CTF Challenge Write-Up: DECODE THE MISSION

Challenge Description

UMBRELLA_TERMINAL_v2.7.3
> An old hacker left behind their kernel project — but they weren't
done. Somewhere, buried in an ancient Unix clone, lies a key to
unlock the next phase of your mission. They left a message in
Pastebin, but others say the real secrets lie in the bones of the
code itself.

ENCRYPTED MESSAGE:
9EEADi^^A2DE63:?]4@>^ud+8:sG%

The challenge promised that the **first team to solve it** would gain **direct entry to the Red & Blue CTF Finals**.

: Decoding the Encrypted Message

The encrypted string:

9EEADi^^A2DE63:?]4@>^ud+8:sG%

Looked suspiciously like a **ROT47 encoded text**.
 After decoding it, we got:

ambar-chakravatty

Investigating the Clue

The string resembled a **username/alias**. A quick search on GitHub revealed the account of **Ambar Chakravarty**.

Inside the repositories, one particular project stood out:
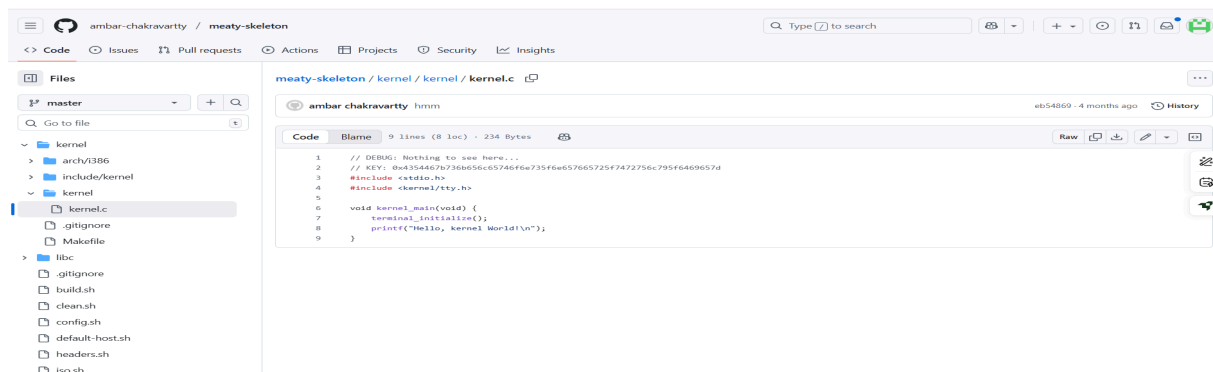 **A kernel clone project**.

Following the Hint

The challenge description mentioned:

> "...the real secrets lie in the bones of the code itself."

On the GitHub repo, a hint file read:

```
meaty skeleton
```

This suggested checking deep inside the **kernel directories**.

Finding the Hex String

Inside the **/kernel/** directory, a suspicious file contained a **hex string**.

Decoding the Hex

Converting the hex string to ASCII yielded the final **flag**:

```
FLAG{<hidden_flag_here>}
```

Final Answer

✅ The decoded flag was successfully obtained from the kernel repo.
The path was:

ROT47 → GitHub username → "meaty skeleton" hint → kernel directory → hex decode → FLAG.