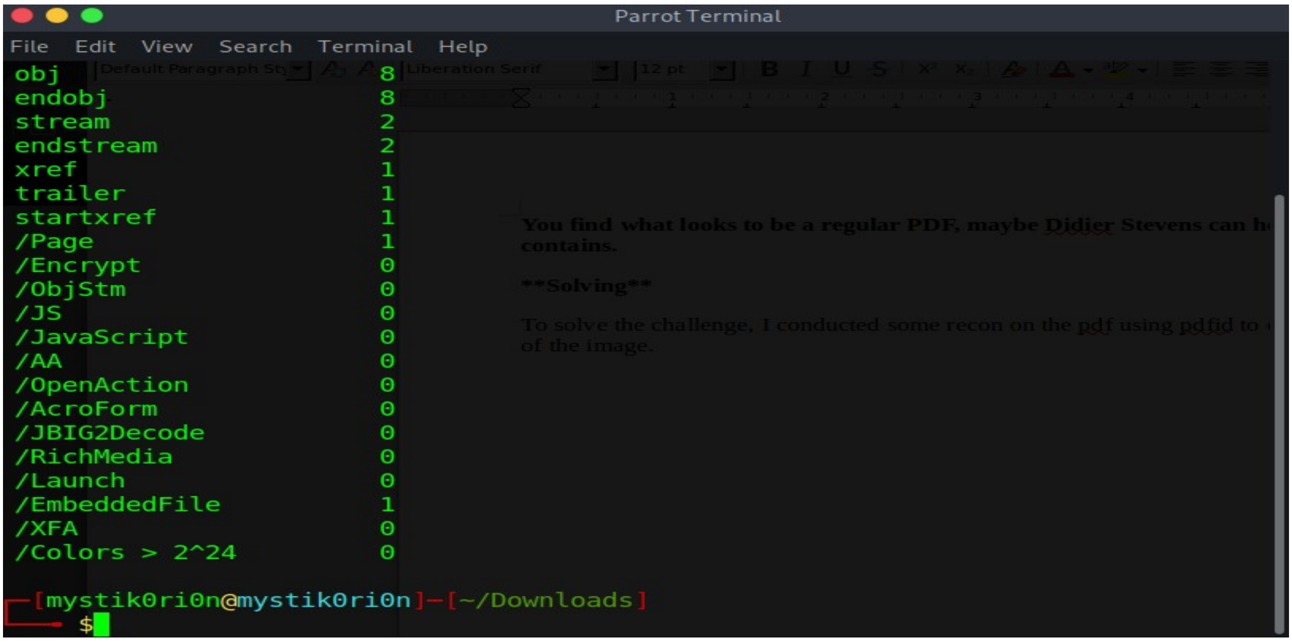
You find what looks to be a regular PDF, maybe Didier Stevens can help figure out what it contains.

Solving

To solve the challenge, I conducted some recon on the pdf using pdfid to check the content stream of the image.
Command
Pdfid Paper.pdf

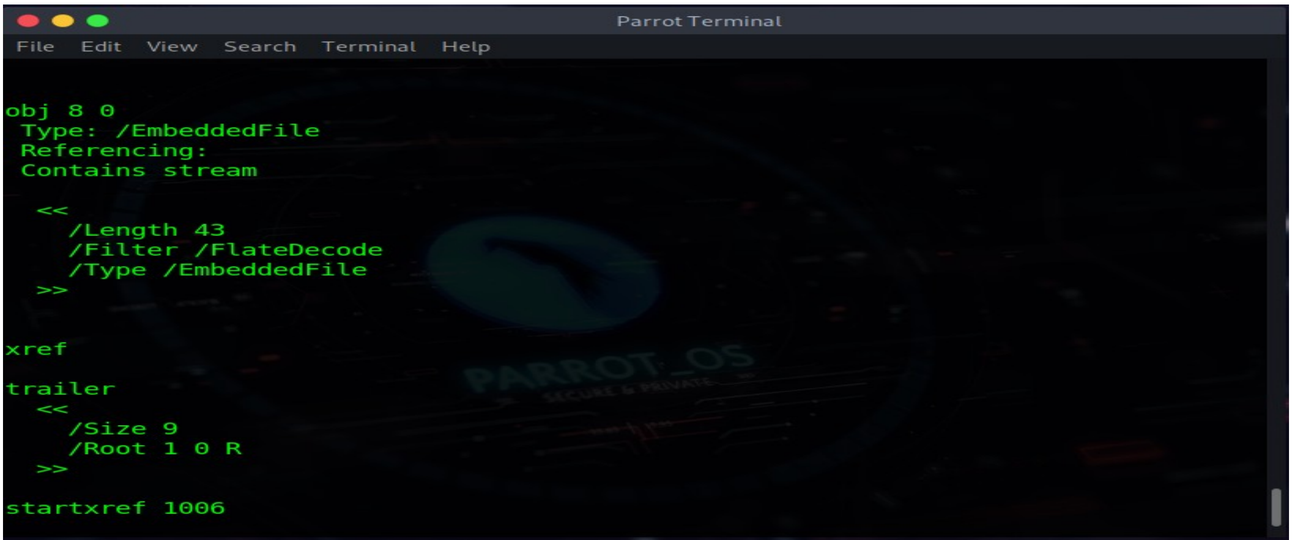


```
obj                    8
endobj                 8
stream                 2
endstream              2
xref                   1
trailer                1
startxref              1
/Page                  1
/Encrypt               0
/ObjStm                0
/JS                    0
/JavaScript            0
/AA                    0
/OpenAction            0
/AcroForm              0
/JBIG2Decode           0
/RichMedia             0
/Launch                0
/EmbeddedFile          1
/XFA                   0
/Colors > 2^24         0

┌─[mystik0ri0n@mystik0ri0n]─[~/Downloads]
└──╼ $
```

As shown on the image, there is an embedded file inside the pdf stream. Now, to investigate the pdf stream.
command
pdf-parser paper.pdf

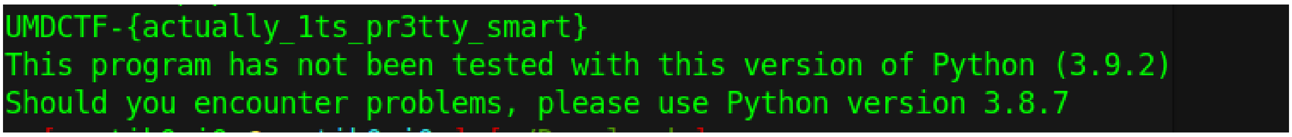
The image shows that the embedded file is in the stream for obj 8 and compressed with flate.
So to how I extracted the file from stream. Using pdfparser I can extract the stream at obj 8 and then using ‘-f’ flag for flate decompress and ‘-d’ to decode and then append the output to a file.

command



```
obj 8 0
 Type: /EmbeddedFile
 Referencing:
 Contains stream

  <<
    /Length 43
    /Filter /FlateDecode
    /Type /EmbeddedFile
  >>

xref

trailer
  <<
    /Size 9
    /Root 1 0 R
  >>

startxref 1006
```

```
pdf-parser -o 8 -f -d -  paper.pdf > pap.txt
```



```
UMDCTF-{actually_1ts_pr3tty_smart}
This program has not been tested with this version of Python (3.9.2)
Should you encounter problems, please use Python version 3.8.7
```

The flag was ***UMDCTF-{actually_1ts_pr3tty_smart}***