

information 



Easy

Forensics

picoCTF 2021

AUTHOR: SUSIE

Description

Files can always be changed in a secret way. Can you find the flag? [cat.jpg](#)

Hints 

1 2

131,506 users solved



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 picoCTF{FLAG}

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Attached file: `cat.jpg`

After uploading the image to my VM for analysis, the first thing I do is use `file` and `exiftool` to learn about the files metadata. In this process I noticed that the license is base64 encoded. Decoding the license key will output the following:

```
08:21:35 csi@csi ~/Cases/picoCTF/Forensics/Information
> file cat.jpg
cat.jpg: JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.02, aspect ratio, density 1x1, segment length 16, baseline, precision 8, 2560x1598, components 3

08:21:39 csi@csi ~/Cases/picoCTF/Forensics/Information
> exiftool cat.jpg
ExifTool Version Number      : 12.40
File Name                    : cat.jpg
Directory                    : .
File Size                    : 858 KiB
File Modification Date/Time   : 2025:07:15 20:13:00+00:00
File Access Date/Time        : 2025:07:15 20:18:46+00:00
File Inode Change Date/Time   : 2025:07:15 20:18:46+00:00
File Permissions              : -rwxrwxrwx
File Type                    : JPEG
File Type Extension          : jpg
MIME Type                    : image/jpeg
JFIF Version                 : 1.02
Resolution Unit              : None
X Resolution                 : 1
Y Resolution                 : 1
Current IPTC Digest          : 7a78f3d9cfb1ce42ab5a3aa30573d617
Copyright Notice             : PicoCTF
Application Record Version    : 4
XMP Toolkit                  : Image::ExifTool 10.80
License                      : cGlb0NURnt0aGVfbTN0YWVhZGFfMXNfbW9kaWZpZW99 ←
Rights                      : PicoCTF
Image Width                  : 2560
Image Height                 : 1598
Encoding Process              : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample              : 8
Color Components              : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling         : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
Image Size                   : 2560x1598
Megapixels                   : 4.1

08:21:44 csi@csi ~/Cases/picoCTF/Forensics/Information
> echo 'cGlb0NURnt0aGVfbTN0YWVhZGFfMXNfbW9kaWZpZW99' | base64 -d
picoCTF{the_m3tadata_1s_modified}
```

picoCTF{the_m3tadata_1s_modified}

picoCTF

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information

Easy Forensics picoCTF 2021

AUTHOR: SUSIE

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Files can always be changed in a secret way. Can you find the flag? [cat.jpg](#)

131,975 users solved

49% Liked

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