

INTO THE MAINFRAME

WRITTEN BY

VVINNI J. GAGNEPAIN

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - NOON

SENATOR IKE MCCARTHY steps up to a podium with his aide GEOFFREY "CURSOR" DALTON. Various REPORTERS fill the sitting area.

Sen. McCarthy quiets down the press.

SEN. MCCARTHY

Thank you. Thank you all for coming today. I'm sure we all have our hands full, so I'll make this quick. There has been much talk about "Proposition 010", the personal security bill I am spearheading. I want to make it perfectly clear to you the press and the people of our great state that 010 will create jobs, it will protect against identity theft, and most important, it keep all the information held within the digital net known as "The Internet" safe and away from prying hands.

A REPORTER stands, notepad poised.

REPORTER

Excuse me, Senator. Sorry to interrupt, but what do you say to the claims that Prop 010 is actually a plan to weaponize the internet?

The other reporters mutter in agreement. Senator McCarthy smiles.

SEN. MCCARTHY

That's... uh... that's just ridiculous. Just out curiosity, sir... where did you hear that information?

REPORTER

We recieved an anonymous note today, from a source who calls himself...

INT. SYSTEM 7'S APARTMENT - NOON

The apartment is in disarray.

JACK "SYSTEM 7" WALTON types on his computer, A.G.N.E.S.

The Senator's news conference plays on a television.

REPORTER (OS)
... System 7.

System 7 chuckles.

SYSTEM 7
Did you hear that, A.G.N.E.S? We're
winning!

A.G.N.E.S
I'm very glad, System 7.

TIFFANY LINCOLN walks through the door with a briefcase.

SYSTEM 7
Tiffany! The Press got my letter!

TIFFANY
That's great, Jack, did you look
for a job today?

SYSTEM 7
I've got a job; I'm saving the
world. I'm keeping the internet
free from evil.

TIFFANY
Jack...

SYSTEM 7
Free from being taken over by
governmental dictators, free from
people like "Cursor" Dalton who
wants the power of the internet
from himself, free for a man to
forge his own way in the digital
realm.

TIFFANY
Jack, how is-

SYSTEM 7
No need to be concerned, honey.
It's not an easy job, I know.
There'll always be evil in the

SYSTEM 7
internet, and it's up to people
like me to withhold the law of the
computer code. I'm not a hero,
Tiffany, I'm just a good guy with a
computer.

TIFFANY
How is the Senator McCarthy going
to weaponize the internet?

SYSTEM 7
Oh, well he's going to do it with
computers. Evil ones. And... well
you know the internet was created
by the military, right?

TIFFANY
What if you're wrong?

SYSTEM 7
I don't think that's possible.

A.G.N.E.S beeps.

A.G.N.E.S
Firewall level four broken.

SYSTEM 7
I really don't think that's
possible.

INT. MCCARTHY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Sen. McCarthy gazes out the window in his office.

Cursor types of his computer, D.E.S.M.O.N.D

SEN. MCCARTHY
I don't like it, Dalton.

CURSOR
It's Cursor.

SEN. MCCARTHY
Well I don't like it, Cursor. This
System 7 characters proving to be
quite a the thorn in my side.

CURSOR
I wouldn't worry about him, sir.

SEN. MCCARTHY
Then should I worry about the
press? They've got a suspicion now,
and it won't be long until-

Cursor hits the spacebar.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D
Code deployed.

An explosion sounds in the distance.

CURSOR
The press won't be bothering us.

Sen. McCarthy rushes over to the window.

SEN. MCCARTHY
Good lord, was that the newspaper
building?

CURSOR
I hope you're not getting second
thoughts, senator.

SEN. MCCARTHY
It's just... I... I've never rigged
an election before.

Cursor types a few keys and hits the spacebar. He joins Sen.
McCarthy at the window.

CURSOR
I have. Senator, I know it may be
alarming at first, but soon you'll
realize that all the people down
there are just numbers. And like
all numbers, they're waiting to be
either controlled or eliminated.

SEN. MCCARTHY
I suppose so...

D.E.S.M.O.N.D
Code deployed. Election will be
rigged in five hours.

CURSOR
Congratulations, you're about to
rule the world.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D beeps.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D
Digital database has been
compromised.

SEN. MCCARTHY
What's that?

Cursor rushes over to D.E.S.M.O.N.D. He types.

CURSOR
System 7, I recognize his virtual
signature anywhere.

SEN. MCCARTHY
So he'll know about O10?

Cursor nods. He smiles.

SEN. MCCARTHY
Well then that's it, he knows
everything. We're ruined.

CURSOR
No, senator, we aren't. If I know
System 7, which I believe I do,
he'll come here to stop us.

SEN. MCCARTHY
And when he does?

CURSOR
We'll be ready with O10.

INT. SYSTEM 7'S APARTMENT - DUSK

System 7 scrolls through the O10 information.

SYSTEM 7
This is incredible, A.G.N.E.S.

A.G.N.E.S
Affirmative, System 7.

Tiffany walks out of a sideroom. She carries a suitcase.

TIFFANY
Jack, you have a problem.

SYSTEM 7
Yeah, I know the senator's going to
crush the world!

TIFFANY
No... I- I'm leaving.

A.G.N.E.S
010 has been deployed.

SYSTEM 7
What?

TIFFANY
I'm going to Spain, and-

SYSTEM 7
Honey, that's great, just bring
dinner home. A.G.N.E.S: repeat.

A.G.N.E.S
010 has been deployed.

SYSTEM 7
No... No I needed more time. Okay,
A.G.N.E.S: Readout program
MINDMELD.

A.G.N.E.S
MINDMELD: 1;0;0;0;1;0;0;1...

A.G.N.E.S continues reading numbers. System 7 jumps up and
puts on a coat.

SYSTEM 7
It'll have to do. Honey, I'm going
to save the world.

TIFFANY
Rent's due next Friday.

SYSTEM 7
Then you should pay it. A.G.N.E.S,
eject we're visiting the Senator.

A.G.N.E.S beeps. System 7 runs over and unplugs her. He
takes A.G.N.E.S' monitor and runs out the door.

Tiffany sighs. She picks up the suitcase.

INT. MCCARTHY'S OFFICE - DUSK

Cursor and McCarthy sit on opposite ends of the desk.

CURSOR

He'll be here any moment, you know the plan?

SEN. MCCARTHY

Yes, Geoffrey, I do, but I don't like it.

CURSOR

Excuse me, Senator?

SEN. MCCARTHY

I've been thinking about, and I'm not going to authorize any more work on O10 until you tell me exactly what it does. I know I'm not much with computers, but-

CURSOR

Okay.

SEN. MCCARTHY

Okay?

Cursor smiles. He walks over to D.E.S.M.O.N.D.

CURSOR

I understand you're worried, senator. So if you want to see what O10 does, I'll show you.

Cursor types a code into D.E.S.M.O.N.D.

CURSOR

We understand the world through invisible waves, whether it's light, sound, or atomic touch. The internet is no different.

Cursor hits the spacebar.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D

Code Deployed.

Sen. McCarthy suddenly has a very bad headache. He sits behind his desk.

SEN. MCCARTHY

Where... where are you going with this?

CURSOR

O10 is a way to use the internet waves to infiltrate a person's brain... and make it eat itself.

Cursor chuckles. He walks over to Sen. McCarthy.

Sen. McCarthy starts bleeding out of his ear.

CURSOR

I must thank you, Senator McCarthy, for giving me the funding I needed to crush this world. But I don't need you anymore.

Sen. McCarthy coughs up blood.

SEN. MCCARTHY

You're a monster.

CURSOR

And I've got the power.

Sen. McCarthy screams.

He dies.

CURSOR

Set O10 coordinates for the white house, D.E.S.M.O.N.D, it's time we crush the world.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D

Affirmative.

System 7 bursts through the door.

SYSTEM 7

Cursor: The pointed arrow of the devil.

CURSOR

Never mind, D.E.S.M.O.N.D. System 7, haven't seen you since computer hacking school. Of course, I've gotten better since then.

SYSTEM 7

You've only gotten more evil.

Cursor smiles. He dashes to D.E.S.M.O.N.D.

System 7 puts A.G.N.E.S down on the ground.

SYSTEM 7
A.G.N.E.S: Activate MINDMELD.

A.G.N.E.S
Initiating.

Cursor pushes the spacebar.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D
Executing 010.

System 7 goes rigid.

CURSOR
MINDMELD?

SYSTEM 7
You're not the only one who can use
the internet, swine.

System 7's ear bleeds.

CURSOR
Clever, but you can't stop 010. No
one can.

System 7 spits out blood.

SYSTEM 7
I'm not trying to stop 010, I'm
trying to stop you.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D
Security breach. Self destruct
sequence activated. 3...

A.G.N.E.S
MINDMELD activated.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D
2...

CURSOR
Kudos, System 7.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D
1... Goodbye.

D.E.S.M.O.N.D explodes.

Fade to white.

End.