

Scattered Secrets BASH all the way

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CATEGORY: Forensics

Scattered Secrets

BASH all the way


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The flag lives in the given file. Remove the line noiSe, interpret the strEam, and the secreT will appeaR.

View Hint

Unlock Hint for 7 points

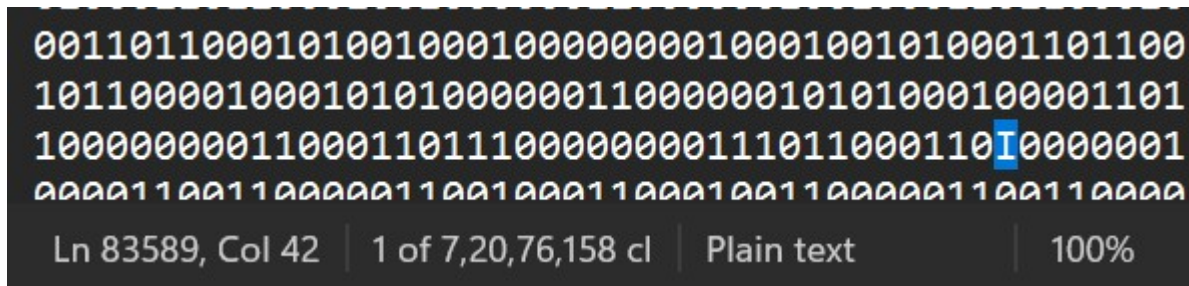
 flag.txt

2/20 attempts

STEP BY STEP SOLUTION

In this challenge we are given an extremely long text file fully made of 0's and 1's. the capital letters given in the description suggest "SEDTR" which stands for the stream editor in BASH. Let's keep that in mind it might come handy.

So I first searched the file for characters like IDC, I just in case the flag was just thrown somewhere in and found this:



It seems like the flag is "scattered" all over the file.

```
admin@1d3ap4d5_13 MINGW64 ~/Downloads/IDC CTFg
$ sed ':a;N;$!ba;s/[10\n]//g' flag.txt
IDC{sadly_7hi5_will_h4v3_1355_solv3s}
```

This single command in BASH can help us get the flag --> `<sed ':a;N;$!ba;s/[10\n]//g' flag.txt>`
This command removes ALL the 0s, 1s and newline characters from the file and returns whatever is left.

It can be broken down as such:

```
:a;
N;
$!ba;
s/[10\n]//g;
```

Here "a" is the name of a label in this command (we could use anything but I prefer "a" for "again" as we can address it anywhere in the line of command we give and the command jumps back to this label and executes again from there)

"N" is an SEDTR command that takes in the next line into the pattern space. SEDTR goes through the text file line by line i.e. the pattern space usually contains only one line. But we want to analyse the WHOLE file as one so we add ALL the lines to the pattern space.

"\$!" stand for "if its' not the last line" (\$ is used to address the last line)

"b" is an SED command to branch. And "ba" branches to the label "a".

"s" is the swap command it requires two arguments. SO `s/<remove>/<substitute>/<flag>` is the syntax. We remove 1s, 0s and newlines. Substitute with "". Use the "g" flag meaning global that is ALL such occurrences are to be swapped.

This is how this command gets rid of all the 0s, 1s and newlines to give us the flag.

FLAG: IDC{sadly_7hi5_will_h4v3_1355_solv3s}