



Pico CTF 2014 : The Valley Of Fear

Category: Crypto Points: 20 Description:

The hard drive may be corrupted, but you were able to recover a small chunk of text. Scribbled on the back of the hard drive is a set of mysterious numbers. Can you discover the meaning behind these numbers? (1, 9, 4) (4, 2, 8) (4, 8, 3) (7, 1, 5) (8, 10, 1)

Hint:

Might each set of three numbers represent a word in a message?

Write-up

The hint tells us that each of these three numbers might represent a word in a message.

We are given 9 paragraphs in [book.txt](#) with up to 17 lines for each sentence and quickly discover that each triple uses following scheme to encodes/hide a word:

```
(1, 9, 4) === (paragraph, line-in-paragraph, word-in-line) === 4th word in 9th line of first paragraph
```

That means we get following words:

```
(1, 9, 4) === the
(4, 2, 8) === flag
(4, 8, 3) === is
(7, 1, 5) === Ceremonial
(8, 10, 1) === plates
```

The flag is Ceremonial plates .

Other write-ups and resources

- http://ehsandev.com/pico2014/cryptography/the_valley_of_fear.html
- <https://ctf-team.vulnhub.com/picoctf-2014-the-valley-of-fear/>
- <https://github.com/PizzaEaters/picoCTF-2014/tree/master/valley>

