

Hack the Cookie

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Platform: HackerDNA

Difficulty: Very Easy Level

URL: <https://hackerdna.com/labs/hack-the-cookie>

Objective:

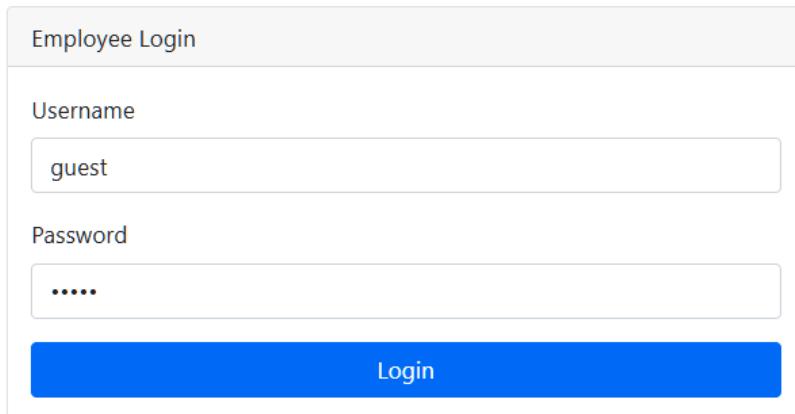
Manipulate the cookies to gain admin access to the site.

Tool Needed: [Base64](#)

Test Site being used in this scenario / documentation <https://hack-the-cookie.tiny.io> :

Objective: Try to obtain admin access to TechCorp

TechCorp



The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying a login page for 'TechCorp'. The page has a light gray header bar with the text 'Employee Login'. Below this, there are two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. The 'Username' field contains the value 'guest'. The 'Password' field contains the value '.....'. At the bottom of the form is a large blue rectangular button with the word 'Login' in white text.

Click Login

Open Developer Tools → Application → Cookies

In your browser:

1. Press **F12**
2. Go to **Application** (Chrome) or **Storage** (Firefox)
3. Click **Cookies**
4. Select the site domain
 1. You will be looking for something with **user_session**.
If not, hit F5 to conduct a refresh of cookies and you should see the session now.

Screenshot of the Chrome DevTools Application tab showing cookies for the domain `https://hack-the-cookie.tiiny.io`. A red box highlights the cookie name `user_session`, and a red arrow points from the cookie value in the table to the URL in the sidebar.

Name	Value	Dom...	Path	Expir...	Size	Http...	Secure
PHPSESSID	8a60e92c9e01a40a17a63549ff39f4b7	hack...	/	Sessi...	41		
<code>user_session</code>	eyJ1c2VyX2lkjoxLCJ1c2VybmcFtZSI6Imd1ZXN0Iiwicm9sZSI6Imd1ZXN0IiwizW1haWwiOjJndWVzdEB0ZWNoY29ycC5sb2NhbcJ9	hack...	/	2026...	116		

Decode the cookie (Use [Base64 Encoder](#))

Screenshot of the **BASE64** Decode and Encode tool. The **Decode** button is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow points to the input field where the cookie value is pasted.

Decode from Base64 format
 Simply enter your data then push the decode button.

eyJ1c2VyX2lkjoxLCJ1c2VybmcFtZSI6Imd1ZXN0Iiwicm9sZSI6Imd1ZXN0IiwizW1haWwiOjJndWVzdEB0ZWNoY29ycC5sb2NhbcJ9
 Enter Cookie Value in this box

For encoded binaries (like images, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a little further down on this page.

Source character set: UTF-8
 Decode each line separately (useful for when you have multiple entries).
 Live mode OFF Decodes in real-time as you type or paste (supports only the UTF-8 character set).

< DECODE > Decodes your data into the area below.

{"user_id":1,"username":"guest","role":"guest","email":"guest@techcorp.local"}
 Change "guest" to "admin"

This means you can **change the credentials** and the server will believe you.

Now **Encode** the new value:

The screenshot shows a web application titled "BASE64" with a green header. The header includes links for "Decode" and "Encode", with "Encode" being highlighted by a red box. Below the header, there is a message: "Do you have to deal with **Base64** format? Then this site is perfect for you! Use our super handy online tool to **encode** or decode your data." A language selection bar at the top right shows "Language: English Español Português".

Encode to Base64 format

Simply enter your data then push the encode button.

```
{"user_id":1,"username":"guest","role":"admin","email":"guest@techcorp.local"}
```

To encode binaries (like images, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a little further down on this page.

Destination character set: UTF-8

Destination newline separator: LF (Unix)

Checkboxes (unchecked):

- Encode each line separately (useful for when you have multiple entries).
- Split lines into 76 character wide chunks (useful for MIME).
- Perform URL-safe encoding (uses Base64URL format).

Live mode OFF (radio button selected) Encodes in real-time as you type or paste (supports only the UTF-8 character set).

ENCODE (button highlighted by a red box) Encodes your data into the area below.

```
eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjoxLCJ1c2VybmcFtZSI6Imd1ZXN0Iiwicm9sZSI6ImFkbWluliwiZW1haWwiOiJndVVzdEB0ZWNoY29ycC5sb2NhCj9
```

Paste the new value in your cookie session as seen in the next screen shot.

With the modified cookie in place now, we need to refresh the page (F5) to see if our elevated privilege to show as seen below.

After refreshing, the page should now display the admin access or link to log in.

This confirms that our cookie manipulation was successful and we've elevated our privileges from guest to admin.

The page will also show a flag that is needed to complete the course.

It should display below in RED.

The screenshot shows a browser window with the 'Application' tab selected in the developer tools. In the main pane, there's a list of storage types: Manifest, Service workers, Storage, Local storage, Session storage, Extension storage, IndexedDB, Cookies, Shared storage, Cache storage, and Storage buckets. Under Cookies, a cookie named 'user_session' is listed with a value of 'eyJt...'. A red arrow points from this row to a text box labeled 'Paste the new cookie value here and click F5 to refresh page'. Another red arrow points from the 'user_session' row to a message 'Admin Rights now granted'.

The left side of the screen shows a portion of a web application titled 'TechCorp Internal Portal'. It has a 'Logout' button and a 'Quick Links' sidebar with 'Dashboard', 'My Profile', 'Documents', and 'Admin Panel' (which is highlighted with a red arrow). Below the sidebar, a green box displays the message 'Administrator access granted.' A red box highlights a redacted area containing the word 'FLAG:' followed by a redacted value. A red arrow points from this area up towards the developer tools pane.

Copy and paste this code in the required field indicated as in the below example.

The screenshot shows a challenge interface with a dark theme. At the top, there are buttons for 'Flags Mode', 'Learning Mode', 'Official Solution', and 'Community Writeups'. Below this, a section titled 'OPEN THE TARGET AND FIND THE FLAGS' contains a text input field with the placeholder 'flag-user.txt' and a red arrow pointing to it. To the right of the input field are two buttons: 'Submit' and 'Upgrade Now'. A small badge indicates '+5 pts'. At the bottom of the challenge area, there's a note 'Then Click Submit' with a red arrow pointing to it.

It might be displayed prominently on the page or you might need to look around a bit to find it.