

SIT282/SIT703 Computer Forensics and Investigations

Workshop Session 9

In the previous week, you learned how to use the image steganography tools. In this session, we will practice multimedia steganography tools and the cryptool for various cipher schemes. Ubuntu VM is used in this session.

Through this session, you will learn two new tools – OpenPuff and cryptool. By solving forensic tasks, you will be able to perform advanced encryption and decryption analysis.

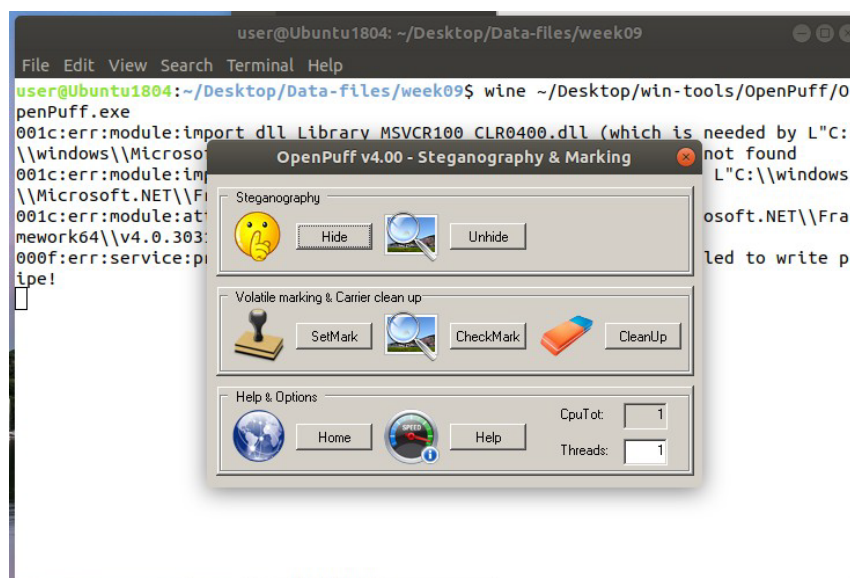
Learning Objectives

1. Practice using tools to hide and unhide steganographic content, and perform extraction of digital evidence for a case involving multimedia steganography.
2. Practice using tools to encrypt messages and decrypt cryptographic content, and perform extraction of digital evidence for a case involving cryptography.

1. Multimedia Steganography by Using OpenPuff

OpenPuff is one of the most powerful tools for performing multimedia steganography. It supports not only image files but also audio and video files. For simplicity, we use a simple example to show how it is used.

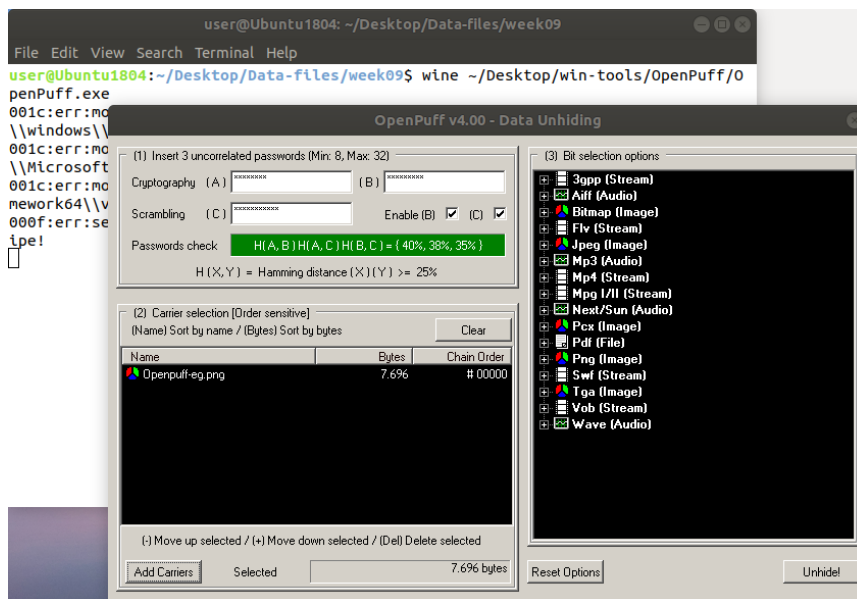
Because OpenPuff we use is a Windows executable file, we need to use the Windows emulator “wine”. Change the directory to “~/Desktop/Data- files/week09”, then type the command “**wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/OpenPuff/OpenPuff.exe**”. You will see the following screenshot.



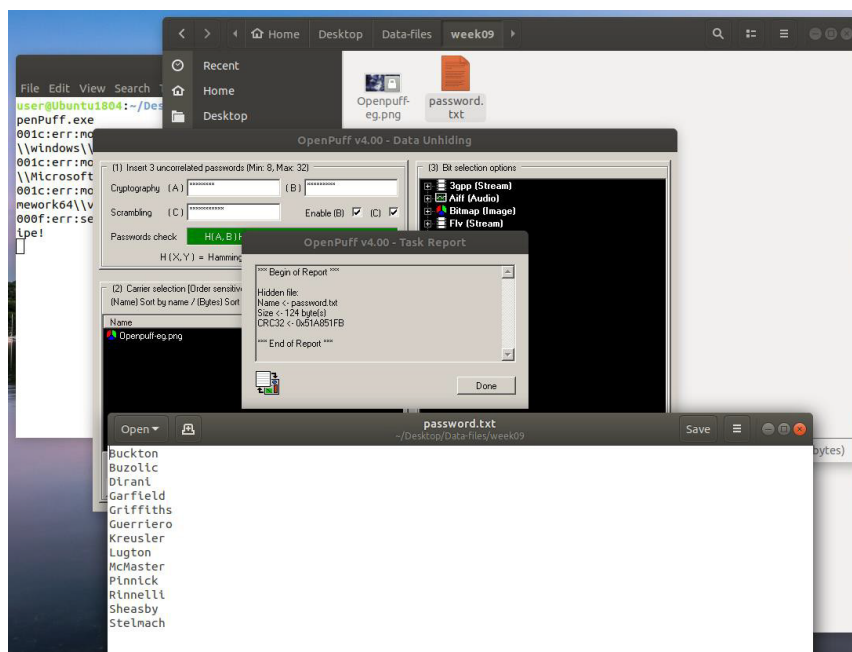
The user interface is quite straightforward. The most commonly used features are

“Hide” and “Unhide”. We will show you an example of “Unhide” which is relevant to forensic investigations. You are encouraged to try the “Hide” function yourself.

Click on button “Unhide”, then the user interface will be updated. You need to fill in three passwords as (A), (B), and (C). The passwords are: (A) as “M.Gibson”, (B) as “Schenkkan”, and (C) as “Okinawa1945”. These three passwords should be filled in the panel (1) as shown below. For panel (2), navigate to the week09 folder by clicking the “Add Carriers” button and choose the file “Openpuff-eg.png”. Leave the options in panel (3) unchanged.



Click the button “Unhide!” and then choose the location for the extracted contents. We will obtain a secret password list as shown below:



Spend at least 10 mins to try different combinations of the three keys and see whether you can reveal the same list of passwords. For your knowledge, please try to

hide the secrets of your own with OpenPuff.

2. Introducing CrypTool

CrypTool is a bundle of cryptographic tools. We have installed a Windows version of CrypTool in the virtual machine. (The Java version does not offer the same level of functionalities, therefore the Windows version is chosen.) Use the Windows emulator “wine” to launch the program. As in previous workshops, the path is a little tricky to type. You need to follow the exact same path or use double/single quotes to enclose the path names with space:

**“wine /home/user/.wine/drive_c/Program\ Files\ **
(x86)/CrypTool/CrypTool.exe”,

“wine ~/.wine/drive_c/Program\ Files\ \ (x86)/CrypTool/CrypTool.exe”, or
“wine ~/.wine/drive_c/‘Program Files (x86)’/CrypTool/CrypTool.exe”

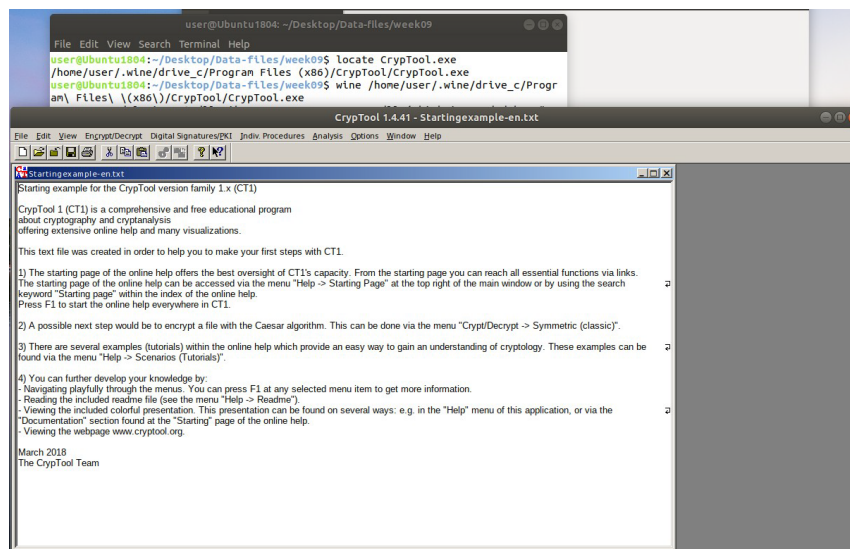
NOTE: In the command ensure there is a space:

between wine and ~

after Program\

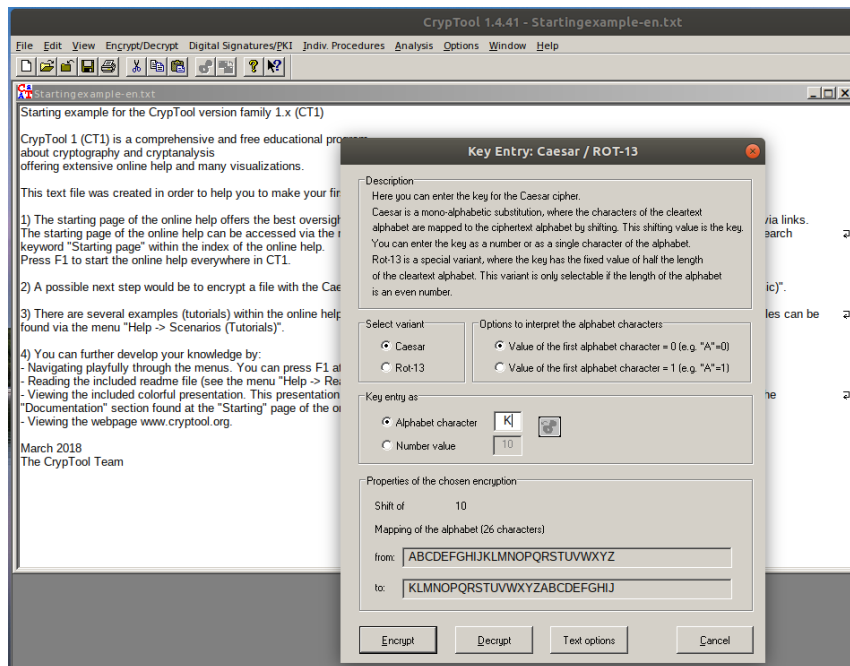
between the back slashes of Files\ \

then you will see the following interface:

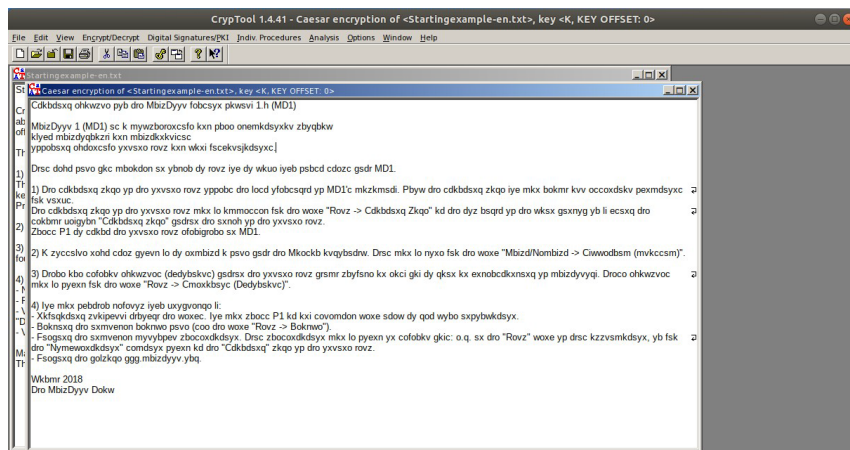


There are many different ways of using the CrypTool. We only teach a few simple steps that are relevant to this unit. We recommend you to watch several video clips on this list https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=cryptool+tutorial.

We will use the most famous example of Caesar cipher to show how to encrypt and decrypt a message in text. Because the readme file is loaded by default, we will encrypt it by using the Caesar cipher. Choose the menu “Encrypt/Decrypt > Symmetric (Classic) > Caesar/ROT-13” and then choose the encryption key to be the letter “K” as shown below:



Click the button “Encrypt” and you will see the following:

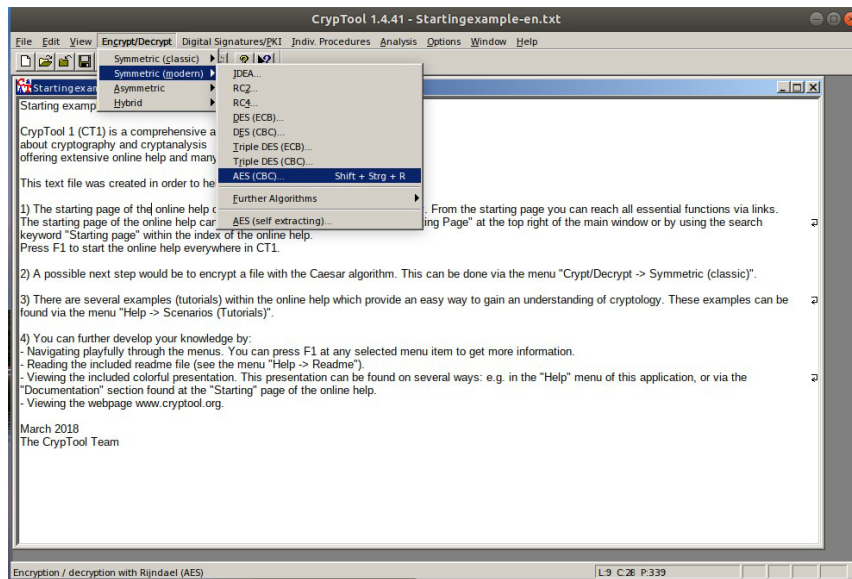


Now, spend a few minutes to decrypt the cipher text to the original texts. This is a simple encryption. We will do a more advanced encryption in Section 3.

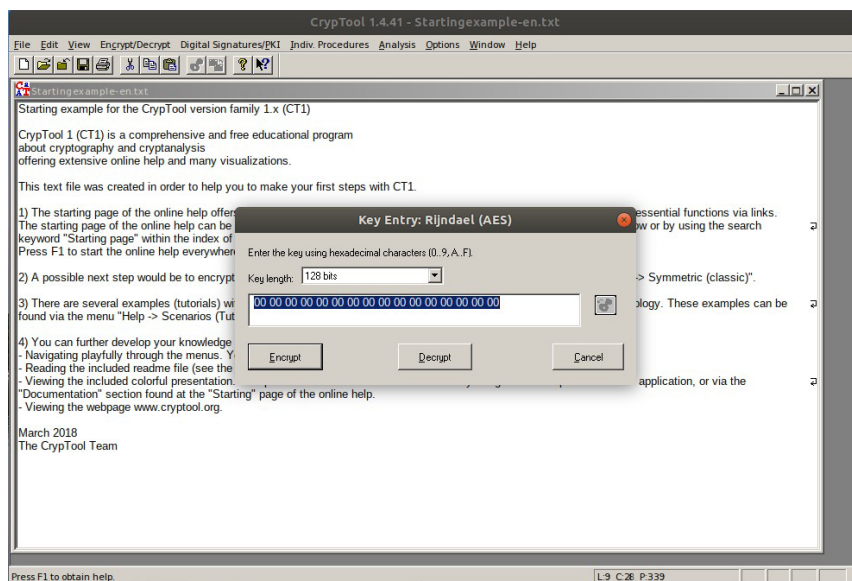
3. Introducing AES Encryption and BASE64 Encoding

Classic ciphers are known to be weak in today’s computer systems. And they are not used in general practices other than in the educational context. One of the most robust and widely used ciphers is AES. We will learn how AES works by using CrypTool.

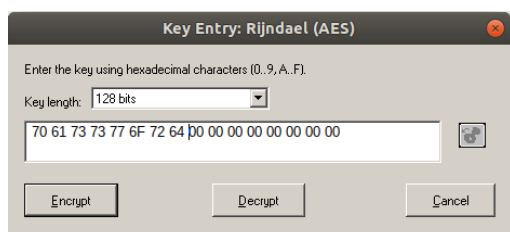
In CrypTool, choose the menu option “Encrypt/Decrypt > Symmetric (modern) > AES (CBC) ...” as shown below:



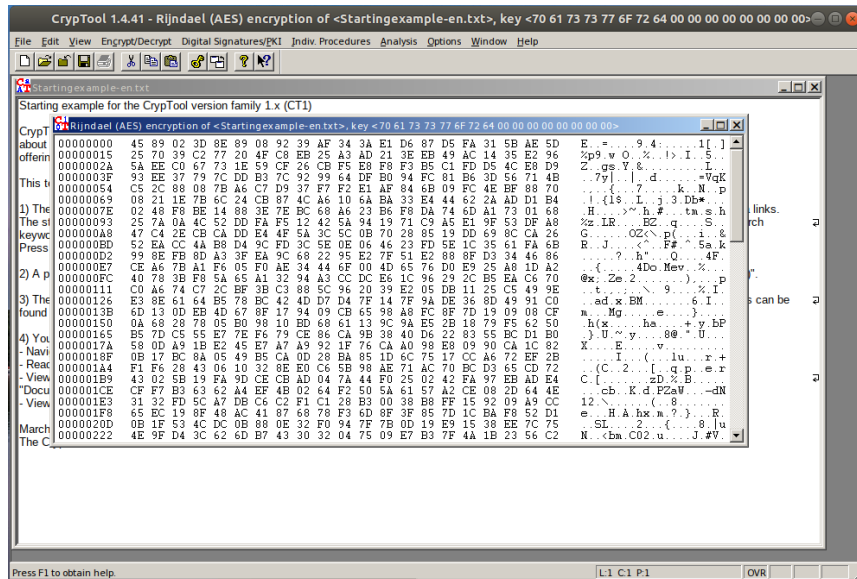
Then a message box will pop up and prompt you for a password. By default, it is a 128-bit password in Hex values. Remember the Hex value. For any text passwords, you will need to convert it to its Hex value before you can proceed.



Let us choose the password with Hex values “0x70617373776F7264”. Leave the rest bits as 00s. It should be something similar to the following:

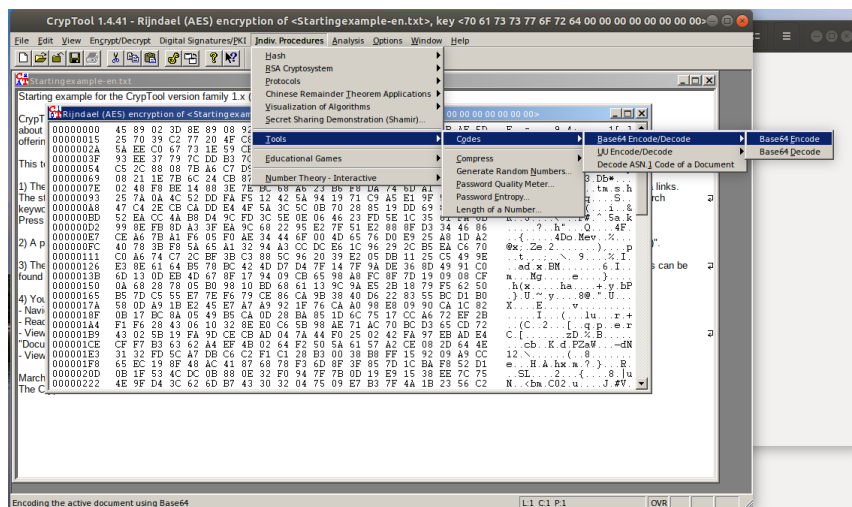


Click the button “Encrypt” and you will see that the readme document is encrypted to a binary file as shown below:

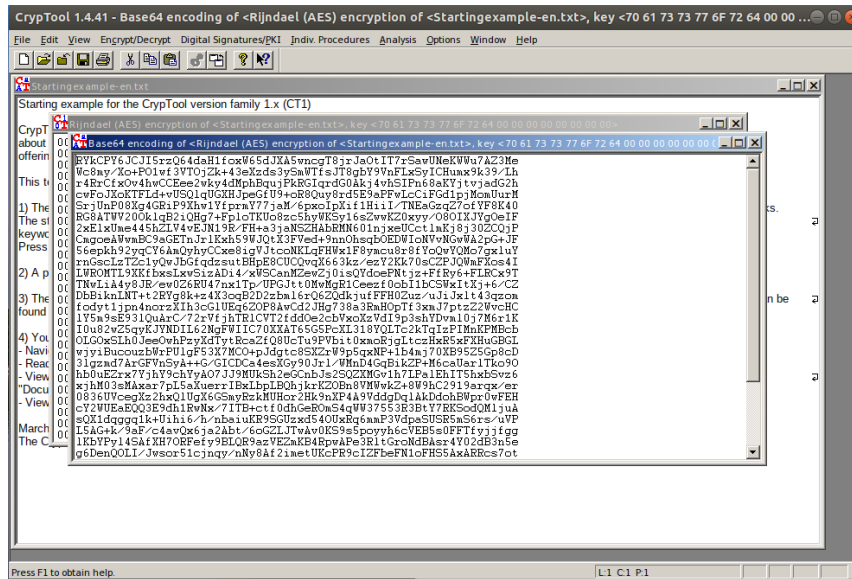


It is a binary file, but binary is difficult for us to work with in most cases. We need to convert this to a text file. Fortunately, BASE64 is a powerful algorithm that converts any binary contents to text format. And CrypTool includes BASE64.

Choose the menu option “Indiv. Procedures >Tools >Codes >Base64 Encode/Decode >Base64 Encode”



Then, you will see the following screen. The binary contents have been converted to text.



Spend a few more minutes to see the differences between the binary file and the BASE64 encoded text.

4. Forensic Tasks

The text we obtained in Section 3 is saved in file “Cry-Base64-startingexample-en.txt” in the “week09” folder. Decrypt it to the original format using the CrypTool. (Hint: The AES decryption password is the same as the encryption password.)