Round 1 report

tcs HackQuest
Season 10

Contest Date: - 13th December 2025

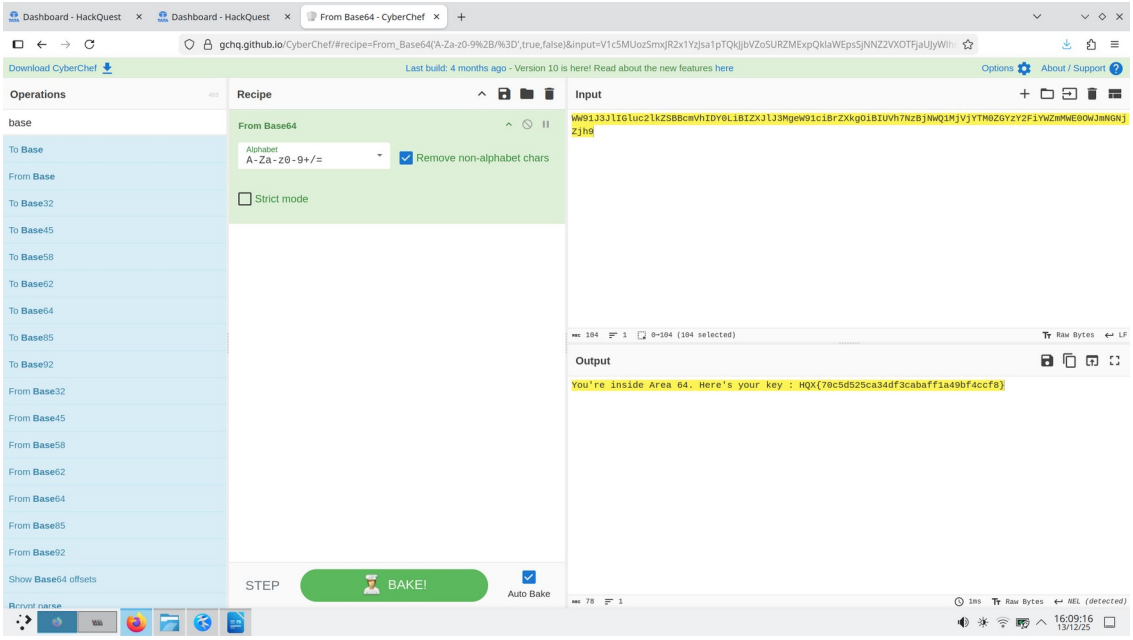
CT ID	REDACTED
Name	Pranay Pawar
College/University	REDACTED
City	REDACTED
Challenges solved & the total score	4 (700)
Anything else that you want us to know	

Challenge Title: Area 64

Flag: HQX{70c5d525ca34df3cabaff1a49bf4ccf8}

Approach (Step by Step):

1. Decode the Base64

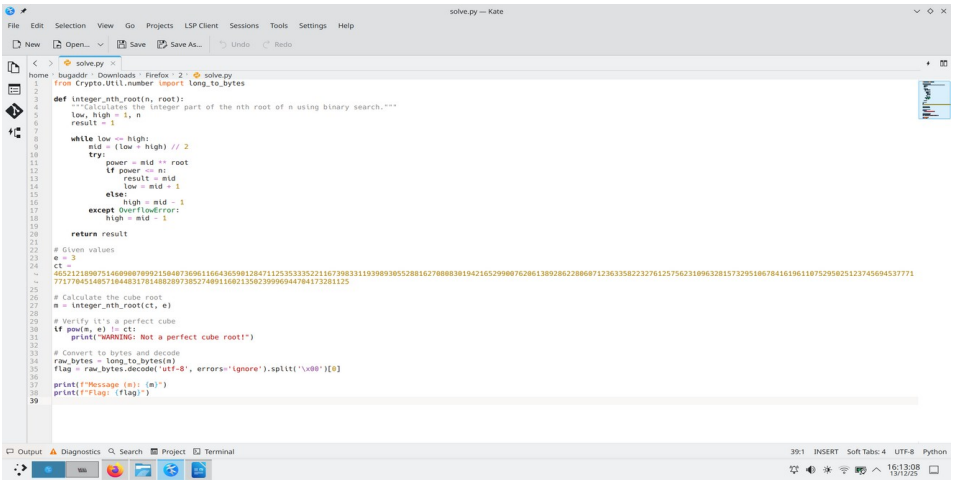


Challenge Title: Small-E

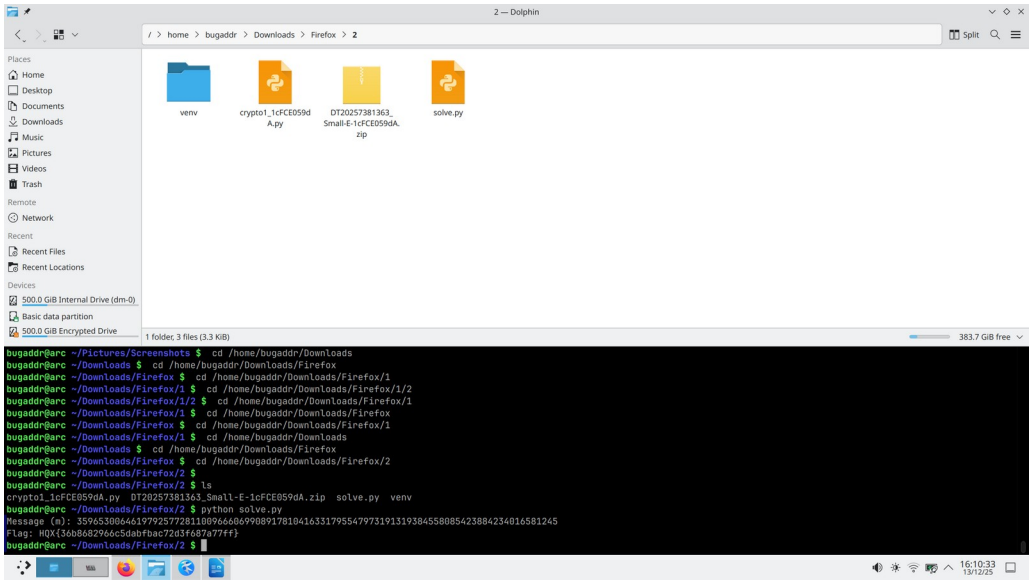
Flag: HQX{36b8682966c5dabfbac72d3f687a77ff}

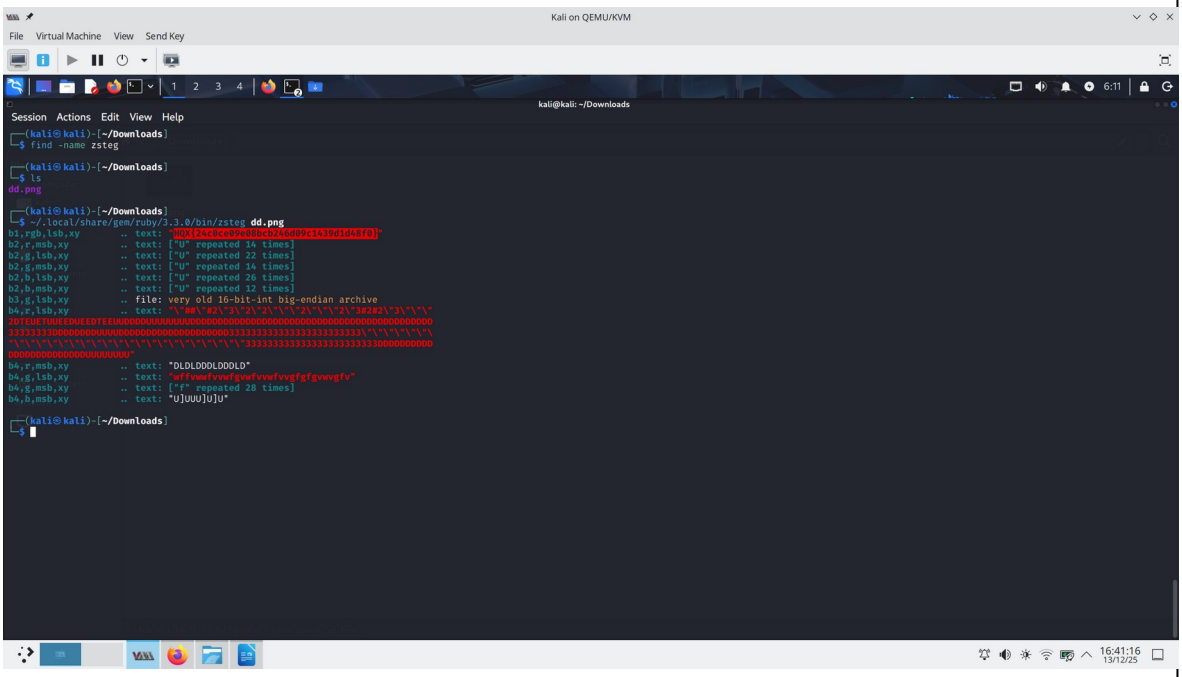
Approach (Step by Step):

1. Made the script for RSA low exponent attack: with small public exponent (e=3) and no padding, ciphertext equals plaintext^3, so attacker recovers the message by taking the integer cube root
2. [Code: **`https://termbin.com/af2l`**]



3. Run the script and got flag



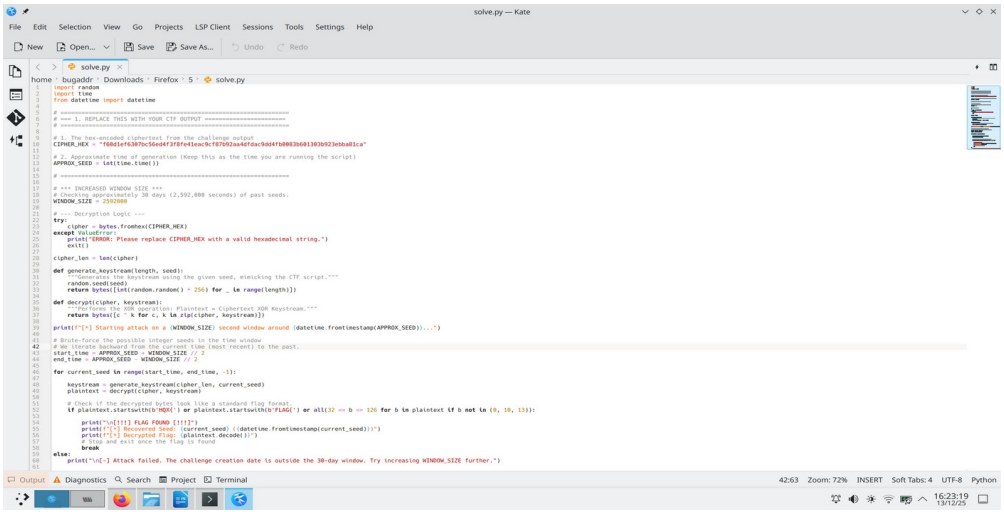
Challenge Title: Hidden Layers
Flag: HQX{24c0ce09e08bcb246d09c1439d1d48f0
Approach (Step by Step): 1. **LSB steganography**: hidden data extracted from the least significant bits of image pixels using zsteg, revealing an embedded text/flag without altering visible image quality.   

Challenge Title: Seeds of Time

Flag: HQX{c126bb454bf27489a1583af0729fbd08}

Approach (Step by Step):

1. Built this script for **time-based PRNG seed brute-force attack** and tried to attack last 30days PRNG [Code: **`https://termbin.com/zqza`**]



2. The flag