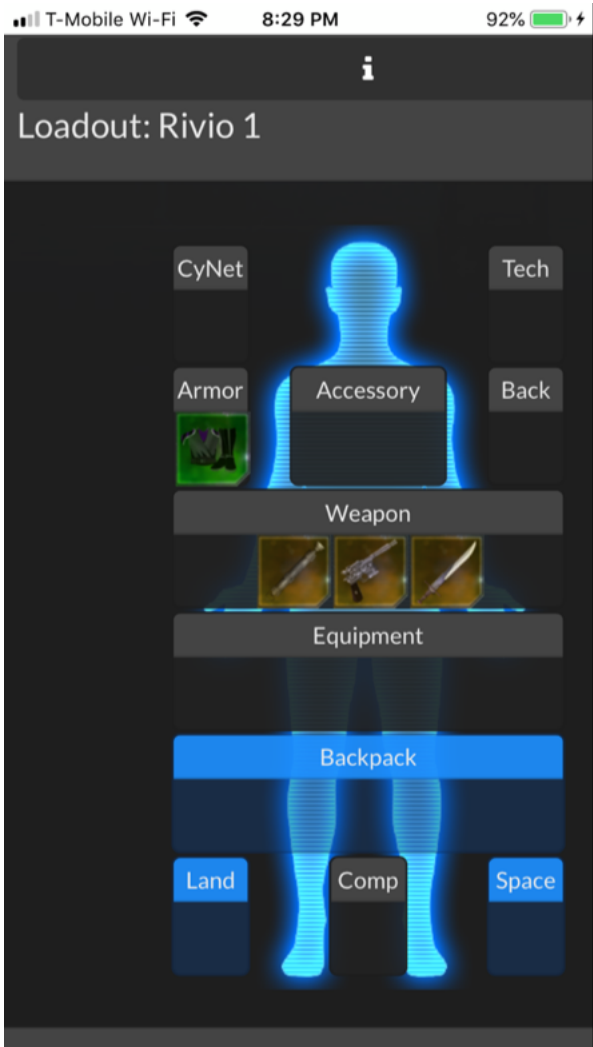


[Objective 2] The AI Conundrum



"So the Collective has interrupted our peace talks huh? Here I thought we'd

have it all smooth and perfect for the Severian Principate." Rivio Rosan muttered to himself as he continued along from his drop-off point. He had been sent over to the old Thuvis Shipyard, once an Imperial possession they abandoned it early in the civil war days. The Principate has been making efforts to fix it up enough to use properly.

"That's going swimmingly now isn't it." Rivio mused as he kicked a wrecked protocol droid head across the floor. "Now it's come to finding proof for that damned Governor of the colony Jar'deon Blazio. This is bantha dung, why would we attack them when we wanted peace? Guh I hate

politics." He said as he looked around at the now even more wrecked ships.

He ducked low behind a crate as he heard talking and moving feet. Taking a quick glance he saw five people, judging by the way they were augmented he figured they were from the Technocratic Guild of the Collective. "Damn, I knew it wouldn't be a simple day. Should have just stayed in bed Rivio." he whispers to himself as he grabs a device from his pocket. He had been given it for this mission; a recorder to log any and all evidence he found for the Brotherhood to prove themselves innocent. He pressed play as they began to speak.

"The Principate are all confused. They have no idea what's really going on." One said and the apparent leader of the group responded as they continued to move with a purpose.

"Good. As long as they are distracted with the main forces and blaming the Brotherhood then we can continue our work here. How goes the AI installment?" She asks as a door opens for them, passing through without a brake in their stride. Rivio sighed, knowing he has to go after them.

He stealthily crept past the door and looked around, noticing a T-shaped hallway going forward. He carefully moved with a hand at his left hip on his Armory

DL-44 Blaster Pistol, typically a first resort if he can avoid using his lightsaber which hung on the opposite side. Across his back was strapped a Armory Viroblade that he decided to take along with him on major missions. "Now where did you all go. By the force if I can't find what they were talking about then I'll end up-" He quickly was cut off by that all too familiar feeling of trouble coming. From right behind him. "Shit." He muttered as he just narrowly shifted to the left as a grappling hook buried itself into the he floor panel right in front of him. He turned around to see one of the five people he was following.

"So a little Brotherhood

dog wants to come play. How sweet." The voice of the women, who apparently was the leader from the group he was following, said with a cocky grin.

Rivio simply returned the smirk and gave a small, slow chuckle. "While yes I am with the Brotherhood, I am no dog. We are brothers and sisters; but that's something you wouldn't know is it?" He asks casually leaning on the hooks line, the device that launched the claw like hook coming from her mechanical left arm, specifically right under her hand at the wrist.

She narrowed her eyes at his care free attitude. "For someone who's about to die you seem pretty laid back. I can assume you're a force

sensitive with how you dodged at the last minute, but you aren't that well versed in predicting are you?" She asked.

"Sadly no I am not. But I am good enough to do it properly at least. Now I'll give you this one chance: leave now and you'll live. I wouldn't want to hurt such a pretty face today, maybe next week? That sounds good to me."

The Technocrat gave a sly smile before yanking her arm back to her and bringing the hook back. The floor panel it had been embedded in came up with it and slammed into Rivio's back sending him to the floor hard. "I think not. You see I can't have you poking

around for evidence of our involvement. We're only five after all and if they knew what we were up to then it wouldn't be good news for us."

Rivio slowly got up, without her noticing he pressed the record button again on his little device hidden away. "And pray tell what exactly is it that you are doing?"

She laughs with a hand now on her hip in a mocking manner. "Now that would be telling. Must be because you can't get the info any other way huh?" She challenges as she makes a 'come at me' hand gesture.

Rivio simply dusts himself off before looking over himself for any injuries.

Noting none he looked at his opponent. "Are you sure about this? I must warn you that if you're challenging me then I won't back down. And I've been told I am exceptionally good at killing."

"Just shut up and fight me." She says pulling a blaster out and firing.

Rivio quickly dives out of the way and pulls out his own blaster, firing three shots with none hitting. He gets behind a crate again for cover as she continues to fire before he hears the subtle hum of an engine. Looking over he quickly regrets it, his opponent landing a kick on his face from the air using a jet pack to gain the upper hand. As

an answer to her now
closeness he pulls out his
viroblade and slashes at her.
She uses her metal arm as a
shield but didn't account for
his blaster still being in his
hand after she kicked him.

With a quick repositioning
he pointed the muzzle down
and pulled the trigger
putting a bolt through her
foot. She grunts in pain and
pushes the blade down and
out of his hand before using
the metal arm to punch him
hard, sending him back a
few inches while she quickly
opened up a bacta container
and applied it to her foot.
While she was occupied with
this Rivio quickly rushed for
his blade before a stream of
fire stopped him. The source
was a flame thrower in her

prosthetic arm at the forearm. "You have got to be kidding me." He says to himself simply as she redirects the flames toward him. "Oh my god that's hot!" He yells ducking under the arc and avoiding it at all costs.

"Imma burn you Brotherhood dog! Then once we get rid of you we can install our AI and take control of this damned station from the Principate! Now hurry up and DIE!" She yells historically unaware of her words. Rivio however just got exactly what he needed from her, so he could stop messing around. He sent the panel she tore off back at her with the force and used the distraction to

get to a good cover spot to hide.

With himself behind cover and her stopping the flame jet he had some time to himself. He started concentrating as his force cloak slowly enveloped him. "Where'd you go you mangey mutt! Come on out!" She says, just as his cloak fully envelops him while she looked around the area. 'Thank you Corellian Kickboxing' he thought as he moved behind her and proceeded to tap her on the shoulder, causing her to turn; after she looked directly at his invisible form he sent a good strong right hook to her face. He followed this up with a fast elbow and left jab as his

cloak fell, then a knee and a kick to the leg before going for her torso.

Finally gaining her footing and recovering from the shock she started dodging and landed a hard uppercut on him. Not staying down for to long he kicked himself back up and force pushed her back into the wall. He extends his hand and a violent stream of force lighting shoots toward the Collective member, hitting its mark and making her writhe in pain and agony. Her mechanical arm and other unseen enhancements didn't help her either in this regard as he continued to electrocute her.

Once he stopped she was breathing heavily and smoke

arose from her downed form. She shook in pain with each movement trying to stand again. She heard a faint...chant is what she would describe it as, from Rivio who was trying to calm himself down. "I am one with the force and the force is one with me." He said to himself letting his anger subside and his eyes to go from the patent fiery orange color back to his heterochromic brown and green. He slowly and methodically walked over to her, lightsaber in hand as he ignited it and dragged the red blade across the ground.

She quickly, but oh so painfully, sat up and crawled backwards into the wall away from the man who beat

her. "Stay back! Stay away!" She desperately called to him as he finally stood before her.

"Aside from what you have told me, what else do you plan for this station?" He asks with a menacing undertone. She doesn't respond at first so he picks her up with the force and impales his saber through her shoulder getting a melodic (to him at least) scream from her. "Answer. Me. And the pain goes away." He said.

She took deep breaths as she began. "No. Nothing else! Just the AI! I swear!" She says pleadingly hoping he believes her. To her delight he takes the saber out and lets her drop back to

the floor.

"Good, your being truthful now. I guess then I have everything from you." He says moving to her side as she looked down.

"So you'll....you'll let me go?" She says with hope in He voice as she looks up. He puts a hand to her cheek and makes her look down again, unknowingly presenting him a perfect angle at her neck.

He raises his lightsaber above his head with both hands and a stone cold face. "I never said that." He says as he sends the blade down taking her head off. He sits as he puts the saber away and retrieved his other weapons before using his commlink. "Ya it's me. I got

the info. Oi! Don't play dumb you know who it is! Rivio Rosan, from clan Naga Sadow. Yes I got it all, at least what we'll need anyway. So can I get off this place? It stinks of Collective scum. Thanks, Rivio out."

With that he walks away, hoping that the intel he gathered will be Abel to salvage the peace talks between the Principate and the Brotherhood.