that plug into a commlink or terminal. Many corporations require this accessory for telecommuting workers. When a logon is attempted, the node queries the module; if it doesn't receive the proper code, the user is denied access.

Account Privileges

Most accounts have some sort of limitations; after all, it doesn't make sense to allow every user to read every other user's email and access their personal files. Likewise, system administrators and security hackers need privileges above and beyond those of the basic user. Three types of account privileges exist: personal, security, and admin. If you have the passcode for an account, you are considered a legitimate authorized user, unless you attempt an action that the account does not have privileges for.

Personal accounts provide basic privileges to access the files and devices you need to do your job, but that's about it. The extent of access typically depends on the user's position in the organization: a supervisor will have wider access than a lowly office temp. Sometimes personal accounts will be grouped together, so that users in that group may access files marked for access by their group.

Security accounts are given to senior management and the mid-level technical staff. Most security hackers also have security passcodes, though some have been known to hack themselves up to admin access, depending on how strongly their corporation feels on this issue. Security users are also often part of one or more user groups.

Admin status is only granted to a few users. Also known as "root," admin privilege gives you total access, so that any problems that come up in the system can be solved. Admin access authorizes almost any activity, including destruction of important data or actions that damage the system or render it inactive.

Note that standard electronic devices only have admin accounts, as there is no need for other accounts for their software.

THE DATATRAIL

Every time you are online—which is usually *all of the time*—your presence is logged. Every wireless device, terminal, and wired jackpoint has a unique serial number assigned by the manufacturer (and often registered with the local telecomm authorities as well). This *access ID* is associated with all of your online transactions and typically logged by any device you access. This record is called your datatrail, and it may be used by hackers to track you down or by law enforcement to link you to certain crimes or activities.

For information on spoofing your datatrail, see p. 224.

MATRIX JARGON *(Cont.)*

Ghosts in the Machine—Various mysterious phenomena and perceived entities that seem to exist entirely within the Matrix. Some believe these are AIs or spirits of the Matrix. Others believe they are the disembodied personalities of people trapped within the Matrix during the Crash of '64.

Grid—A series of interlocking networks.

Hacker—Someone who explores and exploits technology in general and the Matrix specifically, often illegally and sometimes with criminal intent.

Haptics—Interactions based on the sense of touch.

Hot Sim—Simsense without the safeguards that prevent potentially damaging biofeedback. Illegal in most areas.

Icon—The virtual representation of a program in the Matrix.

Intrusion Countermeasures (IC)—Any software program installed in a computer system (host) with the express purpose of protecting that system from unauthorized users. Pronounced as "ice."

Jackpoints—Any physical location that provides access to the Matrix by plugging in with a wired connection.

Living Persona—The mental "organic computer" that allows technomancers to access the Matrix with their minds alone.

Local Area Network (LAN)—A local communication system between computers and other electronics.

Matrix—The worldwide telecommunications network.

Meat—Slang term to refer to either an unwired individual, or the physical part of a hacker that gets left behind while surfing the Matrix in full VR.

Meshed—Slang for online, connected to the Matrix.

Mesh Networks—A network in which every device on the network is connected to every other device.

Networks—Interacting groups of computerized devices.

Node—Any device or network that can be accessed.

Operating System (OS)—The master program that controls a specific device.

Personal Area Network (PAN)—The network created by all of the wirelessly-linked electronic devices carried on (or within) a person. The commlink is usually the primary hub of this network.

Persona—The "shell" program that represents a user in the Matrix; the user's icon.

Pilot—A robotic brain program, similar to System, but including semi-autonomous decision-making abilities. Used for agents and drones.

Real Life (RL)—Anything not having to do with the Matrix.

Regional Telecommunication Grid (RTG)—The largest type of grid, RTGs cover entire countries.

Response—A computer attribute representing raw processing power.

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