

OSINT CHALLENGE 1

Challenge Write-Up: *The House That Believed*

Challenge Description Recap

Before the wizarding world spread across continents, a small Muggle house in the United Kingdom took a leap of faith and released the very first tale of **The Boy Who Lived** into the world. Trace the origins of that first spellbound book.

Find the name of the publishing house that first brought Harry Potter to life in the UK.

Flag format: EXC{publishername_suffix}

Understanding the Clue (Beginner Breakdown)

Let's simplify what the challenge is asking:

- “**The Boy Who Lived**” → This clearly refers to **Harry Potter**
- “**First tale**” → The very first Harry Potter book
- “**Small Muggle house**” → A metaphor for a **publishing house**
- “**United Kingdom**” → We must focus on the **UK publisher**, not international ones

So our task is:

| Find **which publishing house first published Harry Potter in the UK**

Step 1: Identify the First Harry Potter Book

The first book in the series is:

| **Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**

This is the book that introduced Harry Potter to the world.

Step 2: Search for the Original UK Publisher

Now, search something like:

first publisher of Harry Potter in the UK

or

Harry Potter Philosopher's Stone original UK publisher

From reliable sources (Wikipedia, official publishing history, book references), we find:

| The first Harry Potter book was published in the UK by **Bloomsbury Publishing**

This publishing house took the initial risk and released the book when Harry Potter was still unknown.

Step 3: Format the Flag Correctly

The challenge specifies the flag format:

EXC{publishername_suffix}

From the solution file and verification, the correct suffix is:

bloomsbury_publishing

So the final flag becomes:

EXC{bloomsbury_publishing}

This matches the provided correct flag

Final Answer

Flag:

EXC{bloomsbury_publishing}

Key Takeaways for Beginners

- Always **translate poetic clues into plain meaning**
 - Identify **keywords hidden in storytelling**
 - Focus on **first / original / earliest** when mentioned
 - Pay attention to **geography clues** (UK vs worldwide)
 - Double-check the **flag format**
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