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So Meta

Medium Forensics picoCTF 2019

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Description

Find the flag in this [picture](#).

Hints ?

1 2

Ever heard of metadata?

Solution

I downloaded the file for analysis.

```
kali@kali: ~/Downloads
File Actions Edit View Help
(kali@kali)~/Downloads
$ ls
pico_img.png
(kali@kali)~/Downloads
$
```

I went ahead examining what type of a file it was using the **file** command. The file was a **PNG image data**

```
(kali@kali)~/Downloads
$ file pico_img.png
pico_img.png: PNG image data, 600 x 600, 8-bit/color RGB, non-interlaced
(kali@kali)~/Downloads
$
```

I then used **exiftool** to examine the image file metadata and that's how i retrieved the hidden flag **picoCTF{s0_m3ta_eb36bf44}**.

```
kali@kali: ~/Downloads
File Actions Edit View Help

(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ exiftool pico_img.png
ExifTool Version Number : 12.76
File Name                : pico_img.png
Directory                : .
File Size                : 109 kB
File Modification Date/Time : 2025:01:29 16:08:24+00:00
File Access Date/Time     : 2025:01:29 16:08:23+00:00
File Inode Change Date/Time : 2025:01:29 16:08:24+00:00
File Permissions          : -rw-rw-r--
File Type                : PNG
File Type Extension      : png
MIME Type               : image/png
Image Width              : 600
Image Height             : 600
Bit Depth                : 8
Color Type               : RGB
Compression              : Deflate/Inflate
Filter                   : Adaptive
Interlace                : Noninterlaced
Software                 : Adobe ImageReady
XMP Toolkit              : Adobe XMP Core 5.3-c011 66.145661, 2012/02/06-14:56:27
Creator Tool             : Adobe Photoshop CS6 (Windows)
Instance ID              : xmp.iid:A5566E73B28811E88C7F9A4303DF1F9B
Document ID              : xmp.did:A5566E74B28811E88C7F9A4303DF1F9B
Derived From Instance ID : xmp.iid:A5566E71B28811E88C7F9A4303DF1F9B
Derived From Document ID : xmp.did:A5566E72B28811E88C7F9A4303DF1F9B
Warning                  : [minor] Text/EXIF chunk(s) found after PNG IDAT (may be ignored by some readers)
Artist                   : picoCTF{s0_m3ta_eb36bf44}
Image Size               : 600x600
Megapixels               : 0.360

(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
$
```

I also used the strings tool looking for emended text data within the file and the flag was retrievable to.

```
kali@kali: ~/Downloads
File Actions Edit View Help

(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
$ strings pico_img.png | grep pico
picoCTF{s0_m3ta_eb36bf44}

(kali@kali)-[~/Downloads]
$
```