

## Decrypt an encrypted message

First I used the “ls” command to identify the files in the current directory. There is a “Q1.encrypted” file that needs to be decrypted as part of the exercise as indicated if I use the “cat” command to read it.

```
analyst@3df127ee461d:~$ ls
Q1.encrypted  README.txt  caesar
```

```
analyst@3df127ee461d:~$ cat README.txt
Hello,
All of your data has been encrypted. To recover your data, you will need to solve a cipher. To get started look for a hidden file in the caesar subdirectory.
```

I changed directories to “caesar” which contains a hidden file known as “.leftShift3” which may indicate that the cipher has shifted the alphabet by three spaces.

```
analyst@3df127ee461d:~$ cd caesar
analyst@3df127ee461d:~/caesar$ ls -a
.  ..  .leftShift3
```

I used the “cat” command on the file followed by piping the “tr” command to shift the alphabet by three spaces from “d-z” back to “a-c” and “D-Z” back to “A-C”. Doing this, will give me the deciphered message in the file which instructs me to use the following command in the “Q1.encrypted” file of the previous directory.

```
analyst@3df127ee461d:~/caesar$ cat .leftShift3 | tr "d-za-cD-ZA-C" "a-zA-Z"
In order to recover your files you will need to enter the following command:

openssl aes-256-cbc -pbkdf2 -a -d -in Q1.encrypted -out Q1.recovered -k ettubru
```

Plugging the command in the previous directory will then output a “Q1.recovered” file which, when used with the “cat” command, will indicate that the exercise has been completed.

```
analyst@3df127ee461d:~/caesar$ cd
analyst@3df127ee461d:~$ openssl aes-256-cbc -pbkdf2 -a -d -in Q1.encrypted -out Q1.recovered -k ettubru
e
analyst@3df127ee461d:~$ ls
Q1.encrypted  Q1.recovered  README.txt  caesar
```

```
analyst@3df127ee461d:~$ cat Q1.recovered
If you are able to read this, then you have successfully decrypted the classic cipher text. You recovered the encryption key that was used to encrypt this file. Great work!
```