

AEONWAVE

A FATE CORE CYBERPUNK SCENARIO



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You can find pre-generated character sheets and GM handouts for *Aeon Wave* at aeonwave.com.

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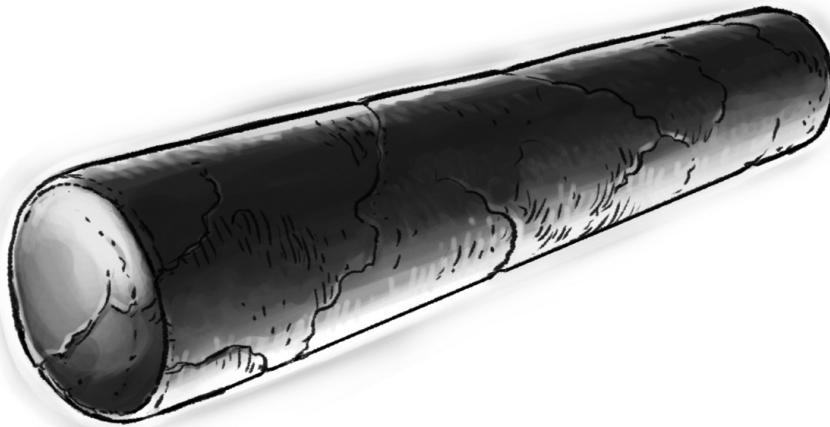
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SCENARIO SUMMARY

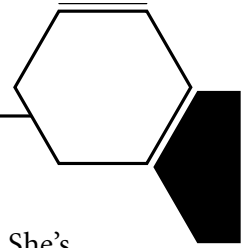
It's the year 2073. Discovery of an ancient Martian radio signal known as the Aeon Wave has led to the development of advanced technology called Aeontech. The shift of technological power toppled governments and gave rise to the megacorps who currently wage a silent war over the remaining priceless secrets held within the Aeon Wave. Fueled by the greed of the megacorps, the ecological and economic deterioration of the planet points to the extinction of the human race in 200 years. In the city of New Tianjin, hidden in the shadows of the megacorps, freelancers battle for power, wealth, anarchy, or to save humanity from the fate portended by the Aeon Wave.

In the wreckage of the New Tianjin Railway Station, now known simply as the Station, an android containing the memories and personality of a dead doctor asks the player characters (PCs)—a band of freelancers—to investigate the true cause of her death. Her payment is a decoded segment of the Aeon Wave. After facing off with a megacorp assassination squad, the PCs work their way to the R&D Center for the Red Sea Megacorp where they must fight past Northrunner security forces, White Lotus cyber-security hackers, and Kurote corporate assassins to enter the AI Labs where they will meet Pythia, the most powerful quantum-powered AI on the



USE WHAT YOU KNOW!

If you're not that familiar with the cyberpunk genre, use the settings and dressings from your favorite near-future science fiction book, TV show, video game, or movie. Steal liberally from *Blade Runner*, *Firefly*, *Equilibrium*, *Fifth Element*, *Demolition Man*, *Robocop*, *Looper*, *Minority Report*, *AI*, *The Matrix*, or any other appropriate Earth-bound science fiction movie. Feel free to build the world as best fits you and your players!



planet. Pythia is the only algorithm able to fully understand the Aeon Wave. She's also potentially the most dangerous being on the planet. To unleash her on the net would put the fate of humanity into her hands. Pythia offers them a choice: Release her and save humanity, or deny her and watch humanity capitulate and die.

HOW TO USE THIS SCENARIO

Aeon Wave is a near-future science fiction mini-campaign setting and scenario for the *Fate Core* or *Fate Accelerated Edition* (FAE) roleplaying game systems. *Aeon Wave* is set in the year 2073, and follows the spirit of cyberpunk and hard science fiction stories such as *Blade Runner*, *Neuromancer*, *AI*, *Altered Carbon*, and *Snow Crash*.

In *Aeon Wave*, the players take on the roles of “freelancers”—guns-for-hire with an undefined allegiance who navigate between the all-powerful megacorps and the remnants of humanity who struggle for survival every day. “Escape,” the main scenario in *Aeon Wave*, is a one shot or short run mini-campaign that requires minimal preparation. The setting material will help you run other fun cyberpunk adventures with little preparation and lots of flexibility. You're free to use or omit any piece of this scenario to fit the game you and your group want to play. *Aeon Wave* assumes you, the game master (GM), are already familiar with the *Fate Core* rule system. If you aren't, consider running *Aeon Wave* with the *Fate Accelerated Edition* rules.

If you're playing *Aeon Wave* with no or little preparation, follow these steps:

- Give each player a copy of the *Aeon Wave Player's Guide* (page 44).
- Skim over and describe the Aspects of *Aeon Wave* (page 7).
Answer the players' questions.
- Hand out the *Aeon Wave* Pre-generated Characters available at aeonwave.com.
- While the players read over the player's guide and character sheet, read over the main game scenario: “Escape.”
- Review Dr. Chen's journals (page 42) and be ready to sprinkle them into the story as the PCs explore Red Sea.
- Skim over the key locations and NPC sections throughout the scenario. These will mainly come into play during section 2 of the game.
- Relax, go with the story as it unfolds, and have fun!

The purpose of many of the elements in this scenario is to trigger the imagination of both the game master and the players. It's not intended to be all-inclusive. Many elements of the scenario are purposefully vague so you can adapt them to fit your own desires as a GM and the desires of your group. This scenario provides examples of stunts, aspects, and gear to help players and GMs build their own details and describes how Aeontech can flavor the default *Fate Core* skills. Players and GMs are encouraged to go with their own ideas as they read through these examples.

USING FATE ACCELERATED EDITION

Aeon Wave is designed around the rules of *Fate Core*, but it's easily adapted to the more streamlined *Fate Accelerated Edition* (FAE) rules. Aeontech plays a big part in character creation, and high approach scores likely come from Aeontech enhancements. The GM can reinforce this by asking questions like "What Aeontech enhancement gives you your high bonus to sneaky?" The higher the bonus, the more powerful Aeontech the character has to boost that bonus.

WORLD ASPECTS OF AEON WAVE

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PRICELESS MARTIAN TECHNOLOGY

Over 60 years ago, in 2016, a robotic probe discovered a four billion year old satellite orbiting Mars. On radio contact, it began beaming a massive radio transmission called the Aeon Wave. Although decoding the ancient signal proves extremely difficult, early analysis produces fantastic advancement in nuclear fusion, quantum computing, and nanotechnology; these advances are referred to as Aeontech. Aeontech has dramatically changed life on Earth—yet the Aeon Wave still holds many secrets. Decoded Aeon Wave data, measured in terabytes, is the most valuable currency on Earth. Some see the Aeon Wave as the ultimate source of power and profit. Some see it as the future survival of humanity. Some see it as a harbinger of a doomed world.

MEGACORPS RULE THE WORLD

The injection of Aeontech eviscerated Earth's political, economic, and environmental ecosystem. Governments fell and corporations rose in power as those first able to obtain and capitalize on Aeontech destroyed those without. These massive corporations, known as the megacorps, created and now dominate the new world order. Aeontech brings these few megacorps vast wealth, power, and control. For the rest of humanity there is little but poverty, pain, and the escapes doled out by the megacorps to keep them docile.

WE HAVE 200 YEARS LEFT

The production of Aeontech creates environmental chaos across the globe. Unchecked corporate greed leads to the stripmining of entire continents and results in vast pollution. Those scientists who will not remain silent agree that humanity has 200 years left on Earth. As proof of the extinction of an advanced race in our own solar system, the Aeon Wave portends our own fate and confirms the Fermi paradox: all advanced societies die before they can colonize deep space. While some see the Aeon Wave as a harbinger of doom, others see it as our salvation. Within it lies the gateway to the stars—yet it lies trapped in the crushing grip of megacorp greed.

ABOUT AEONTECH

Aeontech brought massive Earth-changing technical advancements in quantum computing, cold fusion, and nanotechnology. Aeontech often plays a direct part in the roles of the freelancers. As players develop their characters, the GM should reinforce the importance of Aeontech in those characters. Categories of useful Aeontech include:

- **Nanotech:** Allows for physical augmentation such as physical enhancement chemicals, on-demand medical treatments, bone and muscle augmentation, and chameleon skin pigmentation.
- **Quantum-Neural Interfaces:** Useful for direct neurological connections to weapons, vehicles, and computer systems.
- **Optical Augmented Reality:** Offers an information overlay onto the user's view of the real world. Useful for investigation, targeting, and sensory improvement.
- **Advanced Molecular Manufacturing:** Aeontech manufacturing results in lightweight, durable, and flexible materials for stronger weapons, armor, clothing, and equipment.
- **Aeonsoft:** Self-learning quantum-processed algorithms that can act like small pieces of artificial intelligence for nearly any software job. Useful for cracking security systems, retrieving and processing limitless information, and building virtual realities from existing evidence.

It's the year 2073. Discovery of an ancient Martian radio signal known as the Aeon Wave has led to the development of advanced technology called Aeontech. The shift of technological power toppled governments and gave rise to the megacorps who currently wage a silent war over the remaining priceless secrets held within the Aeon Wave. Fueled by the greed of the megacorps, the ecological and economic deterioration of the planet points to the extinction of the human race in 200 years. In the city of New Tianjin, hidden in the shadows of the megacorps, freelancers battle in the shadows of the megacorps as freelancers battle for power, wealth, anarchy, or to save humanity from the fate portended by the Aeon Wave.

GLOBAL ASPECTS OF AEON WAVE

- *Priceless Martian Technology*
- *Megacorps Rule the World*
- *We Have 200 Years Left*

ABOUT AEONTECH

Aeontech brought massive Earth-changing technological advancements in quantum computing, cold fusion, and nanotechnology. Use the following Aeontech ideas when describing your aspects, skills, and stunts.

- **Nanotech:** Allows for physical augmentation such as physical enhancement chemicals, on-demand medical treatments, bone and muscle augmentation, and chameleon skin pigmentation.
- **Quantum-Neural Interfaces:** Useful for direct neurological connections to weapons, vehicles, and computer systems.
- **Optical Augmented Reality:** Offers an information overlay onto the user's view of the real world. Useful for investigation, targeting, and sensory improvement.
- **Advanced Molecular Manufacturing:** Aeontech manufacturing results in lightweight, durable, and flexible materials for stronger weapons, armor, clothing, and equipment.
- **Aeonsoft:** Self-learning quantum-processed algorithms that can act like small pieces of artificial intelligence for nearly any software job. Useful for cracking security systems, retrieving and processing limitless information, and building virtual realities from existing evidence.

YOUR CHARACTER

Aeon Wave uses six pre-generated characters with some parts filled out and some left for you. These characters give you a core occupation, a default set of skills, and a stunt. Your character sheet includes instructions for defining your background, developing relationships, and choosing additional stunts. Work with your GM and your fellow players as you build these aspects.

SKILLS

This scenario uses the default Fate Core skill list to interact with the world. How characters actually possess and use these skills, however, should fit the overall theme of the world. Players and GMs can use the examples provided here to fuel their own ideas about how these skills might manifest in *Aeon Wave*.

ATHLETICS: The Athletics skill can be represented by Aeontech nanobots that augment the physical skeletal and muscular system to increase agility and speed. Synthetic fiber muscles and chemical augmentation can make the human body perform far above its normal limitations.

BURGLARY: Burglary typically represents the use of biotech, computer hacking, and other technical infiltration. Burglary might be used for the virtual theft of sourcecode or data across an Aeontech network. Micro-electronic fingertip probes embedded in the fingers of the user, special Aeontech intrusion devices, or infiltration software stored in the prefrontal lobe might all fit within the Burglary skill.

CONTACTS: Contacts represents personal connections to street gangs, megacorps, cyberspace hacker dens, or local biotech salesmen.

CRAFTS: Crafts represents hardware and software creations or modifications, advanced custom hardware manufacturing, weapons modifications, systems security development, or intrusion code development.



EXAMPLE STUNTS

The following sample stunts are intended to give players ideas to generate their own stunts. These sample stunts are written around *Fate Core* skills but can be easily modified to fit *Fate Accelerated Edition*'s approaches.

AUGMENTED TARGETING: Tapping into the power of Aeontech augmented reality, you can fire at targets through non-armored walls. You can use your Notice skill instead of your Shoot skill when making an attack action using a firearm and shooting through a wall or other obstacle that your gun can penetrate. You can only see targets that have embedded Aeontech this way.

BIOFEEDBACK: You send a pulse of electricity through someone else's delicate Aeontech implants. You can use the Will skill as an attack action against any target that has Aeontech and is actively connected to the net. A successful attack causes mental stress.

BIOTECH TARGETING HACK: By hacking into someone's Aeontech, you can override their targeting computers to misdirect their shots—sometimes hitting one of their allies instead of you. You can use your Will skill to defend against opponents with Aeontech-enhanced firearms. If your defense succeeds with style, you can spend a fate point to redirect the attack to another target rather than taking a boost.

BREECH: Your reinforced muscular and skeletal system makes you a perfect tool for kicking in doors. You gain a +2 bonus to Physique on overcome actions when smashing down physical barriers.

BULLET DEFENSE: Targeting systems and reflex amplifiers in your Aeontech let you shoot bullets out of the air. You may use Shoot as a defense action when shot at by a single shot kinetic weapon from an opponent you have already seen.

BULLET TIME: Your nano-enhanced cortex gives you greatly enhanced reactions when being shot at. You can use Notice instead of Athletics as a defend action against ranged kinetic weapons.

CORPORATE BULLSHITSPEAK: You gain a +2 bonus to Rapport on overcome actions when talking to a megacorp employee. This doesn't work against security consultants; they're wise to your bullshit.