Cheat sheet for common operations:

1. Read a file even if base64 encoded:

f = open(filename, ‘r’)

ct = f.read()

Reads the entire file and returns a string in ct

1. Read a file ***line by line***

f = open(filename, ‘r’)

for line in f:

do stuff on line

do stuff

there is no need for f.readline() anywhere. The for loop will read a line at a time

and put the line just read in variable line.

1. Base64 decode a file just read

import base64

ct = base64.base64decode(ct)

Takes ct which is a bae64 encoded string and decodes it. Returns bytes.

Bytes when printed to the output have b’ in the front and ‘ in the end

1. Bytes to string

If you have bytes, you can convert it to string using the following

str(inputBytes, ‘utf-8’)

prints nicely on the screen with no weird characters

1. Hex to bytes

Bytes.fromhex(ct)

Where ct is all hexadecimal characters

1. String to bytes

text.encode()

Returns bytes where text is the string