

OSINT Exam writeup (8th solve!)

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September 16, 2025



1 Abstract of challenge

In this challenge we are given a set of six images, each labeled `location_x.jpg`, and we are given the netcat command found in the problem description, in order to connect to the challenge's server. After connecting, we are given a small description of what the location represents, and what information we need to extract from each image. We had to do this 6 times in a row, for all images, and then finally we would get the flag.

1.1 Problem description

Can you pass our OSINT certification exam?
nc 0.cloud.chals.io 27689

2 Solution

2.1 Location 1

2.1.1 Image



2.1.2 Description

1) One of our branch headquarters is located @ <location_1.png>. What is the full name of that coworking space and who is the managing director of that branch?

Format: <name_of_coworking_space><managing_director_name><managing_director_surname>

2.1.3 Solution

The first thing I did was to run the image through MaaSec's in house tool called Big Sister, that combines multiple OSINT tools into a single easy to use GUI. When I pulled the metadata from the image I found an MCCData tag that gives the location where the image was taken as Luxembourg.

MCCData	Luxembourg (270)
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Afterwards, I did a reverse image search with Big Sister and I found the following link, which contained a separate image with the statue: <https://www.host.lu/contact-us>.

After a bit of searching, I found that the actual location is known as the **Luxemburg House of Financial Technology**, found here: <https://lhoft.com/>.

Get in touch



Digging a bit further into the resources of the website, I found the following document, where I found the exact name and surname of the managing director, Petra Krizan from The Blockhouse Technology Ltd. <https://lhoft.com/ecosystem/lhoft-innovators-directory/>.

HOSTED



The BlockHouse Technology
UNITED KINGDOM
www.tbtl.com

The Blockhouse Technology Ltd. is a British technology company founded on the basis of innovative, world-class scientific and technological research.

Petra KRIZAN
Managing Director

2.1.4 Correct input

Finally, the correct input for stage 1 is:

Luxembourg House of Financial Technology Petra Krizan

2.2 Location 2

2.2.1 Image



2.2.2 Description

One of our branch headquarters is located @ <location_2.png>. What is the full address of that building?

Format: <house_number> <street_name> <town> <postcode> <country>

2.2.3 Solution

In this step, I had to find the exact location of this building, which is stated to be the branch headquarters of the company that is being referenced in this challenge, which is **The BlockHouse Technology Ltd**. After searching their name on Google, I found their LinkedIn page, <https://www.linkedin.com/company/blockhouse-technology-ltd/about/> where they have listed an address in the UK as their HQ, located at 2 Staverton Road Oxford OX2 6XJ UK. Finally, after cross referencing with the location on Bing Maps, I concluded that this was the exact location.

2.2.4 Correct input

Finally, the correct input for stage 2 is:

2 Staverton Road Oxford OX2 6XJ UK

2.3 Location 3

2.3.1 Image



2.3.2 Description

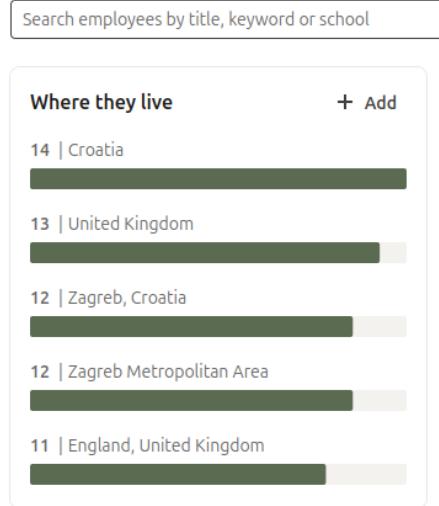
Our branch with the best BBQ is located @ <location_3.png>. What is the full address of that building?

Format: <street_name><house number><postcode><town><country>

2.3.3 Solution

After looking more thoroughly through the company's LinkedIn profile, I found out that there are a lot of employees from Croatia, which implies that there is a branch located somewhere in Croatia as well.

27 associated members



After looking up The Blockhouse Technology Croatia, I stumbled upon this link which gave me the exact address of their office in Zagreb, Croatia, located at Koturaska 51 10000 Zagreb Croatia: <https://ding.jobs/company>. I then cross referenced the view from Google Maps with the building in the image, and they matched perfectly.



2.3.4 Correct input

Finally, the correct input for stage 3 is:

Koturaska 51 10000 Zagreb Croatia

2.4 Location 4

2.4.1 Image



2.4.2 Description

Two of our team members ran a road race together earlier this year @ <location_4.png>. What city was the race at and what were their finish times (hh:mm:ss)?

Format: <city> <slower_result> <faster_result>

2.4.3 Solution

In this step, we needed to find the names of these two employees of Block-House Technology just from this image. Thankfully for us, at least one of the employees was a lot easier to track than the other. This was by far the most difficult step of the entire challenge, and I am sure most people that could not solve this challenge got stuck at exactly this step, therefore I will dedicate subsections for each part of the solution, so that I can explain properly what I did to solve this challenge.

2.4.4 City

The easiest part of this step was finding the city where the marathon was taking place. If you pay close attention to the medals on both of the John Does, you can see that there is written Aj Bell.



When googling Aj Bell marathons, we only get options from the UK, which is fine, since the HQ is located in the UK. After fine tuning my searches to fit

the time frame of the challenge, I have confirmed that the marathon was the AJ Bell Great Manchester Run 2025.

<https://www.greatrun.org/news/aj-bell-great-manchester-run-2025-weekend-of-running-begins/>

Another very important piece of information that I found about this marathon, is the fact that they have a website dedicated to finding the exact times a person ran for the marathon, both for the half marathon and the 10 km run. In this challenge I only looked at the 10 km run, which thankfully was the correct decision:

<https://track.rtrt.me/e/GR-MANCHESTER-2025#/dash/RT7EV32D>.

I have also found a website that has a database of all of the images taken during the marathon, where you could find a person based on their name or their running number, which also proved extremely useful to confirm the identities of the runners:

<https://marathonphotos.live/Event/Sports%2FGRUK%2F2025%2FGreat%20Manchester%20Run/1>

Finally, the city was: [Manchester](#)

2.4.5 John Doe 1: Ivan Paljak

This was the easiest of the two unknown individuals to identify, since they had a small social media presence, and they were found to be very directly involved with everything related to BlockHouse Technology. Therefore, I started my research by looking at all of the posts done by BlockHouse Technology on LinkedIn. Finally, I found a post which had 3 people, and one of them looked almost identical to the runner on the left:

 The Blockhouse Technology Ltd. reposted this ...

 **FortID**
75 followers
2mo • 

+ Follow

Go go go **Nexus Luxembourg** 2025 

Meet us at the booth 113 in Puretech district!

If you're interested in speeding up your on-boarding procedures and KYC, stop-by for a chat and we'll be happy to assist! 

Kamel Amroune Mike Koedinger Antony Martini Alex Panican Ivan Paljak Matija Bertović Anki Zizic The Blockhouse Technology Ltd.



 Ivan Paljak and 24 others

1 comment • 5 reposts

[Clickable Link to post](#)

When zooming into the person on the right, we can see that they are the same person as the runner on the left in the photo given to us.

Therefore, the identity of the first runner is: **Ivan Paljak**.

And after confirming his identity using the websites listed above, I have

obtained his running number as **3794**, with a time of **53:04**:

Ivan Paljak
10K, Pen: Orange Bib 3794

Great Manchester Run
10K, Pen: Orange

Ivan Paljak completed the Great Manchester Run 10K, Pen: Orange

⌚ Finish Time
53:04
05:19 min/km

3,424th Place ➔
Overall

2,816th Place ➔
by Gender

1,297th Place ➔
M SEN yrs

PRELIMINARY: Times and places may change

Splits

Point	Time	Time of Day	Pace
Start	00:00:00	11:52:33 am	---

[Donate Now](#) [Photos](#)

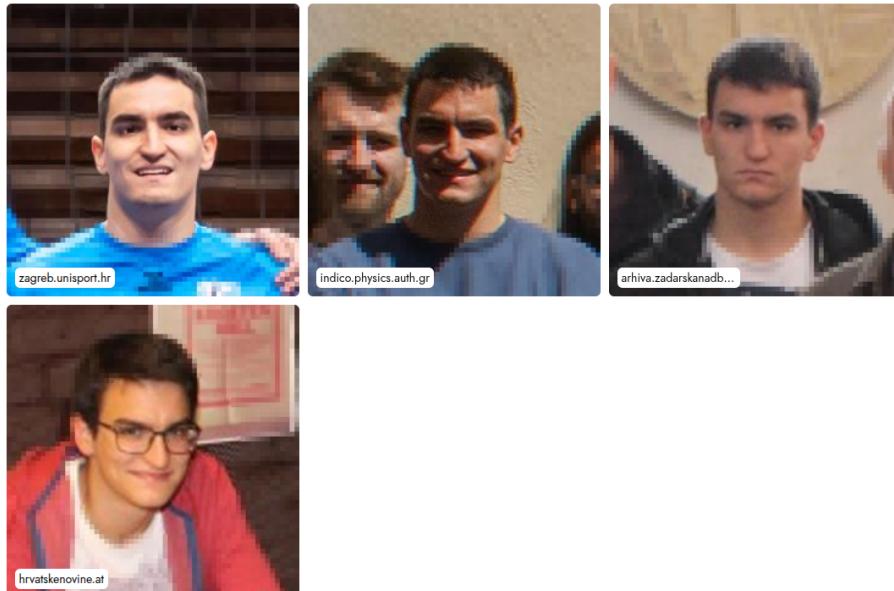
Finally, the time extracted was: **53:04**

2.4.6 John Doe 2: Luka Tomic

Finding the identity of the second runner though was the hardest part of this entire challenge by far, taking me around 12 hours to fully confirm the identity of this person. At first, I went deep and searched Ivan's identity more thoroughly, finding his old futsal team called **Tridesetaja**, since in stage 5

both Ivan and the second runner are in the same futsal team. Unfortunately for me, this search proved meaningless, even looking at Ivan's github repositories did not help.

Thankfully for me, I made a huge breakthrough by doing a facial recognition scan of the guy on the right, and it came back with these results:



Link to facial scan results.

Very annoyingly though, accessing the links was stuck behind a paywall that I was not going to pay just to solve this challenge. I noticed that the best option of these links was the one with Zagreb's sports association: <https://zagreb.unisport.hr/en/galerija>.

Since there were so many sports listed, I looked a bit more thoroughly at the image given by the facial recognition software, and I deduced that it had to have been an indoors team sport, since the background suggested as such, and also there was an arm around the neck of the person of interest.

After looking at hundreds of images for sports such as Futsal, Handball and Volleyball, from 2020 to 2025, I finally stumbled upon this image inside of the Google Drive volleyball team games from 2021:



[Clickable Link to Google Drive](#). The name of the file is: **Tetra_UniZG_odbo-jka_m_30**

If we look at player 5, we can see that they are the same person as our second runner. Now, we had to identify them and find their actual name in order to find their times at the marathon. After taking a close look at the shirt of the player, we can see the following logo:



This is a university seal, and after looking more on the website, I found the full name of the university, which is: **Prirodoslovno-matematički fakultet**, and I also found their volleyball team, where I found none other than our second runner, **Luka Tomic**:



LUKA TOMIĆ

Natjecanja u kojima sudjeluje Luka Tomić

[Clickable Link to Luka Tomic](#)

Finally, after running the name Luka Tomic in the database of the marathon, we get the following result:

Luka Tomic
10K, Pen: Orange Bib 2813

Great Manchester Run
10K, Pen: Orange

Luka Tomic completed the Great Manchester Run 10K, Pen: Orange

⌚ Finish Time
49:12
04:56 min/km

2,081st Place ➤
Overall

1,780th Place ➤
by Gender

855th Place ➤
M SEN yrs

PRELIMINARY: Times and places may change

Splits

Point	Time	Time of Day	Pace
Start	00:00:00	11:50:36 am	---

Finally, the time extracted was: **49:12**

2.4.7 Correct input

Finally, the correct input for stage 4 is:

Manchester 00:53:04 00:49:12

2.5 Location 5

2.5.1 Image



2.5.2 Description

The squad from our Zagreb office took part in a local charity futsal tournament in 2024 @ <location_5.png>. What was the tournament called and what place did they win?

Format: <tournament_name> <place_won>

2.5.3 Solution

Since this was a charity event specifically located in the city of Zagreb, it was not very difficult to find an actual article that was talking about this specific charity futsal match online:

Clickable Futsal Match Link

The name of the charity event was: **Kopacka solidarnosti**, and after reading through the article a little bit it was easy to deduce that the team got third in the tournament.

2.5.4 Correct input

Finally, the correct input for stage 5 is:

Kopacka solidarnosti Third

2.6 Location 6

2.6.1 Image



2.6.2 Description

One of our senior members has an artistic side to them as you can see from the beautiful flower @ <location_6.png>. What is the name of the book with that member's self-portrait on its cover?

Format: <book title>

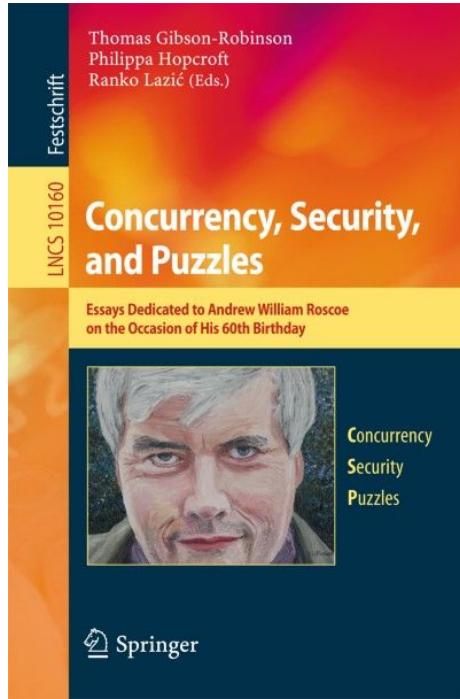
2.6.3 Solution

This description gives us a lot of useful information for the search of this book. The first thing I did was look at BlockHouse Technology's Meet the Team section, <https://www.tbt.com/meet-the-team/>, where I found the Google Scholar page of **Bill Roscoe**, founder of BlockHouse Technology, where I found an interesting fact:



Bill Roscoe's Google Scholar Link

We can see that in his profile picture, he has put a self portrait that was drawn in a very similar style to the image, meaning that Bill Roscoe is the man we are looking for. Finally, after looking on Google Books for Bill Roscoe, we find this book:



2.6.4 Correct input

Finally, the correct input for stage 6 is:
Concurrency, Security, and Puzzles

3 Flag

After inputting all of the correct inputs in the prompts, we finally get the flag:

FortID{C3rt1f3d_0p3n_50urc3_1n73l1genc3_M45t3r}

4 Conclusion

This was by far the most difficult OSINT challenge I've completed so far, so it was really satisfying to be in the top 10 teams to get it. It was a really well made and extremely interesting challenge, that really made me go crazy at some points but it was totally worth it.

Challenge	26 Solves
Name	Date
Lil LBak	September 12th, 6:47:34 PM
napwnli	September 12th, 8:03:50 PM
FINA CA	September 12th, 8:45:03 PM
Th3 Arch173cts	September 12th, 11:22:44 PM
\$cr1pt_K1dd13\$	September 13th, 12:16:18 AM
Kernel_Sanders	September 13th, 7:40:53 AM
sigpwny	September 13th, 9:15:03 AM
MaaSec	September 13th, 12:29:29 PM
w4llz	September 13th, 3:23:11 PM
0M3G4_SQU4D	September 13th, 4:15:57 PM
IT-Security Club	September 13th, 5:18:36 PM
Thr4t Hunting	September 13th, 6:39:52 PM