

2025

# CTF INTERNACIONAL METARED ETAPA MEXICO

WRITEUP

## CHALLENGE

Survival



# Description

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Title:</b>       | Survival   |
| <b>Description:</b> | The worst criminal can be caught simply by trash |
| <b>Flag:</b>        | flagmx{pl4y1ng_w1th_d4t4_r3c0v3r7}               |
| <b>File:</b>        | File.7z  |
| <b>Dificultad:</b>  | Intermedio                                       |
| <b>Tags</b>         | Forensic   |

# Solution:

The file.img file is a clone of a USB made with dd. Contains a txt file with the flag removed, but no data recovery is required.

The challenge is ultimately easy to solve. You must analyze the file "file" to determine if it is a disk image.

## Analysis examples

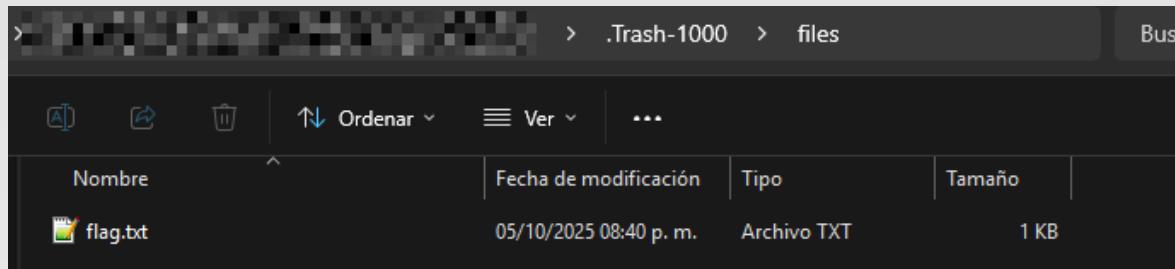
```
$ file file
file: DOS/MBR boot sector MS-MBR XP "j" "j" "j", disk signature 0xf7aa5; partition 1 : ID=0x7,
active, start-CHS (0x0,1,1), end-CHS (0xe,254,63), startsector 63, 251841 sectors
```

```
> type .\file | more +10
èV
=r#èL$?ÿèÌè°C,ÓïÐåÍÈ~B,Ô9V
w#r9sÙ?É¶
|iNiV
=sQOtN2öèV
=ÙöèV
`g-U|A=r6ü¹U-u0÷Lt+a'j
j
v
j
h
|jj|Bi¶=aas0t
          2öèV
=Ùíá"¶Invalid partition table
Error loading operating system
Missing operating system
```

After determining that it is a disk image file, we can unzip it with 7zip and analyze the contents.

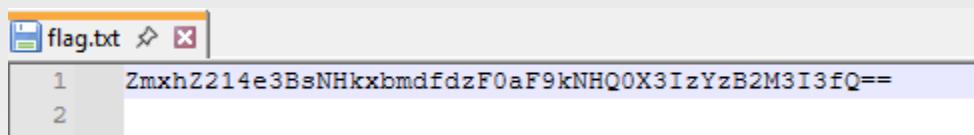
| Nombre                     | Fecha de modificación  | Tipo                | Tamaño |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| .Trash-1000                | 05/10/2025 09:09 p. m. | Carpeta de archivos |        |
| [SYSTEM]                   | 05/10/2025 09:12 p. m. | Carpeta de archivos |        |
| Documentos                 | 05/10/2025 09:09 p. m. | Carpeta de archivos |        |
| Images                     | 05/10/2025 09:01 p. m. | Carpeta de archivos |        |
| Passwords                  | 05/10/2025 09:01 p. m. | Carpeta de archivos |        |
| RFC                        | 05/10/2025 09:02 p. m. | Carpeta de archivos |        |
| System Volume Information  | 05/10/2025 09:04 p. m. | Carpeta de archivos |        |
| archivo1.txt               | 20/09/2025 04:41 p. m. | Archivo TXT         | 4 KB   |
| archivo2.txt               | 20/09/2025 04:41 p. m. | Archivo TXT         | 4 KB   |
| archivo3.txt               | 20/09/2025 04:41 p. m. | Archivo TXT         | 4 KB   |
| comando.sh                 | 20/09/2025 04:42 p. m. | Archivo SH          | 1 KB   |
| dgsdgsdgdsgdsg.txt         | 20/09/2025 04:42 p. m. | Archivo TXT         | 37 KB  |
| filedhdf.txt               | 20/09/2025 04:42 p. m. | Archivo TXT         | 38 KB  |
| fsdajkhjkjksdhafgjksdf.txt | 20/09/2025 04:42 p. m. | Archivo TXT         | 39 KB  |

We analyze the contents of the ".Trash-1000" directory and there is a "flag" file.



| Nombre   | Fecha de modificación  | Tipo        | Tamaño |
|----------|------------------------|-------------|--------|
| flag.txt | 05/10/2025 08:40 p. m. | Archivo TXT | 1 KB   |

When opening it with the notes editor we see a base64 string



```
ZmxhZ214e3BsNHkxbmdfdzF0aF9kNHQ0X3IzYzB2M3I3fQ==
```

In Linux you can decode to base64 with the following command

```
echo "ZmxhZ214e3BsNHkxbmdfdzF0aF9kNHQ0X3IzYzB2M3I3fQ==" | base64 --decode
```

```
$ echo "ZmxhZ214e3BsNHkxbmdfdzF0aF9kNHQ0X3IzYzB2M3I3fQ==" | base64 --decode
flagmx{pl4y1ng_w1th_d4t4_r3c0v3r7}
```

The flag is:

```
flagmx{pl4y1ng_w1th_d4t4_r3c0v3r7}
```