

Crypto Maze

The anomaly description was a single line:

“A maze lies before you with letters on the floor. Start at the star. The solution and the flag are one and the same.”

With the hint that the flag format is `cdc{...}`

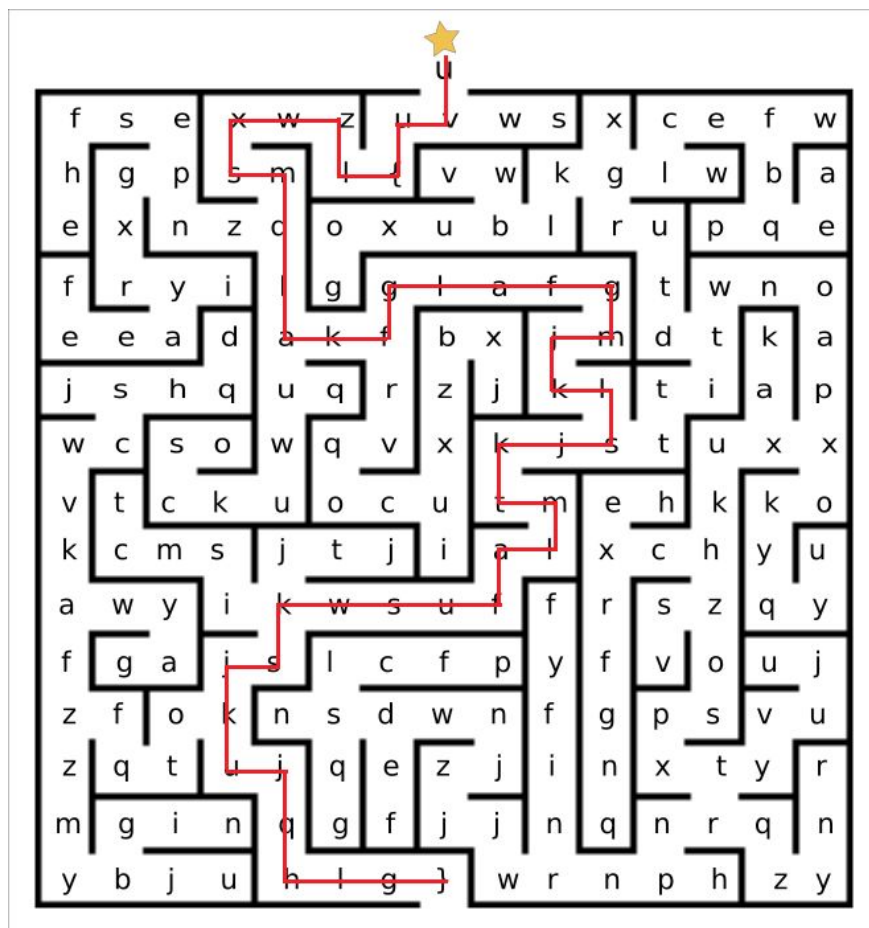


u

f	s	e	x	w	z	u	v	w	s	x	c	e	f	w
h	g	p	s	m	l	{	v	w	k	g	l	w	b	a
e	x	n	z	d	o	x	u	b	l	r	u	p	q	e
f	r	y	i	l	g	g	l	a	f	g	t	w	n	o
e	e	a	d	a	k	f	b	x	j	m	d	t	k	a
j	s	h	q	u	q	r	z	j	k	l	t	i	a	p
w	c	s	o	w	q	v	x	k	j	s	t	u	x	x
v	t	c	k	u	o	c	u	t	m	e	h	k	k	o
k	c	m	s	j	t	j	i	a	l	x	c	h	y	u
a	w	y	i	k	w	s	u	f	f	r	s	z	q	y
f	g	a	j	s	l	c	f	p	y	f	v	o	u	j
z	f	o	k	n	s	d	w	n	f	g	p	s	v	u
z	q	t	u	j	q	e	z	j	i	n	x	t	y	r
m	g	i	n	q	g	f	j	j	n	q	n	r	q	n
y	b	j	u	h	l	g	}	w	r	n	p	h	z	y

Solution:

It's a maze, so start by finding the path through it.



The next step is to write out the string that you have found in the maze:

uvu{lwxsmdlakfglafgmjklsljktmlafuswksjkujqhlgl}

We know the string from the maze, and we know the format is `cdc{...}`, the next step is to connect the dots.

Notice that the string matches the hint we were given except that the first three letters have been shifted, but remain in the same order. This should be an obvious clue to try a Caesarian Shift.

With a key of 18, the output is:

cdc{thefaultisnotinourstarsbutincaesarscripto}

which matches the flag format given.