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Course code and name:	F21CN Computer Network Security						
Type of assessment:	Individual						
Coursework Title:	Symmetric Encryption						
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COMPUTER NETWORK SECURITY F21CN

Coursework 1 Symmetric Encryption

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1. Introduction

Symmetric encryption is the first coursework for Computer Network Security (F21CN). Upon

completion of this coursework, I hope to understand the different methodologies used in

Symmetric Encryption. Through this coursework, I'm also hoping to get deeper understanding

of the various encryption ciphers like aes-128-cbc, aes-192-cbc and other cipher modes, how

frequency analysis is used to decrypt ciphertext and how padding works.

For Task 1, I expect to understand how frequency analysis is used to decrypt ciphertext.

For Task 2, I would observe how padding works for different file size in encryption and

decryption.

For Task 3, I would like to observe what corruption does in different modes of encryption.

For Task 4, I hope to learn to write a script to match a word from dictionary.

To complete this coursework, I am using CentOS 9 installed on Oracle VM VirtualBox.

Operating System: 0

CentOS Stream 9

Kernel:

Linux 5.14.0-163.el9.x86 64

Architecture:

x86-64

1

2. Task 1: Frequency Analysis: Monoalphabetic Substitution Cipher

2.1. Objectives

- Using frequency analysis to decrypt the ciphertext to plaintext.
- Frequency analysis provides us with information how often a letter or combination of letters occur in English language.
- I am provided with a ciphertext file (cipher-task1-188). Also, provided a link where I can get the frequency analysis of alphabets occurring in the corpus, along with the bigram and trigram frequency. (Link: https://onlinetoolz.net/letter-frequency)
- With the help of given links, I will try to decrypt the ciphertext.

2.2. Implementation

General Notation:

Lowercase — Cipher text

Uppercase Plain text

First, I calculated the letter frequency of the ciphertext using the provided website https://onlinetoolz.net/letter-frequency. From this website, I got the highest occurring alphabet followed by the alphabets in decreasing order of their occurrence. Then comparing it with the Wikipedia English letter frequency for single letter, bigrams, and trigrams.

The next step is to start replacing a single letter of the ciphertext with single plaintext letter.

[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'o' 'E' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt

I start with replacing single letter 'o' from cipher text with English letter 'E' as it corresponded with the cipher text with highest the occurrence. Same for cipher text letter 'h' and 'q' with English letter 'T' and 'A' respectively.

[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'oh' 'ET' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt [salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohq' 'ETA' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt The next cipher text letter that I chose is by looking at the trigram table for 'hbo' which had highest occurrence. Looking at the trigrams table in English language with highest occurrence which is 'THE', I figured that cipher text 'b' would be English letter 'H'. (As I have already replaced 'h' with 'T' and 'o' with 'E', by logic 'b' would be 'H')

[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmw' 'ETAHBW' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.t> t

Some ciphertext word like 'wbqh' would be English word 'WHAT' as I already know 'bqh' would be 'HAT'.

After replacing five ciphertext alphabets, looking at the ciphertext corpus, words start making sense and by logic I kept replacing those words letter by letter.

The entire command line screenshots are provided in the Appendices Task 1 for reference.

2.3. Letter Mapping

																						W			
S	Н	D	K	U	Q	M	T	J	Ι	О	R	В	X	Е	L	A	N	Z	С	P	F	W	G	Y	V

The above key was used to encrypt the ciphertext file. With the help of the same key, we have decrypted the ciphertext file.

The plaintext is provided in the Appendices Task 1 for reference.

3. Task 2: Symmetric encryption: Padding

3.1. Objectives

- To understand how padding works.
- Explore how 'openssl enc' command works.
- Understand how cipher mode '-aes-128-cbc' encryption works.
- To observe padding by using hex tools such as 'xxd'.
- Observe how the file size changes with/without padding.

3.2. Implementation

First, I have created 3 files: file1.txt, file2.txt and file3.txt of 5,10 and 16 bytes respectively.

```
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ ls -l
total 12
-rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman
-rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman
-rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$
oct 1 21:56
file1.txt
file2.txt
Oct 1 21:57
```

Image 1: Three files of 5, 10 & 16 bytes

```
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ cat file1.txt file2.txt file3.txt
Deer
Elephants
Giraffes Pandas
```

Image 2: Viewing the content of the three files

Next, I encrypted all the three files. The cipher mode used is '-aes-128-cbc' which is 128-bit encryption. Padding is automatically added after encryption to each file. The amount of padding added to each file varies as each file is of different size. After encryption, file1.txt will be cipher1.bin. Similarly, file2.txt and file3.txt will be cipher2.bin and cipher3.bin respectively.

As we use 128-bit encryption (16 bytes), cipher1.bin and cipher2.bin will be rounded off to 16 bytes and cipher2.bin will be rounded off to the next multiple of 16 (i.e., 32 bytes) after padding.

```
salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in file1.txt -out ciphe
  K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff
       @etisalat-s3 Task2]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in file2.txt -out ciphe
-K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030405060708
   string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length man@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -i
                                                        -iv 0102030405060708
       -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff
                               padding with zero bytes to length
                too short, pa
lat-s3 Task2]$
                          salman
                                       Oct
Oct
                 salman
                 salman
                 salman
                                                 16:51
                 salman
                          salman
```

Image 3: Encrypting the three files

Next step is to decrypt the cipher files but using the '-nopad' command while using the 'openssl enc' command to retain the padding. If we don't use the '-nopad' command, the padding is automatically removed while decrypting.

After decryption, we get three plaintext files: plain1.txt, plain2.txt and plain3.txt.

```
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -d -in cipher1.bin -out plain1.txt -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length [salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -d -in cipher2.bin -out plain2.txt -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length [salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -d -in cipher3.bin -out plain3.txt -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length [salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ ls -l total 36 -rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman 16 Oct 2 16:50 cipher1.bin -rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman 16 Oct 2 16:51 cipher2.bin -rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman 32 Oct 2 16:51 cipher3.bin -rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman 10 Oct 1 21:56 file1.txt -rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman 10 Oct 1 21:57 file3.txt -rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman 16 Oct 2 21:08 plain1.txt -rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman 16 Oct 2 21:08 plain2.txt -rw-rw-r--. 1 salman salman 16 Oct 2 21:09 plain3.txt
```

Image 4: Decrypting the three files with -nopad command to observe padding

We observe that the size of the plain text files is same as that of the cipher text files. This confirms that the padding is retained for all the files.

Next step is to observe padding. I use the 'xxd' command to observe padding. It will display the content of the file in a series of hexadecimal numbers.

Image 5: Padding bytes observed using 'xxd' command

We can observe in the image above that after decryption, the plaintext is visible along with some padding. We can also use the 'cat' command to observe the blank space, after decryption if '-nopad' command is used.

```
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$ cat plain1.txt
Deer
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task2]$
```

Image 6: Padding observed when viewing the file content using cat command

More screenshots are added for reference in Appendices Task 2.

4. Task 3: Encryption Mode — Corrupted Cipher Text

4.1. Objectives

- To understand various encryption modes like ECB, CBC, CFB, and OFB.
- To observe how a file would appear if the file was corrupted.
- Use the 'aes-192' encryption mode throughout.

4.2. Implementation

First, I created a file that is 128 bytes long using the 'echo' command provided in the coursework sheet. After creating the file, I encrypted the file four times using ECB, CBC, CFB, and OFB modes. I have used the '-nopad' command while encrypting.

While encrypting with ECB mode, -iv (initialization vector) is not required.

```
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ echo -n "Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I am a Comput er Engineer graduate currently pursuing MSc Data Science from Heriot Watt Univer sity." > 128bytes.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-ecb -e -in 128bytes.txt -out 12 8bytesECB.bin -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff
hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-cbc -e -in 128bytes.txt -out 12 8bytesCBC.bin -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length
hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-cfb -e -in 128bytes.txt -out 12 8bytesCFB.bin -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length
hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-ofb -e -in 128bytes.txt -out 12 8bytesOFB.bin -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length
hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$
```

Image 7: Creating 128 bytes file and encrypting with four different cipher modes

Now, after encryption, the next step is to induce errors. We are supposed to modify a single bit of 46th byte of each ciphertext file (given). So, we use the 'hexedit' command to edit the byte value. I have used the 'yum install hexedit' command from https://centos.pkgs.org/7/centos-x86_64/hexedit-1.2.13-5.el7.x86_64.rpm.html website.

Hexedit tool allows to edit the byte value and save the changes.

We must also remove the 86th byte from each ciphertext file (given). So, I have replaced the 86th byte of each ciphertext file with 00.

Image 8: hexedit command

```
00000010
                     60
                              D5
                                                                           4E
                  34
                                  E4
                                      5F
                                                           E3
                                                                    3E
                                                                       E2
F0
                                          83
                                                                           94
00000020
                  78
                     AB
                         06
                              3D D3
                                      F6
                                               DD
                                                   1A
                                                          ΑF
                                                                    Α5
              48
                                                       8A
                                                                0F
                 C1
7D
                     E5
                                          7B
                                               57
F1
                                                           8B
00000030
              E8
                         D8
                               C2
                                  ΑE
                                      6F
                                                   44
                                                                88
                                                                           8F
                     CD
                               20
                                  9C
                                      76
                                          04
                                                       9F
                                                                        19
00000040
              00
                         D6
                                                   8F
                                                           1E
                                                                12
                                                                           В8
00000050
              C8
                 D9
                     во
                         CA
                              E8
                                  67
                                      2C
                                               8В
                                                       96
                                                          4E
                                                                EΑ
                                                                        89
                                          60
                                                   38
                                                                           62
                                                                                 . . . . . g ,
                                                          69
00000060
                  Α2
                     D7
                         23
                                  6E
                                      10
                                          20
                                               D0
                                                   20
                                                       29
00000070
                     2E
                                      D7
                                          3E
                                               88
                                                   98
                                                           92
```

Image 9: CBC encryption before modifying the 46th and 86th byte

```
00000000
                                                                      95 D2 4E

97 A5 E3 94

88 B1 F0 8F

12 47 19 B8

EA A8 89
00000010
               37
                    34
                        6C
                                      E4
                                          5F
                                                    DF
                                                        43
                                                            CF
                                                                 E3
00000020
               48
                    78
                       AB
                            96
                                  ЗD
                                      DЗ
                                          F6
                                              83
                                                    DD
                                                        1A
                                                            88
                                                                 AF
8B
                                      AE 6F
0C 76
                   C1
7D
                                  C2
20
00000030
               E8
                       E5
                            D8
                                              7B
                                                    57 44
F1 8F
                                                            7C
                                                                                               ..o{WD|
                                                            9F
                                                                                            .. .v....
00000040
                       CD
                                                                1E
               00
                            D6
                                                                                                         . . G
                   D9
                                          00
                                                                 4E
               C8
                       во
                                  E8
                                      67
                                                    8B
                                                        38
                                                             96
00000050
                            CA
                                                                                                        .N...b
                            23
                                                                 69
                                                                       В1
                                                                           93
00000060
                    Α2
                       D7
                                      6E
                                                    DΘ
                                                        20
                                                            29
                                                                               F6
                                                                                         q..#.n.
00000070
```

Image 10: CBC encryption after modifying the 46th and 86th byte

The same changes are made for the other three ciphertext files. The images for those are added in the Appendices Task 3.

The next step is decrypting the corrupted ciphertext files. I have included the '-nopad' command while decrypting, keeping the key and iv same.

```
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-ecb -d -in 128bytesECB.bin -out 128bytesECBptCorrupt.txt -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length [salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-cbc -d -in 128bytesCBC.bin -out 128bytesCBCptCorrupt.txt -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030 405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length [salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-cfb -d -in 128bytesCFB.bin -out 128bytesCFBptCorrupt.txt -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030 405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length [salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-ofb -d -in 128bytesOFB.bin -out 128bytesOFBptCorrupt.txt -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030 405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length [salman@etisalat-s3 Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-192-ofb -d -in 128bytesOFB.bin -out 128bytesOFBptCorrupt.txt -nopad -K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030 405060708 hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length hex string is too short, padding with zero bytes to length
```

Image 11: Decrypting the corrupted ciphertext files

4.3. Observations

ECB mode of encryption

• In ECB mode on encryption, a plaintext block is encrypted independently. There is no link between adjacent blocks. So, each block is enciphered independently and as there is no link between the blocks, the block that has been corrupted will not be recoverable.

Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I am a Computer Engineer graduate currently pursuing MSc Data Science from Heriot Watt University.

Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I Øô'påq±ðÎT? 5ì'⊡©gineer graduate currently pursui"ª⊡0™· Ùª&Ï⊡JdVfñnce from Heriot Watt University.

Image 12: Plaintext

Image 13: Corrupted Plaintext (ECB)

CBC mode of encryption

• CBC mode is an advancement to ECB mode of encryption. In CBC, the encryption algorithm uses the previous cipher block as input. XOR operation is done between the previous cipher block and current plaintext, thus producing the cipher block and so on.

Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I am a Computer Engineer graduate currently pursuing MSc Data Science from Heriot Watt University. Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I Æû⊡ŪáŸÞÜô©Ø,±"-mgineer graduatd currently pursuiêÄ«ÿ8µ8ƊÍx*"№ £ènce frCm Heriot Watt University.

Image 14: Plaintext

Image 15: Corrupted Plaintext (CBC)

CFB mode of encryption

• CFB mode of encryption is like CBC mode of encryption. Here, any block is affected by the previously corrupted ciphertext block. It means that any block after the corrupted ciphertext block will become unrecoverable.

Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I am a Computer Engineer graduate currently pursuing MSc Data Science from Heriot Watt University.

Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I am a Computer Dn)Šz^ÞÒ¬ëಔ>e~ "e7currently pursuing MScData ScieŒ0¢Wš ók™Ct à®ö®Watt University.

Image 16: Plaintext

Image 17: Corrupted Plaintext (CFB)

OFB mode of encryption

• In this type of encryption mode, the encryption is applied to the vector and not the plaintext itself. It means that only one bit change will affect only one vector which will in turn, only affect one bit after decryption.

Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I am a Computer Engineer graduate currently pursuing MSc Data Science from Heriot Watt University.

Hi, my name is Salman Ansari. I am a Computer Dngineer graduate currently pursuing MScöData Science from Heriot Watt University.

Image 18: Plaintext

Image 19: Corrupted Plaintext (OFB)

5. Task 4: Encryption Mode — Corrupted Cipher Text

5.1. Objectives

- To create a shell script to match the password and the plaintext.
- Observe the change in plaintext with/without padding.
- To match the word in plaintext file with the dictionary file.

5.2. Implementation

We are given a linecount.sh file for reference. First, we create a plaintext file containing a word from the dictionary. Then we encrypt the file using openssl command (openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in plain.txt -out cipher.txt -pass pass:apple1). We append a digit at the end of the password.

Then I created a while loop which will iterate line by line from the dictionary. Inside the while loop, I encrypted the plaintext file with a password that is taken while iterating from the dictionary.

Then I compare my initial ciphertext file which I encrypted using the openssl command with the ciphertext file that I get while encrypting with a password taken from the dictionary inside the while loop.

If it matches the word inside the dictionary, it will print the word is found and break the loop. Otherwise, it will keep on checking until the end of line in dictionary.

6. Appendices Task 1

Command Line Screenshots

```
'E' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
                                         'oh' 'ET' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr
                                        'oh' 'EI' <cipher-laski-188> PlainText.txt
'ohq' 'ETA' <cipher-taski-188> PlainText.txt
'ohqb' 'ETAH' <cipher-taski-188> PlainText.txt
'ohqbm' 'ETAHB' <cipher-taski-188> PlainText.txt
'ohqbmw' 'ETAHBW' <cipher-taski-188> PlainText.tx
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr 'ohqbmwa' 'ETAHBWS' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr 'ohqbmwaj' 'ETAHBWSI' <cipher-task1-188> PlainTex
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr 'ohqbmwajp' 'ETAHBWSIL' <cipher-task1-188> PlainT
ext.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr 'ohqbmwajpl' 'ETAHBWSILR' <cipher-task1-188> Plai
nText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Taskl]$ tr 'ohqbmwajplt' 'ETAHBWSILRC' <cipher-taskl-188> Pl
ainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr 'ohqbmwajplts' 'ETAHBWSILRCZ' <cipher-task1-188>
PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsr' 'ETAHBWSILRCZN' <cipher-task1-188
> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrx' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNG' <cipher-task1-1
    PlainText.txt
```

[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxc' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGD' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxcz' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDV' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczv' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVF' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczve' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFU' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczveg' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUM' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczvegk' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUMO' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczvegkd' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUMOK' < cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczvegkdy' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUMOKY' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczvegkdyu' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUMOKY' < cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczvegkdyu' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUMOKY P' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczvegkdyui' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUMOKY PJ' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczvegkdyui' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUMOK YPJ' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt
[salman@etisalat-s3 Task1]\$ tr 'ohqbmwajpltsrxczvegkdyui' 'ETAHBWSILRCZNGDVFUMOK YPJ' <cipher-task1-188> PlainText.txt

Plaintext

GE OF

TODAY THERES ONLY ONE COUNTRY THATS NOT REACHABLE FROM YOUR TELEPHONE

ALBANIA WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF ESPIONAGE

YOW WHAT AM I THINKING ABOUT IM NOT A SPY IM JUST AN ASTRONOMER WHOS BEEN

AWAY FROM SCIENCE FOR TOO LONG

AS I TURNED OFF MY MONITORS AND WOUND UP THE CABLES I REALIZED THAT FOR A

YEAR ID BEEN CAUGHT IN A MAZE ID THOUGHT ID BEEN SETTING TRAPS ACTUALLY ID

BEEN TRAPPED THE WHOLE WHILE WHILE THE HACKER WAS SEARCHING MILITARY COMPUTERS I

WAS EXPLORING DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES ON THE NETWORKS AND IN THE GOVERNMENT HIS

JOURNEY TOOK HIM INTO THIRTY OR FORTY COMPUTERS MINE REACHED INTO A DOZEN

ORGANIZATIONS

MY OWN QUEST HAD CHANGED I THOUGHT I WAS HUNTING FOR A HACKER ID IMAGINED

THAT MY WORK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MY HOME OR COUNTRY AFTER ALL I WAS JUST

DOING MY JOB

NOW WITH MY COMPUTERS SERVICED AND HOLES PATCHED I BIKED HOME PICKED A FEW

STRAWBERRIES AND MIXED SOME MILKSHAKES FOR MARTHA AND CLAUDIA

CUCKOOS WILL LAY THEIR EGGS IN OTHER NESTS IM RETURNING TO

ASTRONOMY

PAGE OF

EPILOGUE

WHILE I WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO WRAP UP THE HACKER CHASE WE ALSO HAD A

WEDDING TO PLAN IT WAS A HECTIC TIME AND I CURSED MY WORK AND HESS FOR

DISTRACTING ME FROM MY HOME LIFE WE WERE GOING TO BE MARRIED AT THE END OF MAY SO

THE APRIL REVELATIONS WERE PARTICULARLY AWKWARD MARTHA ENDING UP WITH MORE THAN

HER SHARE OF THE PREPARATIONS

SHE WAS COPING HOWEVER FIRMLY RESOLVED TO MAKE THE WEDDING TRUE TO WHO WE

WERE WE SILKSCREENED OUR OWN INVITATIONS SAYING THAT THE TWO OF US ALONG WITH

OUR FAMILIES WERE DOING THE INVITING NATURALLY THE INK ON THE SILKSCREEN LEAKED

THROUGH AND HALF THE INVITATIONS HAD OUR FINGERPRINTS BUT THATS A PART OF THE

HOME BREW

MARTHA DECKED OUT IN A WHITE DRESS AND VEIL AND ME IN A TUX ABSURD AND

LAURIE IN A BRIDESMAIDS OUTFIT NOBODY EVER MADE LAURIE WEAR A
DRESS FOR ANY

REASON SOMEHOW WE MANAGED LAURIE WORE WHITE LINEN PANTS AND A TAILORED JACKET

MARTHA MADE A SIMPLE PALE YELLOW DRESS AND I SEWED MY OWN COTTON SHIRT TRY

SEWING YOUR OWN SHIRT SOMETIME YOULL LEARN A NEW RESPECT FOR SHIRT MAKERS

ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU SEW THE CUFFS ON BACKWARD

SO IT RAINED ON OUR WEDDING AND THERE WASNT A PLACE TO HIDE IN THE ROSE

GARDEN CLAUDIAS STRING QUARTET UNRAVELED A TARP PROTECTING THEIR VIOLINS FROM

THE DOWNPOUR MY SISTER JEANNIE SHOWED UP STRAIGHT FROM HER LAST CLARM AT NAVY WAR

COLLEGE AND STRAIGHT INTO A POLITICAL ARGUMENT WITH LAURIE OF COURSE AFTER THE

CEREMONY WE GOT LOST DRIVING TO A REMOTE INN BY THE OCEAN

IT WAS WONDERFUL ALL THE SAME SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT MARRIAGE THIS WAS THE

HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE

SURE I COULD HAVE JUST STAYED LIVING WITH MARTHA NEVER QUITE COMMITTING

MYSELF BEYOND NEXT MONTHS RENT ID LIVED WITH SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS CASUAL

WAY SAYING WE WERE IN LOVE BUT ALWAYS READY TO SPLIT IF THINGS GOT TOUGH WE

DRESSED IT UP WITH TALK ABOUT OPENNESS AND FREEDOM FROM OPPRESSIVE CONVENTIONS BUT

FOR ME IT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE THE TRUTH WAS I HAD NEVER DARED TO GIVE MYSELF FULLY

TO ANYONE COMMITTING MYSELF TO MAKE IT WORK NO MATTER WHAT BUT NOW ID FOUND

SOMEONE I LOVED AND TRUSTED ENOUGH TO GATHER MY COURAGE AND STAND BY NOT JUST FOR

NOW BUT FOREVER

BUT DOMESTIC HAPPINESS DOESNT SOLVE EVERYTHING I STILL HAD TO FIGURE OUT WHAT

TO DO NEXT WITH HESS UNMASKED I COULD RETURN TO ASTRONOMY OR AT LEAST

COMPUTING NOT QUITE TRACKING AN INTERNATIONAL SPY RING BUT THEN THERES RESEARCH

TO DO EVERYWHERE THE BEST PART IS NOT KNOWING WHERE YOUR SCIENCE WILL LEAD YOU

IT WASNT THE SAME THE COMPUTER PEOPLE FELT ID WASTED THE PAST COUPLE YEARS

RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH SPIES THE SPIES DIDNT HAVE MUCH USE FOR ME WHO NEEDS AN

ASTRONOMER AND THE ASTRONOMERS KNEW ID BEEN AWAY FROM THE FIELD FOR TWO YEARS

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE

MARTHA HAD PARMED HER BAR EXAM AND WAS CLERKING FOR A JUDGE ACROSS THE BAY IN

SAN FRANCISCO SHE LOVED IT TAKING NOTES ON TRIALS RESEARCHING CASE LAW HELPING

TO WRITE DECISIONS A SORT OF GRAD SCHOOL FOR LAW

SHE FOUND ANOTHER CLERKSHIP IN BOSTON STARTING IN AUGUST OVER A

STRAWBERRY MILKSHAKE SHE DESCRIBED HER POSSIBILITIES

ID CLERK FOR THE CIRCUIT COURT IN BOSTON ITLL BE MORE ACADEMIC THERE NO

PAGE OF

TRIALS JUST APPEALS MIGHT BE FUN

AND THE ALTERNATIVES

WELL IM THINKING ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL TO FINISH MY DEGREE IN

JURISPRUDENCE THATLL TAKE A FEW MORE YEARS ALWAYS THE ACADEMIC

WOULD I LEAVE BERKELEY TO FOLLOW HER TO MARMACHUSETTS

SIMPLE DECISION ID FOLLOW HER ANYWHERE IF SHES GOING TO BOSTON ID DREDGE

UP A JOB THERE FORTUNATELY THE HARVARD SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR ASTROPHYSICS WAS

LOOKING FOR A HALFBREED ASTRONOMERCOMPUTER JOCKEY SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH THEIR X

RAY ASTRONOMY DATABASE

I CAN MESS UP A DATABASE AS WELL AS THE NEXT PERSON AND THEY DIDNT MIND MY

HIATUS FROM ASTRONOMY AND BEING ASTRONOMERS THEY WERE ALREADY ACCUSTOMED TO

PEOPLE SHOWING UP LATE AND SLEEPING UNDER DESKS

IT WASNT EASY TO LEAVE BERKELEY THE STRAWBERRIES THE STREET VENDORS THE

SUNSHINE BUT WE SIGNED A NONAGGRESSION PACT WITH OUR ROOMMATES WE COULD VISIT

ANYTIME AND WOULDNT HAVE TO WASH THE DISHES IN RETURN THEY COULD STAY AT OUR

PLACE IN MARMACHUSETTS SO LONG AS THEY BROUGHT SOME CALIFORNIA KIWI FRUIT

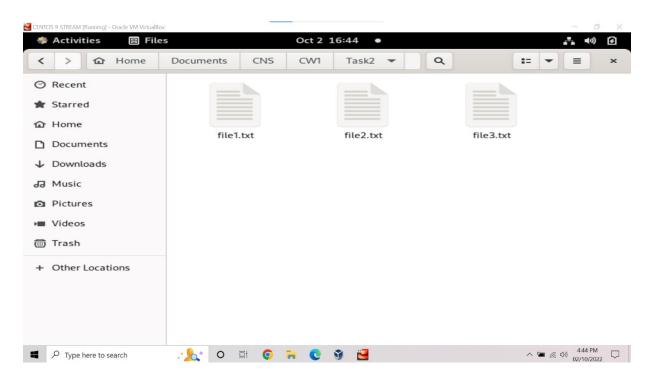
THE HARDEST PART WAS LEAVING OUR ROOMMATE CLAUDIA ID GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO HER

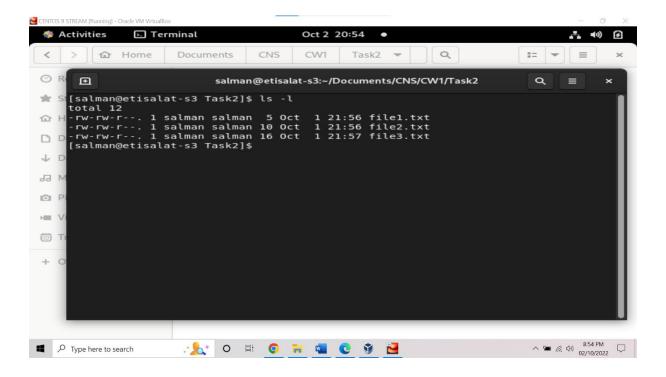
LATENIGHT MOZART PRACTICING A LONG WAY FROM THE BERKELEY GRATEFUL DEAD

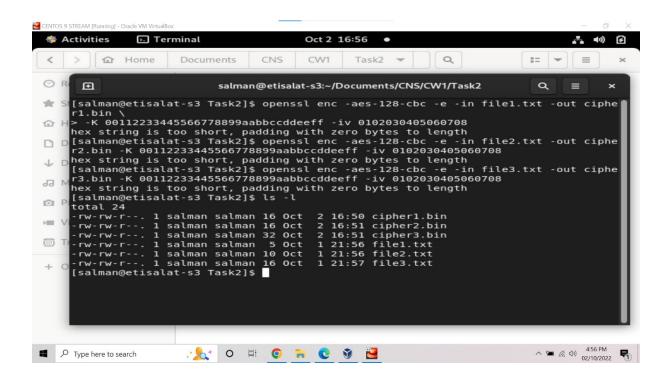
CONCERTS

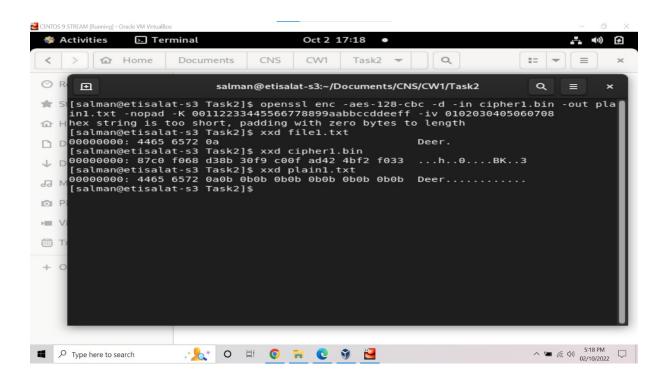
7. Appendices Task 2

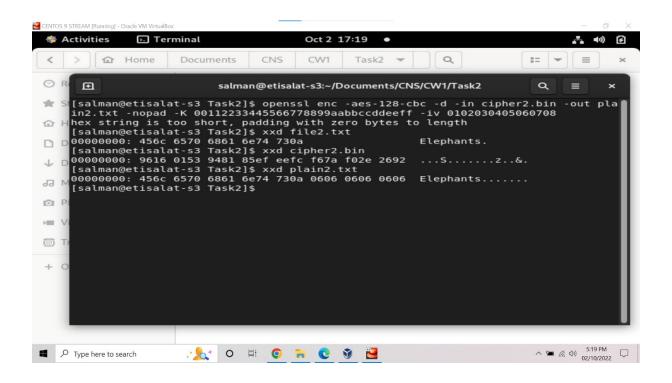
Screenshots

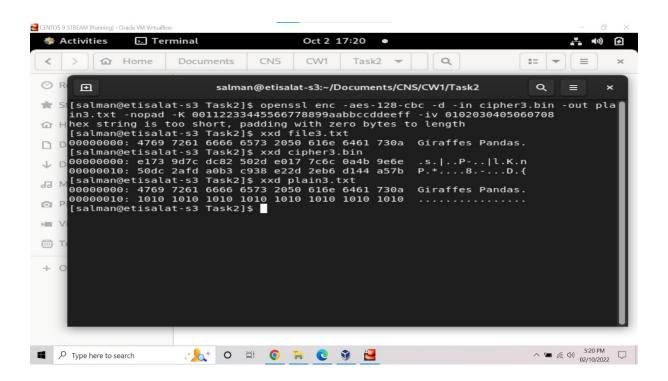


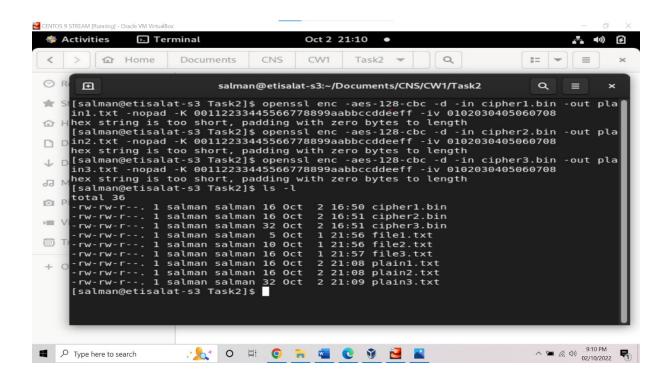


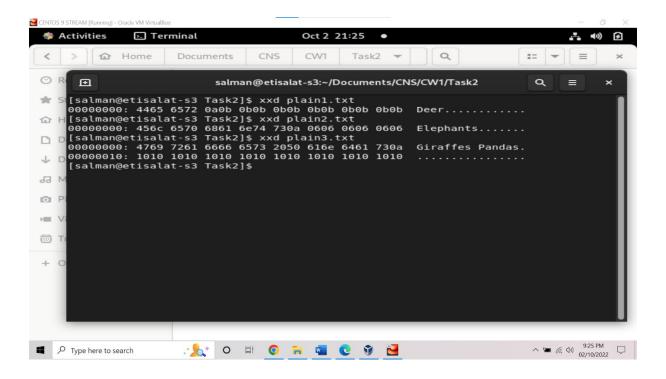


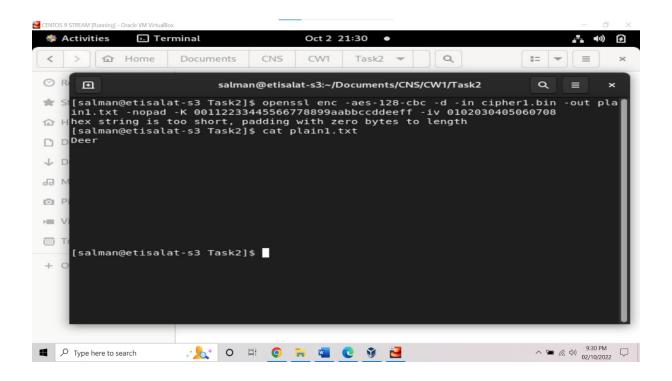


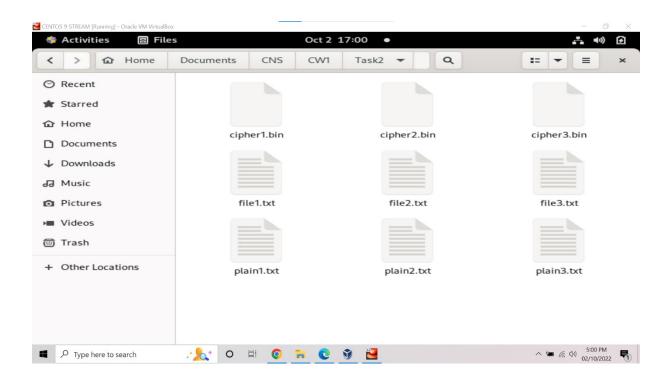












8. Appendices Task 3

