IntroToCTF - Forensics

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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)

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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*

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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!

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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!

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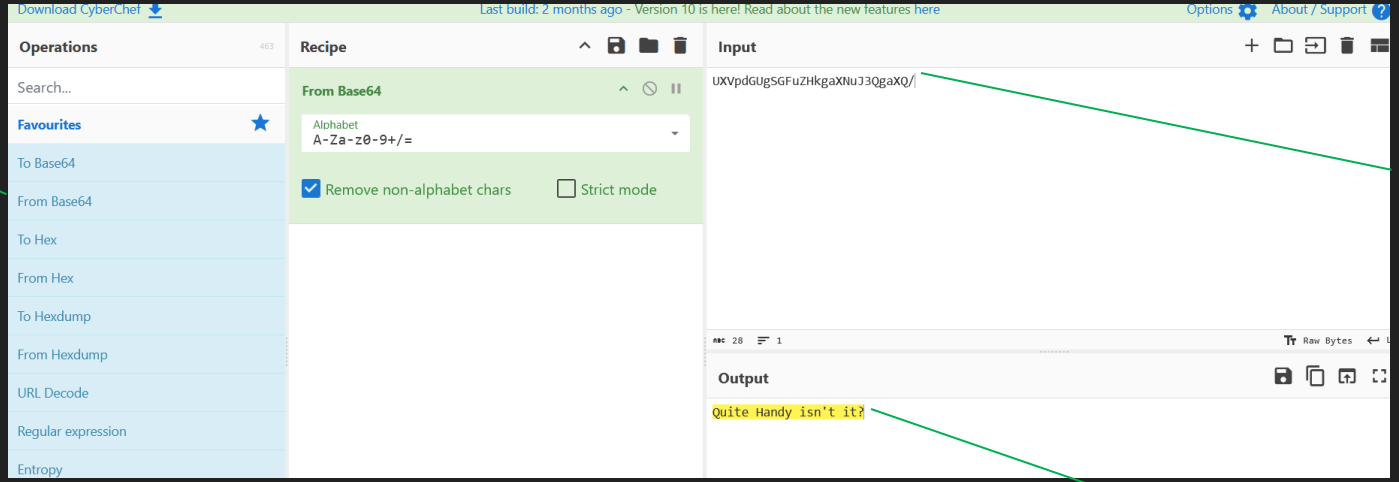
CyberChef

- 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 encoded string

Translated output

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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 is 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 dire
ctory.

┌──(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 ...
```

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Analyzing our image

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

```
┌──(mackerlite㉿mack)-[~/volatility3]
└─$ python3 vol.py -f "citadeldc01.mem" windows.info
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
Progress:  0.18                Reading file http://msdl.microsoft.com/downl
Progress:  0.35mp pdb/6066913DReading file http://msdl.microsoft.com/downl
```

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     0×f800cb804000
DTB     0×1a7000
Symbols file:///home/mackerlite/volatility3/volatility3/symbols/windows/ntkrn
lmp.pdb/6066913DFBAD4EF6B754E136C12BECA3-1.json.xz
Is64Bit True
IsPAE   False
layer_name      0 WindowsIntel32e
memory_layer    1 FileLayer
KdVersionBlock  0×f800cba9bd80
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

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How to hunt in memory

See all running processes that were in memory at the time

```
└─$ python3 vol.py -f "citadeldc01.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     VGAuthService.  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)

```
└─$ python3 vol.py -f "citadeldc01.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
lInitialization,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....

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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?

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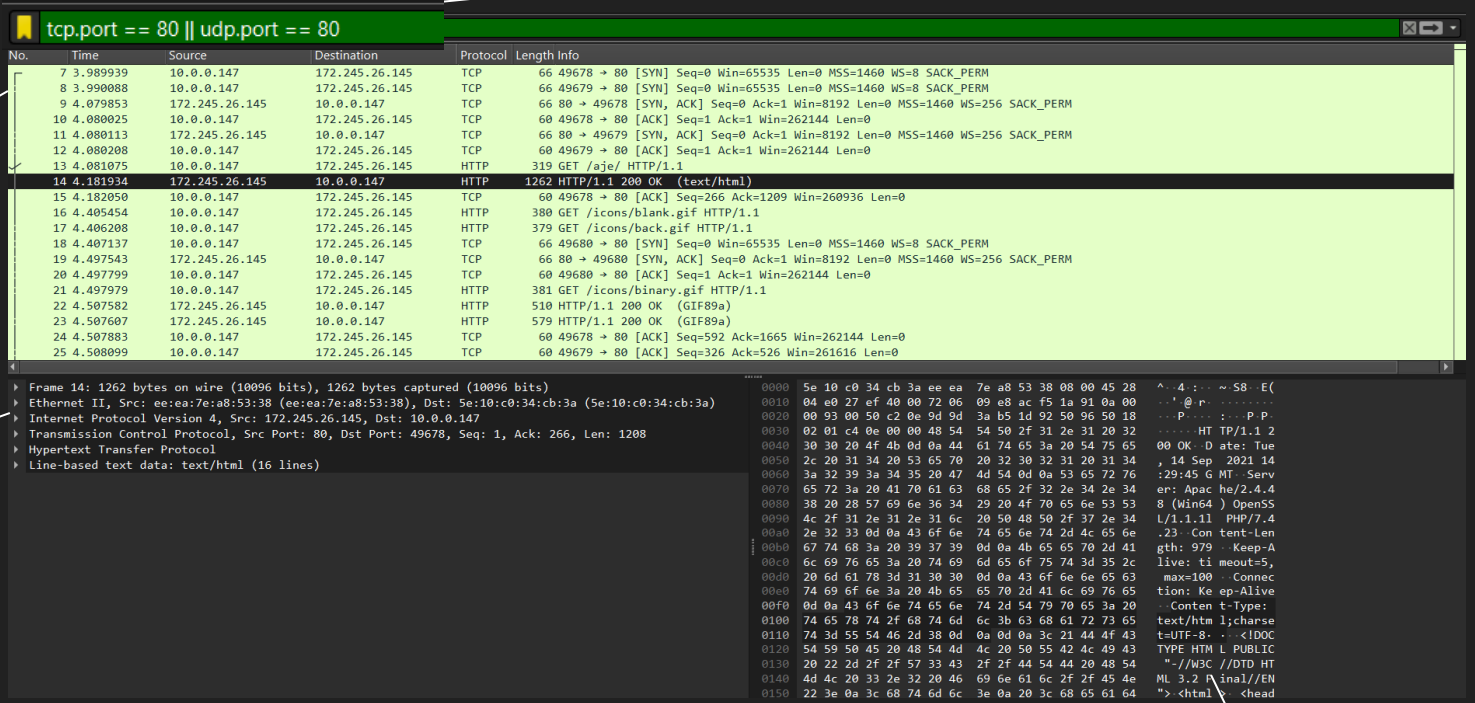
Network forensics - Wireshark

Filters! Packet streams can be quite large...

Stream of packets during network capture (.pcap).

Information contained within the packet



Decoding of hex to text

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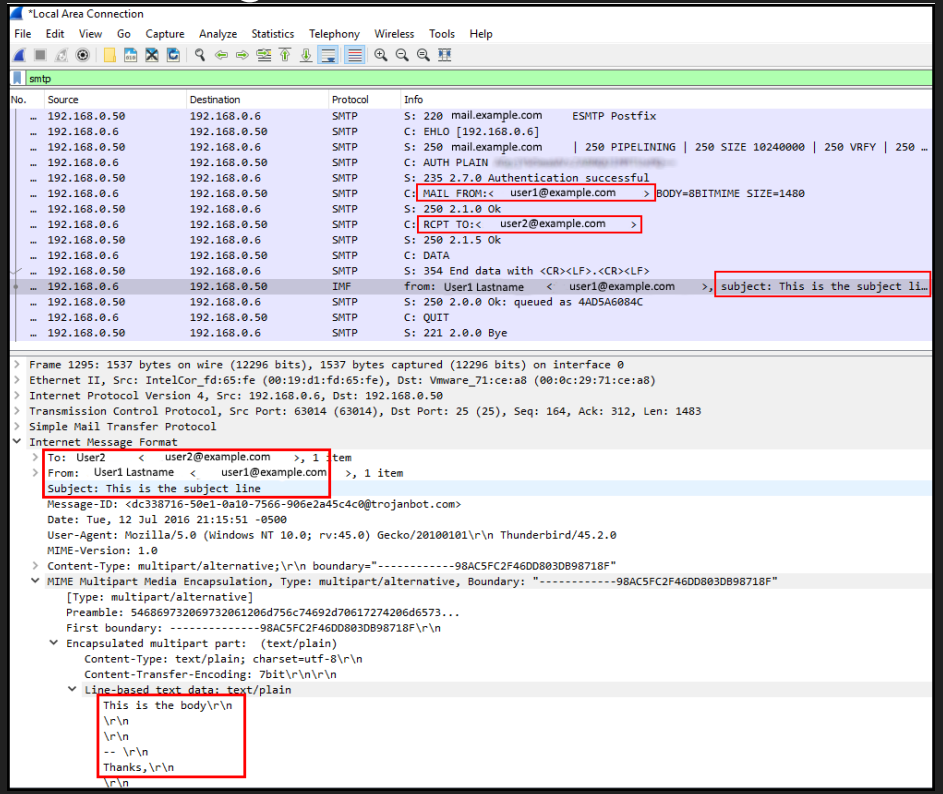
Wireshark – Useful filters to find things

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



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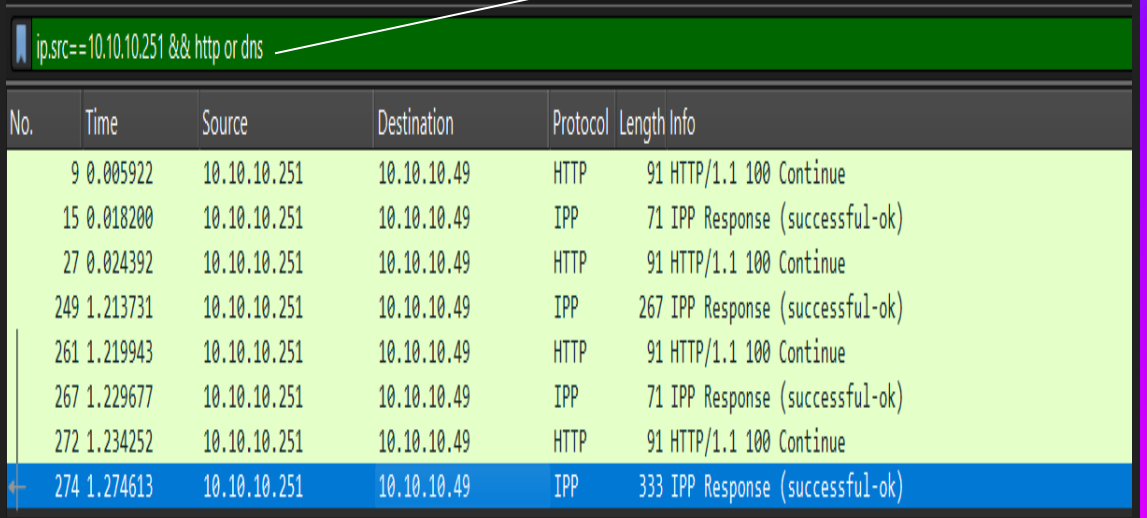
Wireshark – Useful filters to find things

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."



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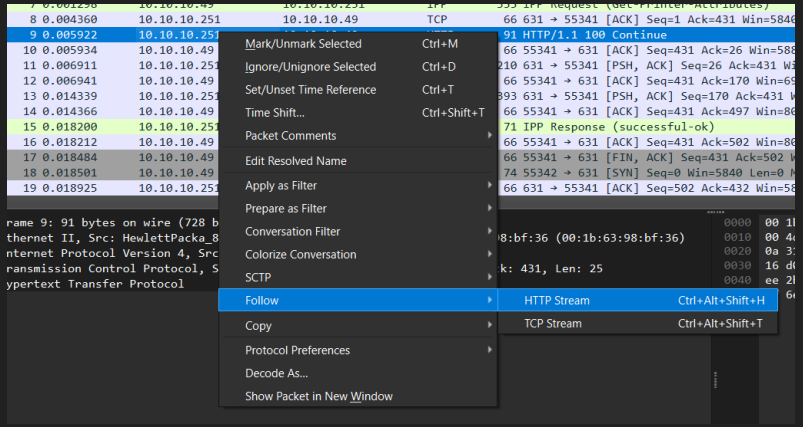
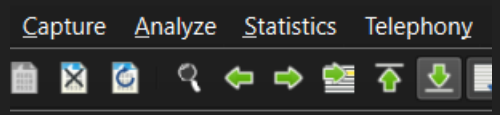
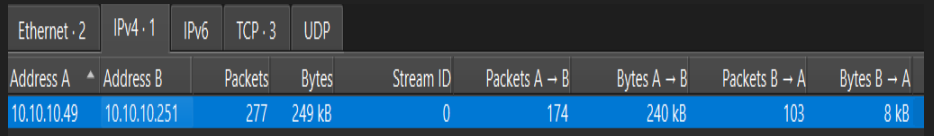
Using Wireshark effectively

- 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!



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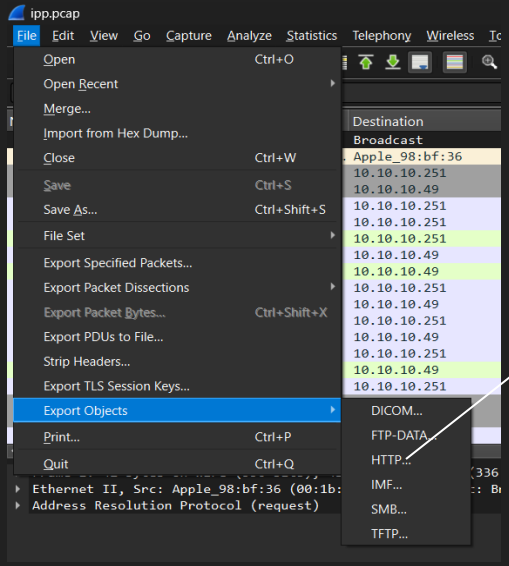
Going up-streams

- 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)



All the different types of traffic you can extract files from

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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?

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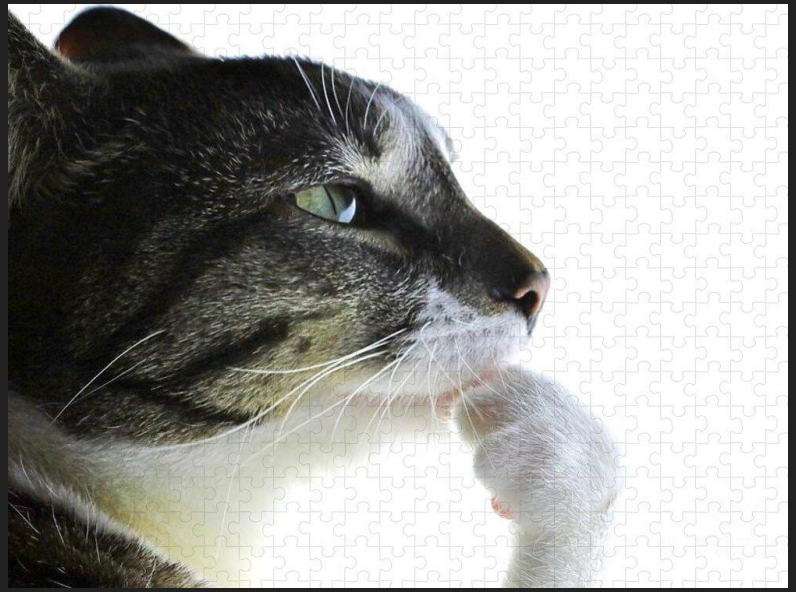
Questions?



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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!

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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+.

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