

NEX GLOSSARY

The following is a handy quick reference to some of the language that has developed in known space thanks to the effects of the Nex. For explanations of the sometimes complex Nex/Physical interactions, see **Nex and Physical Interactions** on page 90.

Blinded, The: The *vast* majority of those in human space who can't see Nex aura colors. The Blinded also seem unable or unwilling to recognize a recent change in the behavior of Linked beings toward more anger, paranoia, and irrational decisions.

Blinding, The: A mysterious event that began almost 60 years ago that left almost all Linked beings (including Linked machines) unable to see the colors of Nex auras. The Blinding occurred gradually over the course of about 50 years. Those affected by the Blinding are called "the Blinded," and those immune are called "Vivids."

Capped: Short for "Carapaced", the state of a Linked being when its X-Ghost is integrated with its physical body. Ever since the Nex Revelation, all Linked beings have developed dim colorless auras, easily seen when close up.

Crystum: A very rare substance found on certain planets and asteroids that acts as fuel for the crystum hyperdrive engine. (see page 106).

Draxel: A tiny, implantable glass wafer designed to be a "Nex lens" that focuses a Linked being's inherent connection to the Nex for varied effects and purposes. Draxels may be loaded with X-gear (see below). Draxels are also used as conduits for instant point-to-point interstellar communication via two unique satellites called draxel relays (see below). For more about draxels see page 49.

Draxel Tapper: Rare individuals with the talent to manipulate, tap into, and disrupt the Nex-energy flowing through draxels and draxel relays. Draxel tappers can spy on others through their draxels, trace people's locations, make draxels feedback on their users, and more. For more, see page 92.

Draxel ID: A unique identifier that results from the keying of a draxel to a Linked being. Draxel IDs are one of a kind and can never be duplicated. Draxel IDs are required for access to draxel communication, the ReUnia Interstellar Network, and X-gear (see page 49).

Draxel Relay: One of two orbital satellites in human space that facilitate instant interstellar communication between individuals (a.k.a. draxel communication—see page 50).

One relay is in orbit around Neptune, and the other orbits the dead planet Nebakazor in the Han Cluster.

Ghost Traveling: An ability that allows one's X-Ghost (but not their physical body or any physical equipment) to travel instantly to the X-Ghost (whether Capped or Ghosted) of someone they are X-Bonded with, or to an X-Node they are keyed to.

Ghosted: The state of a Linked being when its X-Ghost is separated from its physical body (a.k.a. its Sleeper—see below). These detached X-Ghosts are semi-corporeal, have a glowing aura, and may look different in appearance than their physical bodies (see Nex Avatar).

Ghostless: A being or item that does not have an X-Ghost (like most animals). Also refers to humans who were born without an X-Ghost, a deadly condition that usually claims their lives within their first year (see page 88).

Linked Being: Any being, whether human or an intelligent machine that is "Linked" to the Nex and therefore has an X-Ghost. Every Linked being can detach their X-Ghost from their physical body, leaving behind a Sleeper. Doing this takes a limited action, and their X-Ghost separates from their body, which then immediately falls into a deep coma until their X-Ghost returns to it. For more about Linked beings, see page 87.

Linked Machine: A machine or artificial lifeform (with its own body) that has become self-aware, sapient, and has "Linked" to the Nex and manifested its own X-Ghost. Linked machines, like humans themselves, are another form of Linked being (for more see page 35).

Nex, the: Short for Nexus, an adjacent dimension to the physical world. Though it coexists with our reality, the Nex follows a different set of natural laws. Its presence became known to humanity during the **Nex Revelation** (see page 8), and unlocked several transhuman abilities (and connected to thousands of robots) over the course of three centuries. No one yet knows why it exists, how it was formed, the full range of possibilities it offers, or the

threats it represents. See **Chapter Six: The Nex** on page 87.

Nex Architect: Exceptionally powerful and dedicated individuals who have gained a unique, intuitive understanding of the Nex. Some Nex Architects like Karina Lutz (inventor of the draxel), Freestand (inventor of X-gear), and Liberator (inventor of the artificial Nexarium) have made discoveries that changed the course of human history. There have only been a small handful of these adepts in human history. The only known *living* Nex Architect is named Galadris, a mysterious figure who lives on Earth.

Nex Aura: Every Linked being has a glowing aura. The Blinded see these auras as colorless gray, or white. The Vivid seem them in a deep blue color.

Nex Avatar: The visual appearance of a Ghosted person (i.e. their X-Ghost when separated from their body). A Linked being's Nex Avatar is always the "manifestation of the person they truly are inside" (see page 88).

Nex Divers: Rare adepts particularly attuned to The Nex. These individuals can channel Nex-energy directly through their bodies and affect the experiences and perceptions of other Linked beings around them. For more on **Nex Divers**, see page 93.

Nex Revelation, the: A series of events occurring after humanity's arrival in the Han Cluster that revealed the existence and influence of the Nex. Almost all humans, and, later, an increasing number of AI machines, manifested X-Ghosts to become Linked beings. In ensuing decades, humanity learned to unlock additional abilities while entire fields of science, technology, philosophy and religion were born.

ReUnia: A non-centralized, non-proprietary interstellar network based in the Nex that handles all monetary and property ownership records and stored information exchange. Access to ReUnia requires a draxel ID. ReUnia was developed by a joint Earth-Edenic consortium under the leadership of Karina Lutz. It remains the most significant joint collaboration between the two civilizations since they split apart during Hope's Break. To read more about ReUnia, see page 77.

Sleeper: A Linked being's physical body separated from its X-Ghost. Sleepers are left in a vulnerable sleep-state when separated from their X-Ghost. If a Sleeper takes damage, it's X-Ghost takes damage, and vice versa. If one dies, so does the other.

True-Seer: See Vivid below.

Vivid: Also known as a "true seer," this term describes an extremely rare individual (one in every few million Linked beings) who can see the Nex auras of Linked beings in color and is immune to the effects of the Blinding. Many (but not all vivids) recognize a shift in the behavior of Linked beings in human space toward more destructive and irrational thoughts and actions.

X-Bonding: A rare phenomenon whereby two or more Linked beings who have developed a deep emotional connection or shared an experience of intense stress can bond together. Those who share an X-Bonded can telepathically communicate with each other directly through the Nex no matter their distance apart (without the use of draxels). Moreover, X-Bonding allows one's X-Ghost (but not their physical body) to Ghost Travel instantly to someone they are X-Bonded with. For more on **X-Bonding**, see page 89.

X-Gear: X-Gear is a blanket term referring to semi-corporeal, Nex-based tools, weapons, clothes, and armor projected from a draxel thanks to special lines of code that have been loaded onto it. X-Gear must be custom tuned to an individual's draxel ID by an X-Tuner in order to work. X-Gear was invented by a Nex Architect named Freestand. See **X-Gear** on page 50.

X-Ghost: The semi-corporeal manifestation of a Linked being that exists partially in the Nex. A being's X-Ghost can be integrated within their physical body (a.k.a. Capped), or they can be separate from their body (a.k.a. Ghosted). When Ghosted, X-Ghosts are semi-corporeal and exist *between* the worlds of the Nex and the physical plane. They take penalties when interacting with physical objects, but are still blocked by physical boundaries and obstacles. A solid wall is still solid to an X-Ghost. When Capped, X-Ghosts reveal themselves only as a faint glowing aura surrounding the physical form. For more, see page 87.

X-Node: Rare, and mostly only available to certain military organizations and planetary governments, these are powerful pieces of Nex-based technology that allow specific, keyed Linked beings to send their Ghosted forms directly to the X-Nodes, effectively acting as if they are X-Bonded to them but at much shorter range. The most well-known example of these devices are the "Wraith Nodes" used for planetary security on Edenic.

X-Powers: Powers cast by Nex divers, draxel tappers, and Nex Architects.