

Banana Princess

John Hammond | Monday, February 6th, 2017

The princess has been kidnapped! It is up to you to rescue her now, with the help of the minions. They have provided you with a letter (which may or may not have touched the kidnappers hands on its way to you).

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This was the first crypto challenge, worth 20 points.

We were given a PDF file to download; but the thing was broken, we couldn't load it into a viewer or really read anything out of it.

I ran file on the file for some simple and easy recon, but there was really nothing interesting there.

```
$ file MinionQuest.pdf
MinionQuest.pdf: data
```

Next I opened up in hexedit (again to get a better idea of what is really up with this file) and everything looked like gibberish. Some of the text looked like base64, so I tried to decode it but nothing worth while.

Eventually, after staring at it for way too long, I took a look at the very top of the file.

I saw that the file started with bytes representing:

```
%CQS-1.5.
```

And this looked super weird, because it should be PDF, but it looked similar to it. On a hunch and gut feeling, I started to check the difference between those letters.

```
>>> ord('P') - ord('C')
13
>>> ord('D') - ord('Q')
-13
```

```
>>> ord('F') - ord('S')
-13
```

Aha. Thirteen. That encourages my hunch. I grabbed a random string and tested it:

```
$ strings MinionQuest.pdf | head
%CQS-1.5
4 0 bow
<<//varnevmrq 1/Y 430190/B 6/R 404343/A 1/G 429991/U [ 576 155]>>
raqbow

kers
4 14
0000000016 00000 a
0000000731 00000 a
0000000791 00000 a
```

I wanted to see if it was simply ROT13'd...

```
$ echo "Yvarnevmrq" | rot13
Linearized
```

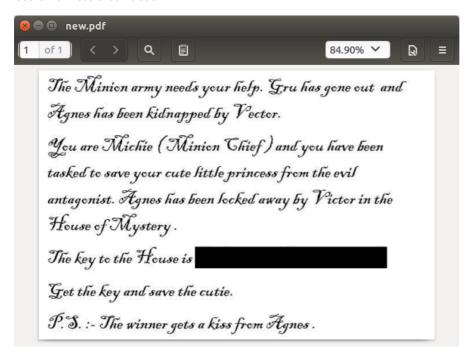
Yup, that's totally a valid PDF element tag.

The whole PDF file must have been ROT13'd!

Now to correct it:

```
$ cat MinionQuest.pdf | rot13 > new.pdf
new.pdf: PDF document, version 1.5
```

Got it. Now let's check it out.



Of course, they censored the flag.

I tried to pull anything out of the PDF with pdftohtml . I was able to pull out the original picture and see the flag!

The Minion army needs your help. Gru has gone out and Agnes has been kidnapped by Vector.

You are Michie (Minion Thief) and you have been tasked to save your cute little princess from the evil antagonist. Agnes has been locked away by Victor in the House of Mystery.

The key to the House is BITS CIF(save_the_kid)

Get the key and save the cutie.

P.S.: - The winner gets a kiss from Agnes.

The flag was: BITSCTF{save_the_kid}

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