## useless

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### Description

There's an interesting script in the user's home directory

The work computer is running SSH. We've been given a script which performs some basic calculations, explore the script and find a flag.

```
Hostname: saturn.picoctf.net
Port:     64749
Username: picoplayer
Password: password
```

This challenge launches an instance on demand.
Its current status is:

RUNNING

Instance Time Remaining:

5:39

Restart Instance

### Hints ?

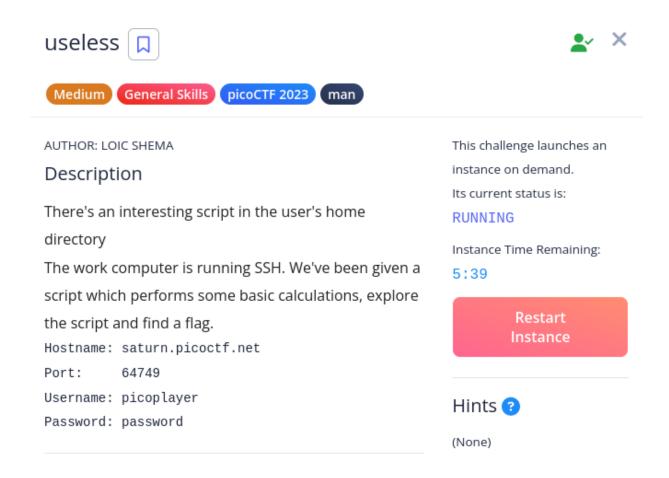(None)

## **Solution**

I connected to the server using SSH with the provided hostname, port, username, and password. This allowed me to access the remote machine. Once logged in, I listed the files in the home directory using ls command and found a script named "useless".

I attempted to run the script without any arguments, which resulted in the message "Read the code first". This indicated that I needed to provide the correct input format to the script. I opened the script using the cat command to read its contents. The script was a Bash script that performed basic mathematical operations based on command-line arguments.



The script required three arguments: an operation (add, sub, div, or mul) and two numbers. If the correct number of arguments was not provided, it prompted me to read the code first. I experimented with the script by running it with the multiplication operation and the numbers 6 and 6. The output was "The product is: 36". I also tried running the script with an invalid operation ("test") and received the message "Read the manual", which confirmed that the script was checking for valid operations.



From the "Read manual message" I went ahead and used the man command to access the manual

for the "useless" script. The manual provided a description of the script, its usage, and examples of how to perform calculations. Within the manual, I found the flag: " picoCTF{us3l3ss_ch4ll3ng3_3xpl0it3d_4151}".



This was the flag I was looking for.