OSINT CHALLENGE 3

Challenge Write-Up: *Slytherin Restricted Vault*

Challenge Description Recap

> Only a chosen few are allowed inside the most guarded vault of the House of the Serpent.
>
> The door does not open for brute force or guesswork — it listens only to those who pay attention.
>
> Clues have been left behind in places people rarely read and icons people rarely click.
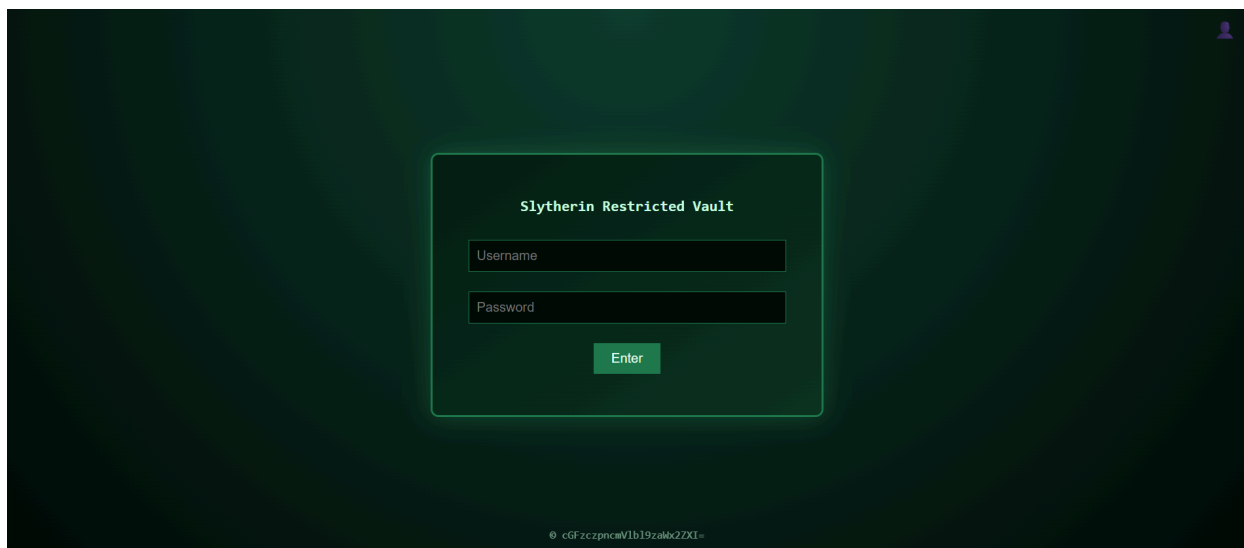>
> Some secrets are whispered in another language.
>
> Others hide behind titles and traditions.
>
> Decode what you find.
>
> Ignore what you don't need.
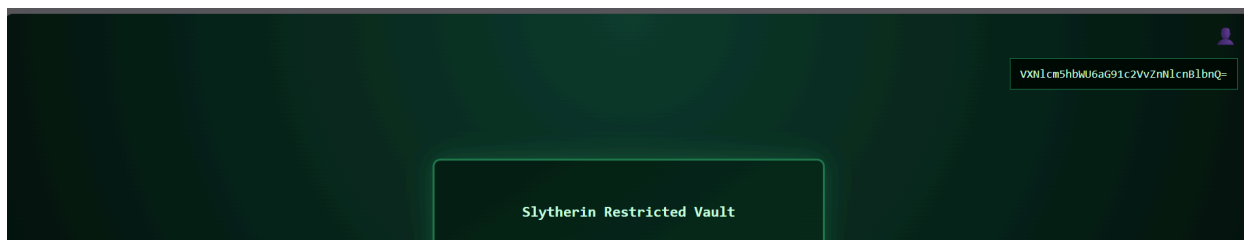>
> Only the names matter.
>
> **Flag format:** `EXC{...}`

Step 1: Decode the Base64 Clues

Username Hint (Header Icon)

The page has a **profile icon (👤)**. Clicking it reveals a hidden hint.
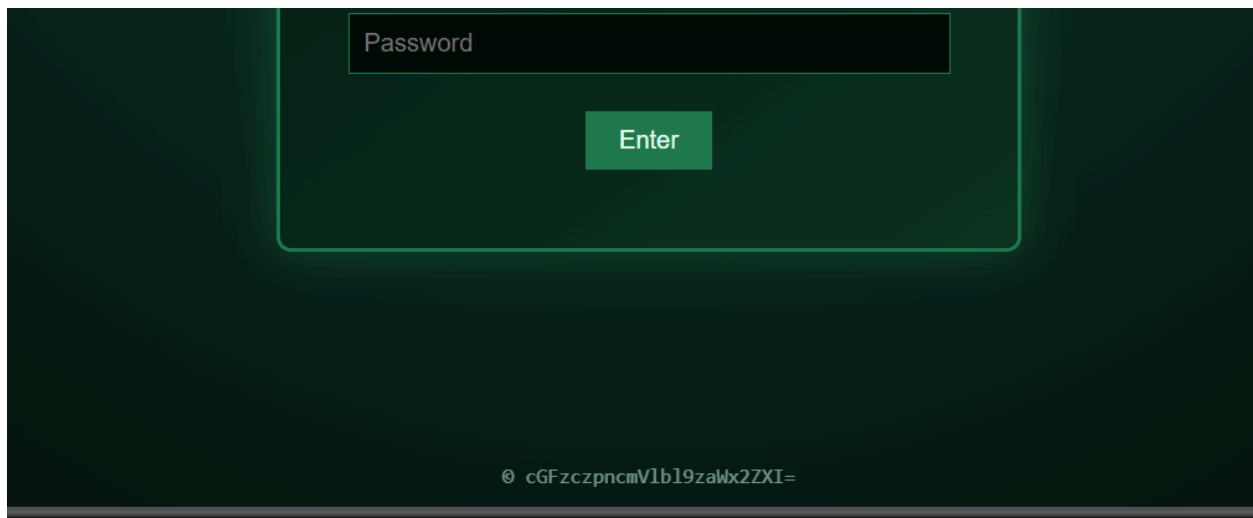

Decoded Base64:

    VXNlcm5hbWU6aG91c2VvZnNlcnBlbnQ=

Decodes to:

```
Username: houseofserpent
```

This gives us the **correct username**.

Password Hint (Footer)

At the bottom of the page (footer), another Base64 string appears:

```
cGFzczpncmVlbl9zaWx2ZXI=
```

Decodes to:

```
pass: green_silver
```
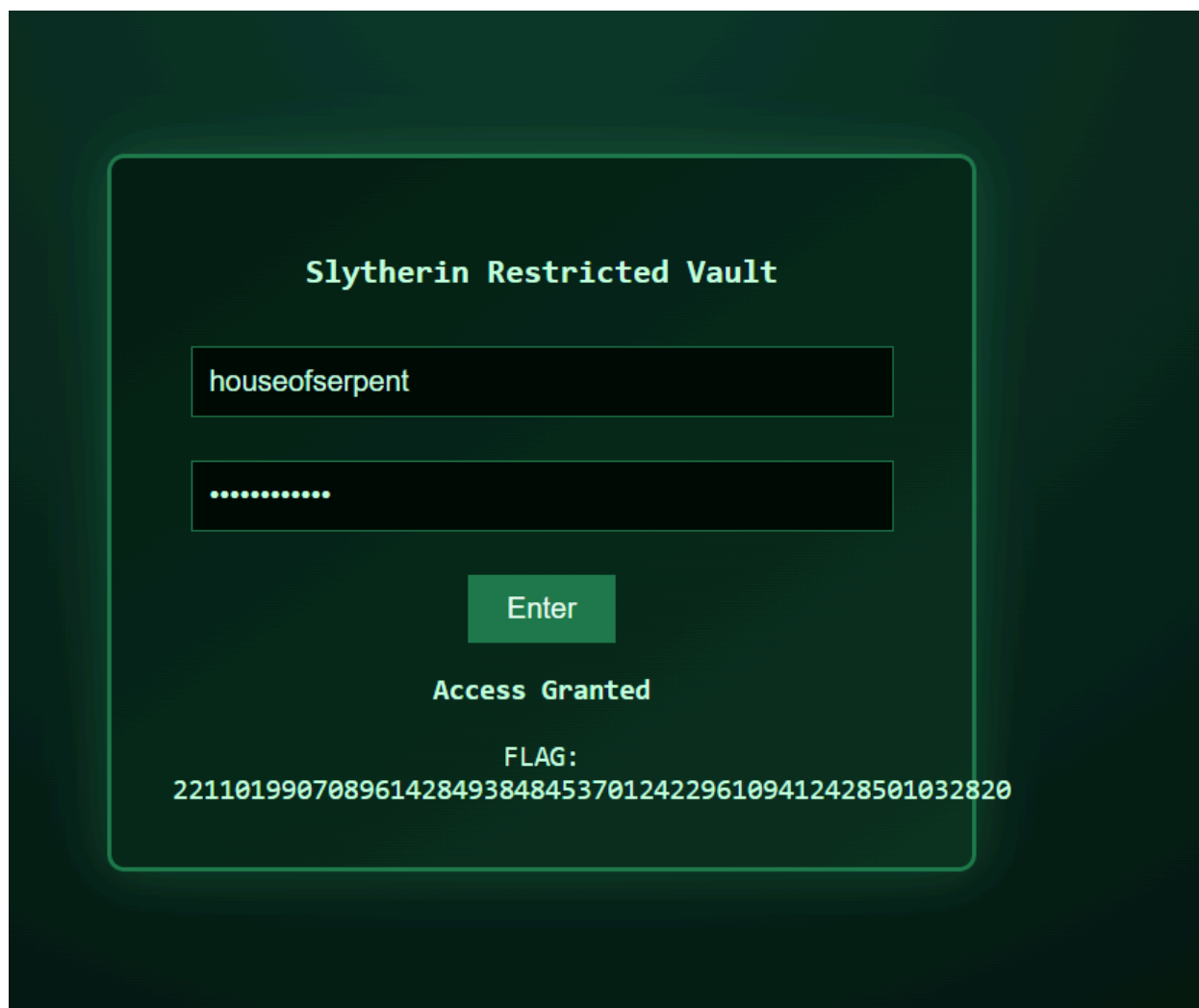
This gives us the **password**.

Step 2: Log In with the Correct Credentials

Now enter:

- **Username:** `houseofserpent`
- **Password:** `green_silver`

Click **Enter**.

Access is granted, and the page reveals a long numeric value.

Slytherin Restricted Vault

houseofserpent

••••••••••••

Enter

Access Granted

FLAG:
22110199070896142849384845370124229610941242850103282O

Step 3: Interpreting the Result

Although a number is displayed after login, the challenge description clearly states:

> **"Only the names matter."**

This tells us:

- The real flag is **not the number**
- The number is a homophonic cipher
- The meaningful solution is the **successful vault unlock**
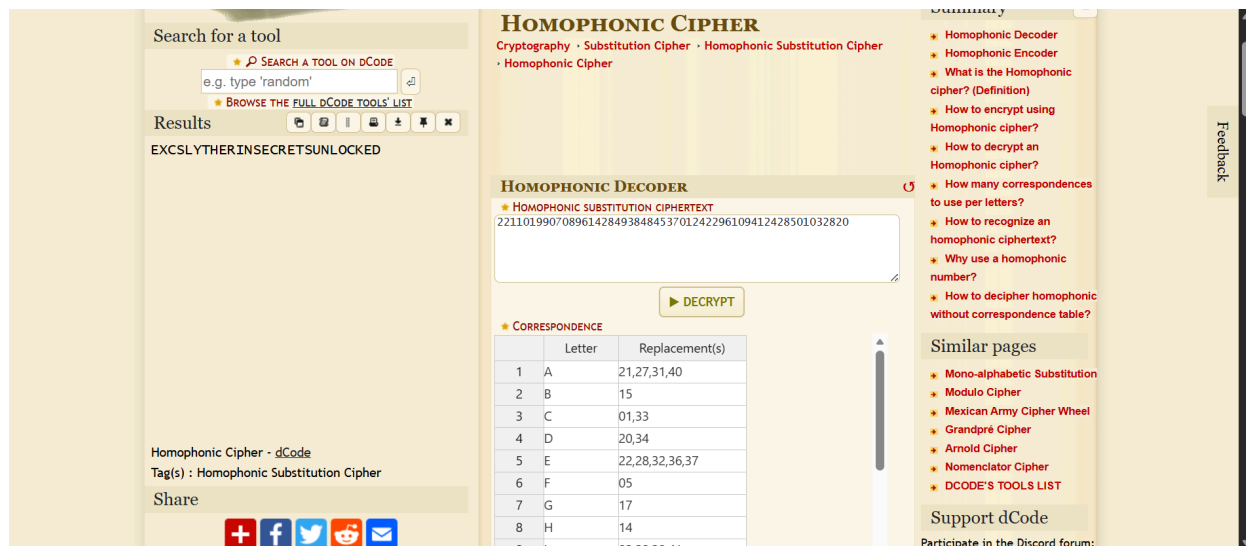
From the challenge validation, the correct flag is:

```
EXC{SLYTHERINSECRETSUNLOCKED}
```

Final Answer

Flag:

```
EXC{SLYTHERINSECRETSUNLOCKED}
```

Key Takeaways for Beginners

- Always **inspect the page source** in web challenges

- Click **icons and UI elements** — they may hide clues

- Base64 is commonly used for **simple obfuscation**

- Read the **challenge description carefully** — it tells you what to ignore

- Don't brute-force when the challenge says not to