

Write-Up: ROT8000

Challenge Description

We were given the following string:

The hint stated:

Looks like Chinese... but unless you really understand it, this puzzle isn't going anywhere.

At first glance, the characters appear to be Chinese glyphs. However, they form no meaningful sentence in Chinese. This suggests that the characters are being used as a disguise for encoded data.

Step 1: Identifying the Cipher

Observations:

- All characters fall within the CJK Unicode block.
 - The pattern looks structured and consistent.
 - The hint suggests that understanding Chinese is irrelevant.

This strongly points to **ROT8000**, a Unicode rotation cipher.

ROT8000 works similarly to ROT13, but instead of rotating within the alphabet, it rotates within the Unicode range (usually shifting by 0x8000).

Step 2: Decoding Using ROT8000

The screenshot shows the dCode ROT8000 Cipher tool. At the top left, there's a search bar with placeholder text "Search for a tool" and a "SEARCH A TOOL ON dCODE" button. Below it is a text input field with "e.g. type 'caesar'" and a backspace/clear button. To the right are two buttons: "Image generation in Docs and Slides." and "Google Workspace with Gemini". Further right is a "Sign up" button. The main title "ROT8000 CIPHER" is at the top center, followed by "Cryptography > Substitution Cipher > ROT8000 Cipher". On the left, under "Results", there's a text area containing "EXC{glyphs_of_gryffindor}" with a copy/paste icon above it. At the bottom right is a "DECRYPT" button.

1. Go to dcode.fr
 2. Search for **ROT8000**
 3. Paste the encoded string:

- ## 1. Click Decode

The output reveals:

EXC{glyphs_of_gryffindor}