Why is everyone f*ing same...duh

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CATEGORY: Cryptography

STEP BY STEP SOLUTION

In this challenge we are given a folder with a thousand random .png files.
Overwhelming at first but reading the challenge question carefully we notice this:

So this challenge has to do something with XORing. So we could try to bitwise
XOR all the files into one single file.
We could make use of the following python code to do so:

```python
import numpy as np
from PIL import Image
import os
```

```
folder = "YOURMOM\\shares"
files = sorted(os.listdir(folder))[:1000]

base = np.array(Image.open(os.path.join(folder, files[0])).convert("RGB"))

for fname in files[1:]:
    img = np.array(Image.open(os.path.join(folder, fname)).convert("RGB"))
    if img.shape == base.shape:
        base = np.bitwise_xor(base, img)

Image.fromarray(base).save("xor_result.png")
```

What this basically does is load up all the 1000 images from the folder given, converts them to RGB arrays, and performs a cumulative bitwise XOR across all of them. The final XORed result is saved as a new image called xor_result.png.

This is the xor_result.png we get:

;hQ{vDWN
$4f&&7OT?>
v%
IH_g9[FcqP

;hQ{vDWN$4f&&7OT?>v%lH_g9[FcqP

With the knowledge of encoding methods one can say that this is encoded using base92. Decoding base92 using DCODE <https://www.dcode.fr/base92-encoding> we get,

;hQ{vDWN$4f&...cqP
IDC{G00d_T001S_a43_4343}

Thus we have our flag.

FLAG: IDC{G00d_T001S_a43_4343}