Solution to Rotation Schedule

By Everett Yip

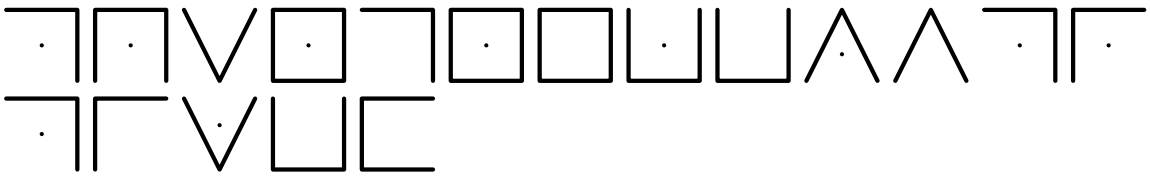
As mentioned explicitly in the instructions, the symbols in the text of this puzzle are from the simple and well-known Pigpen cipher. Decrypting the text using that method produces the following characters:

ROTTHREEURWDWHGQLQHWBFORFNZLVHSTVQJQHNECYSUSLZEI

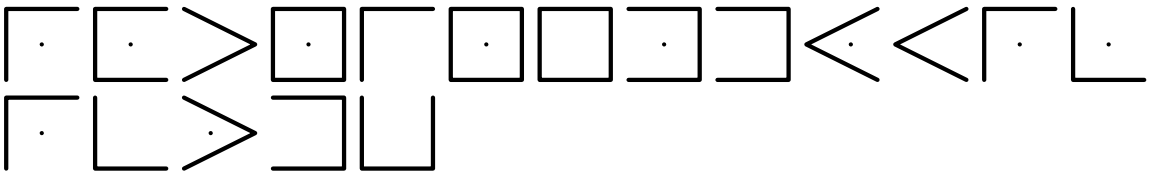
The beginning of this string contains the phrase “Rot Three” or ROT3, another simple cipher scheme. The remaining characters appear to be gibberish. The instructions suggest that that text is encoded using the ROT3 scheme, and so decrypting it produces the following string:

ROTATEDNINETYCLOCKWISEPQSNGNEKBZVPRPIWBF

Once again, there appears to be a logical phrase at the beginning – “Rotated Ninety Clockwise” – followed by more garbage. It follows that this repeated structure may suggest another new encoding methodology, but there is nothing clearly referenced in the scheme description. Rotated Ninety Clockwise suggests that something has been rotated, but this doesn’t make sense with alphabetic characters. However, the original form of the ciphertext – Pigpen – does in fact contain a set of symbols that can be rotated. Transferring the trailing gibberish text back into that representation gives the following:



The individual glyphs can then be individually rotated counter clockwise (CCW to decrypt; CW to encrypt) to produce a new set of symbols:



Translating these back into characters, we get the following:

ROTNINEMDYURLRCXDB

This new text is in the familiar format of an encoding specifier “Rot Nine” (ROT9) prepended to ciphertext.

Decrypting the remaining characters gives the final answer, **DUPLICITOUS**.