



The year is 2072. Megacorporations control vast swaths of the globe through numerous puppet governments. A handful of massive oligarchies remain after the tumultuous events of the mid 21st century. An ever increasing level of inequality creates fierce competition between the lower classes, with the lucky few working for one of the global conglomerates. Regulations are nonexistent, with corporate security forces often larger than the local military. Among all of the high stakes assassinations and industrial espionage are countless workers, all desperate for a place to stay and some food to eat. Many turn to a life of combat and crime, whether for glory, fame, riches, or need. For whatever events led you here, you are one of them. One day, a letter is slipped under your door, politely informing you that you now work in Permacorp's 'Layer 9 Tech Support' department. They believe you could be very productive there. You are not given the opportunity to refuse. Welcome to Cyberlancers.

PERMACORP OPERATING SYSTEM 4.12 - TERMINAL #014

HAVE A PROFITABLE DAY



ALERT: [1] NEW URGENT UNREAD MESSAGE

--- [#1]

FROM: DANIEL WICKERS

CC: BRIAN SHOW

SUBJECT: "RE: PROSPECTIVE LAYER-9 ASSETS"

MR. SMITH,

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED THE DOSSIERS ON LAYER-9'S NEW CANDIDATES.

'AILI KALMISTO' DOSSIER [[LINK](#)]

'CLARISSE KEPPEL' DOSSIER [[LINK](#)]

'EXECUTOR WOLF' DOSSIER [[LINK](#)]

'IVAN KOVAC' DOSSIER [[LINK](#)] INTERVIEW [[LINK](#)]

'JODY SPARKS' DOSSIER [[LINK](#)]

'NIKI CHEUNG' DOSSIER [[LINK](#)]

'SANGRAWEE PAITHOONBUATHONG' DOSSIER [[LINK](#)]

ADDITIONALLY, SUPPORT AI CODENAMED 'XIEZHI' HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT,
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. SEE BELOW FOR TRANSFER DETAILS.

'XIEZHI'-TYPE AI SPECIFICATIONS [[LINK](#)]

'ZHI'-TYPE DRONE SPECIFICATIONS [[LINK](#)]

'HOUYI'-TYPE DRONE SPECIFICATIONS [[LINK](#)]

REGARDS,

DANIEL WICKERS

CORPORATE SECURITY - HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

PERMACORP HQ, BUILDING 241, LEVEL 2, NEW HONG KONG

ENTER QUERY

>**list**

RETRIEVING... PLEASE WAIT...

PERMACORP EMPLOYEE MANUAL 4.0 [[LINK](#)]

PERMACORP PERSONNEL DOSSIERS 4.0 [[LINK](#)]

PERMACORP RULES OF ENGAGEMENT 4.0 [[LINK](#)]

PERMACORP TECHNOLOGIES DATABASE 4.0 [[LINK](#)]

PERMACORP ARMORY MANIFEST 4.0 [[LINK](#)]

WARNING: THE FOLLOWING FILES ARE RESTRICTED TO LEVEL 5 [CLASSIFIED] ACCESS OR ABOVE.

ENTER PASSPHRASE FOR VERIFICATION:

>**quest**

ACCESS GRANTED. DECRYPTING...

PERMACORP CLASSIFIED TECHNOLOGIES DATABASE 4.0 [[LINK](#)]

>**help HONGKONG**

LOADING INFOPAGE...

New Hong Kong

(Unofficially: **The Megalith**)



Following the Chinese Civil War of 2031, and the dissolution of the People's Republic of China, the government of Hong Kong established itself as a fully independent nation-state. The tidal wave of refugees from the shattered PRC caused an unprecedented business boom, as labor costs fell through the floor. Corporations quickly capitalized on the new opportunity, with enormous construction projects undertaken in the already cramped space of Hong Kong. As of the 2070 census, the population is estimated at 55 million citizens, with between 80 and 110 million 'refugee workers' in the lower levels of the city. While Cantonese is the most commonly spoken language, Mandarin is still in heavy use among the refugees (and other immigrants). The state's official currency is HK\$, but barter and Renminbi are common on the lower levels.



Eventually, the lack of space forced construction to expand vertically. Initially, a few skybridges between the tallest skyscrapers were built to facilitate the quick transfer of material and personnel. However, as the number of skybridges expanded, the government decided to step in and construct a massive support structure, reaching beyond the tallest skyscrapers.



With the new support structures in place, the corporations continued expanding at a breakneck speed, leaving some of their older buildings in disrepair as the upper level was packed with the most glamorous new apartments and executive offices.

Forty years later, the upper city is just as densely packed as below. On paper, any citizen is allowed to freely travel between the upper and lower levels, but transit is often restricted to those with corporate-sponsored passports, or political connections. The upper level remains heavily policed, with a high density of both corporate police and the military's City Guard. Living in the upper city is extremely expensive, with most workers being assigned a company apartment, or commuting from the lower districts.



Meanwhile, the ground-level city has fallen into disarray, as the government has largely pulled out of policing the sprawl of rickety apartments

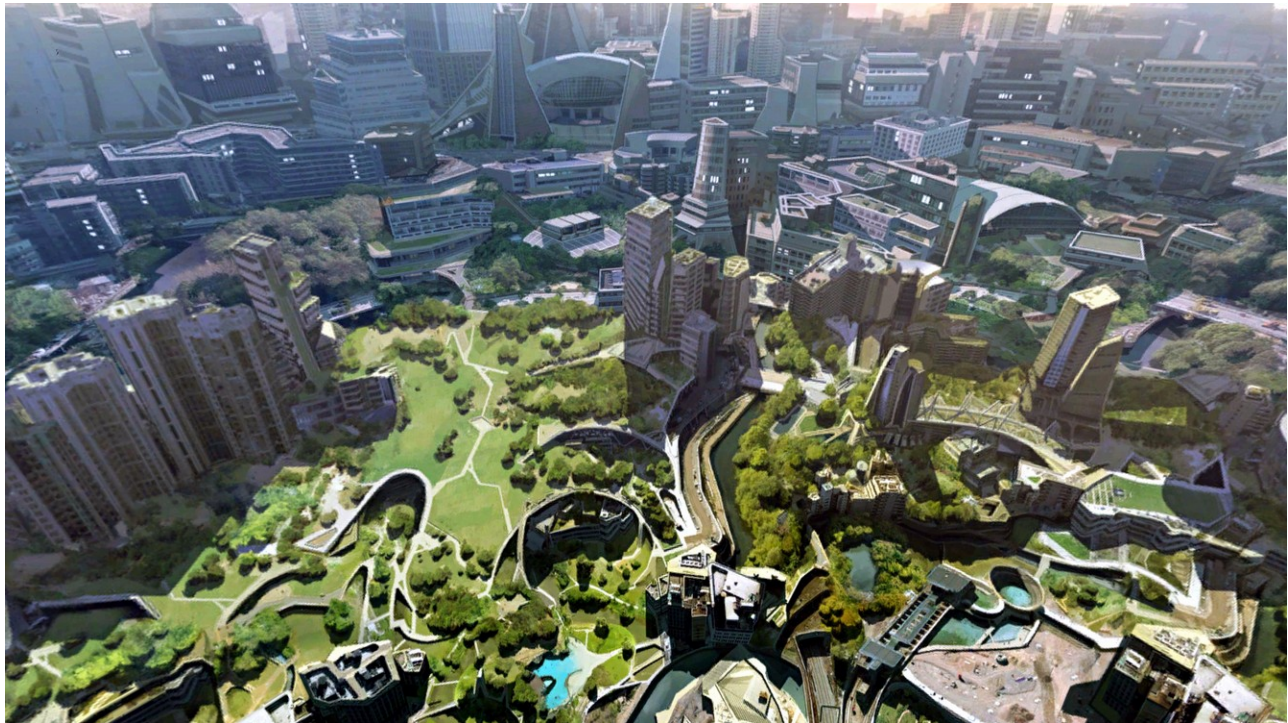
and sweatshops. On paper, the lower city is still a part of New Hong Kong, but the majority of territory and workers are controlled by the city's numerous Triads.

Officially, New Hong Kong is separated into four different zones:

- **Level 0:** The underground 'maintenance level'. This level possesses a maze of dwellings and settlements, squeezed along the infrastructure. Conditions are terrible across the board, with cave-like living environments, and the majority of the population living in squalor. If you're looking for a mark that's gone into hiding, chances are they're somewhere down here. - *Avoid travel if at all possible. The majority of this level is unmapped and extremely dangerous.*



- **Level 1:** The lower city. A hive of old, crumbling skyscrapers and vertically built shantytowns, which house the endless amounts of refugee workers. The roadways and most large buildings are mapped, but you may have trouble navigating the slums. Permacorp maintains labor and protection deals with three of the five major triads. - *Travel cautiously, avoid districts outside of Permacorp's control.*



- **Level 2:** The upper city. Well maintained and thoroughly policed. Permacorp's headquarters and other holdings are on this level. Six massive elevator systems provide access to the upper level from the lower city. The upper city boasts plenty of luxurious hotels and office spaces, if you've got the cash. - *Safe to travel, but keep the less-than-legal activities to the lower levels. Let's not have a repeat of last year's mess.*



- **Level 3:** The tallest skyscrapers in the city reach into Level 3, a cluster of buildings owned by the NHK government and the richest of megacorps. Travel is restricted to government personnel and high-ranking corporate executives, - *If you're ever invited up here, you better be on your best behavior. We can't bail you out if you punch a senator.*
- **Level 4:** A space elevator [REDACTED] Construction was finished in early 206 [REDACTED]

REDACTED BY ORDER OF NEW HONG KONG SUPREME COURT

SECTION 306.B.P2

>search 'CORPORATIONS' in 'HONGKONG_1' sort by 'FINANCE' AND 'MANPOWER' 5
LOADING...

TOP 5 CORPORATIONS IN [NEW HONG KONG]

Shiawase Corporation

Business Interests: Electronics,
Communications, Networking, R&D,
Health Care, Manufacturing

Annual Earnings: \$4.1T

Workforce: 26M

The largest electronics corporation in the world, Shiawase provides 70% of all consumer, industrial, and telecommunications electronics. Permacorp has several favorable manufacturing and R&D exchange deals with them.



=====NEXT=====

Dumont Agribusiness

Business Interests: Agriculture,
Pharmaceuticals, Bioengineering

Annual Earnings: \$2.5T

Workforce: 18M

Dumont is a large agricultural megacorp, which won the government's contract for providing foodstuffs and other biological products to New Hong Kong. However, a recent scandal involving 'contaminated' meat and artificial blood threatens their contract.



=====NEXT=====

Armadyne

Business Interests: Military/Defense,
Aerospace, Security, Advanced R&D

Annual Earnings: \$2.7T

Workforce: 13M



ArmaDyne is the largest NHK based arms manufacturer. They specialize in aerospace technology, and spearheaded the construction of the Level 4 Space [REDACTED]

=====NEXT=====

PermaCorp

Business Interests: Manufacturing, Electricity, Utilities, R&D, Construction



PermaCorp
Group of Companies Inc.

Annual Earnings: \$1.8T

Workforce: 11M

PermaCorp is an up and coming manufacturing and utilities conglomerate, providing electricity and contract manufacturing to the North Hong Kong area. The company's aggressive business strategies have rocketed them to success in recent years.

=====NEXT=====

Ishiyama Group

Business Interests: Shipping, Retail, Financial Services, Brokerage

Annual Earnings: \$0.9T

Workforce: 7M



The Ishiyama Group is the oldest corporation still based in Hong Kong, supplying the bulk of the shipping in and out of the city. Lately, the company has experienced major financial turmoil after a slew of container ship losses, reportedly due to piracy.

=====EXIT=====

>search 'TRIADS' sort by 'POWER' 5

LOADING...

TOP 5 TRIADS [NEW HONG KONG]

Dragon's Rose

Relations: NEUTRAL

Speciality: WORKERS

The largest triad in New Hong Kong, Dragon's Rose controls the city center, and nearly half of the manpower in the city.

NOTE: PermaCorp's business relations with Dragon's Rose is on uneven ground after a chemical spill resulted in the unfortunate contamination of one of their buildings, and the subsequent expiration of [REDACTED] workers.

=====NEXT=====

The Red Hand

Relations: UNFAVORABLE

Speciality: CONTRACT VIOLENCE, PROSTITUTION, NARCOTICS

The Red Hand is a particularly brutal Triad, known for their extreme methods of population control. They control the western half of New Hong Kong, and have been moving towards acquiring the Yuen Long District, along the PRC border.

NOTE: After last year's incident, PermaCorp has decided to cut professional relations with the Red Hand Triad. Avoid their territory at all costs.

=====NEXT=====

4K1

Relations: NEUTRAL

Speciality: NARCOTICS, SMUGGLING, HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The oldest surviving Triad in New Hong Kong, 4K1 controls the northern and eastern districts along the old PRC border. However, 4K1's territory is slowly shrinking as the Red Hand continues their assault of Yuen Long. Avoid the contested districts.

=====NEXT=====

Longteng Clan

Relations: FAVORABLE

Speciality: INFORMATION TRADING, CYBERSPACE PROTECTION, SMUGGLING

Originally from Shenzhen, the Longteng Clan has contacts across Asia. They control the Old City districts, as well as the southern islands (commonly known as the Wanshan Archipelago).

=====NEXT=====

The Vultures

Relations: FAVORABLE

Speciality: SHIPPING, WORKERS, PROTECTION

A smaller triad that controls the city's docks. Their territory extends through the waterways and ports, as well as the southern half of the Sai Kung district. As their name suggests, the Vultures prefer a more passive approach than the other Triads, preferring to strike when their enemy is already down.

=====EXIT=====

>delete HISTORY.LOG

>shutdown

SHUTTING DOWN PERMACORP TERMINAL...

"REMEMBER, WE'RE HERE FOREVER!"

