(This participant included is write up in the email itself)  
  
This is perhaps THE challenge that I was inspired by the most. Clearly based upon the popular game "Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes", the challenge introduces an exciting twist - no bomb defusal manual.

This evidently begs the question. How would one go about attaining the solution? Well, with a trusty Excel file, I jotted down the serial number of every instance, tabulating the results through hundreds of annoying failure messages.

Eventually, through sheer willpower, I was able to figure out (kinda) some basic rules for two out of the three problems (wire cutting and button).

All that remained was the last puzzle - ABCD. This was all down to ~~luck~~ pure skill. It took me a total of 67 tries. Sixty-seven. Infuriating. Tries. Of which, I could not even guess for most of the instances due to the wrong number of wires or "incorrect" serial number that I needed for the button!

When the congratulatory message popped up, I could hardly believe it. Those hours were truly worth it. And all completed without a partner...

Thanks organisers for this not-so-beginner CTF! Genuinely had fun even though I couldn't complete any of the pwn challenges LOL