniper training, infiltration techniques, Matrix security, and counter-terrorism driving. I've got more than my share of implants. I've had a role on each team I've worked with, and my skills complement theirs. I've picked up a lot of friends along the way and even lost some of them.

Since then, I've trained my abilities. Physical training, combat drills, studying. Yeah, researching. Sometimes, it's more important to know which gang is in control of what city block, or whose stock is selling hard, or even which school won the last Horizon Bowl than it is to know how to assault a stronghold. I need to keep both my body and my mind sharp. Speaking of staying sharp, close your eyes a moment.

**// 762-TRANSCRIPTION ERROR-NOISE ABOVE THRESHOLD //**

Dumb fucker. This is Bravo Mike. Primary objective accomplished. Clear the street for extraction, the clock is running.

Now, where were we? Get up, have a seat. What, you think I'd come to a posh place like this for just an interview? Oh, suck it up. If you want to be a real journalist, you're gonna see blood. Besides, I didn't hit his wife or kids.

Before I go, I want to make sure you let your readers know that shadowrunning isn't all glamour, sex, and wealth. Sure, sometimes people will manage to get that for themselves. Sometimes, we don't choose the jobs, the jobs choose us. Sometimes, we get to stick it to The Man. Sometimes, we rob from the rich and give to the poor. Sometimes, we're the only thing standing between some innocent family and a corporate cleanup squad, a raving blood mage, or a hive of insect spirits. Sometimes, we're heroes. Sometimes, we shoot other people right in the face for money.