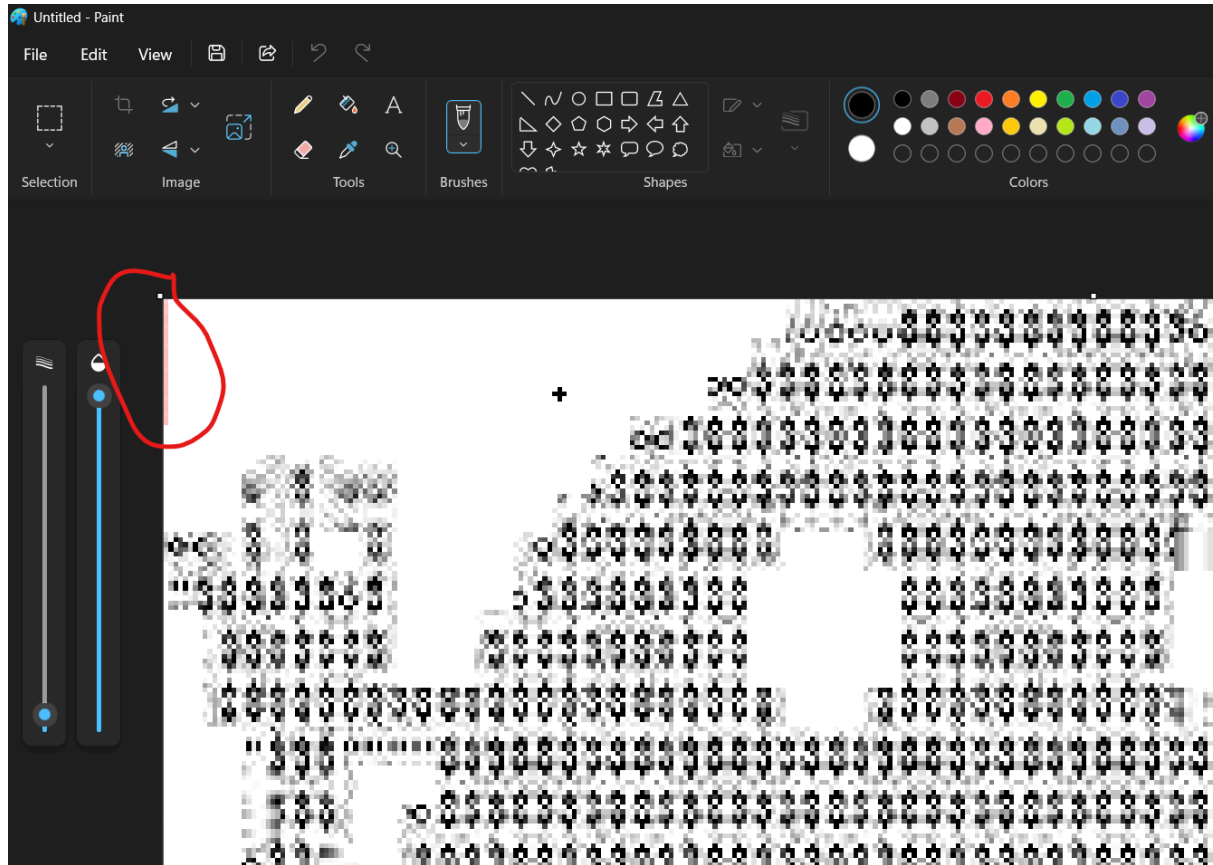


If we are looking through the Strings, we can find a Base64 text that tells us : *Did you know that pixels are, like the ascii table, numbered from 0 to 255?*

I looked again at the image and I observed a 26px colored line. This is the message :



This is the Python script :

```
from PIL import Image

def extract_hidden_message(image_path):
    img = Image.open(image_path)
    pixels = img.load()

    message = ""

    for y in range(26):
        if y < img.size[1]:
            pixel = pixels[0, y]
            char_code = pixel[0]

            if 32 <= char_code <= 126:
                message += chr(char_code)
```

```

        else:
            message += f"[{char_code}]"

    return message

if __name__ == "__main__":
    image_file = "smiling.png"

    try:
        hidden_message = extract_hidden_message(image_file)
        print(f"Hidden message: {hidden_message}")

        img = Image.open(image_file)
        pixels = img.load()

        for color_index, color_name in [(0, "Red"), (1, "Green"), (2, "Blue")]:
            test_message = ""
            for y in range(26):
                if y < img.size[1]:
                    pixel = pixels[0, y]
                    char_code = pixel[color_index]
                    if 32 <= char_code <= 126:
                        test_message += chr(char_code)
                    else:
                        test_message += f"[{char_code}]"
            print(f"{color_name}: {test_message}")

    except FileNotFoundError:
        print(f"Error: File {image_file} not found.")
    except Exception as e:
        print(f"Error: {e}")

```

THE FLAG : CTFlearn{ascii_pixel_flag}
~Z4que