***ReadMe***

1. Download the zip file, un zip it; there are two files. Make sure both files are in the same directory and run the application file: StegApp which will only run on vista, win 7 operating systems etc. or that which emulates such .(Currently issues running on xp machines, it will not run on it.)

2. You will be presented with a login screen initially.

3. One must login or click the register button to fill out the register form.

4. In the Registration form, simply choose a username and password plus fill out the rest of the details and click register. A Message box will appear with your user-Id; take note of this as a user can store a image intended for you in the database with a hidden message but they will need your user-Id to identity that image to you.

5 .At this point one is presented with the actual application screen. There are three tabs, one to Send a message; Save Image/ Key to Database; and one to Receive.

6. If one chooses to send a message, click the send message tab. Here one is presented with different boxes. The first box shows where to enter the message and the actual key for the message. Enter these. Next choose the image within which to embed both the message and the key. The image can be sourced from either one's own computer or the database.

7. The button ’Select file to Store Image from computer’ will open a file dialog box where one can select a Bitmap(24 bit) file from any directory. Alternatively to use a random photo from the database: Select from one of the four categories and then click ‘Get Image from Database’ and the program will choose a random image from this section.

8. Click the button "Embed Message" to embed the message inside the image.

9. At this point the user can choose to save the embedded image to their Hard or use the Database. The button ‘Save image for Transport , e.g email etc.’ will open a file dialog box which will allow the user to save the file to disk for transport via email or usb etc. The other option is the Database. To use this option the user must click on the tab’ Save Image/ Key to Database.’ For this part the user must re-enter their username and password and the user- Id(Which was received by the recipient at registration) of the recipient. The database has to know for whom the intended message is for. Also a name for the image must be given; this is the name it will have in the database. There are three buttons at the bottom: save just the key in the log, save just the image and finally save the image and the key. So click on one of the options wait for a message in a box to

10. To receive a message, click on the "Receive message" tab. Firstly the key is needed to decipher the message from the image. The key can be entered directly into the box provided in the case that the recipient knows the key which means the sender has provided the key to the recipient by other means. The key can also be retrieved from the database. There also other options to retrieve the image used from the database or to retrieve both the key and image. The recipient has to authenticate oneself and then click on one of the three before mentioned options. A Message box will appear with any log from the database. If this box shows a key; take note of it and enter the key into the box below only when the image has appeared to the right of the box for the key. The image can also be retrieved from ones' own computer; again wait for the image to appear before typing in the key.

11. Finally click on retrieve message button to receive the hidden message.