

Title: Hacker's Cookies

Description:

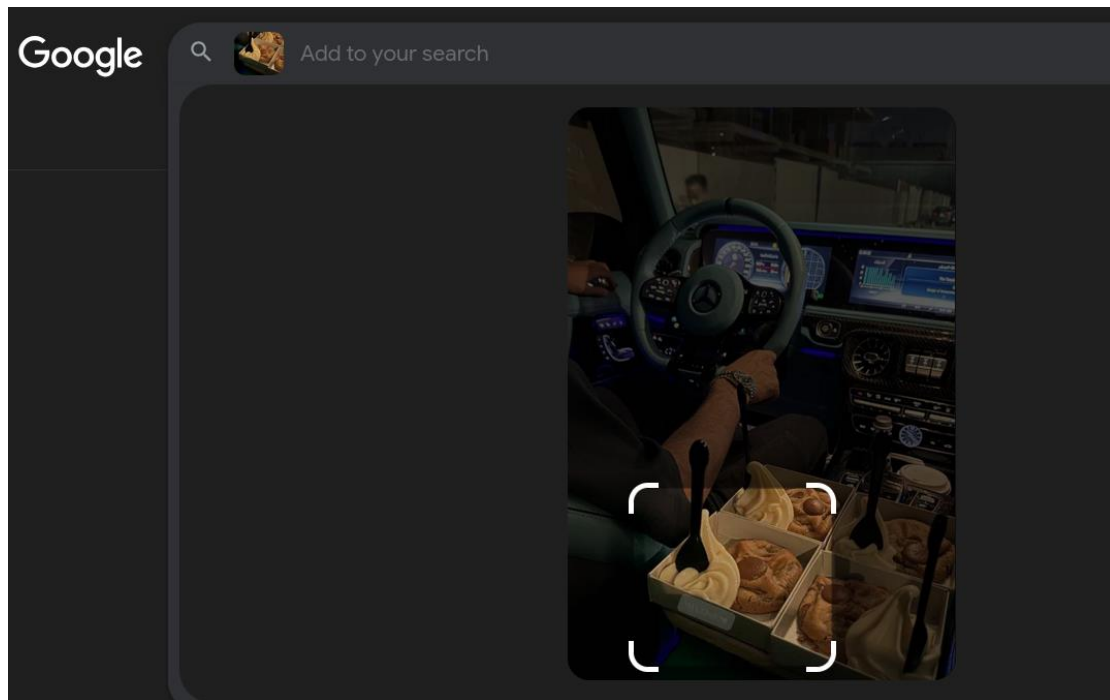
I met someone online who offered to teach hacking lessons through the dark web. He mentioned a private Discord server exclusively for those who complete his training program and become "professionals." Our communication is fully encrypted, and I haven't been able to uncover his real identity or find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

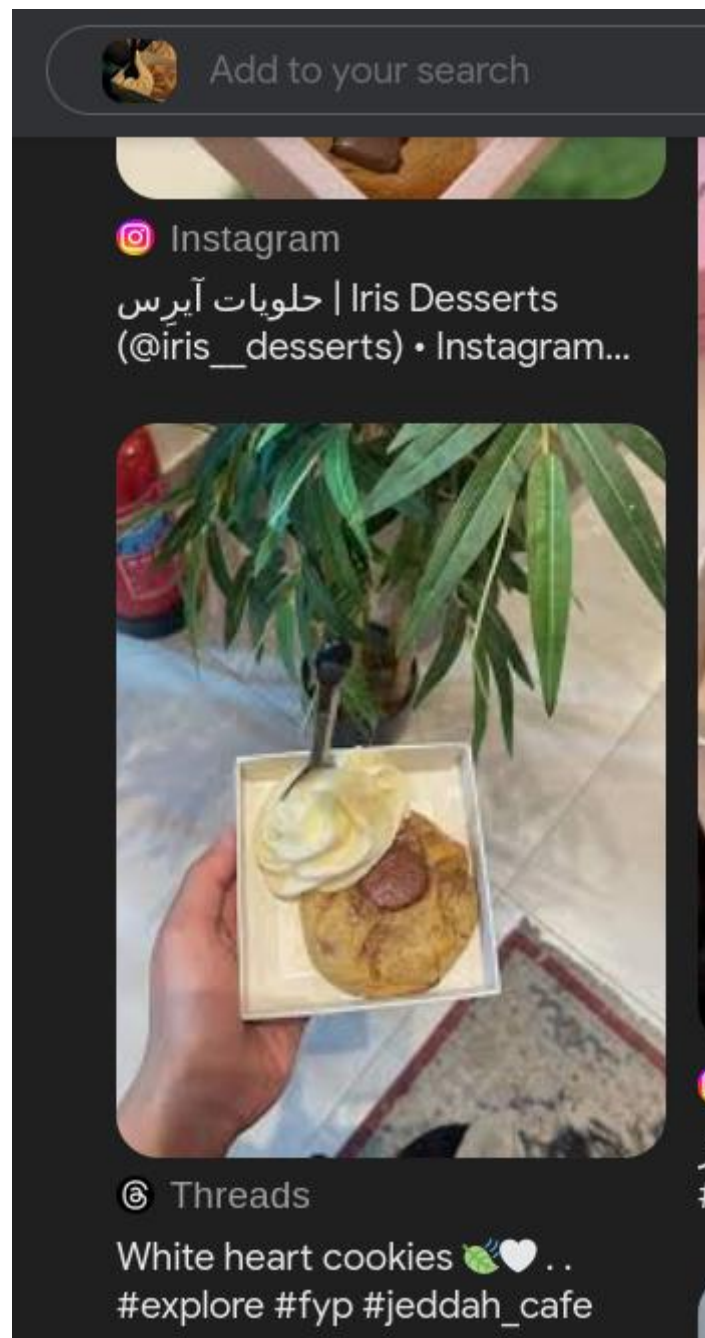
Flag format: FSEC-SS{flag}

### Hints the player should extract:

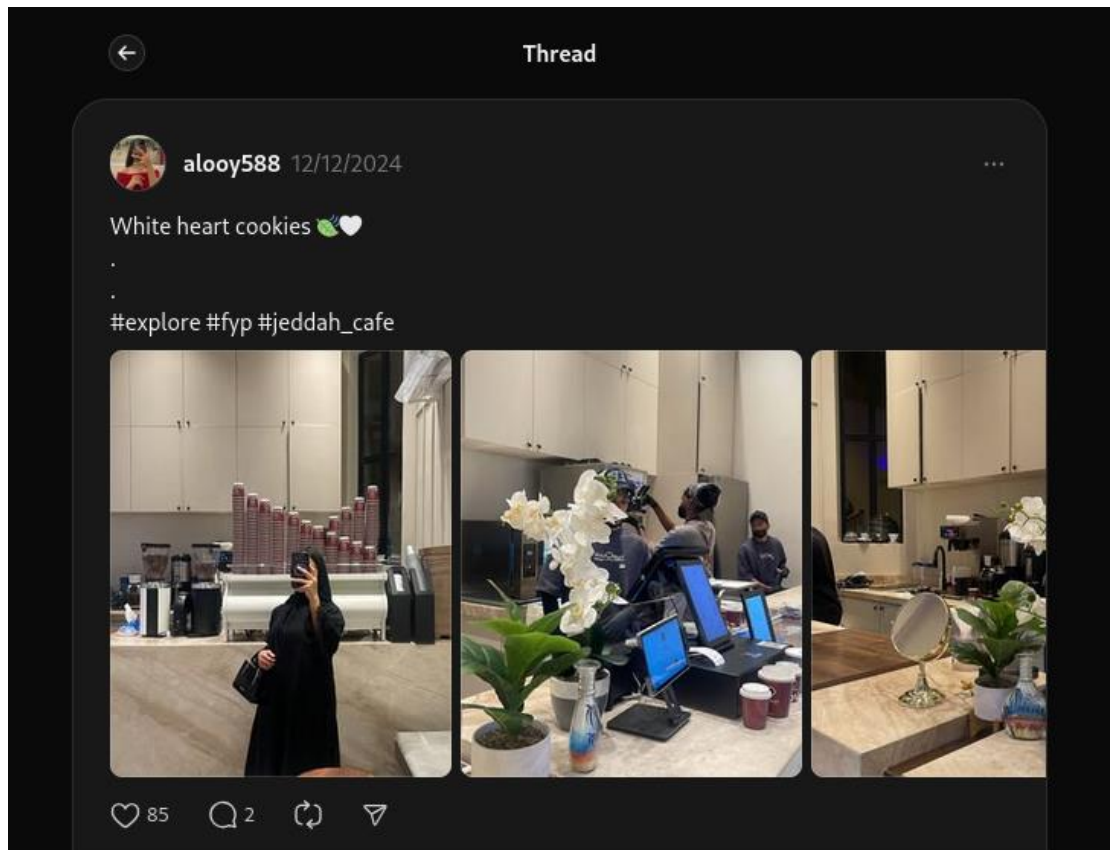
1. **Cookies:** The focus is on cookies, which could refer to cookies shop or some café
2. **Invitation Link:** The goal is to find the Discord server's invitation link.
3. **Google Maps Review:** The mention of the review date suggests it might be a Google Maps review.
4. **Social media story:** The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



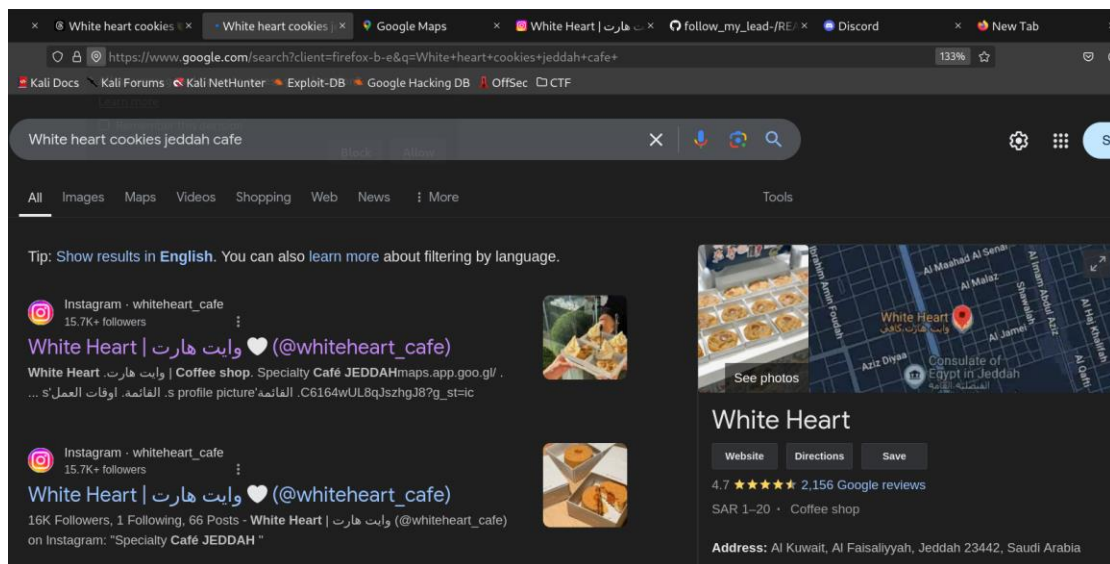
The only special things in the picture are the cookies, the chocolate on top, the cream, and the packaging. To find out where the cookies are from, I used **Google Lens** to search for them.



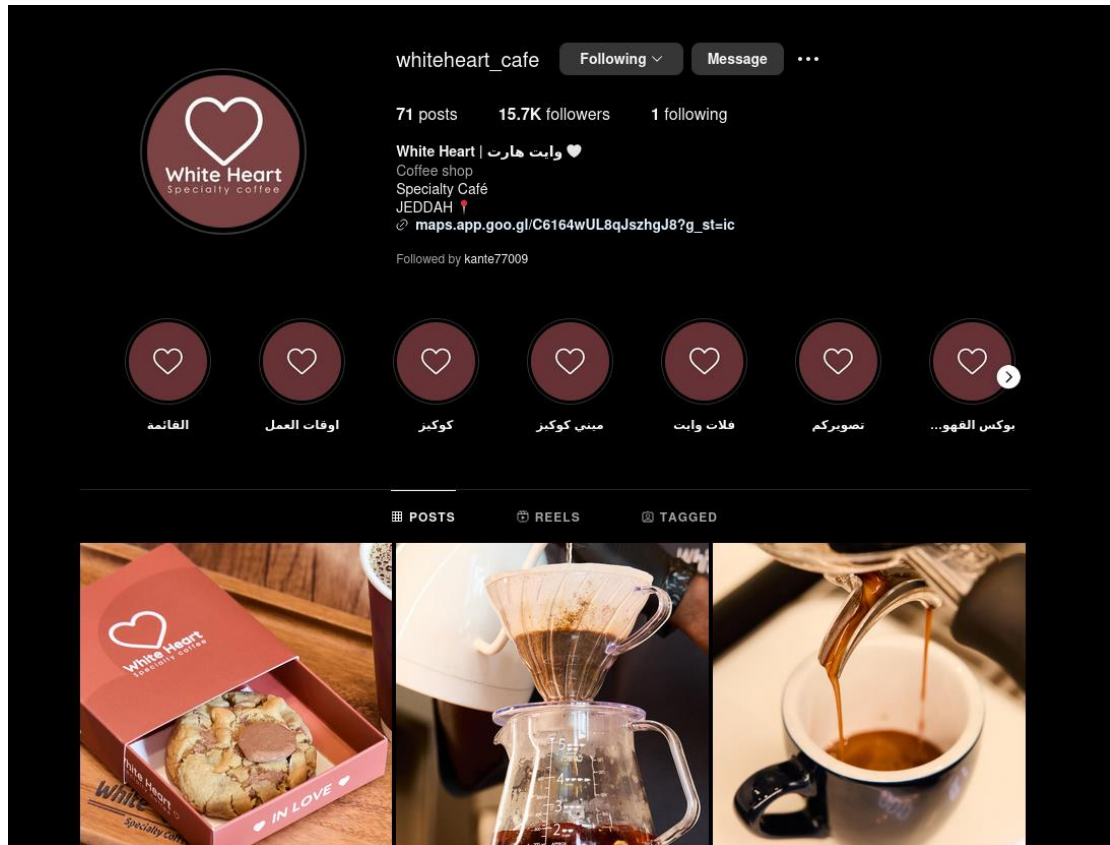
We found that the cookies in the post match perfectly same chocolate on top, same packaging, same cream, and even the same spoon (or whatever that is).



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



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

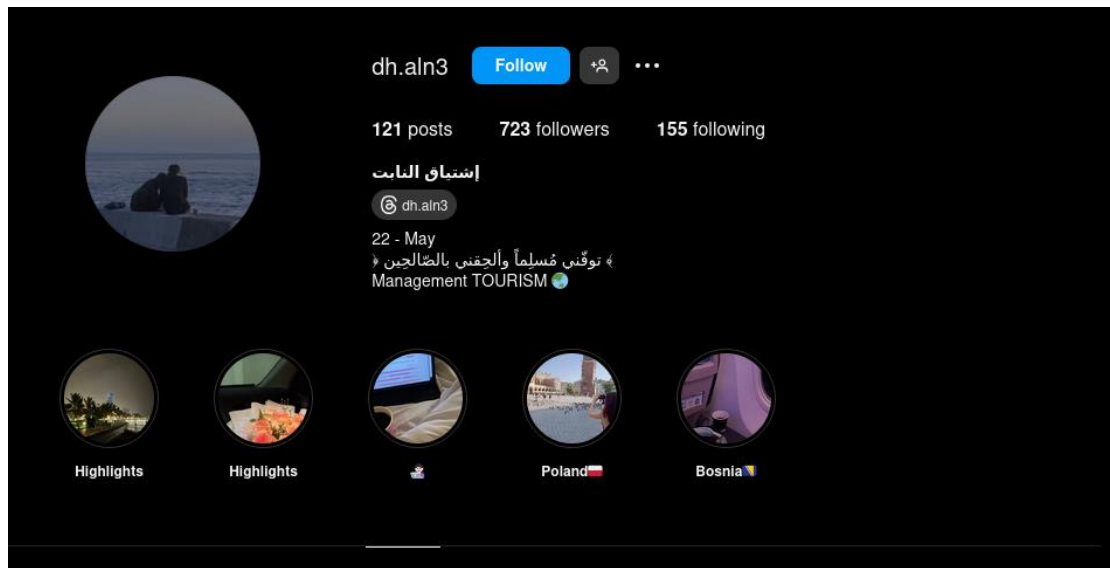


Let's save the Instagram page for later analysis.

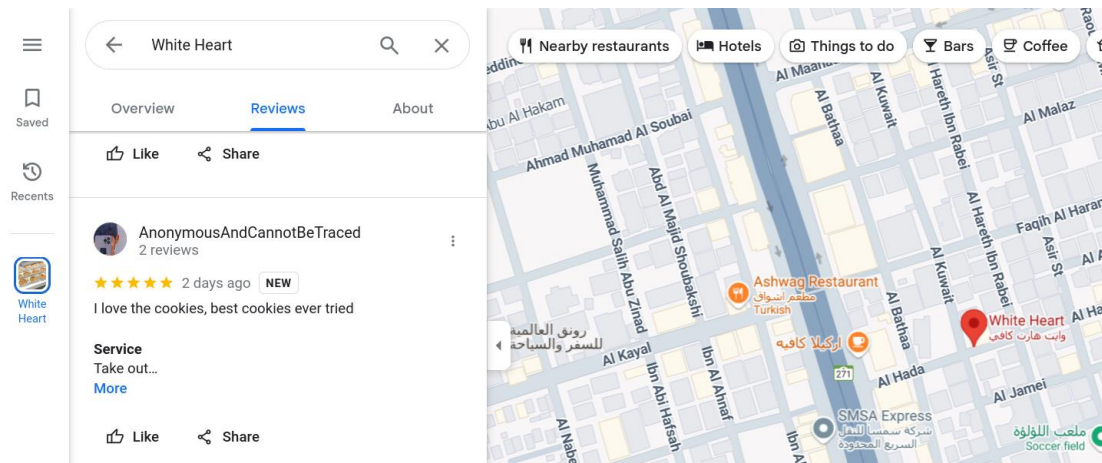




We found the image in the account's highlights, and by clicking on the story, we can identify the hacker's account.



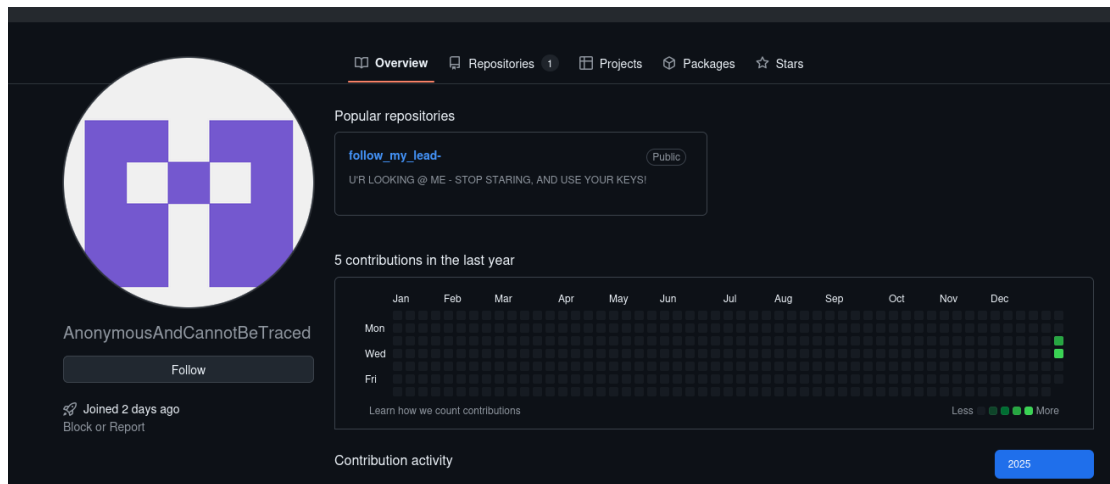
There's nothing particularly special in the account, so we'll save it in case we need it for further analysis later.



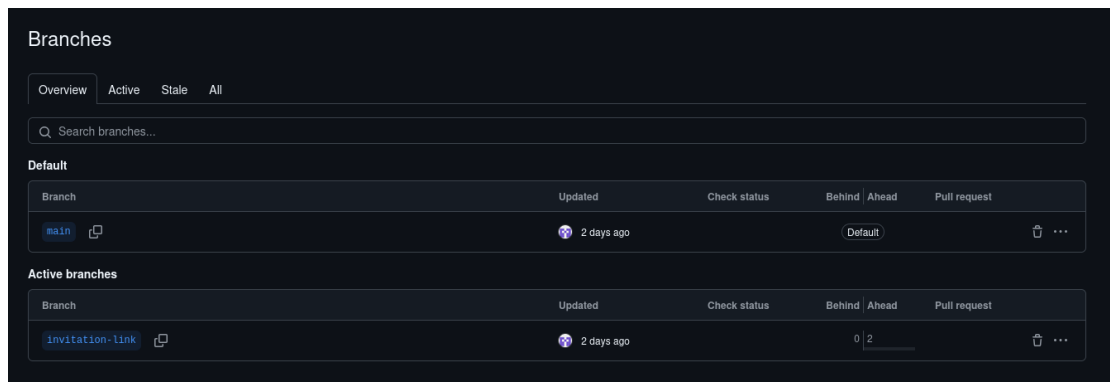
Now, we're searching for his review on Google Maps dated **January 8th, 2025**. The review looks suspicious, especially the username: **AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced**

```
(3B00D@H4CK3RB0Y)-[~/Desktop/Challenges/Hacker's Cookies]
$ sherlock AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced
[*] Checking username AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced on:
[+] 8tracks: https://8tracks.com/AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced
[+] Dealabs: https://www.dealabs.com/profile/AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced
[+] Discord: https://discord.com
[+] GitHub: https://www.github.com/AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced
```

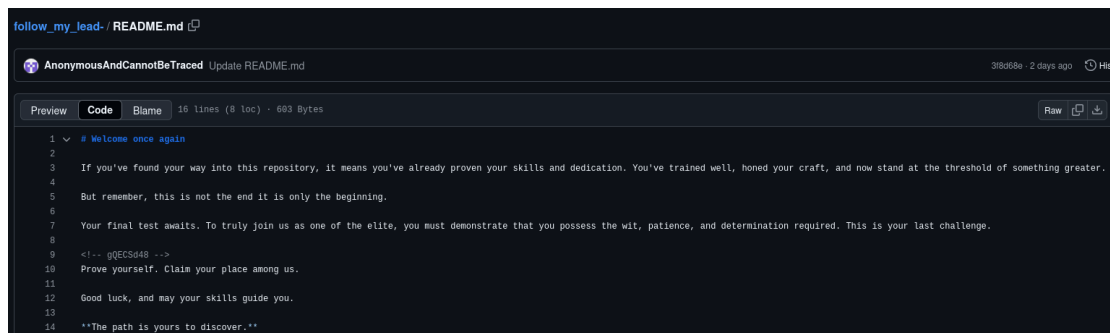
We used the **Sherlock** tool to search for accounts linked to the target username, **AnonymousAndCannotBeTraced**, and discovered his GitHub account.



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



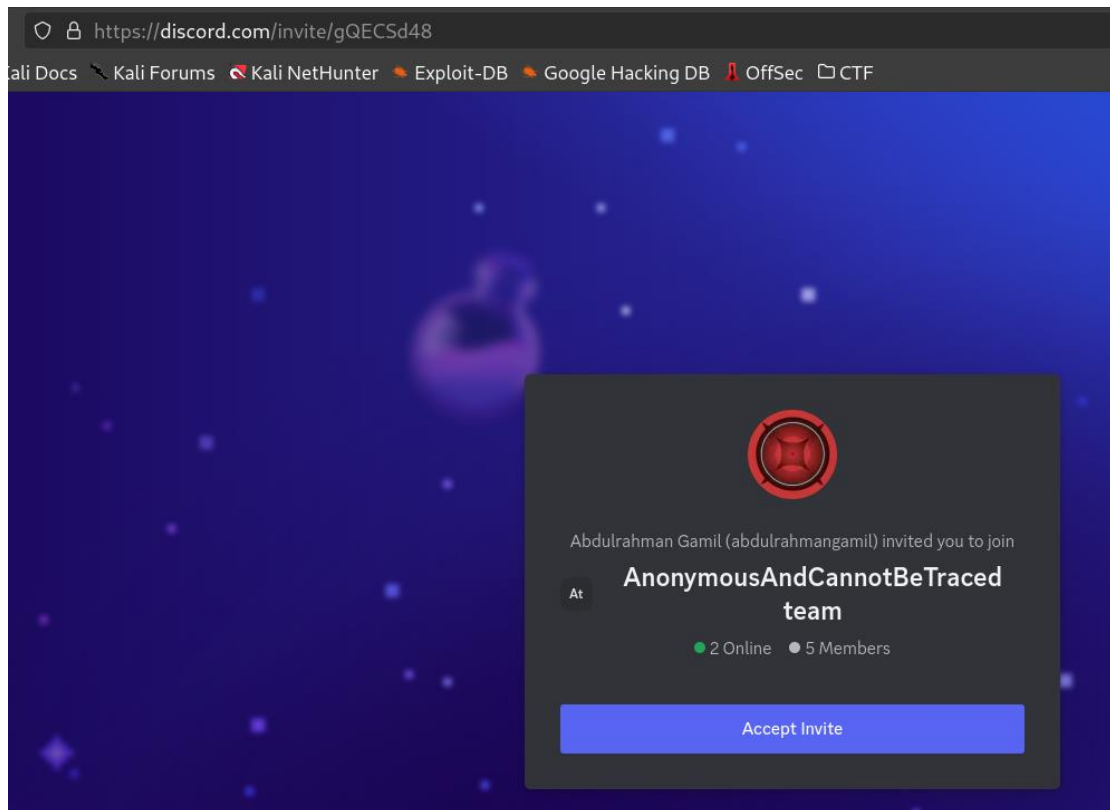
In the main branch, we didn't find anything interesting, but there's another branch named **"invitation-link."** This seems to be exactly what we're looking for.



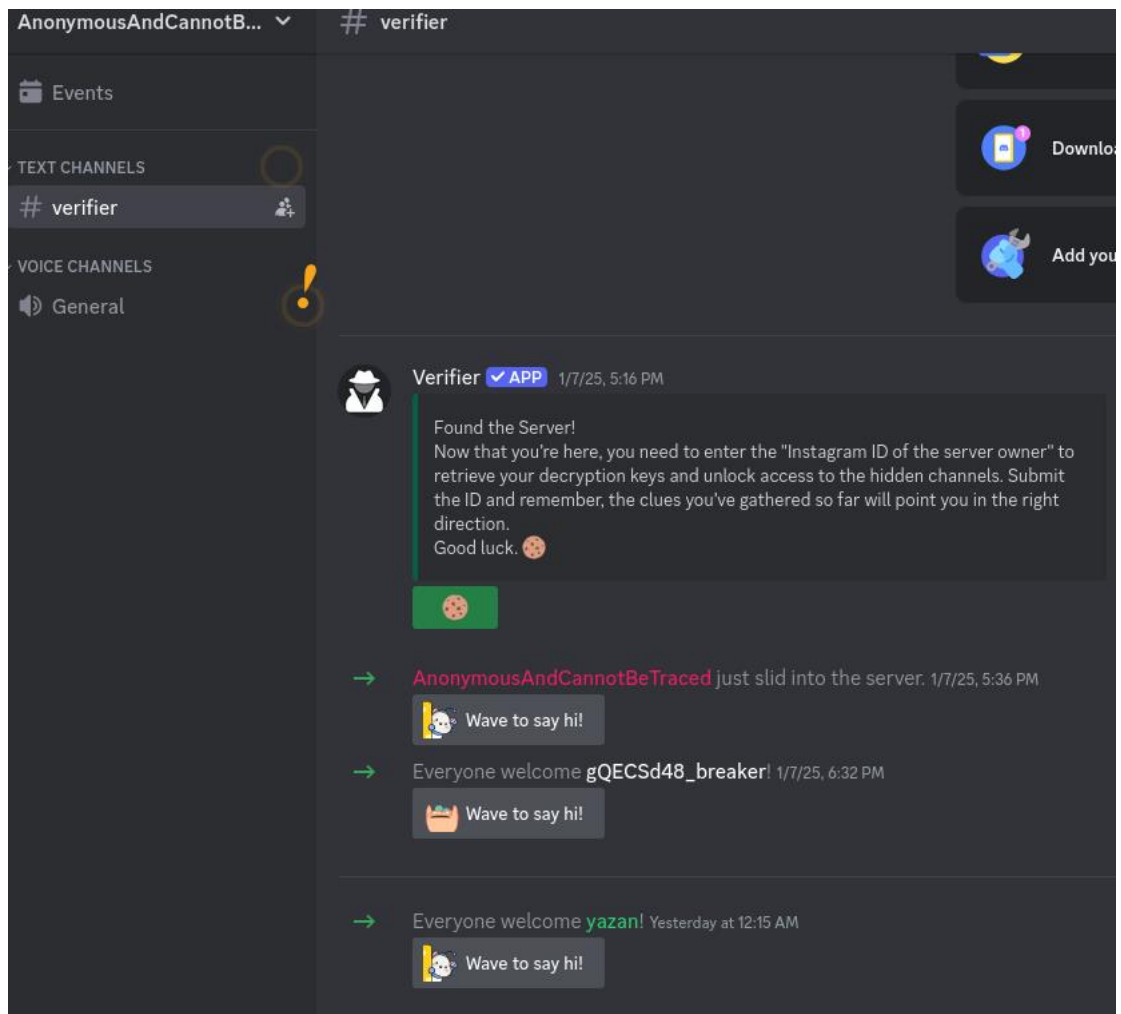
We found the invitation code in the form of a comment:

```
<!-- gQECs48 -->
```





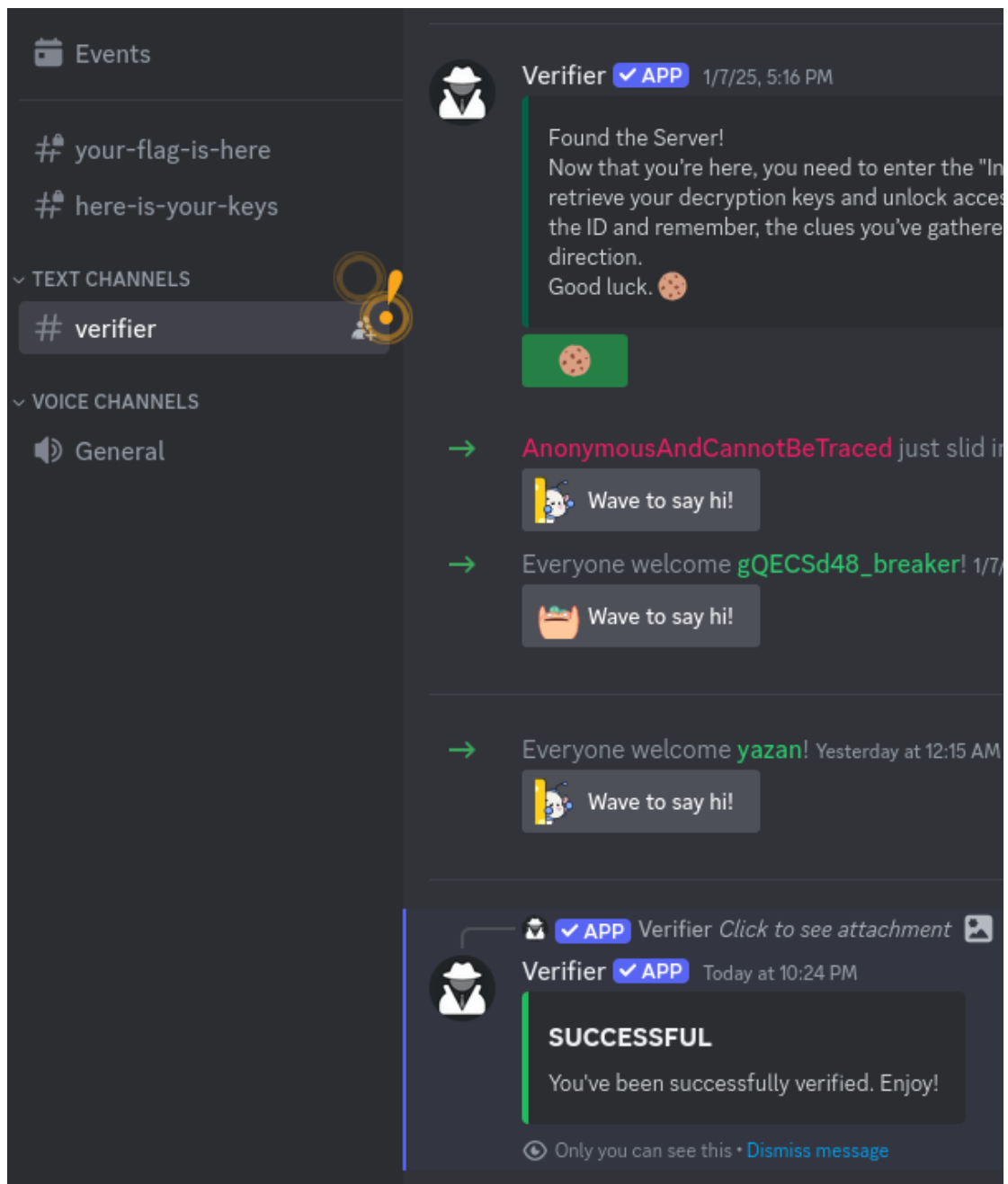
Now, we'll use the invitation code to access the Discord server.



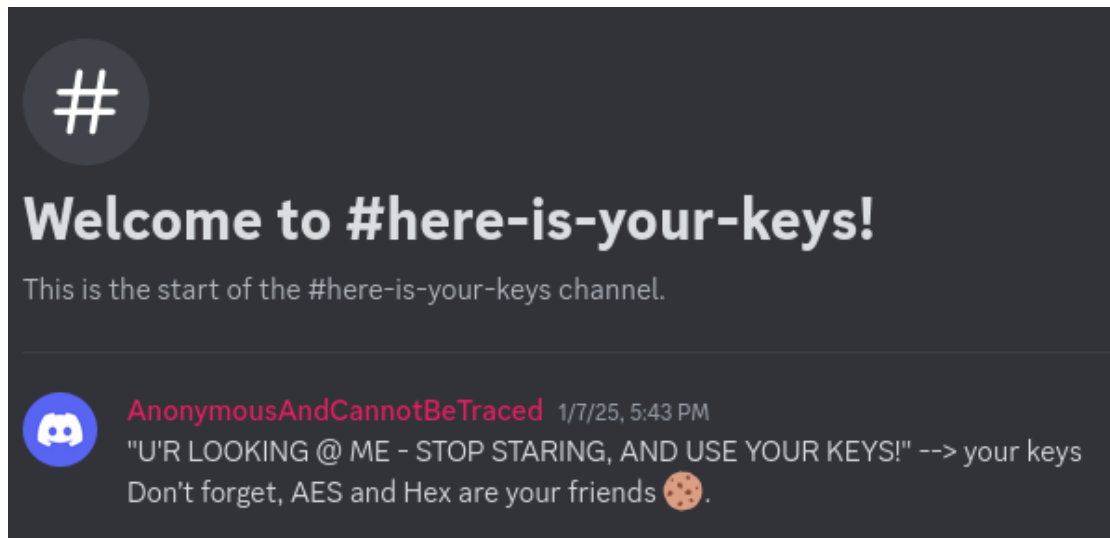
The server's bot instructed me to enter the Instagram ID of the targeted user (the hacker himself) to reveal the flag and the decryption keys.

A screenshot of a 'Passphrase Required' dialog box. At the top, it says 'Passphrase Required' with a close button (X). Below this is a warning box with an exclamation mark icon and the text: 'This form will be submitted to Verifier. Do not share passwords or other sensitive information.' Underneath the warning is the prompt 'ENTER THE PASSPHRASE HERE! \*'. There is a text input field containing the text 'dh.aln3'. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Submit'.

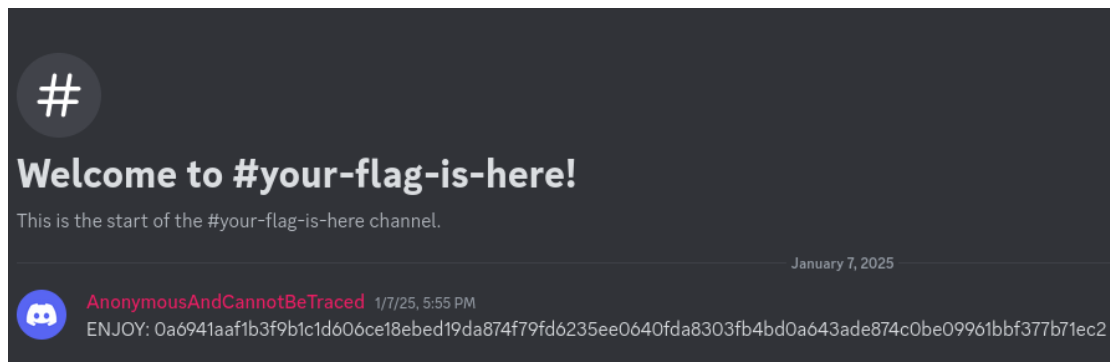
Earlier, we found his Instagram account, **dh.aln3**, so let's use it as the passphrase to access the other channels.



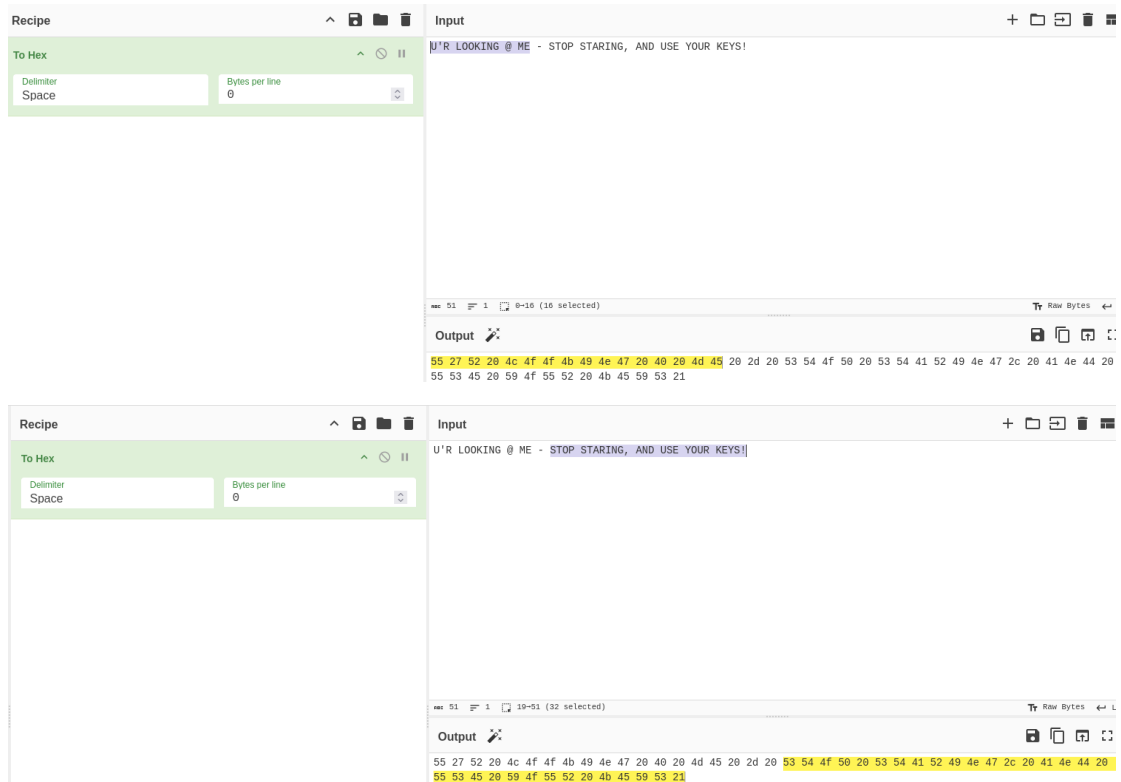
After entering the passphrase, we gained access to two channels: one for the flag and the other for the decryption keys.



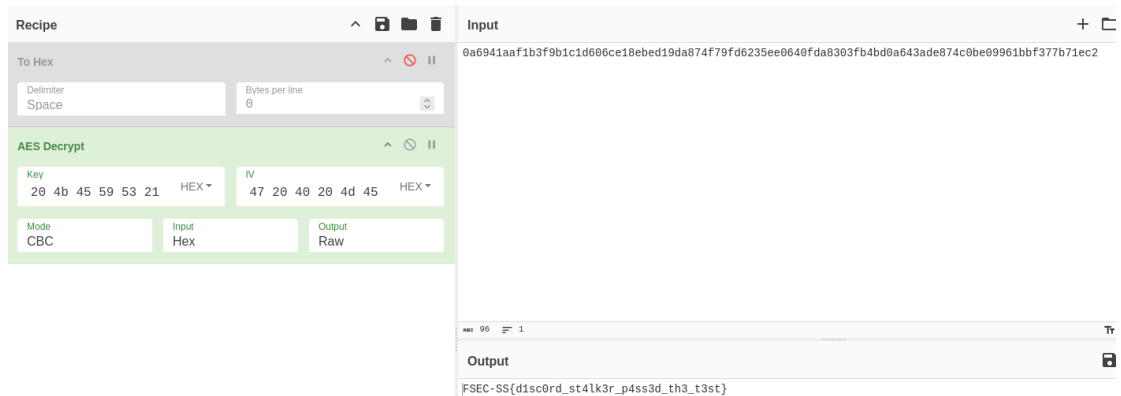
**"U'R LOOKING @ ME - STOP STARING, AND USE YOUR KEYS!" --> your keys**  
This hints that we need to use **Hex** and **AES**. However, since we can't use AES without the keys, we'll start by decoding the Hex and then proceed further.



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



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.



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}**