HMC-Memo-010-Going-Underground

MEMORANDUM

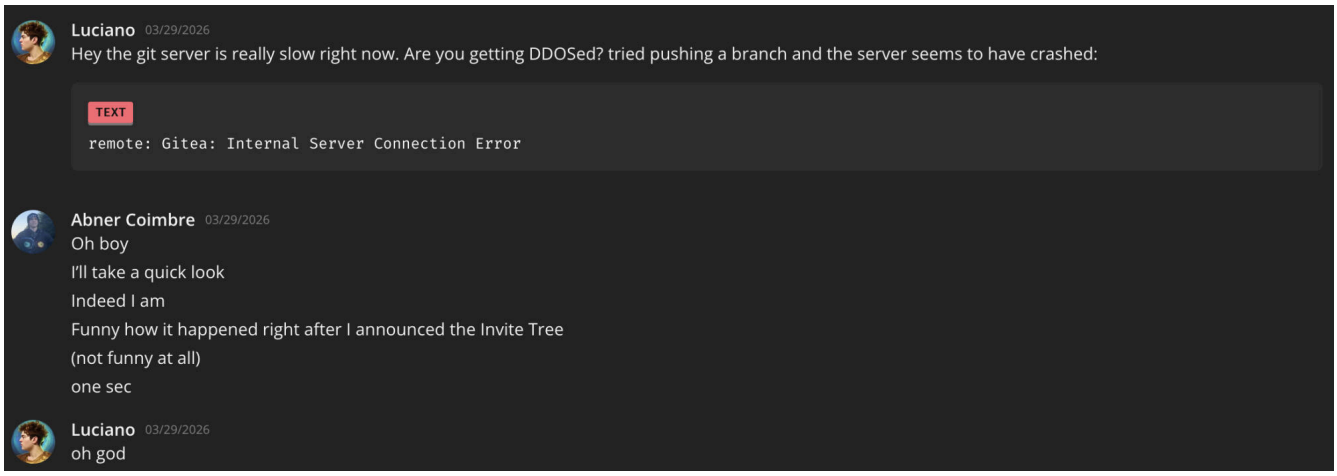
TO: All Community Members
FROM: Abner Coimbre
DATE: Thursday October 29th, 2026
SUBJECT: We're Going Underground (Goodbye, Open Web)

Dear Handmade folks,

I write this memo as I read the GITLAB SECURITY INCIDENT: ATTEMPTED EXPLOITATION OF CVE-2026-97229. Meanwhile our server admin, Mariano, carries an ever-increasing burden to secure our code forges. Emphasis mine:

> *"Upgraded to the latest Gitea and I hope to get time to work on spam prevention soon. Gitea (and now its CI runner) are on independent VPSes because they're prone to crawling and other more malicious attacks.* ***We can't ignore it for much longer.****"*
>
> *-HMC Server Admin*

This was not the first time he's contacted the community with dismay. For my indie project, Terminal Click, I keep receiving malicious scraping attempts. In fact when I onboarded my first ever contributor this was our first exchange:

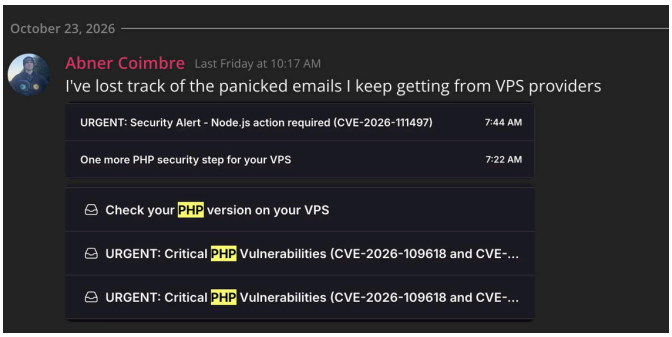


Another community entirely, Mr. 4th Lab, is also in a real bind. The owner contacted Handmade Cities earlier this week:

> *"I've had to reset my gitea twice instance recently, and the evidence suggests I'm getting random spikes of very high inbound traffic and CPU usage. I don't have the skills or time to be defending my web stack from the open internet meltdown."*

> *-Mr. 4th*

I mean we can keep going right? Any individual running a server has seen their VPS provider scream and then scream some more:



I hereby declare bankruptcy on the open web. Even if things get more secure over time, that still won't prevent sloptubers from vibecoding our projects and feeding them to The Borg. (I stopped writing technical blog posts about my own software.) Indeed, we've already announced it in a newsletter but I want to make it far more prominent:

> *"I don't intend to leave 100% – the main website should probably stick around. However, we may explore overlay Networks / mesh VPNs for the web apps: like Gitea or the upcoming library. Or whatever community service we offer in the future. […]* ***One day I do believe our growth will no longer come from the open web, and we'll just use the Internet to collaborate with the humans we seek out in person.****"*
>
> *-HMC Founder*

Mariano is having enthusiastic conversations on Handmade Revolt as we speak. He is locking down Gitea, followed by the Handmade Library – which requires login credentials anyway – and then we'll keep experimenting further. He will offer important updates over the coming weeks. And I'll leave you with a memorable quote from Revolt user `@FrederickGeek8`:

> *"[…] it's a sad state the web is in, but all the more space for creativity! I wish I had more time to ponder these things more and read up on the history and state-of-the-art of in related topics of overlay networks & P2P, but alas, I will settle for my lil Tailscale setup for now. I'm excited to see how this topic develops in the HMC community :)"*
>
> *-Frederick*

-Abner