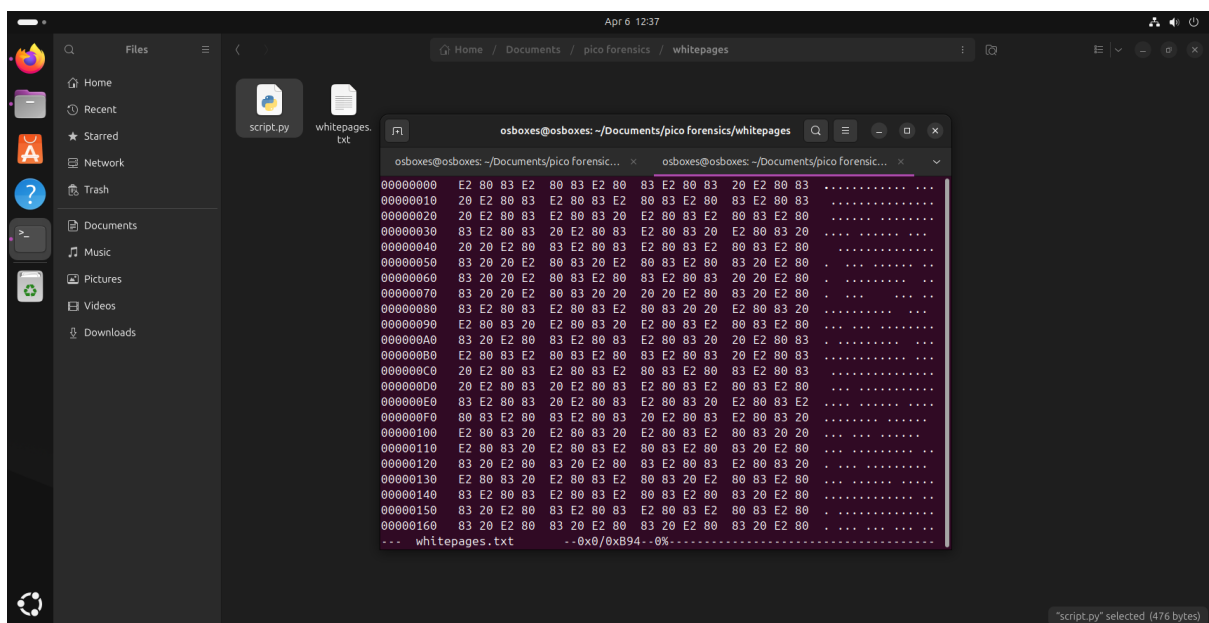In the input file there are just whitespace if you press ctrl + a you will notice it now open the file in hexedit you can determine two types of characters regular spaces (20) as well as em-spaces (e2 80 83).

 # Open the file in binary mode and read its contents

with open("whitepages.txt", "rb") as file:

  # Read the binary content of the file and convert it to a hexadecimal string

   file_content = file.read().hex().upper()
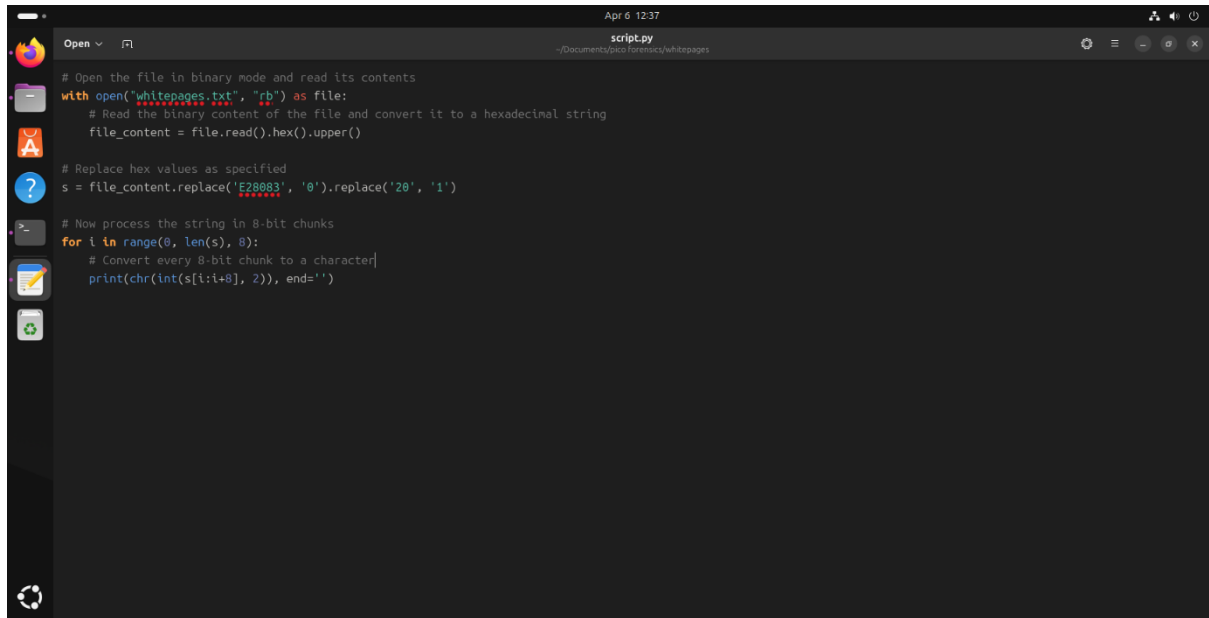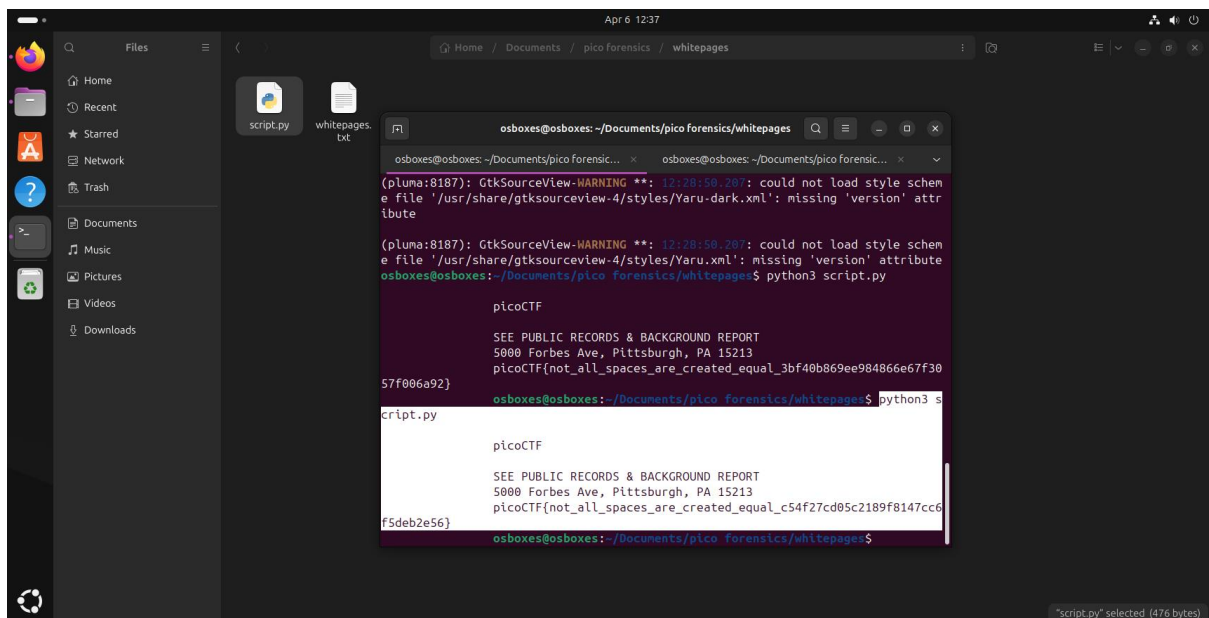

 # Replace hex values as specified

s = file_content.replace('E28083', '0').replace('20', '1')

 # Now process the string in 8-bit chunks

for i in range(0, len(s), 8):

*   # Convert every 8-bit chunk to a character*

*   print(chr(int(s[i:i+8], 2)), end='')*

And you will get the flag by running the script

python3 script.py