

< Hat Arsenal peepdf Challenge 2015 writeup

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## peepdf Challenge 2015 writeup

[2 comments](#)

a link on twitter by *Jose Miguel Esparza*, the author of **peepdf** tool, about a challenge he created for *Black Hat* reading the blog post I decided to play with the challenge and now here's my writeup solution. I hope that you

*! of your time to try to solve the challenge without reading the solution. It's a very fun this challenge... Then solution.* 😊

context, you can read the blog post by Jose in his blog [here](#).

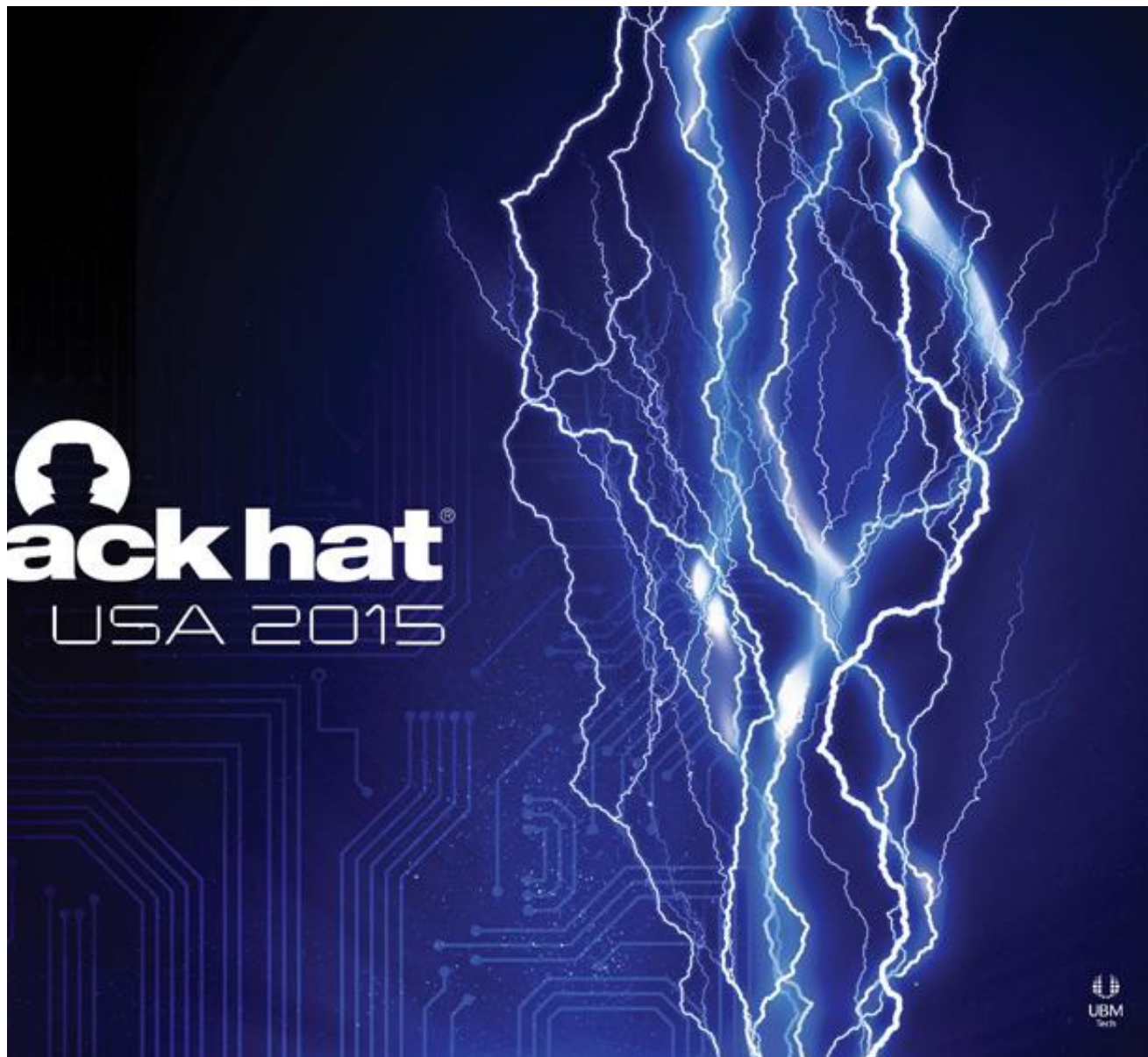
ange [here](#) or directly from the blog post linked above.

can open with Adobe Reader on your PC without using a VM. The version of Adobe Reader we have to use is 11.0.0, otherwise you can't understand and play the challenge. 😊

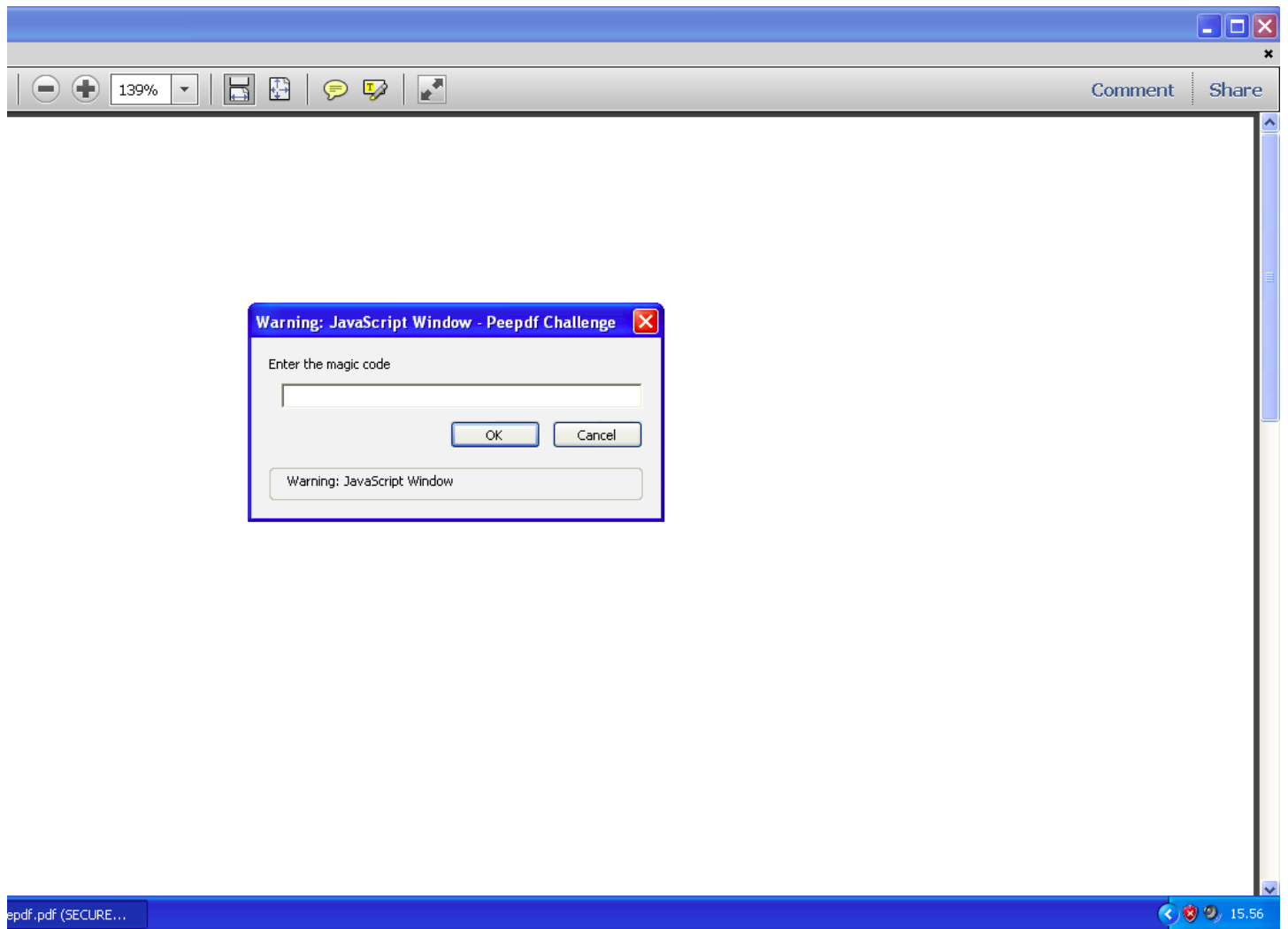
1 of Adobe Reader from this site: [Adobe Reader X](#)

go to solve the challenge!

r a page with the following image:



that there is an attachment inside this pdf named *peepdf.pdf*. So let's save and open it. This new pdf asks you to fill out a javascript form:



ackme, instead of an executable we have to break a PDF, cool, isn't it?

u can also use *peepdf* tool which we'll see later. For example when you have identified the object that contains the password, you can simply use the command:

```
peepdf.pdf
```

and analyze the pdf extracted to understand what is the password, that is the **flag!**

we do a *git clone* to download peepdf and open the pdf in it. I recommend using the last version for a moment. 😊 We'll see the following info:

```

honeydrive@honeydrive: ~/peepdf
honeydrive@honeydrive: ~/peepdf 107x30

b414ffad6d42f
b25290fc3ebc9cb4b7ddc9

bits)

, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24]
6, 8, 22, 24]
(2): [6, 8]
errors (2): [6, 8]
code (4): [5, 16, 19, 24]
nts:
[1, 14]

13, 15, 17, 18, 23]
ipt: [3, 7, 13, 15, 17, 18, 23]
s (CVE-2009-1492): [16]

```

which contain Javascript code:

```

viewerVersion.toString().split(".")[0];
file:"Peepdf Challenge",cMsg:"You should try with an older version of Adobe Reader
true);

(this.info.author)));

can();

setAnnots({nPage:0});
nPages].subject;
'x1/);

```

```
: buf.length; n++) {
  mCharCode("0" + "x" + buf[n]);
```

```
}{var kk = "";for(var i=0;i<data.length;i++){kk +=
data.charCodeAt(i) ^ key.charCodeAt(i%key.length));}return kk}
```

```
>
```

```
Paul Johnston 1999 - 2000.
; Holt 2000 - 2001.
home.org.uk/site/legal.html for details.
```

```
123456789abcdef";
)
```

```
3; j++)
  ^charAt((num >> (j * 8 + 4)) & 0x0F) +
  ^charAt((num >> (j * 8)) & 0x0F);
```

```
(str)
```

```
length + 8) >> 6) + 1;
/(nblk * 16);
nblk * 16; i++) blks[i] = 0;
str.length; i++)
|= str.charCodeAt(i) << ((i % 4) * 8);
0x80 << ((i % 4) * 8);
- 2] = str.length * 8;
```

```
)
```

```
0xFFFF) + (y & 0xFFFF);
16) + (y >> 16) + (lsw >> 16);
l6) | (lsw & 0xFFFF);
```

```
cnt)
```

```
cnt) | (num >>> (32 - cnt));
```

```
, b, x, s, t)
```

```
add(add(a, q), add(x, t)), s), b);
```

```
c, d, x, s, t)
```

```
c) | ((~b) & d), a, b, x, s, t);
```

```

c, d, x, s, t)
d) | (c & (~d)), a, b, x, s, t);
c, d, x, s, t)
: ^ d, a, b, x, s, t);
c, d, x, s, t)
(b | (~d)), a, b, x, s, t);

)
);
;
;

c.length; i += 16)

```

```

:, d, x[i+ 0], 7 , -680876936);
), c, x[i+ 1], 12, -389564586);
), b, x[i+ 2], 17, 606105819);
), a, x[i+ 3], 22, -1044525330);
:, d, x[i+ 4], 7 , -176418897);
), c, x[i+ 5], 12, 1200080426);
), b, x[i+ 6], 17, -1473231341);
), a, x[i+ 7], 22, -45705983);
:, d, x[i+ 8], 7 , 1770035416);
), c, x[i+ 9], 12, -1958414417);
), b, x[i+10], 17, -42063);
), a, x[i+11], 22, -1990404162);
:, d, x[i+12], 7 , 1804603682);
), c, x[i+13], 12, -40341101);
), b, x[i+14], 17, -1502002290);
), a, x[i+15], 22, 1236535329);

:, d, x[i+ 1], 5 , -165796510);
), c, x[i+ 6], 9 , -1069501632);
), b, x[i+11], 14, 643717713);
), a, x[i+ 0], 20, -373897302);
:, d, x[i+ 5], 5 , -701558691);
), c, x[i+10], 9 , 38016083);
), b, x[i+15], 14, -660478335);
), a, x[i+ 4], 20, -405537848);
:, d, x[i+ 9], 5 , 568446438);
), c, x[i+14], 9 , -1019803690);
), b, x[i+ 3], 14, -187363961);
), a, x[i+ 8], 20, 1163531501);
:, d, x[i+13], 5 , -1444681467);
), c, x[i+ 2], 9 , -51403784);
), b, x[i+ 7], 14, 1735328473);
), a, x[i+12], 20, -1926607734);

:, d, x[i+ 5], 4 , -378558);
), c, x[i+ 8], 11, -2022574463);

```

```

    b, x[i+11], 16, 1839030562);
    a, x[i+14], 23, -35309556);
    d, x[i+ 1], 4 , -1530992060);
    c, x[i+ 4], 11, 1272893353);
    b, x[i+ 7], 16, -155497632);
    a, x[i+10], 23, -1094730640);
    d, x[i+13], 4 , 681279174);
    c, x[i+ 0], 11, -358537222);
    b, x[i+ 3], 16, -722521979);
    a, x[i+ 6], 23, 76029189);
    d, x[i+ 9], 4 , -640364487);
    c, x[i+12], 11, -421815835);
    b, x[i+15], 16, 530742520);
    a, x[i+ 2], 23, -995338651);

    d, x[i+ 0], 6 , -198630844);
    c, x[i+ 7], 10, 1126891415);
    b, x[i+14], 15, -1416354905);
    a, x[i+ 5], 21, -57434055);
    d, x[i+12], 6 , 1700485571);
    c, x[i+ 3], 10, -1894986606);
    b, x[i+10], 15, -1051523);
    a, x[i+ 1], 21, -2054922799);
    d, x[i+ 8], 6 , 1873313359);
    c, x[i+15], 10, -30611744);
    b, x[i+ 6], 15, -1560198380);
    a, x[i+13], 21, 1309151649);
    d, x[i+ 4], 6 , -145523070);
    c, x[i+11], 10, -1120210379);
    b, x[i+ 2], 15, 718787259);
    a, x[i+ 9], 21, -343485551);

    a);
    b);
    c);
    d);

    rhex(b) + rhex(c) + rhex(d);

```

check if the Adobe Reader version is higher than 10. If this is true the string “*You should try with an older*” appears and the pdf is closed, else run *peepdf* function (which we’ll understand what it does later).

**notes()** function ([CVE-2009-1492](#)). This function returns an array of *Annotation* objects and through *subject* annotations info. But where is the annotation array returned by *getAnnots()*? It’s simple, in the pdf file format it is named **/Annots** so let’s go to investigate the **/Annots** tag to discover what object contains this info. To use the ‘*search*’ command like this:

```
;
```

```
it << /F1 << /Type /Font
```

```
> >> >>
JavaScript
```

```
21 0 R ]
```

for, which refers to 2 specific objects: **20** and **21**. What is the right object? It's simple because if you check the

```
age:0});
it;
```

je is: *take the second object (because numPages = 1) of annots array and read the Subject field*. So the

```
300 210 ]
```

object 22:

```
c120x13dx120x17bx10ax109x12fx12fx168x174x174x170x13ax12fx12fx177x177x177x12ex177x165x162
```

if *buf* var it's straightforward what the js does. It takes the content of the object 22, removes "x1" char and with *verts* the hex value in the corresponding ASCII character. To accomplish to this task you have different options: *verter* tool by Kahu Security, or, like I did, directly in peepdf.

```
to_replace
le to_replace x1 ''
replaced correctly
```

command we obtain the final value of the z var:

```
le to_replace ahx

olkkit.info/
\BCDEFGHInopqrstuvwxyz01234JKLMNQPefghijklm56789+/=",
:) {

};
};

lace(/[^\A-Za-z0-9\+\.\\/\=\]/g, "");
length) {
)f(input.charAt(i++));
)f(input.charAt(i++));
)f(input.charAt(i++));
)f(input.charAt(i++));
(e2 >> 4);
: 4) | (e3 >> 2);
6) | e4;
fromCharCode(c1);
= kk + String.fromCharCode(c2);}


```



```
= kk + String.fromCharCode(c3);}
```

tion definition used by js code contained in object 5.

which executes the code that checks the password typed in.

ect 5 to understand the function inside the else statement.

*a* (the **key**) and *x.d(this.info.author)* (the **data**). First we must search the data block to be decrypted by *r* block is very simple because we must find the object which contain the pdf *info*, that is **/Author** tag. To do that of the post and we can see a row like this: **Info: 12**. So jump to object **12**:

```
L9820925000000
```

```
library X
i153000
.3.3.14 >>
```

```
(ZgxaCyxiAUeIbxx5aTxaBymjbn dwWRHtAU9rBy8/qhEtAxZctFmIbyamr12vSDZtCFyRsTt/Zz2qAiNMBFenZyZ
```

e looking for. Now the only thing left to do is find the key (first parameter of *r* function) to decrypt this data block.

ided by the info command we can see that there are 2 decoding errors for objects 6 and 8. So let's inspect the

```

honeydrive@honeydrive: ~/peepdf
honeydrive@honeydrive: ~/peepdf 107x34

49 46 00 01 01 01 00 48 | .....JFIF.....H|
00 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 | .H.....C.....|
01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 | .....|
01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 | .....|
01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 | .....|
01 ff c0 00 0b 08 00 01 | .....|
00 15 00 01 01 00 00 00 | .....|
00 00 00 07 09 ff c4 00 | .....|
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | ".....|
02 07 35 37 38 73 77 78 | .....578swx|
00 3f 00 85 31 ab 4c 4a | .....?..1.LJ|
9c bf 60 f3 c9 fa cc e8 | ..gW..8...`.....|
2c 8f ff d9 | =...&...,...|

49 46 00 01 01 01 00 48 | .....JFIF.....H|
00 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 | .H.....C.....|
01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 | .....|
01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 | .....|
01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 | .....|
01 ff c0 00 0b 08 00 01 | .....|
00 15 00 01 01 00 00 00 | .....|
00 00 00 08 06 ff c4 00 | .....|
00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 | .....|
07 08 37 73 b1 b4 b6 ff | .....5v..7s....|
00 0a e2 0d 29 9b f0 7b | .....?.....).{ |
d4 31 ee 9c 28 d6 e9 f1 | ....du.n.1..(....|
| 7e....|

```

d filters: */ASCIIHexDecode /DCTDecode*. The first decodes data encoded in an ASCII hexadecimal original binary data, the second instead decompresses data encoded using a DCT ([discrete cosine transform](#)) [standard](#), reproducing image sample data that approximates the original data. Moreover we can notice the presence of DCTDecode filter plus the marker JFIF lead us to say that object 6 and object 8 are two jpeg es with:

```

team6.jpg
team8.jpg

```

something hidden into the jpg we can use a jpg steganography toolset like [stegdetect](#), in particular **djpeg** tool, **eg**.

```
@honeydrive:~/ctf-tools/stegdetect/bin$ ./djpeg /home/honeydrive/Desktop/peepdf.jpg
QkhQMzNwZGY=";
```

```
@honeydrive:~/ctf-tools/stegdetect/bin$ ./djpeg /home/honeydrive/Desktop/peepdf.jpg
l;
```

ing strings:

that you can read [this](#) interesting article in VirusBulletin which explains the possibility to hide javascript code into JPEG standard compression.

decrypt the data block and understand that peepdf() function is nothing more than *eval* function.

h the code below:

[:0XZgxaCyxiAUeIbxx5aTxaBymjbn dwWRHtAU9rBy8/qhEtAxZctFmIbyamr12vSDZtCFyRsTt/Zz2qAiNMBFenZ](#)

```

btoolkit.info/
cdABCDEFGHInopqrstuvwxyz01234JKLMNOPQefghijklm56789+/=",
input) {
';
, c3, c4;
, e3, e4;

out.replace(/[^A-Za-z0-9\+\-\=\]/g, "");
input.length) {
is.k.indexOf(input.charAt(i++));
is.k.indexOf(input.charAt(i++));
is.k.indexOf(input.charAt(i++));
is.k.indexOf(input.charAt(i++));
e1 << 2) | (e2 >> 4);
(e2 & 15) << 4) | (e3 >> 2);
(e3 & 3) << 6) | e4;
c + String.fromCharCode(c1);
!= 64) {kk = kk + String.fromCharCode(c2);}
!= 64) {kk = kk + String.fromCharCode(c3);}

```

```
"//BHP33pdf base64 encoded
```

```
a) {
; i < data.length; i++) {
  g.fromCharCode(data.charCodeAt(i) ^ key.charCodeAt(i % key.length));
```

```
d(data));
```

ple, then:

```
'home/honeydrive/Desktop/decrypted.js
has been evaluated successfully!!
```

```
a', 'decrypted', 'evalCode']
ted
onse({cQuestion:"Enter the magic code", cTitle:"Peepdf Challenge"});if (code ==
ots({nPage:0})[0].subject+this.info.producer)){app.alert({cTitle:"Peepdf
I got it!! You deserve a peepdf t-shirt!! ;}");app.alert({cTitle:"Peepdf
: you need to send a small writeup to peepdf at eternal-todo dot com to get one. Just
reports! Go go go! ;}");app.alert({cTitle:"Peepdf Challenge",cMsg:"If you are
just come to my presentation and explain how you solved it.
t({cTitle:"Peepdf Challenge",cMsg:"Thanks for playing!!
t({cTitle:"Peepdf Challenge",cMsg:"Try again!!"});}
```

ode!!! Store this code in a variable named mmm... decrypted :P, then beautify the code to be more readable:

```
pted $> decrypted
variable decrypted
onse({
  the magic code",
  allenge"

app.doc.getAnnots({

is.info.producer)) {

allenge",
!! You deserve a peepdf t-shirt!! ;)"

allenge",
ed to send a small writeup to peepdf at eternal-todo dot com to get one. Just for the
! Go go go! ;)"

allenge",
attending Black Hat just come to my presentation and explain how you solved it.

allenge",
playing!! :)

allenge",
|"
```

ols the password inserted. The password is computed with **calc()** function which we have seen in the js into `doc.getAnnots({nPage: 0})[0].subject + this.info.producer` then the password is correct and we'll see "You got it!!" messagebox, else we'll see "Try again!!" that is the password is incorrect. Like we have done before with

```
it << /F1 << /Type /Font
```

```
> >> >>
JavaScript
```

```
21 0 R ]
```

```
300 210 ]
```

```
5 Arsenal 2015 - peepdf
```

ect 20 and is "*Black Hat US Arsenal 2015 – peepdf*" string.

```
er
```

```
L9820925000000
```

```
Library X
5153000
.3.3.14 >>
```

df Library X" string. So let's go to join these two strings and we get "*Black Hat US Arsenal 2015 –* string is the right argument of the `calc()` function, to get the password we must insert in the form when asked. named `password.js`, for example, with the following code and repeat the operation shown on the previous steps.

```
23456789abcdef";
```

```
) {
    <= 3; j++)
    <_chr.charAt((num >> (j * 8 + 4)) & 0x0F) +
    iarAt((num >> (j * 8)) & 0x0F);
```

```
(str) {
    length + 8) >> 6) + 1;
    ray(nblk * 16);
    < nblk * 16; i++) blks[i] = 0;
    < str.length; i++)
    2] |= str.charCodeAt(i) << ((i % 4) * 8);
    |= 0x80 << ((i % 4) * 8);
    5 - 2] = str.length * 8;
```

```
) {
    & 0xFFFF) + (y & 0xFFFF);
    >> 16) + (y >> 16) + (lsw >> 16);
```

```
< 16) | (lsw & 0xFFFF);
```

```
cnt) {
< cnt) | (num >>> (32 - cnt));
```

```
, b, x, s, t) {
l(add(add(a, q), add(x, t)), s), b);
```

```
c, d, x, s, t) {
& c) | ((~b) & d), a, b, x, s, t);
```

```
c, d, x, s, t) {
& d) | (c & (~d)), a, b, x, s, t);
```

```
c, d, x, s, t) {
\ c ^ d, a, b, x, s, t);
```

```
c, d, x, s, t) {
\ (b | (~d)), a, b, x, s, t);
```

```
) {
str);
};
};
>4;
;
```

```
< x.length; i += 16) {
```

```
b, c, d, x[i + 0], 7, -680876936);
a, b, c, x[i + 1], 12, -389564586);
d, a, b, x[i + 2], 17, 606105819);
c, d, a, x[i + 3], 22, -1044525330);
b, c, d, x[i + 4], 7, -176418897);
a, b, c, x[i + 5], 12, 1200080426);
d, a, b, x[i + 6], 17, -1473231341);
c, d, a, x[i + 7], 22, -45705983);
b, c, d, x[i + 8], 7, 1770035416);
a, b, c, x[i + 9], 12, -1958414417);
d, a, b, x[i + 10], 17, -42063);
c, d, a, x[i + 11], 22, -1990404162);
b, c, d, x[i + 12], 7, 1804603682);
a, b, c, x[i + 13], 12, -40341101);
d, a, b, x[i + 14], 17, -1502002290);
c, d, a, x[i + 15], 22, 1236535329);
```

```
b, c, d, x[i + 1], 5, -165796510);
a, b, c, x[i + 6], 9, -1069501632);
d, a, b, x[i + 11], 14, 643717713);
c, d, a, x[i + 0], 20, -373897302);
b, c, d, x[i + 5], 5, -701558691);
a, b, c, x[i + 10], 9, 38016083);
d, a, b, x[i + 15], 14, -660478335);
c, d, a, x[i + 4], 20, -405537848);
```

```

b, c, d, x[i + 9], 5, 568446438);
a, b, c, x[i + 14], 9, -1019803690);
d, a, b, x[i + 3], 14, -187363961);
c, d, a, x[i + 8], 20, 1163531501);
b, c, d, x[i + 13], 5, -1444681467);
a, b, c, x[i + 2], 9, -51403784);
d, a, b, x[i + 7], 14, 1735328473);

```

Community

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Library

About Us

```

b, c, d, x[i + 4], 11, 1272893353);
d, a, b, x[i + 7], 16, -155497632);
c, d, a, x[i + 10], 23, -1094730640);
b, c, d, x[i + 13], 4, 681279174);
a, b, c, x[i + 0], 11, -358537222);
d, a, b, x[i + 3], 16, -722521979);
c, d, a, x[i + 6], 23, 76029189);
b, c, d, x[i + 9], 4, -640364487);
a, b, c, x[i + 12], 11, -421815835);
d, a, b, x[i + 15], 16, 530742520);
c, d, a, x[i + 2], 23, -995338651);

```

```

b, c, d, x[i + 0], 6, -198630844);
a, b, c, x[i + 7], 10, 1126891415);
d, a, b, x[i + 14], 15, -1416354905);
c, d, a, x[i + 5], 21, -57434055);
b, c, d, x[i + 12], 6, 1700485571);
a, b, c, x[i + 3], 10, -1894986606);
d, a, b, x[i + 10], 15, -1051523);
c, d, a, x[i + 1], 21, -2054922799);
b, c, d, x[i + 8], 6, 1873313359);
a, b, c, x[i + 15], 10, -30611744);
d, a, b, x[i + 6], 15, -1560198380);
c, d, a, x[i + 13], 21, 1309151649);
b, c, d, x[i + 4], 6, -145523070);
a, b, c, x[i + 11], 10, -1120210379);
d, a, b, x[i + 2], 15, 718787259);
c, d, a, x[i + 9], 21, -343485551);

```

```

, olda);
, oldb);
, oldc);
, oldd);

```

```
) + rhex(b) + rhex(c) + rhex(d);
```

```
Black Hat US Arsenal 2015 - peepdfPeepdf Library X");
```

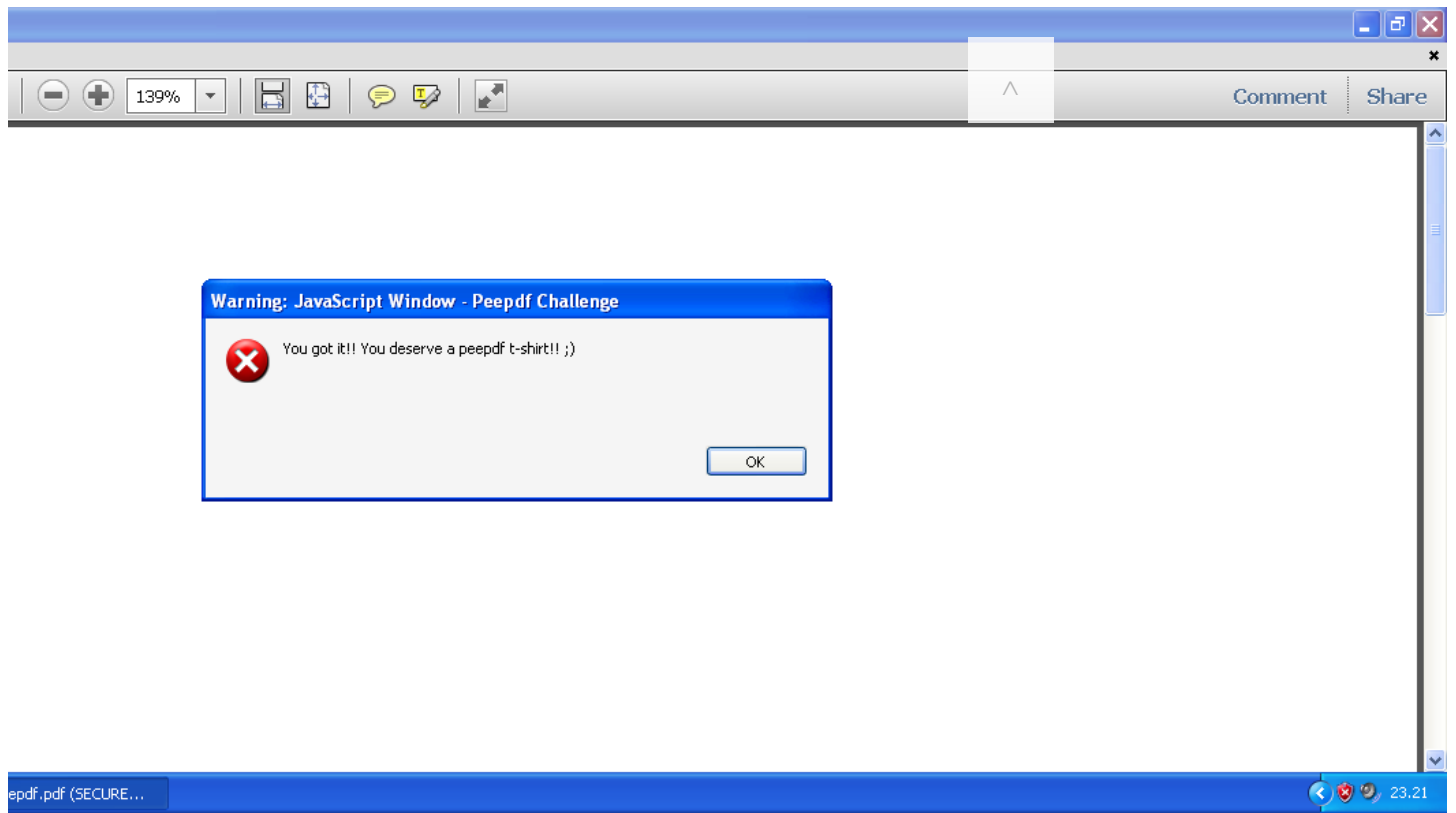
```

'home/honeydrive/Desktop/password.js
has been evaluated successfully!!
ord
38bfde448d2fe

```

```
flag): 5af109e5f2e7770bf7f88bfde448d2fe
```

```
ader:
```



arza for this wonderful challenge and for developing a great tool such as peepdf.

---

gineering tagged with: [bhusa](#), [black hat](#), [challenge](#), [ctf](#), [cve-2009-1492](#), [javascript](#), [pdf](#), [peepdf](#)

---

hash



---

rk in the code. 😊





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## Vulnerability Research

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