Include Me

https://hackerdna.com/labs/include-me

Start the machine, hack the system, and find the hidden flags to complete this challenge and earn points!

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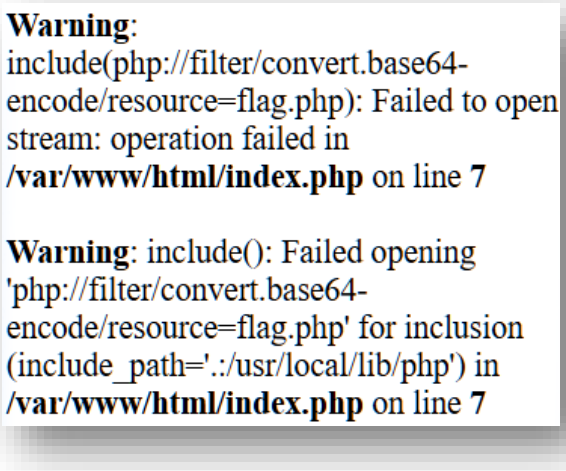
Platform: HackerDNA
Difficulty: Easy Level
Flag Points: 10 (1 flag worth +10 pts)
**Additional points can be earned by doing a community Writeup*
Objective: This lab is designed to focuses on **file inclusion** — usually **Local File Inclusion (LFI)** or **parameter manipulation**.
Target Example: https://hackerdna.com/labs/include-me

Start Lab Challenge

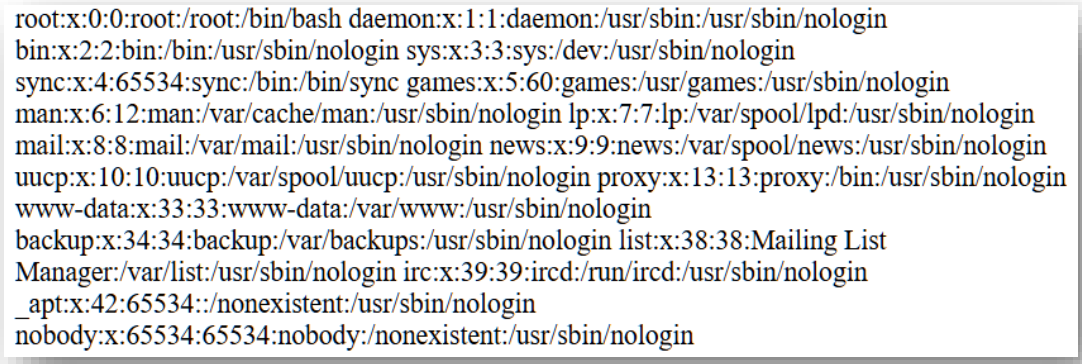
If you see the below, You are in the right spot, but the error message you're seeing tells us something important: the file ***flag.php*** does not exist in the current folder.

The error Failed to open stream: operation failed means the PHP wrapper tried to find that resource and came up empty. Since **the lab goal is flag.txt**, you will need to pivot your strategy.



When you receive the below screen shot example,

You've successfully exploited the **Local File Inclusion (LFI)** vulnerability.
What you are looking at this point is the **/etc/passwd** file of the server.
In the Linux world, this is a sensitive system file that lists every user account on the machine.



What you are looking at above is the /etc/passwd file. In the cybersecurity world, seeing this is a "Eureka!" moment because it proves you have successfully broken out of the web application and are now reading internal files from the server's operating system.

What that list tells us:

Every line is a user account. You are looking for "real" people who might have a flag in their folder.

- **The bad news:** Looking at the screen shot above, there are no "extra" users like michael or hacker. It's just standard system accounts (like root, bin, www-data).
- **The good news:** This means the flag is likely in a standard location, not a hidden user folder.

Your Final Mission:

Now that you've proven you can reach the system files, we need to find the specific file named flag.txt.

Hunt for the Flag

1. **Check for a flag file in the current directory:** http://54.76.20.62/index.php?page=php://filter/convert.base64-encode/resource=flag.php *(If this works, decode the resulting string to see the flag.)*
2. **Check the** /etc/passwd file **(to find usernames):** http://54.76.20.62/index.php?page=/etc/passwd *Look for any unusual users at the bottom of the list.*
3. **Check for hidden files (Path Traversal):** http://54.76.20.62/index.php?page=../../../../etc/hostname *(This confirms how many directories "up" you need to go to reach the root.)*

Test for Path Traversal. Attempt to access the target file by navigating outside the web root by using **../** sequences.

Why this should work:

1. index.php?page= is the "hole" in the fence.
2. ../../../../ climbs all the way to the "top" of the server's hard drive.
3. flag.txt is the target file the lab told us to find.

If a random string of text (the Flag) appears on the screen, copy it and paste it into the HackerDNA "Flags" tab to finish the lab!