<The Final Report>

Incident Report — CS-LAB-B | Subject: Khanna, Aarav (Kidnapped)

Date Filed: 22 July 2025
Investigating Officer: Inspector R. Mehra, Division 4 (Cybercrime & Homicide)
Jurisdiction: St. Augustine Technical Institute (SATI), Eastern District

Details

On the morning of the school's flagship tech fest *Hackspire*, a scream echoes from the old Computer Science Lab B, sealed since the 2013 lab explosion.

Inside the locked room:

- A chair, bound with torn network cables, sits in the middle—restraints show signs of recent struggle.

- The **victim's school ID (Khanna, Aarav)** and fragments of shredded transcripts are stuffed into the chair's seat.

- A laptop, left powered on, displays only one line:
  "Cape me si potes" - Latin for Catch me if you can.

- On the floor, faint blood streaks trail toward the open Ethernet port, suggesting a dragged body but no corpse present.

- A QR code branded into the surface of the desk (forensic burn marks) redirects investigators to a hidden site with corrupted files.

- Forensics confirm signs of chemical burns, hair fragments, and clothing fibers, implying Aarav had been restrained here before being moved.

THE VICTIM: Aarav Khanna

- 17, bright but overlooked.

- Suspended months ago for "unauthorized system probing."

- Had filed a bullying complaint that never reached the authorities.

- Two weeks after claiming he'd *"found the TRUTH"*, he vanishes.

- All that remains: a blood-streaked workstation, a mocking message, and traces that point toward a carefully staged abduction.

THE 4 SUSPECTS

1.Dr. Vishal Dey
Title: Head of IT Infrastructure
Connection: Aarav's former mentor

Evidence of Suspicion:

• Draft email (unsent) recovered: *"He knows. We either silence him or bury everything we've built."*

• One of the few staff with access to Lab B.

• A shredded USB recovered from his trash — containing fragments of student-lab network code.

• Surveillance logs show 14 unauthorized remote accesses to Aarav's student records in the 48 hours before disappearance.

Alibi & Uncertainties:

• Claims his fingerprint/card were cloned (forensic gel traces found in his office).

• No direct DNA evidence in Lab B.

• Reputation for obsessive control — but would kidnapping risk exposure?

2.Zoya Fernandez
Title: Final Year CS Student, Hackspire Competition Head
Connection: Former best friend, rival, ex-collaborator

Evidence of Suspicion:

• Aarav accused her of reusing code from their abandoned joint project in her Hackspire entry.

• Browser history: *"how to erase digital identity permanently."*

• 3D printer logs: printed a precision blade handle hours before disappearance.

• Known statement: *"Lab B should've stayed sealed. Nothing good ever came out of that place."*

Alibi & Uncertainties:

• Claims she was with her team preparing Hackspire all night — but no timestamped proof.

• Deleted messages with unrecoverable gaps.

• Cold emotional distance post-incident — trauma or guilt?

3. Principal Arjun Jain
Title: Principal, SATI
Connection: Approved Aarav's suspension

Evidence of Suspicion:

- Whistleblower: Jain ordered suppression of Aarav's bullying complaint.

- Financial audit: 4 undocumented payments to *Q-Byte Solutions* (firmlinked to Zoya's father).

- Override access to Lab B's circuit breaker — tampered with on the night of Aarav's disappearance.

Alibi & Uncertainties:

- Claims he was home reviewing Hackspire funds. Access card shows building entry earlier.

- School logs show suspicious login into a private messaging app tied to Zoya's device.

- Reputation: keeps school image above all else — would he arrange a cover-up via kidnapping?

4. Sahil Wadhwa
Title: Hacker Club President, Black Hat Enthusiast
Connection: Aarav's partner-in-hacks, provocateur

Evidence of Suspicion:

- Ran a secret intranet node *"Deadpool/404"* with encrypted student metadata.

- Video fragment recovered: Sahil whispering *"Sometimes, a bug has to be squashed, even if it screams."*

- Seen leaving east wing an hour before incident.

Alibi & Uncertainties:

- Claims video was a roleplay for ARG — script never submitted.

- Insists Aarav was a friend: "We were working on something big."

- Corrupted logs show Aarav sent Sahil a file 2 days prior.

- Known trickster — but capable of orchestrating a real abduction?

Interrogation Logs (Extracts)

Dr. Vishal Dey

- "He was digging. Asking the wrong questions to the wrong people."

- "That boy was a genius. I'd never want him wasted. But… I won't lie, I breathed easier when he stopped poking around."

Zoya Fernandez

- "He changed. Got… obsessive. Like he was chasing some hidden enemy."

- "I didn't hate him. I hated what he was turning into."

Principal Jain (Draft Memo)

- "He asked too many questions. About things no teenager should."

- "If he hadn't gone off on his own, maybe none of this would've happened."

Forensics for Participants

Investigators (players) are given access to:

- CCTV Footage logs

- Call logs

- Chat logs

- Agent 007 Chatbot to help you find out the passwords

The mission:
Trace Aarav's digital breadcrumbs, identify the kidnapper, and deduce the hidden location and reveal *THE TRUTH.*