

FINAL SCRIPT – FOREIGN LANGUAGE

[SCENE 1]

The scene opens on a group video call on Discord. ZHENG, XIA, LIU, CHEN, and WEI are in separate locations, visible on their respective screens. The atmosphere is casual as they discuss work.

Zheng, a young, eager professional, is in his home office, a neat space with multiple monitors. He's sharing his screen with the team.

ZHENG: (excitedly) Kàn kàn zhège, huǒjīmen. Wǒ zhǎodàole yīgè tígōng miǎnfèi gāojí biānchéng gōngjù de wǎngzhàn. Wǒ rènwéi zhè duì wǒmen de xiàngmù hěn yǒu bāngzhù.

(Check this out, guys. I found a site that offers advanced coding tools for free. I think it could really help with our project.)

XIA: (doubtful) Nǐ quèdìng zhè ānquán ma? Wǎngshàng de miǎnfèi dōngxī kěnéng huì yǒu wèntí.

(Are you sure it's safe? Free stuff online can be tricky.)

LIU: (curious) Gěi wǒmen kàn kàn nàge wǎngzhàn, Zhèng.

(Show us the site, Zheng.)

Zheng navigates to a dubious-looking website filled with ads and download buttons.

CHEN: (cautiously) Zhèng, nà kàn qǐlái hěn wéixiǎn. Zhèyàng de wǎngzhàn jīngcháng yǒu èmi ruǎnjiàn.

(Zheng, that looks risky. Such sites often have malware.)

WEI: (nodding) Shì de, xiàzǎi dōngxī shí yào xiǎoxīn.

(Yeah, be careful with what you download.)

Ignoring the warnings, Zheng clicks on a download link. A file starts downloading.

ZHENG: (snob) Méishì de, wǒ yǒu fáng bìngdú ruǎnjiàn.

(It'll be fine. I've got antivirus.)

On a group video call, ZHENG, XIA, LIU, CHEN, and WEI are seen in their respective home offices. The mood is upbeat, and everyone is focused on their shared screen, showing a complex project plan.

ZHENG: (energetically) Hǎo de tuánduì, ràng wǒmen yìqǐ zǒngjié yíxià wǒmen xiàngmù de lǐchéngbēi. Wǒmen xià yī jiēduàn zhèngzài zhèngquè de lùshàng, duì ba?

(Alright team, let's go over our milestones for the project. We're on track for the next phase, right?)

XIA: (nodding) Shì de, wǒmen shì. Kāifā tuánduì gānggāng wánchéng le yìngyòng chéngxù de bètǎ bǎnběn. Wǒmen zhǔnbèi hǎo le cèshì.

(Yes, we are. The development team just finished the beta version of the app. We're ready for testing.)

LIU: (pointing at a chart) Wǒ yīzhí zài jiānchá hòutái chéngxù. Zì wǒmen shàng cì gēngxīn yǐlái, jiǎzài shíjiān yǐjīng dàfū jìnshèn.

(I've been monitoring the backend processes. The load times have improved significantly since our last update.)

CHEN: (smiling) Mófǎng qiánxiān yě yǒu hǎo xiāoxī. Zuìxīn de cèshì xiǎnshì xiǎolǜ zēngjiǎle 15%.

(Good news on the simulation front too. The latest tests show a 15% increase in efficiency.)

WEI: (reviewing notes) Zhè hěn yōuxiù. Wǒmen yīnggāi kāishǐ zhǔnbèi kèhù de chányè biǎoyǎn. Qí zhòngyào de shì yào qiángdiào zhèxiē gǎijìn.

(That's excellent. We should start preparing for the client presentation. It's crucial we highlight these improvements.)

The team members interact with each other, showcasing graphs and diagrams on their screens. They are clearly passionate about their work.

ZHENG: (proudly) Zhè jiàng chéngwéi wǒmen lǐngyù de yòuxì zhě. Ràng wǒmen bǎoqì jìnxíng.
(This is shaping up to be a game-changer in our field. Let's keep the momentum going.)

XIA: (thoughtfully) Wǒmen xūyào xiǎoxīn ānquán, tèbié shì gēn wǒmen zhènglǐ de shùjù. Jìdé, ānquán dì yī.
(We need to be careful about security, especially with the kind of data we're handling. Remember, safety first.)

LIU: (agreeing) Dāngrán. Wǒ jīntiān huì zài jiǎnchá wǒmen de jiāmì fāngfǎ.
(Absolutely. I'll double-check our encryption protocols today.)

CHEN: (typing something) Wǒ zhèngzài gēngxīn xiàngmù shíjiānbiǎo. Wǒmen xià zhōu wǔ yīnggāi yǒu yī cì tuándù shěnpíng.
(I'm updating the project timeline. We should have a team review by next Friday.)

WEI: (concluding) Bùyào wàngle yònghù tǐyàn. Zhè shì wǒmen xiàngmù chénggōng de guānjiàn.
(Let's not forget about the user experience. It's key for our project's success.)

[SCENE 2]

Zheng noticed something unusual from his computer

ZHENG: Hēi, nǐmen yǒu méiyǒu zhùyì dào wǒ de diànnǎo jīntiān yǒudiǎn qíguài?
(Hey, have any of you noticed anything strange with my computer today?)

XIA: Nǐ de xiǎnshìqì xiǎnshì shénme le?
(What's displaying on your monitor?)

ZHENG: Bù zhīdào, tūrán jiān píngmù biàn hēi le.
(I don't know, the screen suddenly went black.)

LIU: Kěnéng shì shǔbiāo huò jiànpán chūle wèntí.

(It could be an issue with your mouse or keyboard.)

CHEN: Huòxǔ shì yīnpín shèbèi yǒu wèntí, nǐ chángshì liánjiēguò ma?

(Maybe it's the sound card, have you tried reconnecting?)

WEI: Kàn kàn yídòng shèbèi huò qítā shèbèi shìfǒu gǎnrǎo le diànnǎo.

(Check if any mobile or other devices are interfering with your computer.)

ZHENG: Wǒ shìle, dàn hái shì bùxíng.

(I've tried, but it's still not working.)

XIA: Děngděng, nǐmen yǒu méiyǒu fāxiàn wǒmen de shìpín yǒudiǎn qíguài?

(Wait, did any of you notice something odd with our video?)

LIU: Wǒ de nèicún shǐyòng zhíkù chūxiàn duōle.

(My RAM usage suddenly spiked.)

CHEN: (curious) Kěnéng shì kuàijiéjiàn yǐnfā de wèntí, yǒu méiyǒu rén wù cāozuòle?

(It could be due to shortcut keys, did anyone accidentally trigger something?)

WEI: Zhè bùduì, yǒu kěnéng shì ruǎnjiàn bāo zhōng de quēxiàn.

(This is not right, it could be a vulnerability in the software package.)

ZHENG: (shock) Zhè shì zěnméi huáshì? Yǒu wénjiàn zài xiàzǎi!

(What's happening? There's a file downloading!)

XIA: (worried) Bùyào dǎkāi tā, kěnéng shì èmì ruǎnjiàn!

(Don't open it, it might be malware!)

LIU: (freaking out) Wǒ chángshì jiéshù zhège jìnchéng, dàn wúfǎ cāozuò!

(I'm trying to terminate this process, but I can't!)

CHEN: Wǒmen xūyào lìjí duànkāi wǎngluò liánjiē!

(We need to disconnect from the network immediately!)

"As they scramble to disconnect, their screens freeze, and a chilling message appears"

Sa video 'to --- "Nǐmen de diànnǎo yǐ bèi hēikè gōngjī, méiyǒu táotuō de kěnéng xìng."

(Your computers have been hacked. There's no way out.)

[The scene fades to black.]

[SCENE 3]

The team member ZHENG, XIA, LIU, CHEN, and WEI are back online in a new video call. The mood is tense but focused.

ZHENG: (apologetically) Wǒ bù zhīdào zěnmē shuō bùhǎo, dàijiā. Wǒ yòng nàgè bèn de cuòwù bǎ yīqiè dōu fēngxiǎn le.

(I can't say sorry enough, everyone. I jeopardized everything with that stupid mistake.)

XIA: (firmly) Wǒmen kěyǐ hòu lái zài chǔlǐ zéguāi wèntí. Xiànzài, wǒmen xūyào pínggū wǒmen xiàngmù de yǐngxiǎng. Xiànzài de zhuàngkuàng rúhé?

(We can deal with the blame later. Right now, we need to assess the impact on our project. What's the status?)

LIU: (checking notes) Wǒmen de zhǔyào xiàngmù de wénjiàn dōu zài yún fúwùqì shàng. Wǒmen xūyào jiǎnchá rùqīn shǐfǒu dǎdào nàlǐ.

(Our main project files were on the cloud server. We need to check if the intrusion reached there.)

CHEN: (concerned) Wǒ de jīqì shàng yǒu yīxiē xiàngmù mófǎng zhèngzài yùnxíng. Wǒ xiànzài zhèngzài yùnxíng zhěnduàn, kàn kàn tāmen shǐfǒu shòu dào gǎnrǎo.

(I had some of the project simulations running on my machine. I'm running diagnostics now to see if they're compromised.)

WEI: (analyzing) Wǒmen xūyào kǎolǔ wǒmen de xiàngmù shùjù kěnéng bèi tōuqù huò zhìyú fǎngmá.

(We need to consider the possibility that our project data could be stolen or held for ransom.)

Each member starts checking their systems and cloud access, typing and clicking in a hurried manner.

ZHENG: (worried) Rúguǒ tāmen dédào wǒmen xiàngmù de quánxiàn, bùjǐn jǐnshì wǒmen de shíjiān hé nǚlì – hái yǒu kěnéng shì mǐngān de kèhù shùjù.

(If they got access to our project, it's not just our time and effort – it's potentially sensitive client data.)

XIA: (determine) iān, ràng wǒmen quèbǎo wǒmen suǒyǒu de liánjiē xiànzài dōu shì ānquán de. Wǒmen bùnéng zàiyǒu yīcì rùqīn.

(First, let's ensure all our connections are secure right now. We can't afford another breach.)

LIU: (nods) Tóngyì. Wǒ zhèngzài yùnxíng quán xitǒng sǎomiáo. Dàjiā yě yīnggāi zhèyàng zuò.

(Agreed. I'm running a full system scan. Everyone should do the same.)

CHEN: (focused on her screen) Wǒ zhèngzài jiǎnchá yún fúwùqì rìzhì. Mùqián lái kàn, rùqīn sìhū bèi xiànzhì zài wǒmen de běndì jīqì shàng.

(I'm checking the cloud server logs. So far, it looks like the breach was contained to our local machines)

WEI: (thoughtfully) Wǒ zhèngzài jiǎnchá yún fúwùqì de rìzhì. Mùqián kàn lái, rùqīn bèi xiànzhì zài wǒmen běndì jīqì shàng.

(I'm checking the cloud server logs. So far, it looks like the breach was contained to our local machines.)

The team continues working diligently. Zheng looks particularly distressed but tries to focus on his tasks.

ZHENG: (determined) Wǒmen xūyào zhǔdòng. Ràng wǒmen yùbèi zuì huài de qíngkuàng – shùjù sǔnshī, xìlòu, huò zhíjiē gōngbù.

(We need to be proactive. Let's prepare for worst-case scenarios – data loss, leaks, or even public disclosure.)

The scene ends with a sense of collective resolve, as the team works into the evening, silhouetted against their screens.

[SCENE 4]

The team, still reeling from the malware attack, gathers on a secure video call to discuss bringing in a cybersecurity expert, unaware of the twist that lies ahead.

The team members, ZHENG, XIA, LIU, CHEN, and WEI, are back on a secure video call, looking visibly stressed but determined.

ZHENG: (anxiously) Wǒ juédé wǒmen xūyào wàibù bāngzhù. Wǒ rènshi yī míng ānquán zhījiā, Alex Mercer. Tā zhīqián yě bāngzhù guò lèitóng qíngkuàng.

(I think we need external help. I know a cybersecurity expert, Alex Mercer. He's helped in similar situations before.)

(Alex Mercer doesn't have a profile, just a blank profile without video)

XIA: (cautiously) Zhè shì gè hǎo zhǔyì, dàn wǒmen xūyào duì tā jìnxíng quèrèn. Wǒmen bùnéng zàichéngshòu gèng duō fēngxiǎn.

(It's a good idea, but we need to be sure about him. We can't afford more risks.)

LIU: (nodding) Tóngyì. Zhèng, nǐ néng bùnéng bǎ tā zhǎo lái jiànmiàn? Dàn yào bǎochí zhíyè hé ānquán.

(Agreed. Zheng, can you set up a meeting with him? But let's keep it strictly professional and secure.)

CHEN: (worriedly) Hái yǒu, ràng tā qiān yīgè bǎomì xiéyì. Wǒmen bùnéng ràng wǒmen xiàngmù de xìnxī lòulù chūqù.

(Also, let's ensure he signs an NDA. We can't have our project details leaking out.)

WEI: (practically) Méicuò. Wǒmen jiànmiàn, pínggū tā de xìnyòng, ránhòu juédìng xiàyībù zuòfǎ.

(Right. We meet him, assess his credibility, and then decide the next steps.)

The team is on a video call with ALEX MERCER, a polished and confident cybersecurity expert. They explain their situation and show him evidence of the hack.

ZHENG: Wǎnshàng hǎo, Alex, nǐ néng bùnéng dǎkāi nǐ de xiàngjī?

(Good evening Alex, would you mind opening your camera?)

ALEX MERCER: Wǒ bù tài fāngbiàn zhèyàng zuò.

(I'm not comfortable doing that.)

ZHENG: Ē, hǎo ba?? Zǎnmen jiù kāishǐ ba.

(Uhhh okay?? Anyway, let's get started.)

ALEX MERCER: (assessing) Cóng wǒ suǒ kàn, zhè búshì pǔtōng de èmì ruǎnjiàn. Nǐmen yǐjīng bèi duìxiàng le. Wǒ kěyǐ bāngzhù nǐmen zhǎodào láiyuán hé jiāqiáng ānquán.

(From what I see, this isn't your run-of-the-mill malware. You've been targeted. I can help you trace the source and beef up your security.)

ZHENG: (eagerly) Nǐ néng duō kuài kāishǐ?

(How soon can you get started?)

ALEX MERCER: (reassuringly) Wǒ xūyào yuǎnchéng fāngwèn nǐmen de wǎngluò hé xìtǒng. Wǒmen mǎshàng kāishǐ ba.

(I'll need access to your network and systems remotely. Let's begin right away.)

The team watches as Alex navigates their systems with surprising ease, causing some concern.

XIA: (suspiciously, in a private chat to Liu) Zhè gè Mercer tài zhīdao wǒmen xitǒng de xīnxiàng le, shìbùshì tài qíguài?

(Doesn't it seem like Mercer knows too much about our setup?)

LIU: (in chat) Shì a, zhè yǒudiǎn bù tāishūfu. Tā yào búshì zhēn de hěn lìhài, jiùshì yǒu shénme bù duì.

(Yeah. It's unsettling. He's either really good, or there's something off.).

CHEN: (to Mercer) Nǐ néng bùnéng gēn wǒmen jiěshì yīxià nǐ de gōngzuò guòchéng? Nǐ zěnmē zhuīzhú zhè gè hēikè?

(Can you walk us through your process? How are you tracking the hacker?)

ALEX MERCER: (smoothly) Zhè yǒudiǎn fùzá, dàn bùyòng dānxīn. Wǒ kuàiyào zhǎodào le rùqīn de láiyuán.

(It's a bit complex, but don't worry. I'm close to pinpointing the breach source.)

ALEX MERCER: Wǒ huì míngtiān bǎ bàogào fā gěi nǐmen.

(I'll send the report to you tomorrow.)

ZHENG: Hǎo de, nǐ kuài diǎn fā gěi wǒmen bàogào.

(Okay, just send us a report asap.)

EVERYONE: Zàijiàn.

(Goodbye.)

(Next day)

[In another new meeting]

Xia is reviewing Mercer's report when she stumbles upon a disturbing discovery.

XIA: (stunned) Dàjiā kànkàn zhègè. Shùjù lùjìng huídào le Mercer de IP dìzhǐ.

(Guys, look at this. The digital trail leads back to Mercer's IP address.)

LIU: (realization dawning) Tā yīzhí zài qiānpǎn wǒmen.

(He's been misleading us.)

CHEN: (furious) Tā jiùshì zhè yīqiè de yīnzǒu.

(He's behind this!)

(Alex mercer suddenly joined the video call)

ZHENG: (angrily) Mercer, nǐ wèishéme zhèyàng? Nǐ běnlái yīnggāi bāngzhù wǒmen de!

(Mercer, why? You were supposed to help us!)

ALEX MERCER: (calmly) Nǐmen de xiàngmù tài yǒu yòuhuò le. Wǒ kànjiànle jīhuì, jiù zhījié náqù le.

(Your project, it was too tempting. I saw an opportunity and took it.)

WEI: (defiantly) Wǒmen huì bàogào zhè gè. Nǐ zěnmé yě táobù diào.

(We'll report this. You won't get away with it.)

ALEX MERCER: (smirking) Děng dàjiā fāxiàn chūlái de shíhòu, wǒ yǐjīng zǒu yuǎn le. Zhù nǐmen hǎoyùn, zhěnglǐ zhège luànqībāzāo. (Cryptic robot voice fading out)

(By the time anyone figures it out, I'll be long gone. Good luck fixing the mess.)

XIA: (angry) Zhèng, zhè shì nǐ de cuò! Nǐ jiù bù gāi cóng wǎngshàng suíbiàn zhǎo rén lái!

(Zheng, this is your fault! You just don't hire anybody from the internet!) (Cryptic robot voice fading out)

[Everyone's pc starting to shutdown one by one]

[Everyone screams as they've been deceived by alex mercer]

—The End—