

**1. Please describe how you finished Task I**

First, find the hidden directory by inspecting `/etc/crontab`. Then, read `crack_me.log` character by character and xor each character by a key. Try every possible key until a readable output is discovered. Finally, replace the number and encrypt the file back.

**2. Please propose three security settings in SSH server that can prevent common dictionary attack**

- a. Install safety module like fail2ban so that the attacker will be banned after trying just a few passwords.
- b. Disable password login and use private key authentication instead, since it is much harder to brute force a private key.
- c. Accept connection only from trusted IPs and networks.

**3. Please explain why Linux differentiates crontab into three types (users, system and applications).**

By doing so, it will be easier to manage various cronjob, for example, if an application is to install a new job, it can simply place a file in `cron.d/`. And if the user wants to delete such application, cron jobs can also be easily cleanup by deleting a file. Furthermore, the operating system can have better permission control. The OS can restrict the permission of `/etc/crontab` so that normal users will not be able to edit critical system cron jobs.