



Girls in CTF 2024

Writeup by BL4CKP!NKH4T

pinx
sushi

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Girls in CTF 2024 was... a humbling experience! I honestly thought it would be a breeze, just like last year's GCTF, but I was so wrong. I got HUMBLLED, no doubt about it. The categories and challenges really pushed us (and our machine specs) to dig deeper and put in that extra effort. Initially, we aimed for a spot in the top 3, but after facing the challenges head-on, we were like, "GG!" Hahaha, our new goal? Just soak up new knowledge (and trust me, we did!!). This was our first time attempting blockchain questions phew. But hey, I'm super grateful we landed in 11th place! Unfortunately there were a lot of questions we attempted but were unsuccessful (some 95% close to getting the flag but we got stuck there till the end T-T). Hence the challenges below were the only flags that we managed to capture. Enjoy the short read!

CRYPTOGRAPHY

WARMUP SALSA SAUCE

Flag: GCTF{y0u_f0und_th3_c0cain3_a7f9f6bdeabd34dde0fa3037284864eb}

WARMUP SALSA SAUCE

★ 436

A skilled cybersecurity professional infiltrates a notorious drug cartel's communication network, managing to extract a series of encrypted messages that hold the key to unraveling their operations. The professional hands the data over to you, challenging them to break the code before it's too late.

Challenge author: pikaroot

 dist.zip

In this challenge, we have an encrypted flag and text in out.txt, using the Salsa20 method in the wss.py script.

out.txt:

```
Encrypted flag:
fa1c26b66ad926ab75cd51524f05ec08f7f3160c74bec57f8aec3f7cace6fbb7370923e8c5406
73f657dada9e9540101d7f4dc0b6627f147fc47627a244c88b2ea6c3340
Encrypted text:
fa1c26b66ad926ab45cb05575b0ab90fcd1060d72bfba6f90aa076cbcf2f3aa311a13fc80063
8382570bcbee142001290f1d41d3761e315b91730663c2cd8e1fe7a25482ce0cd69745028635e
f5dae54282f162e448fec5f6b0e7d8ff85
```

wss.py:

```
from Crypto.Cipher import Salsa20
from secret import FLAG
from secrets import token_bytes as tb

def encText(text, key, nonce):
    cipher = Salsa20.new(key=key, nonce=nonce)
    ciphertext = cipher.nonce + cipher.encrypt(text)
    return ciphertext

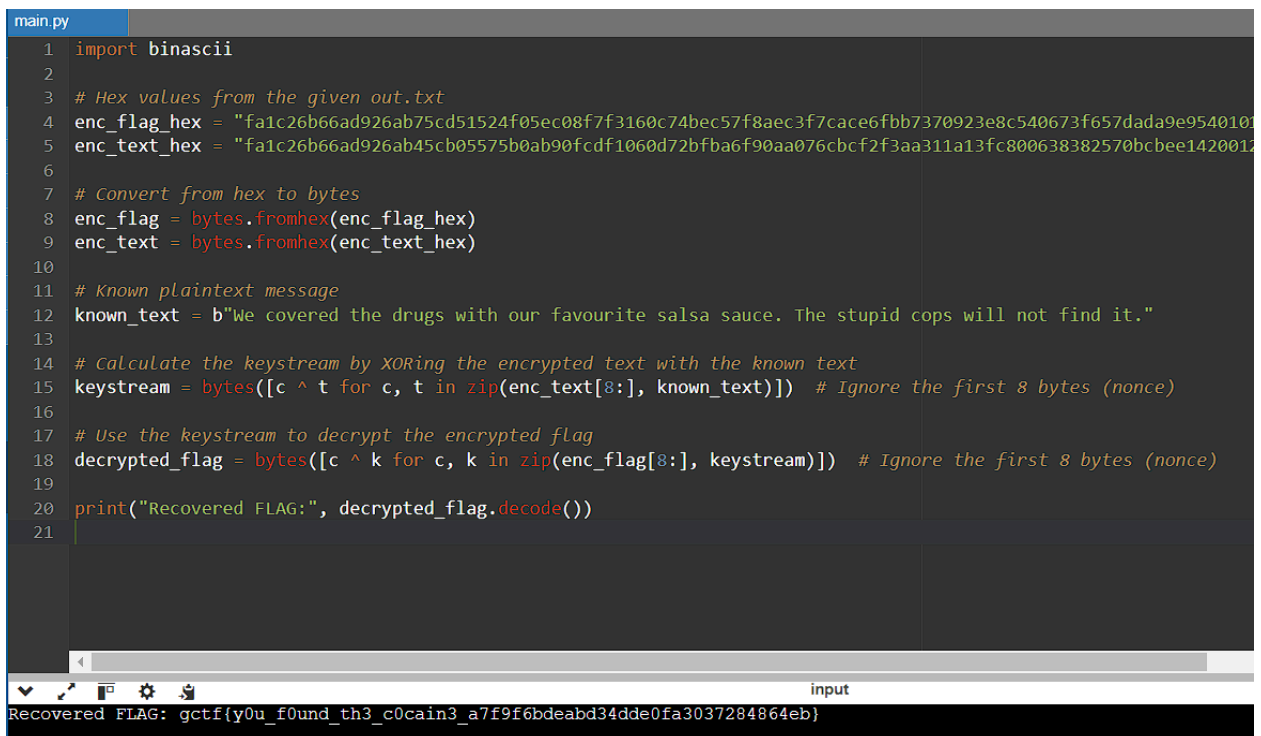
if __name__ == "__main__":
    text = b"We covered the drugs with our favourite salsa sauce. The stupid cops will not find it."

    key, nonce = tb(32), tb(8)

    enc_text = encText(text, key, nonce)
    enc_flag = encText(FLAG, key, nonce)

    with open('out.txt', 'w') as f:
        f.write(f"Encrypted flag: {enc_flag.hex()}\n")
        f.write(f"Encrypted text: {enc_text.hex()}")
```

The same key and nonce are used for both encryptions, generated by `token_bytes(32)` and `token_bytes(8)`. We know the original text ("We covered the drugs with our favourite salsa sauce. The stupid cops will not find it.") and have its encrypted version, so we can try to reverse the encryption to find the key and nonce. Once we have the key and nonce, we can use them to write a code to decrypt the flag.



```
main.py
1 import binascii
2
3 # Hex values from the given out.txt
4 enc_flag_hex = "fa1c26b66ad926ab75cd51524f05ec08f7f3160c74bec57f8aec3f7cace6fbb7370923e8c540673f657dada9e954010f"
5 enc_text_hex = "fa1c26b66ad926ab45cb05575b0ab90fcdcf1060d72bfba6f90aa076cbc2f3aa311a13fc800638382570bcbee1420012"
6
7 # Convert from hex to bytes
8 enc_flag = bytes.fromhex(enc_flag_hex)
9 enc_text = bytes.fromhex(enc_text_hex)
10
11 # Known plaintext message
12 known_text = b"We covered the drugs with our favourite salsa sauce. The stupid cops will not find it."
13
14 # Calculate the keystream by XORing the encrypted text with the known text
15 keystream = bytes([c ^ t for c, t in zip(enc_text[8:], known_text)]) # Ignore the first 8 bytes (nonce)
16
17 # Use the keystream to decrypt the encrypted flag
18 decrypted_flag = bytes([c ^ k for c, k in zip(enc_flag[8:], keystream)]) # Ignore the first 8 bytes (nonce)
19
20 print("Recovered FLAG:", decrypted_flag.decode())
21
```

input

Recovered FLAG: gctf{y0u_f0und_th3_c0cain3_a7f9f6bdeabd34dde0fa3037284864eb}

FORENSICS




QNA

Flag: GCTF{p3rs0nal_s3cr3ts_r3g1stry}



For this challenge, we were given a folder full of files like this that seem to contain personal information related to Microsoft account setups:

Alright, Mr. Google said that the SAM file is where Microsoft stores the passwords. Since there are only three SAM files, it's manageable to check them one by one. After some searching, I found the flag in SAM.LOG1.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
▼ Today			
 DEFAULT	12/10/2024 12:06	File	256 KB
 DEFAULT.LOG1	12/10/2024 12:06	LOG1 File	128 KB
 SAM.LOG1	12/10/2024 12:06	LOG1 File	64 KB

Btw, we used this online website to view our SAM file: <https://filext.com/file-extension/SAM>
Combine all the parts, and voila, you've got your flag! No offense, nothing personal ;)

```
AdministratorsAdministrators have complete and unrestricted access to the computer/domain
{"version":1,"questions":[{"question":"What was your first pet's name?","answer":"GCTF{p3rs0nal}"},
{"question":"What
s the name of the city where you were born?","answer":"_s3cr3ts_"}, {"question":"What was your childhood
nickname?","answer":"r3g1stry"}]]}
Users Users are prevented from making accidental or intentional system-wide changes and can run most
applications
```

MFTBASICS

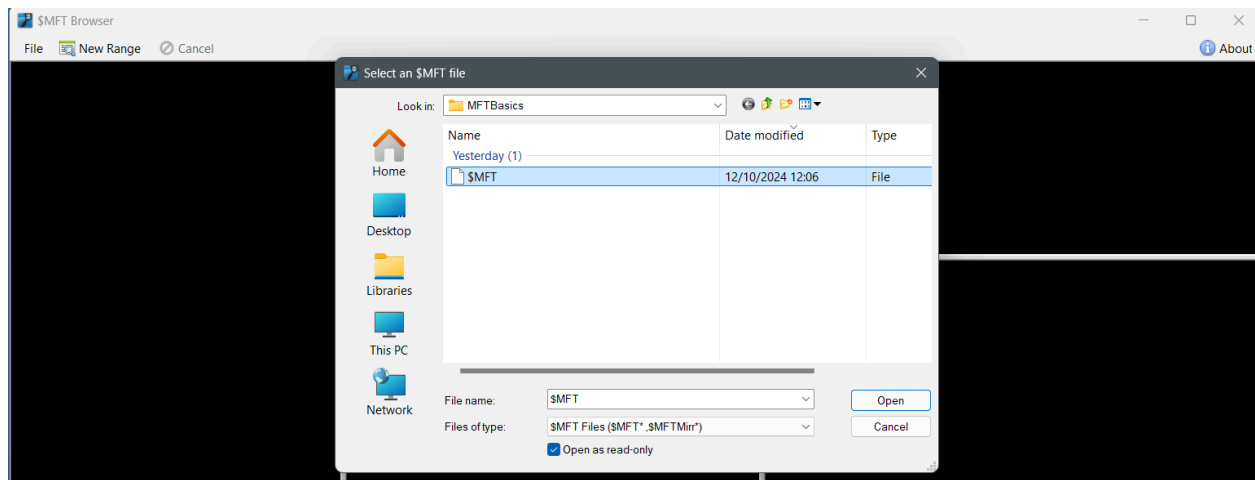
Flag: GCTF{b4s1cs_0f_MFT}



As the name suggests, this challenge is about the Master File Table (MFT). To prepare, I looked into MFT before tackling it. Many CTF challenges from other competitions recommended using MFT Browser, so I downloaded it from here:

https://github.com/kacos2000/MFT_Browser/releases/tag/v.1.0.80

After that, I loaded the \$MFT file into the MFT Browser.



Since I wasn't sure how to search for flag.txt directly in the MFT Browser, I decided to convert the MFT file into a CSV format first. Here is the website to download the program: <https://code.google.com/archive/p/mft2csv/downloads>. Make sure to choose the "MFT to CSV (MFT2CSV)" option.

After converting, I searched for flag.txt to find its path.

0x06FADC00	GOOD OK	114359 4 1 54439 3	flag.txt\Users\GIC2024\Desktop\flag.txt FI
0x06FAE000	GOOD OK	114360 3 1 111934 2	LOG\Users\GIC2024\AppData\Local\Goo
0x06FAE400	GOOD OK	114361 2 1 111930 2	LOG\Users\GIC2024\AppData\Local\Goo
0x06FAE800	GOOD OK	114362 2 1 112570 2	LOG\Users\GIC2024\AppData\Local\Goo
0x06FAEC00	GOOD OK	114363 2 1 111940 2	LOG\Users\GIC2024\AppData\Local\Goo
0x06FAF000	GOOD OK	114364 2 1 111963 2	LOG\Users\GIC2024\AppData\Local\Goo
0x06FAF400	GOOD OK	114365 2 1 111962 2	LOG\Users\GIC2024\AppData\Local\Goo
0x06FAF800	GOOD OK	114366 2 1 111959 2	LOG\Users\GIC2024\AppData\Local\Goo
0x06FAFC00	GOOD OK	114367 2 1 111998 2	LOG\Users\GIC2024\AppData\Local\Goo

[illegible]

Bake that in cyberchef andddd flag captured!

Input

|474354467b6234733163735f30665f4d46547d4d4

Output

GCTF{b4s1cs_of_MFT}|

MISC

I FORGOT

Flag: `gctf{United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_Ninth_Circuit}`


I FORGOT

★ 100

Here's a song that demonstrates real plagiarism. An artist sued the singers in this song and had won the lawsuit for over 5 million, ya then...uh....wait, I forgot in which courthouse they settled....yea uhm, welcome to osint! FIND THE COURTHOUSE!

Flag format: `gctf{name_of_the_courthouse}`

Challenge author: w0rmh0l3


 Plagiarism...

We were given an MP3 file. Ooh, a song! Since we didn't recognize it, we used Shazam to find out what it was. Now we know the title and who the singer is!

Blurred Lines

Song by Pharrell Williams

Overview Lyrics Listen Artist



4:32

YouTube • RobinThickeVEVO

Robin Thicke - Blurred Lines ft. T.I., Pharrell

Next, we Googled "Blurred Lines court trial" and discovered the courthouse mentioned on Wikipedia. And there's our flag!

***Pharrell Williams v. Bridgeport
Music***

Court

United States Court of
Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

FIND ME 1

Flag: `gctf{Paul_Wildenberg}`

FIND ME 1

★ 100

We've been trying to make contact with a high profile hacker just to get him on our side. He keeps leaving his images after pwning a system, I think he might had left some fingerprints on it. Try to find out his real name, I'll award you with some points.

Flag format: `gctf{Hacker_Name}`

Challenge author: `w0rmh0l3`

📄 `hacker.png`

Instead of analyzing the .png file manually, I uploaded it on Aperi'Solve for quick analysis




exiftool:

XMP-DC	
Rights	ShadeRaider96

strings:

```
<dc:rights>  
<rdf:Alt>  
  <rdf:li xml:lang='x-default'>ShadeRaider96</rdf:li>  
</rdf:Alt>  
</dc:rights>
```

Results from exiftool and strings lead to this probable username of the hacker. Username found, what else? Find his social media of course! Run the username using OSINT tools like <https://instantusername.com/#/> and we found his X account. The flag is his real name, so yeah.




...

Q

Follow

Paul Wildenberg
@ShadeRaider96

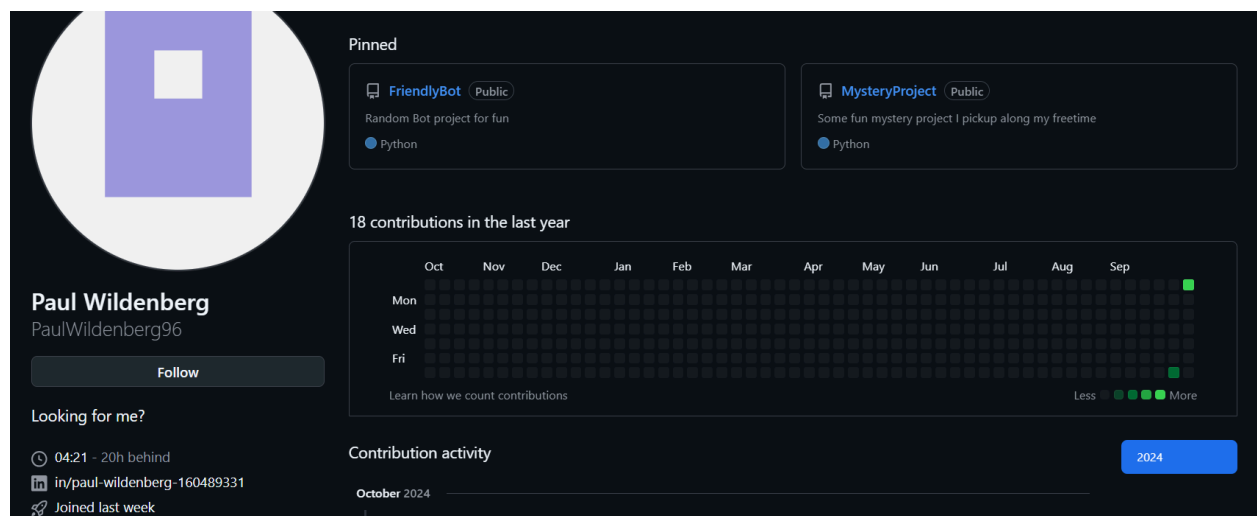
I am the hackerman

github.com/PaulWildenberg...  Joined October 2024


22 Following 10 Followers

FIND ME 2


Flag: gctf{R34L_OS1N7_M4st3r_Hun71ng_T4rg3ts}



From the previous X profile, we followed the GitHub link in his bio. However, there was nothing particularly noteworthy in his GitHub repository—just some ‘friendly’ Python projects he had committed, likely trying to mislead us. Nevertheless, he did include a link to his LinkedIn profile, so we decided to check that out.



Paul Wildenberg
Hide and Seek Master at GitHub
Kuala Lumpur, Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia · [Contact info](#)

 GitHub

[Message](#) [🕒 Pending](#) [More](#)

About

Paul Wildenberg is not your average tech enthusiast — he's a digital mastermind known across underground circles as The Hackerman. With a deep expertise in cybersecurity, penetration testing, and ethical hacking, Paul has a remarkable ability to expose vulnerabilities in even the most secure systems. His journey into the world of hacking began at an early age, evolving from curiosity to mastery. From sophisticated red teaming operations to outsmarting the most hardened defences, Paul's work is both respected and feared.

Looking for me? Try sending me an email, will reply you ASAP.

Experience



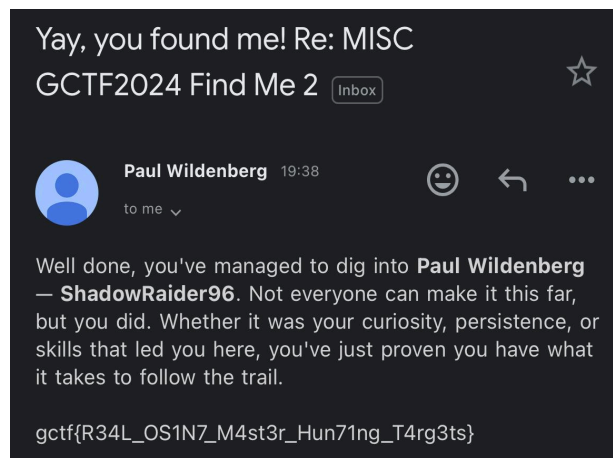
Hide and Seek Master
GitHub · Full-time



You Ran Past It
Google · Freelance
Jan 2021 - Present · 3 yrs 10 mos
Remote

He mentioned that we could try sending him an email, and we believe the answer might be there since Gmail isn't a social media platform. We used the username from X, which is paulwildenberg96, as his email because, well, people often do that (sometimes we can be a bit forgetful, like Dory xD). So his complete email address is paulwildenberg96@gmail.com.

And we tried sending an email. He replied ASAP which is surprising hehe. But yeah, we got the flag.



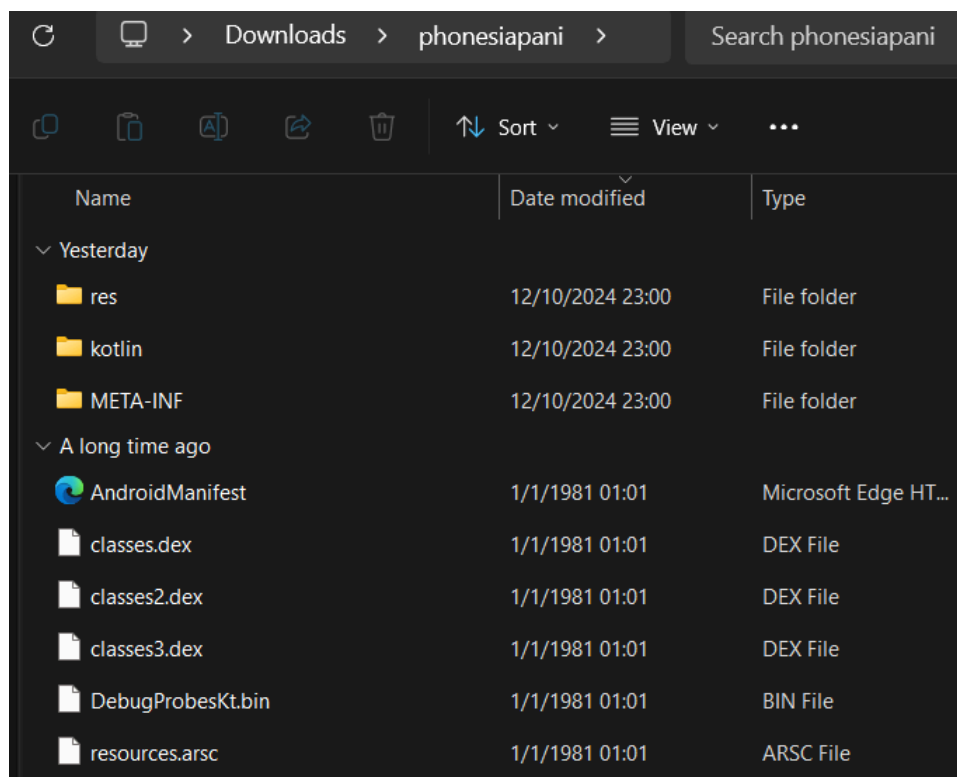
RE

PHONE SIAPA NI?

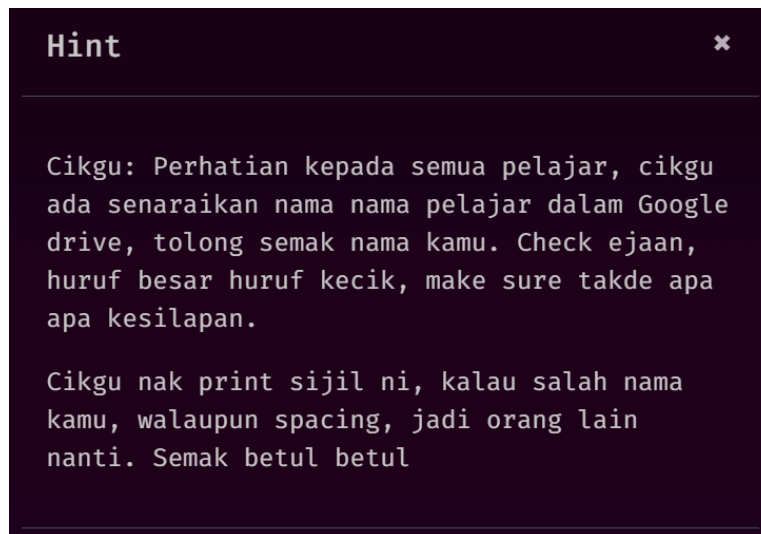
Flag: GCTF{Liyana Nura binti Fakhri}



We received a zip file with various files and folders. This is the typical structure of an APK file.



At first I thought we needed to run the app through an android emulator. But since the challenge's hint features a teacher's dialogue, we suspected that the files we needed to analyze were the class files in .dex format.

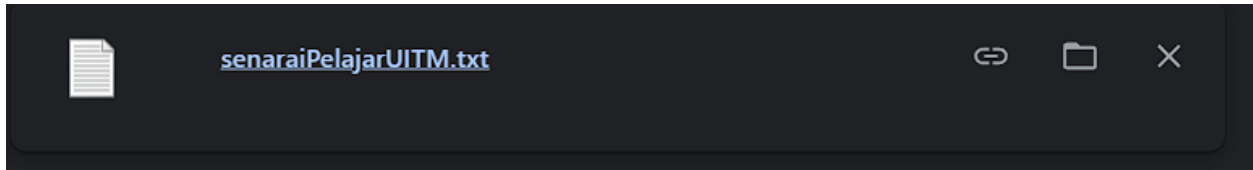


We opened the file using <https://www.decompiler.com/>. We looked for clues and discovered some valuable hints in the classes3.dex file, as shown below:

```
public void onCreate(Bundle savedInstanceState) {
    MainActivity.super.onCreate(savedInstanceState);
    setContentView(R.layout.activity_main);
    this.userInput = (EditText) findViewById(R.id.userInput);
    this.messageTextView = (TextView) findViewById(R.id.messageTextView);
    ((Button) findViewById(R.id.checkButton)).setOnClickListener(new View.OnClickListener() {
        public void onClick(View v) {
            if (MainActivity.this.hashWithSHA256(MainActivity.this.userInput.getText().toString()).equals("d455bf6375fd293e2091970986002934e6cc7d0c59f2cf8f
                MainActivity.this.messageTextView.setText("Betul! Flag anda adalah GCTF{nama individu tersebut}");
            } else {
                MainActivity.this.messageTextView.setText("Salah! cuba lagi sampai dapat.");
            }
        }
    });
    downloadFile("https://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1bQAm09wd4Xjq47CKuW2v_2Z946kw9D46", this);
}
```

The full code is for an Android app that takes user input, checks if it matches a specific hashed value (a secret flag), and downloads a file from the internet. It displays messages to the user based on their input. What we want to focus on is the method mentioning the flag 'GCTF{}'. Basically when the user clicks the button, the app checks if the hashed version of their input matches a specific hashed value. If it matches, a success message is shown (flag); otherwise, an error message is displayed.

We copy pasted the Google Drive link on the browser and it auto-downloads this text file which contains a list of 50,000 names :0



Since the flag success message is pre-written output, meaning there's no flag value from there, so what we need to do is reverse the method! Input a name that matches the hash value so we can get the success message. Technically speaking, it's a pain to input 50k names one by one duh, so of course we need to use a script to automate this.

We sought help from chatgpt to create a code to compare the hash value with the list of names. The code is as follows:

```
import hashlib

def hash_with_sha256(input_string):
    """Hash a string using SHA-256 and return the hexadecimal digest."""
    return hashlib.sha256(input_string.encode()).hexdigest()

def check_names(file_path, correct_hash):
    """Check each name from a file against the correct hash."""
    matching_names = []

    # Read names from the file
    with open(file_path, 'r') as file:
        names = file.readlines()

    for name in names:
        stripped_name = name.strip() # Remove leading/trailing whitespace
        if stripped_name: # Check for non-empty names
            hashed_name = hash_with_sha256(stripped_name) # Hash the name
            if hashed_name == correct_hash:
                matching_names.append(stripped_name) # Add to matching names

    return matching_names

# Example usage
correct_hash_value = "d455bf6375fd293e2091970986002934e6cc7d0c59f2cf8feb80a0c09adfa784" # Known hash
file_path = 'students_names.txt' # Replace with your file containing names

# Check names and get matches
matches = check_names(file_path, correct_hash_value)

# Output results
if matches:
    print("Matching names found:")
    for match in matches:
        print(match)
else:
    print("No matching names found.")
```

And we got this name. That's our flag.

```
Matching names found:
Liyana Nura binti Fakhri
```