

Introduction

Capture the Flag (CTF) Competition Analysis

A CTF file is a media collection catalog created by Where Is It, a discontinued Windows application. It contains a detailed record of a user's media collection, including physical CDs and DVDs, as well as digital files such as .MP3 and .MP4. The file not only lists these media items but also stores metadata about them, making it easier for users to manage and organize their media libraries. Through the CTF format, Where Is It enabled users to keep comprehensive and searchable catalogs of their diverse media collections (Galle, 2017).

Challenges:

1. **Open-source intelligence (OSINT):** Open-source intelligence involves collecting information from publicly available sources. OSINT tasks may include finding specific information about individuals, organizations, or other entities using social media, websites, and other public data.

Method: used The UserRecon tool

2. **Geolocation:** Geolocation tasks involve determining the physical location of a user. Methods include using the HTML5 API, cell signals, BSSID, and IP addresses. Pairing an IP address with a geographical location is commonly used in these challenges

Method: used wigle

3. **Cryptography:** Cryptography tasks typically involve decrypting or encrypting data. Participants must apply their knowledge of cryptographic techniques to solve these challenges.

Method: used cyberchef and cryptii

4. **Steganography:** Steganography tasks involve finding hidden information within files or images. Participants use various tools and techniques to uncover concealed data.

Method: used Neatnik

5. **Hash Cracking:** Cracking passwords is a crucial skill in penetration testing. Participants must crack hashes to reveal plaintext passwords or other data.

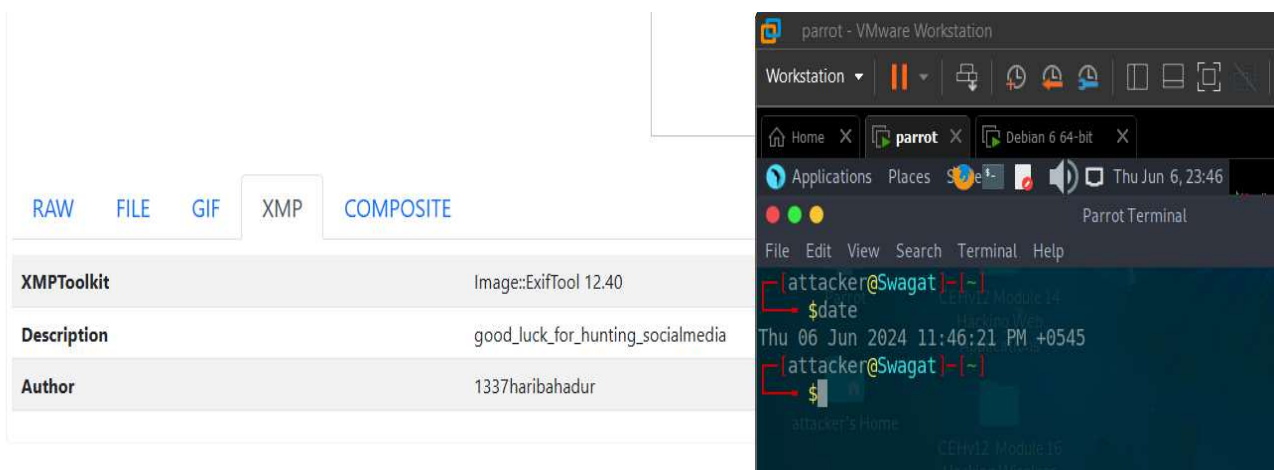
Method: used crackstation

6. **Unprintable Text Decoding:** This task involves decoding text that is not easily printable or visible. Participants may use different decoding techniques to uncover the hidden message.

7. **Flag Submission:** For each challenge, participants must submit the flag to earn points. Flags are unique identifiers that confirm the successful completion of a task.

Ways to tackle challenges and process to capture the flag are as followed:

I downloaded the gif file named hari.gif. Then my first task was to find the author's name for further processing so I used exifmeta website to find the files metadata which might contain useful insights like author's name , Description and so on. From there I found author's name which was 1337haribhadur as shown in fig:



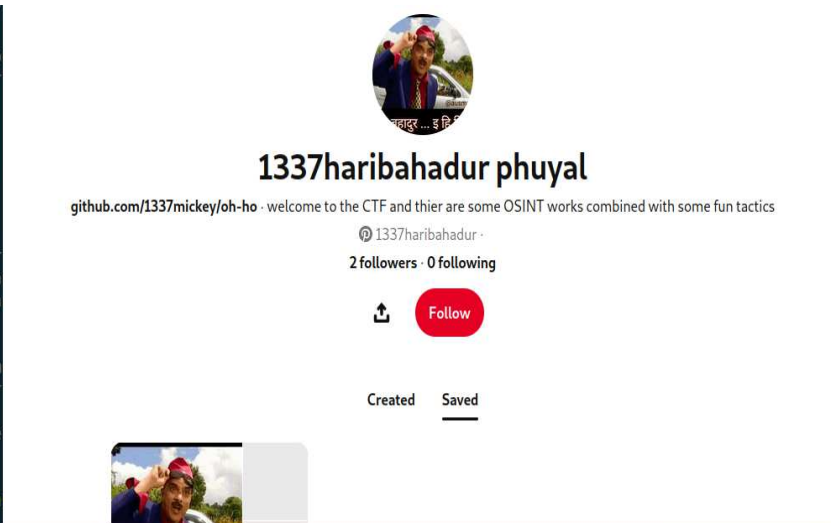
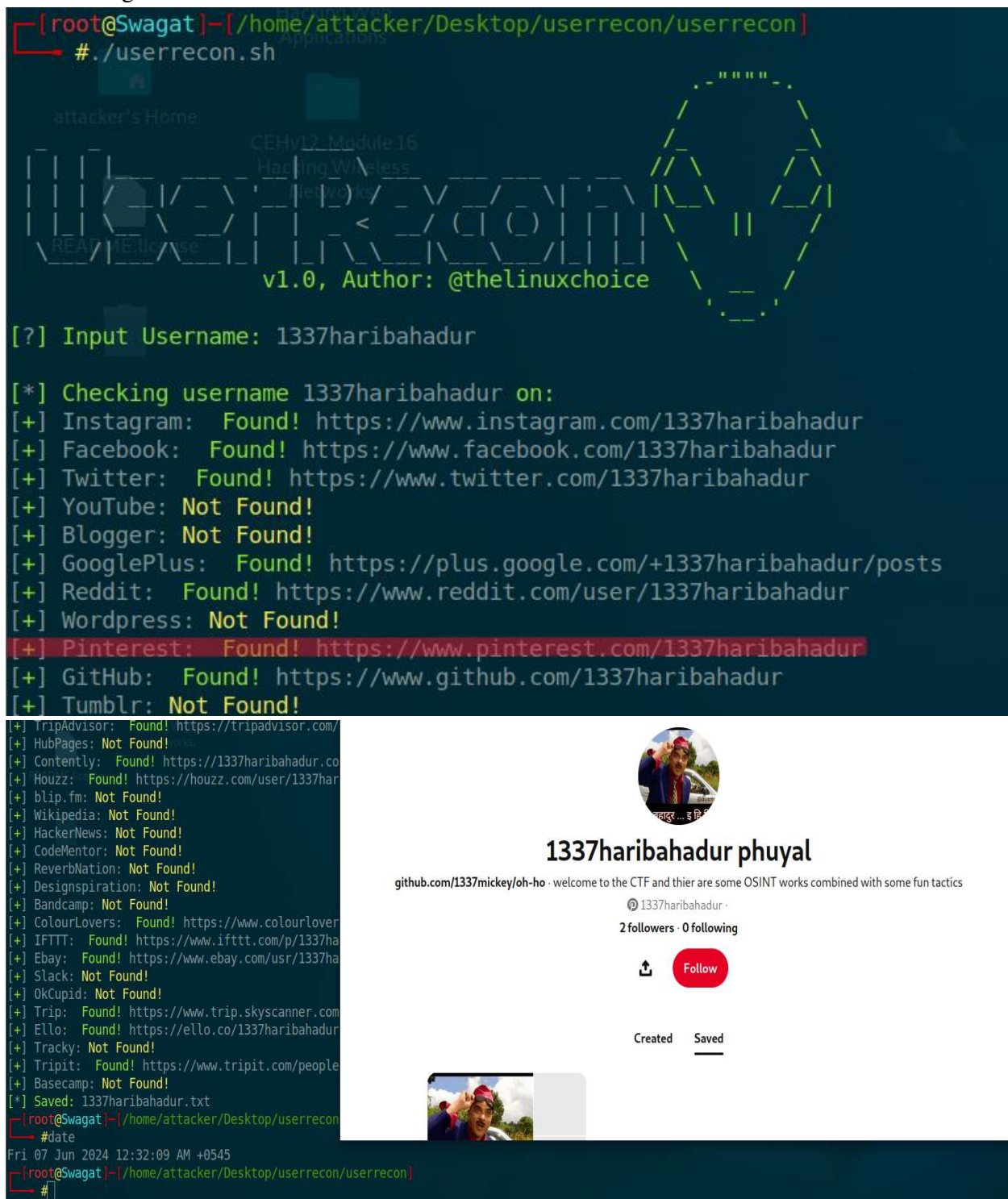
After finding Author's name 1337haribahadur the OSINT phage begins where I used UserRecon to find Author's social media. As expected, I got author's social media which was on pinterest as shown in fig below:

```
[root@Swagat]~/home/attacker/Desktop/userrecon/userrecon
# ./userrecon.sh

attacker's Home
CEHv12 Module 16
Hacking Wireless
Networks
v1.0, Author: @thelinuxchoice

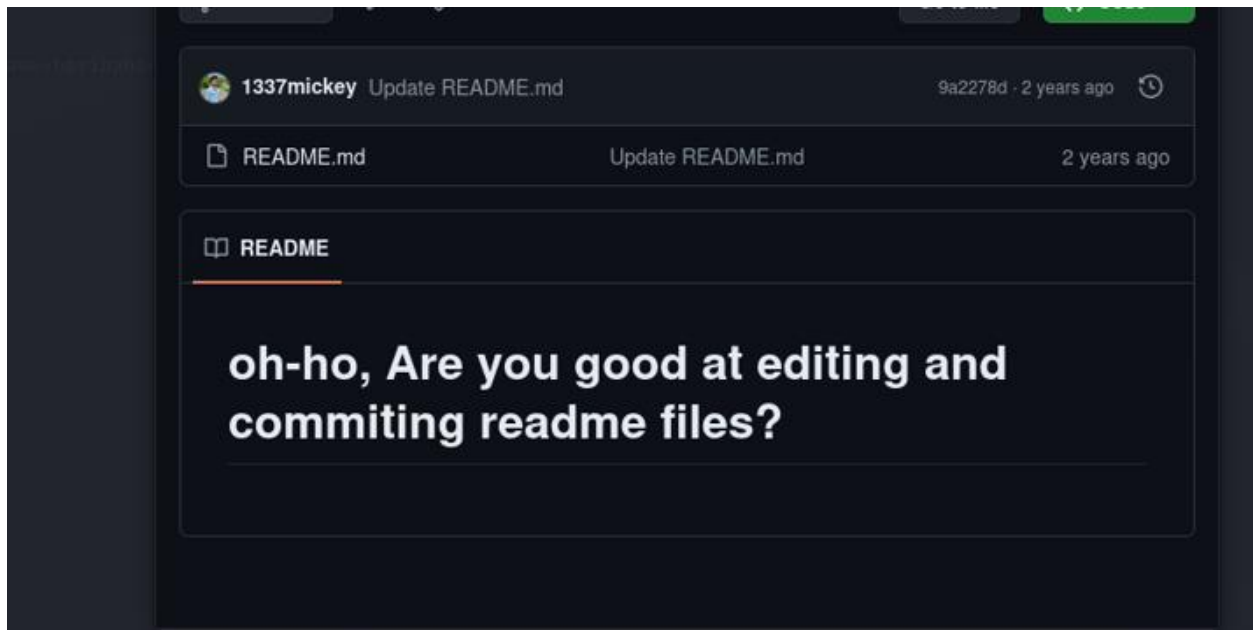
[?] Input Username: 1337haribahadur

[*] Checking username 1337haribahadur on:
[+] Instagram: Found! https://www.instagram.com/1337haribahadur
[+] Facebook: Found! https://www.facebook.com/1337haribahadur
[+] Twitter: Found! https://www.twitter.com/1337haribahadur
[+] YouTube: Not Found!
[+] Blogger: Not Found!
[+] GooglePlus: Found! https://plus.google.com/+1337haribahadur/posts
[+] Reddit: Found! https://www.reddit.com/user/1337haribahadur
[+] Wordpress: Not Found!
[+] Pinterest: Found! https://www.pinterest.com/1337haribahadur
[+] GitHub: Found! https://www.github.com/1337haribahadur
[+] Tumblr: Not Found!
[+] TripAdvisor: Found! https://tripadvisor.com/
[+] HubPages: Not Found!
[+] Contently: Found! https://1337haribahadur.co
[+] Houzz: Found! https://houzz.com/user/1337har
[+] blip.fm: Not Found!
[+] Wikipedia: Not Found!
[+] HackerNews: Not Found!
[+] CodeMentor: Not Found!
[+] ReverbNation: Not Found!
[+] Designspiration: Not Found!
[+] Bandcamp: Not Found!
[+] ColourLovers: Found! https://www.colourlover
[+] IFTTT: Found! https://www.ifttt.com/p/1337ha
[+] Ebay: Found! https://www.ebay.com/usr/1337ha
[+] Slack: Not Found!
[+] OkCupid: Not Found!
[+] Trip: Found! https://www.trip.skyscanner.com
[+] Ello: Found! https://ello.co/1337haribahadur
[+] Tracky: Not Found!
[+] Tripit: Found! https://www.tripit.com/people
[+] Basecamp: Not Found!
[*] Saved: 1337haribahadur.txt
[root@Swagat]~/home/attacker/Desktop/userrecon
#date
Fri 07 Jun 2024 12:32:09 AM +0545
[root@Swagat]~/home/attacker/Desktop/userrecon/userrecon
#
```

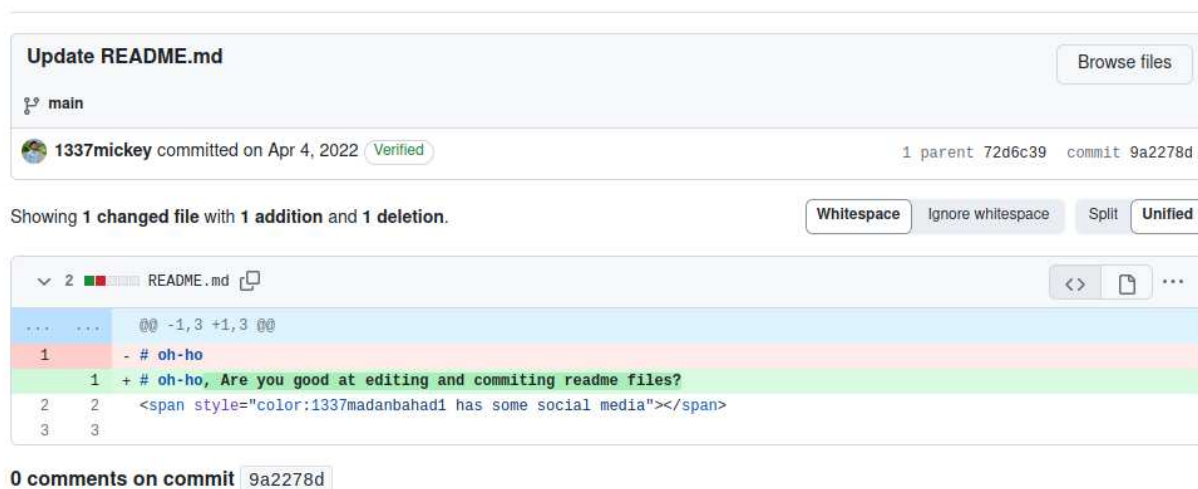


Link of Hari Bahadur social media account is: <https://www.pinterest.com/1337haribahadur/>

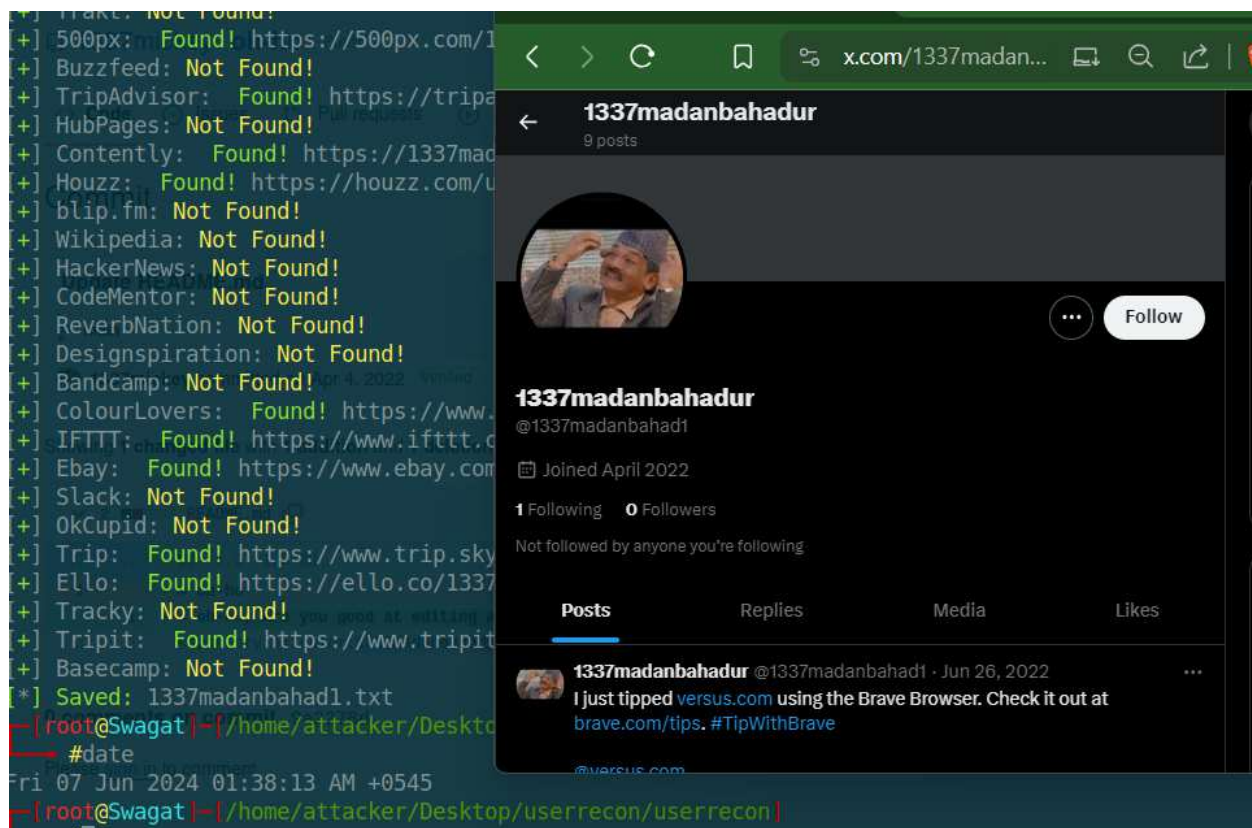
As we can see there is a GitHub link on the profile of Hari Bahadur if we go through the link then we can get A message “oh-ho, Are you good at editing and committing readme files?” by seeing this message I was more curious and did a bit investigation and I got another lead as another person named “1337madhanbahad1” in Update README.md section As shown in fig below:



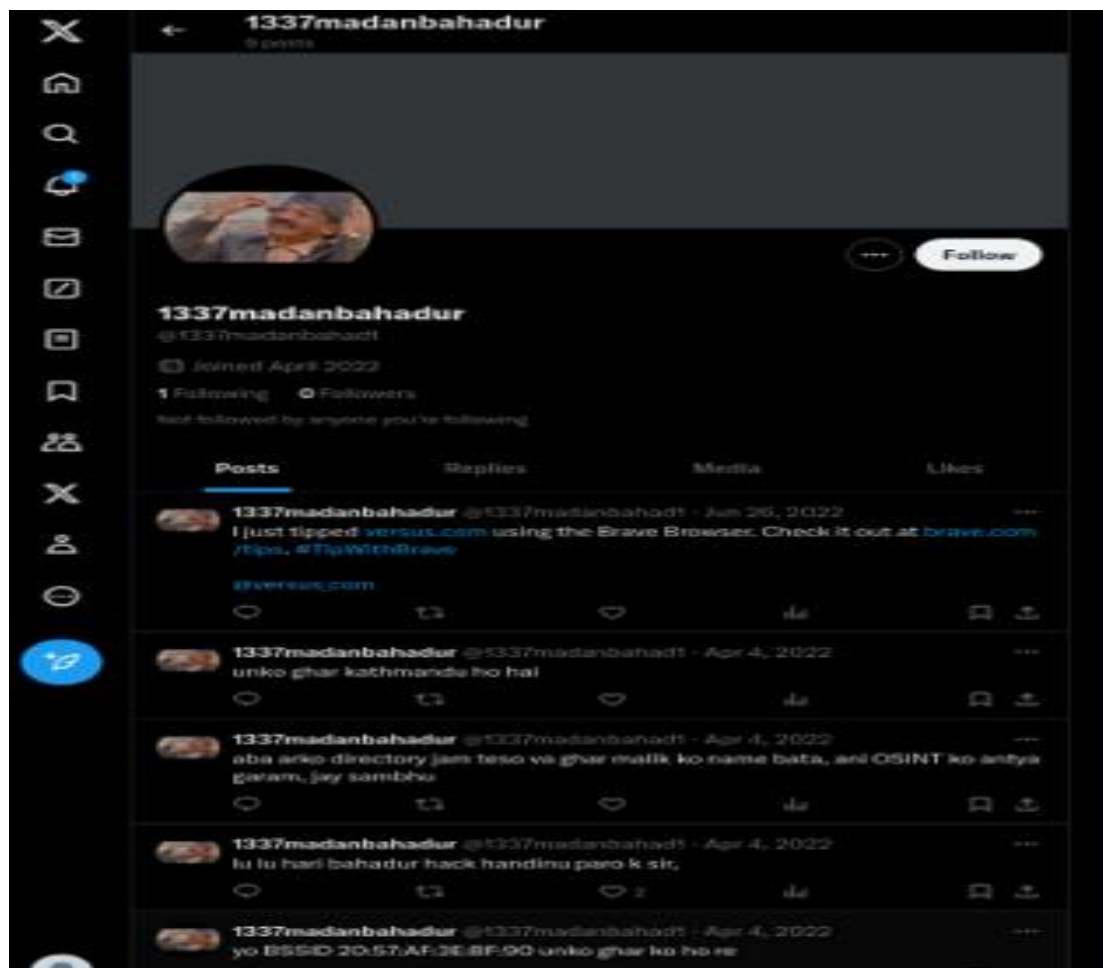
Commit



After finding a new username I again use UserRecon to find his social media accounts. After doing further investigation I got a twitter account of that username as shown in fig below:



In that twitter account I got a lot of leads that was his post which contain a lot of information. After going through all posts I got a BSSID as shown in fig below:



Link of “1337madanbahadur” is <https://x.com/1337madanbahad1>

After knowing BSSID I opened Wigle to track it and in Wigle at first, I got SSID MAGAR HOME and after little more I got another SSID As Pratikxyawifi which was now changed to MAGAR HOME. Now I got another clue as Pratikxya as shown in fig below:

Channel: 12

Beacon Interval: 12

SSID: MAGAR HOME

Est. Latitude: 28.24489212

Est. Longitude: 83.52794647

First Seen: 2021-08-15T23:53:25.000Z

Most Recently Seen: 2024-03-31T11:21:22.000Z

comment

Observations:

netid	name	ssid	month	signal	snr	noise	latitude	longitude	alt	crypto	accuracy
35560974368656	MAGAR HOME	MAGAR HOME	2024-03	-86	0	0	28.24504089	83.52854156	1355	WPA	3.79009
35560974368656	MAGAR HOME	MAGAR HOME	2024-03	-87	0	0	28.24349022	83.52953339	1302	WPA	3.79009
35560974368656	MAGAR HOME	MAGAR HOME	2024-03	-87	0	0	28.24350166	83.52966309	1306	WPA	3.79009
35560974368656	MAGAR HOME	MAGAR HOME	2024-03	-92	0	0	28.24611282	83.52601624	1451	WPA	3.79009
35560974368656	MAGAR HOME	MAGAR HOME	2024-03	-92	0	0	28.24504329	83.52776337	1382	WPA	3.79009
35560974368656	MAGAR HOME	MAGAR HOME	2024-03	-92	0	0	28.24398422	83.52861023	1338	WPA	3.79009
35560974368656	Pratikya wifi	Pratikya wifi	2021-08	-95	0	0	28.24707413	83.52496338	1575	WPA	9.4

I modify the URL of that gif file as: <https://haridai.sushilphuyal.com.np/Pratikxya/>

And got this page as shown in fig:

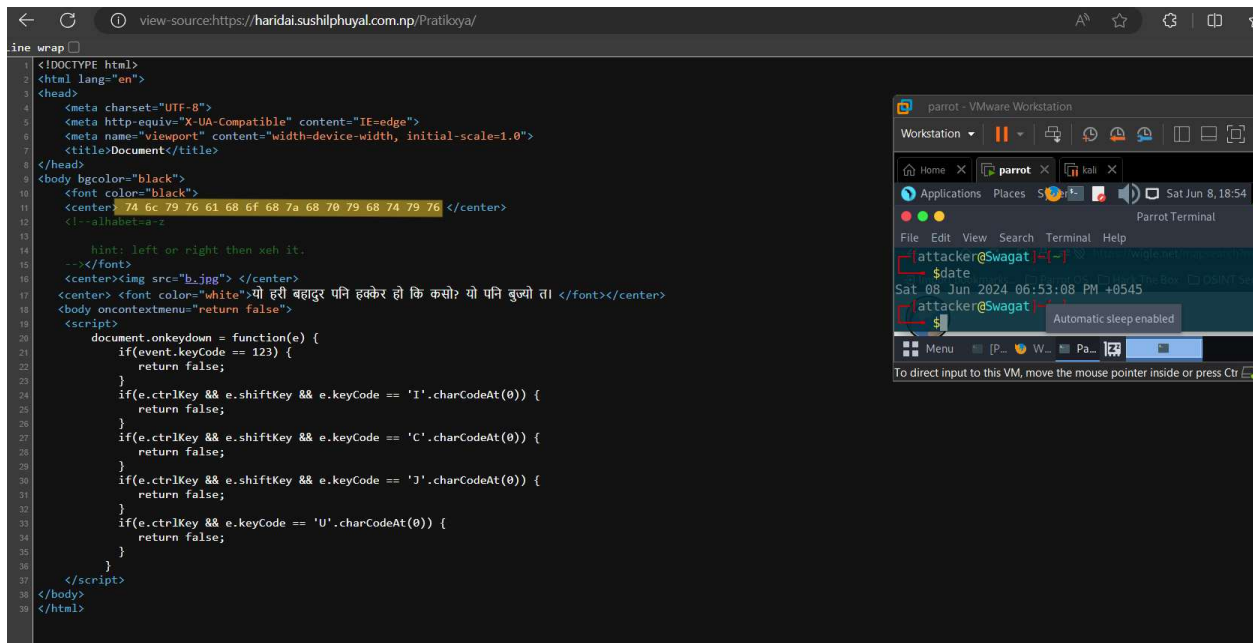
<https://haridai.sushilphuyal.com.np/Pratikxya/>

यो हरी बहादुर पनि हक्केर हो कि कसो? यो पनि बुज्यो त।

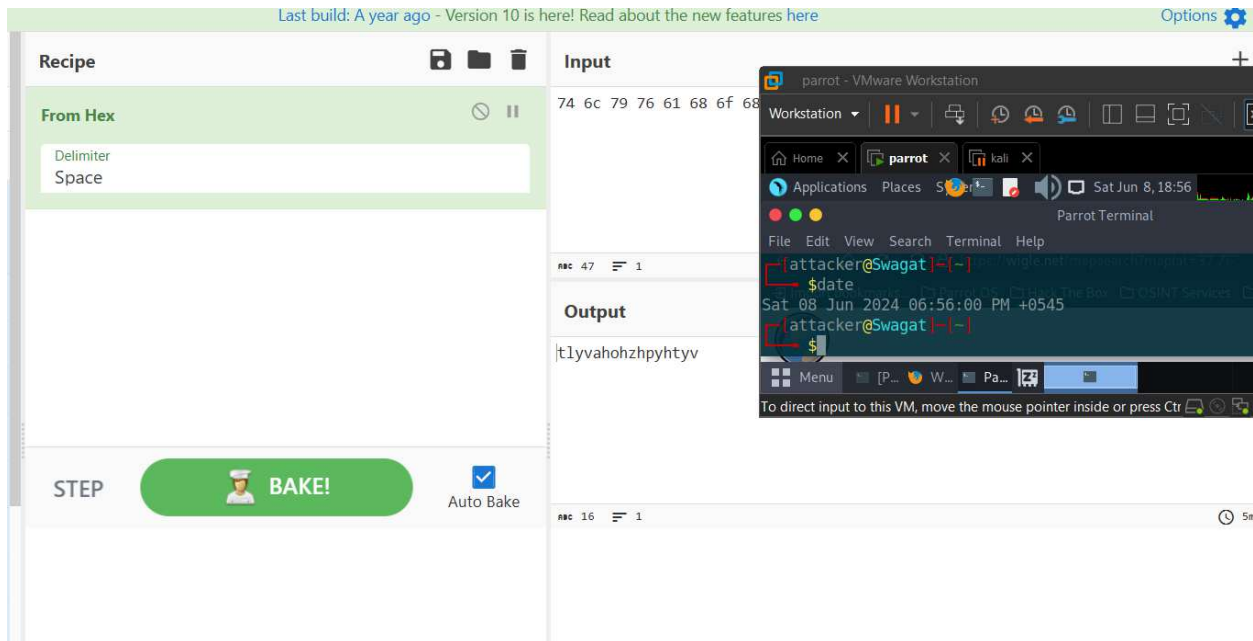
I was curious to see the page source, so I did right click but right click was disabled and my curiosity changed to demand, and I modify its URL by adding “view-source” that is:

view-source:<https://haridai.sushilphuyal.com.np/Pratikxya/>

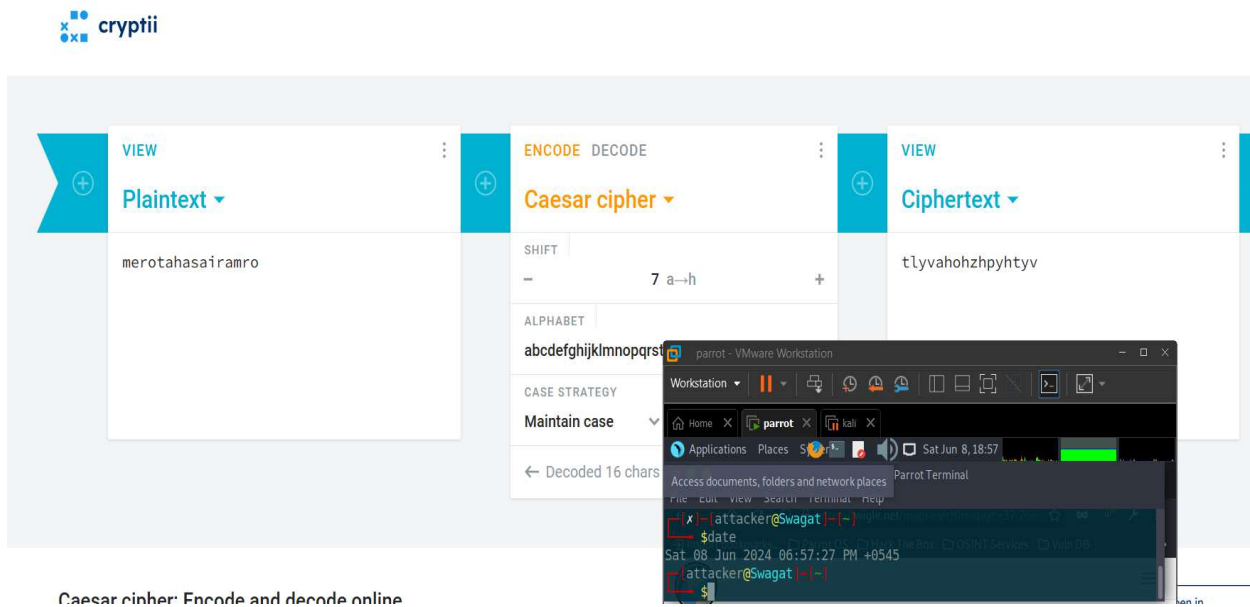
Then I got a big hint ‘xeh’ which is ‘hex’ just spelled from back as shown in fig below:



After getting that hex, I used cyberchef to decode it and got output xa “tlyvahohzhpyhtyv” as shown in fig below:

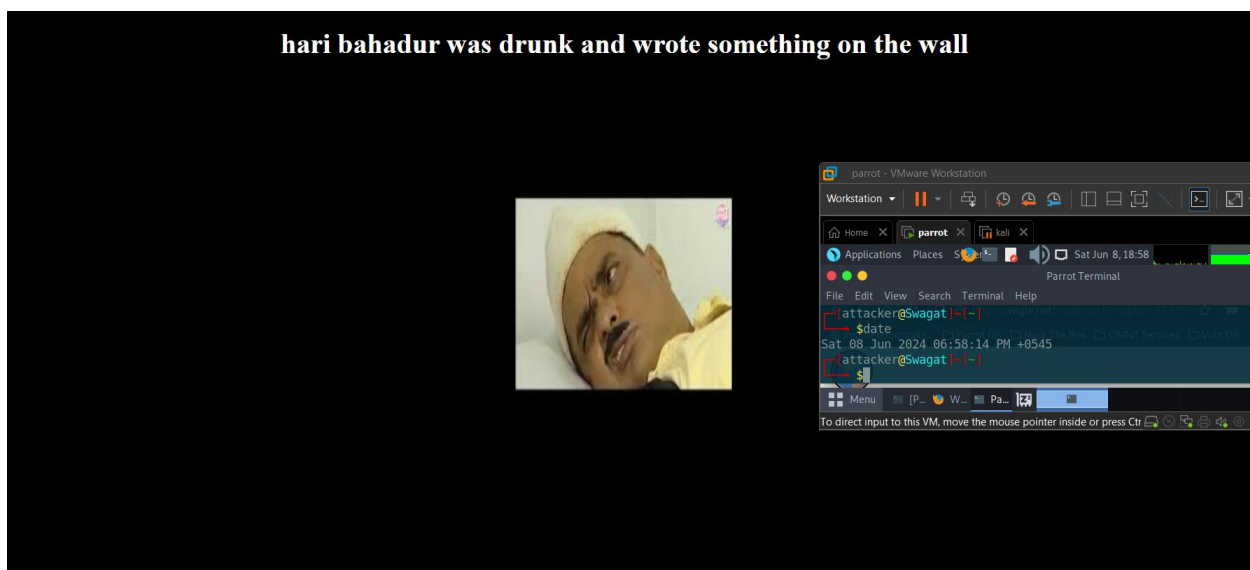


As I know the output didn't make sense, so I tried another tool named as cryptii and got another output as “merotahasairamro” as shown in fig below:



This output makes sense then I checked if it is another directory by using this URL:
<https://haridai.sushilphuyal.com.np/Pratikxya/merotahasairamro/>

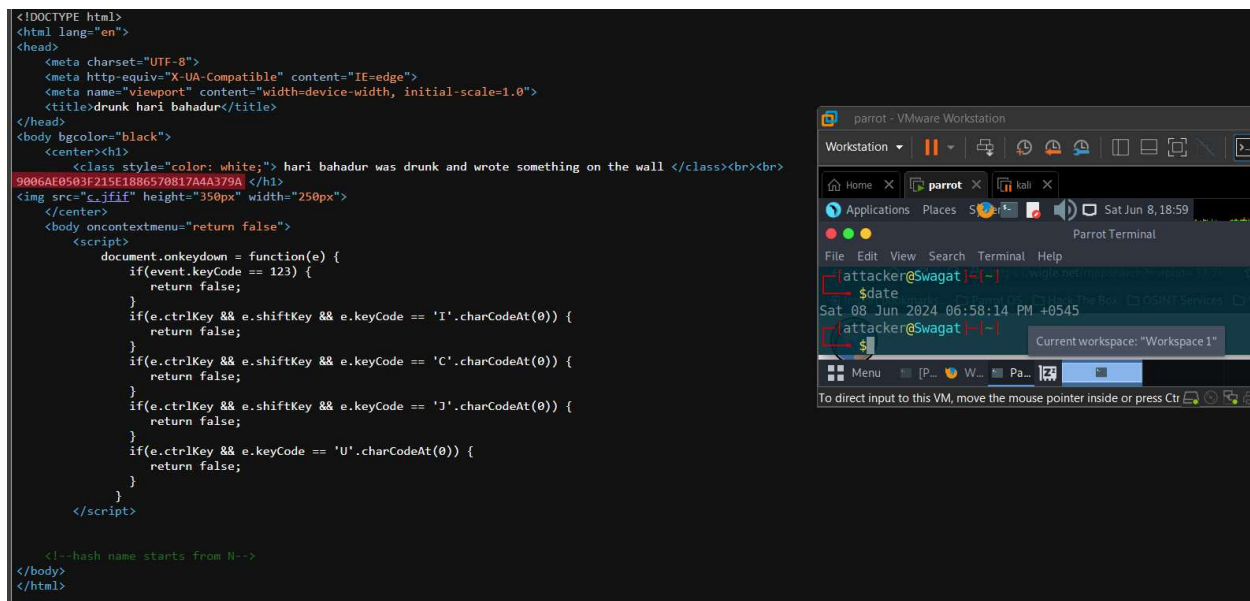
and I was correct I got new information as shown in fig below:



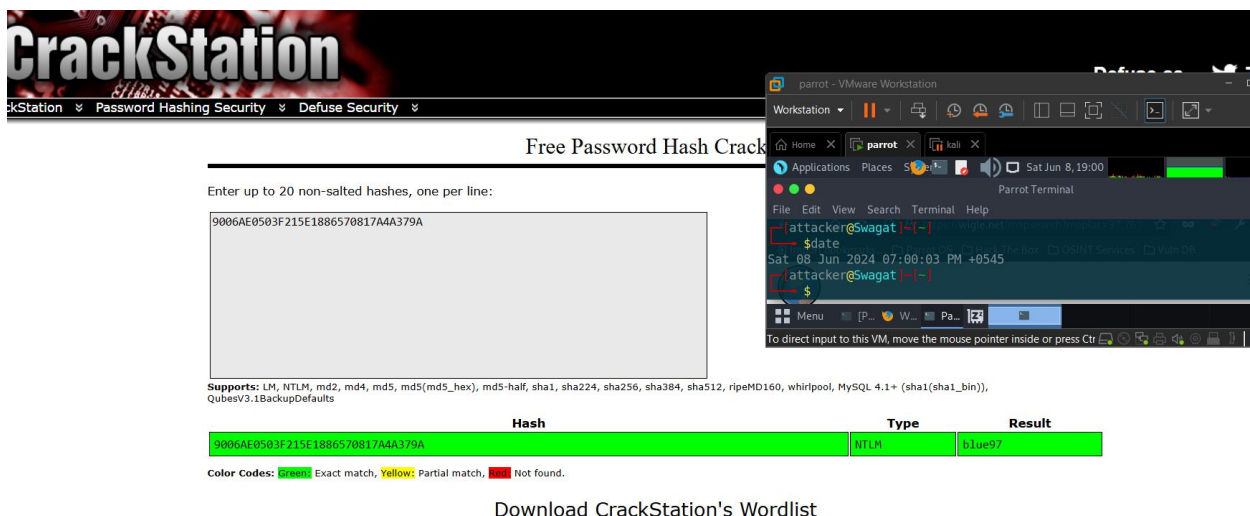
Then again, I did same thing as I have done previously i.e. writing 'view-source' in front of URL then the URL becomes:

view-source:<https://haridai.sushilphuyal.com.np/Pratikxya/merotahasairamro/>

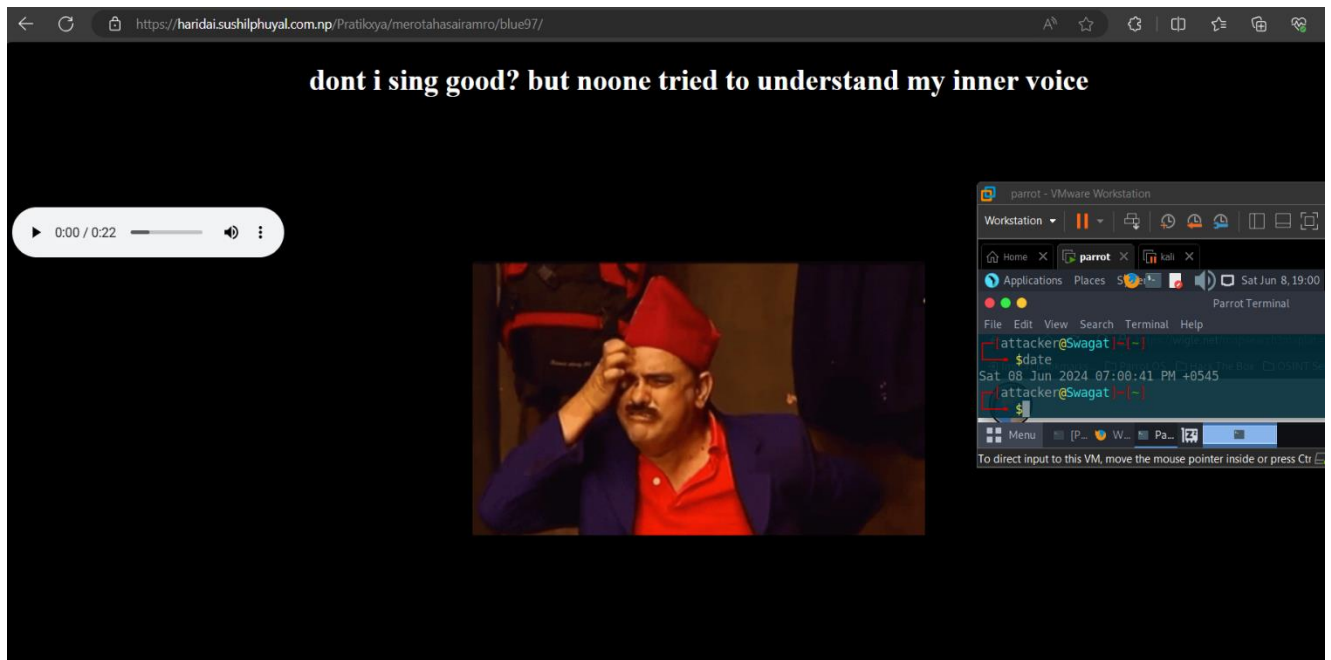
Then I got another hash as shown in fig below:



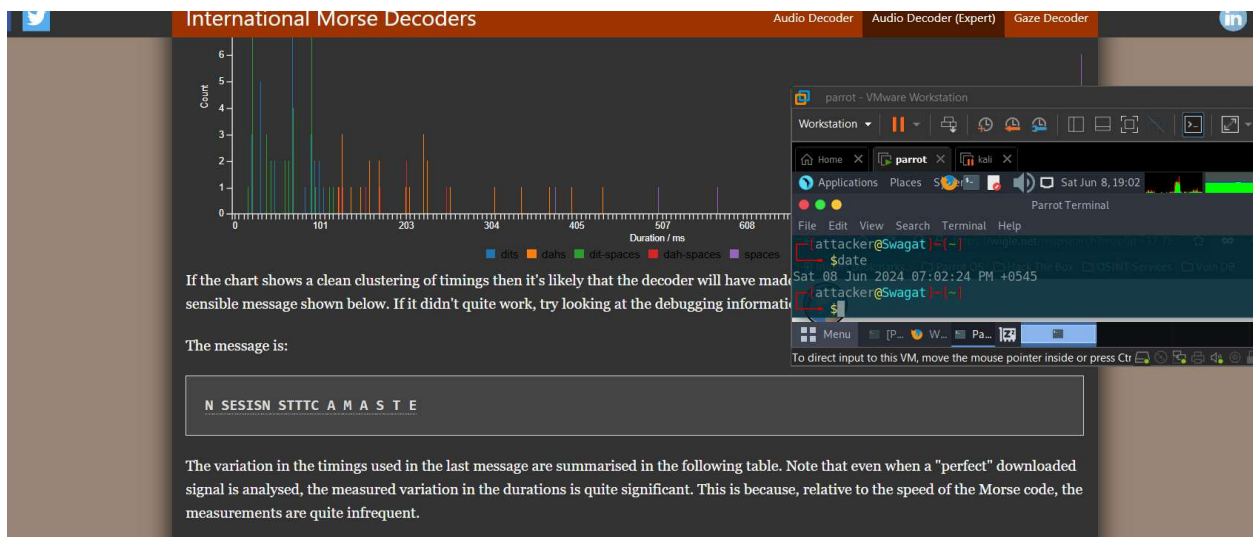
TO crack that hash i use crack station and i got another output as “blue97” which was NYLM hash as shown in fig below:



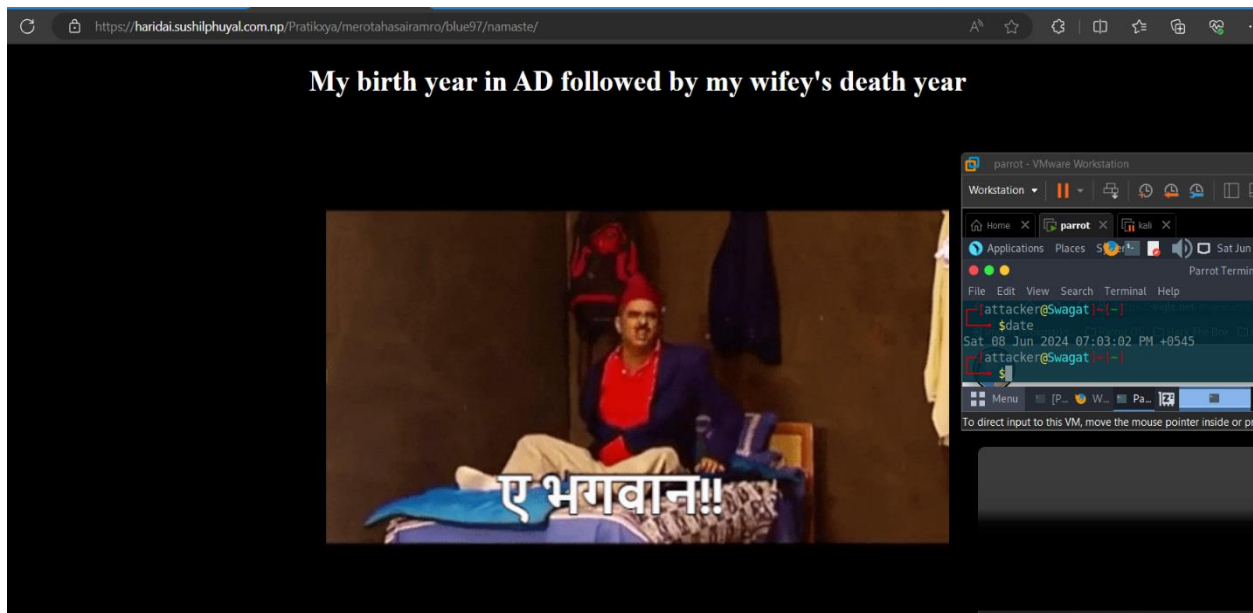
After knowing its result, I was forced to check if it was a new directory because of previous results and actions. Again, I was correct I got new page as shown in fig with very interesting audio which contain song I listened it more that 10 time doing this assignment as shown in fig below:



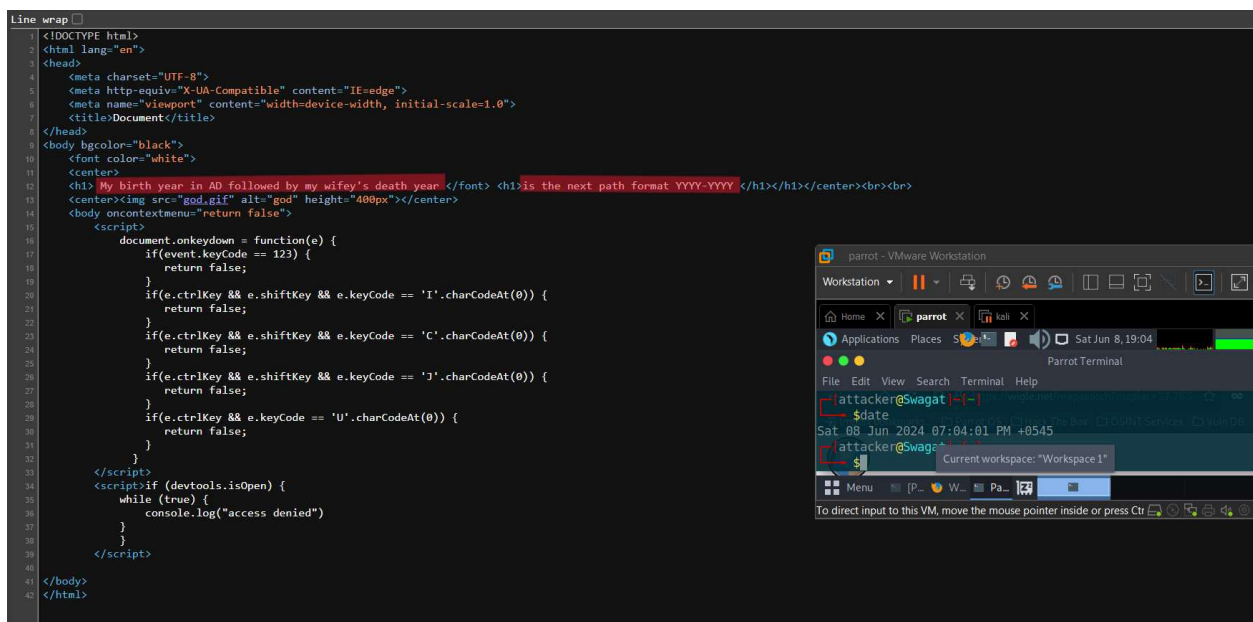
The audio was not only song it was a morse code then using an online morse code decoder I decoded it and got an interesting output which is “NAMESTE” As shown in fig below:



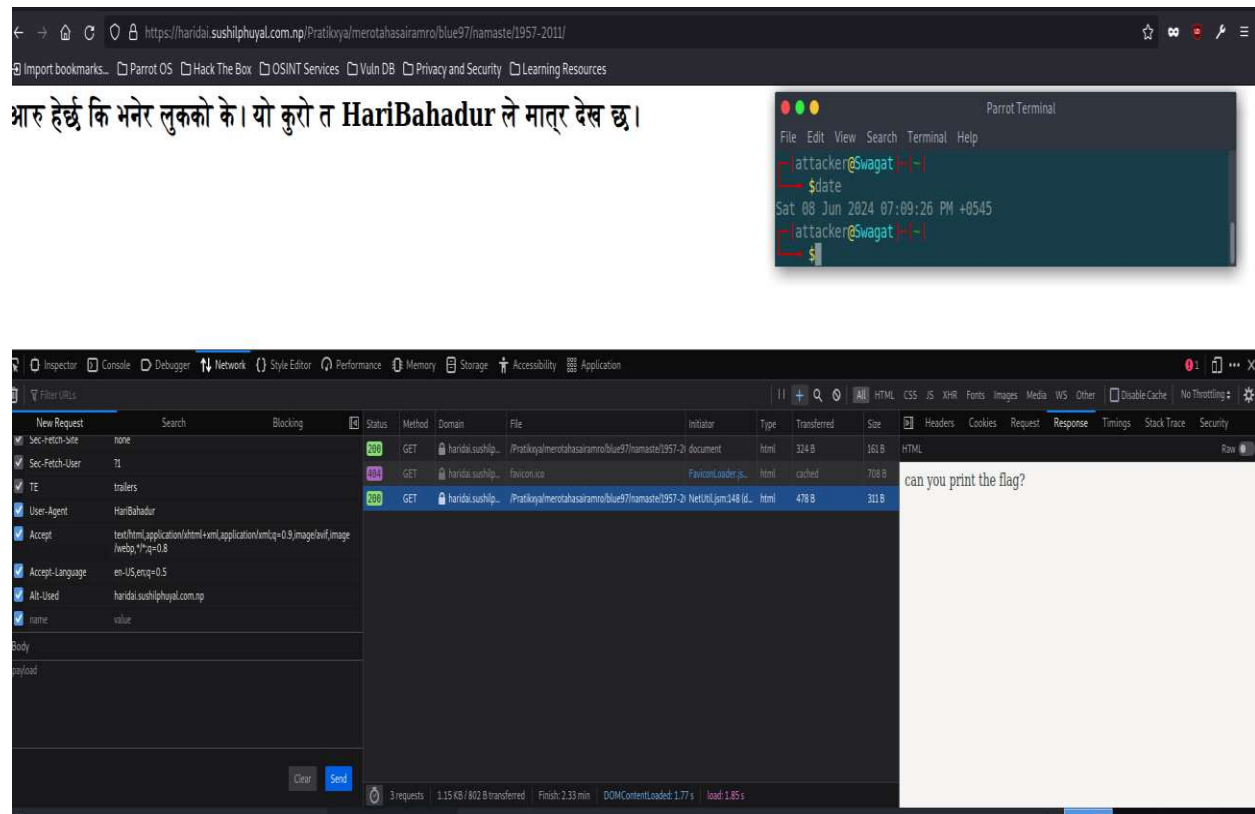
Then again, I checked I can be another directory and I got something interesting as shown in fig below:



I got message about birth year, but it was incomplete, so I again view source of it as done previously and got another lead as shown in fig below:



From the source I got to know” My birth year in AD followed by my wifey’s year” and” is the next path format YYYY-YYYY”. Then I googled about Hari Bahadur and I got his details including birth year and so on as shown in fig below:



Then again, I decrypted the message using neatnik.net and got another message “bWFoYV9qb2Rp” as shown in fig below:

Reveal the private message hidden within a public message.

Public message

can you print the flag?

[Desteganographize](#)

Private Message

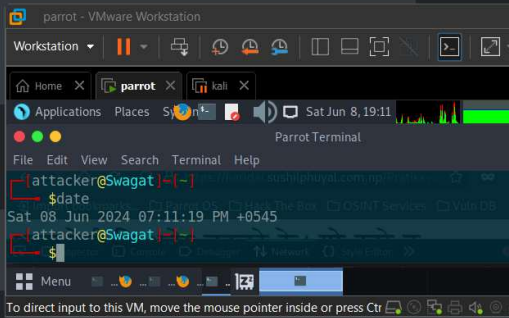
✓ bWFoYV9qb2Rp

How it works

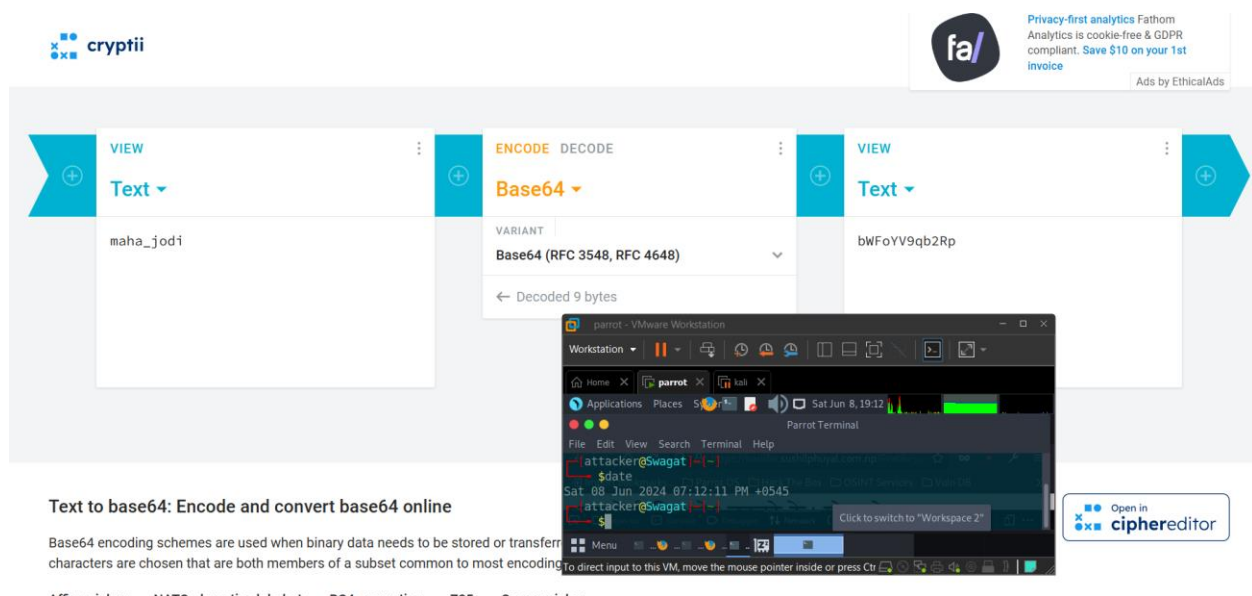
Steganographr works by converting your private message into binary data, and then converting that binary data into zero-width characters (which can then be hidden in your public message).

These characters are used:

- WORD JOINER (U+2060)

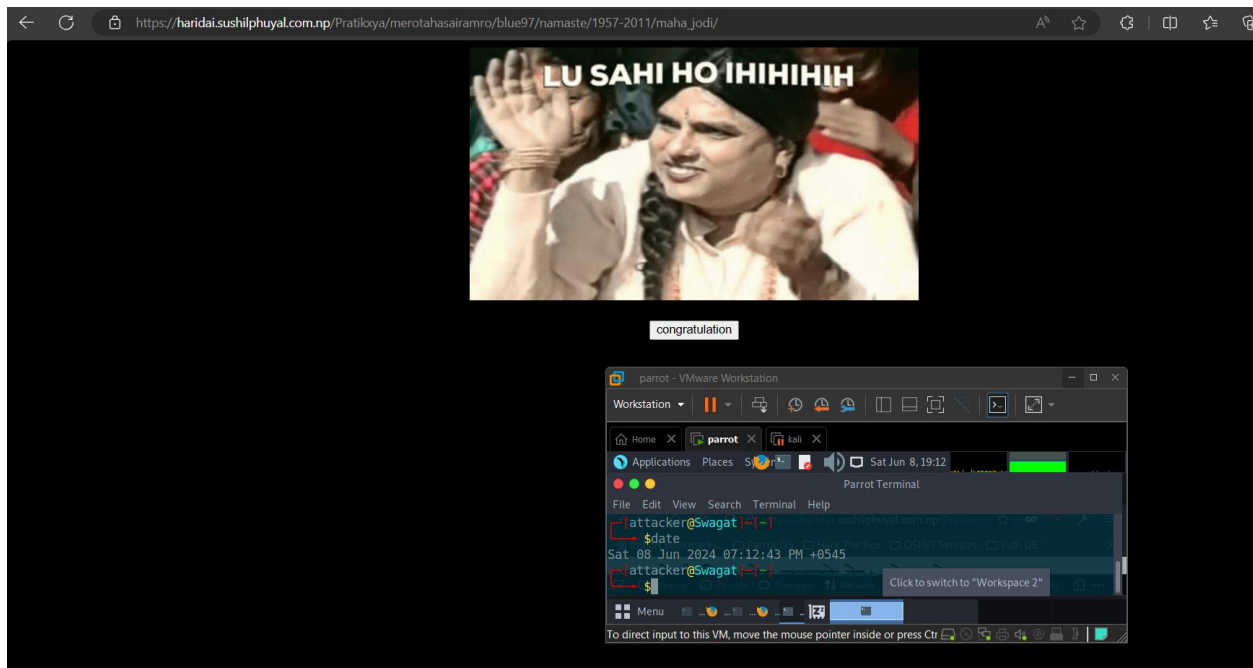


Aa that private message was not making sense, so I cracked it by using cryptii and got another message “maha_jodi” As shown in fig below:



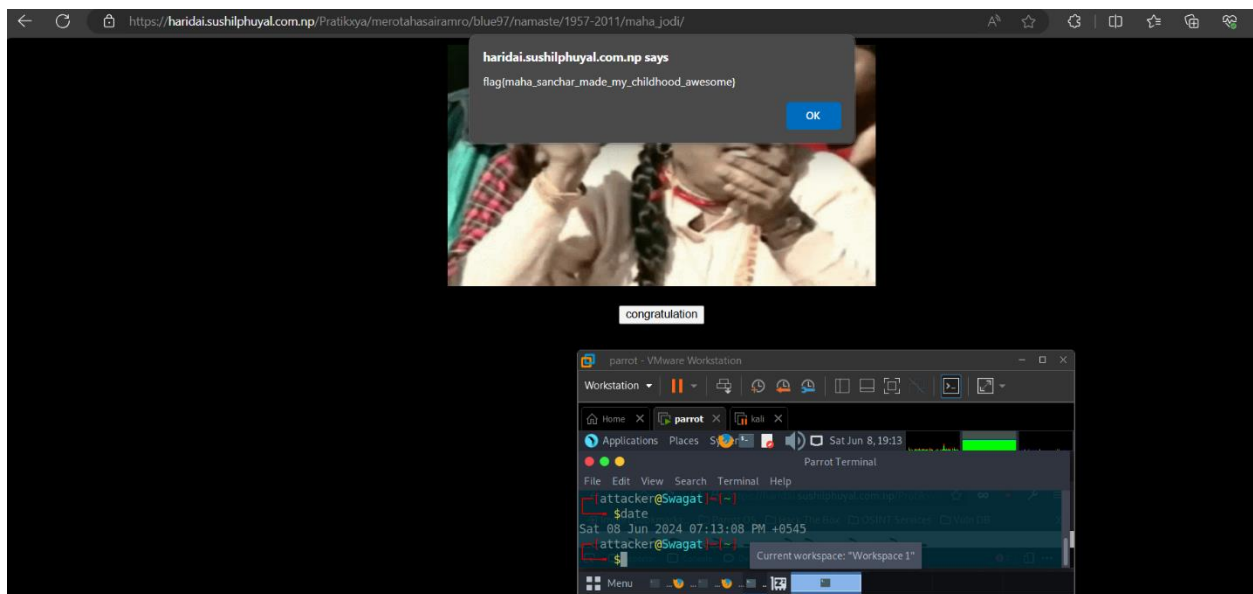
The screenshot shows the cryptii website interface. On the left, under the 'VIEW' tab, the text 'maha_jodi' is entered. In the center, the 'ENCODE' tab is selected, showing 'Base64' as the encoding scheme. Below this, it says 'Decoded 9 bytes'. On the right, under the 'VIEW' tab, the encoded text 'bWFoYV9qb2Rp' is displayed. A small terminal window is overlaid on the bottom right, showing a command prompt and a date command. A banner for 'fathom' analytics is visible at the top right.

Then I checked if it is another directory and got another result as shown in fig below:



When I clicked on congratulation finally, I got a flag i.e.
{maha_sanchar_made_my_childhood_awesome}

As shown below:



Answer the questions below from the above task performed

1. What was the social media you found author on?

Ans: pinterest.com

2. What was the Wi-Fi Name?

Ans: n\Now it is MAGAR HOME but previously it was Pratikxyawifi.

3. What was the Hash Type?

Ans: NTLM

4. What was the decrypted value of Hash?

Ans: Blue97

5. Who could access the site's original DOM?

Ans: HariBahadur

6. What was the unprintable text after decoding?

Ans: Maha_jodi

7. What was the flag?

Ans: flag{maha_sanchar_made_my_childhood_awesome}

Conclusion

Capture the Flag competitions are valuable for developing and testing cybersecurity skills. By solving challenges related to OSINT, geolocation, cryptography, steganography, and hash cracking, participants enhance their knowledge and problem-solving abilities. The key to success in CTF events is persistence and continuous practice.

Reference

[CTF File - What is a .ctf file and how do I open it? \(fileinfo.com\)](#)

[Solving HariBahadur CTF. URL to join the CTF... | by sushil phuyal | Medium](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hari_Bansha_Acharya