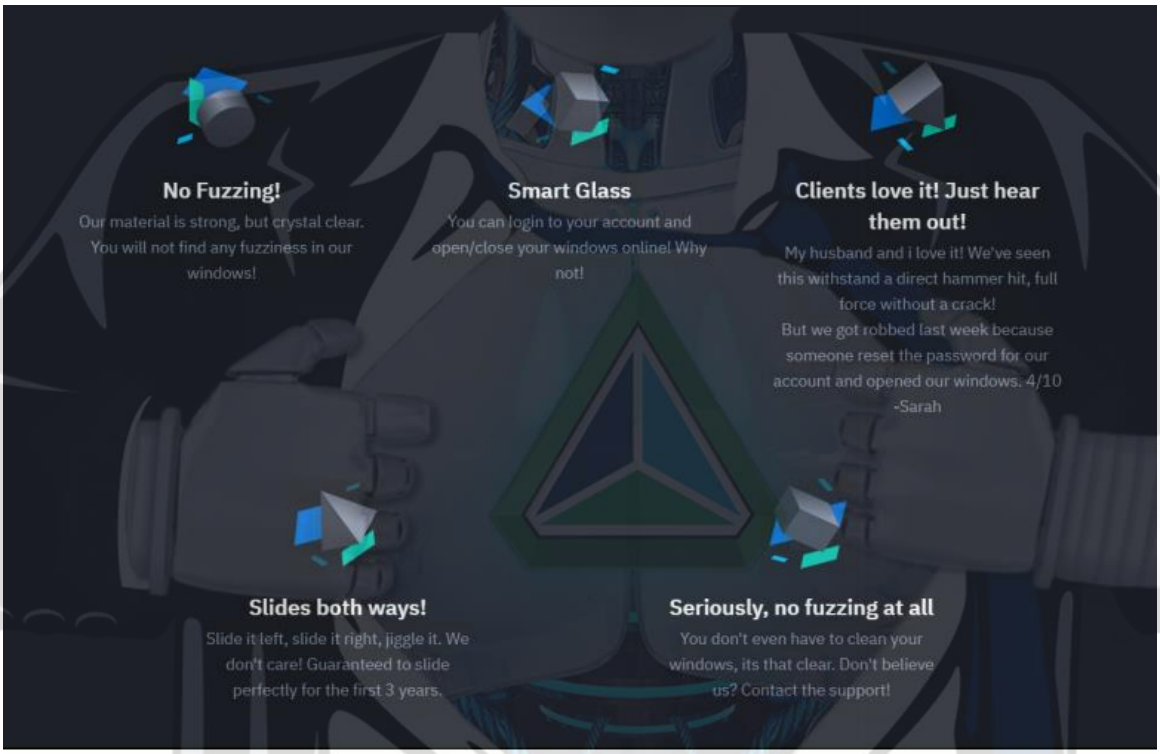
Challenge Name: Sliding Windows

Category: Crypto

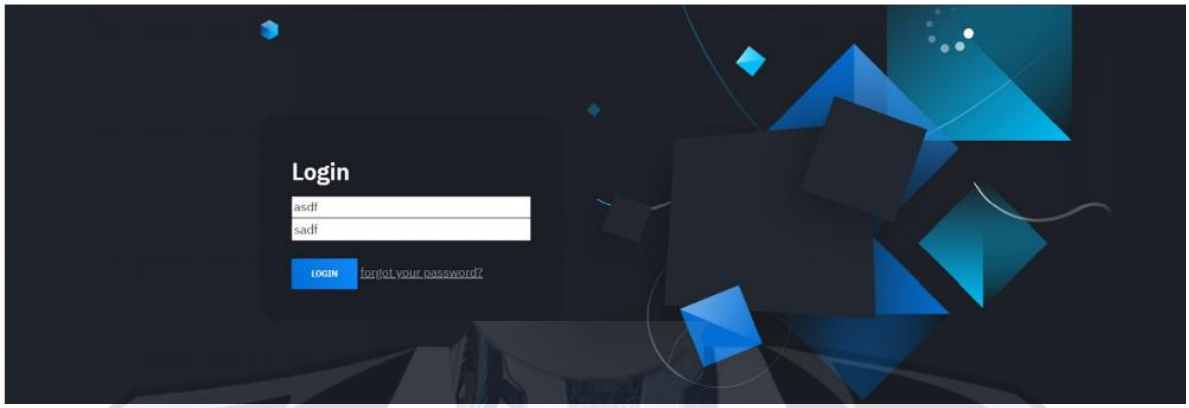
Flag: STMCTF{UncR4cKaB1e_bUt_Sl1dEs_r1ghT_0ff}

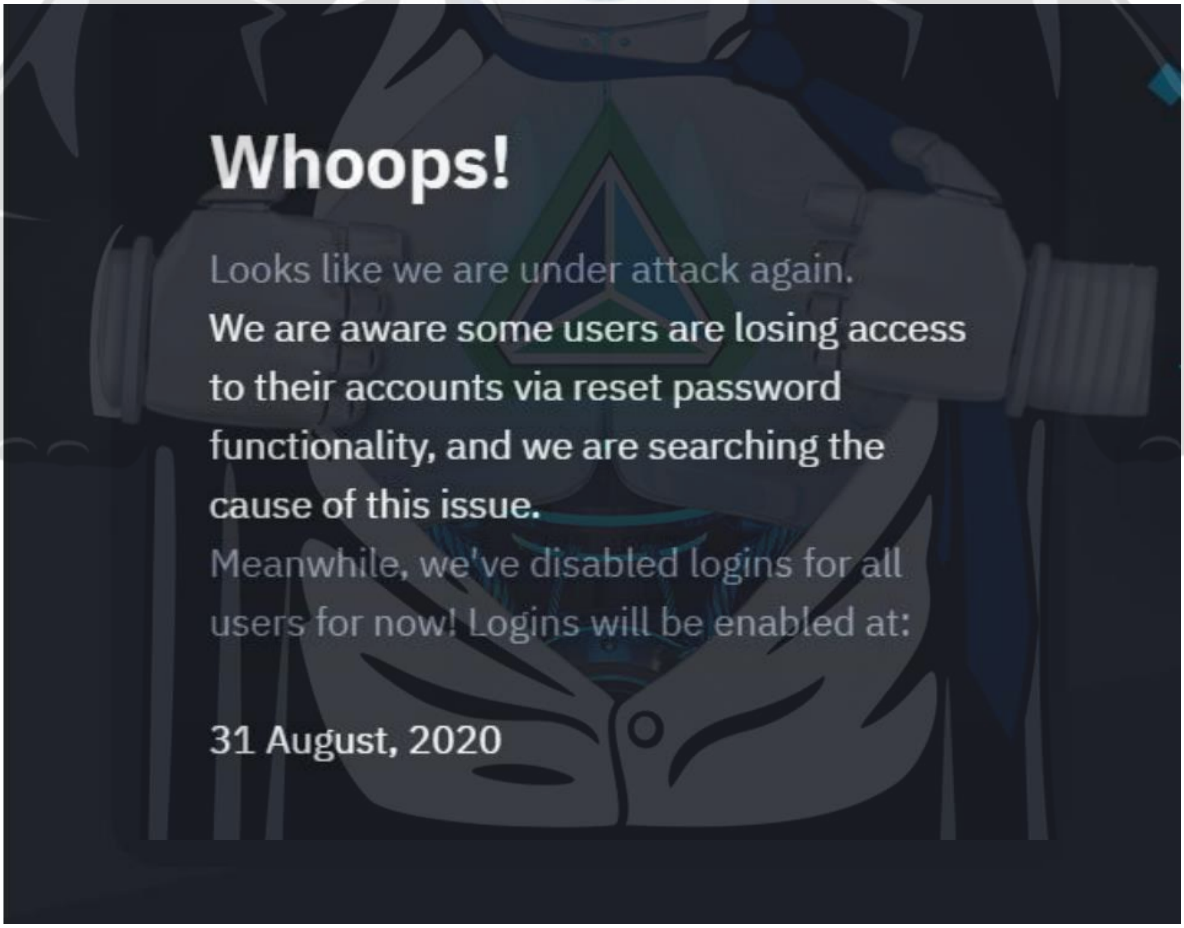
This challenge has a small http service, and it hints that password reset functionality might have some trouble in the challenge text.

Some of the site texts hints us that we don't need to fuzz anything, as well as 404 page.

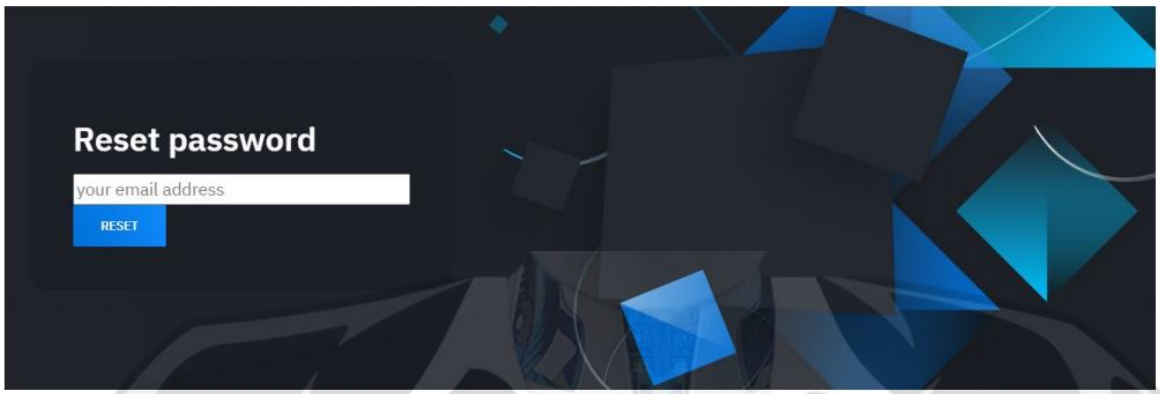


There is a login page, but whatever we enter, it says logins are disabled, and login unlock time keeps getting delayed.

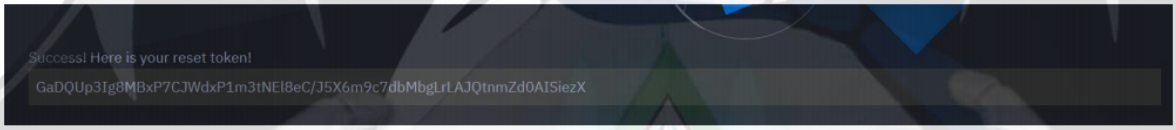




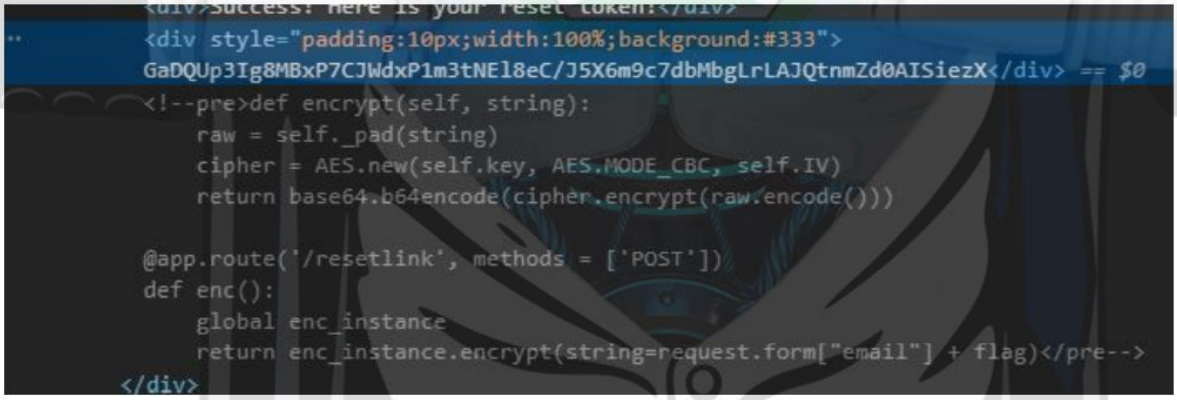
Reset password link just under the login page gives us this panel.



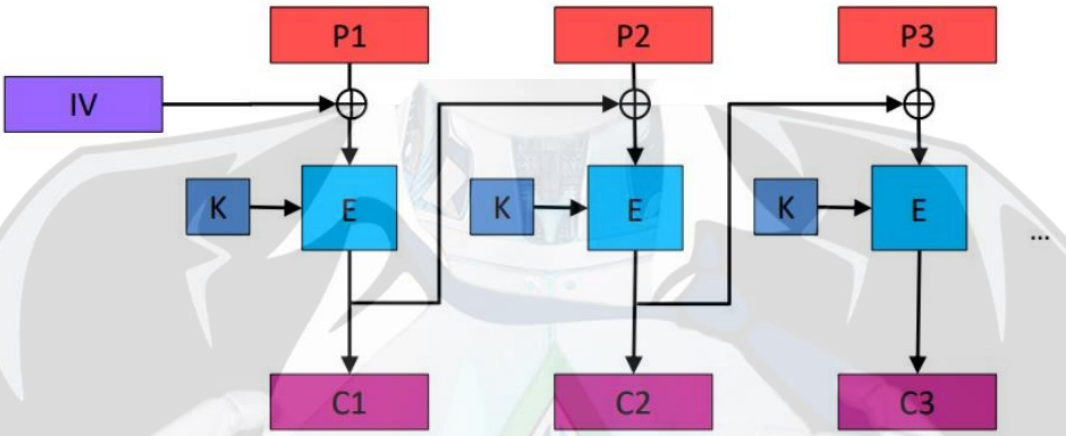
Whenever an email is given, it generates a token. Same emails give same token every time.



There are backend flask functions which are commented here, showing flag is appended to the end of our email and then encrypted to give us the token. It looks like both IV and key is reused because we get the same output everytime with the same input.



Below is a good demonstration of AES CBC mode



When both key and IV are reused, P1 block will give out the same C1 block every time. P2 block will give out same C2 if and only if C1 block was also same, and so on.

P=	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA	????????????????	????????????????
C=	C1	C2	C3

Removing 1 character from the left padding

P=	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA?	????????????????	????????????????
C=	C4	C5	C6

Now, attacker can brute force just the last character of P1, and if encrypts to C4, attacker will know the first character of the unknown plaintext.

Since flag format is STMCTF, first character will be “S”. Now, attacker can remove another character from the left padding and brute force the next character.

P=	AAAAAAAAAAAAAA??	????????????????	????????????????
C=	C5	CX	CX

Now that the attacker knows first character is S, they can Brute force last character of P1 again by adding S to the end of left padding.

P=	AAAAAAAAAAAAAAS?	????????????????	????????????????
C=	C5	CX	CX

If P1 encrypts to C5, attacker will know the second character of the flag. It is possible to repeat this as many times as necessary and with as many blocks as needed.

Automated Script

Getting reset token

```
def getResetToken(msg):
    data["email"]=msg
    r = requests.post(url,data=data)
    return base64.b64decode(r.text)
```

Flag alphabet:

```
import string

flag_alphabet = string.digits + string.ascii_uppercase +
string.ascii_lowercase + '{}_'
```

First we need to determine how long the flag is, so we can add left-pad accordingly.

```
#Need to send 15 requests at most to calculate the flag length
for i in range(15):

    #send only pad
    token = getResetToken('A'*i)
    print(f"i: {i}", end=', ')
    newBlockCount = details(token)

    #if block count changed for this pad, we've hit (pad+flag)%16==1
    if(lastBlockCount and lastBlockCount!=newBlockCount):
        print(f"Block size change at {i} from {lastBlockCount} to {newBlockCount}")
        flaglen = (lastBlockCount-1)*16-i
        print(f"Flag length is {flaglen}.")
        break
    lastBlockCount=newBlockCount
```

If block count changes, we will know that our padding + flag is overflowing to the next block. Then we can calculate it by removing our padding length from the current size.

We can easily determine number of blocks needed to pad, as well as the initial pad length from the flag length.

```
#minimum number of blocks we need to pad to left to get complete flag
slideBlockCount=math.ceil(flaglen/16)

#iterator for the left-pad
slideLength=slideBlockCount*16 -1
print(f"Need {slideBlockCount} blocks and {slideLength} characters to have space for sliding.")
print("Starting right to left sliding window attack.")
```

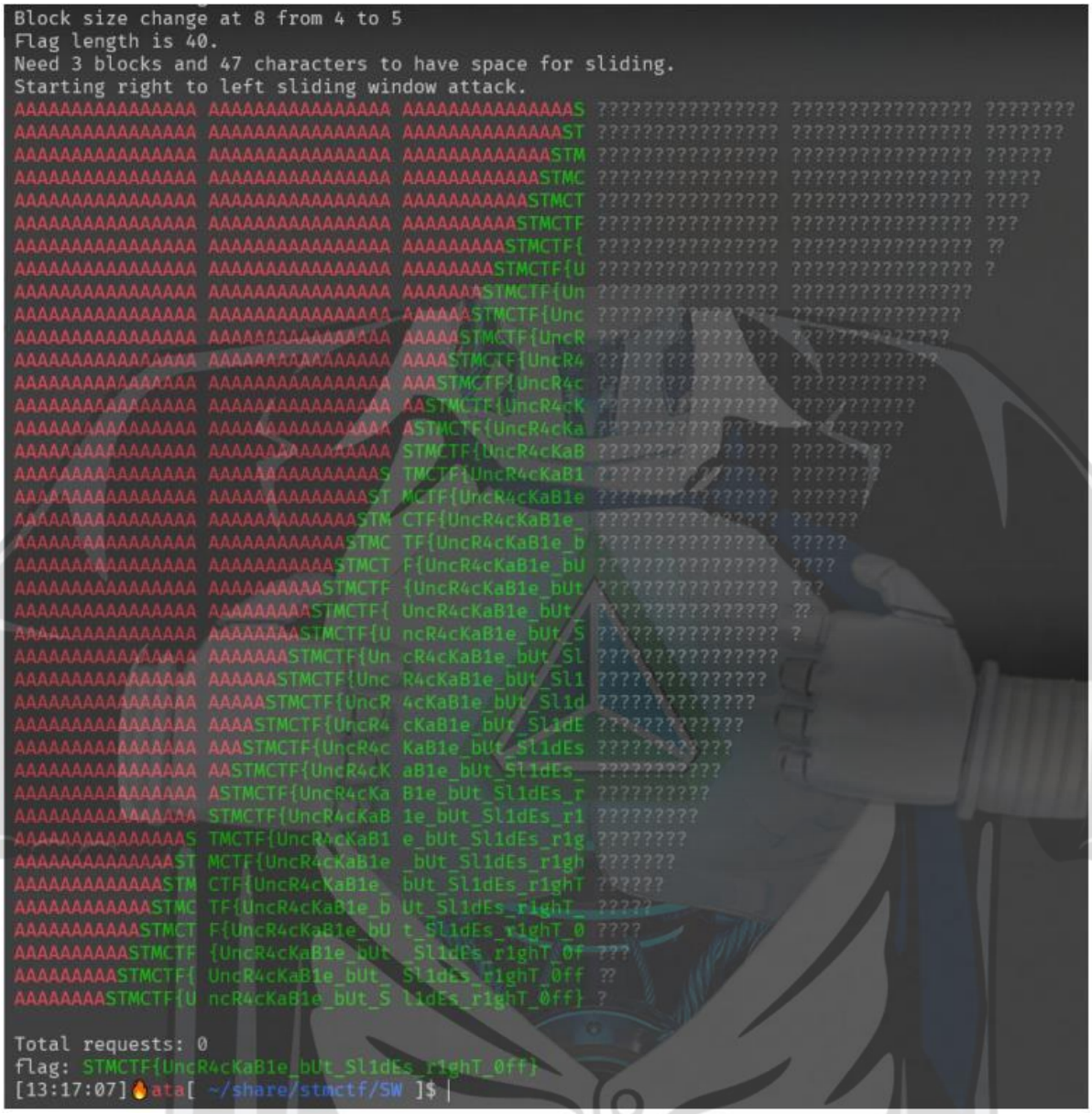
For each iteration on brute force, we will need to get the state of ciphertext when last block of our padding has only one unknown character first

```
113  for i in range(flaglen):
114
115      #get token for the base request of this iteration, last character is unknown.
116      #we will need to match this ciphertext when brute forcing
117      leftpad = 'A'*(slideLength-i)
118      token = getResetToken(leftpad)
```

Then, we can add padding + part of the flag we brute forced so far + next symbol from the alphabet, and check if it matches the state of the ciphertext.

```
145      for symbol in flag_alphabet:
146          #brute force payload
147          brutepld = 'A'*(slideLength-i) + flag + symbol
148
```

If it matches the initial ciphertext, we've replayed the scenario, and found the missing character. We can repeat until all the flag is revealed.


Block size change at 8 from 4 to 5
Flag length is 40.
Need 3 blocks and 47 characters to have space for sliding.
Starting right to left sliding window attack.
Total requests: 0
flag: STMCTF{UncR4cKaB1e_bUt_Sl1dEs_r1ghT_0ff}
[13:17:07]ata[~/share/stmctf/SW]$