

A.3 Letter Box



Puzzle by: David Morgan-Mar
Difficulty: Medium

cisra Puzzle Competition 2007
<http://puzzle.cisra.com.au>

Having obtained the password, you now need a diversion. You manage to convince the patient eating lunch beside you that his slop bowl is really a hat. The patient opposite thinks it's a game, and he dons his bowl too. Before long, the whole table is wearing bowls, and patients at other tables are catching on too.

As nurses approach from all directions to restore order, you sneak away towards a side door. You key in the password on the security pad, and slip through the door without looking behind you.

Luckily, none of the staff are at their desks in this office area. You look around, and find a computer with login screen active. A quick search of the desk yields results – the in-tray holds a slip of paper with “password” scrawled on it, hidden amongst other notes and letters. On the other side is a cryptic poem. You are certain that this is the key to the login password, if you can only work out how to manipulate the text.

Steganography Man says:
One, two, three, seven, four;
It really knocks your door.
Huh? Which? Where? Who?
Eat the monkey's banana too!
Steerage class, new *Titanic*,
Suffer hysterics iceberg-manic.
Item: eigenvector, Vecna hand,
Roll'n'rock, dulcet Eskimo band.
Or sum foursome, with a beer,
Awesome for s'me ale, I hear.
LOL! IC snags are 'wurst'!
Fox, brown, o! jumps first!
Dragon red, fire-breathing,
And tired fumarole, sick of seething.
Builds femoral arterial colour,
I run, I cry, 'Ulladulla!'
It clips my tomato vine,
I can't hear...



Canon