

THE UPSIDE DOWN FILES



PDF 1 – THE GHOST PROTOCOL



Story Premise

At exactly **2:17 PM**, every system in the lab flashed the same message:

“I am already inside.”

A mysterious digital entity called GHOST has infiltrated the network.

It isn't destroying files.

It's playing a game.

It has locked 3 encrypted files across the system.

If you solve them in time, the network survives.

If not... the lab goes dark.

You have **60 minutes** before the Ghost wipes the grid.

The countdown has begun.



CLUE 1 — The Forgotten Place

The screen flickers.

A single message appears:

A place where all files, folders, and apps go first when they are removed from existence. It remembers what you try to erase.

Open it.

Kabir immediately double-clicks.

It opens.

Empty.

On every system.

Just one line inside. . .

Silence.

Aman reads it again. Slowly. “This...”

Riya’s eyes widen.

“It’s not empty. That sentence is the clue.”

The Ghost never said the answer was hidden in the files.

It was hidden in the words.

Instruction:

Count the total number of words displayed inside that place.

That number is your first key fragment.

The lab lights dim slightly.



CLUE 2 — The First Virus

The screen glitches again.

New text types itself out:

Before the modern threats...

there was the first infection.

Find the year it was born.

Kabir searches rapidly.

Aman cross-checks sources.

Riya watches the timer drop.

“Not recent,” she says. “The very first.”

They find it. The origin of digital infection.

Instruction:

Find the year it was created.

Take the last two digits of that year.

This becomes your **second key fragment**.

The Ghost is watching.



CLUE 3 — The Silent Document

The next page shows only a blank screen. No explanation.

At the bottom, just two words: Save me.

Kabir tries to download the image — nothing new.

Aman searches inside the page — nothing useful.

Riya stops. “**It never said the image,**” she whispers.

She closes the page.

Right-clicks the PDF itself..

Aman leans closer. “**What are we looking for?**”

Riya scans the details tab carefully.

Metadata. Numbers. Hidden information.

“**The Size Measured In KB,**” Aman reads again.

Not the image. Not the page preview. The document container.

The Ghost never hid the clue in what you see.

It hid it in what carries it.





PASSWORD RULE TO UNLOCK PDF 2

To unlock the next file, combine:

- The word count from the forgotten place
- The last two digits of the first virus's creation year
- The last two digits of the PDF file size in kb

Enter them in sequence.

No spaces. No symbols.

If correct, the Ghost lets you pass.

If not...

The grid goes dark.
