

STOC 2021 – Mystery Hunt

Bits of Cooperation

Day I

A message has been hidden. A common, very common message, yet too dangerous for the mere mortals, let alone mere researchers.

The message was broken in three pieces.

One sent to the Alices, for safekeeping in their land of wonder.

One entrusted to the Bobs, our Elders, who never speak too much.¹

One in the hands of the Carols, for even under duress they will never sing – except, maybe, in Winter times.

But today the time has come, and you need to reconstruct this message. You are one of them, and have one piece of the puzzle; your mission is to convince, by bargain or praise or trickery, someone from each of the other two Tribes to divulge their part of the secret. Only then will you be able to combine them to reveal the hidden message.

$$m = a \oplus b \oplus c$$

Once you have a, b, c , to find the message, you will need to find the least lucky of the tables and use what lies upon it. (*Shouldn't be too hard, that part, if you ask me; but what do I know – I'm just a pdf.*)

Once you have found the hidden message, email me the solution (or find me on the map): clement.canonne@sydney.au.edu

Beware, though – others will ask you for *your* part of the secret. You can trust them, and give them; bargain and barter; or lie, trying to mislead them. **It's up to you!**

¹Elders? Yeah, Bob's your Uncle.