

COMSATS University Islamabad

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Department Of Computer Science

INFORMATION SECURITY ASSIGNMENT 1

Student Details

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CODE:

The screenshot shows a code editor interface with a Python file named 'IS-labassignment1.py' open. The code implements a Caesar cipher. It starts by printing a welcome message, then defines an encryption function that loops through each character of the input text. For lowercase characters, it finds the index in a lowercase letters string and adds the shift value modulo 26. For uppercase characters, it uses an uppercase letters string. Non-alphabetic characters are left unchanged. The function returns the encrypted text. The terminal below shows the program being run in a Windows command prompt. It prompts for a message ('Information security'), a shift value ('3'), and prints the encrypted text ('Lqirupdwlrq vhfxfulwb').

```
C: > Users > LENOVO > Downloads > IS-labassignment1.py > ...

1 # Caesar Cipher Program
2
3 print("Welcome to Caesar Cipher")
4
5 # Encryption function
6 def caesar_encrypt(text, shift):
7     encrypted_text = '' # Stores encrypted result
8
9     for ch in text: # Loop through each character
10        if ch in lower_letters:
11            encrypted_text += lower_letters[(lower_letters.index(ch) + shift) % 26]
12        elif ch in upper_letters:
13            encrypted_text += upper_letters[(upper_letters.index(ch) + shift) % 26]
14        else:
15            encrypted_text += ch # Keep spaces and symbols unchanged
16
17    return encrypted_text # Return encrypted text
18
19
```

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

Python Debug Console

```
PS C:\Users\LENOVO\Downloads> & 'c:\Users\LENOVO\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python313\python.exe' 'c:\Users\LENOVO\code\extensions\ms-python.debugpy-2025.18.0-win32-x64\bundled\libs\debugpy\launcher' '50076' '--' 'c:\Users\LENOVO\Downloads\IS-labassignment1.py'
Welcome to Caesar Cipher
Enter your message: Information security
Enter shift value: 3
Encrypted Text: Lqirupdwlrq vhfxfulwb
Decrypted Text: Information security
PS C:\Users\LENOVO\Downloads>
```

Line-by-Line Explanation

1. `print("Welcome to Caesar Cipher")`
 - Displays a welcome message to the user.
2. `# Encryption function`
 - Comment explaining that the following code will handle encryption.
3. `def caesar_encrypt(text, shift):`
 - Defines the function `caesar_encrypt` with two parameters:
 - `text` → the message to encrypt
 - `shift` → number of positions to shift letters
4. `encrypted_text = "" # Stores encrypted result`
 - Creates an empty string to hold the encrypted message.
5. `for ch in text: # Loop through each character`
 - Loops through every character in the message.
6. `if ch in lower_letters:`
 - Checks if the current character is a lowercase letter.
7. `encrypted_text += lower_letters[(lower_letters.index(ch) + shift) % 26]`
 - Finds the index of the lowercase letter.
 - Adds the shift value.
 - % 26 wraps around if the shift goes past 'z'.
 - Adds the resulting letter to `encrypted_text`.
8. `elif ch in upper_letters:`
 - Checks if the character is an uppercase letter.
9. `encrypted_text += upper_letters[(upper_letters.index(ch) + shift) % 26]`
 - Finds the index of the uppercase letter, adds shift,

- wraps around using % 26, and appends it.
10. else:
 - Handles all other characters (spaces, symbols, numbers).
 11. encrypted_text += ch # Keep spaces and symbols unchanged
 - Adds the character as-is to the encrypted message.
 12. return encrypted_text # Return encrypted text
 - Returns the fully encrypted message after the loop ends.

Security Analysis of Caesar Cipher

The Caesar Cipher is a very simple method of hiding messages by shifting letters in the alphabet. While it is easy to understand and implement, it is not very secure for real-world use.

Why it is not secure:

1. Limited number of shifts:
 - There are only 25 possible shifts (1–25).
 - This means someone can try all of them quickly (brute force) and decrypt the message.
2. Letter frequency attacks:
 - Some letters appear more often in English (like 'E', 'T', 'A').
 - By looking at the frequency of letters, a person can guess the shift value and break the message.
3. Patterns are easy to see:
 - Repeating words or letters are shifted the same way, so patterns in the message remain.
 - This makes it easier to crack long messages.