

IntroToCTF - Forensics



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Introduction

- Oscar I, Cyber Soc Welfare
- Interned at CrowdStrike last summer doing incident response – investigating real world digital crimes using forensics.
- Half an hour talk on the basics and concepts of Forensics challenges and common tools used.
- Hour practical session for solving selected challenges (**easy and medium level**)
- **No disk forensics today (too long for todays session)**



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Forensics, what is

Concept

Forensics in its simplest form is the inspection of various pieces of digital evidence to find something interesting (the flag).

“Interesting” could be:

- *IP addresses*
- *A file*
- *Evidence that something happened on a system*



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

How do we do forensics challenges?

In a CTF scenario



Forensic CTF challenges are a bit like using a Swiss army knife.

You have a problem, and you must find the tool in your arsenal that best suits that problem.

Some tools you will use more than others, and sometimes you will encounter a problem that needs a new tool!



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Reminder

Hopefully, **most** of you have been able to download the tool list, we put out on the discord. If you need help with this , please ask **AFTER** the slides.

But if not please start getting these downloaded, they will all be used today:

Volatility -

<https://github.com/volatilityfoundation/volatility.git>

^ Clone this repository with “git clone”

Wireshark – “*sudo apt install wireshark*”

**A Linux VM is needed, if you have kali
Linux Wireshark is already installed!**



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

CyberChef

- Tool made by GCHQ to translate and modify data to different encoding formats; people like to hide things by encoding data known as Obfuscation!

All the ways
we can
manipulate
data



Base-
64
encode
d string

Translated
output

Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Memory Forensics – The Basics

Memory Forensics utilizes a command line utility called volatility (v3), which enables us to parse and analyze samples of memory (RAM) from machines.

This can be very useful for analyzing a device suspected of doing something malicious as it tells us what was actively running in memory when the capture was taken.

```
(mackerlite@mack)-[~]
$ git clone https://github.com/volatilityfoundation/volatility3.git
fatal: destination path 'volatility3' already exists and is not an empty directory.

(mackerlite@mack)-[~]
$ cd volatility3

(mackerlite@mack)-[~/volatility3]
$ python3 vol.py
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
usage: vol.py [-h] [-c CONFIG] [--parallelism [{processes,threads,off}]]
              [-e EXTEND] [-p PLUGIN_DIRS] [-s SYMBOL_DIRS] [-v] [-l LOG]
              [-o OUTPUT_DIR] [-q] [-f FILE] [--write-config]
              [--save-config SAVE_CONFIG] [--clear-cache]
              [--cache-path CACHE_PATH] [--offline] [-u URL]
              [--filters FILTERS] [--hide-columns [HIDE_COLUMNS ...]]
              [-r RENDERER] [--single-location SINGLE_LOCATION]
              [--stackers [STACKERS ...]]
              [--single-swap-locations [SINGLE_SWAP_LOCATIONS ...]]
              PLUGIN ...
```



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Analyzing our image

Different versions of volatility use different plugin formats version 2 uses “imageinfo” instead.

```
(mackerlite@mack)-[~/volatility3]
$ python3 vol.py -f "citadelc01.mem" windows.info
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
Progress: 0.18 Reading file http://msdl.microsoft.com/download
Progress: 0.35mn ndh/6066913DRReading file http://msdl.microsoft.com/download
```

Volatility works with specific profiles for different operating systems so we must first identify what OS we are dealing with! These can be .mem or .raw files.

Variable	Value
Kernel Base	0xf800cb804000
DTB	0x1a7000
Symbols file	:///home/mackerlite/volatility3/volatility3/symbols/windows/ntkrnlmp.pdb/6066913DFBAD4EF6B754E136C12BECA3-1.json.xz
Is64Bit	True
IsPAE	False
layer_name	0 WindowsIntel32e
memory_layer	1 FileLayer
KdVersionBlock	0xf800cba9bd80
Major/Minor	15.9600
MachineType	34404
KeNumberProcessors	2
SystemTime	2020-09-19 04:39:59+00:00
NtSystemRoot	C:\Windows
NtProductType	NtProductLanManNt
NtMajorVersion	6
NtMinorVersion	3
PE MajorOperatingSystemVersion	6
PE MinorOperatingSystemVersion	3
PE Machine	34404
PE TimeDateStamp	Sat Feb 22 08:08:18 2014

Windows Intel 32 machine has been found and processed



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

How to hunt in memory

See all running processes that were in memory at the time

```
L$ python3 vol.py -f "citadelc01.mem" windows.psscan
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
Progress: 100.00 PDB scanning finished
PID PPID ImageFileName Offset(V) Threads Handles SessionId W
ow64 CreateTime ExitTime File output
1556 452 VGAAuthService. 0x1aaa200 2 - 0 False
2020-09-19 01:22:57.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
412 396 csrss.exe 0x52c1900 10 - 1 False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
324 316 csrss.exe 0x52c2080 8 - 0 False
2020-09-19 01:22:39.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
404 316 wininit.exe 0x52cc900 1 - 0 False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
204 4 smss.exe 0x5354900 2 - N/A False
2020-09-19 01:22:38.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
460 404 lsass.exe 0x5e0e080 31 - 0 False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
452 404 services.exe 0x5e11080 5 - 0 False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
492 396 winlogon.exe 0x5e2a080 4 - 1 False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
640 452 svchost.exe 0x5e84900 8 - 0 False
```

What commands are currently in use in memory (and what are their arguments)

```
L$ python3 vol.py -f "citadelc01.mem" windows.cmdline
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
Progress: 100.00 PDB scanning finished
PID Process Args
4 System -
204 smss.exe \SystemRoot\System32\smss.exe
324 csrss.exe %SystemRoot%\system32\csrss.exe ObjectDirectory=\Windows SharedSection=1
024,20480,768 Windows=On SubSystemType=Windows ServerDll=basesrv,1 ServerDll=winsrv:UserServerDL
Initialization,3 ServerDll=sxssrv,4 ProfileControl=Off MaxRequestThreads=16
404 wininit.exe wininit.exe
412 csrss.exe %SystemRoot%\system32\csrss.exe ObjectDirectory=\Windows SharedSection=1
```



And more....

Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Networking primer

- There is a LOT of noise in Wireshark captures so knowing what common network communications are is quite helpful to then find something interesting. All of these be filtered for in Wireshark.

TCP/UDP – Primary networking protocols for communicating data on the internet in 'packets'.

SYN/ACK/SYN-ACK – How two devices agree to communicate over TCP.

ARP – How devices find each other to talk.

DNS – Domain resolutions (think like a phonebook for the internet)

Port – Endpoint for a particular service on a device e.g. DNS runs on port 53. "**tcp.port==**" is a filter we can use, but what is a filter?



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Network forensics - Wireshark

Filters! Packet streams can be quite large...

Stream of packets during network capture (.pcap).

Information contained within the packet

tcp.port == 80 || udp.port == 80

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
7	3.989939	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	66	49678 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=8 SACK_PERM
8	3.990088	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	66	49679 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=8 SACK_PERM
9	4.079853	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	TCP	66	80 → 49678 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
10	4.080025	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49678 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=262144 Len=0
11	4.080113	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	TCP	66	80 → 49679 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
12	4.080208	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49679 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=262144 Len=0
13	4.081075	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	HTTP	319	GET /aje/ HTTP/1.1
14	4.181934	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	HTTP	1262	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
15	4.182050	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49678 → 80 [ACK] Seq=266 Ack=1209 Win=260936 Len=0
16	4.405454	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	HTTP	380	GET /icons/blank.gif HTTP/1.1
17	4.406208	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	HTTP	379	GET /icons/back.gif HTTP/1.1
18	4.407137	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	66	49680 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=8 SACK_PERM
19	4.497543	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	TCP	66	80 → 49680 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
20	4.497799	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49680 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=262144 Len=0
21	4.497979	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	HTTP	381	GET /icons/binary.gif HTTP/1.1
22	4.507582	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	HTTP	510	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
23	4.507607	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	HTTP	579	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
24	4.507883	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49678 → 80 [ACK] Seq=592 Ack=1665 Win=262144 Len=0
25	4.508099	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49679 → 80 [ACK] Seq=326 Ack=526 Win=261616 Len=0

Frame 14: 1262 bytes on wire (10096 bits), 1262 bytes captured (10096 bits)
Ethernet II, Src: ee:ea:7e:a8:53:38 (ee:ea:7e:a8:53:38), Dst: 5e:10:c0:34:cb:3a (5e:10:c0:34:cb:3a)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 172.245.26.145, Dst: 10.0.0.147
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 80, Dst Port: 49678, Seq: 1, Ack: 266, Len: 1208
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
Line-based text data: text/html (16 lines)

```
0000  5e 10 c0 34 cb 3a ee ea 7e a8 53 38 08 00 45 28  ...4: 172.245.26.145 -> 10.0.0.147: 80 (E
0010  04 e0 27 ef 40 00 72 06 09 e8 ac f5 1a 91 0a 00  ...@.....P.....
0020  00 93 00 50 c2 0e 9d 9d 3a b5 1d 92 50 96 50 18  ...P.....
0030  02 01 c4 0e 00 00 48 54 54 50 2f 31 2e 31 20 32  ........HT TP/1.1 2
0040  30 30 20 4f 4b 0d 0a 44 61 74 65 3a 20 54 75 65  ...00 OK - Date: Tue
0050  2c 20 31 34 20 53 65 70 20 32 30 32 31 20 31 34  ... , 14 Sep 2021 14
0060  3a 32 30 3a 34 35 20 47 4d 54 0d 0a 53 65 72 76  ...20:45 GMT - Serv
0070  65 72 3a 20 41 70 61 63 68 65 2f 32 3e 34 2e 34  ...ers: Apache/2.4.4
0080  38 20 28 57 69 6e 36 34 29 20 4f 70 65 6e 53 53  ...8 (Win64 ) OpenSS
0090  4c 2f 31 2e 31 2e 31 6c 20 50 48 50 2f 37 2e 34  ...L/1.1.11 PHP/7.4
00a0  2e 32 33 0d 0a 43 6f 6e 74 65 6e 74 2d 4c 65 6e  ...-23 -Con tent-Len
00b0  67 74 68 3a 20 39 37 39 0d 0a 4b 65 65 70 2d 41  ...gth: 979 -Keep-A
00c0  6c 69 76 65 3a 20 74 69 6d 65 6f 75 74 3d 35 2c  ...live: ti meout=5,
00d0  20 6d 61 78 3d 31 30 30 0d 0a 43 6f 6e 6e 65 63  ...max=100 -Connec
00e0  74 69 6f 6e 3a 20 4b 65 65 70 2d 41 6c 69 76 65  ...tion: Ke ep-Alive
00f0  0d 0a 43 6f 6e 74 65 6e 74 2d 54 79 70 65 3a 20  ...-Conten t-Type:
0100  74 65 78 74 2f 68 74 6d 6c 3b 63 68 61 72 73 65  ...text/html;charse
0110  74 3d 55 54 46 2d 38 0d 0a 0d 0a 3c 21 44 4f 43  ...t=UTF-8; ...<100C
0120  54 59 50 45 20 48 54 4d 4c 20 50 55 42 4c 49 43  ...TYPE HTML PUBLIC
0130  20 22 2d 2f 57 57 33 43 2f 2f 44 54 44 20 48 54  ..."/M3C //DTD HT
0140  4d 4c 20 33 2e 32 20 46 69 6e 61 6c 2f 2f 45 4e  ...ML 3.2 //en1//EN
0150  22 3e 0a 3c 68 74 6d 6c 3e 0a 20 3c 68 65 61 64  ..."> <html> <head
```



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Decoding of hex to text

Wireshark – Useful filters to find things

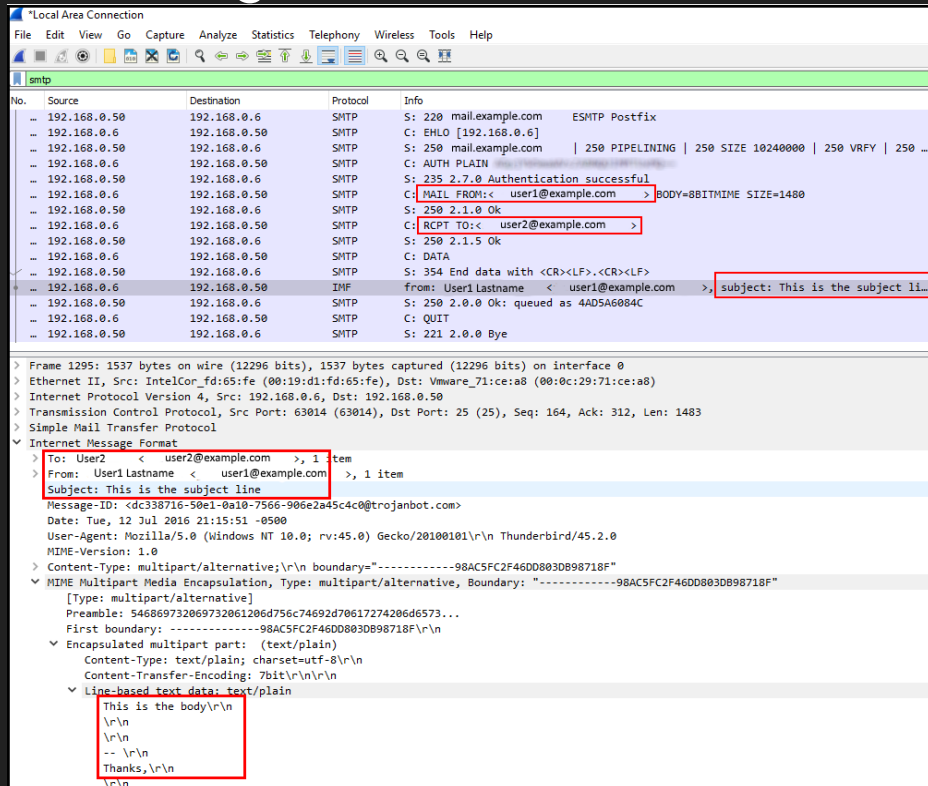
smtp– Allows you to peek inside email communications that are not encrypted, see the messages that have been sent across a network.

ftp– See what files have been transferred between two locations. You can even extract passwords used to access FTP services!

icmp– Not all ICMP traffic is always useful, but it can reveal pings that a device can send to each other to check their statuses



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.



Wireshark – Useful filters to find things

http – Allows you to observe what web traffic is occurring and what has been sent. 'http.request' and 'http.response' can help you filter it down more.

ip.addr==x.x.x.x – See all communications from a set IP you can specify as 'ip.dst=' or 'ip.src=' to specify what a specific IP has sent or received.

Chaining queries – You can combine filters together using '&&', 'or' and '| |'

“Traffic sent from IP 10.10.10.251 and that is HTTP or DNS.”

ip.src==10.10.10.251 && http or dns

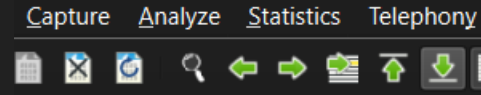
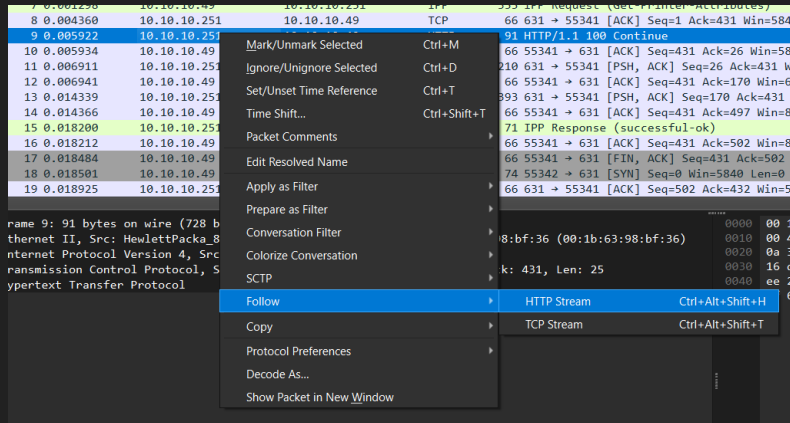
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
9	0.005922	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	HTTP	91	HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
15	0.018200	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	IPP	71	IPP Response (successful-ok)
27	0.024392	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	HTTP	91	HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
249	1.213731	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	IPP	267	IPP Response (successful-ok)
261	1.219943	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	HTTP	91	HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
267	1.229677	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	IPP	71	IPP Response (successful-ok)
272	1.234252	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	HTTP	91	HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
274	1.274613	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	IPP	333	IPP Response (successful-ok)



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Using Wireshark effectively

- Linking events together in Wireshark can be annoying, the **follow feature** enables you to track down related packets to build up conversations!



Statistics tab is useful for telling you lots of things about the capture!



Ethernet · 2		IPv4 · 1		IPv6	TCP · 3		UDP				
Address A	Address B	Packets	Bytes	Stream ID	Packets A → B	Bytes A → B	Packets B → A	Bytes B → A			
10.10.10.49	10.10.10.251	277	249 kB	0	174	240 kB	103	8 kB			



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

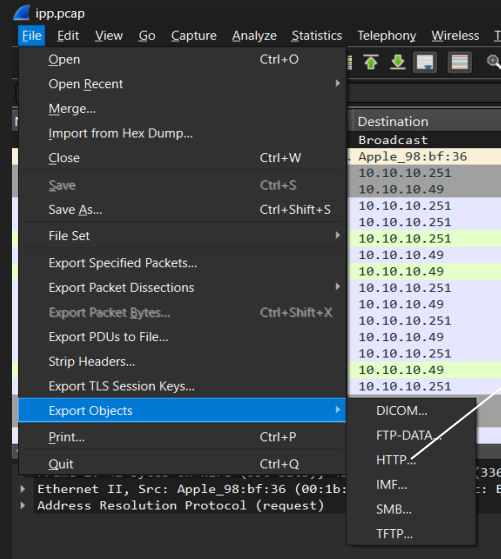
Going up-streams

- Wireshark also captures file traffic between protocols; you can grab files sent across the network download them to your device (provided they are not sent over an encrypted channel).

This helps especially if it's something malicious were looking for (hint hint)



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.



All the different types of traffic you can extract files from

Useful linux commands + tips

File – This command tells you information on what a file is and its attributes, helps you answer the question of “wtf is this”.

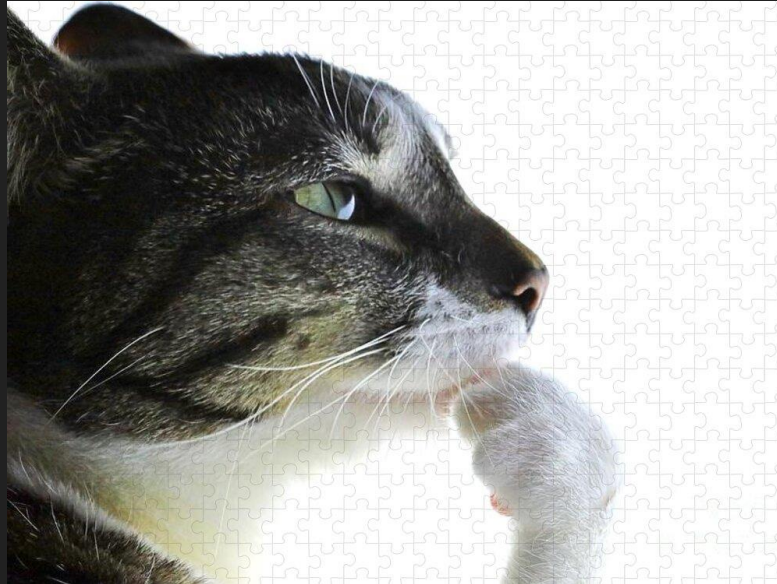
Grep – You can specify this command to search for something specific (or for a pattern using regex) and extract those values, good for log analysis.

Strings – Does a file have any lines of interest that can be pulled out?



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Questions?



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Disclaimer

- I've given you a lot of information today but its not fully complete otherwise solving the challenges would be pointless...
- Some challenges today may throw curveballs; they may cover stuff from the Ethical hacking demonstration at the start of the year.
- If don't understand something, ask or google is your friend!



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.

Your turn!

<https://gym.lilypadd.com/challenges>

Challenges:

Funky Traffic Protocol

User Datagram Pilfering

POIP

Wait not MSFVenom?

Picture It

Export – <https://bit.ly/4owMwuh+>.



Do not repeat these activities outside of this session. Warwick Cyber Security Society takes no responsibility for actions performed with this knowledge.