IE4012
Offensive Hacking: Tactical and Strategic
4th Year, 1st Semester

Lab Report

NETGARAGE IO WARGAME

Submitted to

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Bachelor of Science Special Honors Degree in Information Technology

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Declaration

I certify that this report does not incorporate without acknowledgement, any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university, and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in text.

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1. Solutions to NetGarage IO levels

Netgarage IO is a war-game developed so that aspiring ethical hackers and cyber security students can increase their practical skills in assembly language. According to its website, it currently has levels up to the 33rd level. However, in this document, only the first 2 levels will be explored.

To begin the game, you should visit the official site of Netgarage IO;

https://io.netgarage.org/

The website gives you an overall idea about the game and there have been many write-ups and walkthroughs written in multiple languages to explain the process and procedure to be followed in order to advance through the levels.

Level01

As the official website points out, we need to use **'ssh'** in order to login to the war-game. The format to be followed for establishing the connection and the username with the password is given for one to enter level 01.

This can be done in two ways.

- Through Putty – Download and install Putty and use Putty to connect to the wargame.
- Through command prompt – use the 'ssh' command in the command prompt to login to the first level.

The method explained in this article follows the process of playing the wargame through the command prompt in a Windows 10 machine.

To enter into the first level, the following command should be typed in the command prompt.

ssh level1@io.netgarage.org

Entering the password which is '**level1**' will land you in level 01.

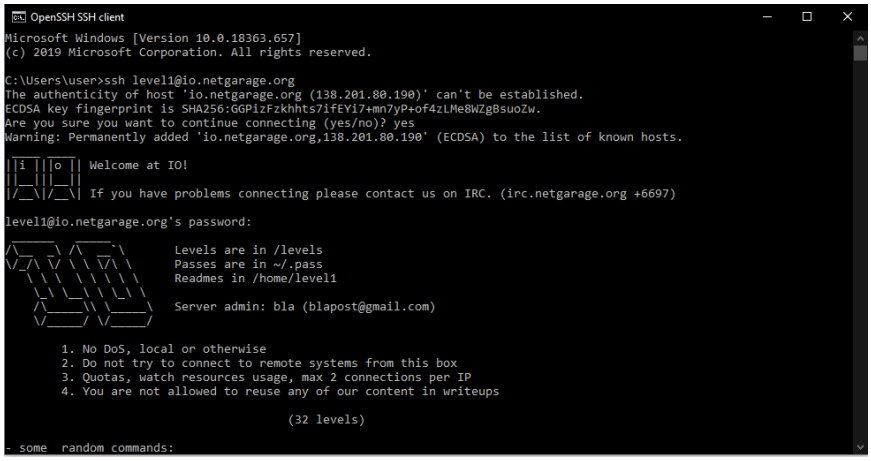

Figure 1.1: Logging into Level1

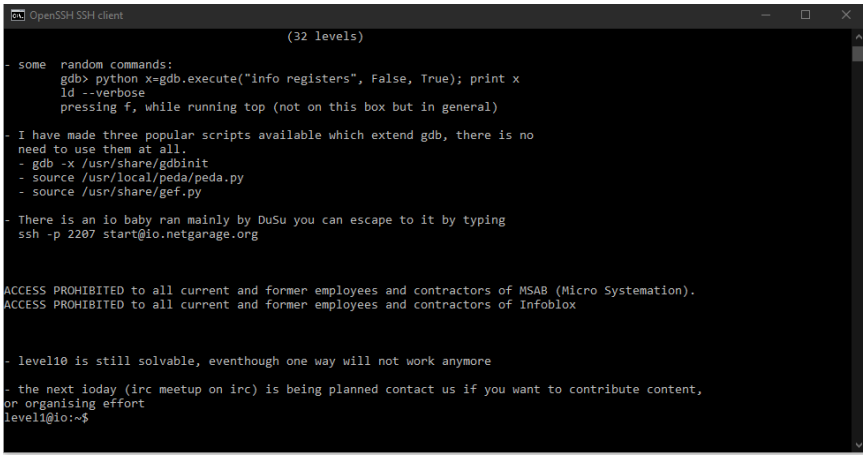

Figure 1.2: Initial Interface of Level1

Inside level 1, there is a folder called ‘levels’ in the root directory. When accessing this, one can observe files of different formats named after different levels to be within the directory.

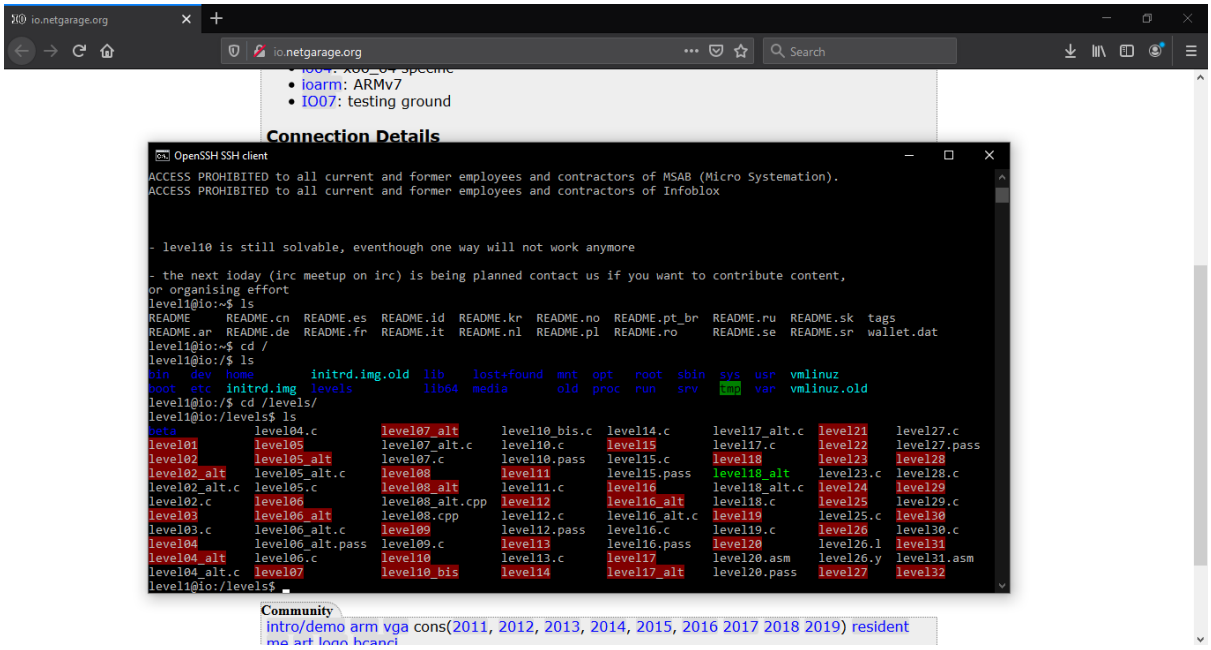

Figure 1.3: File Structure of the 'levels' Directory

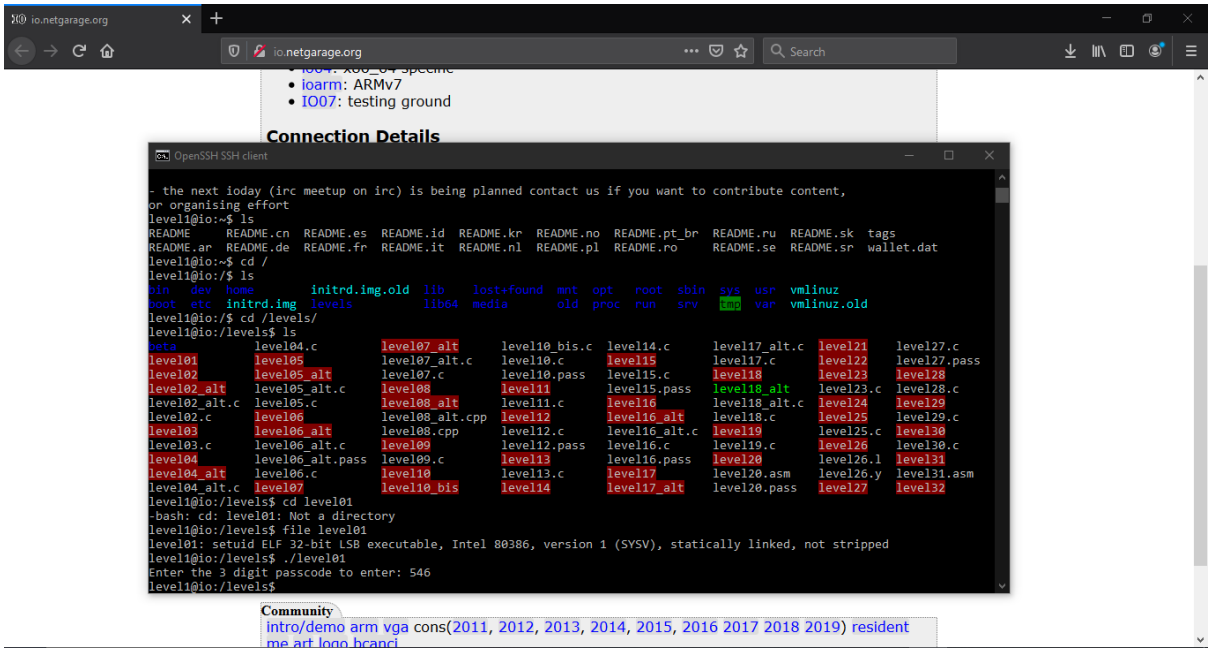

Figure 1.4: Trying to execute 'level01' File

When trying to execute the ‘level01’ file, it can be observed that it requires a 3 digit passcode. Since we do not know what the passcode is, the best option in finding it is to use GDB to analyze the assembly code behind the executable file.

To use GDB, type the following command in the command prompt.

gdb level01

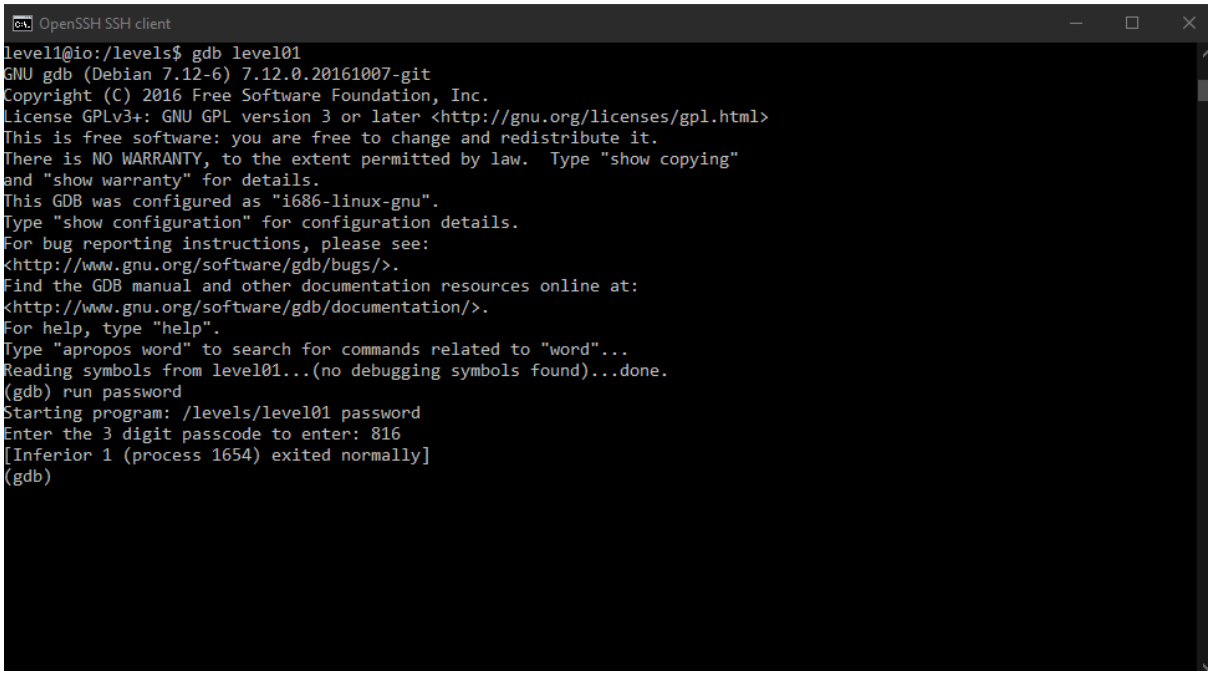

Figure 1.5: Using GDB

Once inside the GDB shell, we can type the following command to disassemble the assembly code for analysis. This will show the assembly code behind the main function of the executable program.

disass main

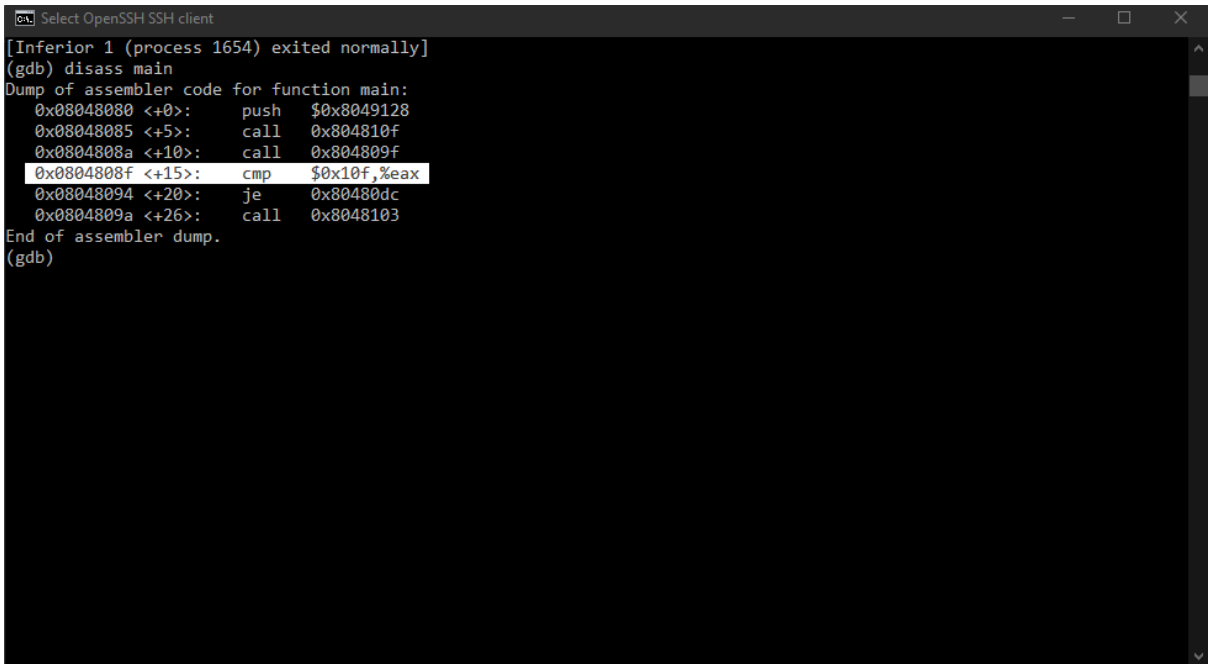

Figure 1.6: Disassembling the Main Function

As can be seen in Figure 1.6, there is a comparison operation being carried out against the value inside the register ‘eax’. We can assume that this may be the part where the 3 digit code is verified and validated in the program. Therefore, we can try printing the value in the specified memory location (0x10f) to the terminal using the following command. Note that the location holds the value as a hexadecimal value but the following command will print the decimal value of the number inside.

p 0x10f

Upon execution of the above command, it shows a 3 digit value in the decimal format.

Figure 1.7: Analyzing the Assembly Code and Printing the Passcode

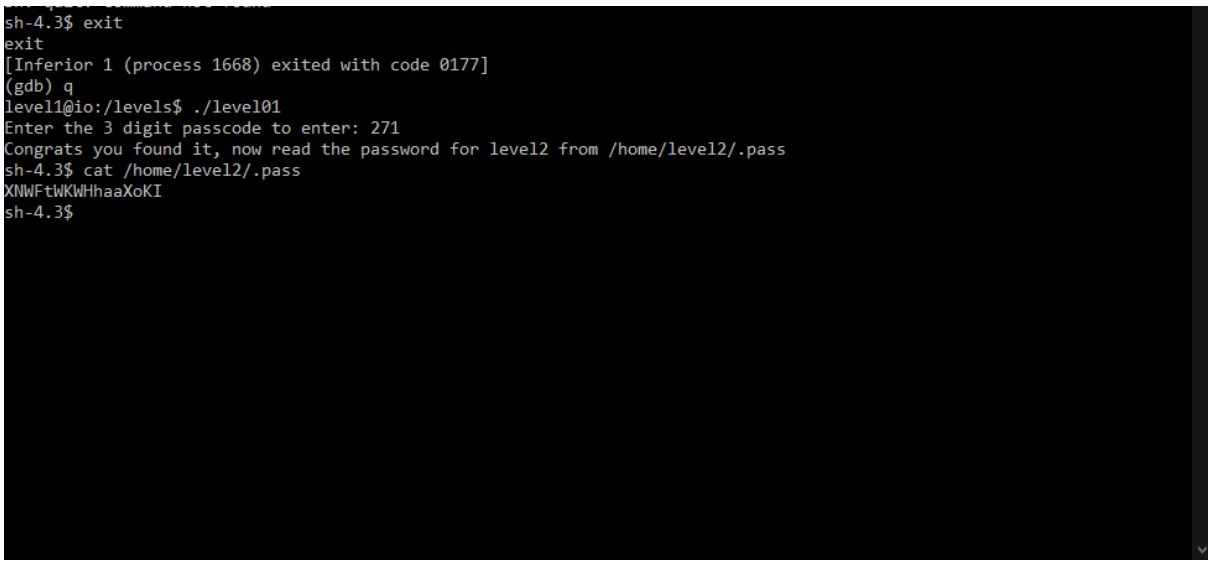

Figure 1.8: Using the Passcode to Obtain Level2 Password

Now it is clear that the ‘eax’ register stored the value inputted by the user after the prompt message, and this value was compared against the value of the 3 digit passcode stored inside 0x10f.

After getting the 3 digit passcode, we can exit from the GDB and execute the level01 file. When prompted, we should enter the passcode. Upon entering, we will be given the password for the 2nd level of the wargame.

Level02

Upon logging into level2, we can see that there's source code file written in C language.

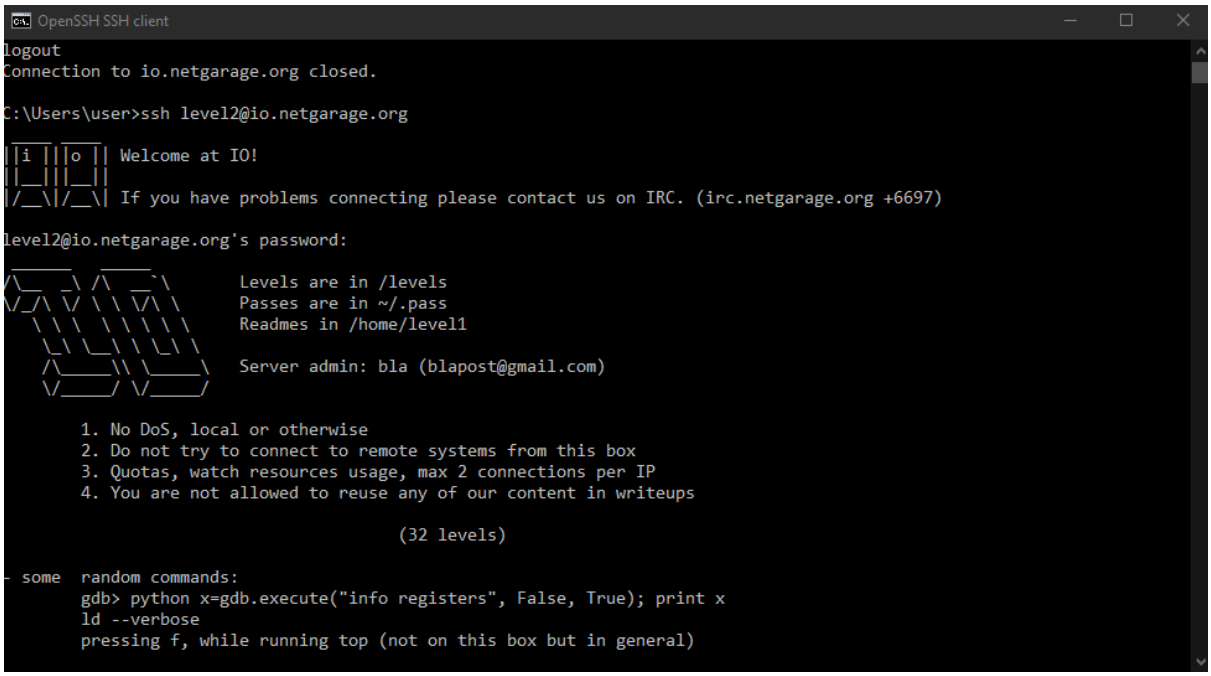

Figure 1.9: Initial Interface of Level02

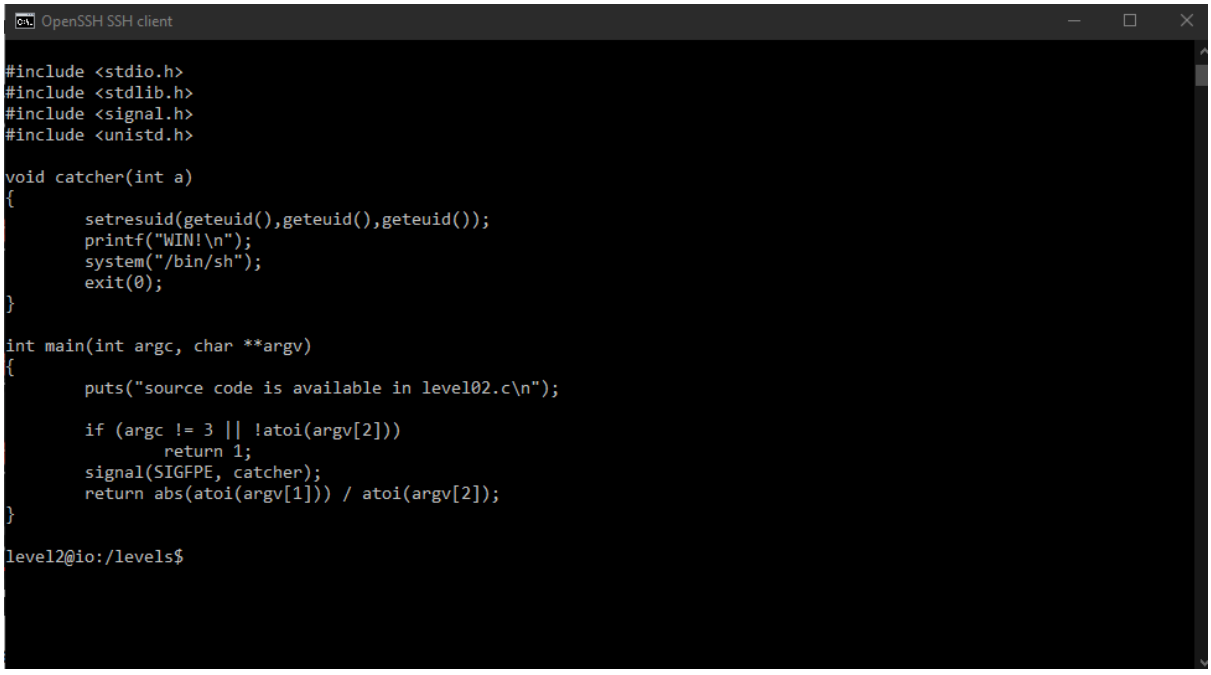

Figure 1.10: Source Code of Level02 file

When analyzing the source code it is clear that the main function takes two arguments where the first is of a valid integer and second isn't explicitly specified.

The SIGFPE error is a runtime error that occurs due to either a division by zero or an integer overflow. Hence we can assume that the catcher function will get called upon a division of zero where SIGFPE error is triggered.

When referring to the MAN page about the SIGFPE error, it can be seen that the error gets triggered on "dividing the most negative integer by -1". Since we know that the maximum negative number in C language is – 2147483648, we can pass this value as the first argument for the program and -1 as the second argument to trigger a SIGFPE error which will in turn call the catcher function that would give us the password for level 3.

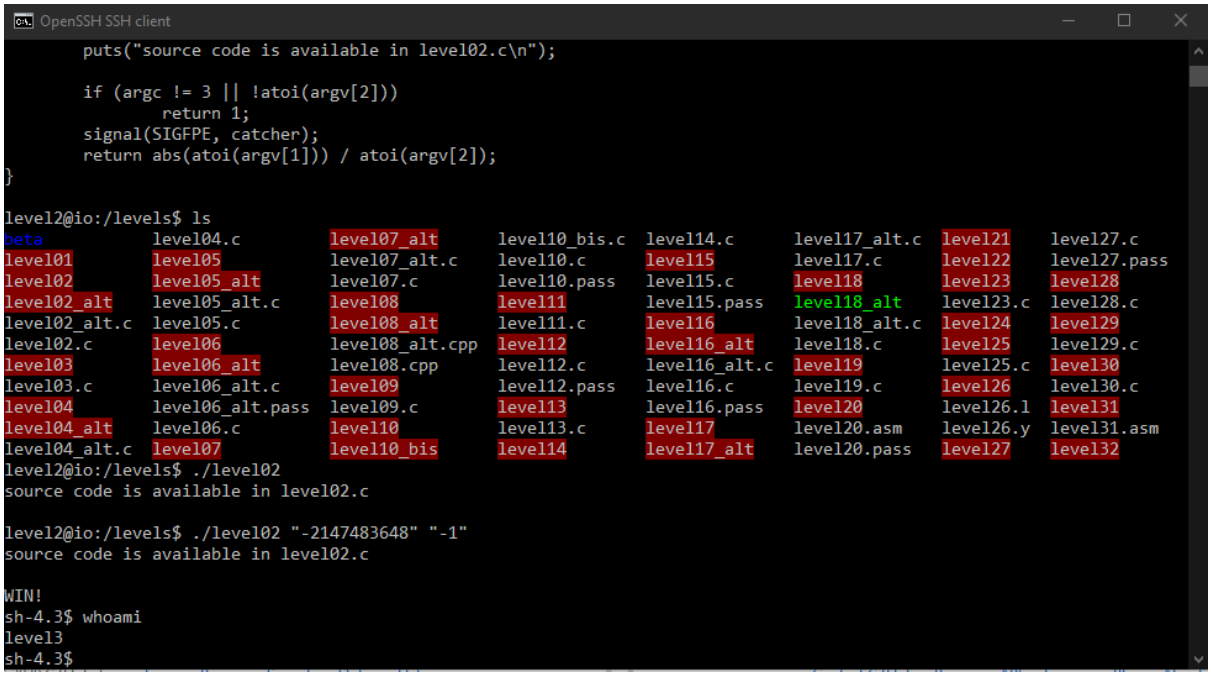

Figure 1.11: Executing level02 file with custom arguments

Once you run the following command to input custom parameters where the first argument is the most negative integer and the second argument is -1, you will get a message called ‘’WIN!’.

./level02 “-2147483648” “-1”

Now you can run the ‘whoami’ command to see that you are now logged in as user level 3.

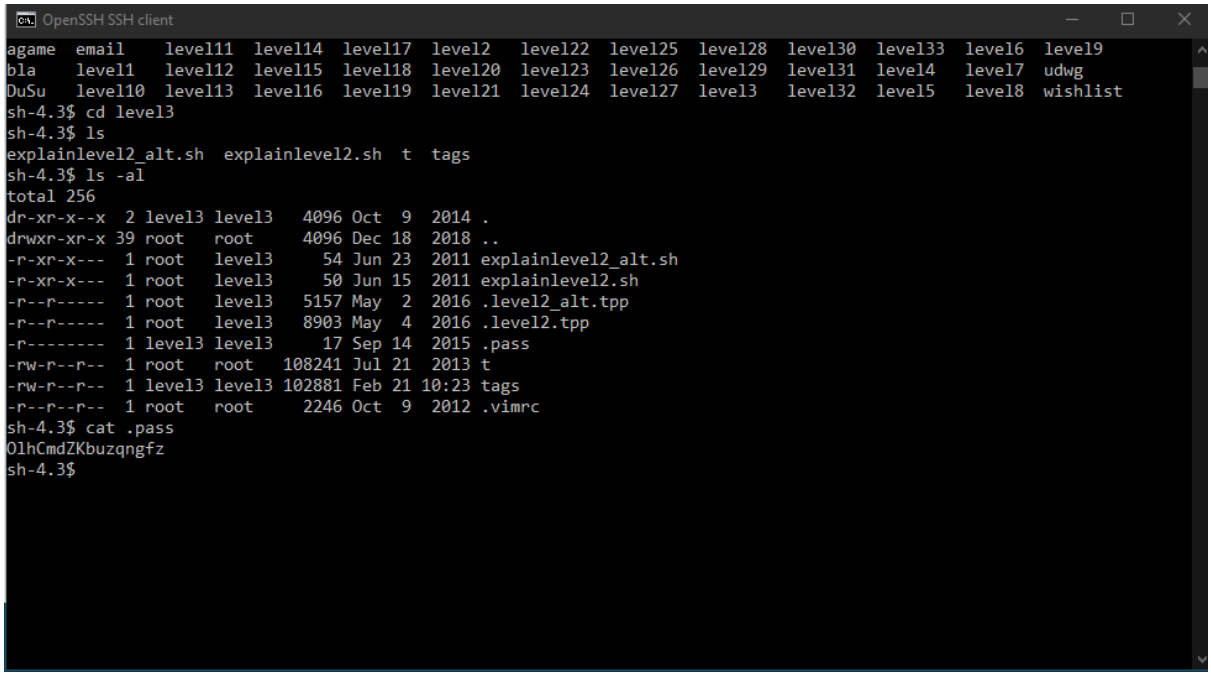

Figure 1.12: Obtaining password for Level 3

You can now browse to /home/level3/.pass file to display the password to enter level 3.