

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A SSL certificate was extracted from the engineer pod of Helix Tech during the overnight window between 00:30 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Lana (senior engineer), Emiko (DevOps lead), Theo (contractor), Anastasia (security analyst), Jacinta (CTO), Enzo (support lead), Quentin (site-reliability engineer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the SSL certificate?

1. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 00:30 and 04:15, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
2. However: Anastasia is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
3. The data theft involved a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply.
4. Quentin has only clean-room or vault clearance of the four requirements.
5. However: Enzo is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
6. Anastasia has clean-room or vault clearance and knowledge of the seal serial pattern and a master key issued only to senior staff – initial suspicion was high.
7. Enzo has a master key issued only to senior staff and clean-room or vault clearance – initial suspicion was high.
8. Jacinta had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
9. Lana's badge swipe shows them off-site the entire window.
- 10 But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
- 11 Emiko's witness colleague shows them off-site the entire window.
- 12 However: Jacinta is cleared – but SSH authentication log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.

CASE 02

A locker key was taken from the computer lab of Saint-Clair School during the overnight window between 00:45 and 04:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Magnus (substitute teacher), Theo (janitor), Kalinda (secretary), Meriel (school counselor), Octavia (principal), Kasimir (teacher), Zoltan (librarian), Mahdi (student council president). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the locker key?

1. Mahdi has only familiarity with the security routing of the four requirements.
2. Zoltan has familiarity with the security routing and clearance to the restricted archive – initial suspicion was high.
3. However: Kalinda is cleared – but their records-room badge was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
4. The theft involved a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply.
5. Kasimir lacks after-hours building access – security audit confirms.
6. However: Magnus is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
7. Octavia has only clearance to the restricted archive of the four requirements.
8. Meriel was officially signed out at 22:45 via the front-desk register.
9. But: however VPN session record records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 2:05.
- 10 Magnus filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
- 11 Zoltan was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
- 12 However: Zoltan is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.

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CASE 03

A specialized welding kit was taken from the engine assembly area of Helix Restoration during the overnight window between 01:30 and 05:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Damaris (parts clerk), Nizar (electrician), Ginevra (apprentice), Aaliyah (shop manager), Tarek (master mechanic), Darya (welder), Ines (painter). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the specialized welding kit?

1. Ines has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, administrator credentials, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:30 and 05:15).
2. But: however parking-lot camera records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:25.
3. The trace at the scene (a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Ines.
4. However: Darya is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
5. However: Aaliyah is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
6. Ginevra has only specialized engineering certification of the four requirements.
7. Tarek filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
8. Darya has specialized engineering certification and authorization to handle the item and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
9. Damaris lacks administrator credentials – security audit confirms.
- 10 Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, administrator credentials, presence between 01:30 and 05:15, and authorization to handle the item.

CASE 04

The director's notes were taken from the dressing room of Argent Theatre during the overnight window between 01:00 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Joaquin (understudy), Ines (stagehand), Tariq (box-office manager), Saoirse (lighting tech), Mei (costume designer), Akhil (stage manager), Nikolai (lead actor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the director's notes?

1. Initial assumption pointed to Saoirse because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
2. Saoirse has only familiarity with the security routing of the four requirements.
3. Mei clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
4. Joaquin has familiarity with the security routing and a master key issued only to senior staff and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
5. However: Akhil is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
6. Tariq has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:00 and 04:15).
7. But: however DHCP log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:50.
8. Joaquin filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
9. Nikolai lacks a master key issued only to senior staff – confirmed by personnel records.
- 10 However: Mei is cleared – but their director's key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.

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CASE 05

A tournament prize money was taken from the equipment shed of Northgate Athletic Club during the overnight window between 00:30 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Simeon (referee), Hakim (head coach), Nikolai (rookie player), Darya (star player), Finnegan (assistant coach), Rhys (team statistician), Hattie (team captain). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the tournament prize money?

1. Finnegan claims to have exited the building at 23:55 – the official badge log confirms this.
2. Nikolai filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
3. Initial assumption pointed to Hattie because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
4. The theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
5. Darya was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
6. Hattie lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
7. However: Nikolai is cleared – but locker-room sensor places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
8. Nikolai has a verified relationship with the donor and specialized engineering certification and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
9. Simeon had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
- 10 But: however pedestrian-door sensor records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 2:45.
- 11 Simeon has a verified relationship with the donor and specialized engineering certification and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
- 12 ~~However: Darya is cleared – but badge log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.~~

CASE 06

An internal API key was extracted from the war room of Brightline Software during the overnight window between 00:00 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Ilya (intern), Meriel (DevOps lead), Simeon (support lead), Aiko (site-reliability engineer), Anand (data scientist), Etienne (contractor), Katarina (CTO). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the internal API key?

1. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Anand.
2. But: however the unsecured side stairwell doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
3. Four independent requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:00 and 04:15, and familiarity with the security routing.
4. Etienne has documented hands-on history with the item and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
5. Simeon had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
6. Anand has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, documented hands-on history with the item, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:00 and 04:15).
7. Simeon has a master key issued only to senior staff and familiarity with the security routing – initial suspicion was high.
8. Ilya clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
9. Initial assumption pointed to Ilya because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
- 10 Meriel has only familiarity with the security routing of the four requirements.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

Solve before peeking. Correct suspect and key reasoning steps below.

Case 01 D) Theo

- Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 00:30 and 04:15, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Anastasia appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 F) Meriel

- Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, after-hours building access, presence between 00:45 and 04:00, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Kalinda appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 undefined) Ines

- Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, administrator credentials, presence between 01:30 and 05:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Tarek appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 B) Tariq

- Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, administrator credentials, presence between 01:00 and 04:15, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Akhil appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 E) Finnegan

- Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 00:30 and 04:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Nikolai appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 C) Anand

- Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:00 and 04:15, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- Simeon appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.