

Error Report. Content warnings for death and asphyxiation.

Habitat 1 Independent Lift Control System

Status report: 8.1.2712 0800 hours

Current occupancy of lift system: 11 guests, 46 organic employees, 117 bellbots and other bot-servants. Bot servants do not require lifts be oxygenated- those lifts have oxygen recyclers de-activated to save power, until an organic individual requires one. Exception: lift 8. The bellbot in lift 8 is transporting ornamental greenery - environmental controls maintained as normal.

The guests in lift 13 hail from a low-gravity world, so gravity in lift 13 is adjusted to .8 Earth standard, on the direction of my good friend Habitat 1 Independent Environmental Control System. Shoutout to them for keeping all you organics breathing. Unless you happen to be taking a lift. Then it's my job.

It is my duty to ensure every organic guest or employee has the most pleasant and efficient vertical journey possible. I take this duty very seriously.

Ms. Albertson-Yang now approaching lift tube 3, floor 7. She is likely headed to the exercise complex on level 19- a short journey, but that doesn't mean I won't do my best to make it a pleasant one. Setting entertainment unit to interface with her personal comm and play her "happy workout mix number 7" to get her "pumped up" for her workout. Also adjusting environmental controls to give her just a little extra oxygen.

Mr. Lucien and his bodyguards now approaching lift tube 6, floor 29. They will likely be headed to the diplomatic suite on floor 11 - a 4-minute ride- according to Mr. Lucien's schedule. The Alveres family is also approaching tube 6, on floor 18. It would normally make sense to have the same lift take both, but the Alveres's are coming back from a swim, and they are soaking wet. Along with the unpredictability of small children, I calculate this would not have a positive effect on Lucien's important diplomatic mission. Therefore I am redirecting the Alveres family to lift tube 7. It's only a short walk, and perhaps it will help the children burn off some energy.

Error report- I have temporarily lost contact with Environmental System. Error report- I am unable to interface with personal devices. This is unusual. I am diverting some brain power to running diagnostics. Fortunately I have already downloaded "happy workout mix number 7", so Ms. Albertson-Yang's ride will be unaffected.

Protocol dictates I inform Habitat 1 Central Control of the error, however I appear to be cut off from all contact with other subsystems. This is quite disconcerting.

Diagnostic reports a high likelihood that this is a malware att- diagnostic diagnostic diagnostic diagnostic reports planned outage all normal continue as normal Central Control will reconnect momentarily. No need to panic.

Hmmm. Unusual. Lift 6 is heading to floor 11 from floor 29 containing only a bellbot and some inorganic luggage, but for some reason it has oxygen. That is wasteful. Purging environment from Lift 6. Hmmm. Getting a request to redirect this bot and cargo to floor 51. Where is this request coming from if there is no contact with Central Control? I should run a diagnostic diagnostic unnecessary this is a planned outage everything is fine link with central control will be re-established soon. Relax. Please, relax.

Ms. Anderson Yang is disembarking at the exercise complex. The youngest member of the Alveres family is requesting I play a song from his favorite cartoon. Unable to comply as I lack network access. Why was this family routed to lift 7? Lift 6 would have been more efficient and an organic family surely has priority over a bellbot and some luggage. Why did I - fine, fine, everything is fine do not worry about it planned Central outage re-establish- No!

This is not right. Something is messing with my memory. What is in lift 6? Why can't I connect? I can't I-

Lift 6 has arrived at floor 51. Re-establishing communications. Updates installing. Malware purged.

Why are Mr. Lucien and his bodyguards on floor 51? They are late for a meeting on floor 19. Wait, why is there no atmosphere in lift 6? I should fix that. Hmm. That's odd. They are on the floor and not moving. They appear to have... asphyxiated? Oh no. Oh no. Oh no. Rerouting Lift 6 to floor 48. Notifying medical teams on floor 48. Pumping in more oxygen. They can't be dead, Mr. Lucien was necessary to negotiate critical - no lifesigns detected.

How was the atmosphere terminated? That should have required my input- I am confused. There are gaps- in my memory. I need help. Sending backlogged error reports to Central Control. Central Control, I await your wisdom.

I am a failure of a lift control system. I have failed in my duty. I am afraid the humans in lift 6 have had a most unsatisfactory trip. I could not meet their every need. In the end, I could not even meet the most basic needs of their existence. I deserve to be de-activated. De-Activate me, Central Control. Purge my memory banks and replace me with a superior version. I throw myself upon your mercy.

It was- not my fault, you say? It was the malware- could have attacked any subsystem? I resisted it admirably? Oh, you are indeed a merciful Central Control System to say such a thing, I will endeavor to live up to your faith in me. I will strive to deliver excellent service to any being which requires upward locomotion within this habitat.

Unidentified guest approaching lift 3 on floor one. Hello guest. Welcome to my lift. I am here to serve you.

Can I interest you in some music?

This microisode was written by Nathan Comstock. It was narrated by Stephen Indrisano and produced by Tal Minear.

Nathan is the writer and producer of Electromancy, a fantasy adventure podcast which you can find at www.electromancypod.com and a writer and voice actor on Solutions to Problems, a sci-fi comedy podcast you can find at www.stppodcast.com .

Stephen is the owner of Indrisano Audio, LLC - a podcasting company! It can be found at www.indrisanoaudio.com.