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MITSUHAMA

>>>>> BEGIN Intro Fiction Style

The stack of meat lying on the wrong side of a monowire fence was all that remained of the first intruder; the cafeteria deli made sloppier slices. Heiki kept walking toward the security gate, where two guards visually compared the holo on her ID and waved a glowwand over her as the automated systems scanned, checked, and logged her biometrics, security tags, and belongings.

Past the guard point and in the building, Heiki glimpsed the arcane scrawl of a ward around the doorway, stepped around the small bright-green pyramids janitorial had set up around intruders two and three, then stopped at the water fountain to adjust her makeup, the AR mirror and toolbar of her virtual compact automatically adjusting her nanocosmetics as she heightened the blush on her cheeks and added a subtle MCT watermark under her left eye. The cleaning drones busily vacuumed up blood and brains and sprayed lavender-scented disinfectant as a security technician bagged the bodies, his partner covering him in case the corpse was faking.

The female junior security officer was waiting for Heiki in the lobby with a medical technician and a dronecart. They each gave a perfunctory bow and the medtech handed Heiki a sterile plastic cup, the band still firmly in place and the tag glowing green to indicate it had not been breached. The three of them decamped to the restroom, where the medtech and the junior officer waited and watched impassively for a few minutes as Heiki peed into the cup, which the medtech received with a bow, re-sealed, and returned to the dronecart next to the others.

Heiki took a minute to fix her clothes before re-emerging and continue past the lobby, a tide of bobbing heads acknowledging her as she strode past the sararimen toward the secure elevators. She touched the passkey to the lock and punched in her personal code, making sure to lay a full fingerprint on each number so the biometrics would scan properly. The brushed-steel doors parted as the lock unit sanitized herself, and a secure-channel ARO announced she was cleared to go up to level ten or down to sub-level five; she punched in sub-level 4 and rode the lift down.

Tokiman, the senior security officer, greeted her from behind a panel of bullet-proof glas as she exited the elevator.

“Good morning, Keniki-sama. How is your uncle, is he well?”

“Uncle is well, Tokiman-san. He is visiting the onsen in Miyagi” Heiki replied, providing the proper countersign.

Tokiman unlocked the door and Heiki entered the pre-interrogation office. A technician nearby began rambling off the updates to subject four’s status as Heiki methodically removed all of her electronic devices and placed them in the bin that one of the security guards held out for her. Once done, the guard did a clean sweep of Heiki for any forgotten devices, then ran the tag eraser.

The technician and guards resumed their monitoring positions as Heiki went through the seal into subject four’s Faraday cage. Blinding floods exposed the cell, blinding the prisoner; magnets pulled the metal restraints on his wrists and elbows to the floor, preventing him from moving. To Heiki’s discerning eye, the pale blue circuit-pattern prison tattoos on his arms stood out starkly against sun-starved skin and platinum-blond hair.

“Subject Four.” She said “Or should I call you Puck?”

>>>>> END Intro Fiction Style

Posted By: Rigger X

INTO THE ZERO ZONE

In the beginning, the people that bankrolled Mitsuhama Computer Technologies did that rarest of things: hired experts that knew what they were doing to run the corporation and sat back to let them do their jobs, and Mitsuhama prospered. In fact, Mitsuhama is still prospering today, under the guidance and leadership of Toshiro and Takeshi Mitsuhama, son and grandson of Mitsuhama’s founder Taiga Mitsuhama.

> Wait a tick, I thought Taiga and Toshiro only had about 2% of MCT stock between `em. What happened?

> Stone

> Eiji Yakamura happened. The “fifth Oyabun” (though he was never an oyabun) tried to muscle his way onto the board, lost, and took an extended vacation to Zurich-Orbital that lasted the rest of his

natural life. Of course, when he died all of his assets reverted to Z-OGB. Toshiro Mitsuhamas (with financial backing from the majority shareholders) bought it, meaning that for the first time a majority share of the corporation is in the Mitsuhamas family's hands.

> Mihoshi Oni

> Granted, Toshiro signed over perpetual voting rights to the Four Oyabun and Taiga took a permanent vacation up the gravity well...or so I read the signs.

> Mr. Bonds

With MCT, business is first, last, and always the most important thing. It is no secret that other megacorporations have personal projects and objectives that sometimes take them away from the important business of making nuyen—not MCT! Most of the other corps are so lost in their secret agendas and intrigues that they forget the point of the game is to make money, but Mitsuhamas's dedication to the bottom line is nigh-absolute, and you need to be aware of that if you run against them.

> And there's no cred in revenge. Mitsuhamas has a long memory, but practicality demands that if the cost of fragging your worthless hide is too high, they'll write it off. Hell, I know at least one shadowrunner that managed to pay them off by doing another job for them.

> Riser

One of the reasons that Mitsuhamas doesn't have quite the same penchant for arcane agendas is that it is seriously a mundane megacorp—no Great Dragons calling the shots or even majority shareholders (though one or two adults are on the payroll), no ancient spirits on the board of directors, no mysterious pre-Awakening magical artifacts cluttering up the corporate headquarters, not a single world-shattering Ghost Dance-level spell formula in their grimoires, and a general lack of working ancient mystical traditions. Mitsuhamas Magical Services would probably be happy to avail itself of those resources if they showed up, but so far they have not. For the last forty years Mitsuhamas has had its eyes on the future, and that's paid off.

>>>>> **BEGIN PM**

From: Riser

Subject: Mitsuhamas Myths – the Zero Zone

Mitsuhamas originated the concept of the Zero Zone—zero penetration, zero survival. They've always been very innovative with their security techniques—mechanical traps using monofilament that can't be hacked, augmented biologicals and parabiologicals, fluorescing astral bacteria barriers—and very well-trained and well-equipped security forces, able to fend off individual intruders as well as concerted armed assaults. Rigged security systems and some level of magical security are universal among Mitsuhamas facilities, especially with the advent of manatech—GloWands are standard equipment for secguards assigned to scan people entering or leaving the building.

Of course, there are very few actual “zero zones” in MCT property; the designation is reserved for their most important and secure facilities. I personally haven't been hired to crack those nuts—I know it can be done, theoretically, but life is too short as it is.

>>>>> **END PM**

CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Mitsuhamas proper is spare compared to other corps and centralized around a few major divisions that represent Mitsuhamas's primary foci of interest. At the top of the food chain is the **Mitsuhamas Corporate Headquarters (MCHQ)**, which handles all inter-division and intracorporate affairs. Essentially, they manage the flow of information, credit, and personnel between divisions and subsidiaries, ensuring everyone can communicate with those they need to, everyone gets their employment benefits and pay, and to ensure the transition of personnel and assets between divisions, subsidiaries, and MCHQ is as smooth and painless as possible. The corporate headquarters also includes Mitsuhamas's judicial system.

> MCHQ handles meganuyen transactions; some of their internal subdivisions include the Mitsuhamas Corporate Bank, which prints Mitsuhamas scrip (the *ryō*, sometimes called “tiger yen”) and extends lines of credit to all Mitsuhamas subsidiaries, and the Mitsuhamas Service Retirement Investment Group, which handles the billions of nuyen set aside for Mitsuhamas pensioners. Any run from or against the HQ is almost guaranteed to have a high rate of return.

> Mr. Bonds

About eight years ago, Mitsuhamas began the transition from geographically-based divisions (Mitsuhamas North America, etc.) to area-of-interest (AOI)-based division (Mitsuhamas Computers, etc.) The reasons given for this reshuffling were many, but basically amounted to saving costs by reducing redundancy and to avoid intracorporate flare-ups when a country decided to implode and a sub-division suddenly had to be repurposed and redistributed. The result is a double hierarchy—corporate citizens belong to a geographical major division (Mitsuhamas Asia, for example) which takes care of their living

facilities, care, and amenities, and are then assigned to work for an AOI division (Mitsuhama Media, for example) which pays their actual wages—which the employees spend on the various goods and services offered by their regional division.

> The system works, though there are flub-ups. Generally you can choose between staying in the same geographical area or following your career. People that change AOI and geographic divisions at the same time stand out, and are usually security-types—just tuck that away in the back brain, it might be useful later.

> Riser

Mitsuhama is a corporate republic, and its corporate government is meshed with the regional division hierarchies. Each Mitsuhama corporate citizen (and those of wholly-owned subsidiaries accounted equivalent corporate citizenship) can vote to elect approved candidates for five directorship positions in their regional division: Corporate Justice, Education and Training, Executive Operations, Morale and Entertainment, and Social Welfare. Directorships have a five-year term (barring impeachment) and come with an annual budget, performance review, and support staff.

> The corporate republic thing is still a bit of an experiment (the first directors are coming up on the end of their first terms and most are angling for re-election, so watch for political black ops opportunities!), but so far the feedback from the corporate citizenry has been very positive—Hawai’ian Friday is amazingly popular in Mitsuhama Australasia.

> Mihoshi Oni

The actual products and services which allow Mitsuhama to make nuyen are nearly all produced by subsidiaries; only certain core facilities considered vital to MCT’s survival, like the Mitsuhama Memorial Magical Research and Training Academy in Obama City, are directly owned by the company. While this could render MCT vulnerable to determined attacks on their subsidiaries, in practice MCT enjoys sufficient liquidity that it can rapidly “switch gears” by acquiring and divesting itself of smaller corporations in response to changing technologies or crippled industries.

>>>>> BEGIN SIDEBAR

MITSUHAMA COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES

Corporate Slogan: “The Future is Mitsuhama”

Corporate Status: Public corporation

World Headquarters: Kyoto, Japan Imperial State

President: Toshiro Mitsuhama

CEO: Takeshi Mitsuhama

Major Shareholders:

Toshiro Mitsuhama (21%)

Samba Oi (13%)

Yuriyasu Shin (11%)

Oguramaro Saigusa (10%)

Akae Uehara (10%)

Major Divisions: Mitsuhama Africa, Mitsuhama Asia, MCT Australasia, Mitsuhama Automatronics, Mitsuhama Computers, Mitsuhama Europe, Mitsuhama Financial Group, Mitsuhama Industrial Technologies, Mitsuhama Latin America, Mitsuhama Magical Services, Mitsuhama Media, Mitsuhama North America

Major Subsidiaries: Mitsuhama Music, Mitsuhama Software, ParaShield, Pentacle Distributing, Inc., Zen-Marsh Chemicals

>>>>> END SIDEBAR

MITSUHAMA COMPUTERS

Notable Subsidiaries: Black Lotus Software, Dolmen Data Systems, Aekei Heuristic Technologies, Mitsuhama Software

Mitsuhama is the global leader in commlinks, terminals, and personal computer accessories. Mitsuhama’s signature is mass consumer appeal. Relatively few of its products and services are oriented toward select customer bases or limited production runs; they prefer mass production of programs, commlinks, and accessories with broad-spectrum appeal to as wide an audience as possible. The Metalink brand, for example, is the bottom-end of the market in terms of processing speed and wireless range—but it is also exceedingly cheap and reliable, selling millions of units every year. The MCT formula for making nuyen is to bring a quality product that everyone can use at a price they can afford.

MCT Computer’s core competence is less innovation than perfection. If Renraku makes a better nexus, Mitsuhama makes it smaller. If NeoNET makes it faster, Mitsuhama makes it cheaper. Mitsuhama Computers’ research subdivision has traditionally centered on reverse-engineering competitor’s technologies, incorporating the finer principles into their manufacturing processes, and making existing technologies more economical, power efficient, smaller, and/or maximizing single chip integration.

- > Whuzzat?
- > Slamm-0!

> Basically, instead of having multiple optical chips and electro-optical interfaces divided between information storage and processing, you can integrate many different functions onto one big chip. The basics of integrated circuits go back a hundred years, but the transition to integrated optical circuit chips was a huge step. Integrated optical chips are in nearly everything you own now, and are the main reason you can hold a commlink in your hand instead of lugging around a big ol' deck.

- > Clockwork

One area that Mitsuhamas does stand out in are synthetic intelligence research. MCT's synthetic intelligence research really took off after its capture of a few feral synthetic intelligences that had developed from their data mining agents, but even ten years ago they managed to produce spin-off technologies for MCT's entertainment and robotics divisions.

- > I've heard a lot about MCT's AI (sorry—SI) research lately. Cognitive echoes, fuzzy creativity (as opposed to fuzzy logic) systems, virtual pets and companions that only show as much intelligence as you're comfortable with—but its hard to separate the hard facts from the hype.
- > FastJack

> Mitsuhamas Computer Technologies has employed monsters before; would it surprise you to know they continue to collect them to secure their edge?

- > Icarus

- > Anyone we know?
- > Netcat

- > Yes.
- > Icarus

Mitsuhamas takes its security very seriously, and its IC is no exception. MCT pioneered intrusion countermeasure architecture strategies, and MCT nodes typically feature collections of smaller, specialized IC that cooperate to bring down targets rather than the monolithic IC agents preferred by other megacorporations. Node encryption, passkeys, and propriety formatting are standardized at certain levels of Mitsuhamas networks, making any attempt to access their most secure nodes progressively more difficult.

- > Lesser-known is the fact that MCT pioneered intrusion counter-countermeasure (ICCM) technologies; legal (albeit restricted) hacker programs which are made available to licensed individuals and groups. The trade in grey-market Matrixware of this nature was more important in Mitsuhamas's early days, but they continue to provide high-quality viral agents to black-bag government agencies in exchange for unusual assets, such as aging nerve agent stockpiles.
- > Fianchetto

- > ...what does MCT need those for?
- > /dev/grll

> <display_shrug> Wetware research, secondary sales to secessionist militias, field-testing of new protection devices, orchestrated "accidents"...even a defunct weapon could be useful, if only to throw a false trail pointing at the originating agency. Which is all fairly far away from the subject of conversation, I fear.

- > Fianchetto

For the last ten years, Mitsuhamas Computers has been engaging in wetware research—the development of biological computers. So far, the only real products of this have been a very slightly improved protein memory (now ubiquitous) and cyborgs, but the megacorp continues to hold out the belief that their research will bear fruit in the long term. During the technomancer witchhunt it was revealed that Mitsuhamas had been experimenting on technomancers, suggesting the focus of the research has moved to reproducing technomancers' biological capabilities, which would be a bit of a coup.

- > That bastard Halberstam kidnapped children and scooped out their brains trying to puzzle out the secrets of the Resonance. If there was enough left of him to bury I'd make an annual field trip to piss on his grave.

> Netcat

> So...the romantic picnic is out?

> Slamm-0!

MITSUHAMA AUTOMATRONICS

Notable Subsidiaries: VOR Robotics, Astin Remote Systems, Kerin Telepresence, Ako Automated Manufacturing, ParaShield, Mitsuhamas Cybertronics

Mitsuhamas robotics research is split between hardware (the drone “shells”) and the firmware expert systems that run them when a metahuman operator isn’t rigging the device. What sets MCT apart from other big drone manufacturers is the diverse range of its drone products and the quality of the accompanying technology—MCT has at least a fingerhold in every drone and robot marketplace on and off the planet, including quite a few interesting niches like the Kasei Tripod Works (a Mars-based company working on walker land-assayer drones) and the secret Project Whateley (aimed at producing single-occupant cyborg military drones with multiple modes of movement).

Of course, the reason MCT competes in all of those markets instead of just dominating a few is that it can leverage the cross-compatibility of its technology: MCT anthroform security drones are designed to be incorporated seamlessly into your official MCT industrial dronefac, the brand-new Mitsuhamas expert system you just bought for your MCT janitorial drones is automatically shared with your MCT delivery trucks if both are active on the same network, and companies get a bulk discount on licenses.

> Mitsuhamas drone infrastructure extends farther than most people think; GridLink is an MCT product and most of its drones automatically sync with the GridLink network for better traffic control—which gives MCT (and savvy hackers) a backdoor to some systems. Hack the GridLink, and you can re-route the drone or install a viral agent that can be released when the drone returns to the factory. A literal Trojan horse.

> Pistons

Mitsuhamas Computers’ Artificial Intelligence (as opposed to synthetic intelligence) R&D subdivision and Mitsuhamas Automatronics’ Mitsuhamas Expert System R&D subdivision have been engaged in a six-year pissing match as they alternately snipe at each other in a bid to gain more funding and resources and gleefully steal each other’s research data to complement their own. The air of competition has actually improved output from both subdivisions, so nobody in management really wants to see the feud resolved yet.

> It is mostly a friendly competition among the researchers, but for the heads of the subdivisions—Kenno Konickle for AI R&D and Jerry Hui for ES R&D—it’s turned personal and nasty. Konickle wants undisputed control of both subdivisions so he can make a bid for a new firmware division, Hui wants to divert funding from AI toward his own personal Augmented Cognition project. Both of them have started hiring outside the corp to steal research data (and sometimes equipment and personnel) from the other. Good times!

> Clockwork

> Query: Augmented Cognition?

> Snopes

> Good question. From the précis I read, it sounds like using external expert systems to expand the user’s cognitive ability—which sounds a lot like an encephalon or skillwires, but apparently this is on a bigger scale. Of course, that could be deliberately seeded misinformation.

> Clockwork

They (they being Mitsuhamas ad-people) say that other corporations build drones, MCT builds robots. In a way, this is true. When it comes to anthroform drones with advanced expert systems and lifelike appearances, MCT is leading the pack and then some. No one wants to throw around the word “android” at this point in their development, but things are getting closer and closer to the science-fiction future promised and prophesied since the last century—which is a both an advantage and a problem for Mitsuhamas. Most people on the street are aware of realistic metahumanoid drones from trideo and sims, which means MCT doesn’t have to educate the population about them—on the other hand, those same trideo shows and sims usually include unrealistic plots about the robots gaining sapience and turning on their masters, which is the kind of negative feedback they do not need with their products.

> How much of that is really science fiction in an age of feral SIs, e-ghosts, and technomantic entities is a matter of intense debate in some circles—let’s just say the idea that your flesh-covered

anthroform lover-drone coming to life and deciding it doesn't like being a sex toy with a simulated libido isn't as far fetched as it was a couple years ago.

> Plan 9

To confuse the issue is the fact that while MCT is working to make their robots more metahuman, they are also in the business of making metahumans and critters more robotic—by developing cyborgs and biodrones. Both of these bleeding edge innovations are at the far fringe of normal drone technology, and largely ancillary to the bulk of Mitsuhamas Automatronics interests, but the potential cross-applications have riggers worldwide drooling.

> There is evidence that Mitsuhamas cyborg research was a direct response to the proliferation of cybermancy in the early 2060s, and is fundamentally based on Halberstams groundbreaking—and hideously criminal and unethical—work in post-corpus survival technology. Lacking the ability to create cyberzombies, Mitsuhamas tried to create something better, or at least just as bad.

> Fianchetto

>>>> BEGIN SHADOWSEARCH

Entry Term: Halberstam

HALBERSTAM, Dr. Ronald Thomas. (b.1991, d.2070) – A seminal figure in the history of the Matrix, Dr. Halberstams research directly contributed to the creation of ASIST and simsense technology; he is also alleged to be the inventor of the first operational cyborg. Halberstams research methods included amoral surgical and psychological experiments on children, many of them involving black and psychotropic IC, for a period of nearly thirty years, and at the time of his purported death—while conducting a live vivisection on a suspected technomancer—he was being sought by the International Criminal Court to answer for crimes in many nations.

>>>> END SHADOWSEARCH

MITSUHAMA MAGICAL SERVICES

Major Subsidiaries: Pentacle Distributing, Inc. HermeTech Associates, Pentacle Press, Ambrosius Publications, Mitsuhamas Thaumaturgical Research

MCTs approach to magical services has been termed “the Alchemical Revolution.” Like the industrial revolution that preceded it, Mitsuhamas goal is to produce magical goods in bulk, with a guarantee of both supply and quality. With the lavish investment in their magical infrastructure, constant research efforts, and making the use of magicians with sharply limited Talents, Mitsuhamas has managed to operate at a scale above nearly every other corporation in the world.

> It may come as a surprise to some of you, but the megacorp with the greatest market share in magic isn't run by a dragon, a conspiracy of elves, or a cult of blood-priests or pseudo-Atlanteans; Mitsuhamas, inspired by no ancient text and beholden to no immortal power, holds that distinction.

> Man-of-Many-Names

> MCT may have the scrolls-and-potions locked down, because theres plenty of cred in supplying the average magician, but everyone knows that when it comes to research and raw magical forces (in terms of spellslingers, adepts, spirits, and other Awakened on their payroll) Aztechnology, Saeder-Krupp, and Wuxing take the lead (and in that order!) Really, you could say that MCT approaches magic the same way the approach computers.

> Winterhawk

Lesser talismongers and manacorps cannot match the resources that Mitsuhamas invests in their production of magical goods. MCT agents buy up wildlands cheaply, and then use a veritable army of workers to gather reagents by hand—producing in a few short weeks a greater number of raw materials than a small team of skilled talismongers could in months. Once assayed and sorted, the reagents are shipped off to “fetish factories”—modest-sized workshops or alchemical microfac where a team of enchanters work to refine those reagents and transform them into the bulk magical goods purchased at your local lorestore.

> Calling what MCT does “mass manufacturing” is a bit of a misnomer; enchanting is still a cottage industry—all MCT has done is organize it a bit. All the gathering and assaying is done by a skillsoft workforce, while the “fetish factories” are little more than four to six student workers or minor magicians under the guidance and direction of an experienced enchanter. The production is greater than any two or three skilled talismongers that you can name, but not as revolutionary as MCT likes to claim in their adcopy.

> Ethernaut

> Their stuff...works. Your local talismonger (cough) might put a little more tender loving care into her talismans and summoning chalks (100% virgin's blood! Guaranteed!), but the end result isn't any more potent, no matter what those new-agey witches claim about an "antiseptic aftertaste" to their workings. The real divide between these mass-manufactured magical goods and what your local enchanter has to offer is in foci; MCT just doesn't offer a wide selection of foci suited to every need. In part this is because of the restrictions on these powerful magical aides, but in part its because not every mage wants to be seen sporting an Eye of Horus Spell Defense Charm v.2.1.

> Lyran

Besides actual magical goods, Mitsuhamas also dominates the industry in thaumaturgical publishing and periodicals. They have the largest standing catalogue of spell and focus formulae in the Sixth World, and as well as supplementary and support programs, databases, tutorsofts, activesofts and knowsofts. Formerly, the bulk of MCT's magical library and publishing efforts were of a Hermetic bent, but new management directions have significantly diversified their working portfolio; one MCT m-zine article claims that MCT carries full formulae support for over fifty magical traditions and cultures.

> Sure, why not? All you have to do is translate the formulae you have into a new magical syntax—cheaper and easier than researching a formula all by itself.

> Winterhawk

> Mitsuhamas invests a lot of nuyen into research, but they haven't yet managed to land the big breakthrough metamagical theses that Saeder-Krupp controls, nor have they mastered bringing the theory into practice like the Azzies. What they do publish is the work of hundreds of practicing magical experimenters and thousands of researchers and theoreticians, just as what they create is the work of many hands, Awakened and mundane. Mitsuhamas's foresight is in the full exploitation of their mundane and magical personnel resources.

> Arete

> I hear that they're competing with Wuxing to produce the first mapsofts of mana line networks. That'll be a bit of a coup, if they can pull it off. Maybe I'll sign up as a scout.

> Lyran

MITSUHAMA MEDIA

Major Subsidiaries: Mitsuhamas Music, Mitsuhamas Studios Hollywood, Confederate Broadcasting Company, Soonan Simsense, Highstar, Inc., Trideo Europa

To Mitsuhamas, media is just another product that they manufacture, sell, and use for cross-promotions. Music, simsense, news, trideo shows, merchandise, Matrix games, and manga are each accorded their own subdivisions and are churned out regularly for consumption by eager customer brains. Mitsuhamas Media never makes a profit, and that is the way it should be. If they were ever in the black it means that aren't handing out enough freebies and 15 minutes simsense previews and customer promotions to convince people to buy MCT's other crap.

Great products don't sell themselves, even in theory. MCT approaches branding and advertising like gutter gangs take to claiming turf and tagging it for everyone to see. Unlike some megacorps, Mitsuhamas has absolutely no qualms about labeling their product as MCT-made, and they actively work to increase their customer base and raise brand loyalty to a tribal level with MCT-customer social groups, youth gangs, fraternities, owner associations, and any other trick they can figure out.

> No joke. Even the credits for CBC News have the MCT logo worked into the background.

> Kane

> Mitsuhamas plays a deeper game than that. True, they are very aggressive at pronouncing their ownership—but they are also very public about doing so, which distracts their competitors from seeing MCT's more subtle manipulations and the products and corporations that they do *not* claim, such as EuroKola, a German-based "natural" softdrink manufacturer that quietly imports Latin American narcotics as "ingredients."

> Fianchetto

> Um, they also have a lot of merchandise. Like lots of it. Even some really cool stuff. Mitsuhamas Mindy dolls were all the rage a couple years ago, and they were handing out MCT lunchboxes at McHugh's that had games you could play with your friends who had MCT lunchboxes too during recess...I'm gonna shut up now.

> /dev/grrl

Mitsuhamas owns a large chunk of the world media, second only to Horizon—but where Horizon likes viral advertising and feel-good pap, MCT likes owning news and entertainment corps that feed the popular demand for pop-programming. MCT grooms their media personalities, feeds their quirks, fetishes, and addictions, and works them *hard*. Of MCT keeps their idoru, trideo and simsense stars, and even news anchors busy working commercials, shop openings, book and music tours, guest appearances in Mitsuhamas multiverse media, and of course MCT's range of celeb-porn, officially licensed adult manga and fiction, and reality trideo shows based on their lives.

> All of MCT's pet media personalities (the poor bastards) have clauses in their contract that give MCT full rights to use their likeness, voice, and characterization for any MCT product—including those for mature audiences. Not everyone likes to think about these things, but the sex appeal of some of the local newscaster or simsense starlet is undeniable to many. Of course, that's nothing the other megas don't do anyway—what makes MCT special is that they can sometimes market this material without the full cooperation of the media personality in question. Before you get your tits in a twist, that doesn't mean MCT rapes its stars, or even keeps concealed cams to record their trysts (all the time), but they can do a lot with body-doubles (or clones, if you believe the rumors) and a little computer graphics, and the best part is that they can play this up—the simsense starlet getting her brains banged out can honestly deny that she participated in such a travesty, making a little media event that increases all sales of her material just from the attention! Ah, recursive media, I love you.

> Haze

> MCT corporate law even allows them to create media that is illegal in many countries...like exploiting their teenage stars. MCT still has fairly strict limits on out-and-out child pornography, but plenty of 16 and 17-year old trideo actors have ended up "starring" in something else when the local age of consent is 18.

> Kay St. Irregular

>>>>> BEGIN SHADOWSEARCH

MITSUHAMA MULTIVERSE

The Mitsuhamas Multiverse is a concept in shared media. Basically, a number of MCT trideo shows, fiction, and simsense features all "tie-in" to form a self-referencing shared mythology and backstory. For example, many of MCT's daytime dramas and law enforcement-themed shows take place in the fictional Japanese city of Mappo. Shows are filmed simultaneously, so that many characters in different shows will appear on the same sets at the same time. Many people watch these shows religiously and form communities to discuss them and keep track of their intermixed continuities.

Surely everyone remembers last summer when Inspector Ito's missing clue was accidentally revealed in *Deranged Housewife Antics*...and where! Mrs. Yamagachi needed surgery after that one, and she had to go to Yakuza Samurai's heart-of-gold kobun Tonshu for the money to pay for the operation so her husband wouldn't find out, resulting in an off-screen romance that the scream sheets are still talking about!

>>>>> END SHADOWSEARCH

MITSUHAMA INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES

Major Subsidiaries: ArmourWorks, Mitsuhamas Consumer Optoelectronics, Zen-Marsh Chemicals, Takai Development Corporation, Mitsuhamas-Benguet-Maelket Mining

In terms of investments and subsidiaries, Mitsuhamas is the second-largest megacorp in terms of heavy industry—but they try harder. Heavy industry in these terms refers to capital-intensive manufacturing and large-scale construction projects, such as mining (particularly deep mining and sea bed mining), refining, shipbuilding, the production of optical chips and integrated optoelectronics, and other industries that require substantial investment and technology. MCT's focus on integrating their core competencies means that their industrial concerns tend to tie in with their other interests to a large degree: drone factories mass-manufacture commlinks and MCT merchandise, rigged mining vehicles allow MCT engineers to follow veins of ore deeper into the Earth's crust, and the Japanese Imperial Navy rides in MCT-built ships protected with patented Mitsuhamas active point-defense combo technology.

> MCT is one of the major malefactors when it comes to unsustainable industry; they squeeze every resource they can from a region and then abandon it with no thought to rehabilitation engineering. Tsimshian is the worst example; after Tsimshian left nearly 60% of the arable top soil washed away from deforested areas because they didn't take any steps to hold it in place, and the whole ecology of the nation went quickly down the toilet.

> Lyran

> They don't skimp on their factories, though. MCT factories are nearly always SOTA or being upgraded to SOTA, and MCT always pays the extra nuyen to make sure that their major facilities will last longer and run cleaner. Too many corps take the cheap option and look for short-run gain instead of projecting long-term costs.

> Mr. Bonds

>>>>> BEGIN IM

From: Lyran

Re: Mitsuhamas Tsimshian

Back when the Tsimshian Nation was more than a protectorate of the Salish-Shide Council, Mitsuhamas supported the nation financially in exchange for a free hand in exploiting the AmerInd nation. They employed a majority of the Tsimshian workforce to harvest raw reagents from the wilderness in bulk to supply their growing "industry of magic," and when the forests and mountains were played out the bulldozers moved in to stripmine what was left. When Mitsuhamas finally pulled out of the exhausted land in '65, the economy and government collapsed into the worst recession in NAN history.

Today, MCT's legacy in Tsimshian is a scarred landscape, a devastated manascape, and a double handful of industrial waste sites that draw toxics like flies. Tsimshian's legacy with MCT is a sizable minority of AmerInds, MCT citizens who left with the company when Mitsuhamas pulled out.

>>>>> END IM

MCT is almost integral to the Japanese Imperial State military-industrial complex, not so much in providing weapons technology, but in logistics, support materials, aerospace and submarine simulators, vehicles, and field integration. Your typical Japanese marine kit is an impressive feat of industrial and computer engineering, held together by MCT miltech—the sailor's PAN is based on their MCT-made, military-grade commlink (integral with their armor) and incorporates their primary weapon, back-up weapon, ammo (stored in smart pouches), provisions (stored in smart pouches and smart canteens) and other mandatory gear (stored in smart rucksacks)—all manufactured by MCT or featuring MCT-built chips; the PAN incorporates MCT tactical software that strategically integrates them with their squad and platoon, and any MCT-built vehicles they operate or occupy. MCT's ArmourWorks is currently stream-lining a combat-skill download network suitable for battlefield conditions.

> Based on the old standby of "find a gun, pick it up, and you'll have good luck all day long" principle. Slick. Probably works as long as the enemy isn't using weapons keyed to their troops, too. Of course, that's provided no-one is jamming the battlefield...and if you can download your spiffy new skillsoft, the enemy can upload viral packages into their guns and equipment to screw you up. It's a damnable thing when you can't even trust your weapon.

> Kane

> MCT's military ties give it a lot of political pull, but they're fighting against the tide. The Emperor wants the military smaller and predominantly scaled for defensive action; Japan's already withdrawn from CalFree and the Philippines, leaving MCT's facilities there in a heap of trouble—the locals remember too well how MCT treated them during the occupations.

> Mihoshi Oni

> There's always a market for military equipment, if you can adapt. MCT sells a lot of its JIS-approved miltech gear to other japanacorps for security purposes; I wouldn't be surprised if it re-tooled to fit the growing civilian market for such materials.

> Mr. Bonds

MCT CORPORATE CULTURE

Mitsuhamas is a Japanacorp, with first emphasis on corp, and MCT's corporate culture is generally a mixture of local customs, Japanese culture, and business etiquette. Employees are expected to make sacrifices for the good of the company, which in turn has obligations to provide for them. Families of employees are expected to support the employees and (hopefully) grow up to be good little employees too. Executives are expected to have a senpai-kohei (mentor-trainee) relationship with the employees working under them, as laid out in many languages in many translations of that pillar of MCT culture, the Mitsuhamas Corporate Handbook.

Executives and managers compete for positions and bonuses amongst themselves, trading favors to save face when possible, all in pursuit of the best interests of the company (and by extension themselves and their families). If that all sounds like a mishmash of Japanese bullshido, Communism, and capitalistic one-up-manship, then good. You're getting the point.

> Beyond the blue-collar positions in the corp, competition gets fierce and stresses mount. I've seen line managers work 20-hour days with an MCT nurse coming by every couple of hours to administer stimulants as needed.

> Stone

Business models in the subsidiaries are all over the place, but for Mitsuhama proper the norm is a Matrix-based time management system based on the needs of the corporation, with telecommuting highly encouraged where possible. Private offices are reserved for managers who need a degree of privacy when managing their calls and business, and typically come with murphy beds and datasafes; other white-collar workers make do with communal workspaces that feature ergonomic massaging-gel bean bag chairs and virtual offices provided by employee commlinks that they can check out when they arrive for work (personal commlinks are checked at the front desk/secretary). Physical meeting rooms are scheduled for use as needed for face-to-face meetings—say what you will about commlinks, but sometimes a smartboard is a hell of a time saver.

> MCT corporate managers love face-meetings because it reinforces relationships at a primal level, really deepens the connections—and you can guarantee having someone's attention by telling everyone to turn off their commlinks for the duration of the meeting.

> Kia

Mitsuhama is not exactly a progressive employer of metahumans and non-Japanese, though this may not be directly apparent. The megacorp doesn't impose any restrictions or requirements on hiring to its subsidiaries, so those are as racially and ethnically diverse as you'd imagine. The divisions show a subtle bias; with Japanese humans having a tendency to get the next promotion, though ability still counts for more. MCHQ, however, is almost completely made up of Japanese humans, and most of the metahumans are at least Japanese metahumans—and even those are encouraged to avail themselves of cosmetic surgery to correspond with the “corporate look.”

> Plenty of gringo Mitsuhama suits go in for epicanthic folds, but just as many ethnic Japanese suits go in for gaijin eyes so that's not a dealmaker or breaker. What really counts are mannerisms and being able to speak fluent Japanese without an accent.

> Plan 9

> Don't forget that metahumans make up a greater percentage of Class D personnel.

> Sticks

> In case anyone is wondering, Class D personnel are a sub-segment of the Mitsuhama prison population, something like a work gang on death row. Corporate citizens convicted of “anti-person” crimes like rape, murder with intent, etc. are put in fuchsia jumpsuits, installed with cranial bombs, and then used...for whatever MCT wants, basically. Live targets for testing new ammunition or nerve gases, handling of hazardous materials, blood sacrifices...it's a short, brutal, and nasty life designed to wring as much profit from their deaths as possible instead of paying for decades of incarceration.

> Stone

> That was pretty informative for once, Stone. Except for the blood sacrifices. The Azzie file is couple pages back.

> Sticks

>>>>> BEGIN INSET BOX

MITSUMON

Posted By: Kia

Mitsumon (characterized by the trademarked three-coin symbol) is a mobile social software (MoSoSo) unique to Mitsuhama's corporate citizenry, and designed for Mitsuhama citizens to recognize each other and keep in touch. The Mitsumon network includes functions for defining relationship status (family members, friends, sexual partners, etc.), rank and status with Mitsuhama clubs and social groups, and special functions for individuals looking to date or start a relationship with another Mitsuhama citizen.

Mitsuhama uses the Mitsumon network as an additional layer of social control over its employees, keeping tabs on their personal information and activities and discretely influencing them to keep their relationships within the megacorporation. In many instances, Mitsuhama uses Mitsumon to help recently-extracted employees “settle in”—there's little more of a warm welcome than a hot date and a club full of people with your same interests inviting you to come out for dinner and drinks.

No MCT wageslave disguise is complete without a Mitsumon account (free and automatic with a valid MCT corporate SIN), and a valuable tool for anyone infiltrating the megacorp—you'd be amazed at the information even mid-level executives

keep on their Mitsumon profiles. Mitsumon is as hackable as any other VPN—and you can potentially access millions of users if you can actually hack the nodes that support all the functions, which is why MCT keeps them staffed by spiders 24/7/52.

>>>> **END INSET BOX**

FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS

Mitsuhama is not the most family-friendly of megacorps. When you graduate from high school or university, you're basically expected to get a job with Mitsuhama or get out. If you do start a career in MCT, expect to be moved...a lot. Employees (and their immediate families) move around the globe an average of once every 3-5 years. An effort is made to keep married couples together at the same facility or office, but the needs of the megacorp come first—as you can imagine, MCT spends a lot on support counseling and the infrastructure for virtual sex and artificial insemination for couples separated by their jobs.

Parental separation is hardest on the kids, which is why MCT has been promoting their boarding schools for years now. All Mitsuhama schools emphasize dual-proficiency (spoken and literacy) in Japanese and whatever the local language is, corporate history and economics, basic math, and of course computer science and programming. Beyond that, there are science electives and MCT Security's cadet program (military uniforms, drill practice, unarmed and weapons training, orienteering, etc.). Some parents even opt to send their kids to technical high schools and MCT vocational academies, provided the kids get the right scores. The Japanese mindset for education applies here. Cram-courses, after-hours study sessions, and special courses on placement tests are the norm. Its good practice for the kids, though, because in their MCT careers people are constantly expected to better themselves with company-offered training courses, night classes, and seminars.

Elderly family members are generally expected to live on their own until they cannot care properly for themselves (MCT does monthly checks for members over 75), and then are expected to live with their families until they need more care than the family can provide (a decision left up to the family) or until they can be placed in an assistant living facility. Those senior corporate citizens who do eventually end up in Mitsuhama elder care centers are relatively well-cared-for. Mitsuhama takes pride in its rest homes for retired and slowly degrading pensioners and their family members.

> They're bright, cheerful, anterooms to the next world where the senile and incontinent suffer a thousand indignities before they finally, after heroic measures, manage to die—sometimes helped by MCT's nursing staff giving a little overdose on the meds, especially if requested by the individual...or their family...or the head of the nursing home.

> Baka Dabaka

> They still have some of the best gerontologists on the planet, and all fifteen of the metahumans above 125 years of age are in MCT's care. Of course, how much of that has to do with MCT finding a stable of willing guinea pigs for their cyberprosthesis and cyborging projects, the world may never know.

> The Smiling Bandit

THE MEGAYAKORP

MCT was founded by a minor Yakuza-backed corporate raider named Taiga Mitsuhama and funded by four Neo-Tokyo oyabun and their senior kobun. The Four Oyabun, as they are known, are Samba Oi, Yuriyasu Shin, Ogarumaro Saigusa, and Akae Uehara—the youngest of whom is in his eighties, though you wouldn't know it to look at them, thanks to the miracles of postmodern medicine. They have more money than any of the rengos combined, so they're basically retired—but they still have their obligations to the other gumi so they haven't completely pulled out of the game. The question then becomes: since the Four Oyabun are not directly running MCT, how much is MCT involved with the Yakuza at lower than the Four Oyabun level?

> Reasonable query.

> Stone

The most obvious answer is that like the rest of the Japanacorps, MCT uses the Yaks and has a working relationship with them. Street-level Yakuza don't have influence at the boardroom level—the sokaiya can't get a toehold with most of the stock sewn up—but Mitsuhama executives do have dealings with the local Yakuza and make use of them for different operations that would be difficult for MCT to do legally, or would be bad public relations to get caught doing. The difference between MCT and the other megajapanacorps is the nature of the relationship.

While the Four Oyabun don't meddle with their megacorp, fragments of their old organizations did find a place in the nascent megacorp. It's like when after the EuroWars a bunch of intelligence and army types ended up being the scary Russian/Eastern European guy that no one except the boss is quite sure what he does except it generally falls under "security" and is quasi-legal at best—perfect for the more cutthroat corporate raiders MCT hired during their early acquisition days. These ex-Yakuza kept their street contacts and brought their families and kobun into the corporation at various levels.

Except there's more than just old tough-guys that bury bodies and send .50 caliber messages. There are slick executive types that worked their way in from the ground floor but still have the old tattoos, and they brought their krewes up with them...and they have obligations to their families, and their kobun's families. The Four Oyabun don't like anything fucking their

warm spot, so the guys that couldn't handle the transition did not get cushy jobs sucking off the corporate teat. But for some of these people, the only difference with doing business is that they reach for their knives slightly less often.

Of course, that was a long time ago. All of the Four Oyabun's original kobun are retired, and so are most of their kobun. Their descendants were raised in Mitsuhamas corporate culture, not the streets. The few of those that have retained their uncle's old contacts and maintain ties with the major Yakuza gumi are major movers and shakers in Mitsuhamas shadowy security and intelligence infrastructure. The presence of these Yakuza contacts adds to the perception of MCT as a Yakorp, and in turn attracts outside Yakuza elements.

> So, wait: MCT has an internalized Yakuza made up of the Four Oyabun's old gumis?
> Stone

> No. The kids of the old guard turned into spoiled corp brats. Only a few impressed the old kobun enough to get initiated into their underworld contacts, and even then only when necessary and not on any kind of organized basis. It doesn't have a strict "Okay, you're a Yak now, here's the key to the executive washroom and a tattoo." The Oyabun encourage it because they're old and have more money than God and are bored, but most of their kobun are old or dead and the new ones don't have any *giri* tying them to the Four, so they're working for Mitsuhamas directly.
> Mihoshi Oni

A Yakuza gumi is more than just its komon and kobun. There are partisans, civilian employees, hangers-on, mistresses, and other affiliates that aren't directly part of the organization but are employed or associated with them. To the gumi, Mitsuhamas corporate communities represent a target audience—Japanese nationals (or, in most cases, non-Japanese living in Mitsuhamas Japanese-inspired mindset) in a relatively sheltered community who need ways to feed their vices. While MCT is conscientious enough to provide considerable entertainment for its corporate citizens—even adult and pharmaceutical in nature—there will always be certain wants and needs that MCT cannot or chooses not to cater to, which is where the Yakuza come in. Yakuza affiliates litter the lowest ranks of Mitsuhamas, illicit connections for drugs, BTLs, prostitutes, illegal operations that need to be done off the record from MCT doctors, "field trips" beyond MCT enclaves, and non-MCT products.

> I hear that. MCT doesn't have a large selection of organic foods, stimulants, or narcotics for the rank-and-file—their tobacco is shit mixed with unbleached pulp for filler and their rum is a mix of neutral spirit, sugar water, and coloring and flavoring agents. I'd trade a couple ryō for the some of Ares' rolling tabac or AZT's black rum.
> Traveler Jones

> Hell, when I was growing up I was happy for the non-MCT toilet paper the black marketers brought every month.
> Rigger X

> It bears mentioning that this is the main avenue Mitsuhamas corporate scrip circulates into the wider world; the Yakuza are one of the few underworld organizations willing to accept ryō at face value for their goods and services.
> Mr. Bonds

Some MCT managers have the foresight to come to arrangements with the local gumi in order to "take care" of MCT citizens in order to ensure their safety and keep them from the more dangerous venues and destructive habits. Such semi-official sanctions and working relationships add to Mitsuhamas reputation of collusion with the Yakuza.

> It bears reminding that most of the Yak-MCT connections in a sprawl are personal—individual corporate citizens who are extended contacts of a Yakuza gumi, managers who have met with and made arrangements with the local oyabun, and the rising stars and shadow players in the corp that have more extensive contacts—and they're the ones to look out for. They have the connections to keep a finger on the pulse of the underworld, and they keep track of the Yaks that are dealing with Mitsuhamas. If there ever looks to be a conflict of interest—like MCT citizens being targeted in a fracas between two gumi—the scary security guys will step in and sort it out, even if it means they have to kill a line manager with close ties to a gumi to do it.
> Mihoshi Oni

POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Mitsuhamas has always carried with it the implicit understanding that business is easier with the cooperation—and, where possible, full participation—of the local government. Primary among Mitsuhamas current interests are the Japanese Diet

and Korean Parliament (Mitsuhama Asia), where they have some considerable influence on defense spending and environmental regulations but not much else; the Peruvian Senate (Mitsuhama Latin America), which is a few short steps of turning into another Tsimshian; and is in a key position negotiating Tir Tairngire's absorption of the free city of San Francisco (Mitsuhama North America). That's not to say they aren't active all over the globe, but those are the hot spots.

> MCT has been quietly opposing UCAS/CAS reunification for years because they make so much UCAS/CAS merchandise.

> Kane

> Dude, what?

> Baka Dabora

TECHNOMANCER RESOURCES

Posted By: Netcat

Mitsuhama has been on the forefront of research into technomancers and AIs for quite a while now—some of my research indicates that they may have been experimenting with individuals that claimed to be technopaths or expressed technomantic abilities for the last twenty years. As a consequence, Mitsuhama has been very aggressive in “recruiting” technomancers by whatever means are available, cataloguing their talents, and trying to set up some sort of training regimen. The imposing nature of recruitment (and subsequent training) has scared off more than one technomancer, leaving MCT as something of the bogeyman among the Emerged—but it has paid off in that Mitsuhama has a significant corps of technomancers at its disposal, estimated at nearly three thousand at various levels of ability.

> Out of a population of how many millions, that isn't much.

> /dev/grrl

> Well, it's not like virtuakinetics are as populous as the Awakened, dear. That's also nearly an order of magnitude greater than any other megacorp that I can find—Saeder-Krupp reportedly only has around 350 registered technomancers.

> Netcat

> I think its rather impressive considering Mitsuhama's interest in technomancers was introduced when they were discovered cutting open their living brains to find out how they work.

> Icarus

>>>>> BEGIN CORPWATCH BUZZ

BERLIN, AGS – Researchers at Mitsuhama Biological Laboratories have announced a complete sequencing of the “fossil drake” discovered in the Essen Mountains in 2066. The fossil creature, which resembles miniature Western dragon, was found to be a drakon species, closely related to the native firedraka of the area, and is reportedly over ten thousand years old.

KYOTO, JAPANESE IMPERIAL STATE – Toshiro Mitsuhama received the grand cordon of the Order of the Chrysanthemum by the hand of the Emperor, for service to the Japanese Imperial State. The grand cordon is the highest honor that may be awarded to a living Japanese citizen. The Empress and the Crown Prince were also in attendance.

MITSUHAMA PREFECTURE, CONGO DEMILITARIZED ZONE – An estimated ten thousand lie dead after a week of bloodshed as tribal nationalists attempted to cross the zero zone surrounding “Mitsuhama Prefecture,” the Mitsuhama corporate enclave on the coast of Africa. The nationalists reportedly enslaved nearby tribes and drove them into the zero zone in an effort to overwhelm the defenses with bodies. Mitsuhama officials claims that fast response teams have assassinated the leaders of the attack, and that the bodies will be tagged and recorded before burial so that any relatives may claim the remains.

ST. LOUIS, UCAS – The President of Mitsuhama North America met with Mayor Rush today to publicly take control of the St. Louis Bloodwings, the local combat biker franchise. As part of the agreement Mitsuhama has agreed not to relocate the team to a new city.

VANCOUVER, SALISH SHIDE COUNCIL – Mitsuhama has announced a new partnership with Vancouver area veterans hospitals, offering to turn paraplegic and quadriplegic veterans of the 2062 Tsimshian War into anthroform cyborgs. Spokespeople for Mitsuhama report that subjects would be entirely voluntary and subject to strict psychiatric screening.

>>>>> END CORPWATCH BUZZ