

# snakeCTF 2023 Writeup

Hidden Issue

11 December 2023

## snakemas is coming

Category: OSINT Solves: 13 Points: 367

*Luckily, the most beautiful season of the year is near. I need to decorate my house with the coolest things ever! I found this super big mall on the internet who sells the perfect decoration!!! But I don't have money :( I need a plan to steal the decoration. Maybe I can hack the webcams to watch the security footages and find the perfect moment to act! I can try my new hacking attack!*

*Here are the commands:*

*1. e4 e5 2. b3 \**

*Flag format: snakeCTF{TheNameOfTheAttack}*

## Overview

The title and the description of the challenge refer to the Christmas season, which will turn out to be an essential clue for solving the challenge.

The *commands* provided are chess moves (Figure 1) and they're the moves of the King's Pawn Opening. Please note that in chess an asterisk is usually used to refer to an unknown result or a possibly incomplete game, but in our case it doesn't really matter.



Figure 1: Visual representation of the chess moves

## Solution

As I previously said, we are facing a King's Pawn Opening. However, this is not the right answer!

I am not a chess player so I struggled a lot with this challenge... As you can see from the Figure 2, I tried like thirty different flags and none of them worked! XD

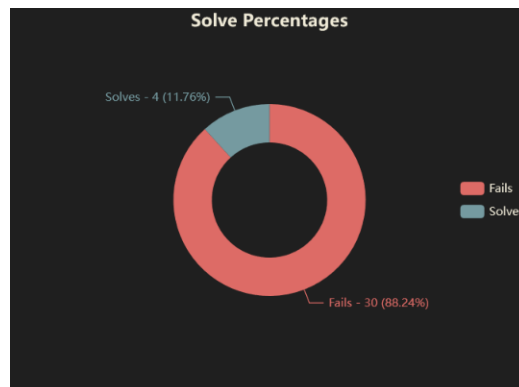


Figure 2: Solve percentages

But I didn't give up, I kept going!

After I was almost done with this challenge, I got an epiphany (luckily). I thought: "if I know that it is a King's Pawn Opening, why don't I just search it up online and add the *Christmas* keyword?" By doing so I found **this post** on Chess.com written by a user called *X\_PLAYER\_J\_X* who decided to *invent* a chess opening to portray the holiday spirit.

Flag: **snakeCTF{TheSantaClausAttack}**