

# Cookie Hacking

## Objective:

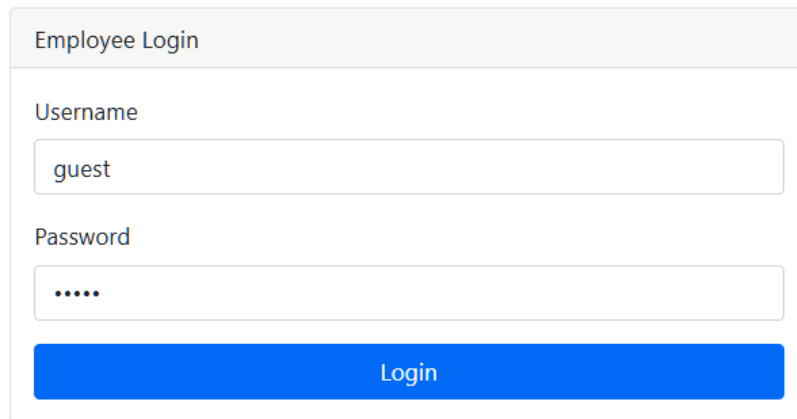
Manipulate the cookies to gain admin access to the site.

**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 screenshot shows a web form titled "Employee Login" for "TechCorp". It contains two input fields: "Username" with the value "guest" and "Password" with masked characters ".....". Below the fields is a blue "Login" button.

**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.

Application

Manifest

Service workers

Storage

Storage

- Local storage
- Session storage
- Extension storage
- IndexedDB
- Cookies
  - https://hack-the-cookie.tiiny.io
  - Private state tokens
  - Interest groups
- Bounce tracking mitigations
- Notifications
- Payment handler
- Periodic background sync
- Speculative loads
- Push messaging

Name	Value	Dom...	Path	Expir...	Size	Http...	Secure
PHPSESSID	8a60e92c9e01a40a17a63549ff39f4b7	hack...	/	Sessi...	41		
user_session	eyJ1c2VyX2lkjoxL...	hack...	/	2026...	116		

Cookie Value ☐ Show URL-decoded

eyJ1c2VyX2lkjoxL...

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

**BASE64** Decode and Encode

☒ Decode ☐ Encode

Language: English Español Português Français Deutsch

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.

**Decode from Base64 format**

Simply enter your data then push the decode button.

eyJ1c2VyX2lkjoxL...

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.

UTF-8 Source character set.

☐ 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:

**BASE64** Decode and Encode

Decode Encode

Language: English Español Português

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.

### 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.

UTF-8 Destination character set.

LF (Unix) Destination newline separator.

☐ 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 Encodes in real-time as you type or paste (supports only the UTF-8 character set).

**> ENCODE <** Encodes your data into the area below.

```
eyJ1c2VyX2lkjoxLCJ1c2VybmFtZSI6Imd1ZXN0liwicm9sZSI6ImFkbWluliwiZW1haWwiOiJndWVzdEB0ZWNoY29ycC5sb2NhbCJ9
```

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 the 'TechCorp Internal Portal' interface on the left and a browser's developer tools on the right. In the portal, the 'Admin Panel' link is highlighted with a red arrow. Below it, a green box says 'Administrator access granted.' Underneath that, a red box labeled 'Sensitive Information' contains a red box with the text 'FLAG: 74'. A red arrow points from this flag to the 'user\_session' cookie in the browser's Application tab. The cookie's value is 'eyJ1c2VyX2lkjoiLC11c2VyYb...'. A red arrow points from this value to a text box with the instruction 'Paste the new cookie value here and click F5 to refresh page'. Another red arrow points from the 'Admin Rights now granted' message in the browser's console to the 'FLAG: 74' in the portal.

Name	Value	D...	Pa...	Ex...	Size	Ht...	S
PHPSESSID	Ba60e92c9e01a40a17a6354...	h...	/	Se...	41		
user_session	eyJ1c2VyX2lkjoiLC11c2VyYb...	h...	/	20...	116		

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 tabs for 'Flags Mode' (selected) and 'Learning Mode'. On the right, there are buttons for 'Official Solution' and 'Community Writeups'. Below these, there is a green box with the text 'OPEN THE TARGET AND FIND THE FLAGS'. Underneath, there is a file icon and the text 'flag-user.txt' with a downward arrow. Below this, there is a text input field with a placeholder text 'XXXXXXXXXX\_XXXX\_XXXX\_XXXXXXXXXX'. To the right of the input field, there is a green button with a checkmark and the text 'Submit'. Above the 'Submit' button, there is a text 'Then Click Submit' with a downward arrow. To the right of the 'Submit' button, there is a green button with a plus sign and the text 'Upgrade Now'.

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