

THE UPSIDE DOWN FILES



PDF 1 - THE FIRST SIGNAL

Story Premise

At exactly **2:30 PM**, the college's central digital server went offline.

Moments before the shutdown, three encrypted files were transmitted.

This is the first.

Somewhere inside it lies the recovery protocol.

You have **60 minutes** before the system permanently wipes itself.

- Decode the clues.
- Perform the actions.
- Unlock the next file.
- Restore control.

Failure means total shutdown.

The clock has already started.



CLUE 1 — *The Identity Test*

A single sentence appears on the screen:

- **Every machine is connected to the network via which the virtual world is connected. Find yours!**

Riya scans the CPU label.

Kabir checks the monitor sticker.

Aman opens “About This PC.”

“Nothing matches...” Aman mutters.

Then — a small icon in the corner of the screen flickers.

Riya freezes. “Wait... every machine is connected to the network...”

A name appears. Not on the hardware. Not printed anywhere. Inside the system itself.

Instruction:

Locate the network name your system is connected to.

Count the total number of LETTERS ONLY in that name.

That number is your **first key fragment**.

The server hum grows louder.



CLUE 2 — *The Connected World*

The screen glitches again.

Text types itself slowly:

Not the oldest platform.

Not the one for long posts.

The one that turned photos into filters...

and followers into influence.

Kabir leans back. “Social media?”

Riya shakes her head. “Not just social media. The one that changed how people post.”

Aman snaps his fingers. “The one that made stories addictive.”

The answer hangs in the air. Browsers open. Search bars fill.

Instruction:

Identify the platform described.

Find the year it was officially launched.

Take the last two digits of that year.

This becomes your **second key fragment**.

The timer drops lower.



CLUE 3 — *The Hidden Pixel*

The next page shows only an image.

No instructions. No explanation.

Kabir zooms in. “Hidden text?”

Aman adjusts the brightness. “Maybe it’s encoded?”

Riya doesn’t speak. She right-clicks the image.

Nothing unusual.

She tries to save it but fails. Checks its properties.

Silence. “Nothing useful...”

The room grows tense.

Then Riya slowly looks at the top of the screen. Not at the image. At the file name.

“The clue was never the picture,” she whispers.

She closes the image window.

Right-clicks the **PDF itself**. And there it is.

Not in the pixels. Not in the dimensions.

In the document that carried it. The size. Measured in KB.

The server was never hiding the clue in the image.

It was hiding it in the container.



PASSWORD RULE TO UNLOCK PDF 2

To unlock the next file, combine:

- The network LETTER (ONLY) count
- The last two digits of the platform's launch year
- The last two digits of the PDF file size in kb.

Enter them in sequence.

No spaces. No symbols.

If correct, the system responds.

If not... The wipe continues.
