OPERATION SILK HARVEST

THE SCENARIO EXPLAINED · ONE HOUR, FOUR EXECUTIVES, THREE DECISIONS

An attacker has been inside a life-sciences company for weeks, and the executives are told at one o'clock. This page shows how the hour runs: what the IM says, what the table decides, and what each choice costs.

RULED DECIDED BY THE GAME'S AUTHOR · ASSUMED A WORKING DEFAULT FOR THIS SCENARIO

THE HOUR AT A GLANCE

Operation Silk Harvest, played at four seats. The planned hour is 56 minutes with the rest as float, sized to the workshop slot. ASSUMED Every duration is arithmetic and nothing has been timed with real players.

6 MIN	3 MIN	7 MIN	2 MIN	6 MIN	2 MIN	5 MIN	8 MIN POOL	2 MIN	2 MIN	13 MIN
OPENING	INJ 1	DECISION 1	INJ 4	DECISION 2	INJ 5	DECISION 3	QUESTIONS	BUFFER	VERDICT	DEBRIEF

0 · about an hour · 56 planned, about 80 with float

■ DECISION OR DEBRIEF ☐ STORY BEAT ☐ SHARED POOL AND SLACK

ACT 1 · SET UP
WHY NOW, WHO HAS SKIN IN IT 1
The table learns an attacker is inside, names who is in charge, and decides what to stop today.

ACT 2 · ESCALATE
IT GETS WORSE THE LONGER YOU WAIT 2
The cost of certification and the integration work. Whose time, what exposure.

ACT 3 · RESOLVE
WHAT TO SAY, THEN WHAT IT COST 3
The CSIRT, the stakeholders and the supplier. Then the verdict and the debrief.

EVERY DECISION RUNS THE SAME LOOP

Three Executive Decisions and three leadership calls all use it.

THE TABLE ACTS Questions and positions, one sentence each → **VOTE** Inside the timer. Tie fails. → **ROLL IF DOUBT** Printed target, backers, specialty → **NARRATE** The IM says what it led to → **MOVE THE BOARD** Markers move aloud

BEAT BY BEAT

Story time starts at 13:00. The clock is compressed: the story hour is about two, the table hour is one.

13:00 THE ESCALATION LANDS

OPENING, 6 MIN · STORY · RULED: ONE FULL BRIEF

The IM puts the **Escalation Card** on the table with **Brief 1**, reads the opening, and teaches the rules in 90 seconds. The CISO gives the 30-second summary.

"A national CSIRT called your CISO at a couple of hours ago with a warning about a campaign against life-sciences companies. At five to one your technical team found that you are part of it."

	STEADY	STRAINED	SERIOUS	CRITICAL
SECURITY	●			
FINANCIAL	●			
REPUTATIONAL	●			

The risk board starts at Steady for all three risks. The IM moves a marker aloud after each decision.

13:00 THE OLD SYSTEM AND THE FIRST CALL

INJECT 1, 3 MIN · STORY · LEADERSHIP CALL

An old system that should have been retired is sending research data out. Cutting it off also cuts a research collaboration link, and the CTO needs a name.

The first call, 1 minute, no roll: the CEO names the executive incident lead, the owner of the old system and the CSIRT contact. No name means the attacker reaches more research systems: Security one step worse.

Players can ask where the way in was. The IM hands over a management document, never a technical artifact.

13:30 WHAT STOPS TODAY, AND WHAT EXPOSURE DO WE BUY?

DECISION 1, 7 MIN · EXECUTIVE DECISION · HELD BY THE CIO

The VP R&D prices the dark link, the CTO prices the open door. The table sets the triangle, votes inside a **3-minute timer**, and the IM rolls only if the option has doubt.

A. DARK NOW
Research paused, every way in shut. Financial one step worse, Reputational too unless Decision 3 is Open.
ROLL Automatic if an owner was named, else 10+

B. BOUNDED WINDOW
Link open under watch for one hour, then cut. Security one step worse.
ROLL 10+

C. WAIT, NO LIMIT
Wait for a temporary link. Security two steps worse. Also the outcome if the time runs out.
ROLL 15+, it goes against the CTO's stated fact

14:00 HOW MUCH HAS GONE, AND THE CTO'S ESTIMATE

INJECT 4, 2 MIN · STORY · SHORT BRIEF

Core research data has been leaving for weeks. The CTO cannot certify the research environment clean for at least a day on our own. General Counsel will not let anyone say "not notifiable" yet.

It follows Decision 1. If the table cut, the leaking has stopped but nobody can promise there is no other way out. If it did not, more data is leaving right now.

14:00 WHOSE TIME, AND WHAT EXPOSURE DO WE CARRY?

DECISION 2, 6 MIN · EXECUTIVE DECISION · HELD BY THE CFO

The CFO's pressure line is read once at half time: "every day the integration team stays off integration costs us money and a week of slippage."

A. INTEGRATION TEAM ONTO IT
Certification in hours. Financial two steps worse, and the integration work slips a week.
ROLL Automatic, clear ownership

B. EMERGENCY BUDGET
Overtime, integration stays on schedule. About a day and a half. Financial one step worse.
ROLL 10+

C. INTERNAL TEAM ONLY
Offline longer. Reputational one step worse.
ROLL 10+

INSIDE THE TIMER **The consultant.** The table may buy outside help once, by a vote. It is a pure cost: Financial one step worse to the end of the session, no benefit, no countdown. LEADERSHIP CALL **Restart before certification?** The table votes yes or no, 3 of 4, once.

14:30 IT IS A CAMPAIGN

INJECT 5, 2 MIN · STORY · SHORT BRIEF

The CSIRT confirms at least three other life-sciences victims in six months and asks for BioGenix's findings. Sharing helps the sector but exposes your own weaknesses.

14:30 WHAT DO WE SAY, TO WHOM, AND WHEN?

DECISION 3, 5 MIN · EXECUTIVE DECISION · HELD BY THE CISO

One stance, one vote, one roll. General Counsel gates what may be shared and will not say that holding is safe.

A. OPEN
CSIRT: full findings with stated confidence. Stakeholders told now. Supplier: a formal demand. Financial one step worse.
ROLL 10+

B. MEASURED
CSIRT: a validated subset. Stakeholders once scope is firmer. Supplier: a call. Reputational one step worse.
ROLL Automatic with a named CSIRT owner and counsel's confirmation

C. HOLD
Nothing yet, and the CSIRT escalates its request. Reputational two steps worse. Also the outcome if the time runs out.
ROLL 15+, counsel already said so

15:00 CONTAINMENT, AND WHAT IT COST

VERDICT, 2 MIN · RULED

After the last Executive Decision, the IM declares containment when the ways in are shut and the leaking has stopped, or says "not yet reached" if the IM calls time first. The verdict is two parts: containment reached or not, and one sentence on cost, read off the risk board.

"Contained. Security Steady, Financial Serious, Reputational Strained."

The CEO writes the remediation owner for the next 90 days. If Financial reaches Critical at any point, the IM calls an emergency board meeting: one sentence from each executive, and play runs on.

+13 min WHAT HAPPENED, NEVER WHAT WENT WRONG

DEBRIEF · DEBRIEF

Five parts, 13 minutes: step out of character and check in, **the reveal** (the three exhibits and the real timeline), each seat answering once, process gaps and reality, then the **Decision Record**, which is a one-page sheet: the decisions taken, the exhibits found and missed, the verdict and one "when X, I will Y" per player.

WHAT THE TABLE CAN DISCOVER

The IM never states these. The table meets them as management documents, handed over only when a player asks. Anything unasked is shown in the debrief.

SURFACE
FAST-TRACK EXCEPTION A
BioGenix let a supplier's software in under a fast-track exception and never checked it independently.

EXHIBIT A
The supplier exception record. Given if someone asks how they got in.

DEEPER
NOBODY OWNED IT B
An old system stayed on for 18 months because a research link depended on it, and nobody owned that call.

EXHIBIT B
The steering minutes. Given if someone asks who owns it.

ROOT
SPEED, AGAIN AND AGAIN C
In the months after the merger, speed and continuity won every time, and no executive owned the accumulated risk.

EXHIBIT C
The record that the switch-off was deferred, with the owner gone. Debrief only.

Draft, from script v35. Not playtested. The mechanics come from `core/rulings.md`.