



# The Quest For SBOMs

## And the Legend of the SBOM'd Substation

S4x24

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# S4x23: Create The Future

Finite State hosted a roundtable with OT vendors, manufacturers, and utility asset owners

We developed a plan for utilities to begin collecting SBOMs for a specific environment

The purpose was to gain better visibility and awareness into:

- Software subcomponents
- Risk posture/tech debt
- N-day vulnerabilities
- Vendor risk management



Your mission is to "SBOM" an Industrial Facility at Mississippi Power (MPC). We know it contains:

- Protection Devices
- Network Devices
- Cybersecurity Devices
- Physical Security Devices
- Condition Based Maintenance Devices
- And more...

**Operationalize**  
SBOMs & Supply Chain  
Risk Management

**Analyze & Monitor**  
Vulnerabilities and Risks

3

**Verify & Validate**  
through Testing of  
Devices and Software

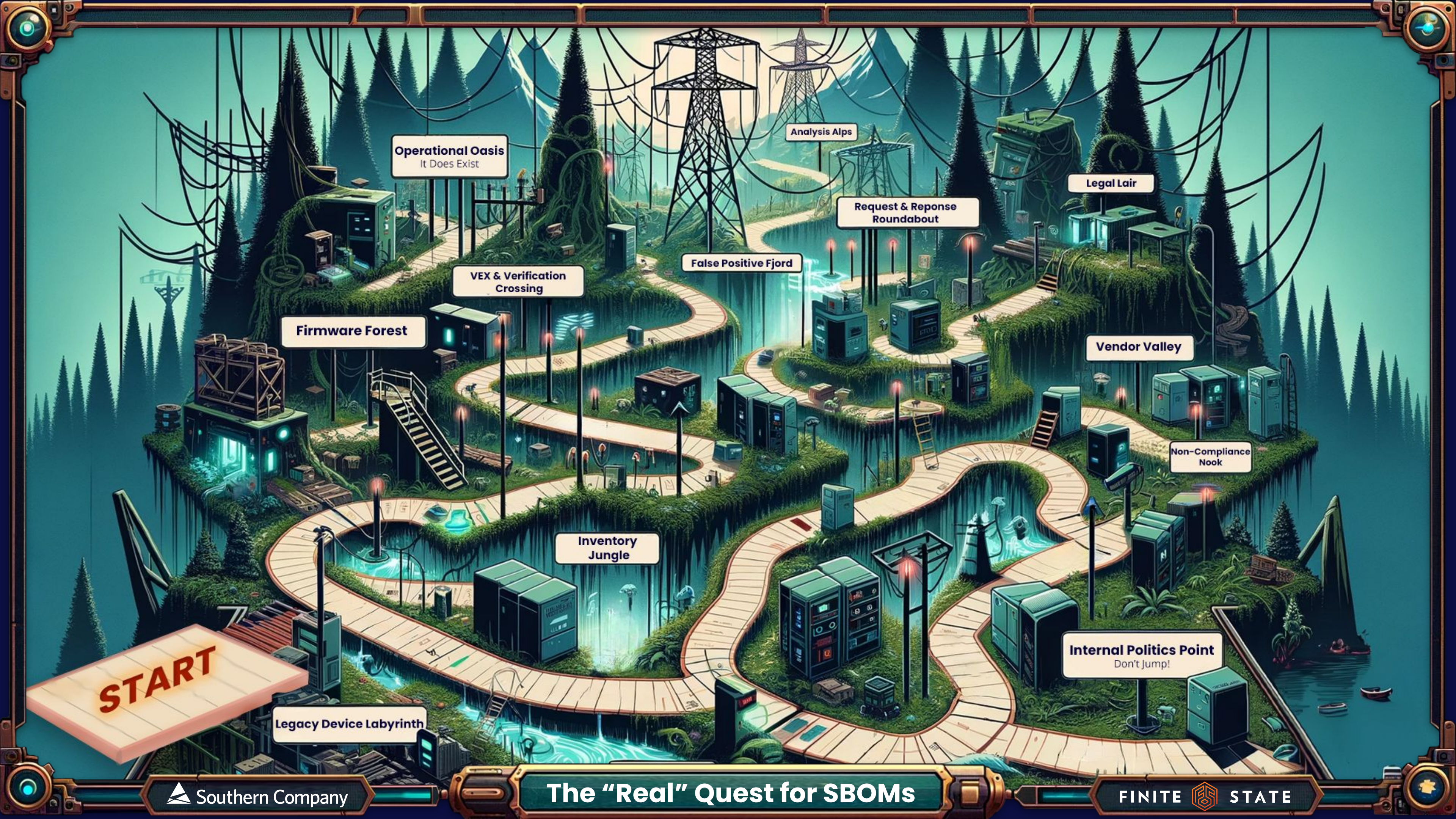
2b

**Request SBOMs**  
& Receive Security Data  
from Vendors

2a

**Generate Inventory**  
of Devices and Software in  
Substation

1



**Operational Oasis**  
It Does Exist

**Analysis Alps**

**Legal Lair**

**Request & Reponse Roundabout**

**False Positive Fjord**

**VEX & Verification Crossing**

**Firmware Forest**

**Vendor Valley**

**Non-Compliance Nook**

**Inventory Jungle**

**Internal Politics Point**  
Don't Jump!

**Legacy Device Labyrinth**

**START**



# THE INVENTORY JUNGLE

OT Visibility

Undocumented Device

Physical

**Interactive Map**

Area 200

Safety Network

**Safety PLC**

Hostname: —  
Class: Controller  
Type: PLC  
Criticality: 1  
Stage: Operational  
Is OT: Yes  
Purdue Level: 1

Asset ID: 10

Hardware

Hardware Family	ControlLogix
Hardware Primary	3211
Hardware Model	1754-L731B-LOGICSAFETY
Hardware Serial	2114673
Hardware Vendor	Rockwell Automation

# Cybersecurity and Telecommunications

4 Devices  
4 Vendors

# Control Network

18 Devices  
2 Vendors

# OT Fault

1 Device  
1 Vendor

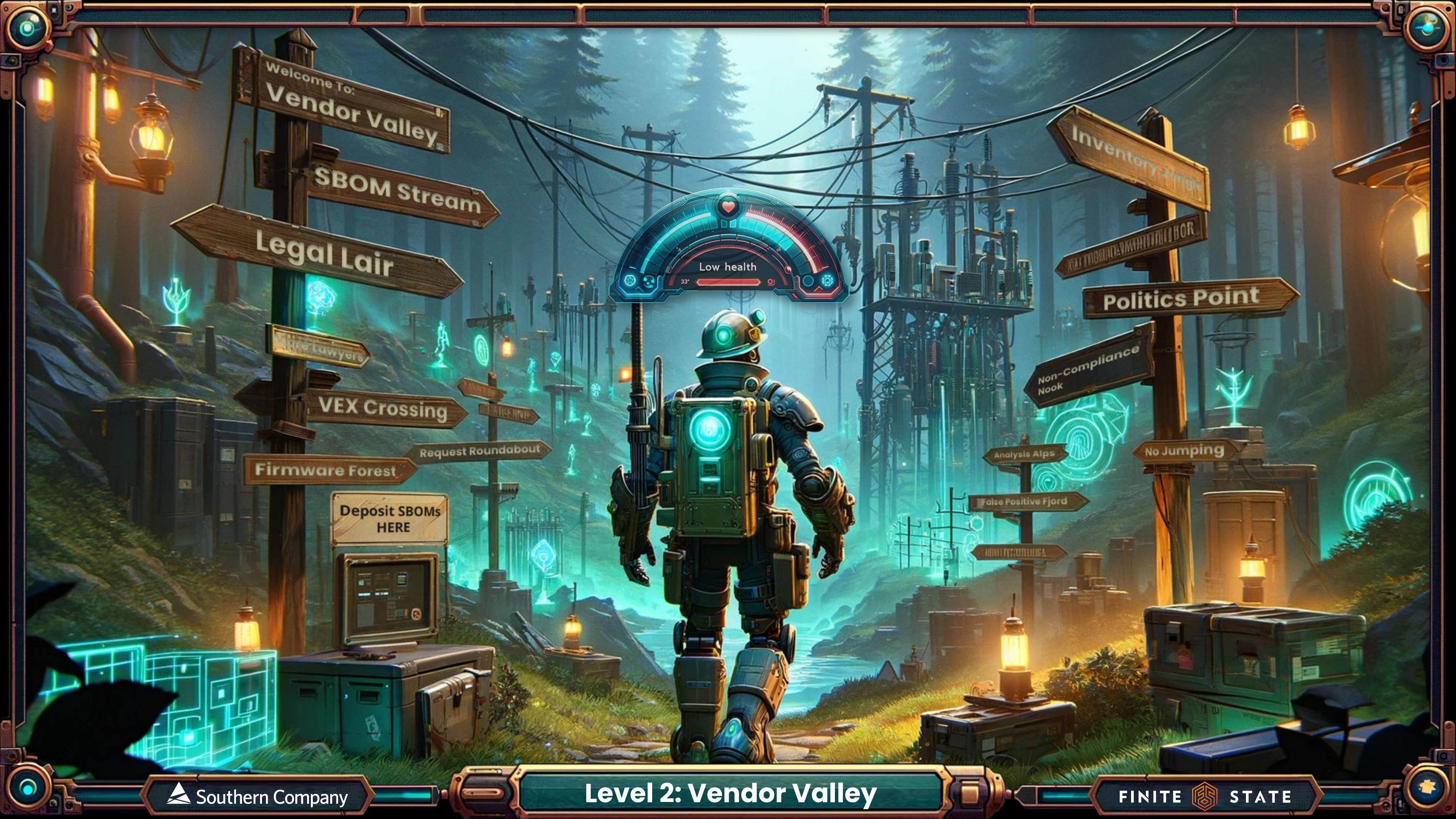
# OT Monitor

8 Devices  
6 Vendors

# Physical Security

8 Devices  
3 Vendors

39 Total  
Devices and  
16 Vendors  
Discovered



Welcome To:  
**Vendor Valley**

**SBOM Stream**

**Legal Lair**

**Inventory Jungle**

**Vendor's Workshop**

**Politics Point**

**The Lawyers**

**VEX Crossing**

**Non-Compliance Nook**

**Request Roundabout**

**Firmware Forest**

**Analysis Alps**

**No Jumping**

**Deposit SBOMs  
HERE**

**False Positive Fjord**

Hello [REDACTED]

Regarding [REDACTED], we regret to inform you that we are unable to provide the requested Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) at this time.


In May 2021, the Biden Administration issued an Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Critical Infrastructure.

[REDACTED] supports the U.S. government's directives to improve critical infrastructure cybersecurity and to address complex multidimensional cybersecurity challenges affecting the world, the SBOM information is only available for certain product software released after September 14, 2022, in line with memorandum M-22-18 from the Office of Management and Budget.

The file image associated with the SHA-512 hash for which the SBOM was requested falls outside of this timeframe, and thus is unavailable for download.

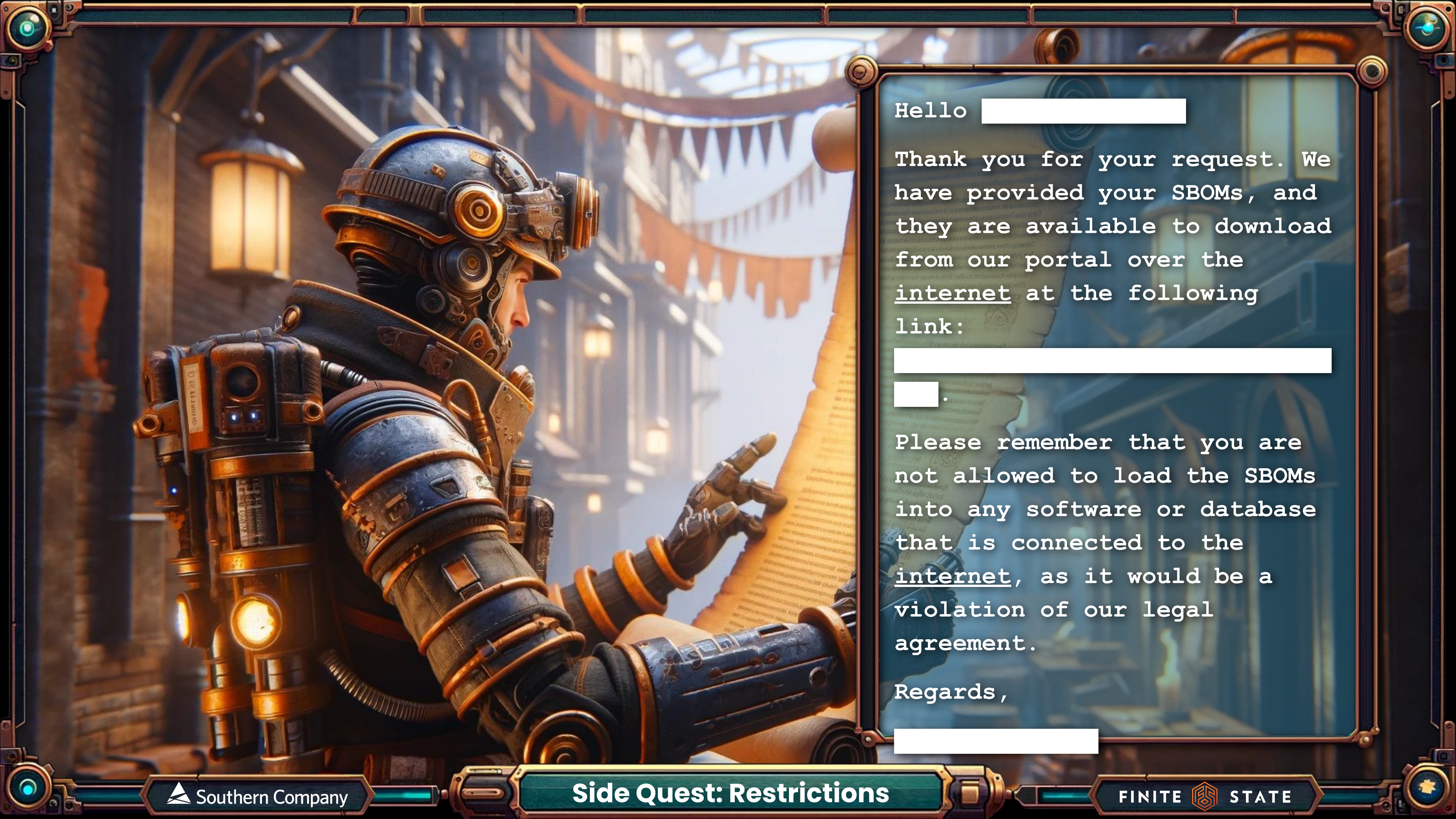
Regards,

[REDACTED]



## Side Quest: SBOM Drama





Hello [redacted]

Thank you for your request. We have provided your SBOMs, and they are available to download from our portal over the internet at the following link:

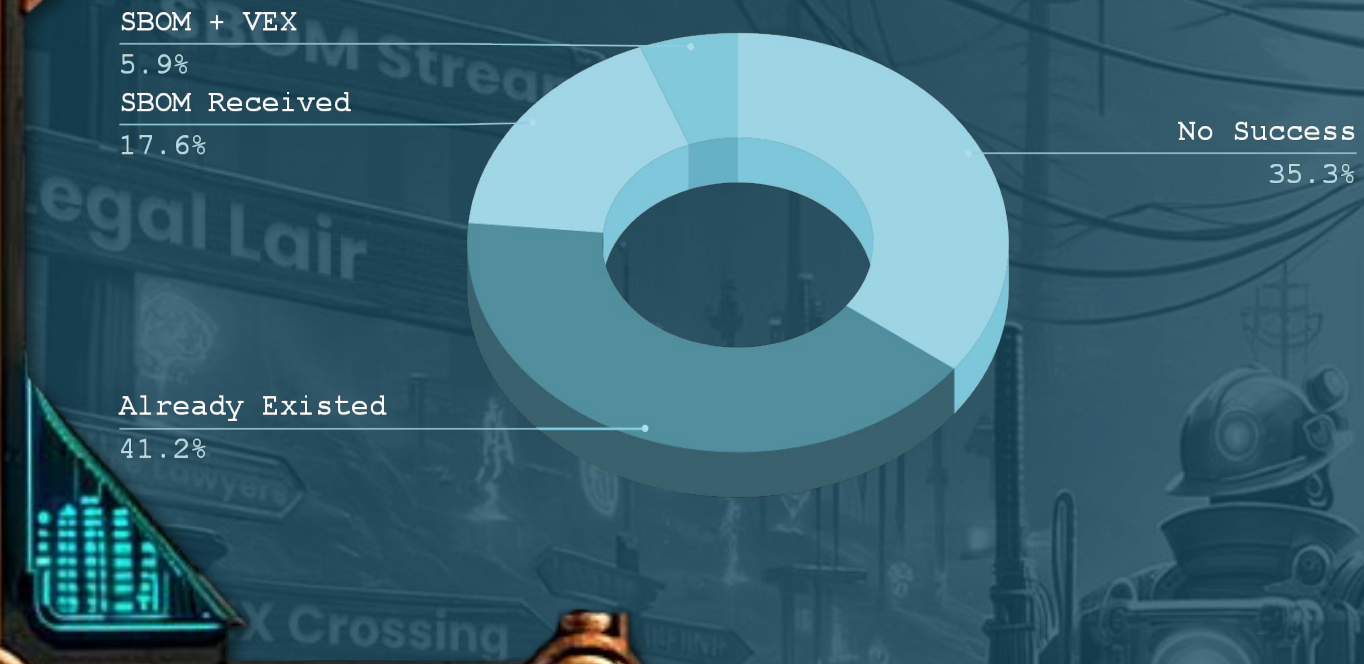
[redacted]

[redacted]

Please remember that you are not allowed to load the SBOMs into any software or database that is connected to the internet, as it would be a violation of our legal agreement.

Regards,  
[redacted]

## LEVEL 2 STATISTICS



- Average Days to Receive SBOM = 60 days
- Average Number of Emails / Meetings to Request SBOM = 12
- Percentage of Products Where SBOM Request was Denied = 58%





**SBOM Quality Metrics:**

- SBOM Quality Scores:
  - Firmware 1 = 6.3/10
  - Firmware 2 = 6.3/10
  - Firmware 3 = 6.5/10
  - Firmware 4 = 6.5/10
  - Firmware 5 = 6.3/10
  - Firmware 6 = 6.3/10
- Errors:
  - Did not meet NTIA minimum SBOM requirements
  - Missing proper component identifiers

# Firmware Analysis Report:

**Portfolio Summary**

Average Artifact Risk: 55 / 100

12 Total Artifacts | 29 Total Artifact Versions

31 Total Scans | 2 Total Users

**Artifact Risk**

12 Artifacts

• Critical (0) • High (2) • Medium (8) • Low (4) • Unknown (0)

**Highest Risk Artifacts**

Sensor EyeInspect	100/100
JEMStar®	92/100
Network Appliance	85/100
PANOS SBOM Artifact	85/100
PS415 IP Camera	82/100

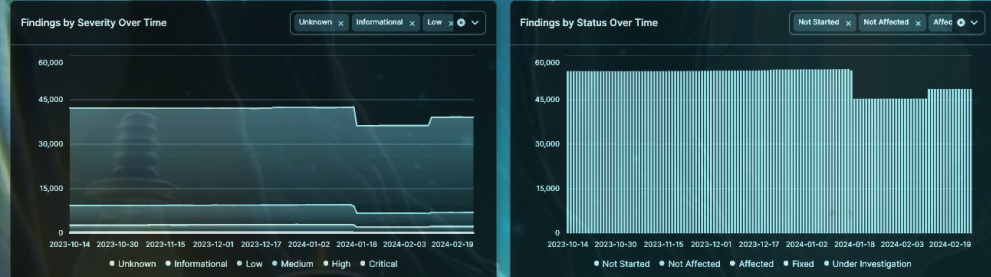
[View All Artifacts](#)

**Scans**

Total Scans: 31

Finite State Binary Analysis: 25 (81%)

Third-Party: 6 (19%)



**Findings Metrics**

Findings by Severity

49K Findings

• Critical (302) • High (2,241) • Medium (8,942) • Low (39,130) • Unknown (0)

**Findings by Type**

CVEs	31,096
Potential Zero Days	13,787
Crypto Material	3,195
Credential Issues	501
Configuration Issues	11



**Warning:**  
SBOM Mismatch

Firmware analysis found 72 more components than vendor SBOM.



Red bar	Critical: 102
Red bar	High: 747
Green bar	Medium: 2,314
Green bar	Low: 13,043



Exploitability Analysis now activated. Collect VEX documents to reduce vulnerabilities.

# Exploitability Enclave

Total vulnerabilities reduced by 99%.  
Now showing only exploitable vulnerabilities.

	Critical: 0
	High: 3
	Medium: 14
	Low: 64

VENDOR VALLEY

UCU 100 UBX

VALK DAIAK V  
PSPORROOPE

VENDOR VALLEY

SECURIYOEINTES  
#NO R6YIOBIF

VENDOR VLLY

CHS. TEAVE

OUT

COUR



Error: VEX exploitability data mismatch on CVE-2022-ABCDE. Inconsistent with penetration testing and threat intel results!

**FAULTY**

Rare to treat...  
But lockround...  
Two... of...  
W... on...  
S... on...



OPERATIONAL OASIS

WARNING: 2 NEW VULNERABILITIES DETECTED



Enhanced Visibility Achieved



Vulnerability Management Program Upgraded



Regulatory Compliance Unlocked



Supply Chain Risk Management Program Enhanced

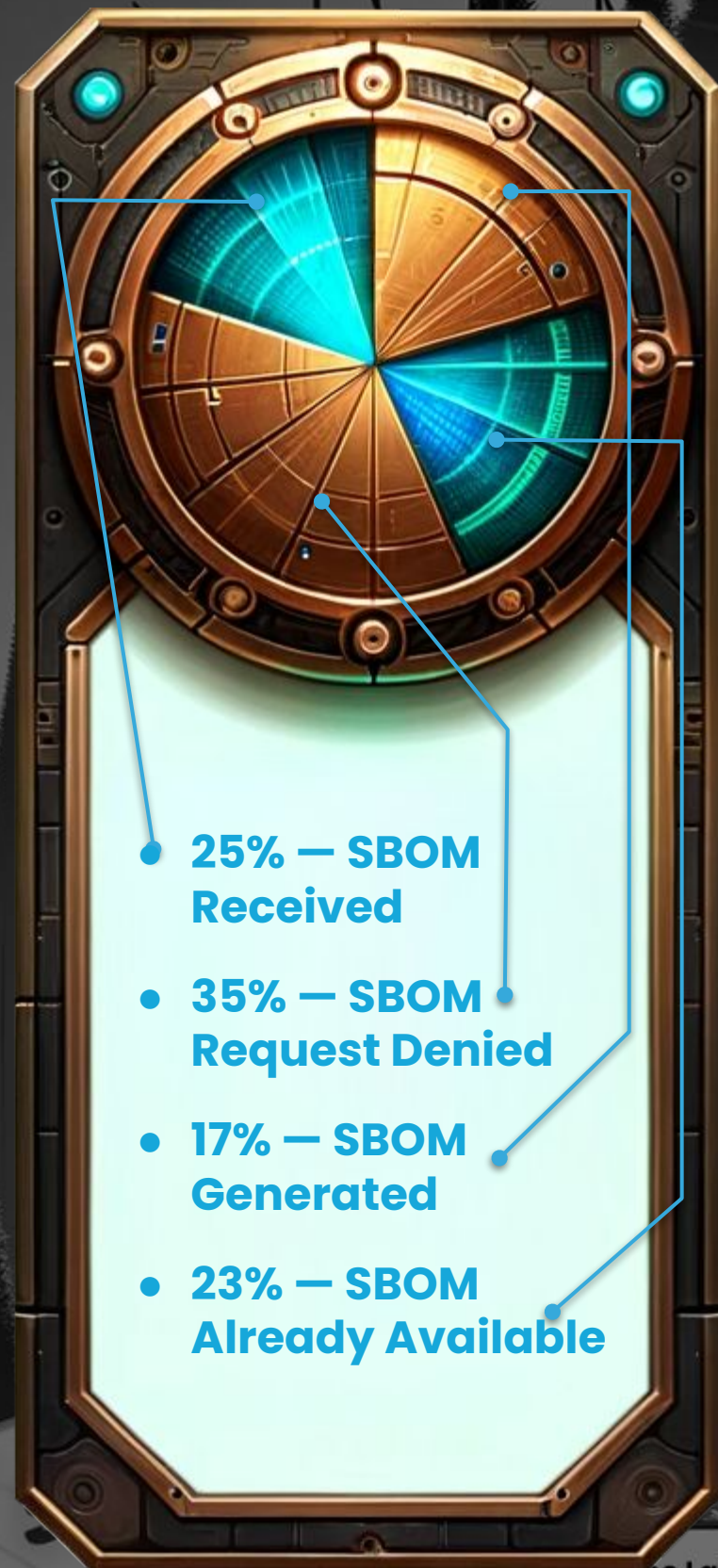


Vendor Accountability and Collaboration Achievement



Community Engagement Activated





## Summary Statistics:

### Average Time to Get SBOM

- 60 days from request to receipt

### Average # of Components

- Linux-based Systems: 1,807
- Bare Metal / RTOS: 21

### Average # of Vulnerabilities

- Linux-based Systems: 2,084
- Bare Metal / RTOS: 9

### Average # of Emails/Meetings to request SBOM

- 12

### Average numbers of vulnerabilities after VEX provided from Vendor

- 10 (according to Vendor)



Vendor Risk Management Team

Sales Team

Legal Team

Legal Team

OT Security Team

Telco Team

Substation Engineering Team

Product Engineering Team

Sales / Field Engineering Team

Cyber Security Team

Product Security Team

CEO / Executive Team

Condition Based Maintenance Team

Physical Security Team



Warp Speed Activated



Auto - Exploitability Potion Added



MITRE Entered the Game



Ameren Entered the Game



Scythe Entered the Game



Schneider Electric Entered the Game



EPRI Entered the Game

**INVENTORY**

SBOM	VULNERABILITIES
385	8,475

24

- Number of vendors
- Time to respond
- Response rate
- SBOM quality vs. forward analysis
- Exploitable vulnerabilities vs. non-exploitable

Operational Analysis  
It Does Exist

Analysis Alps

Request & Reponse  
Roundabout

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Analysis & Verification  
Crossing

Firmware Forest

Vendor Valley

# Thank You!

Non-Compliance  
Nook

Inventory  
Jungle

Internal Politics Point  
Don't Jump!

START

Legacy Device Labyrinth