

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

The encryption keys were extracted from the code review room of Velocity Networks during the overnight window between 01:30 and 05:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Faye (intern), Olive (product manager), Roksana (security analyst), Eleni (CTO), Darya (data scientist), Joaquin (contractor), Quincy (site-reliability engineer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the encryption keys?

1. Olive lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
2. The data theft involved a network certificate signed by senior staff.
3. The trace at the scene (a network certificate signed by senior staff) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Joaquin.
4. However: Roksana is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
5. However: Eleni is cleared – but their badge was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
6. Initial assumption pointed to Eleni because of proximity to the scene earlier, but this has been independently ruled out.
7. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 01:30 and 05:30, and knowledge of the seal serial pattern.
8. Eleni was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
9. Roksana has after-hours building access and specialized engineering certification – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 But: however the unsecured pedestrian door doesn't require a badge to re-enter.
- 11 Joaquin has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, knowledge of the seal serial pattern, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:30 and 05:30).

CASE 02

A science project was taken from the exam preparation room of Hawthorne Day School during the overnight window between 01:30 and 04:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Ishaan (student council president), Sora (school counselor), Magnus (teacher), Akhil (coach), Anastasia (librarian), Akira (substitute teacher), Adrian (secretary). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the science project?

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 Sora.
2. Akhil's attendance log shows them off-site the entire window.
3. Sora has all four requirements: elevated system privileges, after-hours building access, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:30 and 04:45).
4. However: Akira is cleared – but hallway camera places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
5. Magnus was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
6. Sora was officially signed out at 23:00 via the front-desk register.
7. Akira was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
8. Magnus has after-hours building access and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
9. However: Magnus is cleared – but hallway camera places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
- 10 Adrian has possession of the specific tool used and after-hours building access and elevated system privileges – initial suspicion was high.

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CASE 03

A sequencing chip was swapped from the centrifuge bay of Caelum Labs during the overnight window between 01:30 and 05:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Nadia (equipment manager), Hasan (undergraduate volunteer), Ezra (principal investigator), Caelan (postdoctoral researcher), Mikael (operations manager), Anand (clinical coordinator), Saoirse (safety officer), Pavel (lab technician). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who swapped the sequencing chip?

1. However: Saoirse is cleared – but freezer access log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
2. Caelan lacks a verified relationship with the donor – security audit confirms.
3. Ezra has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:30 and 05:00).
4. Pavel filed a grievance two weeks ago – appears to have motive.
5. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Ezra.
6. But: however the DHCP log shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 01:30.
7. Saoirse was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
8. Ezra their video call ended at 23:25 according to the system.
9. Four independent requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:30 and 05:00, and possession of the specific tool used.
- 10 Initial assumption pointed to Nadia because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.

CASE 04

An original land deed was taken from the restricted reading room of Northgate Estate Archive during the overnight window between 02:30 and 05:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Jules (head archivist), Elspeth (genealogist), Octavia (conservation specialist), Eleni (volunteer), Bayan (administrator), Saoirse (intern), Lana (clerk), Yvonne (security officer). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the original land deed?

1. Yvonne's archive log shows them off-site the entire window.
2. Jules has administrator credentials and clearance to the restricted archive – initial suspicion was high.
3. Elspeth has all four requirements: clearance to the restricted archive, administrator credentials, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 02:30 and 05:45).
4. Saoirse has possession of the specific tool used and administrator credentials – initial suspicion was high.
5. The trace at the scene (a hand-machined tool stocked in only one closet) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Elspeth.
6. However: Jules is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
7. Octavia has only possession of the specific tool used of the four requirements.
8. Initial assumption pointed to Bayan because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
9. However: Lana is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.

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CASE 05

A prop weapon was taken from the sound booth of Argent Theatre during the overnight window between 00:00 and 03:00. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Lucia (costume designer), Kalisa (prop master), Kai (understudy), Eitan (stage manager), Mikael (box-office manager), Phaedra (stagehand), Lana (lead actor). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the prop weapon?

1. However: Kalisa is cleared – but their director's key was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
2. Lana had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
3. But: however DHCP log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:00.
4. Kai their video call ended at 23:20 according to the system.
5. Phaedra has advanced restoration training and documented hands-on history with the item and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
6. However: Phaedra is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
7. Lana has authorization to handle the item and advanced restoration training and documented hands-on history with the item – initial suspicion was high.
8. Kalisa has documented hands-on history with the item and authorization to handle the item and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
9. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:00 and 03:00, and authorization to handle the item.
- 10 Lucia lacks advanced restoration training – confirmed by personnel records.
- 11 Phaedra was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.

CASE 06

An original script was taken from the box office of Saint-Clair Playhouse during the overnight window between 00:00 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Ezra (prop master), Noor (understudy), Leila (stage manager), Aurora (lead actor), Cyrus (director), Bao (stagehand), Florian (costume designer), Mikael (box-office manager). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the original script?

1. Florian lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
2. However: Ezra is cleared – but rehearsal sign-in places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
3. But: however DHCP log records show they re-authenticated from an internal network at 1:15.
4. Ezra has specialized engineering certification and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
5. Aurora lacks specialized engineering certification – confirmed by personnel records.
6. Mikael has a verified relationship with the donor and authorization to handle the item and specialized engineering certification – initial suspicion was high.
7. Leila has all four requirements: specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:00 and 04:15).
8. Four independent requirements: specialized engineering certification, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 00:00 and 04:15, and authorization to handle the item.
9. Mikael had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
- 10 However: Cyrus is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 D) Joaquin

- Four requirements (specialized engineering certification, after-hours building access, presence between 01:30 and 05:30, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Eleni appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 A) Sora

- Four requirements (elevated system privileges, after-hours building access, presence between 01:30 and 04:45, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Akira appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 C) Ezra

- Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:30 and 05:00, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Pavel appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 undefined) Elspeth

- Four requirements (clearance to the restricted archive, administrator credentials, presence between 02:30 and 05:45, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Saoirse appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 E) Kai

- Four requirements (advanced restoration training, documented hands-on history with the item, presence between 00:00 and 03:00, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Lana appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 C) Leila

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