

Patient Zero Player Handouts

Patient Zero is an adventure for the *Shadowrun* game system and the *Shadowrun Missions* campaign setting. It may be used for players and characters of all experience levels. For use with *Shadowrun, Fourth Edition* TM









Pembrose Library: Lower Level



Pembrose Library: Main Level



Pembrose Library: Upper Level



UNIVERSITY OF DENVER Department of Psychology

The Effects of Modern Computer Interface Technology on Metahuman Unconscious Cognition

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Submitted: 14 July 2069

ABSTRACT: With the advent of ubiquitous wireless technology and the increasing market saturation of so-called "Augmented Reality" devices in technological cultures, an increasing concern for the effect of such constant stimulation on the metahuman brain has come to the forefront of scientific and sociological thought. While the existence and effect of "subliminal messages" upon unconscious cognition have long been known, it is has until recently been unknown whether the increasingly popular AR technology can have a similar or more pronounced impact on the metahuman psyche.

After a study with one hundred and twenty-six (126) subjects of various gender, metatype, and ethnic descent, it has become evident that AR devices can cause a more pronounced level of suggestibility in subjects, but only under circumstances that are so rare and extreme as to render the task impossible. The production of measurable results would require five tools capable of working in perfect concert:

- 1. A large pool of knowledge of metahuman psychology, rivaling that of a university department.
- 2. An unprecedented control of electronic devices, able to adjust the process almost every second. Such speeds can be achieved through an electronic program (or agent), but such a program lacks the decision-making capabilities required. A metahuman mind could achieve such speeds, but only through an illegal and dangerous connection to artificial stimulus, and then would be less effective by virtue of the fatigue that the mind would suffer as a result of constant control.
- 3. A program capable of generating truly patternless random numbers.
- 4. A program capable of detecting and analyzing metahuman subconscious response and predicting metahuman reaction based on those data. (See Dr. Tashia Cristaldi's paper, "The Development of Predictive Software by Mental Health Institutions and Gambling Establishments," Jun 2068).
- 5. Schematics and source-code for various brands of display link products.



Patient Admission Record

Notes: Mary checked into Crisis Triage Unit exhibiting Artificially Induced Psychotropic Schizophrenia. Gave only first name. Wavered between states of catatonia and mania. Admission interview given by PNP-100127 via Matrix Feed:

<<<< Begin Audio Transcript >>>>

PNP-100127: Hello, Mary. Can you hear me all right? Patient: Yes. I hear you. Where are you? PNP-100127: I'm in Seattle, Mary. I'm here to help you. Patient: I can see you. PNP-100127: No, Mary, you can't. I'm talking to you over the Matrix, and we're not using video. I'm connected to your commlink. Patient: You've been doing this to me! PNP-100127: No, Mary, I just met you. Patient: Why have you done this to me? PNP-100127: You're in a safe room, Mary. We're going to keep you safe so we can find out what's wrong with you. Patient: I won't do it! PNP-100127: All right, Mary, that's okay. You don't have to scream, I can hear you fine. Patient: You wouldn't dare! PNP-100127: Wouldn't dare what, Mary? Patient: Leave my family out of this! PNP-100127: All right, Mary, we don't have to talk about your family. What would you like to talk about? Patient: Stop doing this to me! PNP-100127: It's okay, Mary. I just want to ask some questions and talk to you a little while and then we can let you go. Patient: That's insane! How could you g... [unintelligible] PNP-100127: Okay, Mary, calm down ... Patient: [unintelligible] PNP-100127: We don't have to let you go. Just settle down, take some deep breaths ... Patient: ...king insane! PNP-100127: Okay, Mary, can you calm down for me please? Patient: Okay, I'll do it. Just leave my family alone. PNP-100127: Good. And I promise not to go near your family. I didn't even mention them. Now, how do you feel. Patient: Fine. Actually, I'm feeling great. I'll be checking out now. PNP-100127: Do you think that's a good idea, Mary? I think we should talk more ...

Patient: If you need me, you can come visit me at the Penrose Library. Otherwise, thank you for the lovely conversation. Be seeing you.

<<<< End Audio Transcript >>>>

Visual Security Log Extract 05:17:59.99



Setto's name is a Japanese phonetic transliteration of his real name, Seth Kraemer. He is 36 years old, stands at 1.9 m in height, and weighs about 80 kg. He wears impeccable clothing and a ring made of orichalcum.

Karemaru is the highest-ranking gaijin in the Yamato-gumi. He got there through skillful social manipulation, a perfect sense of timing, and a copy of The Exchange that he keeps in a hidden directory on his commlink.

Karemaru stays cool under pressure. He speaks slowly and pointedly. He prefers to have underlings perform violence and take risks.

Setto Karemaru

Yakuza Wakagashira-Hosa Human Male Connection Rating: 3

B A R S C I L W IP 2 2 2 2 5 4 4 5 1

Key Active Skills: Con: 4; Computer: 3; Data Search: 2; Etiquette: 5; Intimidation: 2; Negotiation: 4; Perception: 3

Key Knowledge Skills: Yakuza Policies: 5; Machiavellian Scheming: 3; Japanese Culture (Traditional): 3 (+2); Poetry (Japanese): 2 (+2) Languages: English: N; Japanese: 5 Lakota (Sioux) 2 (+2); Sperethiel: 2; German: 2 Gear: Tailored Actioneer Business Suit, commlink (all Ratings 5 with Analyze, Browse, and Edit), orichalcum ring, designer sunglasses Uses: Information on Yakuza activities. Fencing gear to the Yakuza. Places to Meet: Yakuza establishments Contact: Commlink Setto's name is a Japanese phonetic transliteration of his real name, Seth Kraemer. He is 36 years old, stands at 1.9 m in height, and weighs about 80 kg. He wears impeccable clothing and a ring made of orichalcum.

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A software package known as The has begun distribution Exchange throughout the Denver shadows. Once installed in a standard commlink, users receive periodic requests to undertake simple actions-anything from taking a picture to leaving an extra copy of a program in an empty data node to delivering a mysterious packageaccompanied by the promise of a "karmic reward." Rewards are often tailored to be of specific benefit to the individual bearer. implying a sophisticated understanding of the bearer's life, activities, and current situation. Rewards have included intelligence, software, equipment, and similar favors applied via oblique methods and seemingly unrelated parties.

The Exchange never makes requests for currency, and Exchange members have never reported being "karmically awarded" with money.

The Exchange

Peer to Peer Social Network

Places to Meet: The program is normally active in the background on the 'runner's commlink.

Rules: At the start of each adventure, the GM makes a secret Opposed Test between the character and the Exchange, using a dice pool of 3 for each. If there are no net hits on either side, the Exchange remains quiet for the adventure. If the player receives more hits, the Exchange will at some point in the adventure quietly provide a benefit equivalent to Favor Rating equal to the net hits. If the Exchange wins, the Exchange will ask for a favor with a Favor Rating equal to the net hits at some point in the adventure; if the character fails to perform the favor, the Exchange tags him or her as unreliable and no longer gives the character access to the Exchange network. For more information on Favor Ratings, see SR4, p. 280-281.

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Player: Character:	Date: Locatio	n:	Green Stree Profe	n	le Level U Veteran Elite Prime			
Synopsis Wheels within wheels. An unexpected Johnson leads to a messy situation. Who's pulling whose strings? You'll need to answer that before the Yakuza lose their patience.								
Mission Result Taske: was capture Mary: went to the Penrose Library: was Other Notes on R	ed. ❑ was eliminated. Yakuza. ❑ was kille s largely unaffected. I	d. 🗖 survived un		Mafia Chavez Mafia Casquilho Yakuza	Faction Enemy Ally Enemy Ally Enemy Ally			
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