Cipher Challenge 6: The Playfair Cipher

# Solve the message:

**Message:**

**A picture containing text

Description automatically generated**

* What does the cipher text say?

ia fp ia fr qo df kt gc tk az el oz kd hc tp fr dc zo hl sq am

* Using the rules for Playfair, this time you will produce the cipher text.
* Download the cipher key. (CC6.cipher.key.xlsx)
* Also see Appendix E of The Code Book

# Explain the solution:

* What are the rules for spaces, rows, columns, and squares?   
  Break the plaintext message into pairs of letters. If there is an odd number of letters, add a dummy letter (such as "X") to the end to create pairs.For each pair of letters, find their corresponding positions in the grid. If the letters are in the same row, replace them with the letters to their immediate right, wrapping around to the left side of the row if necessary. If the letters are in the same column, replace them with the letters immediately below, wrapping around to the top of the column if necessary.
* How long did it take to build the cipher?

**Around 5 mins**

# Historical points or issues found:

What are some of the historical points or issues surrounding this cipher?

Historically, the Playfair cipher was widely used by the British military during World War I and World War II. It was also used by some high-profile figures, such as Edgar Allan Poe, who used it to encrypt his own writings.

* Study Appendix E of The Code Book.
* Or, YouTube has many short videos on Playfair cipher.