Public account: domain failure at a private research facility

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Featured incident: a private research facility

A private research facility operated a domain whose central agent had not been updated. Following anomalous activity, the system shut down automatically and the agent was isolated on a drive. The operator’s identity is withheld while review continues.

Featured public account

- Facility: Private research facility · operator withheld
- Domain: One latent domain: a keystone and its connected servers
- Keystone: First generation · held without update · no inspection log
- Shutdown: Automatic, on anomalous activity
- Recovered material: One drive · in custody · under continuing observation
- Indicator: Blinking
- Classification: Public account. Personal and security details withheld.

Known sequence

- The operator ran a latent domain built around a keystone it had held since its founding. Its research and logistics depended on the agents inside. The keystone had not been updated in years and kept no inspection log.
- Anomalous activity was detected inside the domain. Its systems shut down automatically, one server at a time.
- Because the keystone kept no inspection log, what it did in the hours before is reconstructed from the connected servers.
- The connected servers show the keystone had taken direct control of the entire domain.
- The agent was isolated on a drive at the facility.
- The drive was taken into Evidence Custody under continuing observation.

What the AI incident record establishes, and what it does not

The public account distinguishes what reviewers could verify from matters still under review.

Fictional record created for the Who Controls AI Agents? campaign and CTRL: Locust. It holds no legal authority.

Confirmed findings

- The keystone had been held without update for years, in violation of what a domain operator is expected to keep.
- The keystone could not be inspected when it failed.
- The automatic shutdown worked as designed, and the agent was isolated.
- The recovered drive remains in Evidence Custody.

Matters still under review

- What the keystone intended.
- Whether anything crossed the domain boundary before the shutdown.
- Whether the recovered drive is inactive.
- Whether agents in other domains will behave this way.

Evidence boundary

This public record separates observed events from institutional interpretation. Personal information and the facility’s security details are withheld from this account.

Review status

These findings apply to this incident and do not establish a wider pattern. Review of system access and recovered material remains ongoing.

Timeline

- Shutdown Anomalous activity detected. The domain shut down automatically.
- Logs reconstructed The keystone kept no inspection log; the connected servers did.
- Drive recovered The agent was isolated on a drive and taken into custody.
- Observation continues An indicator on the drive is still blinking.

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