

Deduction Mysteries

CASE 01

A SSL certificate was extracted from the data archive of Meridian Data during the overnight window between 01:00 and 05:30. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Amari (support lead), Quentin (CTO), Nizar (senior engineer), Dario (site-reliability engineer), Diallo (security analyst), Yvonne (contractor), Gemma (data scientist). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who extracted the SSL certificate?

1. However: Dario is cleared – but badge swipe places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
2. Dario clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
3. However: Diallo is cleared – but SSH authentication log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
4. Quentin was officially signed out at 23:40 via the front-desk register.
5. The data theft involved a seal cut with a serial pattern from a specific supply.
6. However: Amari is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
7. 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 Quentin.
8. Amari clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
9. Diallo has elevated system privileges and knowledge of the seal serial pattern and a verified relationship with the donor – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 But: however the parking-lot camera shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 01:00.
- 11 Gemma's CCTV camera shows them off-site the entire window.
- 12 Nizar's SSH authentication log shows them off-site the entire window.

CASE 02

An accounting ledger was taken from the executive suite of Meridian Capital during the overnight window between 01:00 and 05:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Mateo (records clerk), Sora (CFO), Ula (senior engineer), Wilder (security officer), Quincy (HR director), Suri (IT administrator), Hattie (legal counsel). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the accounting ledger?

1. Ula lacks clean-room or vault clearance – security audit confirms.
2. Sora had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
3. Suri has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, clean-room or vault clearance, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:00 and 05:45).
4. However: Sora is cleared – but their VPN access was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
5. The corporate theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
6. Wilder's elevator log shows them off-site the entire window.
7. However: Hattie is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
8. But: however the VPN session record shows their vehicle remained in the lot until well after 01:00.
9. Hattie has a master key issued only to senior staff and clean-room or vault clearance and authorization to handle the item – initial suspicion was high.
- 10 The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Suri.

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CASE 03

A science project was taken from the faculty lounge of Aldermarsh High during the overnight window between 00:15 and 03:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 7 suspects are under investigation: Polina (teacher), Ula (substitute teacher), Fenella (secretary), Kasimir (department head), Mei (librarian), Lior (school counselor), Beatrix (student council president). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the science project?

1. Beatrix had financial pressure – appears to have motive.
2. However: Beatrix is cleared – but their keypad code was revoked the day before – confirmed in the security audit.
3. Lior their video call ended at 23:35 according to the system.
4. Polina's attendance log shows them off-site the entire window.
5. Kasimir has clean-room or vault clearance and familiarity with the security routing and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
6. However: Mei is cleared – but attendance log places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
7. Lior has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, familiarity with the security routing, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:15 and 03:15).
8. Kasimir clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
9. The trace at the scene (a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Lior.
- 10 Mei has familiarity with the security routing and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion . was high.

CASE 04

A curator notebook was taken from the special collections room of Northgate Library during the overnight window between 00:00 and 03:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Iolanthe (research assistant), Wren (intern), Ezra (visiting scholar), Hiroshi (archivist), Phaedra (custodian), Sami (volunteer), Mira (cataloger), Tomas (rare-books curator). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the curator notebook?

1. The trace at the scene (an encryption signature tied to the internal training network) ties directly to inventory or systems uniquely accessible to Phaedra.
2. Iolanthe has possession of the specific tool used and clean-room or vault clearance and a master key issued only to senior staff – initial suspicion was high.
3. Tomas has only possession of the specific tool used of the four requirements.
4. Phaedra was officially signed out at 22:35 via the front-desk register.
5. The theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
6. Initial assumption pointed to Wren because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
7. However: Iolanthe is cleared – but book-checkout record places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
8. Iolanthe was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
9. Phaedra has all four requirements: a master key issued only to senior staff, clean-room or vault clearance, possession of the specific tool used, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 00:00 and 03:15).
- 10 Hiroshi lacks clean-room or vault clearance – security audit confirms.

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CASE 05

A sound-system controller was taken from the catwalk of Northgate Stage during the overnight window between 02:15 and 06:45. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Indira (stagehand), Dimitri (box-office manager), Esme (lighting tech), Klaus (lead actor), Ines (stage manager), Bayan (musical director), Daphne (director), Kenji (understudy). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the sound-system controller?

1. Esme clashed publicly with management – appears to have motive.
2. Bayan has clean-room or vault clearance and advanced restoration training and possession of the specific tool used – initial suspicion was high.
3. Ines's rehearsal sign-in shows them off-site the entire window.
4. The theft involved an encryption signature tied to the internal training network.
5. Initial assumption pointed to Daphne because of being seen near the building, but this has been independently ruled out.
6. Klaus has only advanced restoration training of the four requirements.
7. Esme has clean-room or vault clearance and possession of the specific tool used and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
8. However: Bayan is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
9. However: Dimitri is cleared – but witness crew member places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
10. Dimitri was passed over for a recent promotion – appears to have motive.
11. Four independent requirements: advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:15 and 06:45, and possession of the specific tool used.

CASE 06

A championship ring was taken from the equipment room of Saint-Clair Field House during the overnight window between 01:45 and 04:15. The operation required specific qualifications, access, and timing. 8 suspects are under investigation: Jules (athletic trainer), Lucia (facilities manager), Leander (referee), Noor (team statistician), Quentin (team captain), Bao (rookie player), Akhil (equipment manager), Olive (assistant coach). Several have strong-looking motives.

Q Who took the championship ring?

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 Lucia.
2. Lucia has all four requirements: advanced restoration training, after-hours building access, authorization to handle the item, and meets the temporal requirement (presence between 01:45 and 04:15).
3. Quentin has authorization to handle the item and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.
4. However: Olive is cleared – but two independent witnesses confirm a video call with them throughout the window.
5. However: Quentin is cleared – but they were on a documented overnight flight, verified by airline records.
6. Initial assumption pointed to Leander because of public friction with management, but this has been independently ruled out.
7. However: Jules is cleared – but facility camera places them at the hospital with a family emergency during the entire window.
8. The theft involved a foam replica skillfully painted with restoration-grade spray paint.
9. Jules has authorization to handle the item and advanced restoration training – initial suspicion was high.

Answer Key – Deduction Mysteries

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

Case 01 F) Quentin

- Four requirements (elevated system privileges, a verified relationship with the donor, presence between 01:00 and 05:30, knowledge of the seal serial pattern) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Dario appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 02 undefined) Suri

- Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 01:00 and 05:45, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Quincy appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 03 C) Lior

- Four requirements (advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 00:15 and 03:15, familiarity with the security routing) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Beatrix appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 04 C) Phaedra

- Four requirements (a master key issued only to senior staff, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 00:00 and 03:15, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Iolanthe appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 05 undefined) Kenji

- Four requirements (advanced restoration training, clean-room or vault clearance, presence between 02:15 and 06:45, possession of the specific tool used) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
 - Dimitri appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.
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Case 06 B) Lucia

- Four requirements (advanced restoration training, after-hours building access, presence between 01:45 and 04:15, authorization to handle the item) plus a unique technical trace narrow the case.
- Olive appears guilty (has multiple requirements, has motive) but is cleared by an independent verification.