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Description

Files can always be changed in a secret way. Can you find the flag? Cat.jpg

Hints:

- *Look at the details of the file*
- *Make sure to submit the flag as picoCTF{XXXXXX}*

I downloaded the image file, used **strings** tool together with grep “**pico**” but i found nothing.

```
kali@kali: ~/Downloads
File Actions Edit View Help
(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ ls
cat.jpg
(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ strings cat.jpg | grep pico
(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
```

I went ahead examining the files metadata using **exiftool** and came across something that appeared to be a base64 encoding.

```
(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ exiftool -e cat.jpg
ExifTool Version Number      : 12.76
File Name                    : cat.jpg
Directory                    : .
File Size                    : 878 kB
File Modification Date/Time  : 2025:01:13 15:08:01+00:00
File Access Date/Time       : 2025:01:13 15:07:57+00:00
File Inode Change Date/Time  : 2025:01:13 15:08:01+00:00
File Permissions             : -rw-rw-r--
File Type                    : JPEG
File Type Extension          : jpg
MIME Type                    : image/jpeg
JFIF Version                 : 1.02
Resolution Unit              : None
X Resolution                  : 1
Y Resolution                  : 1
Current IPTC Digest          : 7a78f3d9cfb1ce42ab5a3aa30573d617
Copyright Notice             : PicoCTF
Application Record Version   : 4
XMP Toolkit                  : Image::ExifTool 10.80
License                      : cGljb0NURnt0aGVfbTN0YWRhdGFfMXNfbW9kawZpZW99
Rights                       : PicoCTF
Image Width                  : 2560
Image Height                  : 1598
Encoding Process              : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample               : 8
Color Components              : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling         : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
```

I then decoded the strings on my machines terminal and found the flag.

```
(kali㉿kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ echo cGljb0NURnt0aGVfbTN0YWRhdGFfMXNfbW9kaWZpZW90 |base64 -d
picoCTF{the_m3tadata_1s_modified}

(kali㉿kali)-[~/Downloads]
$
```