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repetitions

Easy

General Skills

picoCTF 2023

base64

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Description

Can you make sense of this file?

Download the file [here](#).

Hints ?

1

Multiple decoding is always good.

Solution

I first downloaded the file using **wget** tool then confirmed what type the file was using a **file** tool via terminal. The file had plain text inside.

```
(kali@kali)~[/Desktop]
└─$ wget https://artifacts.picoctf.net/c/473/enc_flag
--2025-02-05 12:44:44-- https://artifacts.picoctf.net/c/473/enc_flag
Resolving artifacts.picoctf.net (artifacts.picoctf.net) ... 52.84.102.87, 2600:9000:2054:d800:16:5ec5:2840:93a1
Connecting to artifacts.picoctf.net (artifacts.picoctf.net)[52.84.102.87]:443 ... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 349 [application/octet-stream]
Saving to: 'enc_flag'

enc_flag 100%[=====] 349 --.-KB/s in 0s
2025-02-05 12:44:45 (173 MB/s) - 'enc_flag' saved [349/349]

(kali@kali)~[/Desktop]
└─$ ls
enc_flag

(kali@kali)~[/Desktop]
└─$ file enc_flag
enc_flag: ASCII text
```

I used **cat** command to view the file contents. The contents appeared to be base64 encodings.

```
(kali@kali)-[~/Desktop]
$ cat enc_flag
RmpGU1EYRXLUWgxTYmxKVYVwZFNWbGxyV21GV1JteDBuBfPpYwXkdFVsafPwVLuxWVZaS1ZWwnVh
YmRwXZwtab1dWmtSMk5yTLZWAp1VvpUvm10d1VWZFdvA2RpYLzaWfztNVdVZ3BpU0VKeldwUkNk
MLZXVlhwGjYqK9vbFJXU0ZkcVRuTLdaM0JZVmpGS2VWkda5GRCKc1sWnpWV3hhVm1KRk5XOVVW
VkpEVGaYvDFMVhSbHBWV0VKVZGwM9RM1ZzV2tUwmJFNVNdbUpXVZ5WmEx5mhWmGRHZedWR1Zs
aGkKYLRreLZER1dUmkpzUwWTLJYTKxZ09Cg==
```

I went ahead and used a base64 decoder on my kali do decode the encoding.

```
[kali@kali: ~/Downloads]
$ echo VmPqD1EYrLXUwGtYmKxYVvWZFNwBGxY2V1G17tEdBubFPYwXkFdVsaFPwVLUxwVza52WznVhRMxZTab1dWmMtSMk5yTLZwGmV1pVpUvm10d1VwZFdVa2RpyLzawFZtNvdYz3BpU0vKeldWuKnmKMLZXVL
hoMgJQvWpF3JXUo2cVzRuT4d0J2VpWGS2WmKdaSGRkXc1wnpW3hhVmlKKR5XOVVwKpEgVxazVdFvH5bHBWvOVKVZ2Wgm9RM1Z2V2tUmfJ3WmNDbpUxV25WmEe5mhMGRHZEwR1ZsaGKYLrReLZERIdMkpZU
wxMtlJYTKx2Z09Cg==base64-d
VjS02rY15a1JvUv0d5V1WmEwRn0tLZoa1ztlUhzVUu1YzKVYzuaFdWkZowZKzR2nRNVX
bUZTmWuUvQudK1bdVZXVmw5WUp1SE3zWRCd2VWxhXbX0U1RWSFdqTnW23BYUjKvEZGZHDW
MLZ2WkaVmJFNW9VJDTLZaW1XRlpVW3UVFzoQ2vSkvWRbE55CmJWnpZa1JhV0dgdGVFLhi
bTKzVDFWT2JsqLVNRXNLCg==
```

The hint suggested that the original string had undergone multiple base64 encodings. I repeated the process several times and finally decoded the flag

picoCTF{base64_n3st3d_dic0d!n8_d0wnl04d3d_dfe803c6}.