Gorden's silent request

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CATEGORY: Steganography

STEP BY STEP SOLUTION

This is a steganography challenge and a seemingly ordinary image has been given to us. Let's

look for clues using this online steganography tool: <https://www.georgeom.net/StegOnline/upload>

After uploading the image in this website we open, we can use the "Browse bit planes" option.

To understand what bit planes are we should know something about how images are stored. The color in each pixel is stored in the file by the amount of red, green and blue color in it and are called the RGB values of that pixel. (Note that mixing these colors in the right amount can produce a WIDE range of colors). So each pixel is expected to have an array of at least 3 bytes to store these three values (a value from 0-255 is assigned to each color)
For example RGB = [67, 124, 230] = [01000011, 01111100, 11100110]
So now our bit planes are Red 0-7, Green 0-7, Blue 0-7 corresponding to the 8 bits for each color starting from LSB [0] to the MSB [7].

An image viewed in a particular bit plane is black and white and each pixel takes either white or black based on the value of the corresponding bit stored in its RGB array. (black --> 0, white --> 1).

So now, we are just going to view the image in different bit planes and see if we see anything comes up. I noticed that RED 0, GREEN 1 and BLUE 3 shows some text.

And there is our flag.

FLAG: IDC{giV3_mE_4_5Lice_pWe4s3_uWu}