Coded File DB - Usage Instructions

A program for storing files in a way that preserves confidentiality.

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Setting Up And Using The Program

The simplest way to use Coded File DB is by double clicking the .jar file to reveal two files called "run-CodedFileDB" and "run-CodedFileDB[windows]". These files allow you to launch Coded File DB with different settings without a command line (however a command line approach is possible by running the jar directly with java).

On Windows, double click the file labeled [windows] to run it.
On Unix, run the other file.
Instructions for Mac not available, due to complications created by Apple's security features.

The run files can be moved anywhere, but the windows file requires being next to the shell file to work, and it will not work if the jar file is moved (you would need to regenerate the run files).

The following sections will explain what options are needed to do different tasks when running the app.

What Does Coded File DB Do?

The following are encrypted:
- folder / group names
- list of all folder group names
- the database password

The following may be put in groups:
- images
- text documents
- zip or winrar archives
- any other files
- NO FOLDERS

Setting Up A Database

To create a new database, choose a folder where info will be stored and another where you run the program.

Use the run file with "--init" in order to initialize the database in the working directory (the folder you ran the file in). Then, choose a place to store the encrypted files and enter the folder path into the program when prompted. Then, set the password [notably, the passwords will not show up as you type, this is a security feature]. THE PASSWORD CANNOT BE RECOVERED IF LOST.

Once "--init" is run, additional files will be created that allow easy re-opening of the database.

Using A Database

To open a database, run the "open" file created in a folder you ran "--init" in and then, when prompted, enter the database password. To pull up the help screen and a list of commands,

type "help" and then enter, or for just a list of commands, press enter with the command line empty.

When a group is created or viewed, its data will be temporarily shown in the working directory, the contents of these subfolders will be stored when "save" or "close" is run. **It will not autosave if the window is closed; if this happens, run "open" again, and then save ("*" will not work here because the program forgets about views between executions)**.

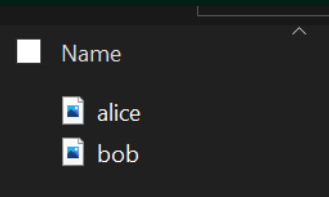When a group is created, its name will get coded, but files inside will not be encrypted.

SAFE :
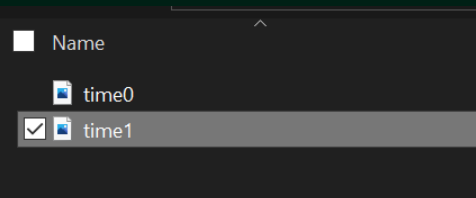
Only the names "time0" and "time1" will be visible to an unintended observer. The names "alice" and "bob" will be safely encrypted.

NOT SAFE :

Only the names "alice" and "bob" will be visible, "time0" and "time1" will be encrypted away. This does not protect patient information.