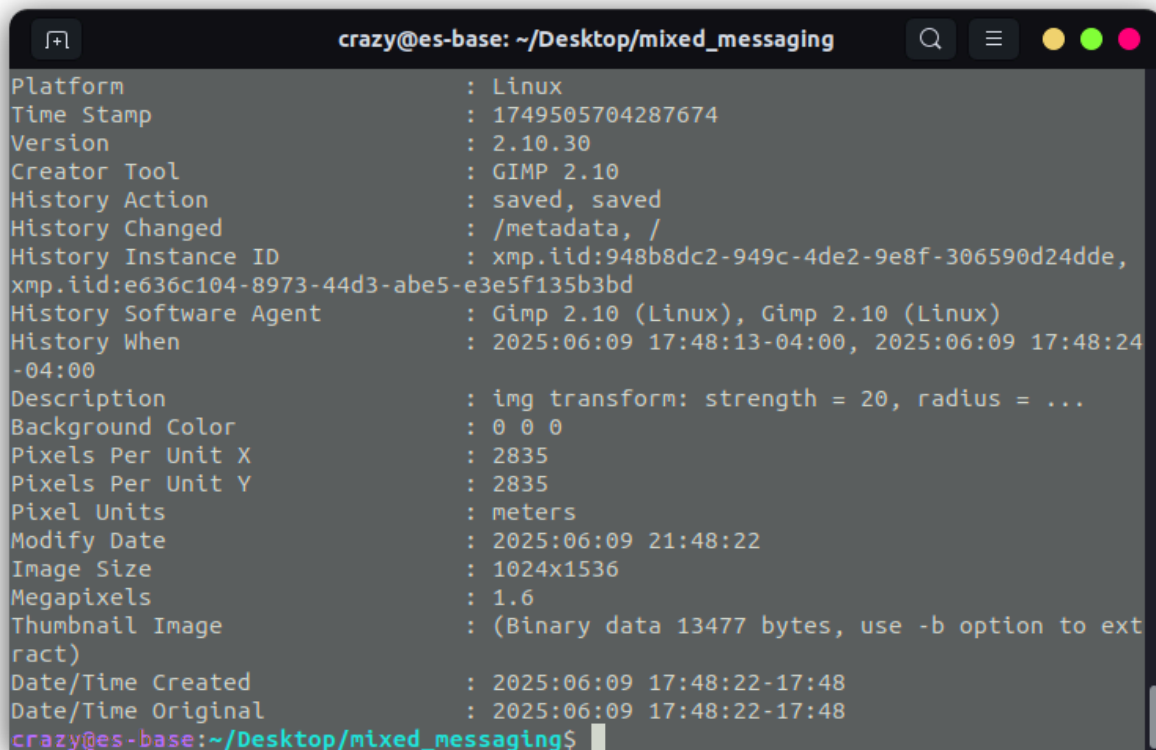


MIXED MESSAGING - WRITEUP

Exiftool:



```
crazy@es-base: ~/Desktop/mixed_messaging
Platform           : Linux
Time Stamp         : 1749505704287674
Version           : 2.10.30
Creator Tool       : GIMP 2.10
History Action     : saved, saved
History Changed    : /metadata, /
History Instance ID : xmp.iid:948b8dc2-949c-4de2-9e8f-306590d24dde,
xmp.iid:e636c104-8973-44d3-abe5-e3e5f135b3bd
History Software Agent : Gimp 2.10 (Linux), Gimp 2.10 (Linux)
History When       : 2025:06:09 17:48:13-04:00, 2025:06:09 17:48:24
-04:00
Description        : img transform: strength = 20, radius = ...
Background Color   : 0 0 0
Pixels Per Unit X   : 2835
Pixels Per Unit Y   : 2835
Pixel Units        : meters
Modify Date        : 2025:06:09 21:48:22
Image Size         : 1024x1536
Megapixels         : 1.6
Thumbnail Image     : (Binary data 13477 bytes, use -b option to ext
ract)
Date/Time Created   : 2025:06:09 17:48:22-17:48
Date/Time Original  : 2025:06:09 17:48:22-17:48
crazy@es-base:~/Desktop/mixed_messaging$
```

Image Transform:

- Strength: 20, Radius = ?

This is a spiral transformation, we need to brute-force the radius.

from skimage.transform import swirl

```
from skimage import io
import numpy as np
from skimage import util

image = io.imread('artifact0.png')

# Center of the image
```

```
center = (image.shape[1] / 2, image.shape[0] / 2)

# Apply the swirl transformation
swirled_image = swirl(image, center=center, rotation=-np.deg2rad(0),
strength=-20, radius=600)

io.imwrite('artifact_orig.png', util.img_as_ubyte(swirled_image))
```

There is a slight discoloration on the image:



We crop it out of the image and scale it up.



We invert it and we should get the flag:

May (Jan. - Aug. 10 - 2013)