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Nice netcat... 

Easy General Skills picoCTF 2021

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Description

There is a nice program that you can talk to by using this command in a shell: `$ nc mercury.picoctf.net 49039`, but it doesn't speak English...

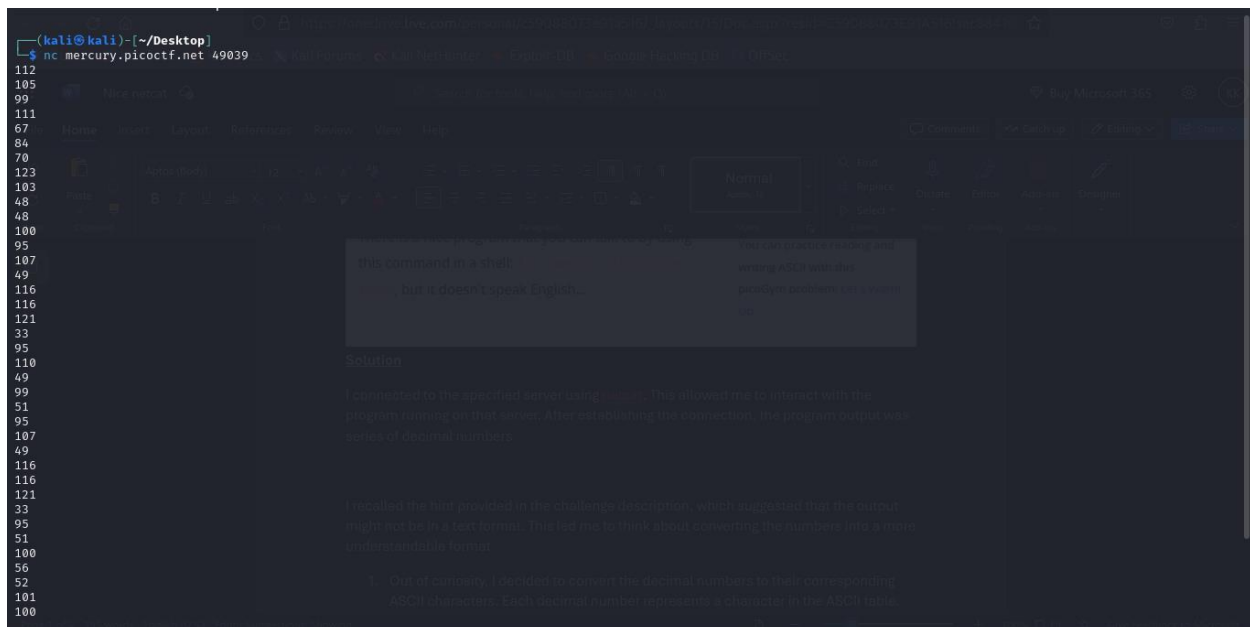
Hints ?

1 2

You can practice reading and writing ASCII with this picoGym problem: [Let's Warm Up](#)

## Solution

I connected to the specified server using **netcat**. This allowed me to interact with the program running on that server. After establishing the connection, the program output was series of decimal numbers.



```
(kali@kali)-[~/Desktop]
$ nc mercury.picoctf.net 49039
112
105
99
111
67
84
70
123
103
48
100
95
107
49
116
116
121
33
95
110
49
99
51
95
107
49
116
116
121
33
95
51
100
56
52
101
100
```

Hint: You can practice reading and writing ASCII with the picoGym problem: [Let's Warm Up](#)

**Solution**

I connected to the specified server using **netcat**. This allowed me to interact with the program running on that server. After establishing the connection, the program output was series of decimal numbers.

I recalled the hint provided in the challenge description, which suggested that the output might not be in a text format. This led me to think about converting the numbers into a more understandable format.

Out of curiosity, I decided to convert the decimal numbers to their corresponding ASCII characters. Each decimal number represents a character in the ASCII table.

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not be in a text format. This led me to think about converting the numbers into a more understandable format.

Out of curiosity, I decided to convert the decimal numbers to their corresponding **ASCII** characters using an online service. Each decimal number represents a character in the ASCII table. After converting all the decimal numbers to their ASCII equivalents, I combined the characters to form a string. The resulting string was "**picoCTF{g00d\_k1tty!\_n1c3\_k1tty!\_3d84edc8}**" which was the flag I was looking for.

### Decimal to ASCII Converter

To convert decimal to ASCII, enter comma-separated decimal numbers and press calculate button

**Decimal**

Random Examples

112 105 99 111 67 84 70 123 103 48  
48 100 95 107 49 116 116 121 33 95  
110 49 99 51 95 107 49 116 116 121  
33 95 51 100 56 52 101 100 99 56  
125 10

↔ Swap

**ASCII**

picoCTF{g00d\_k1tty!\_n1c3\_k1tty!\_3d  
84edc8}

📋