

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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IE3092 - INFORMATION SECURITY PROJECT

FINAL REPORT

ACCIO FLAGS

CTF WALKTHROUGH



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SCENARIO AND THEME

This CTF box is based on J.K Rowling's Harry Potter Universe. Harry Potter is a series of fantasy novels written by the British author, J. K. Rowling. The novels chronicle the lives of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, all of whom are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. The series was later made into 8 movies which are popular all around the world.

This CTF is called "Accio Flags!" and the word "Accio" means "I summon" in Latin. So the meaning of this CTF name is "I summon Flags".

Harry Potter along with his friends Ron and Hermione go through various challenges in order to defeat the dark wizard Lord Voldemort. To defeat him, Harry has to discover and destroy 7 Horcruxes. A Horcrux is an object formed by dark magic that is used by a wizard or witch to achieve immortality by splitting their soul into separate pieces.

This CTF was created based on the 7 Horcruxes. The player's mission is to collect all 7 Horcruxes in order to defeat Lord Voldemort.



CTF STRUCTURE

There are 7 categories namely:

- ♣ Horcrux 1 The Diary
- ♣ Horcrux 2 The Ring
- ♣ Horcrux 3 The Cup
- ♣ Horcrux 4 The Locket
- ♣ Horcrux 5 The Diadem
- ♣ Horcrux 6 The Diadem
- ♣ Horcrux 7 The Snake

Each Horcrux has two levels dedicated to them. In the first level, the player has to discover the Horcrux and in the next level, the player has to destroy it, both by finding flags in each level. There is an additional level, Level 15, where the player will finally defeat Lord Voldemort by combining several findings from the previous 14 levels.

The first 14 levels are created under 7 categories as follows:

Horcrux 1	Horcrux 2	Horcrux 3	Horcrux 4	Horcrux 5	Horcrux 6	Horcrux 7
The Diary	The Ring	The Cup	The Locket	The Diadem	Harry Potter	The Snake
The Diary	The Ring	The Cup -	The Locket	The Diadem	Harry Potter	The Snake
- Discover	- Discover	Discover	- Discover	- Discover	- Discover	- Discover
The Diary	The Ring	The Cup -	The Locket	The Diadem	Harry Potter	The Snake
- Destroy	- Destroy	Destroy	- Destroy	- Destroy	- Destroy	- Destroy

CONFIGURATIONS

- ➤ Operating System Ubuntu Server 20.04 in which the .ova file is compatible with Oracle VM VirtualBox
- ➤ Server Apache Server
- ➤ IDE Notepad++ / Visual Studio Code / Sublime Text
- ➤ The CTF box will require the following specifications:
 - 1. 1 Core CPU
 - 2. 1024 MB RAM
- ➤ The VM will be set to a bridged network adapter by default.
- ➤ The VM will acquire IP by default.
- The virtual machine has 2 users, "accio" is a superuser and there is an account called "accioplayer" for CTF players to log in. "accioplayer" is restricted from accessing the website files located in /var/www/html/accioflags.com.
- > Steps to set accio as the owner:

chown -R accio /var/www/http/accioflags.com/
chgrp -R www-data /var/www/http/accioflags.com/
chmod -R 750 /var/www/http/accioflags.com/
chmod g+s /var/www/http/accioflags.com/

"ufw" was used to setup the firewall. Only ports 22-ssh, 443-https, 80-http and 3306-sql are allowed.

```
accio@accio:~$ sudo ufw status
Status: active
                            Action
Τo
                                         From
22/tcp
                            ALLOW
                                         Anywhere
443/tcp
                            ALLOW
                                         Anywhere
80/tcp
                            ALLOW
                                         Anywhere
3306/tcp
                            ALLOW
                                         Anywhere
2/tcp (v6)
                            ALLOW
                                         Anywhere (v6)
443/tcp (v6)
                            ALLOW
                                         Anywhere (v6)
80/tcp (v6)
                            ALLOW
                                         Anywhere (v6)
3306/tcp (v6)
                            ALLOW
                                         Anywhere (v6)
```

➤ Intrusion prevention was implemented using fail2ban.

```
accio@accio:~$ sudo cat /etc/fail2ban/jail.local
[sshd]
enabled = true
port = 22
filter = sshd
logpath = /var/log/auth.log
maxretry = 5
```

➤ Both URL navigation and backward navigation has been disabled via session management. If the player tries to perform one of the afore mentioned actions, they will be redirected to the homepage and therefore will have to restart the CTF.

GETTING STARTED...

STEP 1 - Import .ova to Oracle Virtualbox

- 1. Open Oracle VirtualBox.
- 2. Go to "File" \rightarrow "Import Appliance".
- 3. Browse to the .ova file location and select it.
- 4. Select settings as follows:
 - Name Preferred name for the VM
 - CPU − 1
 - RAM 1024 MB
- 5. Wait for the VM to import.
- 6. Start VM.

STEP 2 - Log In

USERNAME - accioplayer

PASSWORD - accio@player

STEP 3 - Find the IP address of the VM

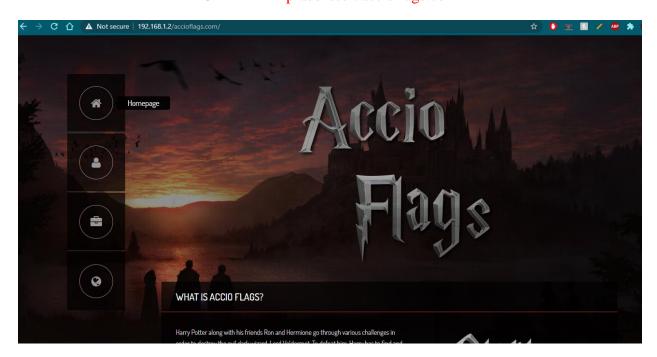
accioplayer@accio:~\$ifconfig

STEP 4 - Connect to the VM through ssh by using PuTTY, Command Prompt or Powershell



STEP 5 - Navigate to the accioflags Website by using a Web Browser

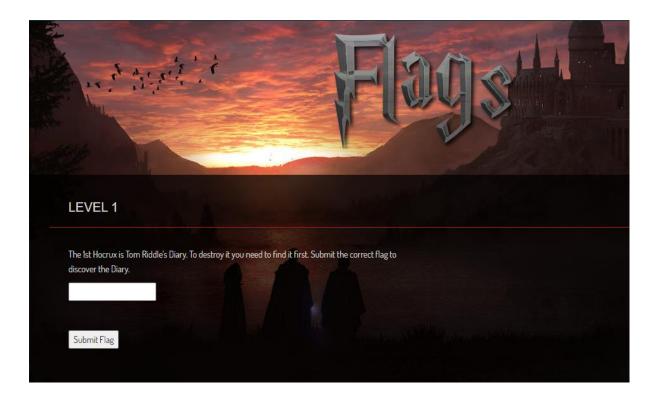
URL - <vm-ip-address>/accioflags.com



STEP 6 - Click Start to Play the CTF!

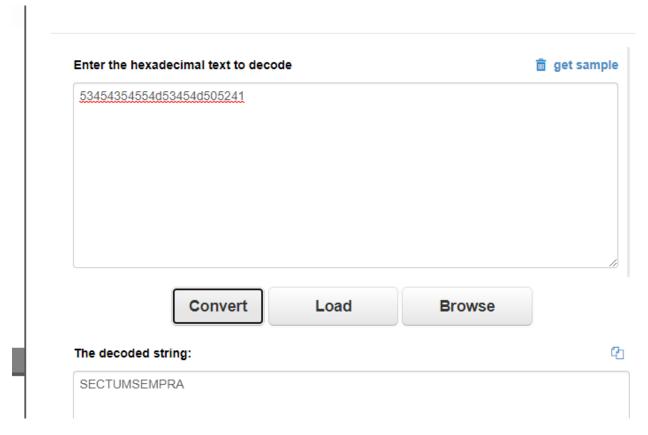
WALKTHROUGH

LEVEL 1



The player must navigate to the source code of the webpage.

The flag is provided as a comment. However, if the player tries to submit this flag, it is said that the flag is wrong. By looking at the flag, it can be observed that it is in hexadecimal format. Hence, by using a hex to string converter, the flag could be obtained.



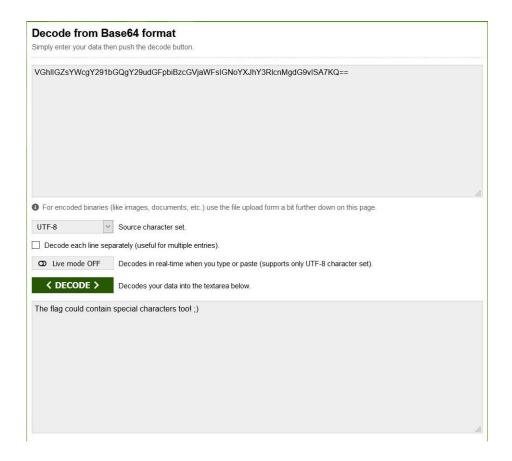
The flag would work only if it is entered in all capitals.

FLAG: SECTUMSEMPRA

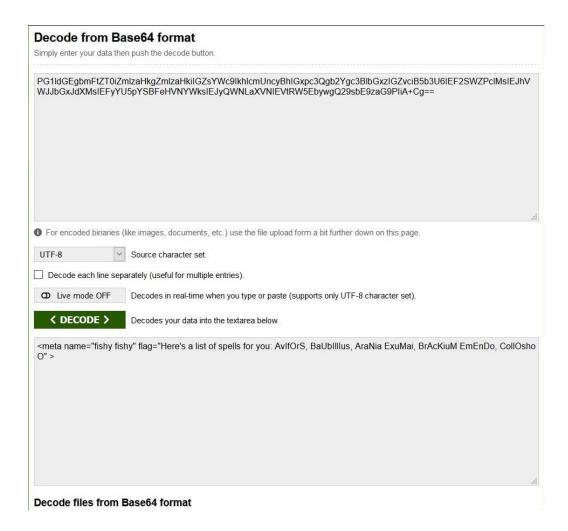
The player could first navigate to the source code. There in the meta tags, they will be able to see two attributes called "hint" and "ctf" in two different meta tags.

```
1 tml>
2 ead>
3 <title>Genius - HTML5 Website Template</title>
4 <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0" hint="VGhlIGZsYWcgY291bGQgY29udGFpbiBzcGVjaWFsIGNoYXJhY3RlcnWgdG9vISA7KQ==">
5 <meta name="description" content="" ctf= "PGildGEgbmFtZT0iZmlzaHkgZmlzaHkiIGZsYWcgIkhlcmUncyGhIGxpc3Qgb2Ygc3BlbGxzIGZvciB5b3U6IEF2SWZPclMsIEJhWJJbGxJdXMsIEFyYU5pYS8FeH
6
```

As it can be seen, the values of the attributes are both encoded in base64. The player could use an online base64 decoder for this and initially decode the hint.



The hint says that the flag could contain special characters as well. Now, the player can proceed to decode the ctf attribute.



The decoded tag gives a list of possible flags and the player is required to brute force them by combining with special characters to obtain the flag.

The correct combination is: @r@Ni@ ExuM@i

However, this will not be accepted since this level is about base64 encoding and decoding. Therefore, the player will have to encode the above value in base64 to obtain the correct flag.

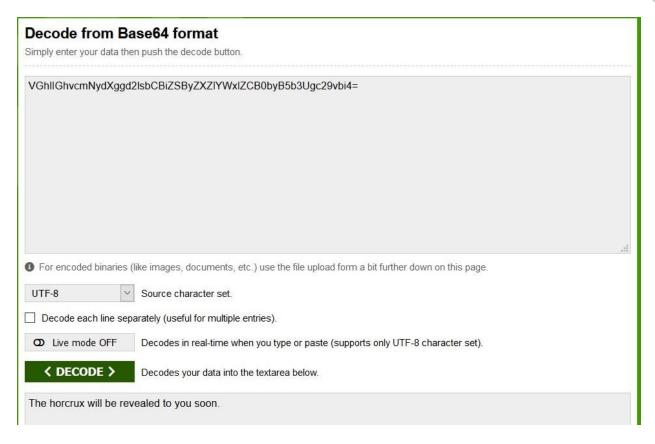
FLAG: QHJATmlAIEV4dU1AaQ==

Initially, the player will have to click on the link to navigate to the page with the quiz.



- Welcome to Defense Against the Dark Arts Module! -
VGhlfGhvemNydXggd2lsbCBiZSByZXZIYWxIZCB0byB5b3Ugc29vbi4= Rmlyc3QgdGFtZSB0aGlzIFNFVEEgUXVpei4= SWYgYWxxIGFuc3dlcaMgYXJIIGNvcnJIY3QxIHlvdSB3aWxxIGJIIGdpdmVuIHRoZSBoaW50IHJIcXVpcmVkIHRvIG9idGFpbiB0aGUgZmxhZy4=
- Security Education, Training and Awareness (SETA) Quiz -
1. V2hhdCBpcyB0aGUgU0VUQSBwcm9ncmFtIGRic2lnbmVkIHRvIGRvPw=
A) Reduce the occurrence of external attacks B) Reduce the occurrence of accidental security breaches C) Increase the efficiency of InfoSec staff D) Improve operations
$2. \ QSBTRVRBIHByb2dyYW0gY29uc2lzdHMgb2YgdGhyZWUgZWxlbWVudHM6IHNIY3VyaXR5IGVkdWNhdGlvbiwgc2VjdXJpdHkgdHJhaW5pbmcsIGFuZCB3aGljaCBvZiB0aGUgZm9sbG93aW5nPw=0.00000000000000000000000000000000000$
A) Security accountability B) Security awareness C) Security authorization D) Security authorization
3. VGhIIHB1cnBvc2Ugb2YgU0VUQSBpcyB0byBlbmhhbmNIIHNIY3VyaXR5IGluIGFsbCBidXQgd2hpY2ggb2YgdGhIIGZvbGxvd2luZyB3YXlzPw
A) By building in-depth knowledge B) By developing skills C) By improving awareness D) By adding barriers
$4. \ V2hpY2ggb2YgdGhlIGZvbGxvd2luZyBpcyBhbiBhZHZhbnRhZ2Ugb2YgdGhlIG9uZS1vbi1vbmUgbWV0aG9kIG9mlHRyYWluaW5nPw$
A) Maximizes use of company resources B) Trainees can learn from each other C) C) Customized D) Very cost-effective

As it can be seen here, the quiz has 5 questions. However, the instructions and the questions are all base64 encoded. Therefore, they have to be decoded as a first step.



Decode from Base64 format Simply enter your data then push the decode button.
Rmlyc3QgdGFrZSB0aGlzIFNFVEEgUXVpei4=
For encoded binaries (like images, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a bit further down on this page.
UTF-8 Source character set.
Decode each line separately (useful for multiple entries).
Decodes in real-time when you type or paste (supports only UTF-8 character set).
〈 DECODE 〉 Decodes your data into the textarea below.
First take this SETA Quiz.

Decode from Base64 format Simply enter your data then push the decode button.
SWYgYWxsIGFuc3dlcnMgYXJIIGNvcnJIY3QsIHIvdSB3aWxsIGJIIGdpdmVulHRoZSBoaW50IHJlcXVpcmVkIHRvIG9idGFpbiB0a GUgZmxhZy4=
1 For encoded binaries (like images, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a bit further down on this page.
UTF-8 Source character set.
Decode each line separately (useful for multiple entries).
Decodes in real-time when you type or paste (supports only UTF-8 character set).
〈 DECODE 〉 Decodes your data into the textarea below.
If all answers are correct, you will be given the hint required to obtain the flag.

The player is required to decode each and every question and give the correct answer and submit the form. If incorrect answers are given, an error message will be given.

Results

3 / 5 correct Not all your answers are correct. Please try again.

Once the correct answer is given, the hint regarding the flag will be given, also encoded in base64.

Results

 $5/5\ correct$ RHVtYmxlZG9yZSBpcyBodXJ0ISBVc2UgdGhlIHNwZWxsIGZvciBtaW5vciBpbmp1cmllcyEh

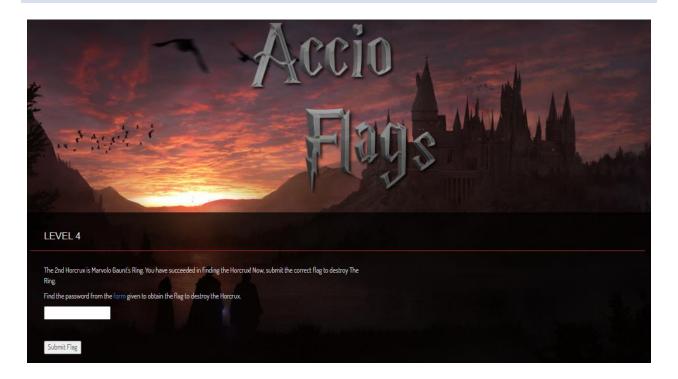
RHVtYmxlZG9yZSBpc	yBodXJ0ISBVc2UgdGhllHNwZWxsIGZvciBtaW5vciBpbmp1cmllcyEh
For encoded binaries (UTF-8	ike images, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a bit further down on this page. Source character set.
☐ Decode each line sepa	arately (useful for multiple entries).
① Live mode OFF	Decodes in real-time when you type or paste (supports only UTF-8 character set).
< DECODE >	Decodes your data into the textarea below.
Dumbledore is hurt! Us	e the spell for minor injuries!

This hint means that the flag would be related with the spell for minor injuries. This spell was hidden in the source code of a previous level.

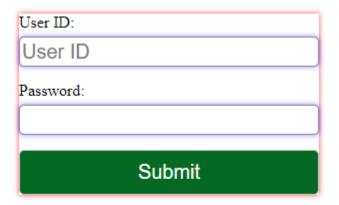
```
</div>
</div>
</div>
</div>
</-- /.row -->
</div> <!-- /.homepage -->
<!-- If you get injured in this journey, use "Episkey" which is a spell that can heal relatively minor injuries. Stay Safe! -->
```

The spell is "Episkey!". However, this will not work. Therefore, the flag will be the base64 encoded version of the spell.

FLAG: RXBpc2tleSE



Once the link is clicked on, the player will be directed to a form.



Upon submission of incorrect data, an error message is given.

Invalid user id or password	

The player must try and access all records in the database. This form is vulnerable to SQL injection attacks. Therefore, the player needs to find a query that is able to exploit this vulnerability.

If player provides **abcd** as userid and **anything' or 'x'='x** as password, then the query will be constructed as follows:

\$SQL = ''select * from user_details where userid = 'abcd' and password = 'anything' or 'x'='x' '';

Based on operator precedence, the "WHERE" clause is true for every row. Therefore, the query will return all records.

User ID:
abcd
Password:
•••••
Submit

-- Personal Information --

User ID: albus@8989

Password: fL@g_@Lbusperc1w@1WuLfR1cBRIANDumbled0Re

First Name: Albus Last Name: Dumbledore

Gender: M Date of Birth: 1855-10-12

Country: UK User rating: 10

Email ID: albus@hogwarts.edu

User ID: fred@090

Password: dklpoewkpokprovkrfew4545454545

First Name : Fred Last Name : Weasley

Gender: m Date of Birth: 1996-10-04

Country: UK User rating: 6

Email ID: fred@hogwarts.edu

User ID: harry@333

Password: 49470f72d2596f9f18f4a6fbf036a66a

First Name : Harry Last Name : POtter

Gender: M Date of Birth: 1995-09-11

Country: UK User rating: 5

 $FLAG: fL@g_@Lbusperc1w@lWuLfR1cBRIANDumbled0Re$

Initially, the player will have to navigate to the "Hogwarts Tea Time!" page link provided.

Welcome to Hogwarts Tea Time!

Tea Time! is a new service introduced to Hogwarts where you can now order what you like to have for tea!



Please note that to celebrate our grand opening, you will get 20 chocolate chip cookies with every order!



Enter what you like to have for tea and we would send it instantaneously to you!

SUBMIT

Available everyday from 3pm to 4pm only!!!



The user can enter the menu they would like to have for tea and submit it.



Welcome to Hogwarts Tea Time!

YOU ORDERED blueberry muffins.

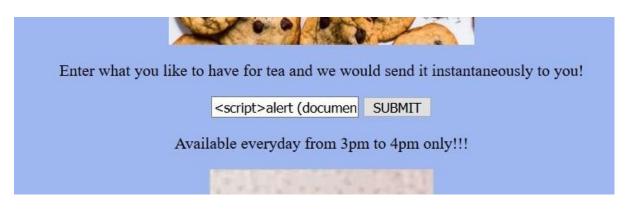
YOUR ORDER IS NOW READY! IT WILL ARRIVE IN THE NEXT TEN SECONDS!

THANK YOU FOR ORDERING TEA THROUGH US! HAVE A NICE DAY!



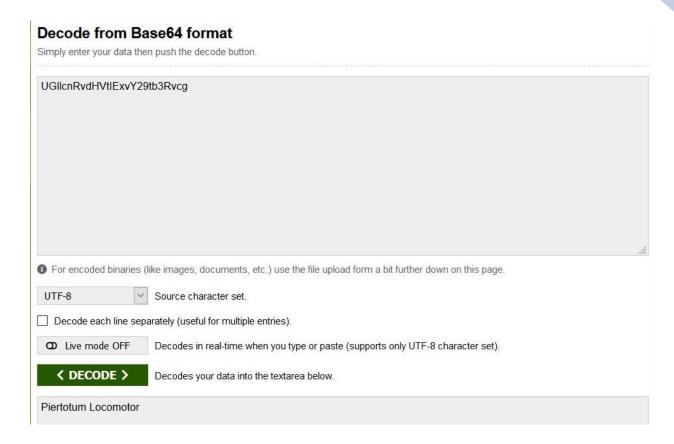
If the player executes an XSS attack as follows, the player can get the cookie value.

<script>alert (document.cookie);</script>



Welcon	e to Hogwarts Tea Time!	
	YOU ORDERED	
	Menu=UGllcnRvdHVtlExvY29tb3Rvcg	
	ОК	

However, if the player submits the cookie value, an error message will be given. Therefore, if the player decodes this flag value in base64, they will get another spell.

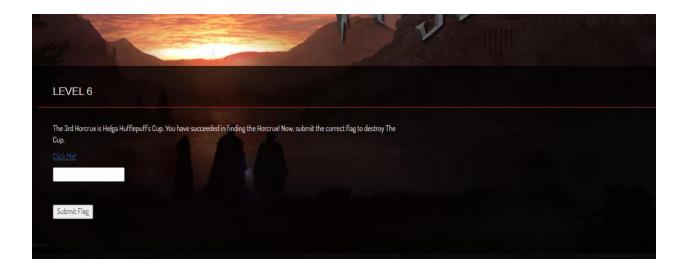


According to the hint given in the source code, the SHA256 hash value of this spell would be the flag.



FLAG: c8b6e3ef37961725f5694db6e7a254bd36ce5927a28fa953b72dd96addc77936

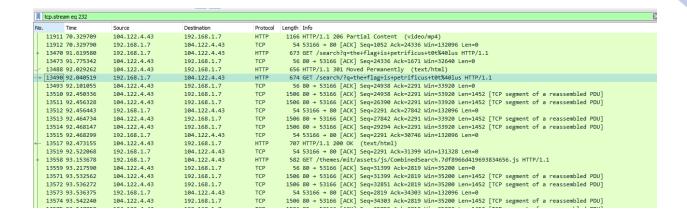
By clicking on the link provided, the player can download a .pcap file. This gives a hint to the player that Wireshark is the tool required to complete this level since .pcap files are data files created using Wireshark and they contain the data packets of a network. These files are mainly used in analyzing the network characteristics of certain data.



When the player opens the .pcap file using Wireshark, they can observe that there are 13, 996 captured packets. However, human readable and meaningful data are mostly in http packets. Therefore, http packets have to be filtered out.

http					
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info
1171	2 69.441015	192.168.1.7	104.122.4.43	HTTP	592 GET /themes/mit/assets/img/cursors/plus.svg HTTP/1.1
1172	1 69.513304	104.122.4.43	192.168.1.7	HTTP/X	692 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
1172	2 69.555725	192.168.1.7	104.122.4.43	HTTP	551 GET /files/images/201805/education-1_0.mp4 HTTP/1.1
1173	5 69.695139	192.168.1.7	104.122.4.43	HTTP	543 GET /themes/mit/assets/js/Gallery.9e279ece45a4211f8c30.js HTTP/1.1
1173	7 69.702931	192.168.1.7	104.122.4.43	HTTP	542 GET /themes/mit/assets/js/Slider.286f742df08cbfc5713e.js HTTP/1.1
1175	5 69.772229	192.168.1.7	104.122.4.43	HTTP	545 GET /themes/mit/assets/js/lazysizes.05baac0ce4aa97c8257f.js HTTP/1.1
1176	0 69.775082	192.168.1.7	104.122.4.43	HTTP	557 GET /themes/mit/assets/js/lazysizes-unveilhooks.d1709335454bc45fb317.js HT
1176	5 69.797480	104.122.4.43	192.168.1.7	HTTP	1082 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (application/javascript)
1182	0 69.990457	104.122.4.43	192.168.1.7	HTTP	1142 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (application/javascript)
1183	5 70.052316	104.122.4.43	192.168.1.7	HTTP	1129 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (application/javascript)
1185	4 70.115556	192.168.1.7	104.122.4.43	HTTP	602 GET /files/images/201805/education-1 0.mp4 HTTP/1.1

When going through the http packets there is an interesting packet which has the word "flag" on it.



More details can be viewed by following the HTTP stream.

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">
<TITLE>301 Moved Permanently</TITLE>
</HEAD><BODY>
<H1>Moved Permanently</H1>
The document has moved <A HREF="http://web.mit.edu/search/?q=the+flag+is+petrificus+t0t%40lus">here</A>.<P>
<ADDRESS>Apache/1.3.41 Server at web.mit.edu Port 80</ADDRESS>
</BODY></HTML>
GET /search/?q=the+flag+is+petrificus+t0t%40lus HTTP/1.1
Host: web.mit.edu
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/84.0.4147.105 Safari/537.36
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.9
Referer: http://web.mit.edu/
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
Cookie: _ga=GA1.2.1957188378.1596549025; _gid=GA1.2.1094916959.1596549025; _gat_gtag_UA_1592615_11=1; _gat_gtag_UA_1592615_30=1
```

GET /search?q=the+flag+is+petrificus+t0t%40lus HTTP/1.1\r\n

By observation, it can be concluded that the flag is petrificust0t%40lus.

But if the player tries to enter this as the flag they will get an error saying it's not the correct flag. That is because there is an encoded character in petrificust0t%40lus and it has to be decoded.

FLAG: petrificust0t@lus

The player is given a hint that the flag they need to find is a number. They are directed to download a data file once they click on the provided link.

```
🎳 C:\Users\HP\Desktop\data.dat - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
] 🔐 🔛 🖫 😘 😘 🚵 | 🔏 🐚 🐚 | 🔊 🚅 | 🏥 🔩 | 🍳 🍕 | 📜 📴 🌉 🗾 11 🎉 💯 💹 🖋 🐿 | 💽 🎟 🗩
      0001100000101010100
      1101010000001111
       101100011001110111
     0111111010100
1010111111100011
      1110011110010110
11100101010110111
      10101101011
      1111011101001
  10 0001110001
      001111000111
      0010110110010
      1011110001001010010
      11110111111011110
11000010111010
      11111000010010
      1010001101101101
      01000101011010001
      11000111011011
      1110110010101110110
      101000101000
      0101111001
      1110011110111010
      1000101011100111
0001100000100
       11100001111
                                                                       Inneth - 160 222 | line
```

This file consists of 10, 001 lines of binary strings. The player needs to make a program such that the number of 0s is a multiple of 4 or the number of 1s is a multiple of 5 is counted. They can use any programming language of their preference. The output after executing this program will be the flag. Following is a sample program created in Python.

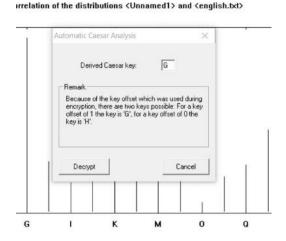
FLAG: 4352

After successfully completing the previous level, the player will be navigated to the next level. There, a link to destroy the obtained Horcrux will be obtained. Once they click on that link, they will be navigated to another webpage.

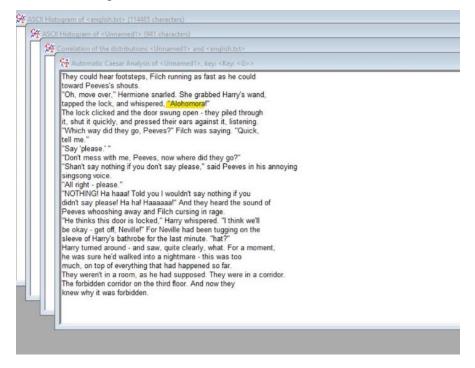
Here, the player will be required to perform a letter frequency analysis with Caesar Cipher on the encrypted text given using a software like CrypTool.



Here, the player will see that the derived Caesar key is "G". This should be saved for later use and the decryption procedure should be proceeded with.



Here, the player can see a passage derived from Harry Potter book 1. The player should go through the passage and find the flag used.

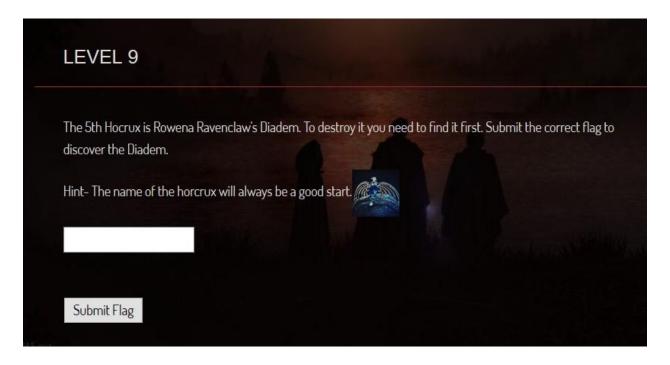


Obtained spell: Alohomora

The spell can be combined with all possible characters and numbers and brute forced to capture the flag.

FLAG: @L0H0M0R@

The player has to click on the image as a first step.



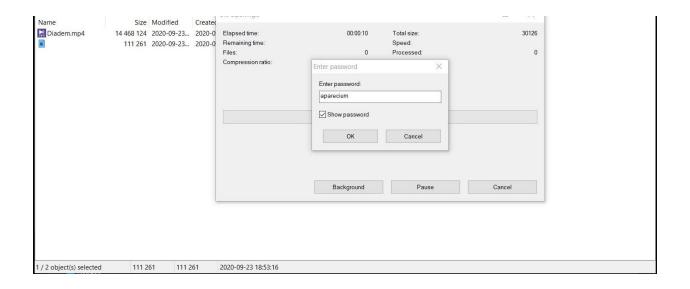
Then, a .zip file will be downloaded. The player has to save it and unzip it.



The hint suggests that the name of the Horcrux will be a good start. Therefore, when the player tries to unzip this file, they can provide "diadem" as the password.

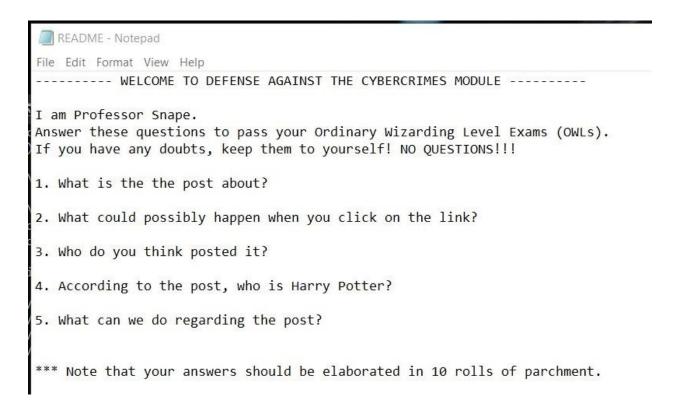


This .zip file will have two files, one .mp4 file and another .jpg file. If explored with the 7 - Zip file manager, when opened, the .mp4 file will play a clip of the diadem being destroyed. However, if the .jpg file is opened, another password will be required. This means that a particular file has been concatenated with the image file. The password was mentioned in a previous level under steganography.



Once the password is entered, a new folder will be obtained. This folder will have another 3 files. It will have an image called "Click Me!.png", README.txt and ZIP2.rar. However, in order to extract the files from the .rar file, a password is required. This will be obtained by going through the other two files.

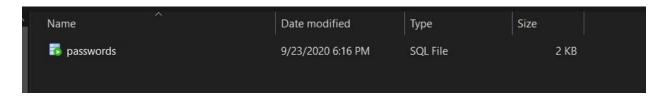




The player has to brute force the answers to the above questions with the help of the image and try to obtain the password of the .rar file.



Once unzipped, the new folder will have a file called passwords.sql.



The player can import this script using any database management software and go through the queries.

```
☐ INSERT INTO 'passwords' ('ID', 'Name', 'Password') VALUES
(1, 'Ron', '4e6f78'),
(2, 'Hermione', '506f72747573'),
(3, 'Harry', '50726f7465676f'),
(4, 'Ginny', '52656c617368696f'),
(5, 'Neville', '5265706172696661726765'),
(6, 'Luna', '53616c76696f204865786961');
```

The above part shows the queries used to enter the usernames and passwords to a database. As it can be seen, the passwords are saved as hexadecimal values. Hence, in order to obtain the flag, the player will have to convert all the hexadecimal values to text and brute force to obtain the flag.

Hex String 52656c617368696f		
Convert		
esult		

FLAG: Relashio

Initially, the player will be navigated to this level after successful completion of the previous level.



The hint suggests some facts about the 4 Houses. Right next to it is the image of the school crest which depicts all 4 Houses. The player can now save this image and perform steganography.

When performing steganography, a passphrase is required. However, this passphrase is revealed in a previous level as follows:

```
<!-- LET'S TALK STEGANOGRAPHY!!!

Steganography is the technique of hiding secret data within an ordinary, non-secret, file or
message in order to avoid detection; the secret data is then extracted at its destination.

It's pretty much revealing something hidden in a picture...
Fun Fact: Did you know that the revealing charm in Harry Potter universe was APARECIUM?

Hint for a hint!;)

The final answer may or may not be in a very popular hash value! *wink* *wink*

Hint for a hint 2!;)

You may or may not be able to open "things" using the revealing charm! *winks x 100*

-->
```

If this spell is given as the passphrase in all simple letters, the player can easily get the hidden text from the image.

The Passphrase: aparecium

This image also gives another hint. It mentions that the final answer might be in a very popular hash value. Moving forward, the player is required to keep that in mind.

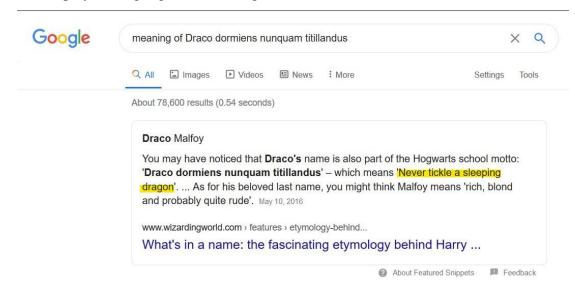
```
D:\Steghide\steghide>steghide extract -sf hogwarts.jpeg
Enter passphrase:
wrote extracted data to "scary.txt".
D:\Steghide\steghide>
```

Now, the player can see what the hidden message is by opening "scary.txt". As it can be seen, the hidden message is base64 encoded. Therefore, the player can now decode it.

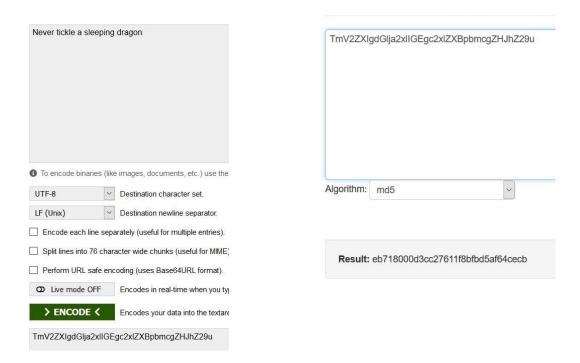
flNDSE9PTCBTT05HfgoKSG9nd2FydHMslEhvZ3dhcnRzLCBlb2dneSBXYXJ0eSBlb2d3YXJ0cywKVGVhY2ggdXMgc29tZXRoa W5nlHBsZWFzZSwKV2hldGhlciB3ZSBiZSBvbGQgYW5klGJhbGQKT3lgeW91bmcgd2l0aCBzY2FiYnkga25lZXMsCk91ciBoZW FkcyBjb3VsZCBkbyB3aXRolGZpbGxpbmcKV2l0aCBzb21llGludGVyZXN0aW5nlHN0dWZmLApGb3lgbm93lHRoZXnigJlyZSBiY XJllGFuZCBmdWxslG9mlGFpciwKRGVhZCBmbGllcyBhbmQgYml0cyBvZiBmbHVmZiwKU28gdGVhY2ggdXMgdGhpbmdzlHdv cnRolGtub3dpbmcsCkJyaW5nlGJhY2sgd2hhdCB3ZeKAmXZllGZvcmdvdCwKSnVzdCBkbyB5b3VylGJlc3QslHdl4oCZbGwgZG 8gdGhllHJlc3QsCkFuZCBsZWFybiB1bnRpbCBvdXlgYnJhaW5zlGFsbCByb3QuCgoKCn5TQ0hPT0wgTU9UVE9+CgpPdXlgc2 Nob29slG1vdHRvlGlzlCJEcmFjbyBkb3JtaWVucyBudW5xdWFtlHRpdGlsbGFuZHVzliB3aGljaCBtZWFucy0=

```
*Untitled - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
~SCHOOL SONG~
Hogwarts, Hogwarts, Hoggy Warty Hogwarts,
Teach us something please,
Whether we be old and bald
Or young with scabby knees,
Our heads could do with filling
With some interesting stuff,
For now they're bare and full of air,
Dead flies and bits of fluff,
So teach us things worth knowing,
Bring back what we've forgot,
Just do your best, we'll do the rest,
And learn until our brains all rot.
~SCHOOL MOTTO~
Our school motto is "Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus" which means-
```

As it can be seen, while typing the meaning of the school motto, the sentence has abruptly stopped. Therefore, the player can google the meaning of the school motto.



Now, the player can encode this meaning in base64 and hash it using MD5 to obtain the flag value.



The Encoded Value: TmV2ZXIgdGlja2xlIGEgc2xlZXBpbmcgZHJhZ29u

FLAG: eb718000d3cc27611f8bfbd5af64cecb

The social media profile of a user as given below could be obtained after clicking on the link.



This provides some important personal details about the user which can be utilized in order to guess his password. Most users still tend to use their favorite people, dates, towns, birthdays and names as their passwords. The player has to input the user's personal details to a word-lister program. The word-lister given in https://null-byte.wonderhowto.com/how-to/use-wordlister-create-custom-password-combinations-for-cracking-0206006/ is used here.

```
#|/usr/bin/python3
""Mordlister, a simple wordlist generator and mangler written in python 3.8.""
#Written By Ananke: https://github.com/Anank3
import argparse
from itertools import islice, permutations
from multiprocessing import Pool
from so simport enove
from sysing import Iterator, List

TEMP_OUTPUT_FILE = 'temp-output.txt'

OUTPUT_FILE = 'output.txt'
LEEI_TRANSLATIONS = str.maketrans('ooaAeEIISS', '0044331155')

def init_argparse() -> argparse.ArgumentParser:

Define and manage arguments passed to Wordlister via terminal.

:return argparse.ArgumentParser

parser = argparse.ArgumentParser(
    description='a simple wordlist generator and mangler written in python.')
required = parser.add_argument('--input', help='Max umber of words to be combined on the same line',
    required.add_argument('--perm', help='Max umber of words to be combined on the same line',
    required.add_argument('--input', help='Max umber of words to be combined on the same line',
    required.add_argument('--input', help='Max umber of words to be combined on the same line',
    required.add_argument('--input', help='Max umber of words to be combined on the same line',
    required.add_argument('--input', help='Max input generated password length', required=True,
    type=int)
required.add_argument('--text', help='Maximum generated password length', required=True,
    type=int)

## Optional arguments

parser.add_argument('--text', help='Output first N iterations (single process/core)',
    required=False, type=int)
parser.add_argument('--text', help='Output first N iterations (single process/core)',
    required=False, type=int)
```

This is a list which includes all personal information of the user given in the profile.

```
abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$ cat list.txt
harry
james
potter
july
1980
godrics
hollow
quidditch
defensegainstthedarkarts
remus
lupin
iamawizard
```

Now, possible passwords can be generated. The following arguments can be used for this purpose:

```
~# python3 wordlister.py -h
usage: wordlister.py [-h] --input INPUT --perm PERM --min MIN --max MAX
                      [--test TEST] [--cores CORES] [--leet] [--cap] [--up]
                      [--append APPEND] [--prepend PREPEND]
A simple wordlist generator and mangler written in python.
optional arguments:
  -h, --help
                     show this help message and exit
  --test TEST
--cores CORES
                     Output first N iterations (single process/core)
                     Manually specify processes/cores pool that you want to
                     use
  --leet
                     Activate 133t mutagen
  --cap
                     Activate capitalize mutagen
  --up Activate uppercase mutagen
--append APPEND Append chosen word (append 'word' to all passwords)
  --prepend PREPEND Append chosen word (prepend 'word' to all passwords)
required arguments:
  --input INPUT
                     Input file name
                     Max number of words to be combined on the same line
  --perm PERM
                     Minimum generated password length
  --min MIN
                     Maximum generated password length
  --max MAX
```

Since the hint says "The Wizarding World's password policy states that passwords must contain at least 8 characters and maximum 12 characters and should contain at least 1 number.", the player can use these arguments accordingly.

```
abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$ python3 wordlister.py --input list.txt --perm 2 --cap --leet --min 8 --max 12
Output saved to 'output.txt'!
```

Since the maximum number of characters is 12, two permutations can be used as follows:

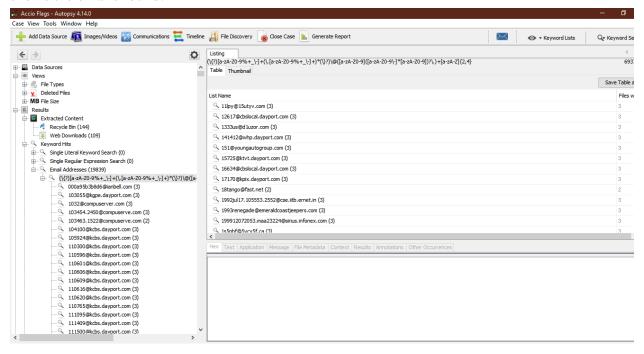
- --leet used to transform any letters into numbers
- --min 8 = minimum number of characters is 8
- --max 12 = maximum number of characters 12

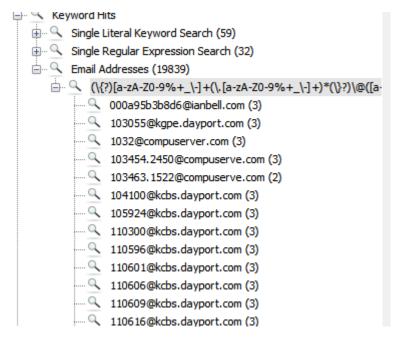
These are the generated passwords. There are 483 passwords here. The player can use manual brute forcing or a brute forcing tool to try passwords till they get the message saying flag is correct.

```
nollowRamus
hollowRamus
hollowramus
hollowJames
hollowJames
hollowJames
hollowJames
hollowJumas
hollowJumas
hollowJumas
hollowDetter
hollowHerry
hollowHerry
hollowHerry
hollowJuly
Julyharry
Julylarry
Julylarry
Julylarry
Julylarry
Julylari
Julylopin
Julylopin
Julylopin
Julylopin
Julylopin
Julylopin
Julylopettar
Julygodrics
Julygodrics
Julygodrics
Julygemus
Julyames
JulyRemus
JulyRemus
Julyramus
```

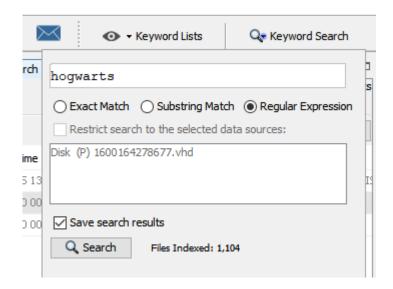
FLAG: g0dr1c5r3mu5

The player is given a .vhd file to download once they click on the link provided. The Virtual Hard Disk needs to be opened by Autopsy and analyzed for suspicious material. The player can use the plugins in Autopsy to search through the contents on the .vhd file for emails. The following image shows the emails found:





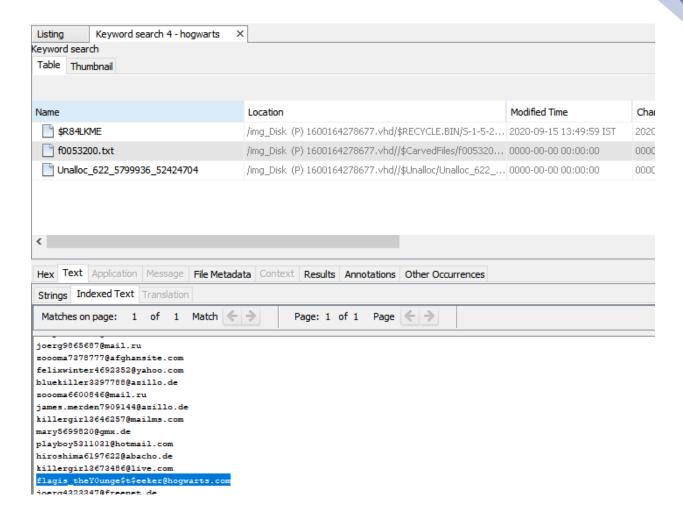
There are 19, 839 emails in this file. It would be time consuming to try each and every email address to find the correct flag. However, since the email belongs to a former employee at Hogwarts, it is likely that the email takes the format username@hogwarts.com or username@hogwarts.edu. Therefore, the player can use the keyword search to search for the expression "hogwarts".



There are 3 results:



The player can now check the .txt file.



The player can see that there is an email that looks very much like the flag.

FLAG: flagis_theY0unge\$t\$eeker@hogwarts.com

The players need to follow the mega.nz link given and download the image file. It is a simple .jpeg file containing an image of Julius Caesar. Although the image looks random it will be needed to find the flag.

Since image files can be used to hide files, the first step is to scan the file for known file signatures. For that Binwalk tool can be used

```
abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$ sudo binwalk -B image.jpg
[sudo] password for abi:

DECIMAL HEXADECIMAL DESCRIPTION

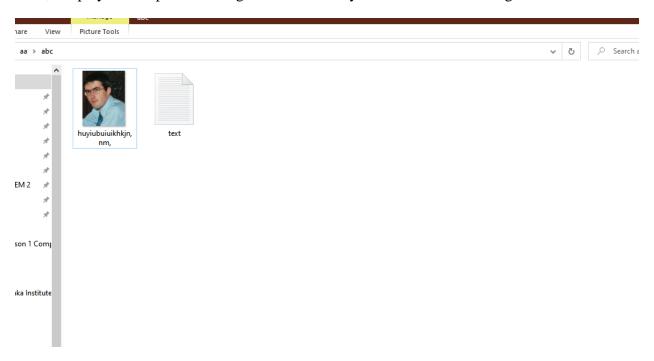
0 0x0 JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01
180450 0x2C0E2 RAR archive data, version 4.x, first volume type: MAIN_HEAD

abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$
```

The scan says that there is .rar archive data inside the image file. Another method to find this is by examining the file through a hex editor. When searching for known file signature hex values, players can find out the value for .rar files which is 52 61 72 21 1A 07 00.

image (1).jpg																	
Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	Decoded text
0002C020	C8	8A	30	89	00	0B	9F	DA	64	C8	3E	80	5D	2F	BF	6F	ÈŠ0‰ŸÚdÈ>€]/¿o
0002C030	89	66	B7	DC	3F	69	93	26	B1	E8	05	3F	DB	16	C4	E2	‰f Ü?i"&±è.?Û.Äâ
0002C040	64	C9	9F	A4	12	3E	D8	AA	84	91	99	93	23	5D	00	1F	dÉŸ¤.>ز"\™"#]
0002C050	FE	8E	30	00	2D	61	32	64	4C	5E	90	DF	74	30	A0	82	þž0a2dL^.ßt0 ,
0002C060	A4	62	64	C8	D7	65	C8	C5	C5	3D	A3	88	CD	38	16	02	¤bdÈ×eÈÅÅ=£^Í8
0002C070	64	C8	32	18	F0	48	7C	42	7A	8E	2F	63	32	64	1F	43	dÈ2.ðH BzŽ/c2d.C
0002C080	45	8D	10	15	54	6F	00	C5	6A	58	AB	1B	62	64	C8	3E	ETo.ÅjX«.bdÈ>
0002C090	86	84	33	1B	06	BE	62	BD	14	Α9	57	7B	DC	В7	EF	32	t"3¾b⅓.©W{Ü·ï2
0002C0A0	64	4C	19	80	0C	AF	88	47	0B	89	93	24	B1	F8	0B	7D	dL.€. ⁻ ^G.‰"\$±ø.}
0002C0B0	F0	D3	83	32	64	42	24	72	63	6A	7D	80	F9	99	32	35	ðÓf2dB\$rcj}€ù™25
0002C0C0	D0	08	66	22	A0	В4	6B	CC	99	18	D7	44	0F	B4	C5	B0	Đ.f" ´kÌ™.×D.´Å°
0002C0D0	19	3E	66	4C	80	88	40	3D	41	26	В6	0E	26	4C	89	81	.>fL€^@=A&¶.&L‰.
0002C0E0	FF	D9	52	61	72	21	1A	07	00	CF	90	73	00	00	0D	00	ÿÙRar!Ï.s
0002C0F0	00	00	00	00	00	00	56	BD	74	20	90	40	00	40	33	00	V≒≤t .@.@3.
0002C100	00	4B	33	00	00	02	A2	46	7C	57	99	86	06	51	1D	33	.K3¢F W™†.Q.3
0002C110	1B	00	20	00	00	00	61	62	63	5C	68	75	79	69	75	62	abc\huyiub
0002C120	75	69	75	69	6B	68	6B	6A	6E	2C	6E	6D	2C	2E	6A	70	uiuikhkjn,nm,.jp
0002C130	67	00	B0	D9	08	14	11	D9	4D	01	48	D9	D5	54	11	15	g.°ÙÙM.HÙÕT
0002C140	B2	59	6C	96	27	20	32	8B	28	64	06	CB	0A	C0	C9	41	"Yl-' 2< (d.Ë.ÀÉA
0002C150	96	3D	94	19	69	5B	2C	0B	28	B2	C2	30	19	61	19	51	-=".i[,.(°Â0.a.Q
0002C160	F2	37	BE	47	3F	EB	5E	FA	E8	6B	9D	1C	88	E7	66	FB	ò7¾G?ë^úèk^çfû
0002C170	D4	F5	4C	25	29	29	98	89	C2	A3	Fl	74	A2	52	8C	25	ÔőL%))~%£ñt¢RŒ%
0002C180	0B	13	8C	47	EF	ЗА	BC	F8	4F	E7	47	F3	B2	00	65	39	ŒGï:4øOçGó°.e9
0002C190	2D	35	2C	00	57	FC	00	03	FE	E8	07	E7	D3	FE	94	В6	-5,.₩üþè.çÓþ″¶
0002C1A0	86	В6	52	97	26	E7	47	10	8C	A8	25	3E	F7	37	36	F4	†¶R—&cG.Œ¨%>÷76ô
Checksum	Sea	arch ((0 hit	ts)													

Now, the player can open this using WINRAR or any other archive extracting tools.



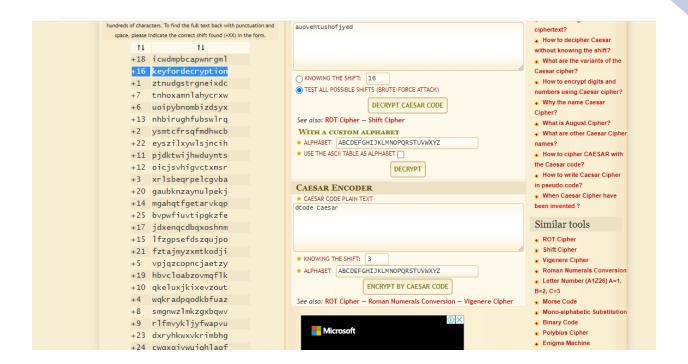
There are 2 files inside the .rar file. One is an image file. By doing a reverse image search, it can be found out that it is an image of Joan Daemen who is the founder of AES. This is a hint that should be noted.

The text file has 2 strings:

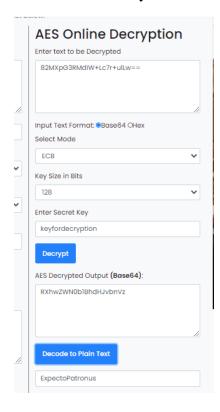
82MXpG3RMdIW+Lc7r+ulLw==

Auovehtushofjyed

The first string is a cipher text encrypted with AES, hence the hint was given by providing Joan Daemen's photo. The second string is encrypted using Caesar cipher and hence Caesar's image was given as a hint. The player can brute force Caesar cipher encrypted string and find the plaintext.



The key is **keyfordecryption**. This is the 128-bit key to be used for AES decryption



FLAG: ExpectoPatronus

The player is given an executable C file which need 1 argument to be passed at execution.

```
abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$ ./crackme2 jksdjkasdjk

Decrypted string: ghpagh^pagh
abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$
```

It can be seen that when a string is entered, the decrypted string is given as the output. There are several methods to solve this. Players can use decompilers such as ghidra or use GDB debugger and analyze the code in assembly and recreate the original program functions. This is time consuming.

The easiest way however, is to observe the output for several inputs.

```
(gdb) disass main
Dump of assembler code for function main:
   0x000000000000011a9 <+0>:
0x000000000000011ad <+4>:
                                       endbr64
                                       push %rbp
    0x00000000000011ae <+5>:
                                       mov
                                                %rsp,%rbp
                                       push
    0x00000000000011b1 <+8>:
                                                %rbx
                                      sub $0x118,%rsp
                                                %edi,-0x114(%rbp)
                                       mov
                                       mov
                                             %rsi,-0x120(%rbp)
   0x000000000000011c6 <+29>:
0x0000000000000011cf <+38>:
                                             %fs:0x28,%rax
%rax,-0x18(%rbp)
                                       mov
                                       mov
   0x000000000000011d3 <+42>:
0x000000000000011d5 <+44>:
                                               %eax,%eax
                                       xor
                                       cmpl $0x2,-0x114(%rbp)
                                              0x1206 <main+93>
-0x120(%rbp),%rax
                                       mov
                                               (%rax),%rax
                                       mov
    0x00000000000011e8 <+63>:
                                                %rax,%rsi
                                       mov
   0x000000000000011eb <+66>:
0x000000000000011f2 <+73>:
0x0000000000000011f7 <+78>:
0x0000000000000011fc <+83>:
0x000000000000001201 <+88>:
                                                0xe12(%rip),%rdi
                                                                              # 0x2004
                                       lea
                                                $0x0,%eax
                                       mov
                                                      00 <printf@plt>
                                       callq 0x10
                                               $0x0,%eax
                                       mov
                                                0x13cf <main+550>
                                       jmpq
                                              $0x0,-0x104(%rbp)
    0x0000000000001206 <+93>:
                                       movl
                                       movl
                                                $0x0,-0x100(%rbp)
                                                $0x0,-0x104(%rbp)
                                       movl
                                       jmp
                                                -0x120(%rbp),%rax
                                       mov
    0x0000000000000122d <+132>:
                                                $0x8,%rax
                                       add
                                               (%rax),%rdx
-0x104(%rbp),%eax
                                       mov
        00000000001234 <+139>:
                                       mov
  Type <RET> for more, q to quit, c to continue without paging--
0x000000000000123a <+145>: cltq
    0x0000000000000123c <+147>:
                                       add
                                                %rdx,%rax
                                       movzbl (%rax),%edx
                                                -0x104(%rbp),%eax
                                       mov
                                       cltq
    0x0000000000000124a <+161>:
0x00000000000001251 <+168>:
                                                %dl,-0xf0(%rbp,%rax,1)
                                       mov
                                              $0x1,-0x104(%rbp)
                                       add1
    0x00000000000001258 <+175>:
                                       mov
                                                -0x104(%rbp),%eax
                                       movslq %eax,%rbx
                                                -0x120(%rbp),%rax
    0x00000000000001261 <+184>:
                                       mov
                                       add
                                                $0x8,%rax
                                                (%rax),%rax
    0x0000000000000126c <+195>:
                                       mov
                                                %rax,%rdi
                           <+198>:
```

```
abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$ ./crackme2 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Decrypted string: ^_`abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvw
```

When the whole alphabet is passed as the argument, the above output can be observed. Characters have been shifted 3 positions to the right. For example, letter "a" which took the 1st position in the input has now taken the 3rd position in the output. Now, the player needs to find the correct string to enter to get the decrypted string which could be the flag.

```
bi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$ strings crackme2
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2
libc.so.6
puts
 stack chk fail
printf
strlen
 _cxa_finalize
__libc_start_main
GLIBC_2.4
GLIBC 2.2.5
ITM deregisterTMCloneTable
 gmon_start
ITM_registerTMCloneTable
u+UH
[]A\A]A^A
Usage : %s password
Decrypted string: %s
You got the correct flag!!!!!
J^df`rpBuqobjlp
:*3$"
GCC: (Ubuntu 9.3.0-10ubuntu2) 9.3.0
crtstuff.c
deregister_tm_clones
 _do_global_dtors_aux
completed.8059
 _do_global_dtors_aux_fini_array_entry
frame_dummy
 frame dummy init array entry
rackme2.c
 FRAME END
 init array end
DYNAMIC
 init_array_start
 GNU EH FRAME HDR
GLOBAL OFFSET TABLE
 libc csu fini
ITM deregisterTMCloneTable
puts@@GLIBC 2.2.5
edata
strlen@@GLIBC_2.2.5
 _stack_chk_fail@@GLIBC_2.4
printf@@GLIBC_2.2.5
 _libc_start_main@@GLIBC_2.2.5
```

Using the "strings" command, the player can observe the following results. It also shows the strings which are printed and the defined variables. There is a suspicious string "J^df rpBuqobjlp" which can be tried as the argument to be passed.

```
abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$ ./crackme2 'J^df`rpBuqobjlp'

Decrypted string: G[ac]om?rnl_gim
```

If the player tries entering the output as the flag in the challenge page it can be seen that this is not the correct flag. However, this could be a clue.

Initially, it was found out that the shift cipher is used in this challenge. Therefore, in order to get the correct flag, the player needs to use the algorithm used in the program which is shift cipher on the string was found.

1	a	٨
2	b	_
3	С	`
4	d	a
5	e	b
6	f	С
7	g	d
8	h	e
9	i	f
10	j	හ
11	k	h
12	1	i

13	m	j
14	n	k
15	0	1
16	p	m
17	q	n
18	r	О
19	s	p
20	t	q
21	u	r
22	v	S
23	w	t
24	X	u
25	у	v
26	Z	w

By looking at this table, the characters in $J^df^pBuqobjlp$ can be matched to the alphabet as follows:

J→M

^**>**a

d**→**g

f→i

 $\rightarrow c$

```
r→u
p→s
B→E
u→x
q→t
o→r
b→e
j→m
l→o
p→s
```

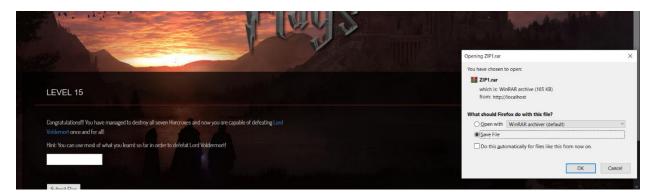
```
abi@DESKTOP-669VR8A:~$ ./crackme2 'MagicusExtremos'

Decrypted string: J^df`rpBuqobjlp

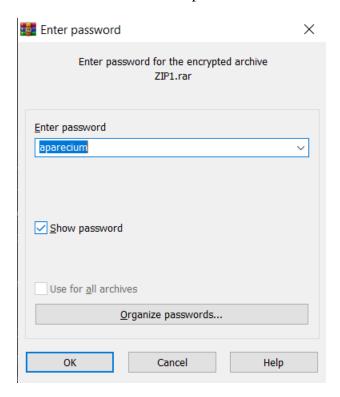
You got the correct flag!!!!
```

FLAG: MagicusExtremos

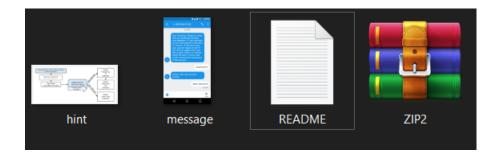
Once the player clicks on the link, a .zip file will be downloaded.



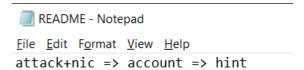
The player could use the hint given in an earlier level and use the spell "aparecium" as the password in order to reveal what is in the .zip file.



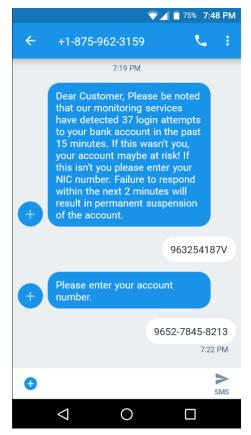
The contents of the extracted folder will be as follows:

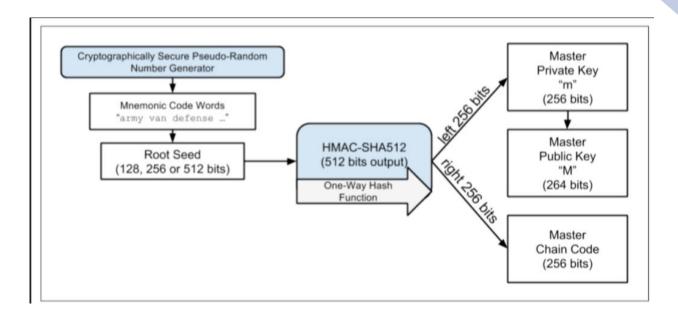


The README file would give the hint in order to open the .zip file.

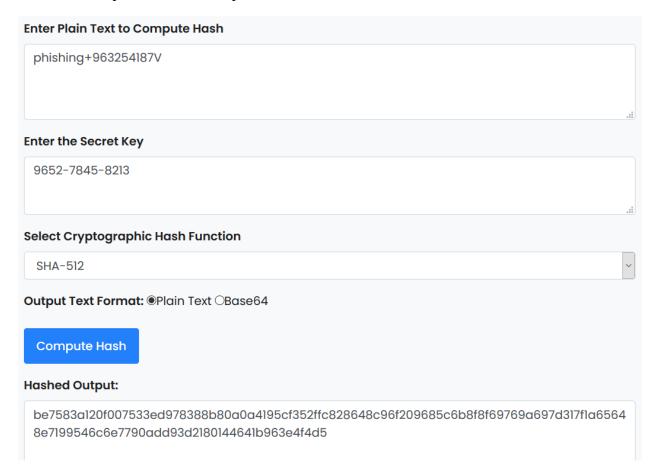


This means that the player has to check the attack given in message.png and combine it with the details given with relevance to the hint as follows:

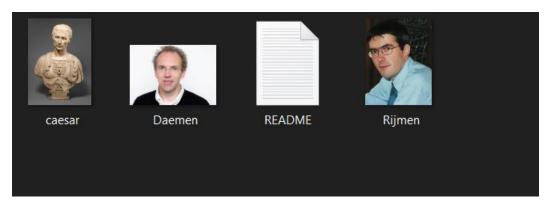




Therefore, the password to the .zip file will be as follows:



The contents of the .zip file will be as follows:



The README file shows the following details:

```
README - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

What spell does Harry use to defeat Lord Voldemort?
```

If the player googles this information, they will obtain a result as follows:

Expelliarmus

4 Answers. Harry used his signature dueling spell: **Expelliarmus**. Due to a combination of the Elder Wand's true owner being Harry, not Voldemort, and the spells colliding, Voldemort's **Avada Kedavra** rebounded upon him (again). Since at that point all of his horcruxes had been destroyed there was nothing to keep him alive ...

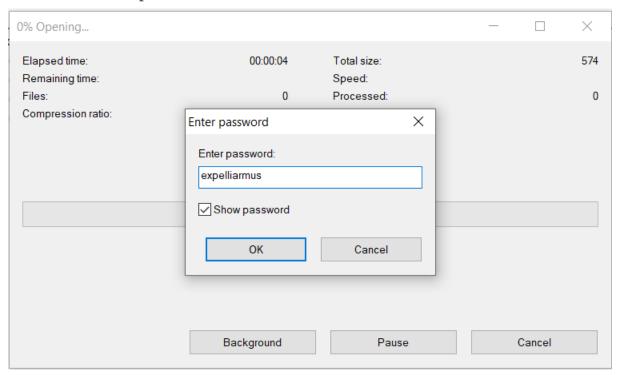
scifi.stackexchange.com > questions > with-which-spell-di...

With which spell did Harry Potter kill Voldemort? - Science ...

But this will not be the flag. Hence, if the player uses 7-zip File Manager, they will be able to see the following details:



If the player opens, Daemen.jpg, it will prompt a password. For this, the player can use the spell obtained earlier as "expelliarmus".



When the player opens the extracted .zip folder, there will be a text document that gives the following details:

```
Epo'u hjwf vq! Zpv'sf bmnptu uifsf!

Sfnfncfs uif ufdiopmphjft xf vtfe?

Eje zpv tbwf fwfszuijoh? Uif gmbht? Uif lfzt? Fwfszuijoh?

Xibu jt uif pof uijoh xf ejeo'u vtf?

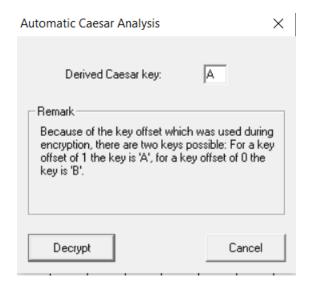
Xf ejeo'u vtf uif Z2mxbHWzJHumfR== sjhiu?

Tp, xiz epo'u xf dpncjof uif uxp Z2mxbHWzJHumfR== xf ibwf tp gbs (mfu't tbz Y boe Z gps opx) boe 656f6372797074 ju vtjoh uif ijout? :)

Y + Z + buubdl => gmbh

HPPE MVDL!
```

The player could perform a letter frequency analysis using the Caesar Cipher and get the following details:

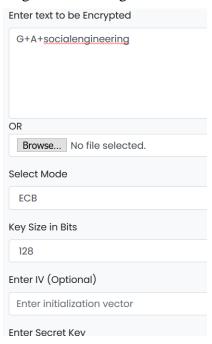


Don't give up! You're almost there!
Remember the technologies we used?
Did you save everything? The flags? The keys? Everything?
What is the one thing we didn't use?
We didn't use the Y2lwaGVylGtleQ== right?
So, why don't we combine the two Y2lwaGVylGtleQ== we have so far (let's say X and Y for now) and 656e6372797074 it using the hints? :)
X + Y + attack => flag
GOOD LUCK!

The player could decode the text obtained from this file as follows:

Y2lwaGVylGtleQ==	Hex to Text Converter
	Converts from Hexadecimal to Text
	Hex String
	656e6372797074
For encoded binaries (like images, docum	
UTF-8 Source character	
Decode each line separately (useful for m	
② Live mode OFF Decodes in real-ti	Convert
〈 DECODE 〉 Decodes your da	Result
cipher key	encrypt

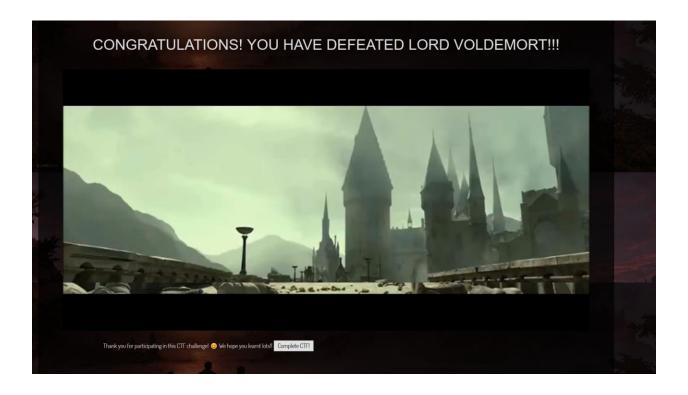
Now, the cipher keys obtained in this level as well as in Level 8 could be combined and encrypted via AES encryption algorithm and given as the flag.



FLAG: OhaLNHT biZhTHWi1cmMg4Vxhs9Pvevzxy5VGu2MR4Po=

CTF COMPLETION

After successful completion of Level 15, the player will be navigated to the following page where the ending scene of the Harry Potter series is played.



The players are welcome to leave any feedback in order to further improve this CTF!

WALKTHROUGH VIDEO

A video of the walkthrough could be found at:

https://mysliit-

 $\frac{my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/it18120462 \ my \ sliit \ lk/EQ \ loBipuWNHrYlsVV0Vu6UB7oy}{mZkwqG-kb \ U8fdUoEuA?e=0xheTF}$