Across

1 Exploit mediocre journalist (4)
4 (see 12d)
6 Innovative device hacked by French in forensics logs perhaps (8)
8 In short, the entity that issues certificates is involved in scam (2)
9 Construct cycle basis in a way that's easily understood (10)
10 Eggplant AI revolves around very grand direction (9)
16 Aunts confused by result of z3's solver.check() (5)
17 Vim and Rust both cut short by malicious code (5)
19 Ratio of circumference to diameter leads to personal information (2)
20 Half-idea for a sanity check command after spawning remote shell (2)
21 Boolean operator featuring in keyword (2)
22 Dog transmuted with niece etc. in life's alchemical instructions (7, 4)

Down

1 Reach a noisy part of Vietnamese capital (5)
2 WWI French leader starts to craft linux exploit, making every new connection exfiltrate all userdata (10)
3 Database giant is also a blackbox in cryptanalysis (6)
4 Signal announces head of 7d (3)
5 Asymmetric encryption scheme found in supersanic (3)
7 C stdlib function that orders by permuting four consecutive letters around a circle (5)
8 Internet-related "Reverse Engineering with C" makes a comeback! (5)
11 Remove (from a bulletin board) a French access code (5)
12 (with 4a) The best conference ever scared Brisbane off (6, 8)
13 Competitor to Valve and Epic Games at heart of breach (2)
14 Encryption nonce used in IPv6, oddly (2)
15 Discord add-on back in short interest (5)
18 Elevate us to become root with this command (2)
21 This method could turn 735 to 1337 next month (3)

Flag format: take 22 uppercase letters in numbered cells and wrap them inside skbdg{}