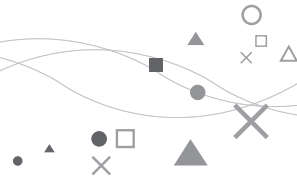


System Update

News and Trends | Interviews | Et Cetera | Blu-ray



THE 10 What you need to know

2 *Heavy Rain* on the brain
page 8

3 Squared: *Front Mission*
page 9

4 Summer Showdown: *Movies and games*
page 10

5 What the *Fallujah*?
Konami surrenders
page 12

6 *Modern Warfare 2* travelogue
page 14

7 Hardware: Put the metal to the pedal
page In4

8 PTOM Interview: The 411 on *Reno 911!*
page 16

9 *Street Fighter IV* pros face off
page 18

10 Burning Question: Dev envy
page 19

His name is Nier (pronounced "near") and he's not the angst-added teen familiar from other Square Enix titles. He's 30 and his mission isn't to save the world—it's to save his daughter, who's infected with the "black virus." His adventure will be twisted, dark, and filled with mystery. But from the resolute expression on his face, you can tell he's ready for it.



Disease and monsters plague a crumbling world. As Nier travels between devastated locales he must find allies to help him save his daughter's life. Exactly what's responsible for the virus ailing the world? That's one of the answers we expect Nier to discover on his journey.

NIER-LY THERE...

1 The latest scoop on Square Enix's dark new franchise

Visually, Square Enix's upcoming action-adventure title, *Nier*, is stunning. Pretty, you could even say. But we've finally squeezed info out of the publisher: set for a 2010 release, the themes it explores are *not* pretty. They're dark. Deadly dark. An illness—called the "black virus"—is ravaging a degenerating world. Anguish, suffering, and despair skulk in every shadow. How the world sunk to this position is unknown, but one man is rebelling against it, for purely selfish reasons.



Combat will be a mix of magical abilities and melee chain attacks. This opponent appears heavily armored and ferocious, and there's a half-constructed building in the background, which makes us wonder: what kind of world is this, anyway?

