

Challenge: Getting Permissions

Objective

The goal of this challenge is to discover covert messages that are being “sent” through an FTP server: **Gourd's Super Duper FTP Server** (FTP server specifics will be provided at the beginning of the challenge). The FTP server sets a covert message by craftily creating files/folders and modifying their permissions appropriately. It is designed to wipe all files in the appropriate directory on the FTP server every 60 seconds. It then creates a new message (in binary) and encodes it by creating as many files as are needed, modifying their permissions appropriately. So yes, the message changes every minute!

The covertly transmitted message is restricted to characters in the basic ASCII character set (ASCII values 0 through 127). Whether the covert message is encoded using all 10 permission “bits” of the files/folders on the FTP server (or just in files that have the right-most 7 bits set) must be determined. Moreover, where these files are located on the FTP server must also be determined. So...explore...tinker!

Your decoded message must match the current message being transmitted since it is changed every minute. When you think you have successfully completed the challenge, let me know so that I can check your decoded message (valid at the current time).