



**Homeland  
Security**

To: Secretary Danica Jaurez, Department of Homeland Security; Director Ellery Sanders, National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center; Griffin Townsend, Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security; Julian Rhodes; Amos Bronstein; Benjamin Lang  
From: Olivia Worley  
Date: April 22, 2020  
Re: Post Week One Recommendation

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this memo is to outline the rationale for a new Project 220 infiltration plan. My recommendation comes after one week of course instruction and the resulting concerns about student engagement and the potential for Crypto-Collegium hacking.

The main reasons for my recommendation are outlined as follows:

- Low engagement in course lectures
- Mixed potential of puzzle sets
- Limited capability of course instructors
- Growing hacking abilities of the project target

To respond to these concerns, I propose the following:

- Increased involvement from the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security
- Direct coordination between the project manager and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Adjusted infiltration timeline
- Increased role of students



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## **SECTION 1: RATIONALE FOR NEW INFILTRATION PLAN**

### **Low Engagement in Course Lectures**

The consultants have had no trouble recording and releasing course lectures, and YouTube continues to work as a means of live lecture. However, the view count on the course lectures has been low. I am concerned that the students are having trouble engaging in the course. Though we only need a few teams to help transition to the FBI for final infiltration, the lack of competition with the other students may lower the quality of work and thus increase the risks associated with the infiltration.

### **Mixed Potential of Puzzle Sets**

There is still very little information on the Crypto-Collegium's recruitment puzzles. Any puzzle we include in the puzzle set for students is guesswork at best. Additionally, only a few students consistently turn in homework. As it currently stands, work on puzzle sets has not yielded a satisfactory transition point for the FBI.

### **Limited Capability of Course Instructors**

The course instructors do not have the administrative or technological ability to respond to security threats. More expert involvement is needed to manage the cybersecurity of this project.

### **Growing Hacking Abilities of the Project Target**

The Crypto-Collegium has been increasingly active in hacking projects across the globe, from the sequel to the "fluffy unicorn challenge" to the hacking of the British Prime Minister's Bumble account. Given the current activity and the overall capability of the organization, the threat of Project 220 hacking is very real.



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## **SECTION 2: RECOMMENDED PLAN FOR INFILTRATION**

### **Increased Involvement from the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security**

In order to alleviate the administrative pressure on the decryption consultants, I recommend direct coordination from the project contact points in my department and the policy actors in other federal agencies. This would open an extra line of communication between myself and primary policymakers and streamline the enforcement of important project decisions.

### **Direct Coordination between Project Manager and the FBI**

In addition to direct coordination between all the project players, I recommend opening a direct line of communication between myself and the FBI contacts so that I can act on the most up-to-date information and aid in infiltration transition.

### **Adjusted Infiltration Timeline**

The most important aspect of my recommendations is an adjusted infiltration timeline. I recommend moving up the timeline by two weeks to decrease the long-term risk of a security breach. This would mean teaching CODE 220 at the same time as FBI infiltration.

### **Increased Role of Students**

The best way to make an adjusted timeline work is to source the methods of infiltration directly from student puzzlework. This has been authorized under the project guidelines and will not put the students directly in the path of the Crypto-Collegium. Instead, the FBI will use real-time student work and likenesses in their infiltration efforts.



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## **CONCLUSION**

The active hacking threat posed by the Crypto-Collegium necessitates an efficient and centralized response from the federal government. The current timeline leaves Project 220 and its assets vulnerable to cyberwarfare and resource seizure. In addition, the prolonged involvement of student puzzle work past the end of course leaves students personally at risk. To ensure the success of Project 220 and the safety of CODE 220 students, I advise moving up the timeline and coordinating more directly with federal agencies.

If implemented, my recommendations would go into effect immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olivia Worley".

Olivia Worley  
Policy Officer for the Department of Homeland Security