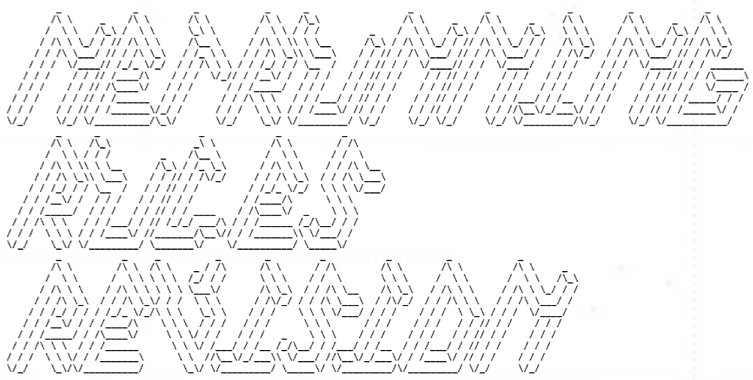

While my initial intention was to stick to the rules straight from the basic manual for my latest forum games, I've decided to tweak and clarify a few things to better match my preferences and enhance the experience for my players.

It's still the same game, but with static values and less rolls.

So it doesn't change that much ...

Step 1: Preparing for the Run

First things first, you need a cyberterminal and some programs. Without these, you're not going far.

When you power up your terminal and get ready to dive into the net, the first thing you'll encounter is a virtual room linked to your terminal. Here, you can run your programs locally and set up your net persona, deciding on the name and appearance you'll adopt once inside the net.

Step 2: Traveling the Network

If you're already directly connected to the target network, you can skip this step.

To traverse the global network, you'll need to hop through several main nodes or proxies. These are usually located in major cities and can often be found in publicly available lists.

If you want to avoid leaving a trail that links back to your real-world location (keep those I-G algorithms in mind), you'll need to bypass the nodes' security protocols. It's not particularly hard, but every time you reroute signals and stack fake IDs, it slows your connection down.

Each node has a "trace" value and a "security" value. The trace value adds to the difficulty of tracking you, while the combined security value (divided by two) imposes a penalty on your initiative rolls.

Step 3: Infiltration

Once you've reached your target, it's time to breach the data fortress and deploy your malware. There are plenty of nasty little programs at your disposal.

As long as you're playing nice and staying under the radar, the system won't bother with you. But the moment you launch an attack, the system's defenses will kick in, or worse, it'll alert the sysop to your presence. That's when things get real—time to roll for initiative and start moving in turns.

Pro tip: Have some Stealth programs handy. Without them, you'll quickly learn why netrunners have nightmares about black ice.

When navigating the net, you'll be making a variety of checks (check the table).

The STR refers to the strength of the attacking or defending program. For instance, if you want to hide, you'll need programs to mask your signal or ID and beat the system's detection programs (like the Dog series).

If the opponent (AI or sysop) is aware of your presence, they can attack you freely. If not, they'll have to locate you first, even if you're causing chaos in their system. In desperation, they might cut external communications or reboot the system.

To FIND, READ, EDIT, COPY, and DELETE data from a data fortress, you first have to overcome its defenses (Data Walls or Code Gates) with appropriate anti-system programs (like Drill). If you leave and the administrator detects the breach, they'll restore the defenses.

Initiative: REF + speed + 1d10 (terminal)		
Stealth and Evasion: 1d10 + program STR	vs.	Difficulty 6 + Detection program STR
Anti-System Attacks: 1d10 + program STR	vs.	Difficulty 6 + Data Wall or Code Gate STR
Anti-Personnel Attacks: 1d10 + prog. STR + Interface	vs.	Difficulty 6 + program STR + Interface
Anti-Software Attacks: 1d10 + prog. STR + Interface	vs.	Difficulty 6 + program STR + Interface
Drivers and Utilities: 1d10 + program STR	vs.	Difficulty 6 + Data Wall STR

Step 4: Exit

After completing your mission, you can either move to other net areas or disconnect (requiring a roll of 8 or more on a d10).

Notes

If you've breached a data fortress's Data Walls or Code Gates, you don't need a test to control remote computers (though you still need the program).

Without programs, you can't manipulate the net, but you can still browse, manually interact with Code Gates, and access unprotected memory blocks. To acquire programs, you might try contacting other netrunners or visiting netrunner hubs for assistance.

Most data fortresses have public zones that don't require a raid to access. Here, you can usually find contact information, products, or organize meetings.