VU LEARNING HUB

CS205 Assignment 1 Solution

Fall 2026

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CS205 Assignment 1 Solution

Fall 2026 — Decode and Analyze a Security Message

Student Identification

Student Name: VU Learning Hub

VU ID: BC270388599

Scenario Selection

The assignment selects the scenario from the final digit of the VU ID: digits 0–1 give Scenario 1, 2–3 give Scenario 2, 4–5 give Scenario 3, 6–7 give Scenario 4, and 8–9 give Scenario 5. The ID BC270388599 ends in 9, so Scenario 5 applies.

Decoding Steps (CyberChef)

• Open CyberChef (https://gchq.github.io/CyberChef/) and paste the Scenario 5 message into the Input.

• Apply the recipe in this order, with standard settings: first “From Base64”, then “From Hex”.

• Do not use Magic or automatic detection. Each message has exactly two encoding layers, hexadecimal and Base64, once each.

Note: hexadecimal and Base64 are encodings, not encryption. Decoding only reverses the representation of the message; it does not break any encryption.

Decoded Output

SCENARIO=5

INCIDENT=Private staff salaries were posted on a public page.

CODE=CS205-F26-E6T

CIA Objective Affected

Confidentiality.

Reason: Salaries are private staff data; posting them publicly exposed information to unauthorized people, breaking confidentiality.

CyberChef Screenshot

The genuine CyberChef decoding — the Scenario 5 message, the recipe From Base64 followed by From Hex, and the decoded output above — is shown on the next page.

Download CyberChef

Operations

506

Search...

- Favourites
- To Base64
- From Base64
- To Hex
- From Hex
- To Hexdump
- From Hexdump
- URL Decode
- Regular expression
- Entropy
- Fork
- Magic
- Data format
- Encryption / Encoding
- Public Key
- Arithmetic / Logic
- Networking
- Language
- Utils
- Date / Time
- Extractors
- Compression
- Hashing
- Code tidy
- Forensics
- Multimedia
- Other
- Flow control

Recipe

From Base64

Alphabet: A-Za-z0-9+/=

☐ Remove non-alphabet chars

☐ Strict mode

From Hex

Delimiter: Auto

STEP BAKE! ☐ Auto Bake

Input

```
NTM0MzQ1NGU0MTUyNDk0ZjNkMzUwYTQ5NGU0MzQ5NDQ0NTRlNTQzZDUwNzI2OTc2NjE3NDY1MjA3Mzc0NjE2NjY2MjA3MzYxNmM2MTcyNjk2NTczMjA3NzY1NzI2NTIwNzA2ZjczNzQ2NTY0MjA2ZjZlMjA2MTIwNzA3NTYyNmM2OTYzMjA3MDYxNjc2NTJlMGE0MzRmNDQ0NTNkNDM1MzMyMzAzNTJkNDYzMjM2MmQ0NTM2NTQ=
```

File details

Name: cs205_s5_msg_clean.txt
Size: 244 bytes
Type: unknown
Loaded: 100%

ABC 244 1 Raw Bytes LF

Output

```
SCENARIO=5
INCIDENT=Private staff salaries were posted on a public page.
CODE=CS205-F26-E6T
```

ABC 91 3 2ms Raw Bytes LF