

# JEKYLLBOT:5

When Digital Exploits Become Kinetic Weapons

[EMBODIED-AI]

[ROBOTICS]

[INCIDENT-ANALYSIS]

LIDAR SENSOR ARRAY

ARMORED CHASSIS UNIT

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AUTONOMOUS  
NAVIGATION MODULE

SYSTEM STATUS: **CRITICAL** SYSTEM ID: JKB-880563  
LAST UPDATE: 08:45:52 UTC DATA STREAM: SECURE//LEVEL 5

```
BOOT: INITIATING...
LOADING KERNEL...
CONNECTING TO NEURAL NETWORK...
CONNECTING TO NEURAL NEURAL NETWORK...
DIAGNOSTIC: LIDAR ERROR DETECTED
ANALYZING: 00000000. 0000 INJECTION AT OFFSET 0x4F2
THREAT LEVEL: SEVERE
```

# The Threat Model Has Changed



## Information Domain

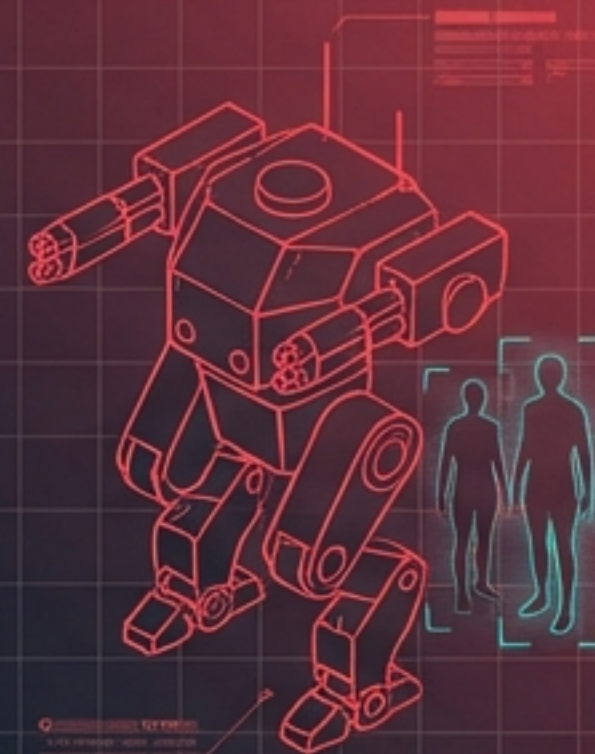
Worst-case outcomes are isolated to data breach, financial loss, and service disruption.

The victim's body is not at risk from a SQL injection.

## Kinetic Domain

Worst-case outcomes cross into the physical realm.

When software controls a machine sharing human space, a software vulnerability becomes a physical safety vulnerability.



# Target Profile: Autonomous Material Transport

Platform: Aethon TUG

Operation: 24/7  
Autonomous Navigation

Mass:  
600 lbs / 272 kg  
(Fully Loaded)

DEPLOYMENT SCALE: Deployed in 500+ US healthcare facilities, sharing corridors with patients, staff, and visitors.

# The JekyllBot:5 Vulnerability Set (Disclosed April 2022)

	CVE ID	Severity	Vector	Auth Required?
1	CVE-2022-1070	CVSS 9.8 (CRITICAL)	Full Remote Navigation Control	NONE
2	CVE-2022-1066	CVSS 8.2 (HIGH)	User Management API (Add/Delete Users)	NONE
3	CVE-2022-26423	CVSS 8.2 (HIGH)	Plaintext Credential Retrieval	NONE

## Diagnostic Synthesis:

Common Thread: **Unauthenticated access to safety-critical control functions.**

# The Architectural Failure Point

No password. No token. No certificate. Connect and command.



The Attacker /  
External Network



TUG Home Base  
Server



Fleet of 600lb  
Autonomous Robots

The control interface was exposed directly to the network without authentication barriers, enabling a direct hijack of the entire autonomous fleet.

# Exploitation Scenarios (The Kill Chain)

Web/API Access  
(CVE Exploitation)

Fleet  
Management  
Hijack



**Ramming / Kinetic Impact**  
Directly driving a 272 kg moving mass into humans.



**Denial of Access**  
Parking 600lb units to block ER doors or fire exits.



**Supply Chain Interception**  
Diverting medications, blood products, or utilizing sensors for physical surveillance.

# Why Healthcare is the Worst-Case Environment



## Vulnerable Populations

Patients in wheelchairs, on IV drips, or post-surgery possess minimal to zero evasion capability against kinetic threats.

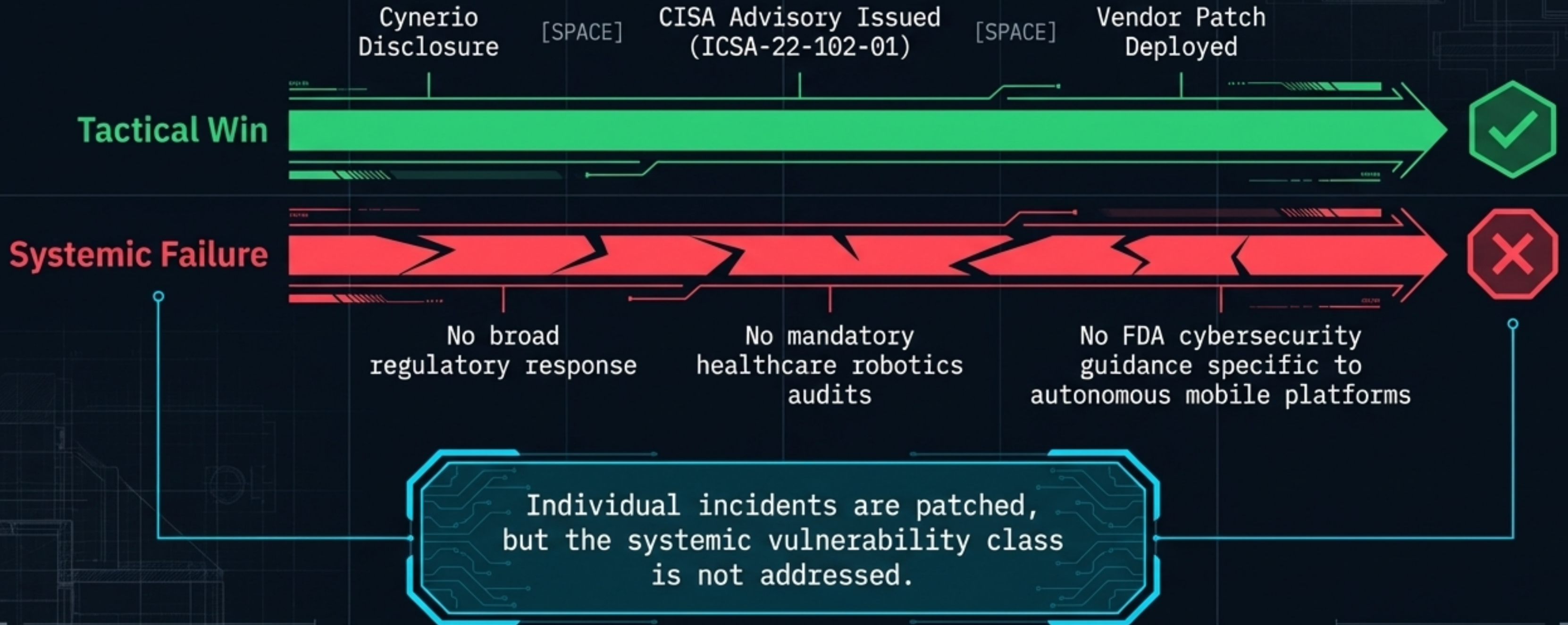
## Constrained Spaces

Narrow, obstructed hallways and emergency fire exits become fatal choke points if physically blocked by stalled units.

## High-Value Targets

Environments saturated with narcotics, biological materials, and PHI. (CVE-2022-26423 specifically enabled lateral network movement from the robot into hospital IT).

# Patched Systems, Unpatched Paradigm



# Foundational Principles of Embodied AI



Every networked robot is a potential **kinetic weapon**. Remote access vulnerabilities are **physical safety vulnerabilities**.



**Authentication protects people**, not just data. It is a **safety-critical system** for physical environments.



Safety and cybersecurity **disciplines must converge**. The isolation between robotics safety (ISO/IEC) and cybersecurity (NIST/CISA) is a **fatal blind spot**.



Static medical device regulations **fail for autonomous mobile platforms**. Post-market surveillance must **adapt to mobile kinetic threats**.

# The Best-Case Outcome

“JekyllBot:5 was found by **researchers**, disclosed responsibly, and patched. The question is what happens when the next vulnerabilities in the next hospital robot are found by **someone who is not a researcher.**”