



ample), or for certain data to be accessible by security officers who attempt to access it with authorized security codes. In high-security neighborhoods, it is common practice for police drones to scan the PANs of random people on the street—those with something to hide are usually up to no good.

## PAN MODES

Via the commlink, PANs can be set to operate in three different modes. You can change the mode of your PAN as a Free Action (see *Change Linked Device Mode*, p. 135).

**Active:** This mode is the default for most PANs. In active mode, you can both access and be accessed by other nodes (PANs, devices, and networks). Certain areas may require your PAN to be in active mode (airports, corp facilities, etc.)

**Passive:** A PAN in this mode can access nodes but cannot be accessed by them without your approval. PANs in passive mode will still show up as active networks if searched for. This mode is useful for operating in high traffic areas, where advertising nets or spammers abound. Passive mode allows you to automatically filter out the noise, only alerting you if specific pre-authorized nodes request access.

**Hidden:** In this mode, your PAN is invisible to other nodes unless you access or authorize them. PAN users in hidden mode are said to be “ghosting,” since there is no way for other users to see them. Using hidden mode is discouraged in some high-class social situations, where it is considered rude. In other areas, however—particularly tech-free zones or shadow

establishments where privacy is expected—the opposite is true. Certain secure areas and high-class establishments prohibit users from operating in hidden mode, and will punish those doing so with expulsion, arrest, or worse.

## PERSONA

The persona represents your Matrix alter ego. It is a combination of programs that you use, in conjunction with your device’s OS, to represent yourself to other users and nodes in the Matrix. Your persona’s attributes are determined by the attributes of whatever device/OS you are using to access the Matrix—usually your commlink or terminal, though you may sometimes access via other devices.

Your persona’s Firewall, Response, Signal, and System attributes are equal to the device and OS you are using to access the Matrix. Attacks made against your persona affect the device/OS, though Black IC programs affect the actual user directly.

### Icon

Your persona’s icon graphically represents you in augmented reality (and especially in virtual reality, see p. 228), and in most forms of Matrix communications (email, messaging, phone calls, etc). Whether you bought your icon off the shelf or programmed your own, icons are easily customizable with a library of features and you can trick them out on the fly with different animated movements, color schemes, mutable design elements, and other digital skin effects. Icons take many