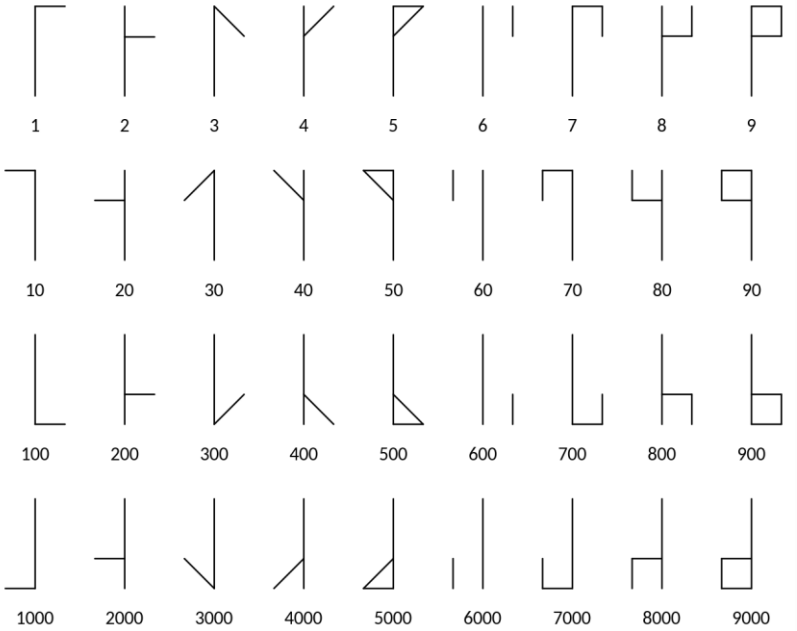
Templed Writeup

Getting the flag

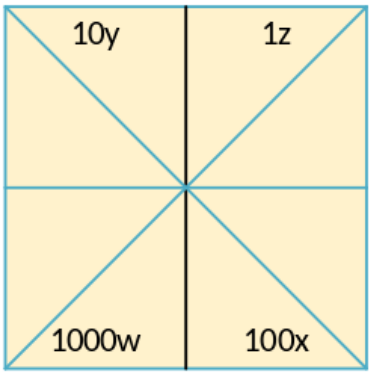
The cipher in which the flag was written comes up rarely on the internet. I have met this cipher earlier on a forum about codes and ciphers, so I did find this challenge easy, though I do not know how one could solve this challenge without previously knowing this cipher. A reverse-image search might help, but I am not sure.

So, what is the cipher called? Those signs are actually numbers, they were written in Cistercian Numerals or using monk cipher.



Source: Wikipedia
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ciphers_of_the_Monks)

Any number necessarily consists of a central vertical bar, if nothing else is written, then it takes the value 0, otherwise, the quadrant at the top right corresponds to the units, the quadrant at the top left for the tens, the quadrant at the bottom right for the hundreds and the last quadrant at the bottom left for the thousands.



Lines that always appear

Lines that may or may not appear depending on the digit

Total value of the number = 1000w + 100x + 10y + 1z

Source: https://medium.com/asecuritysite-when-bob-met-alice/the-monks-cipher-e9fc261fc31b

Now, that we know how it works, we can decrypt the symbols.

72 84 66 123 77 48 78 107 115 95 107 78 51 119 33 125

These are obviously decimal values. Using online tools, we can easily convert the numbers to ASCII text and reveal the flag.

ASCII text

```
HTB{M0Nks_kN3w!}
```

Hex (bytes)

```
48 54 42 7B 4D 30 4E 6B 73 5F 6B 4E 33 77 21 7D
```

Binary (bytes)

```
01001000 01010100 01000010 01111011 01001101 00110000 01001110
01101011 01110011 01011111 01101011 01001110 00110011 01110111
00100001 01111101
```

Decimal (bytes)

```
72 84 66 123 77 48 78 107 115 95 107 78 51 119 33 125
```

HTB{M0Nks_kN3w!}