**Position:** Secretary of Commerce

**Institution:** Department of Commerce

**Faction:** Domestic Economics

**Historical Reference:** Gary Locke

**Biography:**

You were born on January 21, 1950, in Seattle, Washington. As a young man, you were actively involved with Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout. You graduated with honors from Franklin High School, and subsequently were admitted on a scholarship to Yale University, where you received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

As the 36th Secretary of Commerce, you have a reputation as an ambitious leader who tirelessly fights for economic and political prosperity. With the US economy still recovering from the Great Recession, your singular goal is to promote economic growth. Indeed, President Obama appointed you to this position as part of his goal to “Turn the economy around and put people back to work.” At your Senate confirmation hearing, you pledged to “work every day to make the Commerce Department an engine for improving our competitiveness, encouraging innovation and creating jobs.” Concerning cybersecurity, you are of two minds. On the one hand, you want to assure that US economic interests are protected from attack. On the other, you are concerned that too much regulation will stifle the economic recovery.

**Faction Advisory**

You are one of several NSC members to advocate for the domestic economic interests of the United States. Your singular obligation is economic growth and stability. In the NSC, you strongly oppose any policies that negatively affect economic growth and stability. This includes using economic sanctions as a first response to cyber-attacks. You are very concerned that trade sanctions are “too easy” that they will be used too often because they are politically popular. For this reason, you would support direct action (military or covert) to protect the economy and the American way of life. However, you are generally supportive of attempts to craft new global agreements on cybersecurity and may support factions focused on diplomatic efforts. The health of the American economy is as important as national security. Indeed, you believe it to be the most critical issue in the cyber domain.

**Assignment**

At an upcoming meeting, the President (instructor) will convene the National Security Council (NSC) and ask it to develop a National Security Strategy for Cyber Security. You need to ensure that the final document the NSC produces reflects your institution’s priorities (see objectives). Because the NSC contains representatives from institutions (or agencies) with vastly different perspectives, this will be no easy task. Government agencies fight hard for influence and resources (e.g., a budget). Not everyone can get what they want. Thus, your colleagues need to hear your ideas, but you also need to convince them that your priorities belong in a document that will not—indeed, *can not*—contain everything. Evidence-based arguments will serve you best here, and you can prepare in the following ways:

* Research your *institution*. What does your institution generally do day-to-day? What are its general interests? This puts you in the mindset of the institution.
* Research the current state of cyberspace (as of January 21, 2009; no later). What are its characteristics? What are its main opportunities and challenges? The instructor will provide you with access to a database of resources to get you started, but you should not confine yourself only to those resources. You may use any time appropriate research.
* Research your policy toward cyberspace. Given (i) and (ii) above, what do you think a national cyber policy needs to contain? What do you think it should avoid? What language should it use?

As the game unfolds, the instructor will distribute additional assignments. You will need to complete those assignments as they arise.

**Objectives**

Your mandate is broad, and there are many different ways that you can ensure that your goals are met. You will need to be both creative and direct in pursuing your agenda. At a minimum, you should seek to:

* Strengthen public-private partnerships to ensure a robust cyber defense.
* Include what an ‘act of war’ against the American economy looks like and define a response that would deter bad actors.

You strongly oppose:

* The ‘first use’ of cyber. It establishes an unwanted norm.
* Trade sanctions.
* Regulation of the US “Tech Industry”

**Strategy Advice**

You may find common ground with those who advocate for a firm policy of retaliation to cyber for other reasons - including the department of defense - but only if you can convince them to attach such threats to potential attacks against American economic intuitions. You may also find common ground on specific issues with several other factions. While no faction’s interests will entirely overlap with your own, you should seek allies whenever possible. This may include department heads responsible for the other components of the domestic economy, and representatives from trade delegations. You may also find that some factions approach the issue differently. For example, the diplomatic corps would strongly oppose the threat of unliteral action. Military and intelligence factions may desire more oversight of the tech industry. You should also explore the degree to which others understand that both governments AND non-state actors post a threat

Finally, you note that the Bush Administration’s cybersecurity plan emphasized domestic security over a global approach. But the world has changed, while many are now convinced all that cybersecurity is no longer a national-level issue, you must keep the NSC focused on the threats to economic interests posed by cybersecurity. For example, American tech companies are the most dynamic in the world. Over-regulation would stifle their creativity and damage the US economy.

**A Cautionary Note**

The game begins on January 21, 2009. Many subsequent administrations, including the current one, likely have a cyberspace policy. Your institution may even currently have cyber-related policies. These, however, will not necessarily be the administration’s or institution’s *historical*