

IS THERE AN EPIDEMIC OF AUTISM IN SILICON VALLEY? SEE PAGE 174

WIRED

DECEMBER 2001

SPECIAL REPORT

The future of War is here

How to Beat a Terror Network

By John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt

Decentralize or Die

By Oliver Morton

Welcome to
Surveillance Nation

By Adam L. Penenberg

WIRED TOOLS

The Ultimate
Technolust Gift Guide

BLASTNOST!

Inside Russia's
Rent-a-Rocket Boom





Guilt by Association

Karen Stephenson isn't your typical network expert. The anthropologist turned organizational analyst specializes in making human, not computer, connections. She runs the New York-based consulting firm NetForm, where she analyzes everything from corporate hierarchies for private industry to subversive cells for the US government. Her take: Networks that work, be they among ancient Egyptian merchants or modern guerrilla armies, share fundamental traits. "Networks are decentralized, but their internal connections aren't random," she explains. To flush out these links, Stephenson uses software derived from hundreds of case studies to find patterns surrounding a sequence of events. The patterns reveal a small but diversified set of critical nodes, which she calls "the network's DNA." Once located, nodes can be monitored or infiltrated - or, says Stephenson, "you can expunge the DNA in one move." — *Jenn Kahn*