Final Write Up

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HACK THE BOX

Generating an Invite Code

To join Hack the Box in invitation code is required, but there is not information provided on how to obtain one, except a comment that says "Hi! Feel free to hack your way in :)."

My first instinct was to start by inspecting the website in chrome using the built in tools. This provided this sweet but mostly unhelpful image.



Next I decided to take a look at the source file to see if there is anything interesting. The First thing i found in the source was confirmation of what we already knew, that we must hack our way in.

The next thing that caught my eye was this function:

```
(function(i, s, o, g, r, a, m) {
    i['GoogleAnalyticsObject'] = r;
    i[r] = i[r] || function() {
        (i[r].q = i[r].q || []).push(arguments)
    }
    i[r].l = 1 * new Date();
    a = s.createElement(o),
    m = s.getElementsByTagName(o)[0];
    a.async = 1;
    a.src = g;
    m.parentNode.insertBefore(a, m)
}
(window, document, 'script', 'https://www.google-analytics.com/analytics.js', 'ga');
    ga('create', 'UA-93577176-1', 'auto');
    ga('set', 'anonymizeIp', true);
    ga('send', 'pageview');
</script>
```

It looked like it might be part of how an invite code is validated or something like that, but I could not make much of it, so I continued on in the source code and at the end found a few more linked source files.

```
<script src="https://www.hackthebox.eu/js/htb-frontend.min.js"></script>
<script defer src="/js/inviteapi.min.js"></script>
<script defer src="https://www.hackthebox.eu/js/calm.js"></script>
```

Of these inviteapi.min.js seemed like it might be moving in the right direction. This source code also has an interesting function, but I was not able to make much of it.

```
1 eval(function(p, a, c, k, e, d) {
      e = function(c) {
2
3
           return c.toString(36)
      }
5
      if (!''.replace(/^/, String)) {
6
           while (c--) {
               d[c.toString(a)] = k[c] \ || \ c.toString(a)
8
9
10
           k = [function(e) {
11
              return d[e]
12
13
           ];
           e = function() {
14
15
              return '\\w+'
16
           }
17
           c = 1
18
19
20
      ;while (c--) {
21
           if (k[c]) {
22
              p = p.replace(new RegExp('\\b' + e(c) + '\\b', 'g'), k[c])
23
24
25
       return p
26 }('1 i(4){h 8={"4":4};$.9({a:"7",5:"6",g:8,b:\'/d/e/n\',c:1(0){3.2(0)},
```

While I couldn't make out much from this function there is an interesting string at the end that seems to offer a hint towards direction:

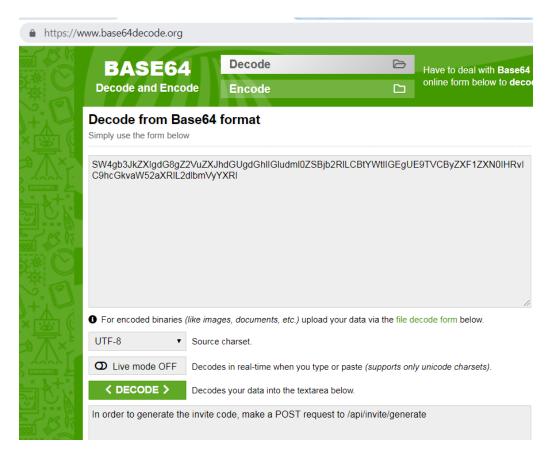
'response|function|log|console|code|dataType|json|POST|formData|ajax|type|url|success|api|invite|err or|data|var|verifyInviteCode|makeInviteCode|how|to|generate|verify'.split('|')

Particularly the "MakeInviteCode" portion of this string. I am hoping that it is a function or object I can locate. Luckily using the console to find makeInviteCode() yields something very interesting.

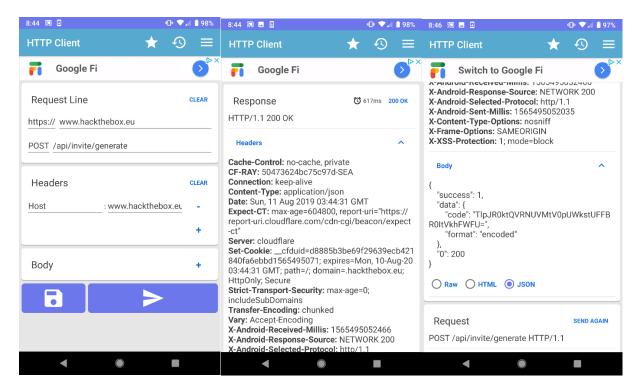
```
> makeInviteCode()

undefined
▼{0: 200, success: 1, data: {...}} □
0: 200
▶ data: {data: "SW4gb3JkZXIgdG8gZ2VuZXJhdGUgdGh1IGludm10ZSBjb2R1LC...gUE9TVCByZXF1ZXN0IHRvIC9hcGkvaW52aXR1L2dlbmVyYXR1", enctype: "BASE64"} success: 1
▶ _proto__: Object
```

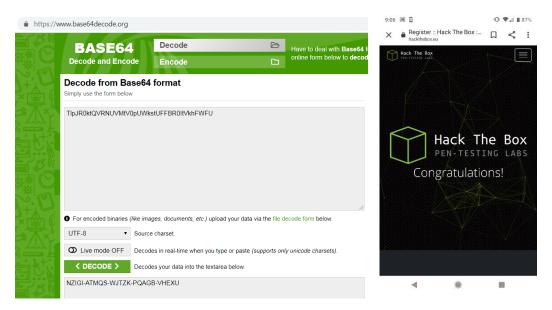
Since this says enctype: "BASE64" I took this string and ran it though a decryptor.



The next step seems super obvious. I have an app on my phone that allows me to easily send a post request, so I decided to use that.



This response confirms we are headed in the right direction, but does not seem to yield a working invite code. the format is listed as encoded, so I took it and ran it though the same base64 decryptor to see if that would work. When I tried this code I got an error, stating it was not valid for my IP, but then I remembered that i sent the post request from my phone. When used on my phone it worked!!



Challenge 1: Snake

Reversing, 10 points

To start I chose what looks to be a fairly easy reversing challenge called Snake.

After extracting this file, it looks to be a regular python file. Opening it in notepad++ shows a fairly straightforward python file, so I ran the file to see where we are starting. For the flag we will need to know the username and password. unsurprisingly the program prompts us to enter the username, after a sweet logo.

Time to head back to the python script to see how it is working and find the user name. The code is structured fairly straightforwardly and this statement:

```
user_input = raw_input('Enter your username\n')

if user_input == slither:
    pass

else:
    print 'Wrong username try harder'
    exit()
```

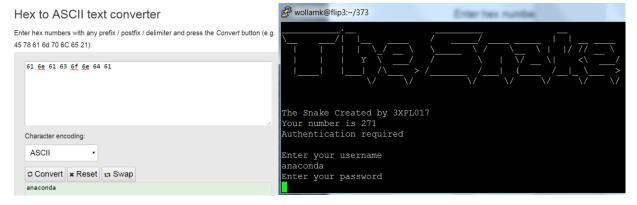
Slither is unfortunately not a string, but it is defined previously in the file:

```
slither = aa + db + nn + ef + rr + gh + lr + ty
```

Well, it couldn't be too easy, slither is made up of 8 more variables. Looking through the file these are scattered in the code.

```
import random
 print ''
 db = '\x6e'
ef = '\x63'
 lock_pick = random.randint(0, 0x3e8)
 lock = lock_pick * 2
 password = [0x69, 0x74, 0x73, 0x20, 0x6e, 0x6f,
  lock = lock + 10
 ty = ' \setminus x61
 auth = [0x6b, 0x65, 0x65, 0x70, 0x20, 0x74, 0x72, lock = lock - lock_pick
 print 'The Snake Created by 3XPL017'
print 'Your number is ' + str(lock_pick)
□for key in keys:
      keys_encrypt = lock ^ key
      chars.append(keys_encrypt)
for chain in chains:
      chains_encrypt = chain + 0xA
      chars.append(chains encrypt)
```

All of the variables that make up slither are in the form of ' x^* ' which is an excape clause indicating hex values. from that we can get that slither is a string created by the hex values: 61 6e 61 63 6f 6e 64 61. I threw these in a simple hex to ascii converter to see what it came out as and got the username 'anaconda'.



Phase 1 complete, our username seems to have worked. Now to figure out where the password is hiding.

```
pass_input = raw_input('Enter your password\n')
for passes in pass_input:
for char in chars:
    if passes == str(chr(char)):
        print 'Good Job'
        break
else:
        print 'Wrong password try harder'
        exit(0)
break
```

From this we see that the user input is stored as pass_input, and then iterated across by characters. Those are compared to str(chr(char)). Looking at the code, char is a fairly complicated variable. To avoid having to figure out the whole string I decided to simply add a print chars statement. This yielded a string of values.

```
Enter your username
anaconda
[117, 100, 118, 118, 114, 106, 119, 97, 36, 36, 126, 114, 115, 125, 42, 115,
125, 42, 107, 42, 126, 124, 121, 118, 118]
Enter your password
```

I then took these and converted them from ascii codes to text

ASCII to text converter

```
Input data
 117 100 118 118 |114 106 119 097 036 036 126 114 115 125
 042 115 125 042 107 042 126 124 121 118 118
 Convert
  ASCII numbers to text
 Output:
 \verb"udvvrjwa$$\sim rs}*s}*k*\sim |\ yvv
The Snake Created by 3XPL017
Your number is 69
Authentication required
Enter your username
anaconda
[117, 100, 118, 118, 114, 106, 119, 97, 36, 36, 126, 114, 115, 125, 42, 115,
125, 42, 107, 42, 126, 124, 121, 118, 118]
Enter your password
usvrjwa$$~rs}*s}*k*~|yvv
Good Job
```

This password worked and we got the Good Job! Unfortunately even though the challenge states that the flag is in the format HTB{username:password} using HTB{anaconda: udvvrjwa\$\$^rs}*s}*k*^|yvv} does not work. To try to figure out what I was missing I took all the arrays of hex and ran them through a hex to text converter.

```
chains = [0x74, 0x68, 0x69, 0x73, 0x20, 0x69, 0x73, 0x20, 0x61, 0x20, 0x74, 0x72, 0x6f, 0x6c, 0x6c] "this is a troll"
```

keys = [0x70, 0x61, 0x73, 0x73, 0x77, 0x6f, 0x72, 0x64, 0x21, 0x21]

"password!!"

password = [0x69, 0x74, 0x73, 0x20, 0x6e, 0x6f, 0x74, 0x20, 0x74, 0x68, 0x61, 0x74, 0x20, 0x65, 0x61, 0x73, 0x79]

"its not that easy"

auth = [0x6b, 0x65, 0x65, 0x70, 0x20, 0x74, 0x72, 0x79, 0x69, 0x6e, 0x67]

"keep trying"

Since chars was made up of and encrypted version of keys then chains, and keys says password literally while chains says that it is a troll, I decided to try jut the first part of the password that came from keys "udvvrjwa\$\$" and it worked!

I also realized that I had made a couple typos in the password when I entered it, and the code only cares that it starts with 'u' the very first character then breaks. While I am glad that I finally got this one, I think it was actually not a very well created challenge. Thumbs down. Next time I will make sure to pick one with more thumbs ups.



Challenge 2: Find the Easy Pass

Reversing, 20 Points

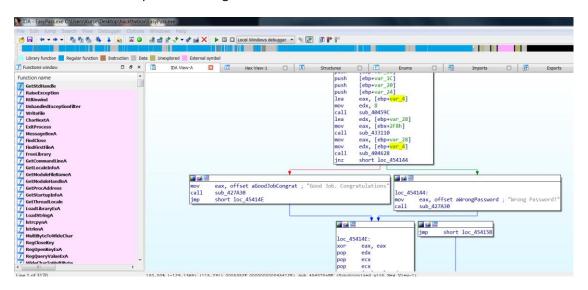
For my second challenge I went with one a little more challenging for 20 points but with a way better ratio of thumbs ups. The task is simple, find the password.



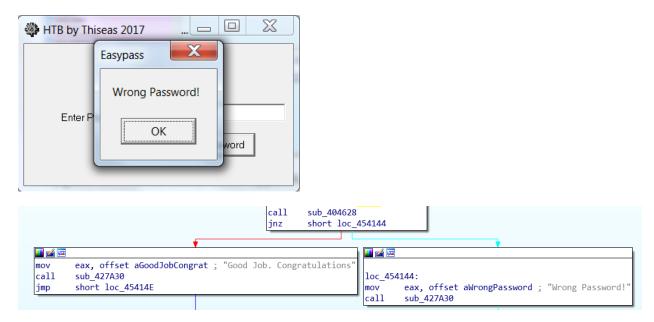
Launching EasyPass.exe gives us a simple window prompting for a password.



To achieve this I decided a good first step was to run the exe file through a decompiler. I downloaded the freeware version of IDA to explore. since I needed to find a password I searched for the term "password" and was able to locate the phrase "Wrong Password!"



My guess was that this is what would happen if a wrong password is entered so I tried it out to confirm. Turns out that infected is not the password, but it does give us the "Wrong Password!" prompt.



inspecting the IDA graph view we see that the "Wrong Password!" follows from a jnz jump call. If we do not jump then we would instead get a "Good Job. Congratulations." Directly before the check to jump is a call to a subprocess 404628. It seems likely that this process is likely the one that determines if the password is correct and sets the flag for the jump.

I set a breakpoint at that process call location to see if it yielded any information. The process has a cmp eax, edx call, so I decided to look into the registers

Sure enough RAX contains the password I entered, "infected". RDX also stores a clear string, "fortran!"

```
ucuuguzi.uu4/24// uu
                                      aebuguzi:004/245F ab
debug021:00472478 db 69h ; i
                                      debug021:00472460 db 66h ; f
debug021:00472479 db 6Eh; n
                                      debug021:00472461 db
                                                          6Fh : o
debug021:0047247A db 66h ; f
                                     debug021:00472462 db 72h ; r
debug021:0047247B db 65h; e
                                     debug021:00472463 db 74h ; t
debug021:0047247C db 63h; c
                                     debug021:00472464 db 72h ; r
debug021:0047247D db 74h; t
                                     debug021:00472465 db 61h; a
debug021:0047247E db 65h; e
                                     debug021:00472466 db 6Eh; n
debug021:0047247F db 64h ; d
                                     debug021:00472467 db 21h ; !
debug021:00472480 db
                     0
                                     debug021:00472468 db
                                                            0
debug021:00472481 db
                       0
                                     debug021:00472469 db
```

Entering "fortran!" yields the outcome we were looking for, "Good Job. Congratulations"



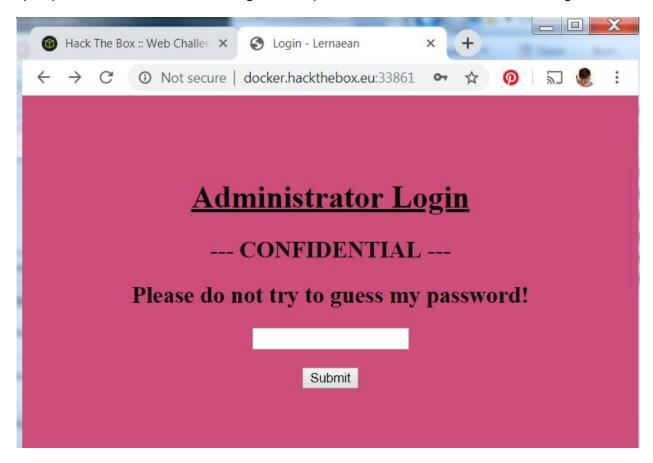


I felt this challenge was much better and gave it an enthusiastic thumbs up.

Challenge 3: Lernaean

Web, 20 Points

For my last challenge I decided to try a web challenge. I chose this one as it had a lot of up votes but was still on the easy side for this noob. The challenge has the following prompt "Your target is not very good with computers. Try and guess their password to see if they may be hiding anything!" After getting behind the openvpn I was able to access the challenge and was presented with a screen for administrator log in.



When presented a challenge that states "Please do not try to guess my password!" the obvious first step is to try to guess the password. I tried "infected" which resulted in a message on the screen saying "Invalid password!" The source code for the site is quite simple, and seems to be sending the password via post but does not give us much additional information.

```
1 Invalid password!
 2 <html>
3 <head>
4
         <title>Login - Lernaean</title>
5 </head>
 6 <body style="background-color: #cd4e7b;">
        <center>
8
             <br><br><br><br><br><br>
 9
            <h1><u>Administrator Login</u></h1>
           <h2>--- CONFIDENTIAL ---</h2>
10
11
            <h2>Please do not try to guess my password!</h2>
12
            <form method="POST">
                   <input type="password" name="password"><br><br></pr>
13
                   <input type="submit" value="Submit">
14
15
             </form>
16
        </center>
17 </body>
18 </html>
                                                 ▼ Request Headers
                                                                  view source
▼ General
                                                   Accept: text/html.application/xhtml+xml.application/xml;q=0.9.image/webp.image/appg,*
  Request URL: http://docker.hackthebox.eu:33861/
                                                   *;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3
  Request Method: POST
                                                   Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
  Status Code: 9 200 OK
                                                   Accept-Language: en-US, en; q=0.9
  Remote Address: 159.65.208.41:33861
                                                   Cache-Control: max-age=0
  Referrer Policy: no-referrer-when-downgrade
                                                   Connection: keep-alive
▼ Response Headers
                   view source
                                                   Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
  Connection: Keep-Alive
                                                   Host: docker.hackthebox.eu:33861
  Content-Encoding: gzip
                                                   Origin: http://docker.hackthebox.eu:33861
  Content-Length: 281
                                                   Referer: http://docker.hackthebox.eu:33861/
  Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
                                                 Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
  Date: Sun, 11 Aug 2019 10:17:02 GMT
                                                   User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like
                                                   cko) Chrome/76.0.3809.100 Safari/537.36
  Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
  Server: Apache/2.4.18 (Ubuntu)
                                                             view source view URL encoded
  Vary: Accept-Encoding
                                                    password: infected
```

Without much more to go on I wondered if there were other clues in the challenge information. I decided to google the name of the challenge, as they usually seem to provide information but this one didn't seem to mean anything to me. Turns out Lernaean is a Hydra from Greek mythology.



I tried hydra as the password but this did not work so I did some more google sleuthing and discovered that Hydra is actually a very popular password cracker. This lead me to believe that I would need to brute force this password. Using Hydra I was able to get a password of 'leonardo'. This does seem to work, but unfortunately just sends us to this page:



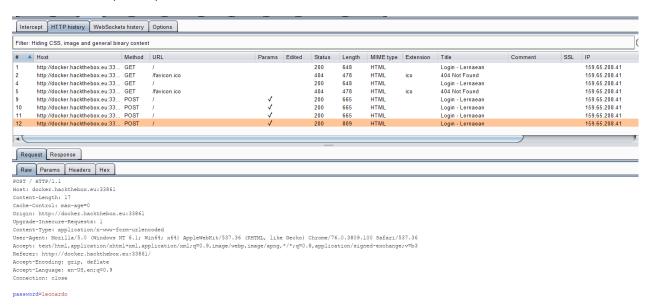
The Lernaean Hydra or Hydra of Lerna, more often known simply as the Hydra, is a serpentine water monster in Greek and Roman mythology. Its lair was the lake of Lerna in the Argolid, which was also the site of the myth of the Danaïdes. Wikipedia

Parents: Typhon and Echidna

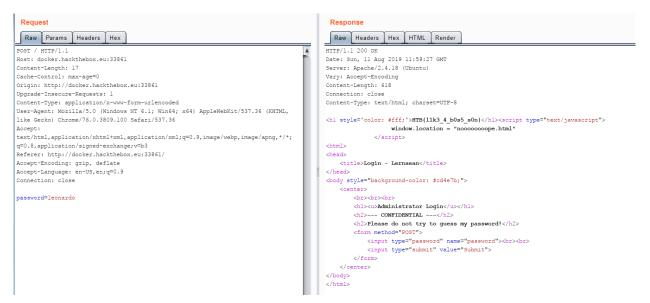
Mythology: Greek mythology



This is quite disheartening. I closed out and loaded a new instance, but even putting the password in right away is not fast enough. I decided to look at the post request again. Everything seemed in order so I decided to install some more tools to try to figure out what to do and where to go. The forums had a lot to say about BurpSuite, so I found that and installed it. I spent a significant amount of time learning how to set it up and use it and then captured packets from the Lernaen instance.



From here I poked around, and finally found gold by sending the post request to the repeater. This let me see the raw response with hilariously had the flag hidden in the html.



I am still not sure exactly why this information doesn't show up in the build in chrome tools, but I sure am glad to have found it finally. This one took me a lot longer requiring me to learn several tools, but it was interesting and I feel like I learned a lot of good techniques.

