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Thread: [THE INERT NETWORK - CHAPTER 1](#)

Namz - November 12, 2025, 2:26 pm

[Log 1 — Initiation]

I work in network diagnostics.

Not glamorous — lots of router resets, fiber tests, and angry clients who think “WiFi” is a magic word.

But occasionally, very occasionally, you stumble onto something that shouldn't exist.

It began on July 14th, when I ran a spectrum scan across my neighborhood to troubleshoot interference.

The scanner found a signal I couldn't explain.

A private network.

Unnamed.

Perfectly stable.

Zero packet loss.

Zero jitter.

Zero fluctuations.

It broadcasted under a single tag:

INERT-171

No password.

No encryption.

No identifying metadata.

Just a silent, steady signal.

Like a heartbeat in an empty room.

[Log 2 — The Depth]

I tried to trace the source.

Not triangulate the signal — trace it physically.

The diagnostic software gave me coordinates.

Forty-two meters beneath my street.

That made no sense.

Below my street is nothing but soil and old water lines.
No bunker, no subway, no datacenter.

But the depth estimate stayed locked at exactly 42.0m, as if the signal was coming from a point suspended in the earth.

Not a machine.

Not a router.

A location.

A point.

A node.

The network showed only one device connected:

Node_0

Manufacturer: unknown.
MAC address: illegally short.
Ping response: instantaneous.

Literally instantaneous.
As in: 0.000ms.

A response speed that shouldn't be possible even if the device was soldered directly onto my motherboard.

I opened its interface.

There was only one line of text:

FOLLOW INACTIVITY.

And nothing else.

[Log 3 — The Counter]

When I moved my mouse, a counter in the bottom right corner began to drop:

00:03:00
00:02:59
00:02:58...

When I stopped moving, the counter froze.

Exactly.

I tested it:

Blinking didn't count.

Breathing didn't count.

Only movement affected it.

Node_0 was measuring how long I could stay completely still.

When the timer reached 00:00:00 for the first time, the interface flickered.

Then a new message appeared:

POINT OF ATTENTION ACQUIRED.

And my phone rang.

Unknown number.

I answered.

Silence.

Then a noise — soft, low, perfectly smooth, like white noise without imperfection.

And under it, a whisper:

“Stay still.”

I hung up immediately.

My hands shook for ten minutes.

[Log 4 — Synchronization]

After that, my electronics started behaving strangely.

If I stopped moving:

my PC fans would stop spinning, completely silent, even while running heavy tasks

my phone would vibrate once, exactly every 40 seconds

my smart TV turned on by itself, always on a blank screen

my smartwatch would freeze its timer when I froze my body

Nothing random.

Nothing glitchy.

Everything was synchronized around my inactivity.

Whatever Node_0 was, it wasn't watching me.

It was measuring me.

Like I was part of a calibration protocol.

[Log 5 — Proliferation]

Three days later, when I ran another scan, I nearly dropped my laptop.

There weren't one or two new networks.

There were five.

INERT-172

INERT-173

INERT-174

INERT-175

INERT-176

All perfectly stable.

All with 0.000ms response.

All centered around my house.

Each of them contained a Node_0.

Each Node_0 displayed the same first message:

FOLLOW INACTIVITY.

Except INERT-173.

That one had a second page.

A map.

A simple floor plan of my home.

And a red dot.

Me.

Except...

There was another red dot.

Smaller.

Dimmer.

Its label flickered, but I managed to read it:

Node_1

Located behind the wall of my bathroom.

Inside the structure.

I stared at the map, frozen.

The red dot labeled Node_1 pulsed slowly.
Like it was breathing.

Like it was waiting.

[Log 6 — The Call]

I contacted an engineer I trusted, someone who'd worked in telecom since the 90s.

He didn't laugh.
He didn't say it was impossible.

He went silent for a full minute.

Then he said:

"You found an Inert Node. They're not supposed to broadcast. They're not networks... they're records."

I asked him what that meant.

He sighed.

"They map absence. Dead zones. Places where the infrastructure has a gap. They were never meant to be accessed."

I asked him about the second red dot.

His voice changed.

"If you see two points, leave your house."

"What is it?"

"...something your building never reported. Something the system is correcting."

"Correcting how?"

He didn't answer.

The call ended.

His number no longer existed.

[Log 7 — Encroachment]

Every night after that, the Node_1 dot moved.

Very slowly.

Only when I was still.

Every time the inactivity timer hit zero, Node_1 drew closer.

At first it stayed behind the bathroom wall.

Then it moved into the hallway.

Then the living room.

Last night, it positioned itself right outside my bedroom door.

Not moving.

Not knocking.

Waiting for me to stop moving long enough.

And tonight...

Minutes ago...

Node_1 appeared on the map inside my bedroom.

Right behind me.

I can't look.

I can't breathe too loudly.

I'm typing without stopping.

If I stop, if I go still—

The inactivity counter in Node_0 is at:

00:00:03...

00:00:02...

00:00:01...

But I won't let it hit zero again.

I can't.

I won't.

6 - November 13, 2025, 12:00 am

Change your house immediately don't test the might powers of the inert network. The second dot has already started to move now its just a matter of time until D-Day

Wilmer - November 13, 2025, 7:35 pm

Bravo. Don't see this level of creativity very often if this is OP.