**The Leaked Email**

**Introduction and Disclaimer**

On February the 6th, 2012, a guest submitted the following email to [pastebin](http://pastebin.com/RmqxWcnB), supposedly leaked from 3301/Cicada after solving the 2012 puzzle:

3301 cicada, this has been modified from your orriginal text in order to

remove your uber sekret 0hd4y identifications signature.

If you think it belongs to any particular applicant it does not;

and you DO know what I mean. u mad?

< !-- Slightly odified content, in attempt to hide identity of leaker.

Cicada sent different (punctuations, sentence structure)email

to every receiver, so that any leaks can be backtracked to receiver. -->

---BEGIN FU ENCODING STRIPPED MESSAGE---

DO NOT SHARE THIS INFORMATION!

Congratulations your month of testing has come to an end out of the

thousands who attempted it you are one of only a few who have succeeded.

There is one last step although there will not be any hidden codes or

secret messages or physical treasure hunts this last step is only

honesty we have always been honest with you and we shall continue

to be honest with you and we expect you to be honest with us in return.

You have all wondered who we are and so we shall now tell you we are

an international group we have no name we have no symbol we have no

membership rosters we do not have a public website and we do not

advertise ourselves we are a group of individuals who have proven

ourselves much like you have by completing this recruitment contest

and we are drawn together by common beliefs a careful reading of the

texts used in the contest would have revealed some of these beliefs

that tyranny and oppression of any kind must end that censorship is

wrong and that privacy is an inalienable right.

We are not a \*hacker\* group nor are we a \*warez\* group we do not engage

in illegal activity nor do our members if you are engaged in illegal

activity we ask that you cease any and all illegal activities or decline

membership at this time we will not ask questions if you decline however

if you lie to us we will find out.

You are undoubtedly wondering what it is that we do we are much like

a \*think tank\* in that our primary focus is on researching and developing

techniques to aid the ideas we advocate liberty privacy security you

have undoubtedly heard of a few of our past projects and if you choose

to accept membership we are happy to have you on-board to help with future projects.

Please reply to this email with the answers to the next few questions

to continue:

\* Do you believe that every human being has a right to privacy and

anonymity and is within their rights to use tools which help obtain

and maintain privacy cash strong encryption anonymity software etc?

\* Do you believe that information should be free?

\* Do you believe that censorship harms humanity?

We look forward to hearing from you.

3301

---END FUUUUUUUUUUU---

We look forward to hearing from you.

Anonymous

Counterhash requests that although they will do their best to debunk this email in the following, the ultimate decision as to whether or not you believe this is real or fake has to be made by you. With that out of the way, let's dive right in:

**Why this makes sense**

If you go through the revisions for this article, you'll find a full debunking.

**I stand corrected.**

The message initially looks quite odd, as it is badly written, with punctuation missing and no GPG signature attached. One would, as I did, initially assume that the message is an obvious fake. After speaking with members who actually recieved this message, apparently the message was sent out with different punctuation between different solvers. The purpose of this was that the message remained legible, but if it were leaked it could be traced to an individual solver, either by punctuation or GPG key.

The brave person who leaked this put multiple copies of his details through the form, and recieved a number of emails. He worked out this pattern and combined the emails to create what we see above. He stripped it of the GPG signature, and merged the punctuation.

The message is probably the only piece of evidence we can go off as to who 3301 is/are.

I will go about contacting users who recieved this message, and seeing if I can get ahold of a version with a confirmed GPG signature. For the moment:

MYTH: **CONFIRMED**

### **Status**

The consensus among regulars at the time seems to be that the message is genuine, excluding the obvious modifications for privacy reasons and introduction.

## A new old leak

In 2020, a [redditor](https://www.reddit.com/r/cicada/comments/dqo7fp/the_leaked_email_with_pgp/) noticed an [old pastebin](https://pastebin.com/Nj8gDqFG) with the same message seemingly from the end of the [2013 puzzle](https://uncovering-cicada.fandom.com/wiki/What_Happened_Part_2_(2013)#The_End.3F) - except this time the signature was intact and verifiable, seeming to confirm the original paste.

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA1

DO NOT SHARE THIS INFORMATION!

Congratulations. Your testing has finally come to an end. We hope you have enjoyed

the "vacation" over the last few weeks. You will be very busy now should you choose

to join us.

There are two final steps, although there won't be any hidden codes, or secret messages,

or physical treasure hunts. This first of these is only honesty. We have always been

honest with you, and we shall continue to be honest with you. And we expect you to be

honest with us in return.

You have all wondered who we are, and so we shall now tell you : We are an international

group. We have no name. We have no symbol. We have no membership rosters. We do not

have a public website, and we do not advertise ourselves. We are a group of individuals

who have proven ourselves. Much like you have by completing this recruitment contest.

And we are drawn together by common beliefs. A careful reading of the texts used in

the contest would have revealed some of these beliefs : that tyranny and oppression

of any kind must end; that censorship is wrong; and that privacy is an inalienable right.

We are not a "hacker" group. Nor are we a "warez" group. We do not engage in illegal

activity, nor do our members. If you are engaged in illegal activity, we ask that you

cease any and all illegal activities or decline membership at this time. We will not

ask questions if you decline; however, if you lie to us we will find out.

You are undoubtedly wondering what it is that we do. We are much like a "Think Tank" in

that our primary focus is on researching and developing techniques to aid the ideas we

advocate : liberty, privacy, security. You have undoubtedly heard of a few of our past

projects. And if you choose to accept membership, we are happy to have you on board to

help with future projects.

Please answer the next few questions, and send your encrypted responses to

c1231507051321@gmail.com

\* Do you believe that every human being has a right to privacy and anonymity, and is within

their rights to use tools which help obtain and maintain privacy : i.e., cash, strong

encryption, anonymity software, etc?

\* Do you believe that information should be free?

\* Do you believe that censorship harms humanity?

We look forward to hearing from you.

3301

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----

Version: GnuPG v1.4.11 (GNU/Linux)

iQIcBAEBAgAGBQJRMuCKAAoJEBgfAeV6NQkPjCoQALzk/jfmJQbuGxu4jI++cR77

hJiE9yOhTgNeDcKPNYv5xBbJJEKrvd35dZ2YhKG672Z7Zf2Y+1LkoNRtkqyFFHRX

mKASfYYFMg7kyL5+kNxe5EZvgECAC2lADhmI0cFxsWgnWEXO/KE++raJDJ3jBzW5

hwscmD0g/KpieZTONwLRmdOj6VRjKrBzVeQilxdaqXD9Np4/t3+SwoAjLvQeVmzK

9etICCa1OcycnQhr+LgBLOTgAw7qMfLMIISxahAxKpCOxQSeN/rph9PAgm/oumy4

5NOaomDlHTVwTx2jzeFnd+vvFU9xYatun3RyBwOpmwTukEjDG3ze/IsSEQ/OV/bP

j8d19uPMX69Tg/TogJSDRv4R2o5ASq0pXoI/OcJ/mBTEsP0ks2A0t+jw6uuT0HAi

k2EsQBBVZFAPxMPVUwLs8iZurqLCkSeXnGYOElspm8RVAY+9r1GSNjo3QkoTJSPy

Yx9CHzVzD6z3RRHHAgkf2tQsadRS5qxijaBEV64J/JLl8qKzf4tqXVoL4rV4FkrN

VAABvpAjbZTWtu7VJJkvJhPseL8HJjcvdCadMElKZ6paaIj45mfYeIov0mbbCDQH

m7ZzOdWqmEOIXfMsCoAGlqd7wY0DAsLhxmH3ks/wkURf+/qboFuZO9y5mEoaj6xO

vJB0iPO0eCsuOQCbn6rr

=e3lt

-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

### **Origin of the pastebin**

The pastebin itself was posted in 2014 by an anonymous guest, a year after the message was signed. It's not known who supplied the information at this time.

As visible in a [Google Cache](https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:Os1Q7fF5pY8J:https://hackforums.net/pdf.php%3Ftid%3D5217603+&cd=4&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=firefox-b-1-d) of a [hackforums post](https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=5217603&page=3), a user posted the same pastebin in 2016 ([Screenshot](https://i.imgur.com/uSV1uT3.png)), showing that the information was known 4 years prior but not documented fully.

In 2020, the reddit post mentioned the message but it was still not documented until it was re-posted a year later on Discord.

In this case the information was repeatedly forgotten or dismissed, and this serves as an example of why it's important to Check The Wiki and mention updated information rather than assume it's just old.