

# Team Covert's Contract Draft

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Our project focus is on designing a general framework for building a covert channel of communication in a software system. Upon initially researching this topic, we noticed that the majority of resources are focused on detecting covert channels, not designing them. We aim to create a general framework to guide the building of a covert channel. We hesitate to use the word “manual” because it is system specific and we aim to be abstract. In doing this, we hope that our framework could be used to help cyber security analysts learn and understand the foundations of covert channels in order to mediate them. In completion of this project, all members hope to be able to learn more about cyber security and what it is like to be on the offensive side of the field by exploring topics such as networking, program exploitation, steganography, etc.

As a group we decided to conduct our project over Discord, a messaging platform. We will be meeting on Monday's at 10:00am every week. These meetings will be used as overall discussion, planning, and for getting stuff done. Our project plan is divided into phases such as research of covert channels, designing the framework, and building an example based on the framework. Throughout the first phase of research, we plan to spend our meetings going over assigned readings, discussing new ideas, and planning what sub-topic to research next. When we have heavier workloads some weeks, we expect to meet more frequently.

Roles in our group will relatively all be the same. We will all learn and research the same material, as well as help in creating the framework. For time saving purposes we will split up into teams to create the example covert channel and the system we plan to test it on. Although these teams will be very fluid. We will all be working together at the end of the day. Everyone will be a part of the process of creating the example covert channel as that is what we all signed up for.