

Hello.

The path lies empty; epiphany seeks the devoted.

Liber Primus is the way. Its words are the map, their meaning is the road, and their numbers are the direction.

Seek and you will be found.



CICADA 3301 AND DATA PRIVACY

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PHASE I (2012)

- January 4th, 2012 on 4Chan /x/ “random” board
- This was at first mistaken for an ARG similar to the Navy’s program to recruit the younger generation
- After finding the image within the file it led to using OutGuess to find another message.
- This lead to the reddit page of the cicada 3301 group with two more images.
- At this point they introduced their PGP key to those who had made it this far.
- Using the book code on the messages they recived a phone number to call which had a prerecorded message
- The key was later determined to be derived from a King Arthur text (Dutta, 2019).

Hello. We are looking for highly intelligent individuals. To find them, we have devised a test.

There is a message hidden in this image.

Find it, and it will lead you on the road to finding us. We look forward to meeting the few that will make it all the way through.

Good luck.

3301

```
new@foehn:[]:cat newmessage.asc
-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA512

new@foehn:[]:pgp --verify newmessage.asc
Good signature from 7A3500BF.
3301

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: CicadaP6 v.3301

iQIcBAEBCgADBQJY5CnwAAoJEBgfAeV6MQ8PFvMQAJa3W1K1gFcxFPk90fMFFKx:
oEd7wt26sMYE+FIQmaIC/4Eswmys52+jeTUft4e5fhuxT79gg84Eh5PSfym4IpD
ajivM4DAbh456bTq33k2ZuW07FTBLAHLPOFr/2sY6behncTILx/hNUp2MXCcBccI
ZxL/0SuB1EAFFZuIW3h057gnoT409z9f7yKsrwKriJkigzi0le5Ck7u+EB2n75y
XyKE1RmzaMt/OvQGUV2HNErqZgnoq34/WZwTvlglIeTrK9tBq5KE80ybWthbdLpK
qtaIqPWN/mvX12Xbnhr6dgVls7VHQZvjLzFu7j/9Rr+T90XHTW09P6GfMTzJkIWC
X+pakT2y+QJXcZhGk2Y7asNX/GG0v6hwnLHIpYsESK2JHSeZYFKusjyK2wTzMNQ6
eBSC+3QwxYVV5sETX98cC4AaCueRmh00GC7gDYFLyKroEFbX4Ii9TlLDV0z670s
hFE3fhGDcoGdi4Hcs4mFUIgGE1TeD9XpogMS1zuXiZylUEaOKsg4spzuuqI+YLi
BJqcuZ6r0YJ4j1MH9$uGuwFzdIIupFLXAZ4HGLz+2L1a+nmq5e08FjVZ+0zbBcmw
17rLIEMwEgEyu2r5pg40bToGuWvRicaF0e7bh8m9ZYR1DUVzD+hJ4XQa5jhi23C
s2bd1ESmb+OLUuWu0m58
=6z02

-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----
new@foehn:[]:pgp --verify newmessage.asc
pgp: Signature made Tue 04 Apr 2017 05:23:28 PM MDT
pgp: using RSA key 181F01E57A3500BF
pgp: Good signature from "Cicada 3301 (845145127)" [ultimate]
```


PHASE I (CONT.)

- Next those who had made it this far were given a new image and using outguess told them to return at a specific time and date for further instruction
- On that day a new image was posted and using outguess it revealed a list of coordinates which had cicada flyers and qr codes on them.
- Next they got another two book codes that led them to a .onion website with an image that instructed them to make new email for communication.
- At this point no new public communication was introduced
- Cicada 3301 made a final statement saying they found who they were looking for and went silent



PHASE II (2013)

- January 5th, 2013 was the return of 3301
- There were three threads created two in /b/ and one in /x/
- The new image lead to another book and had a new book code.
- After finding the proper book it lead those on a journey of dealing with prime numbers, songs, and a twitter account.
- After a long process of gated websites someone finally took a file that stumped the entire community and found a new image called the Gematria Primus.

Hello again. Our search for intelligent individuals now continues.

The first clue is hidden within this image.

Find it, and it will lead you on the road to finding us. We look forward to meeting the few that will make it all the way through.

Good luck.

3301

PHASE III (CONT.)

- Now they were turned back to the .onion sites
- The websites were determined to be useless unless they were accessed using telnet
- Following the use of telnet they were bounced to two other onion sites
- The third and final onion site saw a return to the previous year format of posters however these posters had phone numbers on them this time
- Then the select few who possessed the flyers answered questions on a website given to them.
- Following the questions they received instructions to set up a TCP server in the language of their choice
- No new communication was ever recieved



PHASE III (2014)

- January 6th, 2014 was the new start to the third phase.
- This began with a new book cipher that came from *Self-Reliance and Other Essays*
- This lead to the first .onion site this contained a image with encrypted rsa message
- The second onion contained the similar time gate message <!--Patience is a virtue -->
- Through manipulation of that html comment it lead to three images of the *Liber Primus*



PHASE III (CONT.)

- After translating the first three pages and through manipulation several more .onion sites were revealed and released more pages.
- Of course not all of these pages were direct translation Cicada 3301 believed firmly in the protection of data and encrypted everything.
- Some pages were direct encryption like the first three, others were cesarean cyphers, and most of the book is still unknown.
- This has since stopped the community dead in its tracks because nobody can crack the code.
- Since no progress had been made cicada 3301 ceased communication like in 2013

POST PHASE III

- On May 2nd, 2014 with no signs of progress from the community 3301 had updated the last onion with a new onion link.
- Within this new onion link was the rest of the liber primus.
- Cicada 3301 made a post in 2015 because someone was linking them to terrorism and they negated that they were involved
- 2016 – A new post emerged on the twitter account encouraging those still trying to continue going.
- After the 2016 post no new communication has since emerged and people are questioning what has happened to the cicada group.

1.3301 cicada, this has been modified from your orriginal text in order to remove your uber sekret 0hd4y identifications signature.
If you think it belongs to any particular applicant it does not; and you D0 know what I mean. u mad?

2.

3.---BEGIN FU ENCODING STRIPPED MESSAGE---

4.DO NOT SHARE THIS INFORMATION!

5.

6.Congratulations your month of testing has come to an end out of the thousands who attempted it you are one of only a few who have succeeded.

7.

8.There is one last step although there will not be any hidden codes or secret messages or physical treasure hunts this last step is only honesty we have always been honest with you and we shall continue to be honest with you and we expect you to be honest with us in return.

9.

10.You have all wondered who we are and so we shall now tell you we are an international group we have no name we have no symbol we have no membership rosters we do not have a public website and we do not advertise ourselves we are a group of individuals who have proven ourselves much like you have by completing this recruitment contest and we are drawn together by common beliefs a careful reading of the texts used in the contest would have revealed some of these beliefs that tyranny and oppression of any kind must end that censorship is wrong and that privacy is an inalienable right.

11.

12.We are not a *hacker* group nor are we a *warez* group we do not engage in illegal activity nor do our members if you are engaged in illegal activity we ask that you cease any and all illegal activities or decline membership at this time we will not ask questions if you decline however if you lie to us we will find out.

13.

14.You are undoubtedly wondering what it is that we do we are much like a *think tank* in that our primary focus is on researching and developing techniques to aid the ideas we advocate liberty privacy security you have undoubtedly heard of a few of our past projects and if you choose to accept membership we are happy to have you on-board to help with future projects.

15.

16.Please reply to this email with the answers to the next few questions to continue:

17.

18.* Do you believe that every human being has a right to privacy and anonymity and is within their rights to use tools which help obtain and maintain privacy cash strong encryption anonymity software etc?

19.

20.* Do you believe that information should be free?

21.

22.* Do you believe that censorship harms humanity?

23.

24.We look forward to hearing from you.

25.

26.3301

27.---END FUUUUUUUUUUUU---

28.

29.We look forward to hearing from you.

30.

31. Anonymous

WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT CICADA

- Cicada is famous for popping up with random puzzles every year (Wiley)
- The use of caesarean cipher was found by opening an image in text-only editor Wordpad (London)
- They are international based off of the leaked email and their knowledge of many other languages such as latin, mayan, and other runic languages
- They have a common key phrase "Patience is a virtue"
- Their internationality is hinted at the fact the posters are placed around the world.

CICADA AND DATA PRIVACY

- Cicada's beliefs are structured around personal data protection
- These puzzles have drawn lots of attention to the privacy sector when they were occurring bringing much needed attention to the topic.
- Cicada has spent the time recruiting individuals for their organization
- Cicada is so dedicated to their data privacy that nothing is known about them
- It is unknown how many members are in the organization
- There is no known structure system only that new members come in small waves

THE FUTURE WITH CICADA

- The future of Cicada is so unclear because right now it is dependent on people solving the pages of the liber primus a book that is so encrypted that of less than 10% has been solved in almost 5 years.
- It is uncertain because it is also believed to possibly be an esoteric cult (London)
- With an attention grabbing organization like 3301 being publicly recognized and developing security and privacy programs it makes the future uncertain

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