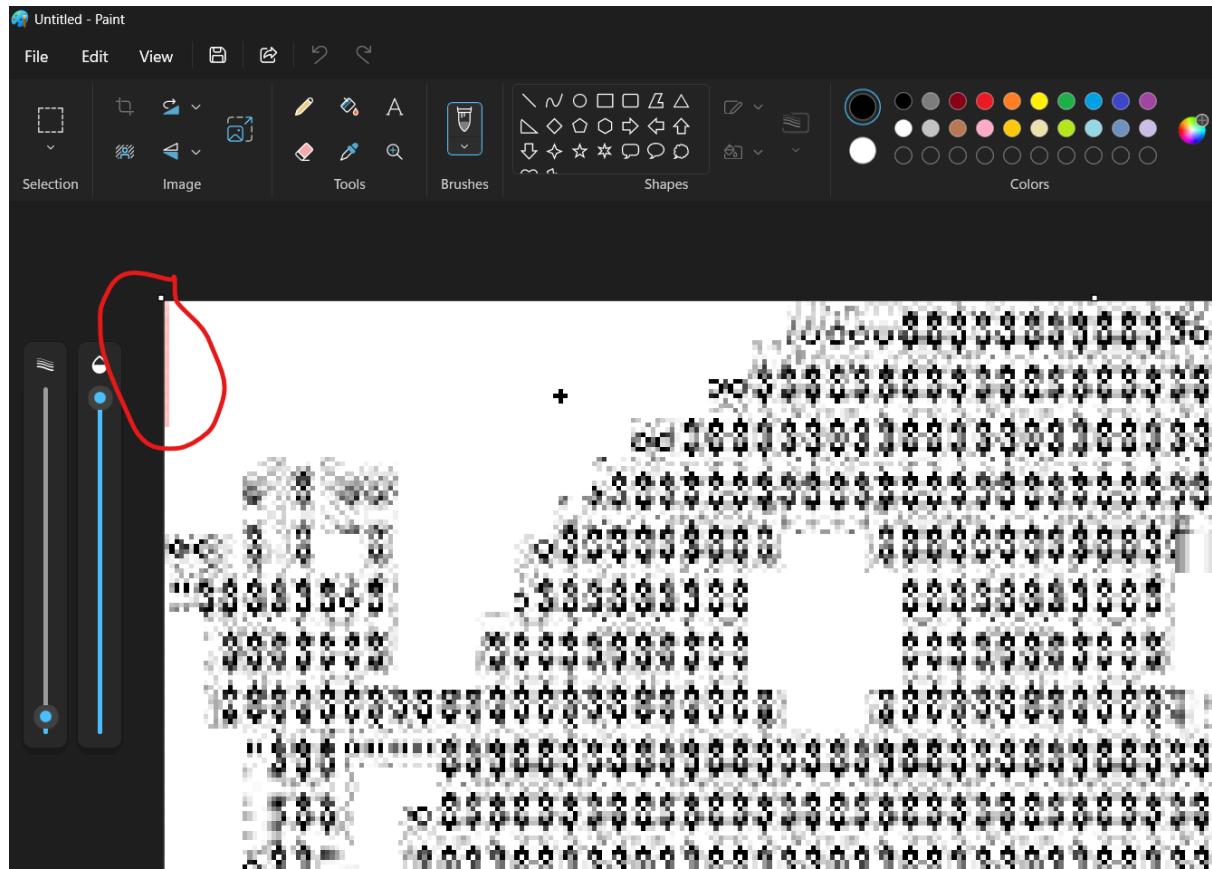


# If we are looking through the Strings, we can find a Base64 text that tells us : *Did you know that pixels are, like the ascii table, numbered from 0 to 255?*

# 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