A person driving a car with a steering wheel and a box of food

Description automatically generated

Title: Hacker's Cookies

Description:

I met someone online who offered to teach hacking lessons through the dark web. He mentioned a private Discord server exclusively for those who complete his training program and become "professionals." Our communication is fully encrypted, and I haven’t been able to uncover his real identity or find an invitation link to the server.

The only clue I have is that he loves cookies. He even sent me a picture of the cookies and reviewed it on the 8th of January, 2025 5 out of 5. I’m wondering if this clue could help me track him down and access the server.

Flag format: FSEC-SS{flag}

**Hints the player should extract:**

1. **Cookies**: The focus is on cookies, which could refer to cookies shop or some café
2. **Invitation Link**: The goal is to find the Discord server’s invitation link.
3. **Google Maps Review**: The mention of the review date suggests it might be a Google Maps review.
4. **Social media story**: The image of the cookies looks good, so it’s likely the person posted it on their social media story and tagged the cookie shop.

A screenshot of a car

Description automatically generated

The only special things in the picture are the cookies, the chocolate on top, the cream, and the packaging. To find out where the cookies are from, I used **Google Lens** to search for them.

A screenshot of a phone

Description automatically generated

We found that the cookies in the post match perfectly same chocolate on top, same packaging, same cream, and even the same spoon (or whatever that is).

A screenshot of a computer room

Description automatically generated

From the post, we discovered the name of the cookie shop: **“White Heart Cookies.”** One of the hashtags is a includes the city, which is **Jeddah**.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

After searching for **“White Heart Cookies Jeddah café,”** I was able to locate the café’s address and their Instagram account. A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Let’s save the Instagram page for later analysis.

A person driving a car with food in boxes

Description automatically generated

We found the image in the account’s highlights, and by clicking on the story, we can identify the hacker’s account.

A screenshot of a social media account

Description automatically generated

There’s nothing particularly special in the account, so we’ll save it in case we need it for further analysis later.

A screenshot of a map

Description automatically generated

Now, we’re searching for his review on Google Maps dated **January 8th, 2025**. The review looks suspicious, especially the username: **AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced**

A computer screen with green text

Description automatically generated

We used the **Sherlock tool** to search for accounts linked to the target username, **AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced**, and discovered his GitHub account.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

That’s definitely him, so let’s explore his account further.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

In the main branch, we didn’t find anything interesting, but there’s another branch named **“invitation-link.”** This seems to be exactly what we’re looking for.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

We found the invitation code in the form of a comment:

<!-- gQECSd48 -->

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Now, we’ll use the invitation code to access the Discord server.

A screenshot of a chat

Description automatically generated

The server’s bot instructed me to enter the Instagram ID of the targeted user (the hacker himself) to reveal the flag and the decryption keys.

A screenshot of a computer screen

Description automatically generated

Earlier, we found his Instagram account, **dh.aln3**, so let’s use it as the passphrase to access the other channels.

A screenshot of a chat

Description automatically generated

After entering the passphrase, we gained access to two channels: one for the flag and the other for the decryption keys.

A screenshot of a social media post

Description automatically generated

**"U'R LOOKING @ ME - STOP STARING, AND USE YOUR KEYS!" --> your keys**  
This hints that we need to use **Hex** and **AES**. However, since we can’t use AES without the keys, we’ll start by decoding the Hex and then proceed further.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Here’s the encrypted flag, which appears to be an AES-encrypted text.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated After converting the text to hex, we can see the first sentence is **16 bytes of hex**, which represents one of the keys (likely the IV). The second sentence is **32 bytes of hex**, representing the second key (the AES key). In AES encryption, the **IV (Initialization Vector)** is 16 bytes, and the **key** is 32 bytes, which are used together for the encryption process.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

After using the key and IV with AES to decrypt the flag, we finally uncovered the flag, which is:  
  
**FSEC-SS{d1sc0rd\_st4lk3r\_p4ss3d\_th3\_t3st}**