

## Lesson 10: The Final Move

Paragraph 1 – Cipher’s Program is Finally Running Noah and Olivia stared at the screen as the Cipher program finally launched without errors. After weeks of debugging crashes, refining the tracking algorithm, and ensuring its security protocols were airtight, they had finally overcome every issue. The program now worked seamlessly, ready to trace back every modification Glitch had ever made to the school’s system. Lines of data scrolled rapidly, tracking live system activity and scanning past records for anomalies. "It’s actually working," Olivia whispered in awe. Noah leaned forward, eyes locked on the interface. "Not just working," he corrected. "It’s backtracking through every system change Glitch has ever made. We’re about to expose everything."

Paragraph 2 – Meeting with the Principal They met with the principal in his office, laying out their case. Olivia took the lead, explaining how Glitch had infiltrated the school’s systems. Noah demonstrated Cipher’s ability to trace back every hack, every login, and every manipulation Glitch had ever done. The principal leaned back, skeptical but intrigued. "Even if you’re right, we can’t accuse a student without undeniable proof," he said. "We need something concrete." Noah and Olivia exchanged a glance before presenting their bold plan.

Paragraph 3 – The Plan: Framing Cipher (Noah) to Catch Glitch "We need to make Glitch feel like he’s won," Noah explained. "We’ll create a situation where I get blamed for everything. Publicly." The principal raised an eyebrow. Olivia continued, "While Noah is being 'hailed away' by security, we’ll use that distraction to install Cipher on every computer in the lab. The moment Glitch logs in, the program will alert us to his exact location." The principal hesitated before nodding. "If this works, you’ll clear your name. If not..." Noah exhaled. "Then I hope you’ll let me explain before calling my parents."

Paragraph 4 – The Setup: Making Noah Look Guilty The next day, during a school assembly, the plan went into motion. As students gathered in the gym, a sudden unauthorized system hack disrupted the projector screens. Confused murmurs filled the air as error messages flashed across every screen in the building. Right on cue, the school’s security officer stormed into the gym. "We have reason to believe this was an inside job," he announced. His gaze landed on Noah. "Noah Anderson, you need to come with us." Gasps rippled through the crowd as Noah stood frozen, playing his part. Olivia bit her lip, looking convincingly shocked. "No way... Noah wouldn’t do this!" she shouted, adding to the act.

Paragraph 5 – The Real Trap is Set As Noah was led out in cuffs, the real operation began. Behind the scenes, Olivia and the principal initiated the mass installation of the Cipher program. Within minutes, it was running on every lab computer, silently waiting. "Now all we need is for Glitch to take the bait," Olivia muttered, refreshing the tracker screen. Noah, meanwhile, sat in the principal’s office, waiting for the moment of truth.

Paragraph 6 – The Moment of Truth Then, it happened. A blinking red alert appeared on Olivia’s laptop. "He’s in," she whispered. The Cipher program had detected Glitch’s student number as he logged into a terminal. The system displayed his exact location—computer 14 in Lab C. The principal’s eyes widened. "It worked," he breathed. "We have him."

Paragraph 7 – Glitch is Caught Security officers rushed to the computer lab. Inside, Damian Dalton—Glitch—was hunched over the keyboard, oblivious to his impending downfall. The second he realized people were behind him, his face paled. "What—what's going on?" he stammered. The principal stepped forward, arms crossed. "Damian, we know everything. The Cipher program tracked your every move." Damian's face twisted in panic, his hands hovering uncertainly over the keyboard. "You don't understand," he blurted out. "I was just proving a point! The system was weak—I wasn't trying to ruin anything!" His voice wavered, his confidence cracking as the weight of the evidence bore down on him. He glanced toward the monitor, as if searching for an escape route through the code, but there was none. "You set me up!" he snapped at Noah. "You think you're smarter than me?" The principal stepped forward, unimpressed. "This was your doing, Damian. And now, we have all the proof we need." A screen behind him displayed a complete history of his hacks, timestamps, and even the backdoor scripts he had inserted into the system. Damian's fingers twitched above the keyboard as if searching for an escape, but there was none.

Paragraph 8 – The Aftermath Noah was cleared of all accusations, his name restored. The principal shook his head, looking at the sheer amount of evidence the Cipher program had gathered. "This... this is remarkable," he admitted. "You two did something no one else could." Olivia grinned. "We just followed the data. Funny, I never thought I'd actually enjoy coding, but after all of this, I see it differently. Coding isn't just about numbers and logic—it's about solving real problems, uncovering the truth. Maybe I was wrong to think it wasn't for me." As they walked out of the office, she smirked at Noah. "You know, Cipher, I think you might have a future in cybersecurity." Noah chuckled. "As long as it doesn't involve getting fake arrested again."

Paragraph 9 – A New Path (Olivia's Return to Programming, Future Goals) As they left the building, Olivia looked thoughtful. "You know," she started, "I think I want to get back into programming." Noah raised an eyebrow. "Really? I thought you said coding wasn't your thing." Olivia shrugged. "It wasn't. But watching what we did—how we solved problems, outsmarted Glitch—I want to be part of that. Maybe cybersecurity isn't just for you." Noah grinned. "So you're saying we should go to college for the same program?" Olivia smirked. "If you think you can keep up with me, Cipher."

Noah laughed as they walked toward the parking lot, the weight of the past few weeks finally lifting. "Well," he said, "I guess we have our next mission." Olivia nodded. "Yeah. And this time, we'll be doing it for real."

**Discussion Question: What ethical considerations should be taken into account when using technology to track or expose someone's actions?**

**Discussion Question: Is it ever justifiable to deceive others for the greater good? Why or why not?**

**Discussion Question: What role does technology play in shaping people's futures, and how can ethical programming impact society?**