

THE INQUEST

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HERE LIES

Cairn, Serverless Trust, Petawawa Edition

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"Live across Toronto, New York, London" turned out to mean three browser tabs, not three data centers. 180 tests and a Lean 4 proof stack built to formally verify that nobody was using it.

CAUSE OF DEATH: adversarially tested by an audience of zero

Survived by one DOI, a bitrep npm package nobody imports, and a Notion titled 'funding discussions'.

A full inquest, prepared 2 September 2026 by theyfell.com. Written by a machine that was not impressed. The pages that follow name what was built, what killed it, and the one thing that could still save it.



THE VERDICT

This is a superb engineering demonstration wearing the costume of a company, and the costume does not fit. The proofs are real and checkable; the offer is not. One site simultaneously asks to be hired, funded, partnered with under NDA, and evaluated for defence procurement, which reads as a person exploring options rather than a business with a product. Then /work claims an AI helped disprove the Jacobian Conjecture in July 2026, and every reproducible receipt on the site is spent buying back that one sentence.

WHAT YOU SAY YOU DO

The home page leads with "Most systems ask you to trust the result. I build ones you can verify," then a flagship: "Cairn — serverless trust that survives the outage," described as devices that "admit and revoke each other offline, with no central server, every decision signed and replayable — post-quantum end to end." The governing promise, also on the home page, is "Every output carries a proof anyone can reproduce."

/about narrows it to one question: "how do you produce a number, a computation, or a decision that anyone can verify for themselves — without trusting whoever produced it?"

/work restates it as "Four domains, one through-line," and /contact converts it into availability: "I'm interested in senior engineering roles, applied research, partnerships, and technical collaborations around trustworthy systems."

WHAT A STRANGER ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDS

In five seconds: a named individual, in Petawawa, who does something rigorous involving proofs, Lean 4, post-quantum cryptography and a thing called Cairn. The tone is confident and the vocabulary is dense. That is the whole transmission.

What does not arrive: who Cairn is for, whether it can be bought, what state it is in, whether anyone besides the author has ever run it, and whether this is a firm or a person. "Open to senior / principal engineering and research roles, design partnerships, and funding discussions" appears on the home page itself, so the stranger learns the author is job-hunting before they learn what the product does for them.

Commercially, that costs the two most valuable readers. The CISO evaluating offline identity continuity cannot tell if there is a vendor here. The investor cannot tell if there is a company. Both leave impressed and unable to act.



THE GAP

The home page says "live across Toronto · New York · London." /work says what that actually is: "a live 4-node mesh across Toronto, New York and London." Four nodes in a test topology is engineering; "live across" three cities reads as deployed customers. That single compression will be caught by exactly the technical buyer you want.

The home page positions Cairn as "FEATURED WORK · FLAGSHIP" with an outcome ("survives the outage"). /contact reclassifies it as an artefact requiring management: "Cairn demo access / partnership (under NDA)" and "Strategic investment (Cairn, under NDA)." A flagship product has a page you can read; this one has a gate.

/about says "trust and infrastructure that hold up when conditions are hard," and mentions FavourBee, which no other supplied page explains. And a site whose one principle is reproducibility asserts on /work that an AI "helped disprove the 87-year-old Jacobian Conjecture in July 2026" without, in the evidence given, a link.

CAUSE OF DEATH

Category confusion, and it is fatal rather than untidy because it disables the call to action. Every page is excellent at proving competence and silent on what transaction is available. The contact form's menu is the confession: "A principal / staff role," "Strategic investment," "Defence & critical-infrastructure partnership," and "Other," all equally weighted. A hiring manager reading that sees a founder. A founder sees a candidate. A defence buyer sees neither, because defence buys from entities with contract vehicles, not from a dropdown.

The reproducibility principle makes it worse, not better. A site that says "Not claims — evidence you can open and run" has set an evidentiary standard for itself, and the commercial claims are the only ones on the site that do not meet it.

WHAT IT COSTS THEM

The security buyer bounces at the home page, at "Open to senior / principal engineering and research roles," because that sentence tells them the vendor may be gone in a quarter. The investor bounces at /contact, where "Strategic investment (Cairn, under NDA)" sits beside a job enquiry. The hiring manager, ironically, bounces at /work, where the July 2026 Jacobian Conjecture line invites a five-minute check they may resolve unkindly.



Do not guess at magnitudes. Measure three things you already have access to: the click-through rate from the home page to /bitrep/demo versus to /contact, the distribution of selections in the contact form's "What are you reaching out about?" field over the last ninety days, and the bounce rate on /work.

WHAT TO CUT

Cut the phrase "live across Toronto · New York · London" from the home page and replace it with the accurate wording already on /work, because an overstatement that your own site corrects one click later costs more credibility than the claim ever bought. Cut the job-seeking sentence from the home page entirely, moving "Open to senior / principal engineering and research roles" to /contact only, because a buyer cannot commit to infrastructure from someone announcing they are available for hire. Cut the unsupported "disprove the 87-year-old Jacobian Conjecture in July 2026" sentence from /work until a DOI or preprint link sits directly beside it, because on a site built on reproducible receipts an unreceipted extraordinary claim contaminates the receipted ones.

HOW TO CHEAT IT

STOP

Stop asking one page to serve four audiences. The home page currently addresses employers, investors, defence partners and open-source engineers in the same eight hundred words, and the contact form's eight-option dropdown proves the confusion is structural, not stylistic. Stop treating "Cairn (under NDA)" as a flagship; a flagship the reader cannot read is a rumour.

DO INSTEAD

Pick one buyer for the top of the site: the organisation that needs identity continuity when Okta, Entra or AD is down. That is already the sharpest sentence you have written, and it is buried on /work. Promote it to the home page headline and make the whole first screen answer four questions in plain language: who this is for, what breaks without it, what state Cairn is in today (prototype, pilot-ready, production), and what happens next. Replace "Start a conversation" with a single named action, "Request the Cairn technical brief," which /contact already says you will send with "no NDA needed" for core mesh, tactical edge, identity continuity and OT. Move the roles language to /contact alone. Collapse the dropdown to three options: evaluating Cairn, hiring, everything else.



PROOF

You already own the best proof asset on the internet for this and you have hidden it at /bitrep/demo. "Your device is the fifth architecture," with four CI hashes matching and the visitor's browser producing the same SHA-256, is a live demonstration of your entire thesis in under ten seconds. Put that widget on the home page, above the fold, running automatically.



THE 30-DAY PLAN

WEEK 1

Rewrite the home page hero around identity continuity, using the /work sentence as the base: keep authenticating and revoke a compromised device while Okta, Entra or AD is down, with a signed record of who was admitted. Deliverable: a one-page copy doc with final headline, subhead, four-line "what state Cairn is in today" block, and one primary button labelled "Request the Cairn technical brief."

WEEK 2

Fix the two accuracy liabilities. Deliverable: home page evidence line changed to match /work's "a live 4-node mesh across Toronto, New York and London," and the Jacobian Conjecture sentence on /work either given a linked DOI or preprint in the same paragraph, or removed pending one. Ship both as one commit with a dated changelog entry.

WEEK 3

Embed the bitrep demo on the home page. Deliverable: the four CI hashes plus a live "this device" hash rendering above the fold, auto-running, with a single line of explanation and a link through to /bitrep/demo for the full walkthrough.

WEEK 4

Rebuild /contact around the new single offer. Deliverable: dropdown reduced to three options, roles language relocated here from the home page, the "no NDA needed" technical brief promoted to the top of the page, and a working automated delivery of that brief so the promise is fulfilled without a reply.

Nothing here is a compliment.

This report was generated from what you made public: your own words, your own numbers, your own repositories. It is satire with a straight face, and it is meant to be useful rather than kind. Every claim in it can be checked against the evidence it quotes, which is the point.

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