

Module 20: Cryptography

Lab 1: Encrypt the Information using Various Cryptography Tools

Lab Scenario

As a professional ethical hacker and penetration tester, you should use various cryptography techniques or tools to protect confidential data against unauthorized access. Cryptography protects confidential data such as email messages, chat sessions, web transactions, personal data, corporate data, e-commerce applications, and many other kinds of communication. Encrypted messages can at times be decrypted by cryptanalysis (code breaking), although modern encryption techniques are virtually unbreakable.

The labs in this exercise demonstrate how you can use various cryptography tools to encrypt important information in the system.

Lab Objectives

- Calculate one-way hashes using HashCalc
- Calculate MD5 hashes using MD5 Calculator
- Calculate MD5 hashes using HashMyFiles
- Perform file and text message encryption using CryptoForge
- Encrypt and decrypt data using BCTextEncoder

Overview of Cryptography Tools

System administrators use cryptography tools to encrypt system data within their network to prevent attackers from modifying the data or misusing it in other ways. Cryptography tools can also be used to calculate or decrypt hash functions available in MD4, MD5, SHA-1, SHA-256, etc.

Cryptography tools are used to convert the information present in plain text (readable format) into cipher text (unreadable format) using a key or encryption scheme. The converted data are in the form of a scrambled code that is encrypted and sent across a private or public network.

Task 1: Calculate One-way Hashes using HashCalc

Hash functions calculate a unique fixed-size bit string representation, called a message digest, of any arbitrary block of information. Message digest (One-way Hash) functions distill the information contained in a file (small or large) into a single fixed-length number, typically between 128 and 256 bits. If any given bit of the function's input is changed, every output bit has a 50% chance of changing. Given an input file and its corresponding message digest, it should be nearly impossible to find another file with the same message digest value, as it is computationally infeasible to have two files with the same message digest value.

HashCalc enables you to compute multiple hashes, checksums, and HMACs for files, text, and hex strings. It supports the Secure Hash Algorithm family: MD2, MD4, MD5, SHA1, SHA2 (SHA256, SHA384, SHA512), RIPEMD160, PANAMA, TIGER, CRC32, ADLER32, and the hash used in the peer-to-peer file sharing applications, eDonkey and eMule.

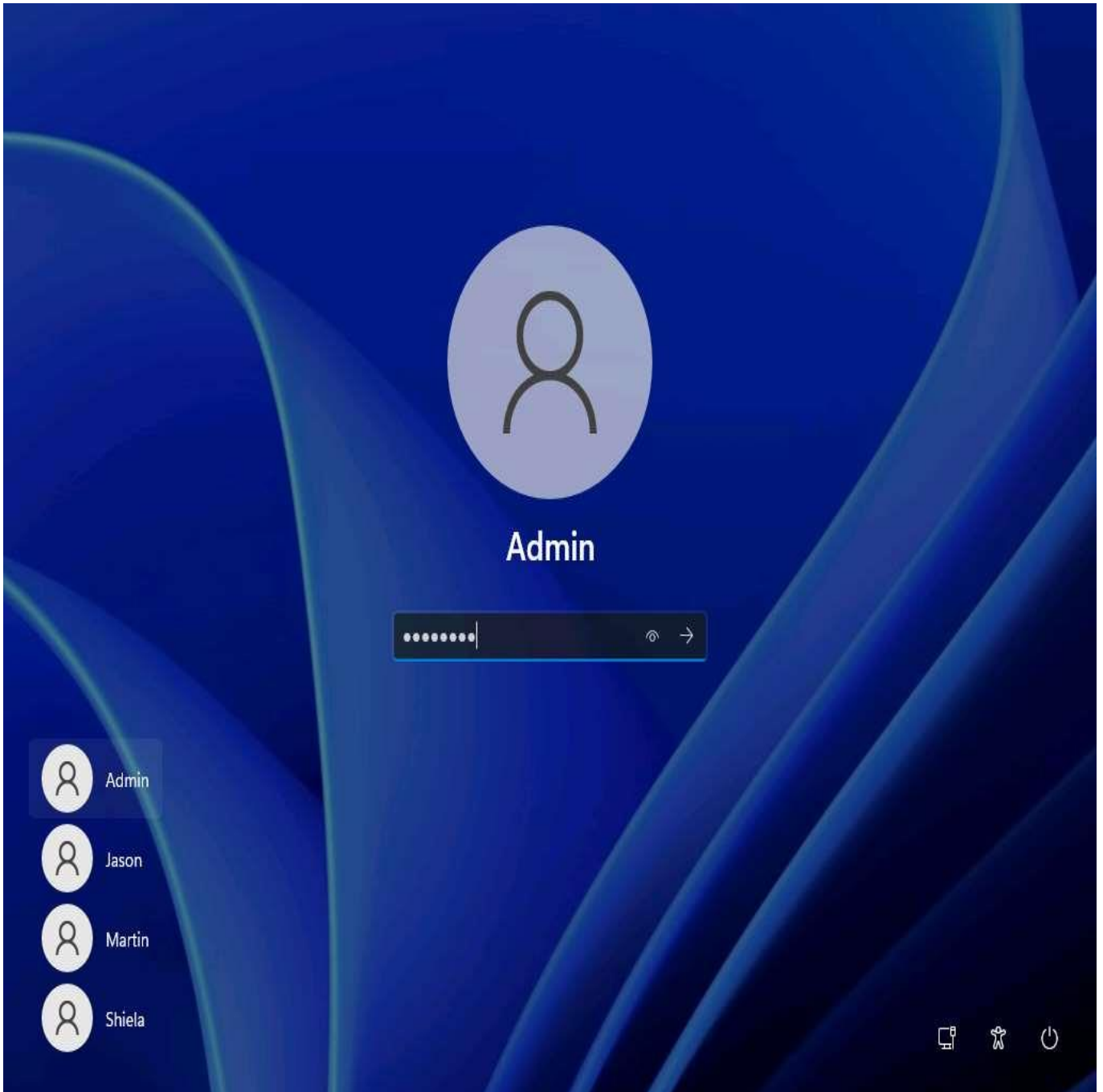
Here, we will use the HashCalc tool to calculate one-way hashes.


1. ☐ Click **Windows 11** to switch to the **Windows 11** machine. click **Ctrl+Alt+Delete** to activate it. By default, **Admin** user profile is selected, type **Pa\$\$w0rd** in the Password field and press **Enter** to login.

Alternatively, you can also click **Pa\$\$w0rd** under **Windows 11** machine thumbnail in the **Resources** pane or Click **Type Text | Type Password** button under Commands (**thunder** icon) menu.

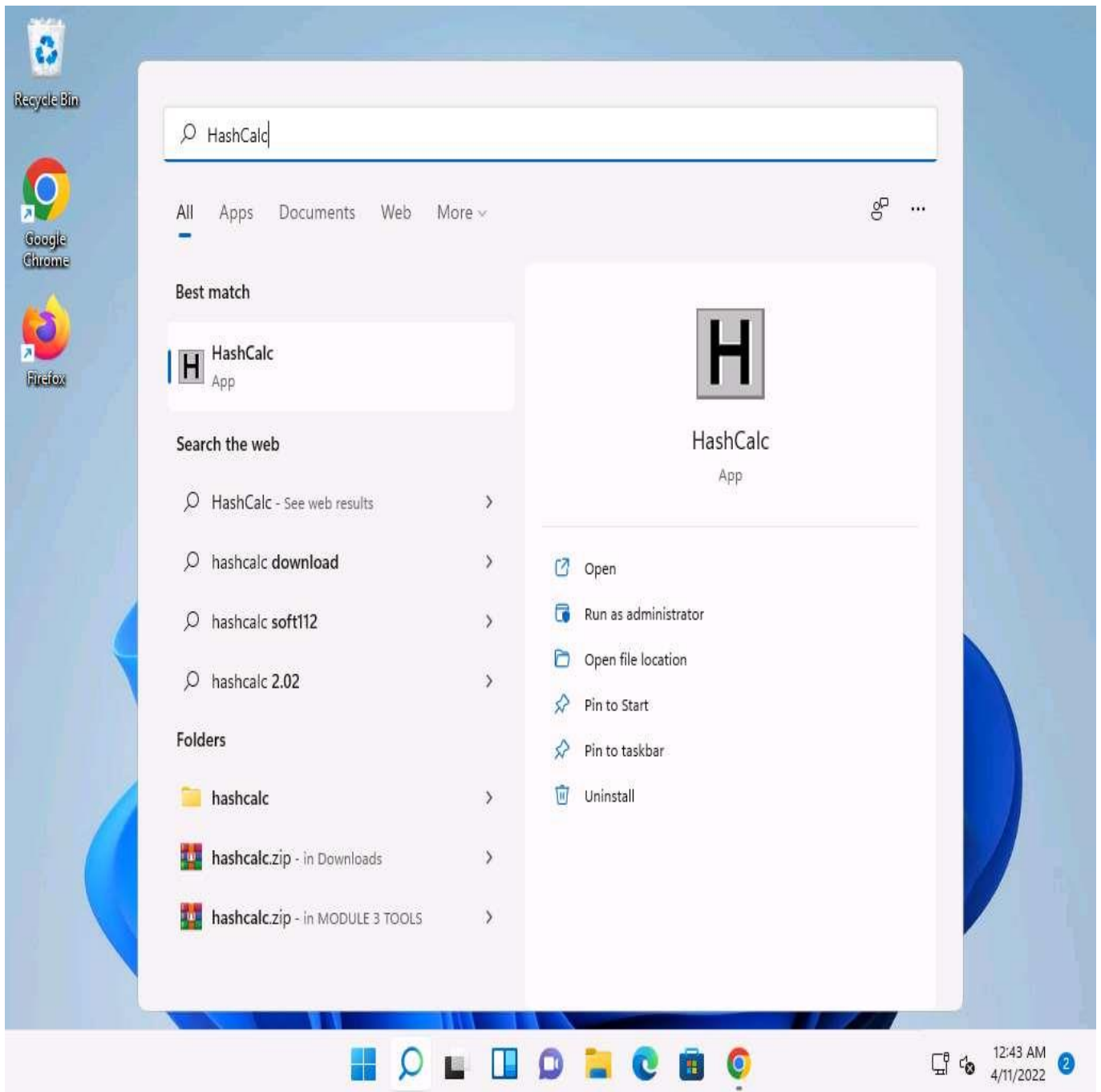
If **Welcome to Windows** wizard appears, click **Continue** and in **Sign in with Microsoft** wizard, click **Cancel**.

Networks screen appears, click **Yes** to allow your PC to be discoverable by other PCs and devices on the network.

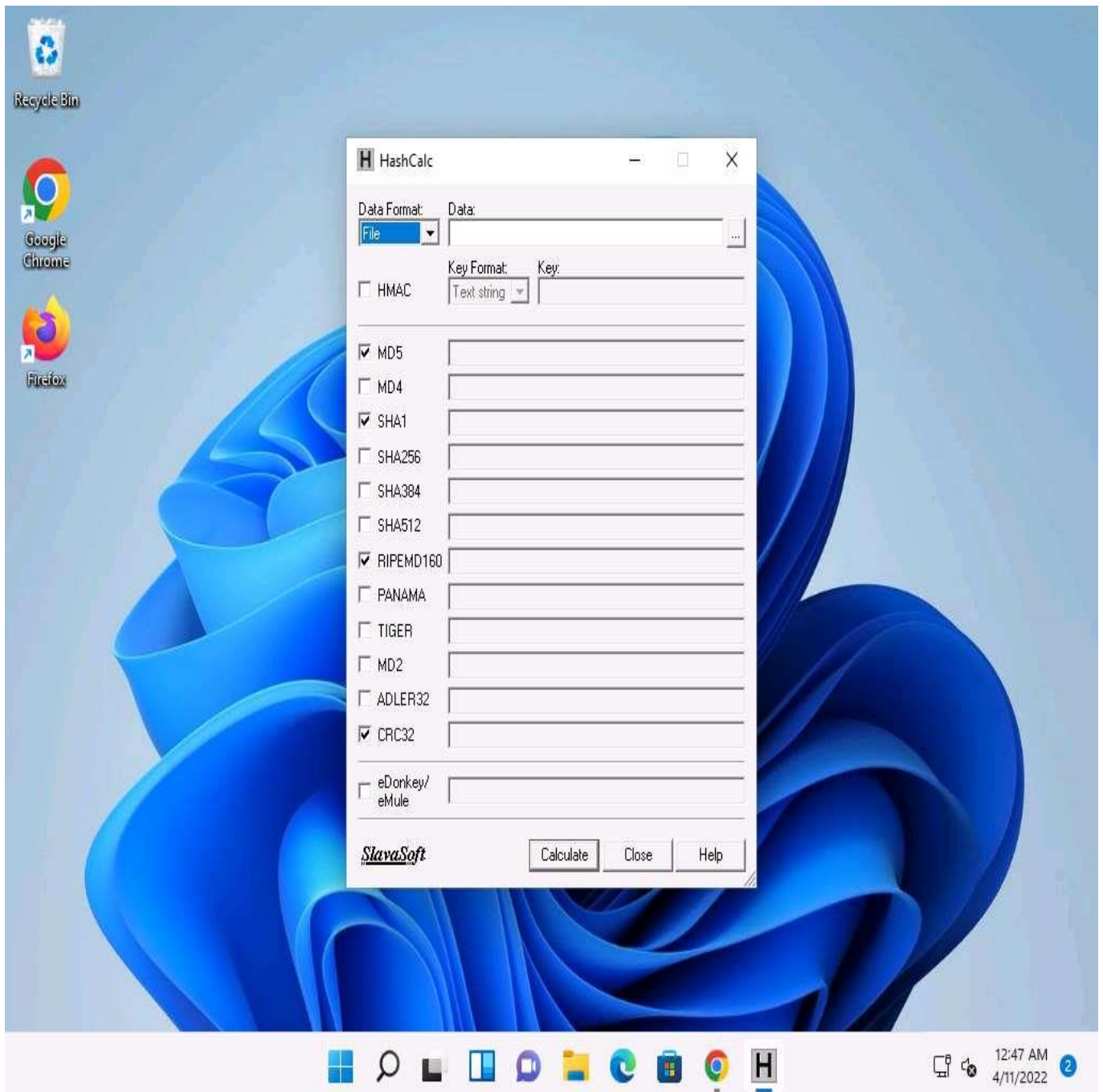


2. ☐ Click **Search** icon () on the **Desktop**. Type **HashCalc** in the search field, the **HashCalc** appears in the results, click **Open** to launch it.

If the **User Account Control** pop-up appears, click **Yes**.



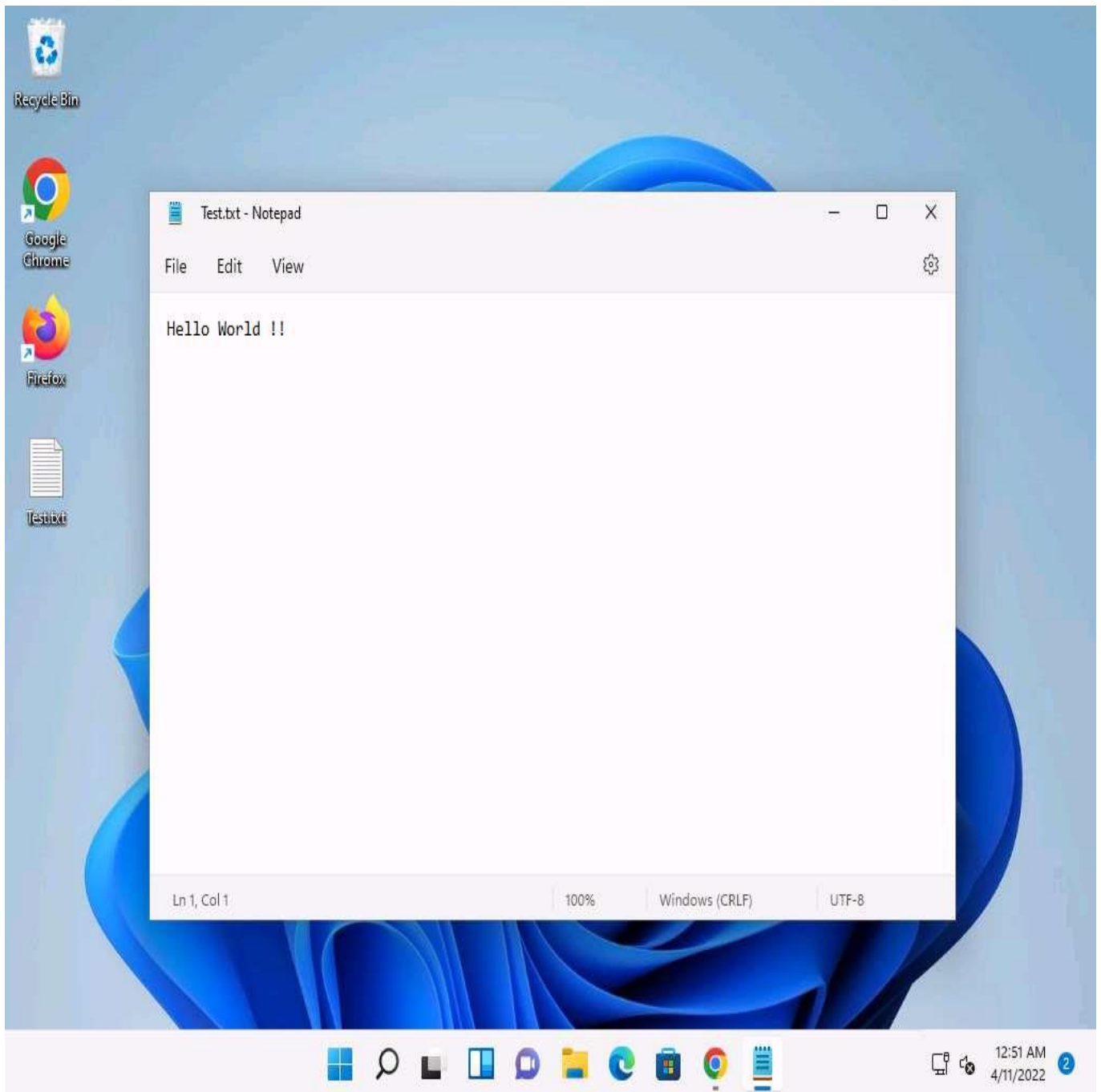
3. ☐ The **HashCalc** main window appears, as shown in the screenshot.



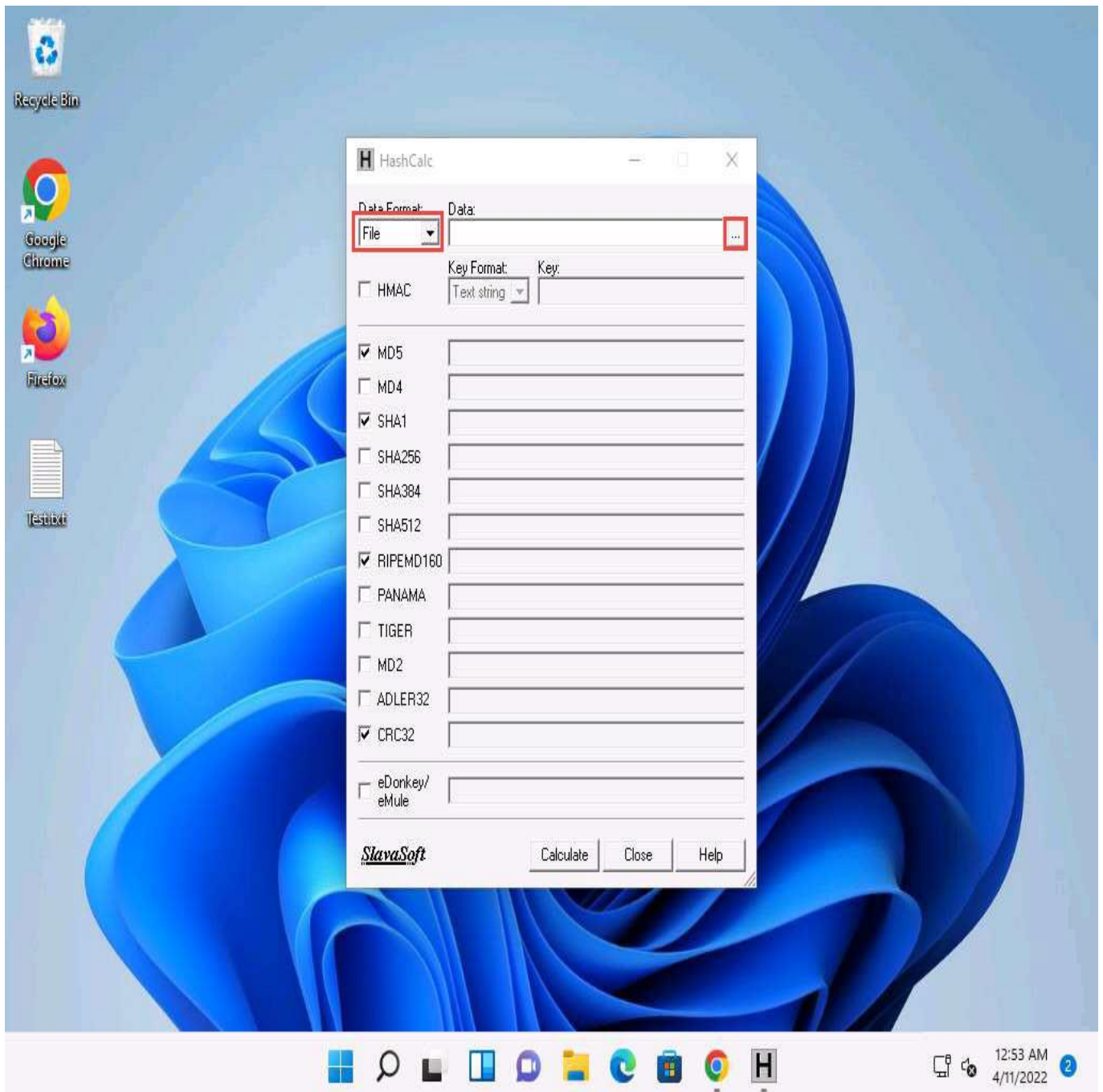
4. ☐ Minimize the **HashCalc** window. Navigate to **Desktop**, right-click on the **Desktop** window, and navigate to **New --> Text Document** to create a new text file.

You can create a text file at any location of your choice.

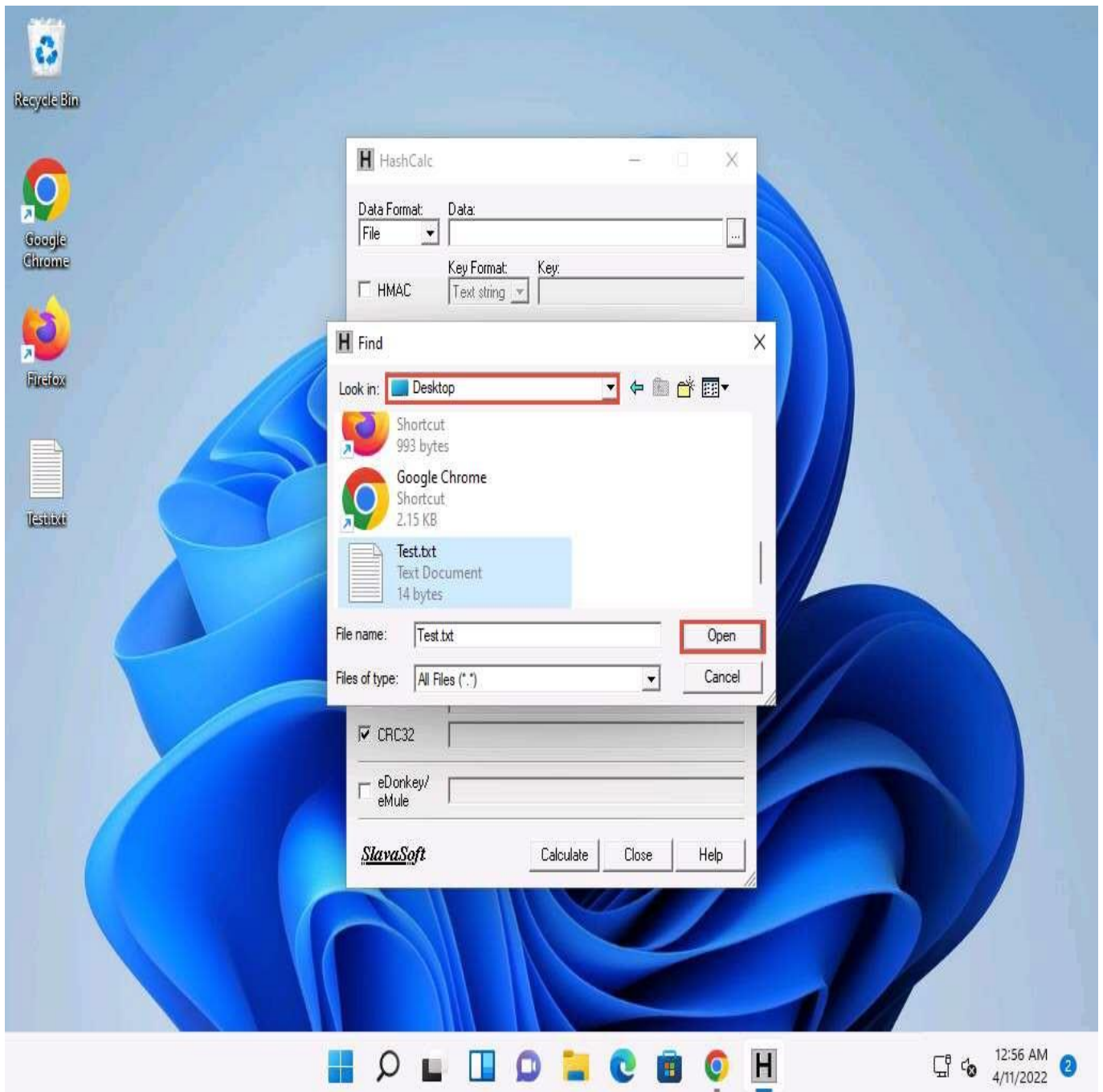
5. ☐ A newly created text file appears; rename it to **Test.txt** and open it. Write some text in it (here, **Hello World !!**) and press **Ctrl+S** to save the file. Close the text file.



6. ☐ Now, switch back to the **HashCalc** window; ensure that the **File** option is selected in the **Data Format** field and click ellipsis icon under the **Data** field.



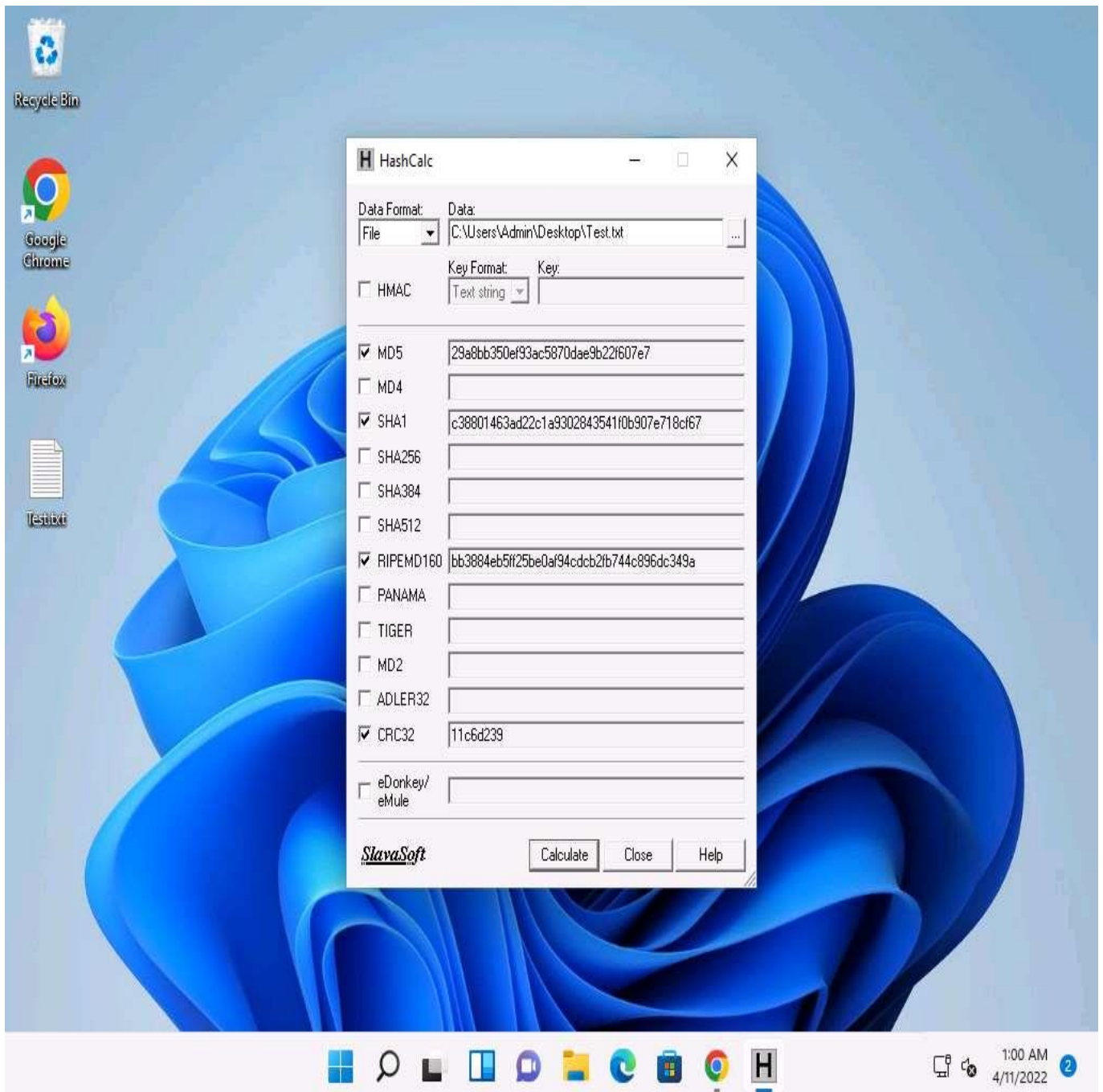
7. ☐ The **Find** window appears, navigate to the location where you saved the **Test.txt** file (here, **Desktop**) and click **Open**.



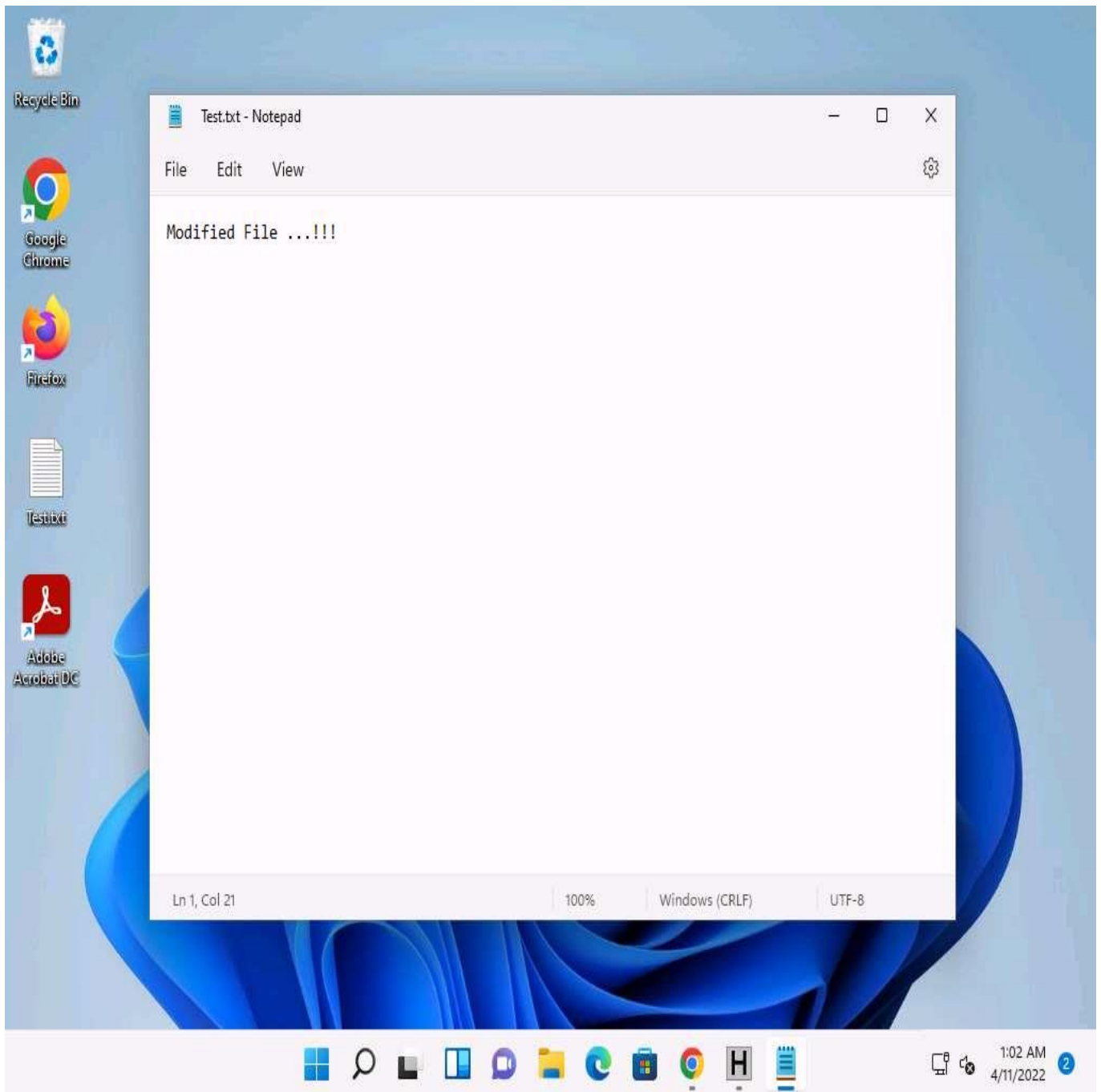
8. ☐ The path of the selected file (**Test.txt**) appears under the **Data** field. Ensure that the **MD5**, **SHA1**, **RIPEMD160**, and **CRC32** hash functions are selected. Click the **Calculate** button.




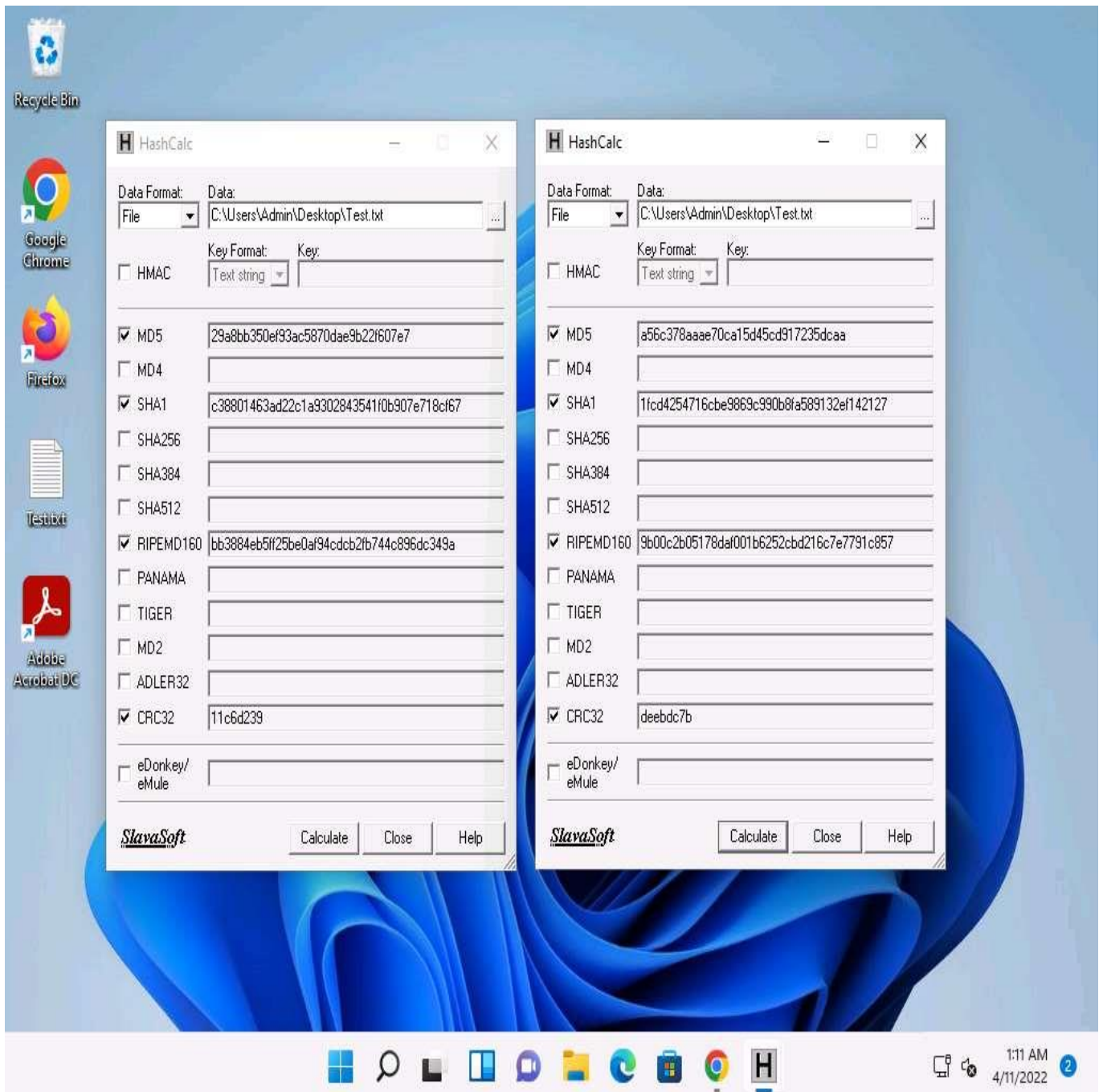
9. The calculated hash values of the **Test.txt** file appears, as shown in the screenshot.



10. ☐ Minimize the **HashCalc** window, navigate to **Desktop**, and double-click the **Test.txt** file to open it. Modify the file content by writing some text (here, **Modified File ...!!!**) and press **Ctrl+S** to save it. Close the text file.



11. ☐ Click **Search** icon () on the **Desktop**. Type **HashCalc** in the search field, the **HashCalc** appears in the results, click **Open** to launch it.
12. ☐ A new **HashCalc** window appears, perform **Steps #6-9**
13. ☐ Now, maximize the first **HashCalc** window and place it beside the second **HashCalc** window. You can observe changes in the hash values of the text file (**Test.txt**) before and after the modification, as shown in the screenshot.



In real-time, the HashCalc tool is used to check the integrity of a file where the changes in the hash values indicate that the file content has been modified.

14. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of calculating one-way hashes using HashCalc.
15. ☐ Close all open windows and document all the acquired information.

Task 2: Calculate MD5 Hashes using MD5 Calculator


MD2, MD4, MD5, and MD6 are message digest algorithms used in digital signature applications to compress documents securely before the system signs it with a private key. The algorithms can be of variable length, but the resulting message digest is always 128 bits.

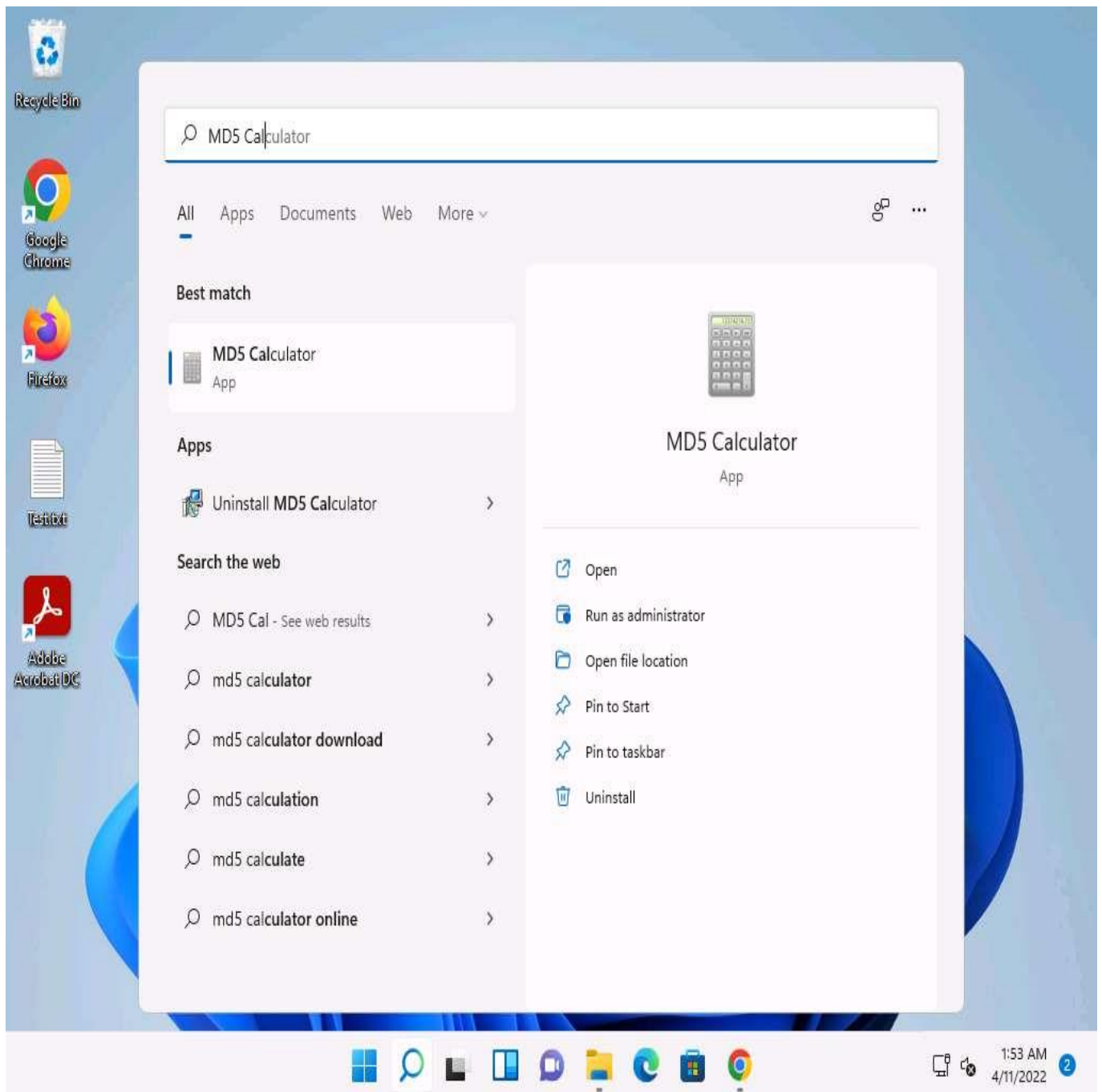
The MD5 algorithm is a widely used cryptographic hash function that takes a message of arbitrary length as input and outputs a 128-bit (16-byte) fingerprint or message digest of the input. The MD5 algorithm is used in a

wide variety of cryptographic applications and is useful for digital signature applications, file integrity checking, and storing passwords.

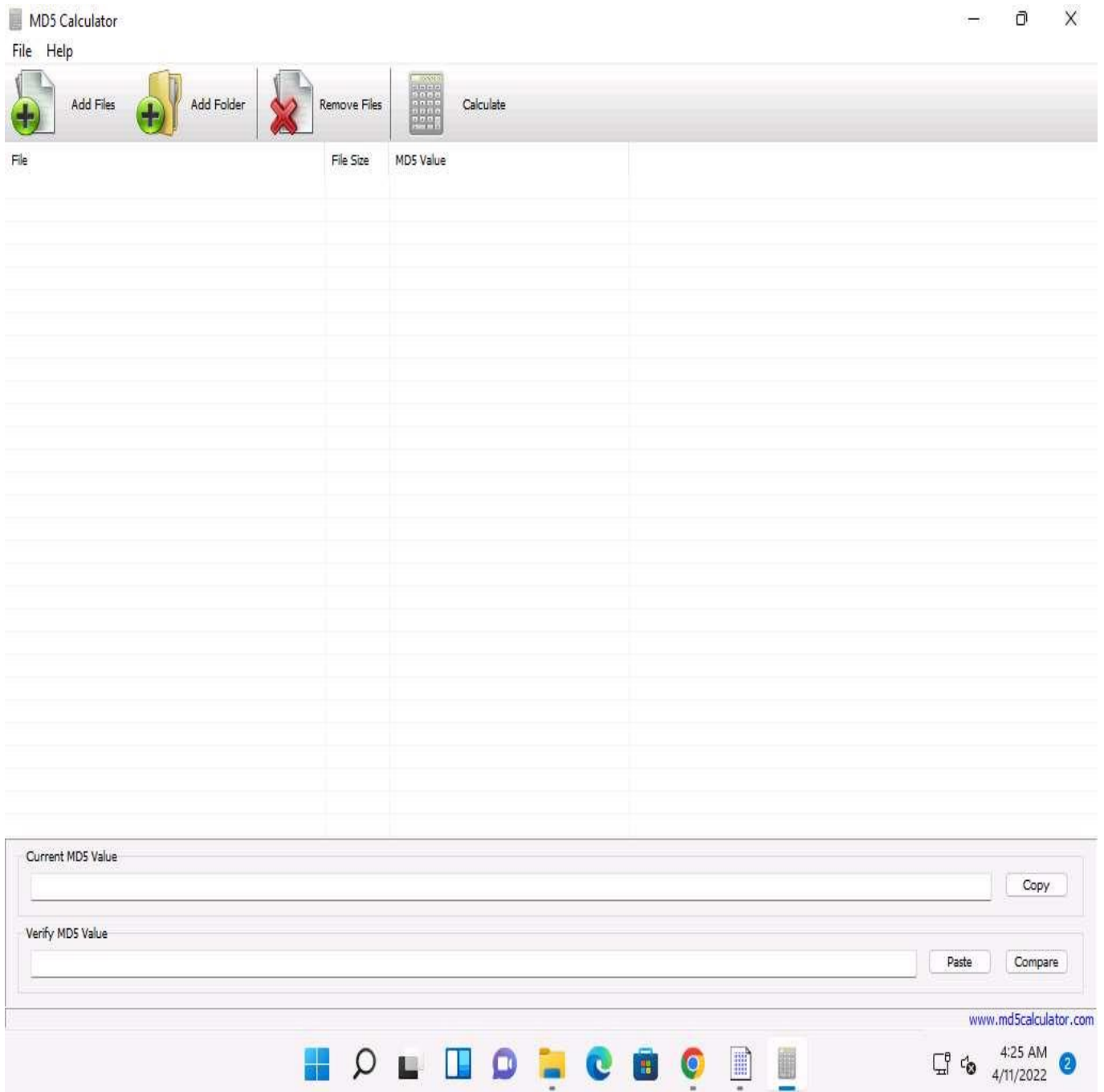
MD5 Calculator is a simple application that calculates the MD5 hash of a given file, and it can be used with large files (e.g., multiple gigabytes). It features a progress counter and a text field from which the final MD5 hash can be easily copied to the clipboard. MD5 calculator can be used to check the integrity of a file.

Here, we will use the MD5 Calculator tool to calculate MD5 hashes.

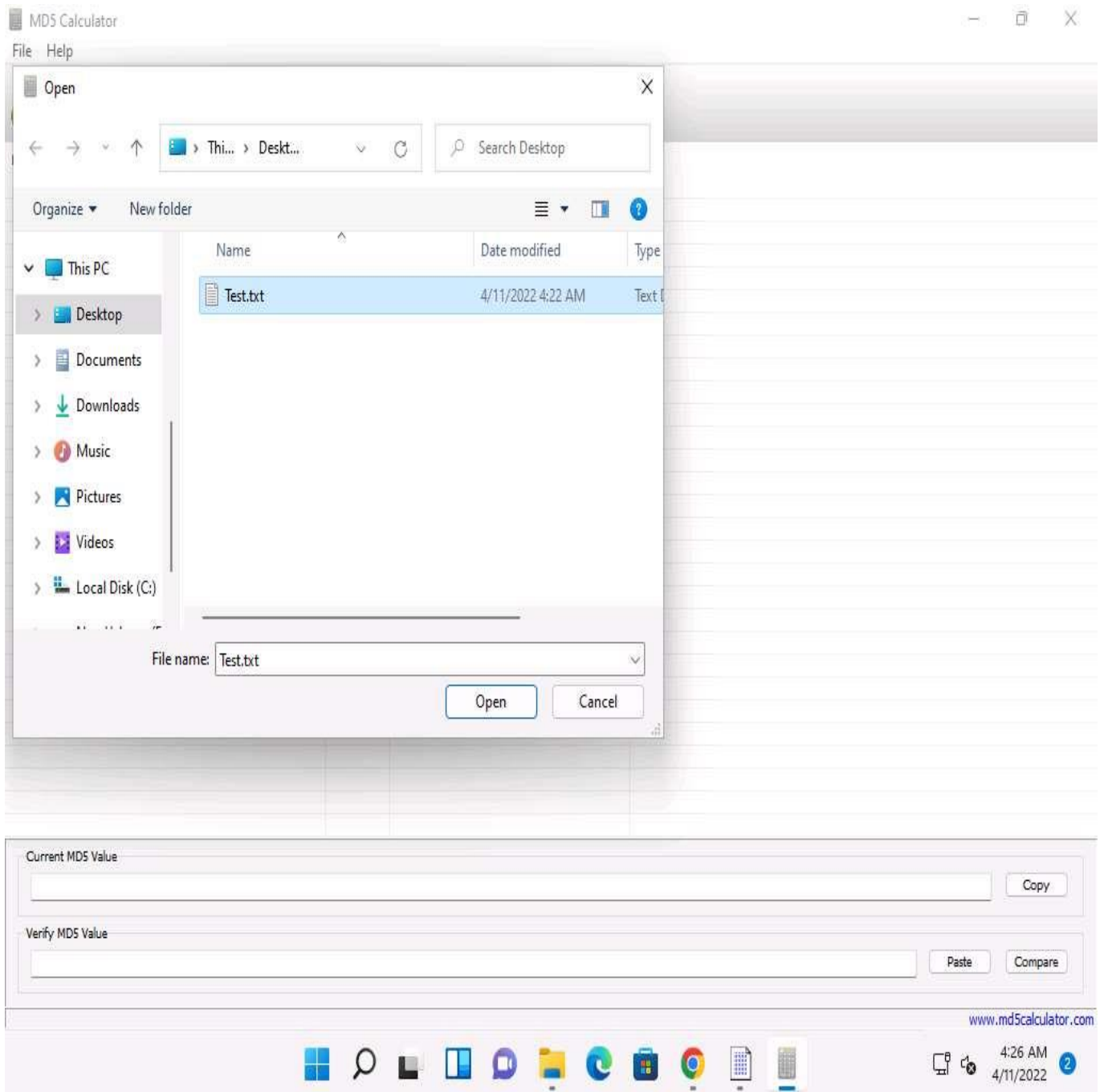
1. ☐ Click **Search** icon () on the **Desktop**. Type **MD5 Cal** in the search field, the **MD5 Calculator** appears in the results, click **Open** to launch it.



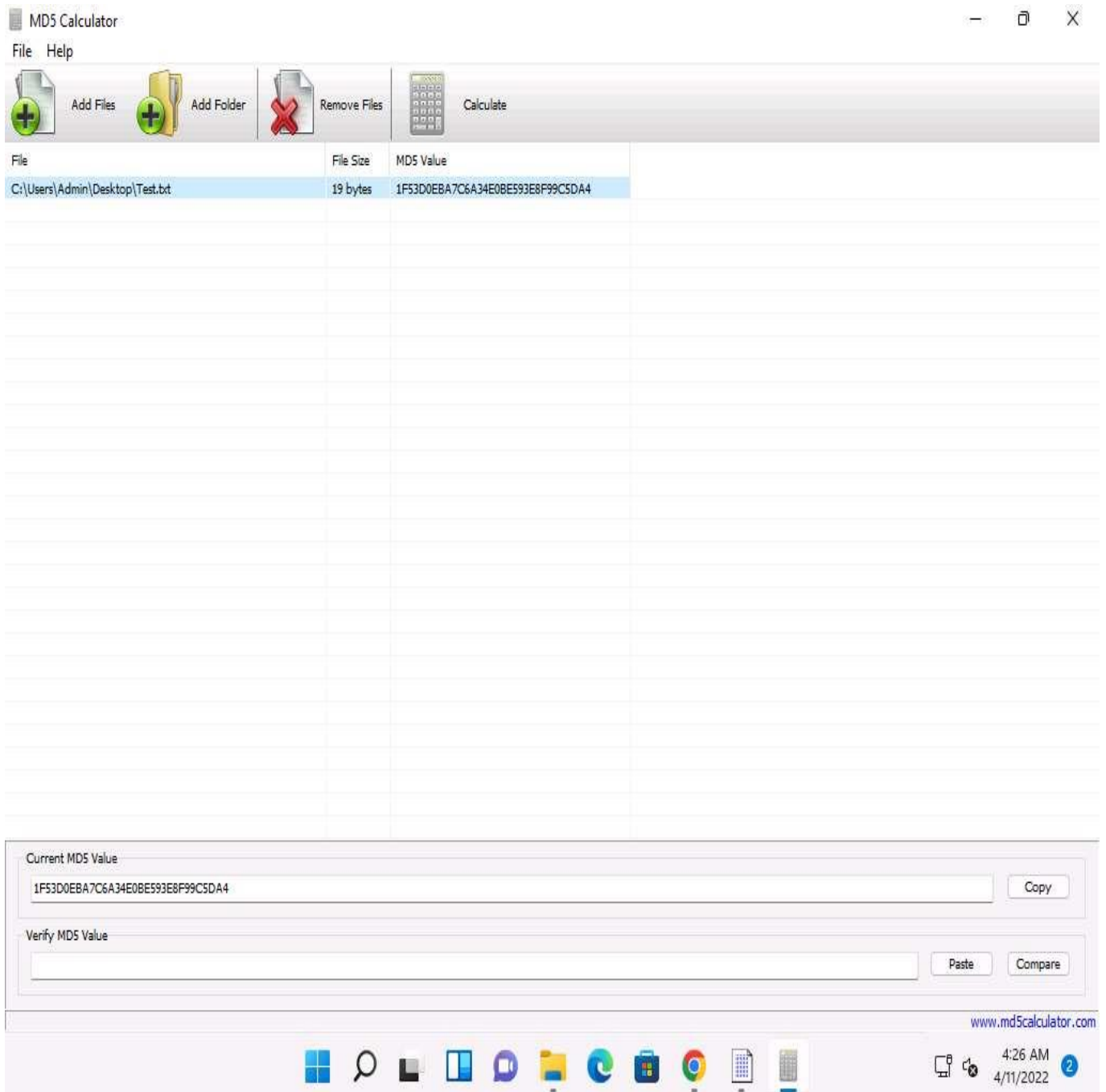
2. ☐ The **MD5 Calculator** main window appears, as shown in the screenshot.



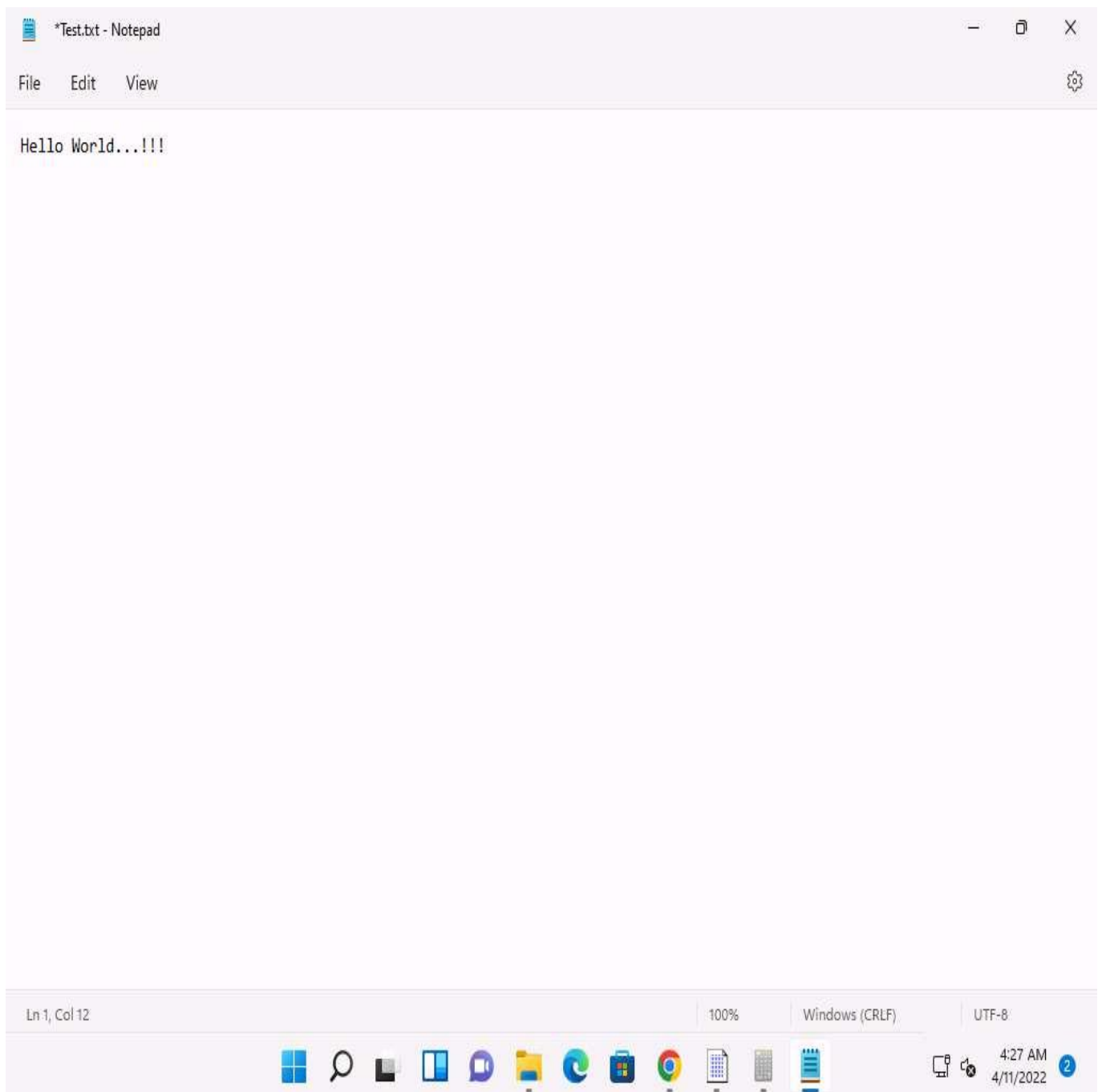
3. ☐ Click on **Add Files** in **MD5 Calculator** window.
4. ☐ In the **Open** window, navigate to the Desktop and select **Test.txt** file and click **Open**.



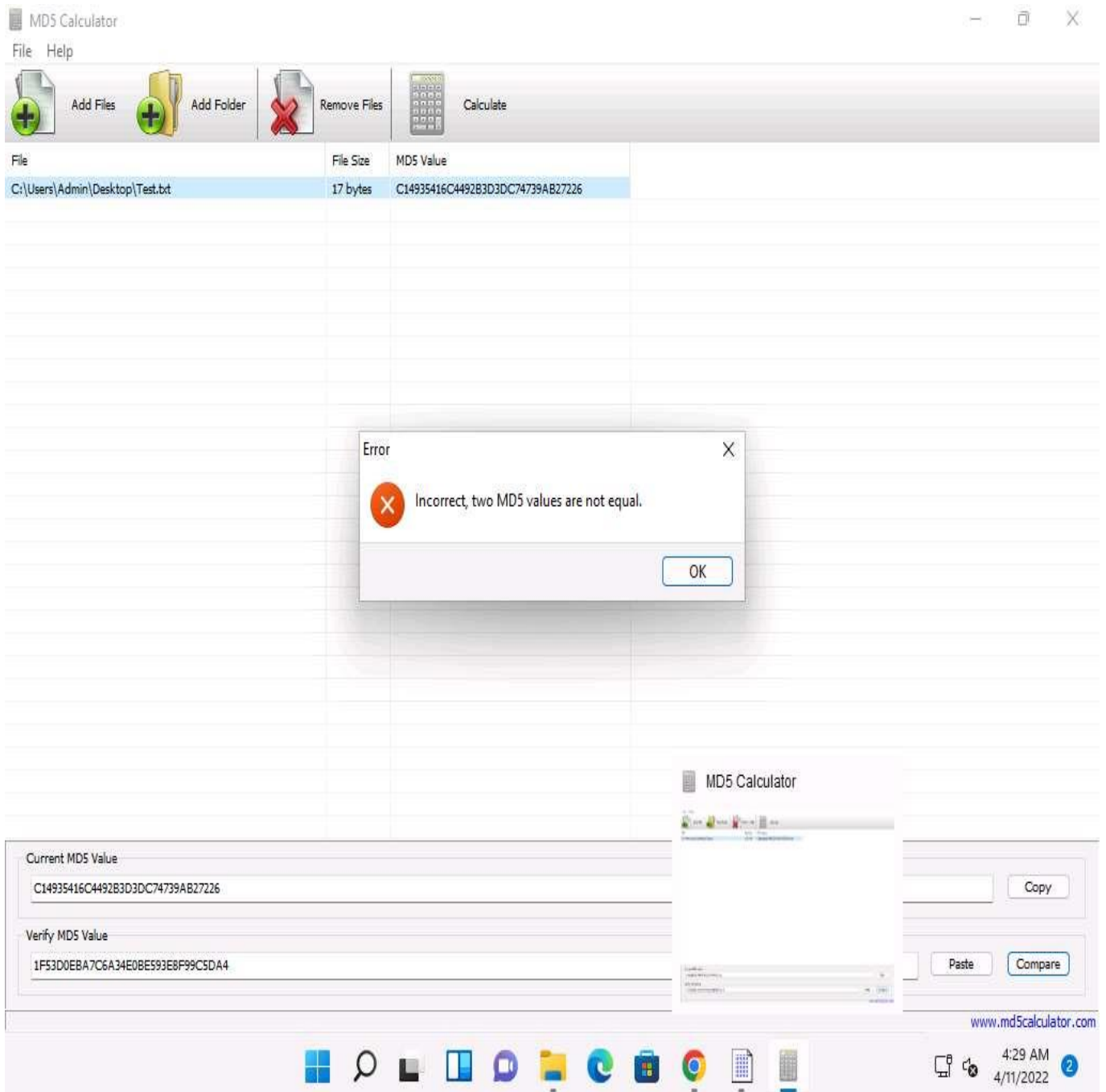
5. ☐ You can observe the uploaded file path under **File** section, click on **Calculate** to get the hash value in **Current MD5 value** field at the bottom of the window.



6. ☐ Now, click on **Copy** beside the MD5 value, to copy the hash value from **Current MD5 Value** field and click on **Remove Files** to clear the MD5 value.
7. ☐ Now, double-click the **Test.txt** file from **Desktop** to open it and change the content of the file by modifying text within (here, **Hello World...!!!**). Save and close the **Test.txt** file.



8. ☐ In **MD5 Calculator** perform **Steps #2-5**.
9. ☐ Now, paste the previous hash value in the **Verify MD5 Value** field and click on **Compare** to compare the MD5 values.



10. ☐ We can see that the MD5 hash values of the file before modification is not equal to the MD5 hash value of the file after modification.

If a person wants to send a file to another person via a medium, they will calculate its hashes and send the file (along with the hash value) to the intended person. When the intended person receives the email, they will download the file and calculate its value using the MD5 Calculator.

The recipient compares the generated hash value with the hash value that was sent through email: if both tally, it is evident that they received the file without any modifications by a third person and that the integrity of the file is intact.

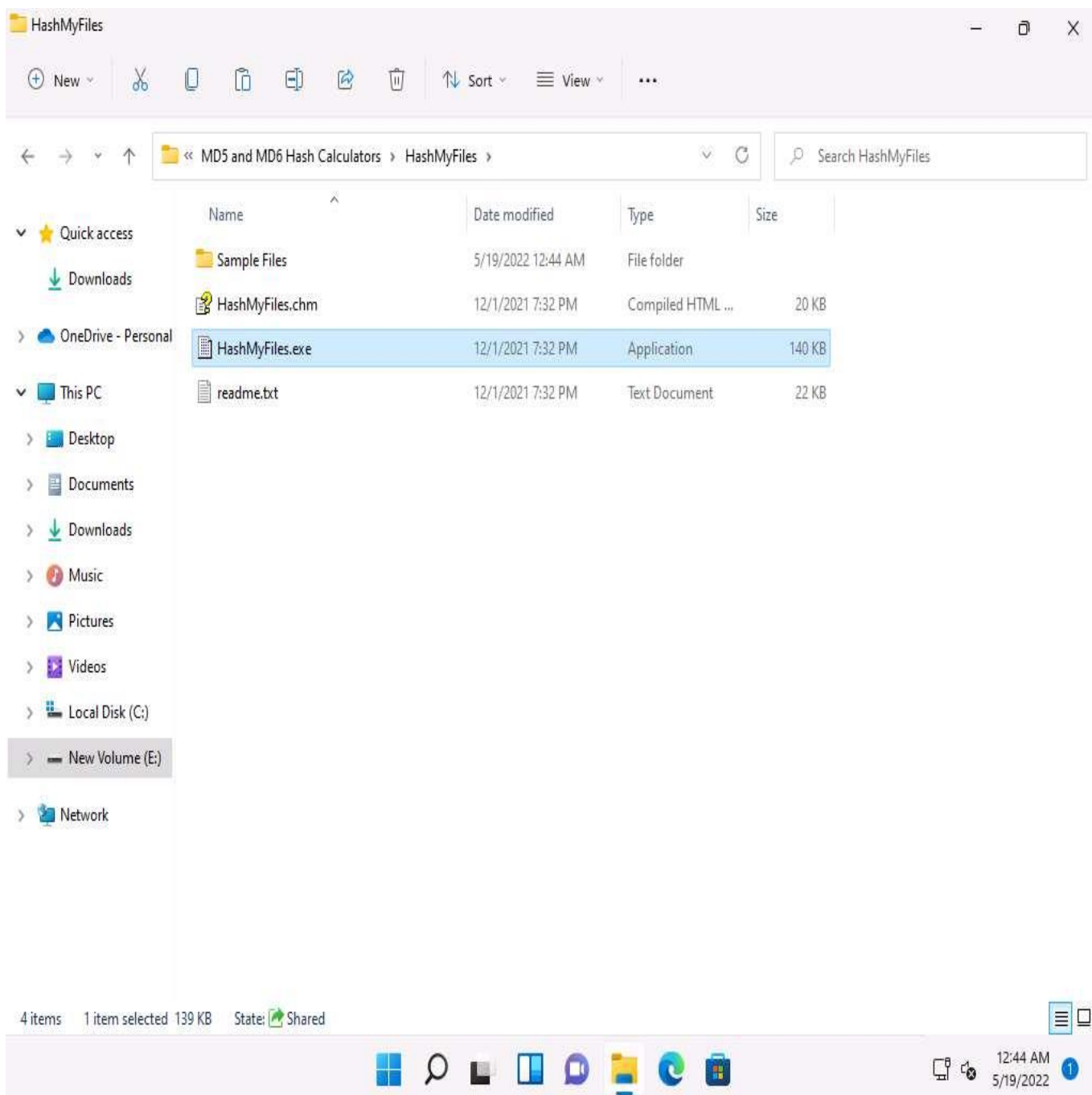
11. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of calculating MD5 hashes using MD5 Calculator.
12. ☐ Close all open windows and document all the acquired information.

Task 3: Calculate MD5 Hashes using HashMyFiles

HashMyFiles is a small utility that allows you to calculate the MD5 and SHA1 hashes of one or more files in your system: you can easily copy the MD5/SHA1 hashes list into the clipboard, or save them into text/html/xml file. HashMyFiles can also be launched from the context menu of Windows Explorer, and can display the MD5/SHA1 hashes of the selected file or folder.

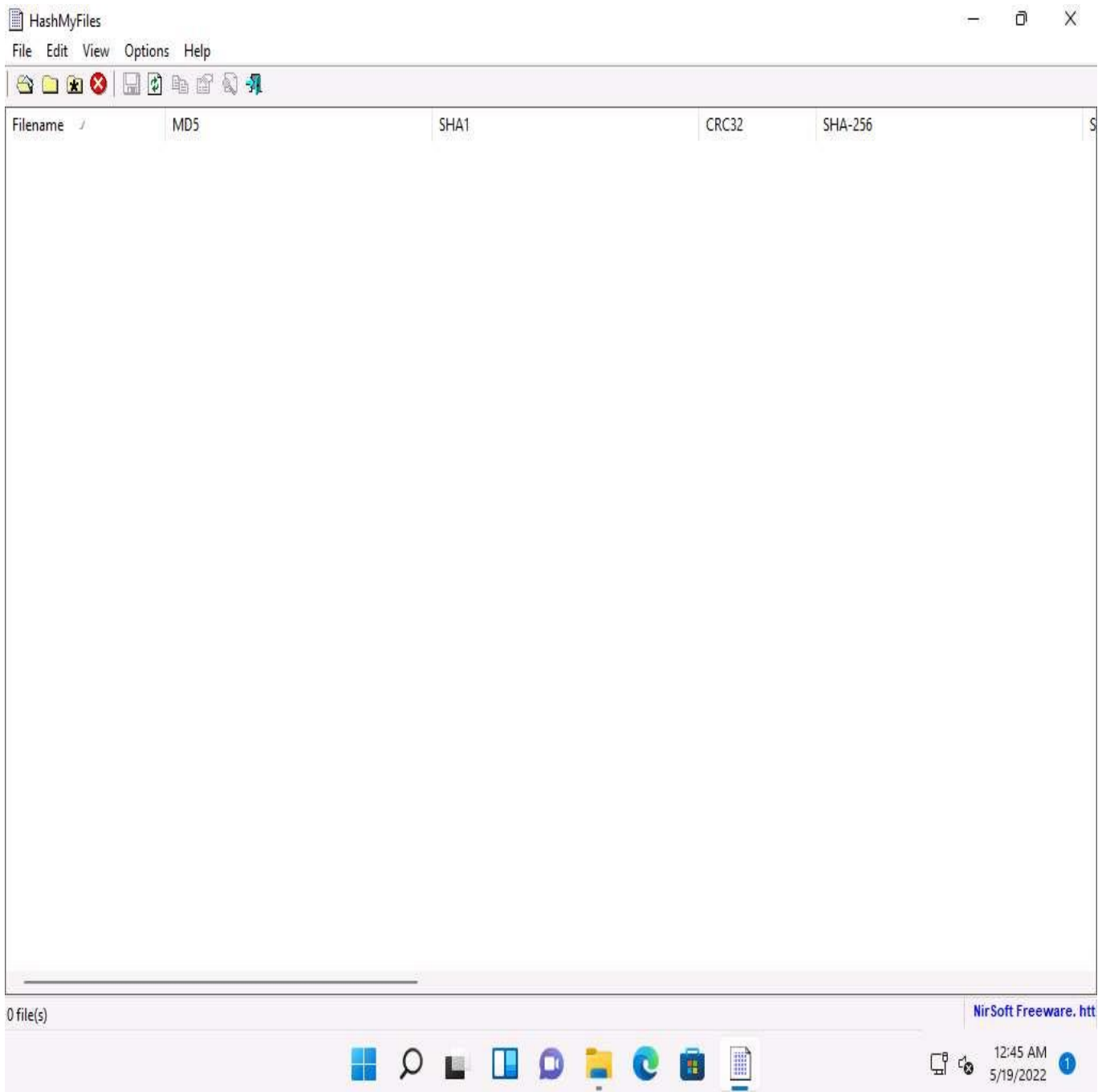
Here, we will use the HashMyFiles tool to calculate MD5 hashes.

1. ☐ In **Windows 11** machine navigate to **E:\CEH-Tools\CEHv12 Module 20 Cryptography\MD5 and MD6 Hash Calculators\HashMyFiles** and double click **HashMyFiles.exe**.



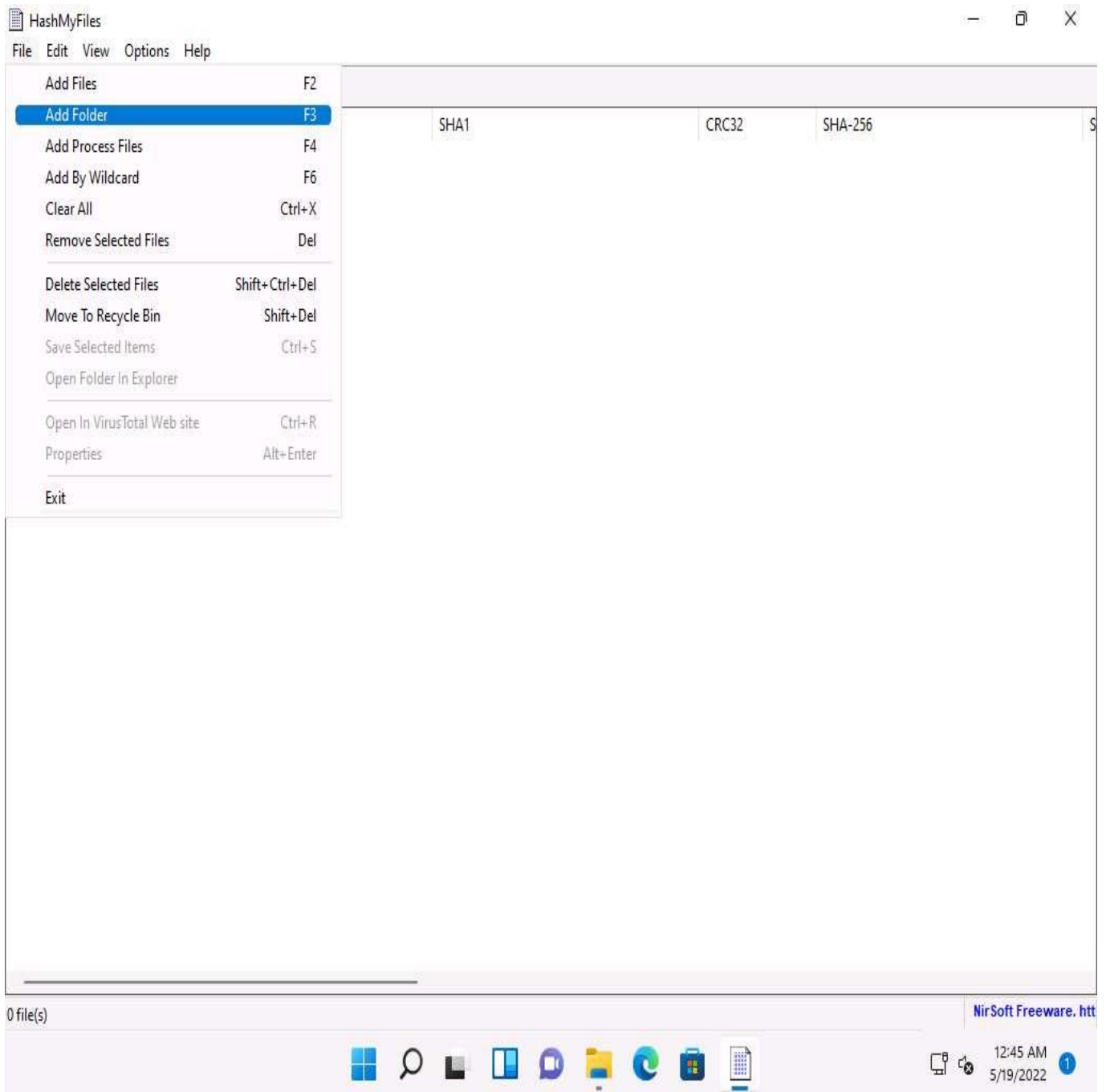
If the **Open File - Security Warning** pop-up appears, click **Run**.

2. ☐ The **HashMyFiles** main window appears, as shown in the screenshot.

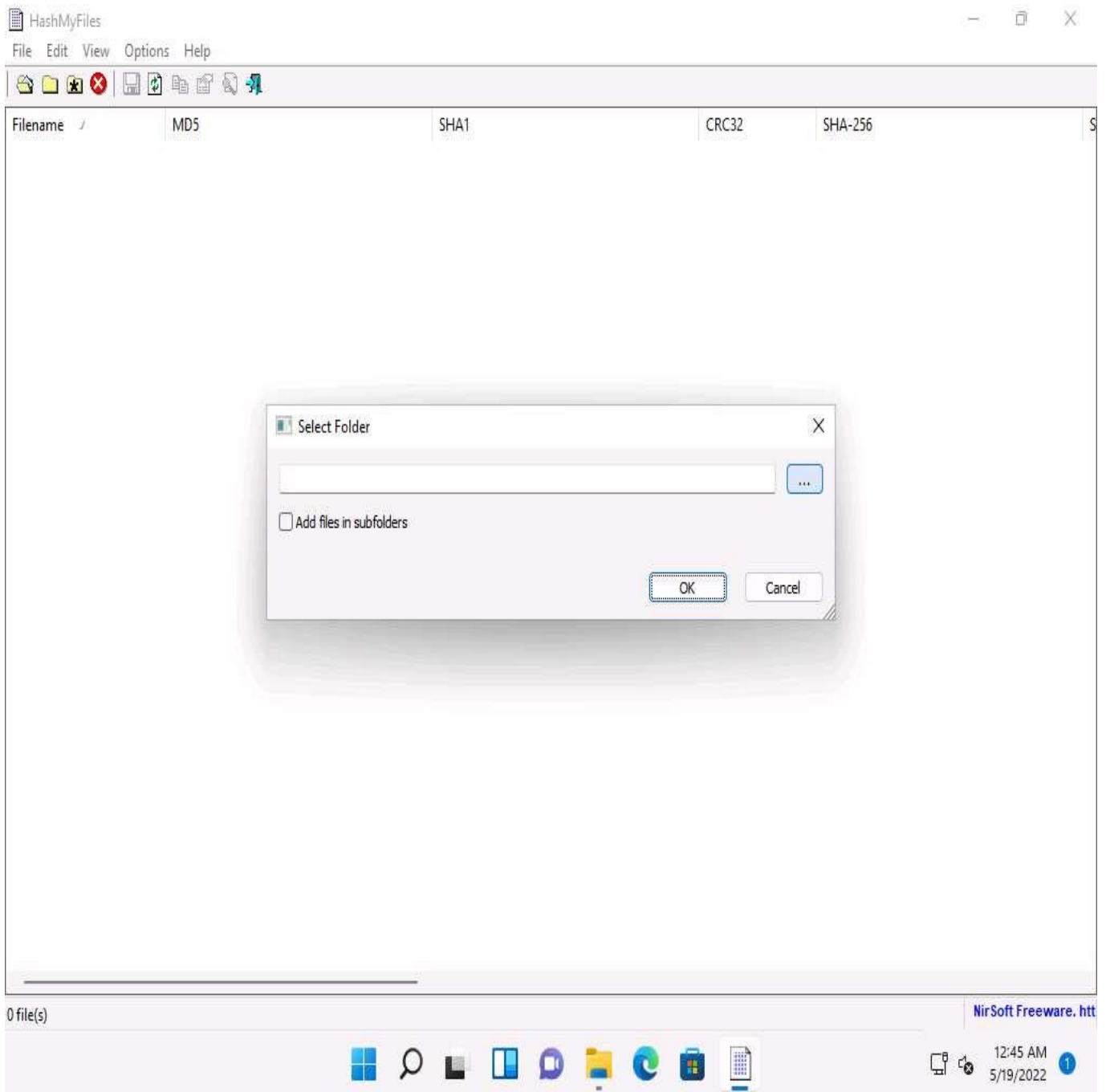


3. ☐ In the **HashMyFiles** window, click **File** from the menu bar. From the drop-down list, click the **Add Folder** option.

You can also use the **Add Files** option to add multiple files.

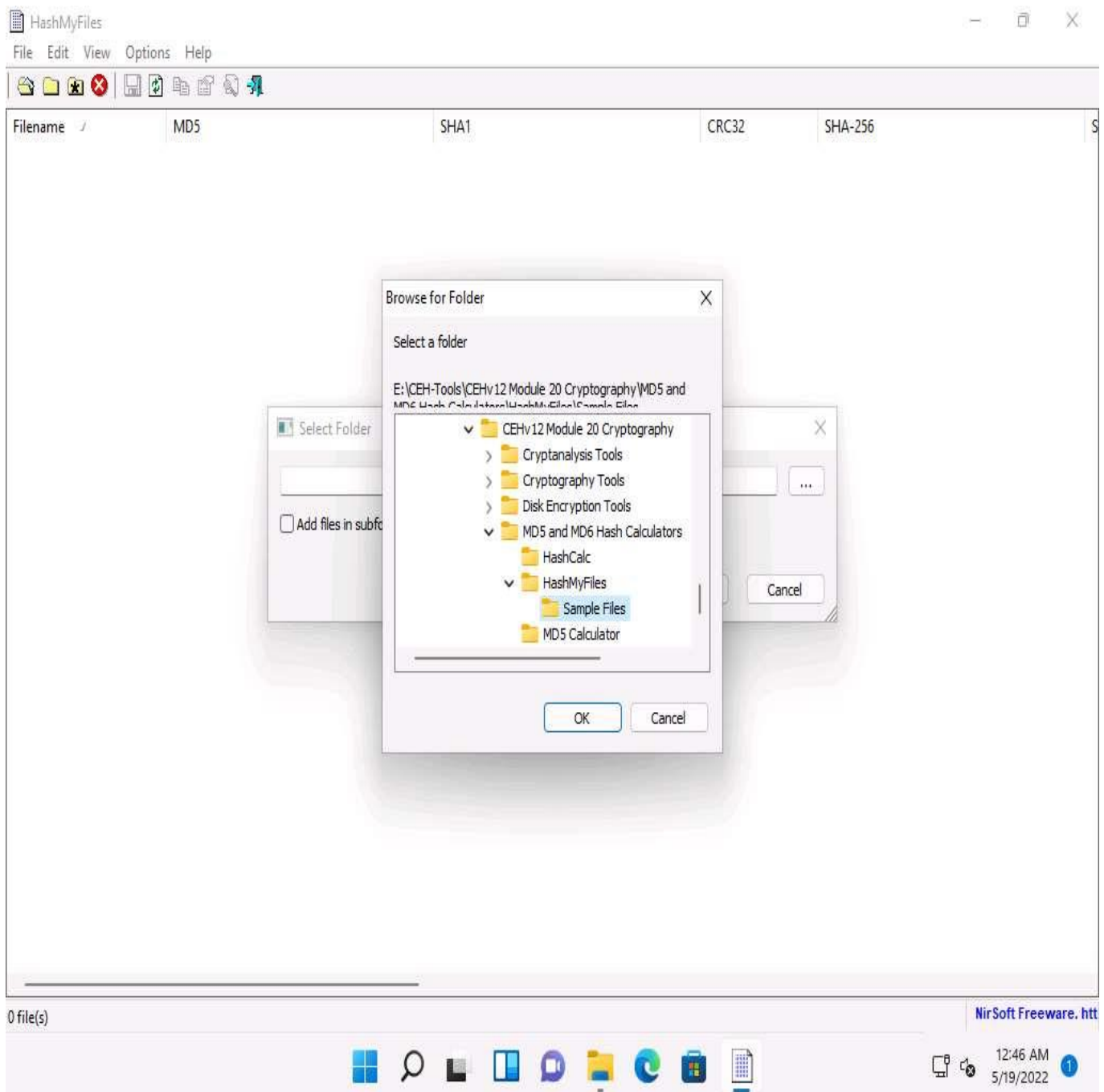


4. ☐ The **Select Folder** pop-up appears; click on the ellipsis icon to select the folder you want to encrypt.

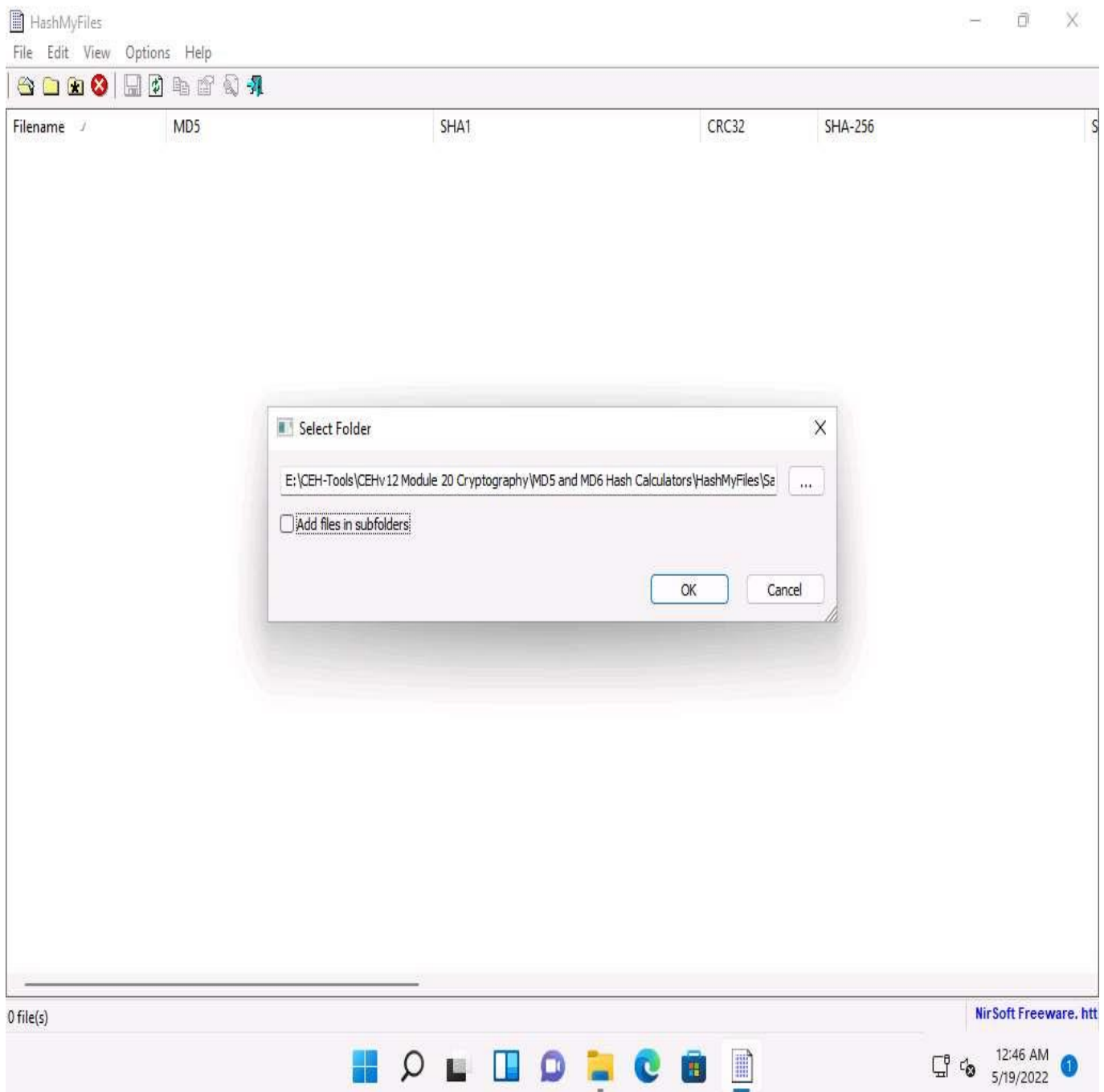


5. ☐ The **Browse for Folder** window appears; navigate to **E:\CEH-Tools\CEHv12 Module 20 Cryptography\MD5 and MD6 Hash Calculators\HashMyFiles** and select the **Sample Files** folder; then, click **OK**.

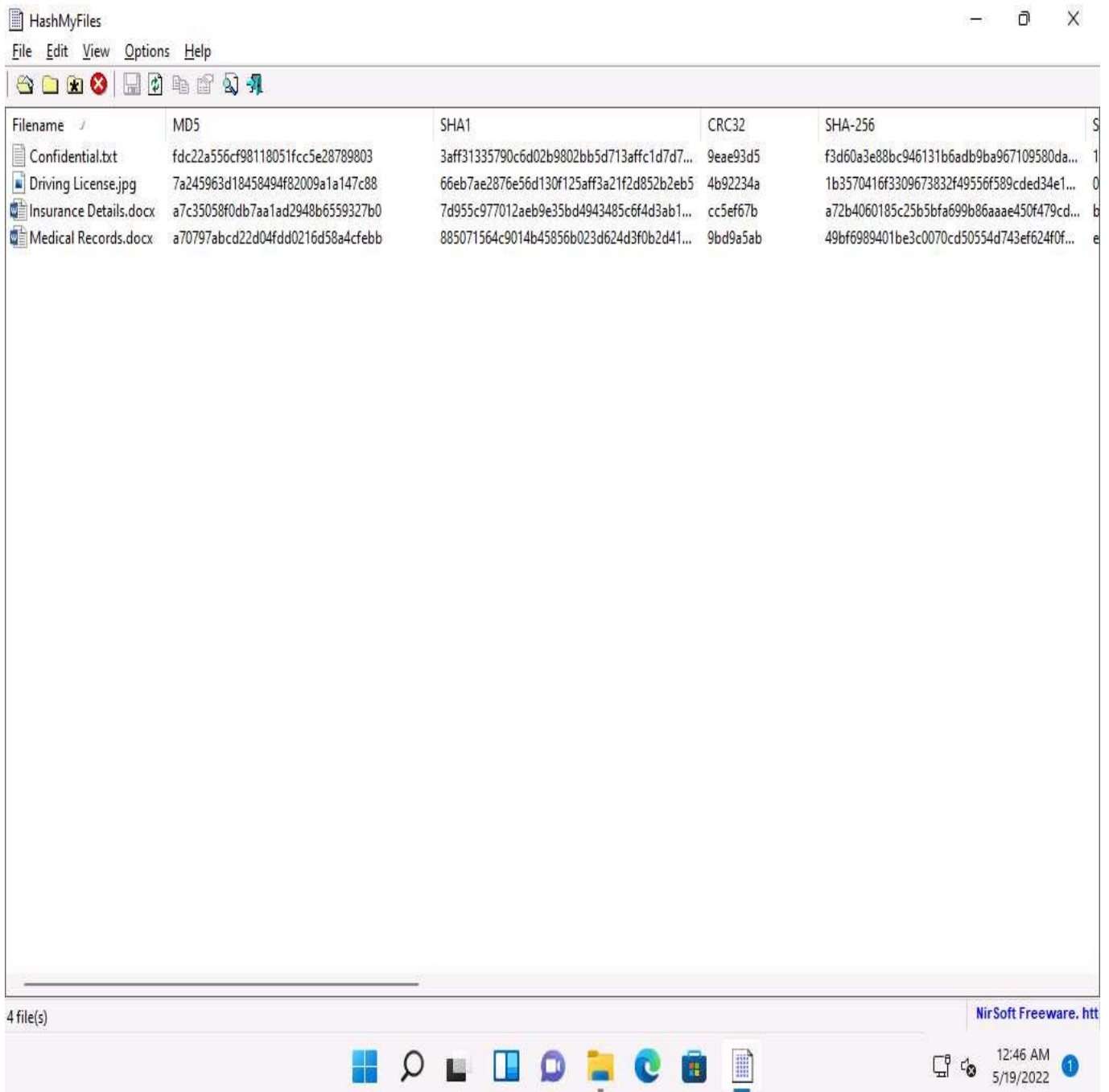
You can select any folder of your choice that you wish to encrypt.



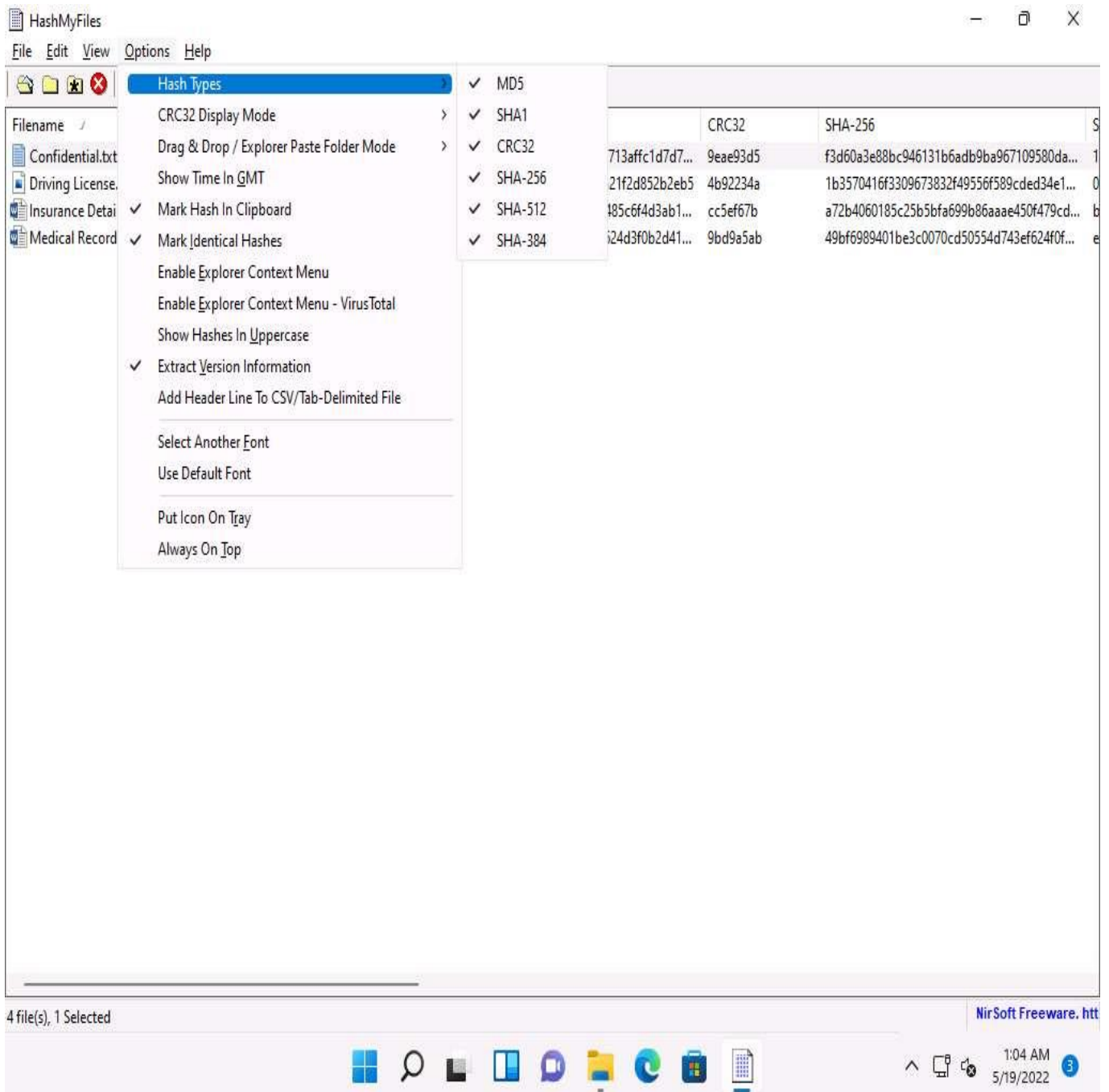
6. ☐ The location of the selected folder appears in the field; click **OK**.



7. ☐ A list of files contained in the folder appears, along with their various hash values such as **MD5**, **SHA1**, **CRC32**, etc.

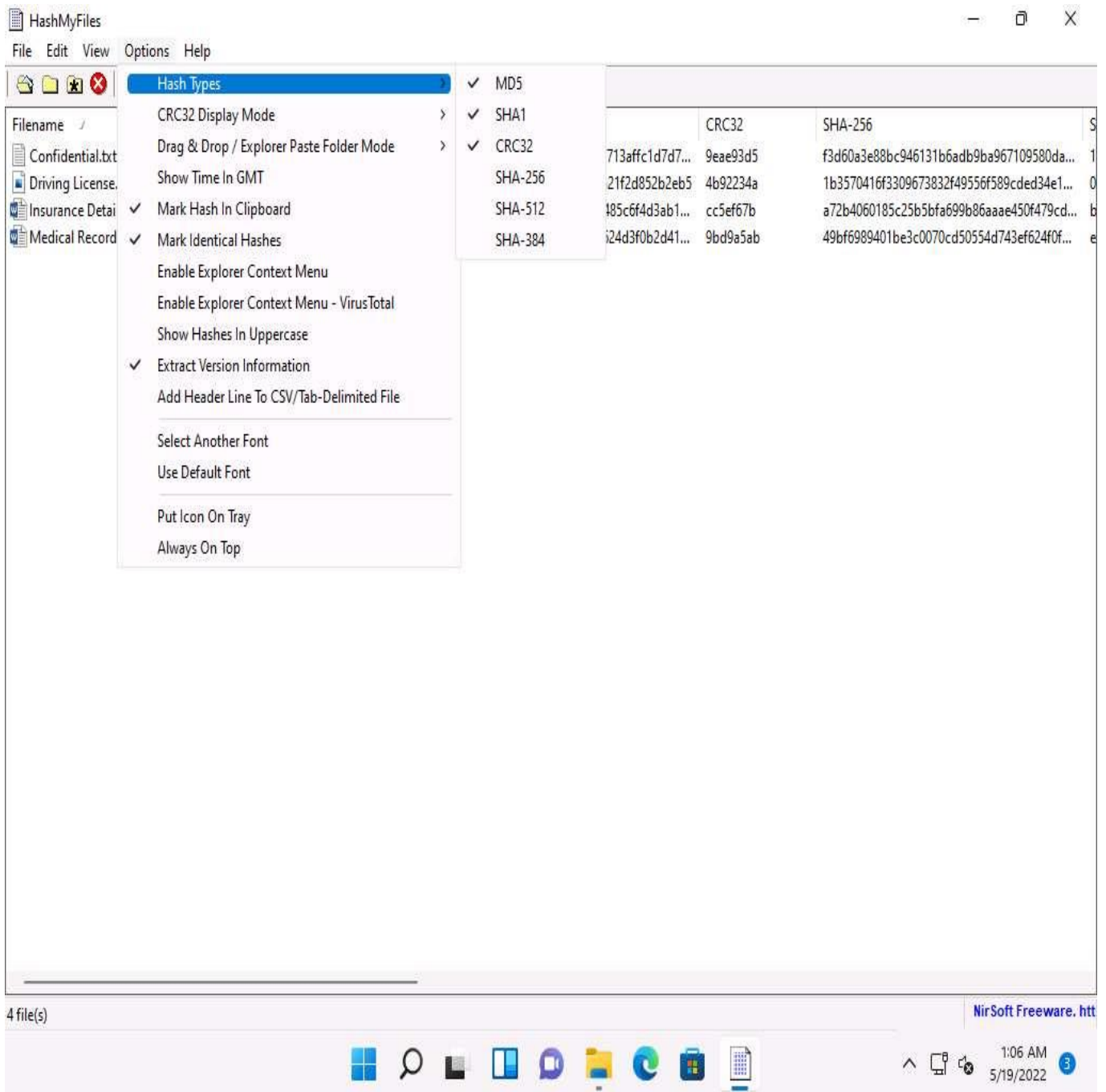


8. ☐ In the **HashMyFiles** window, click **Options** from the menu bar and choose **Hash Types** from the options. You can observe a list of hash functions such as **MD5**, **SHA1**, **CRC32**, **SHA-256**, **SHA-512**, and **SHA-384**.




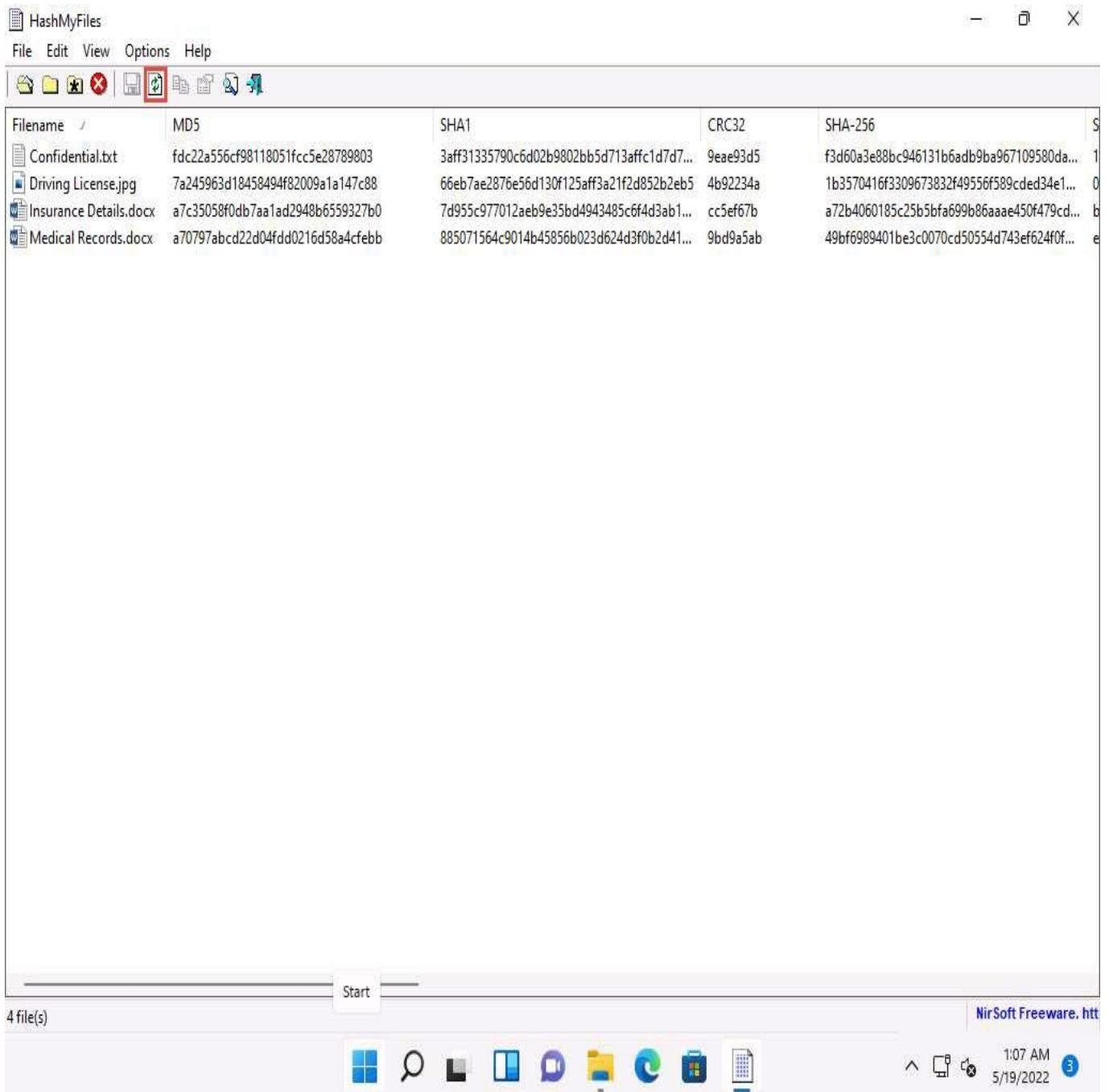
In real-time, you may share confidential information in the folder in an encrypted form to maintain its integrity.

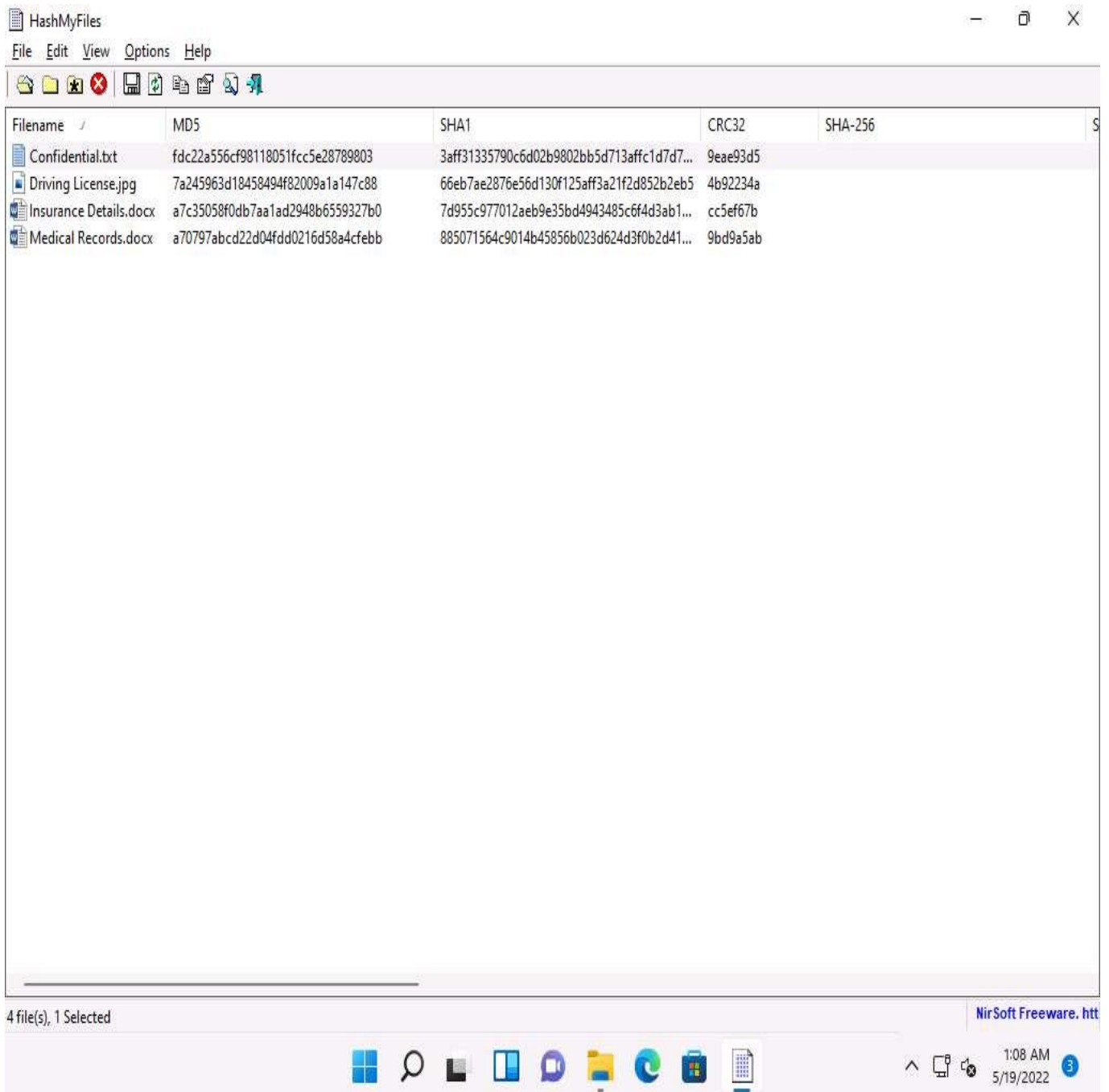
- From the list of hash functions, unselect **SHA-256**, **SHA-512** and **SHA-384** hash types one by one.



Here, we will calculate **MD5**, **SHA1** and **CRC32 Hash Types**.

- After selecting the hash functions to be displayed, click **Refresh** icon  from the menu bar to view the selected hash functions.





11. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of calculating MD5 hashes using HashMyFiles.
12. ☐ You can also use other MD5 and MD6 hash calculators such as **MD6 Hash Generator** (<https://www.browserling.com>), **All Hash Generator** (<https://www.browserling.com>), **MD6 Hash Generator** (<https://convert-tool.com>), and **md5 hash calculator** (<https://onlinehashtools.com>) to calculate MD5 and MD6 hashes.
13. ☐ Close all open windows and document all the acquired information.

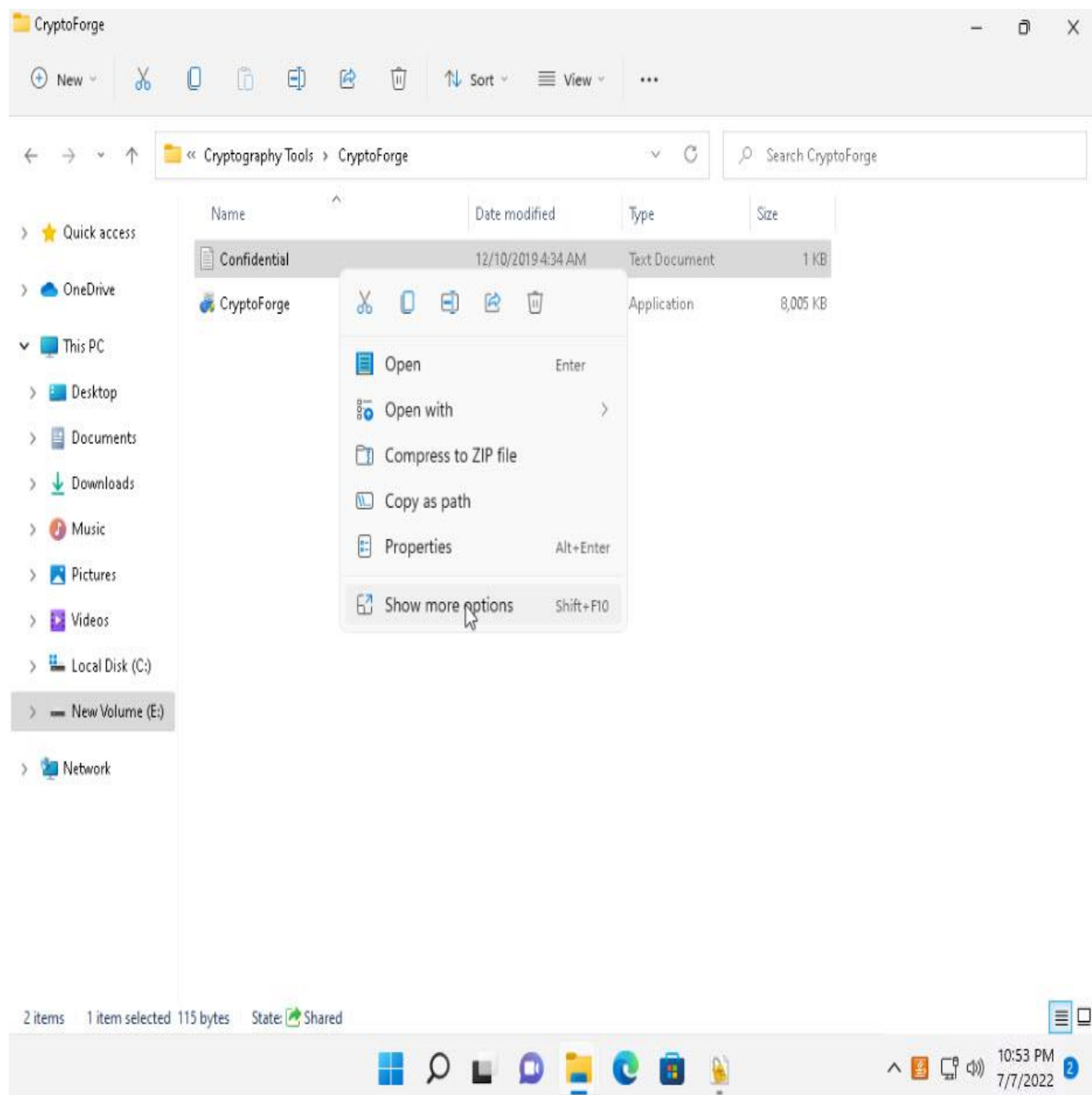
Task 4: Perform File and Text Message Encryption using CryptoForge

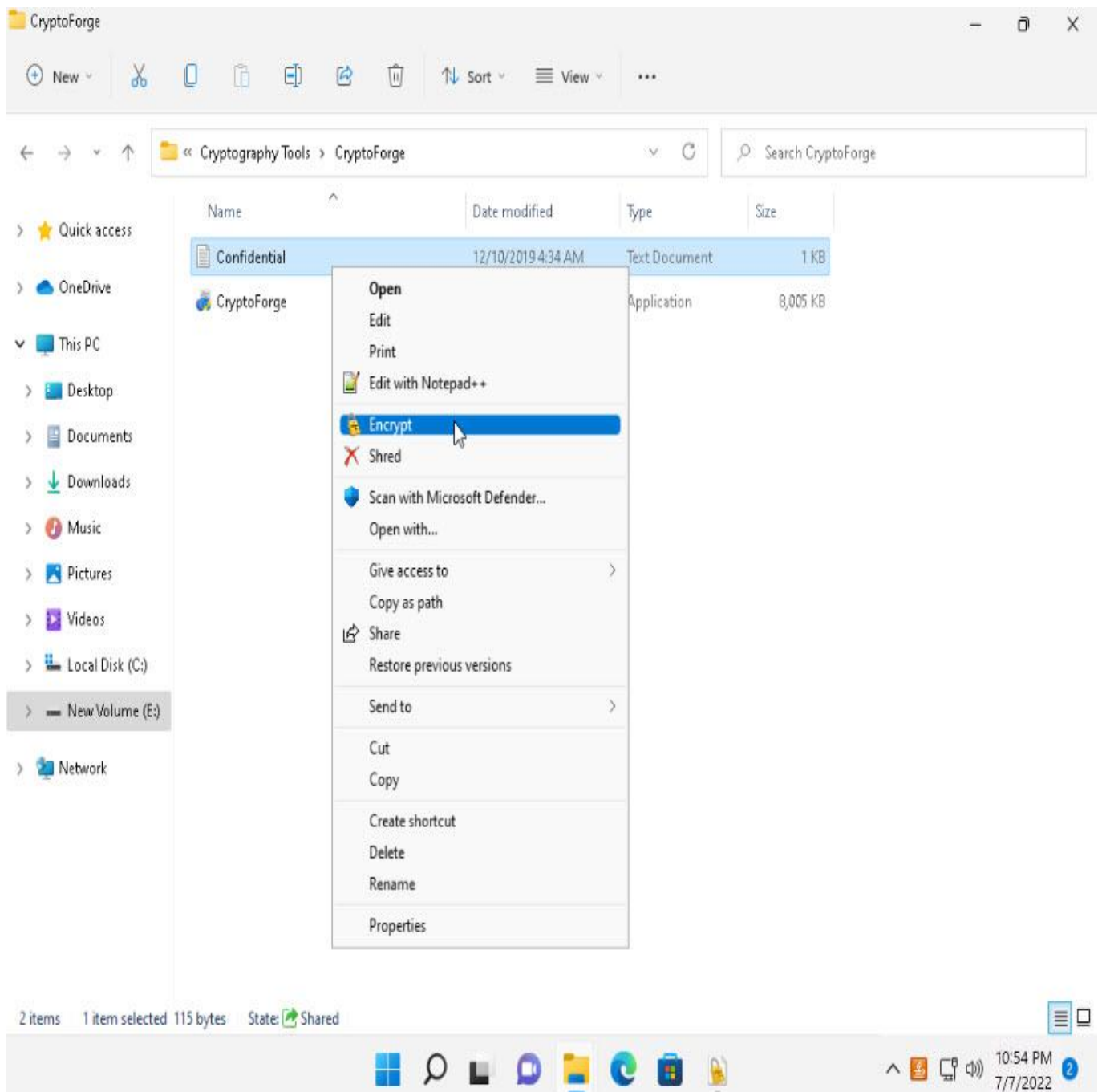
CryptoForge is a file encryption software for personal and professional data security. It allows you to protect the privacy of sensitive files, folders, or email messages by encrypting them with strong encryption algorithms. Once the information has been encrypted, it can be stored on insecure media or transmitted on an insecure network—such as the Internet—and remain private. Later, the information can be decrypted into its original form.

Here, we will use the CryptoForge tool to encrypt a file and text message.

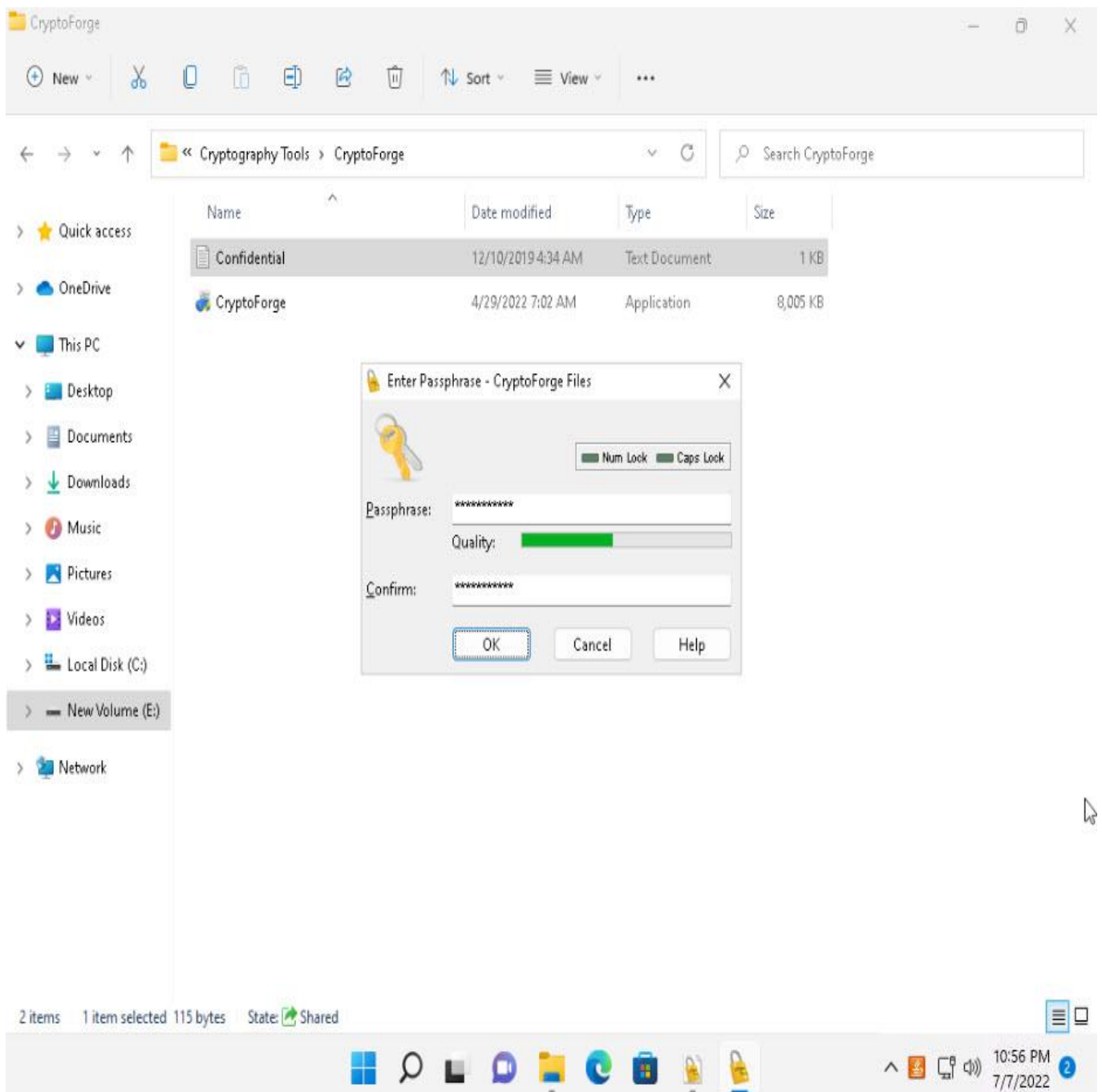
1. ☐ Click on [Windows 11](#) to switch to the **Windows 11** machine. Navigate to **E:\CEH-Tools\CEHv12 Module 20 Cryptography\Cryptography Tools\CryptoForge**. Right-click the **Confidential.txt** file and click **Show more options** and select **Encrypt** from the context menu

In this task, we are encrypting the **Confidential.txt** file, although you can encrypt any file of your choice.



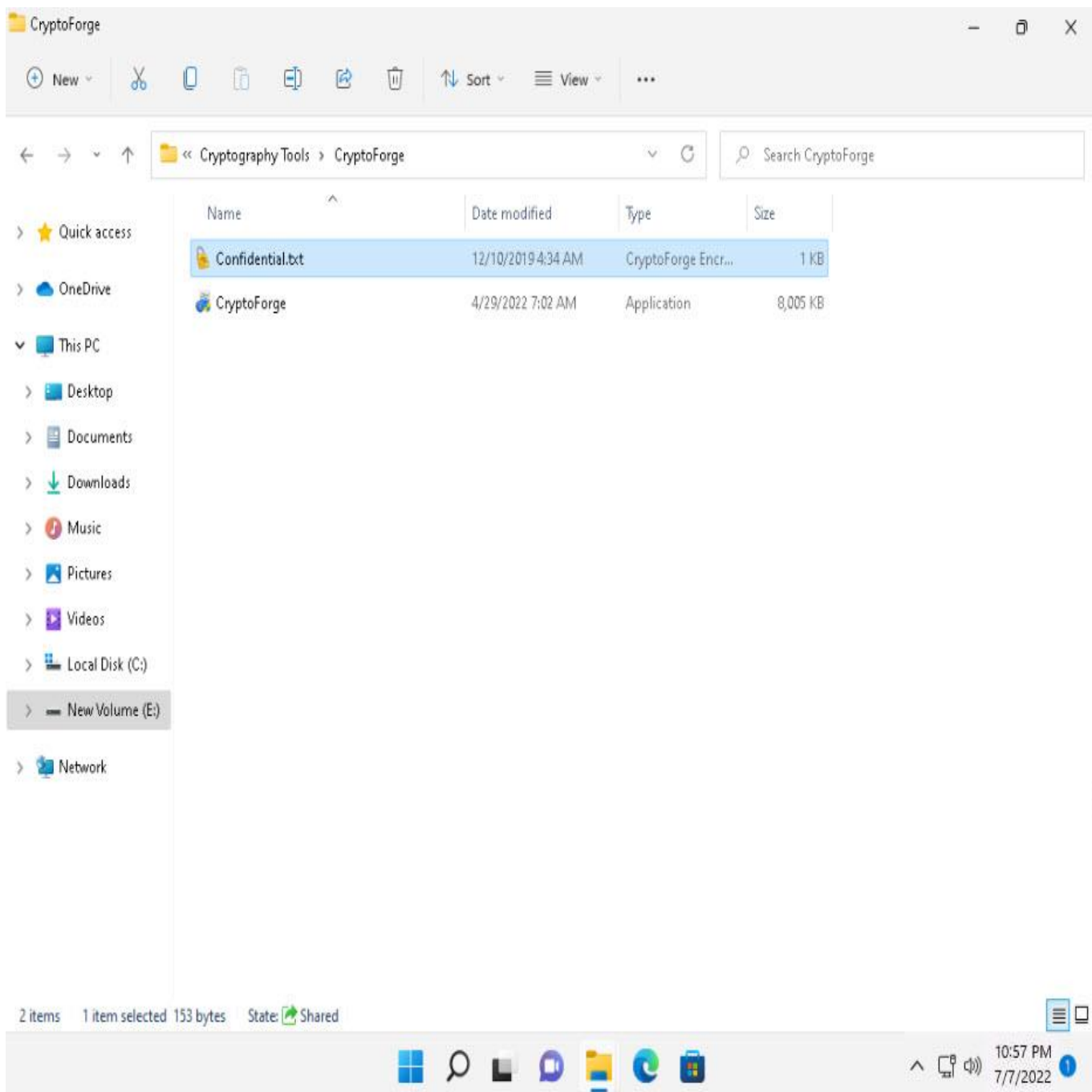


2. ☐ The **Enter Passphrase - CryptoForge Files** dialog-box appears; type a password in the **Passphrase** field, retype it in the **Confirm** field, and click **OK**. The password used in this lab is **qwerty@1234**.

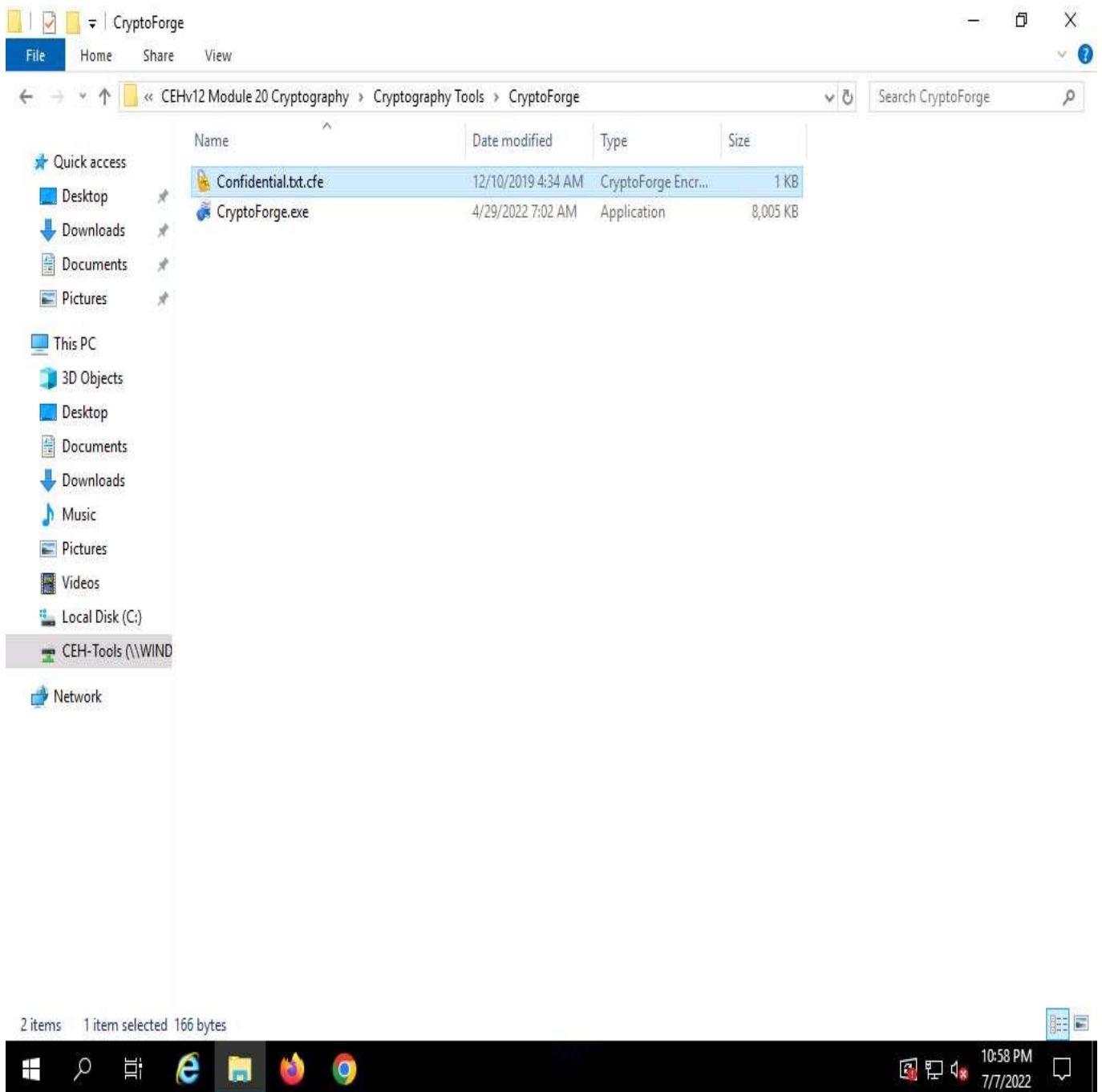


3. ☐ Now, the file will be encrypted in the same location, and the old file will be deleted automatically, as shown in the screenshot.

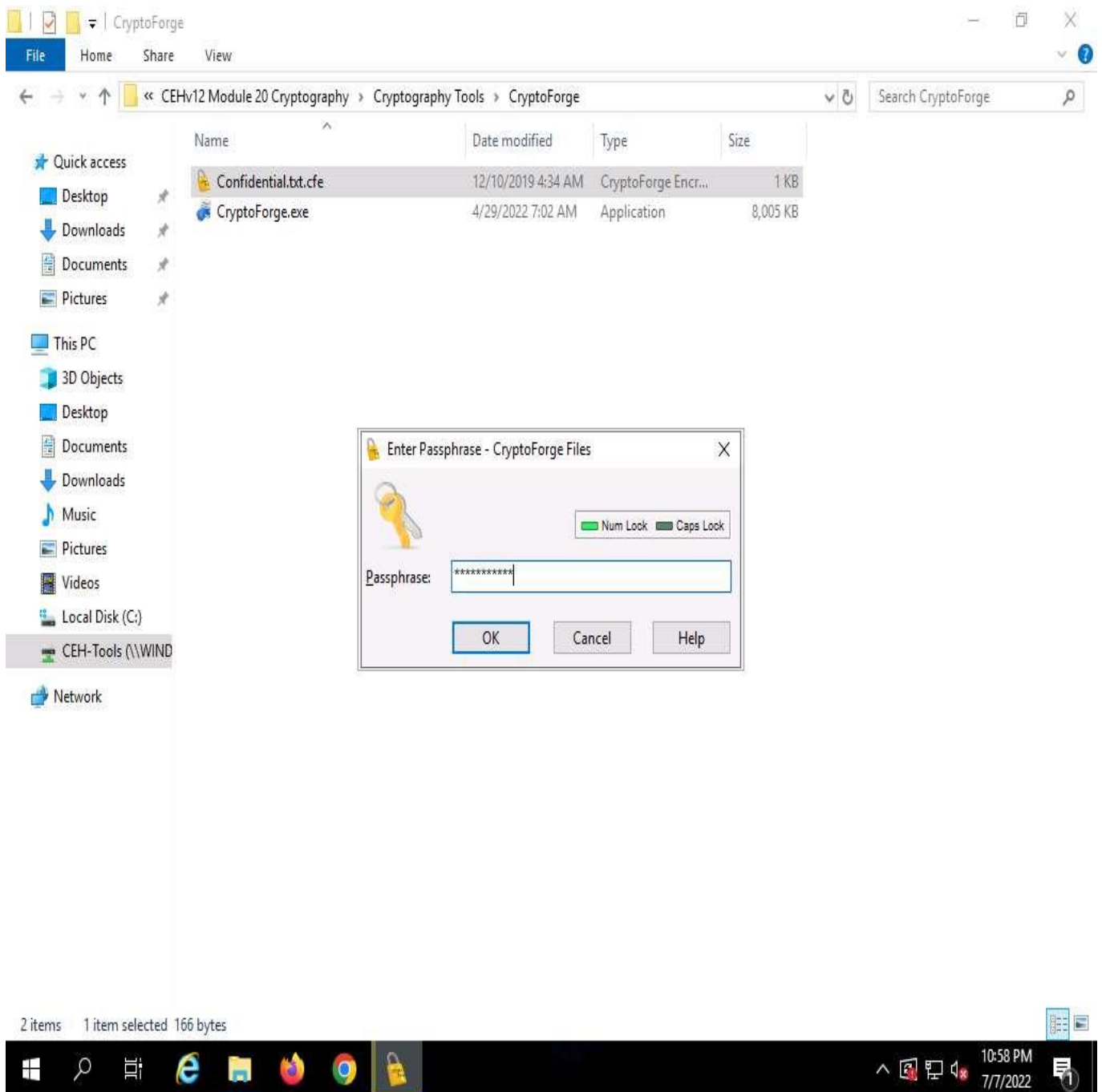
No one can access this file unless the user provides the password for the encrypted file. You will have to share the password with the user through message, email, or any other means.



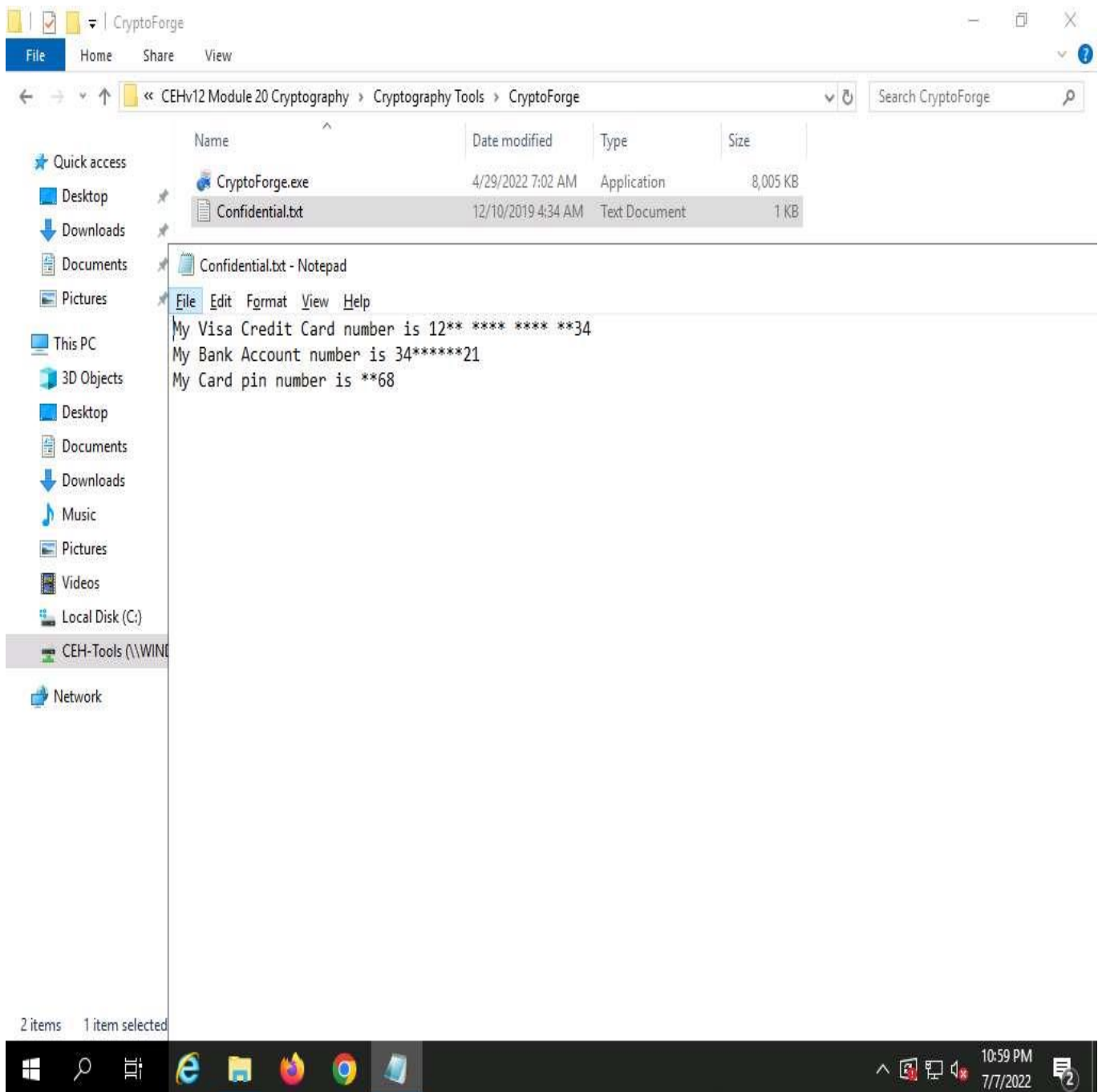
4. ☐ Let us assume that you shared this file through a shared network drive.
5. ☐ Now, click on [Windows Server 2019](#) to switch to the **Windows Server 2019**, click [Ctrl+Alt+Delete](#) to activate the machine. By default, **Administrator** profile is selected, type **Pa\$\$w0rd** to enter password in the Password field and press **Enter** to login.
6. ☐ Navigate to **Z:\CEHv12 Module 20 Cryptography\Cryptography Tools\CryptoForge**. You will observe the encrypted file in this location.
7. ☐ Double-click the encrypted file to decrypt it and view its contents.



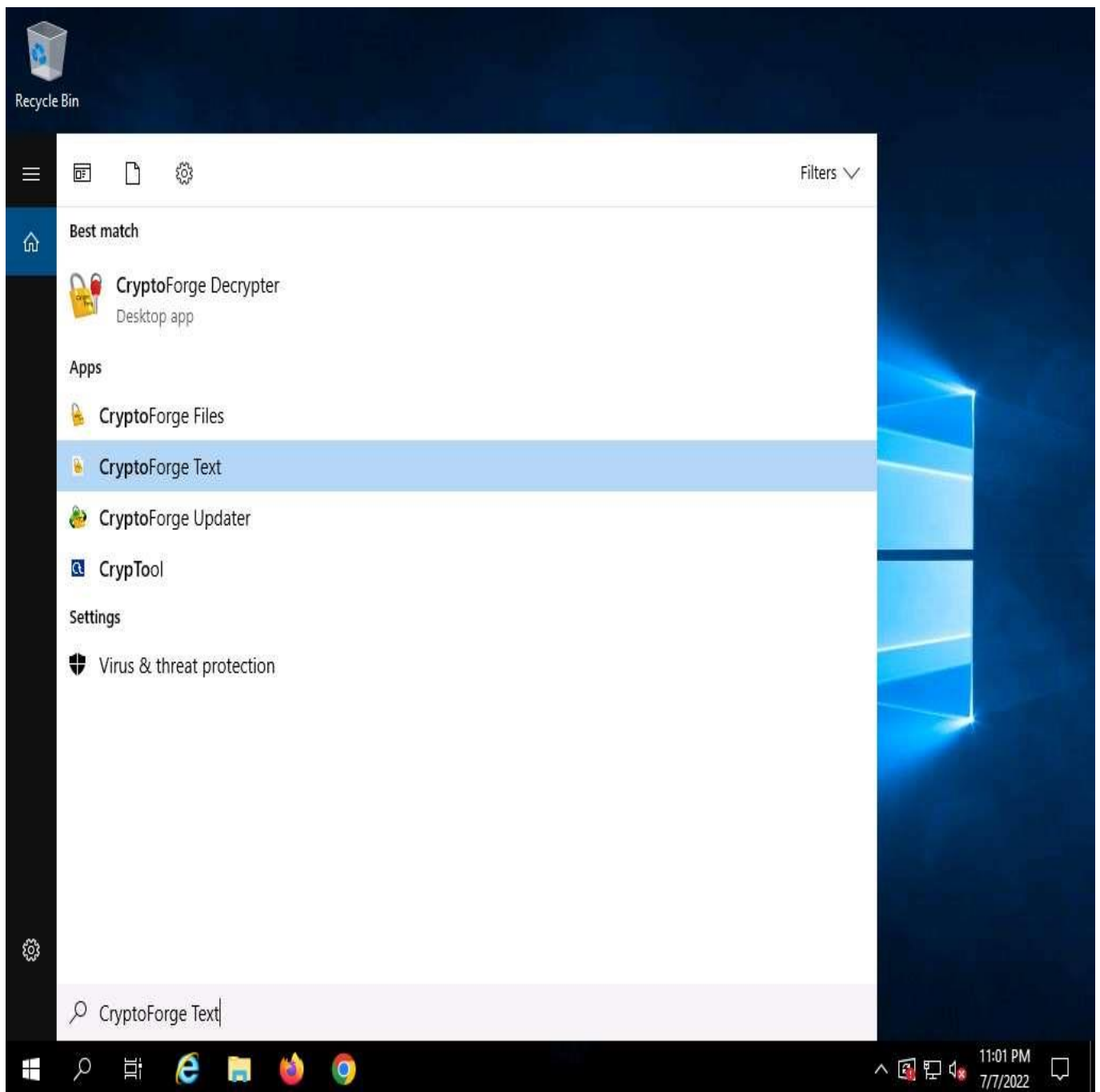
8. ☐ The **Enter Passphrase - CryptoForge Files** dialog-box appears; enter the password that you have provided in **Step#2** to encrypt the file and click **OK**.



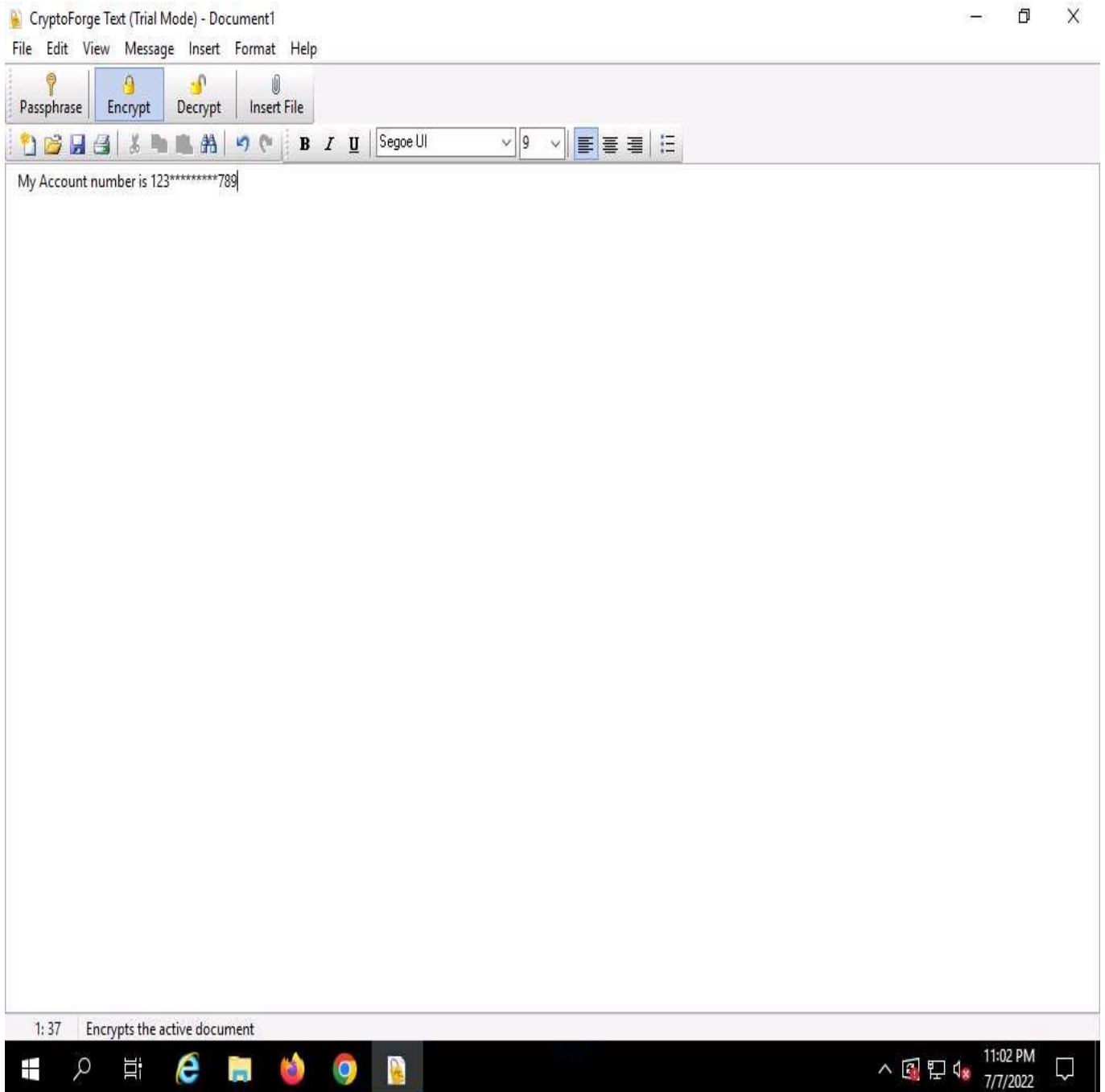
9. ☐ Upon entering the password, the file will be successfully decrypted. You may now double-click the text file to view its contents.



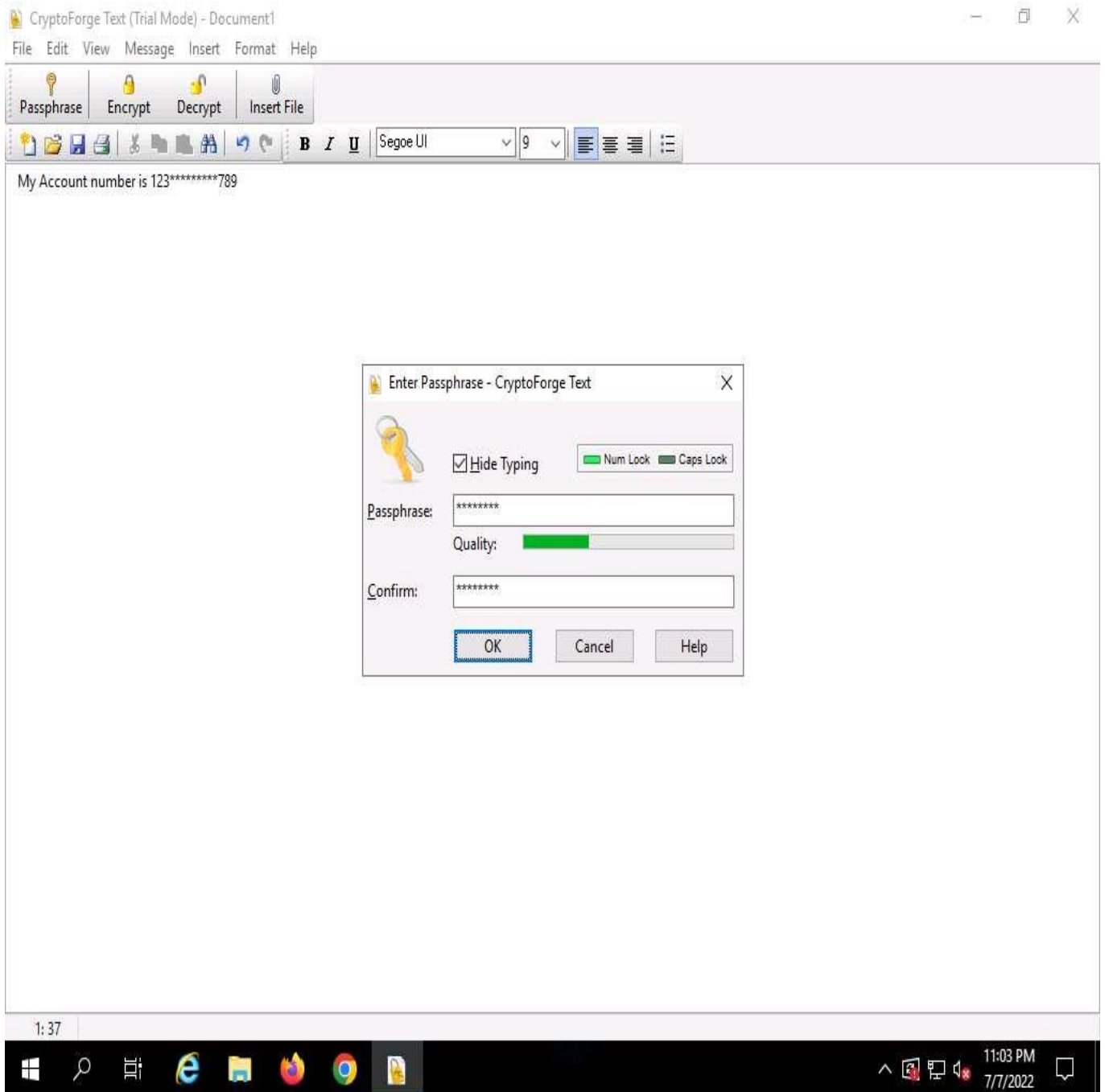
10. ☐ So far, you have seen how to encrypt a file and share it with the intended user. Now, we shall share an encrypted message with a user.
11. ☐ In the **Windows Server 2019** machine, click the **Type here to search** icon present in the bottom-left corner of **Desktop**, type **crypto** in the search field and click **CryptoForge Text** from the apps to launch the application.



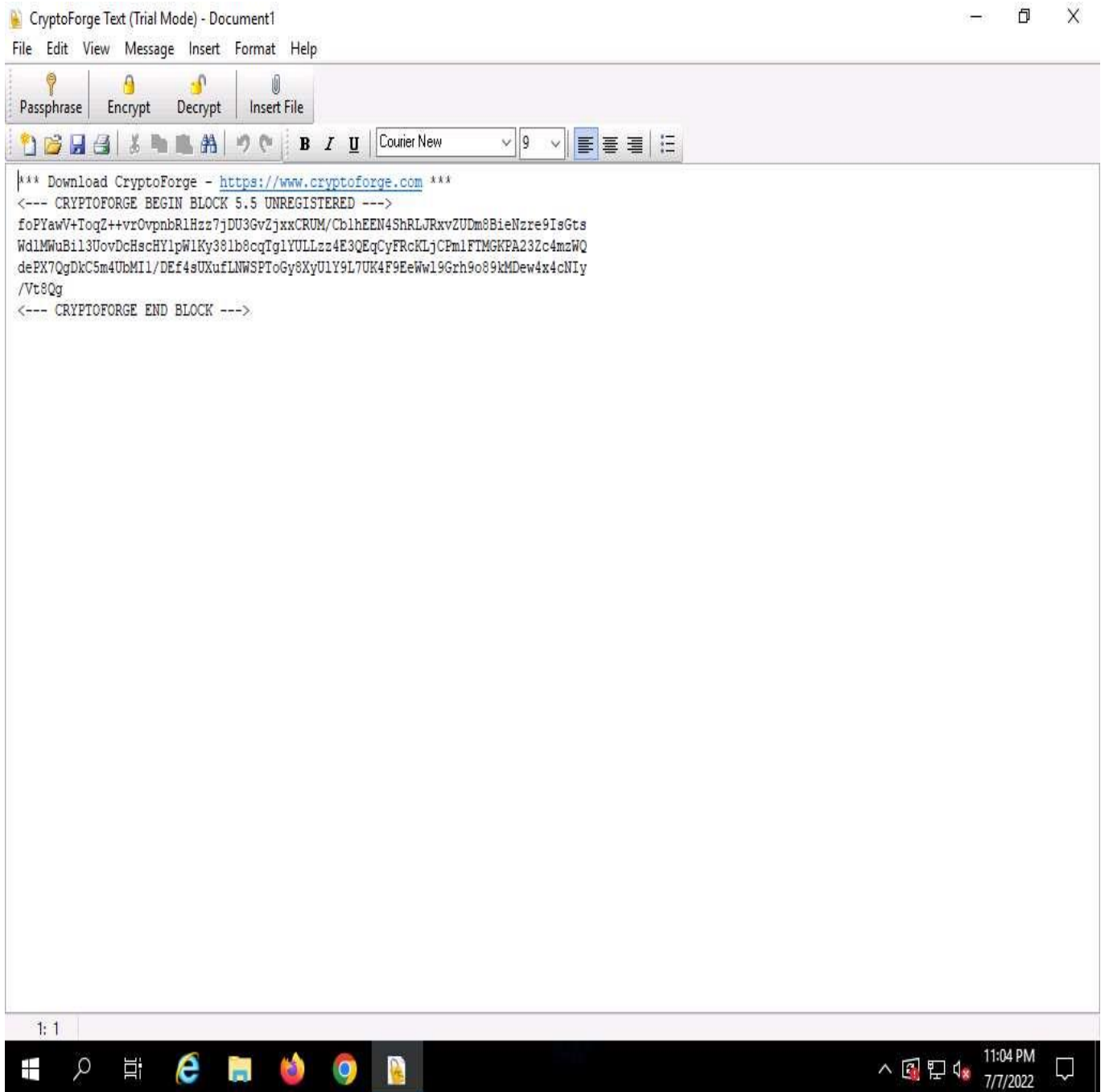
12. ☐ The **CryptoForge Text** window appears; type a message and click **Encrypt** from the toolbar.



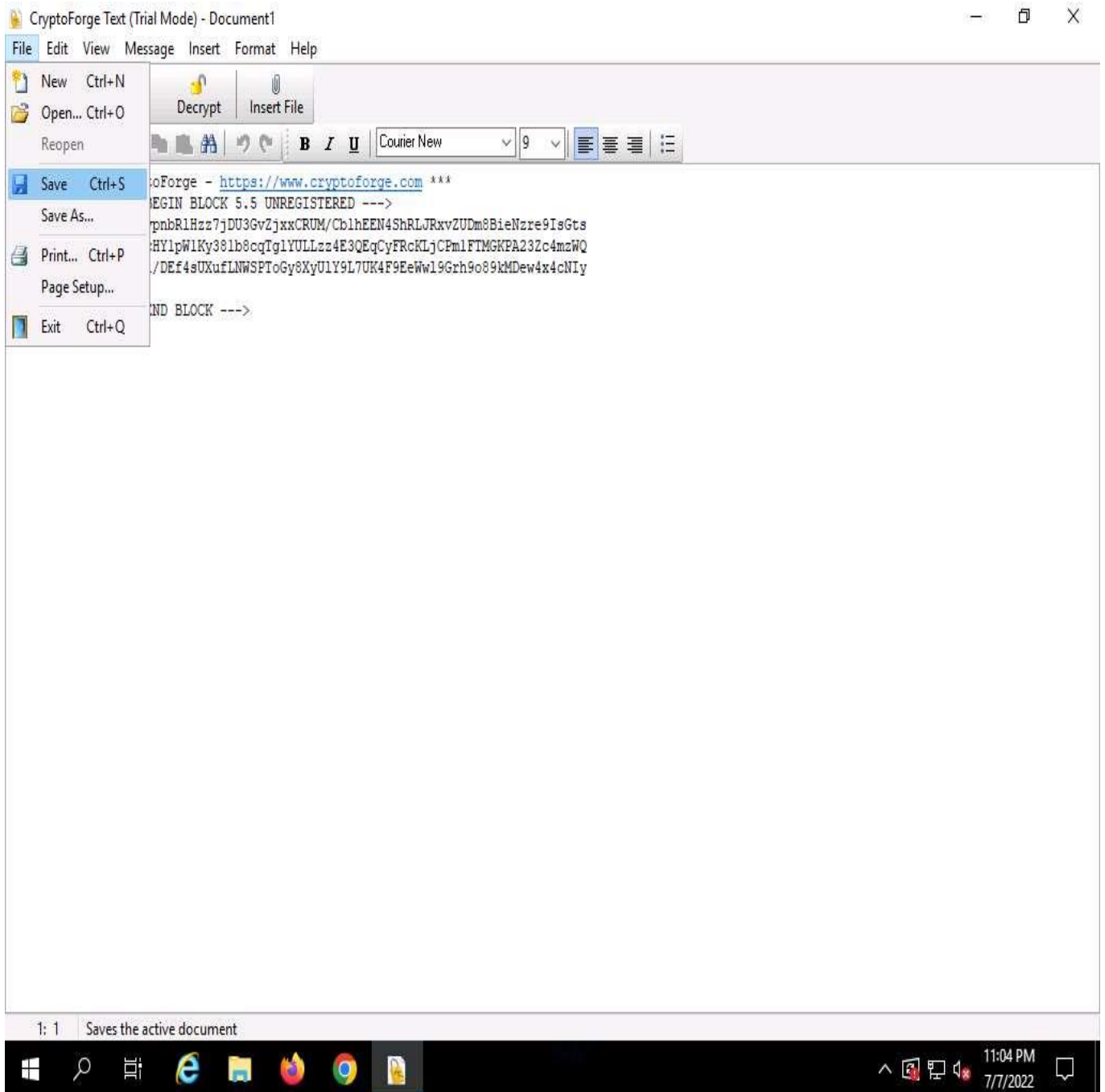
13. ☐ The **Enter Passphrase - CryptoForge Text** dialog-box appears; type a password in the **Passphrase** field, retype it in the **Confirm** field, and click **OK**. The password used in this lab is **test@123**.



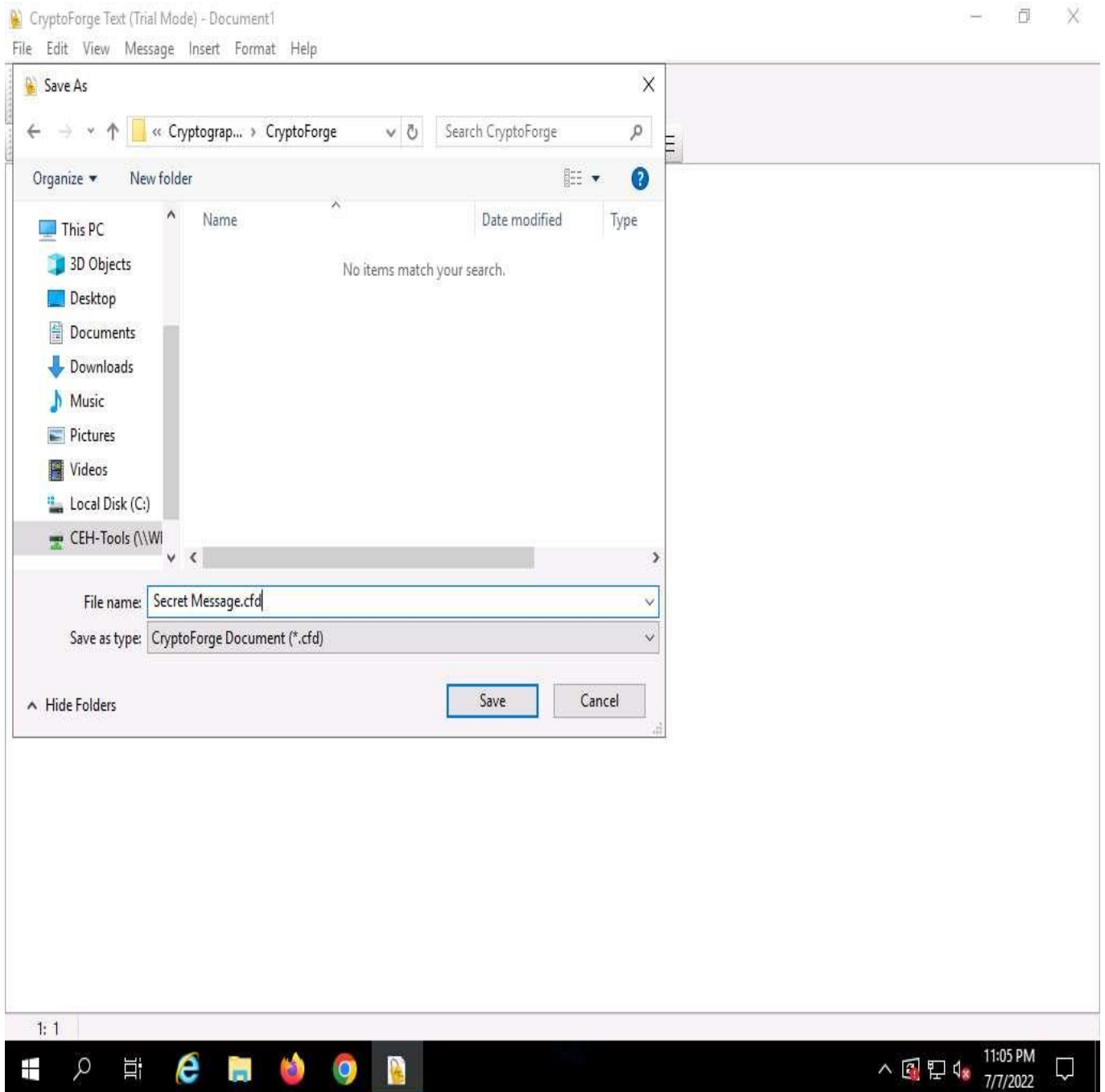
14. ☐ The message that you have typed will be encrypted, as shown in the screenshot.



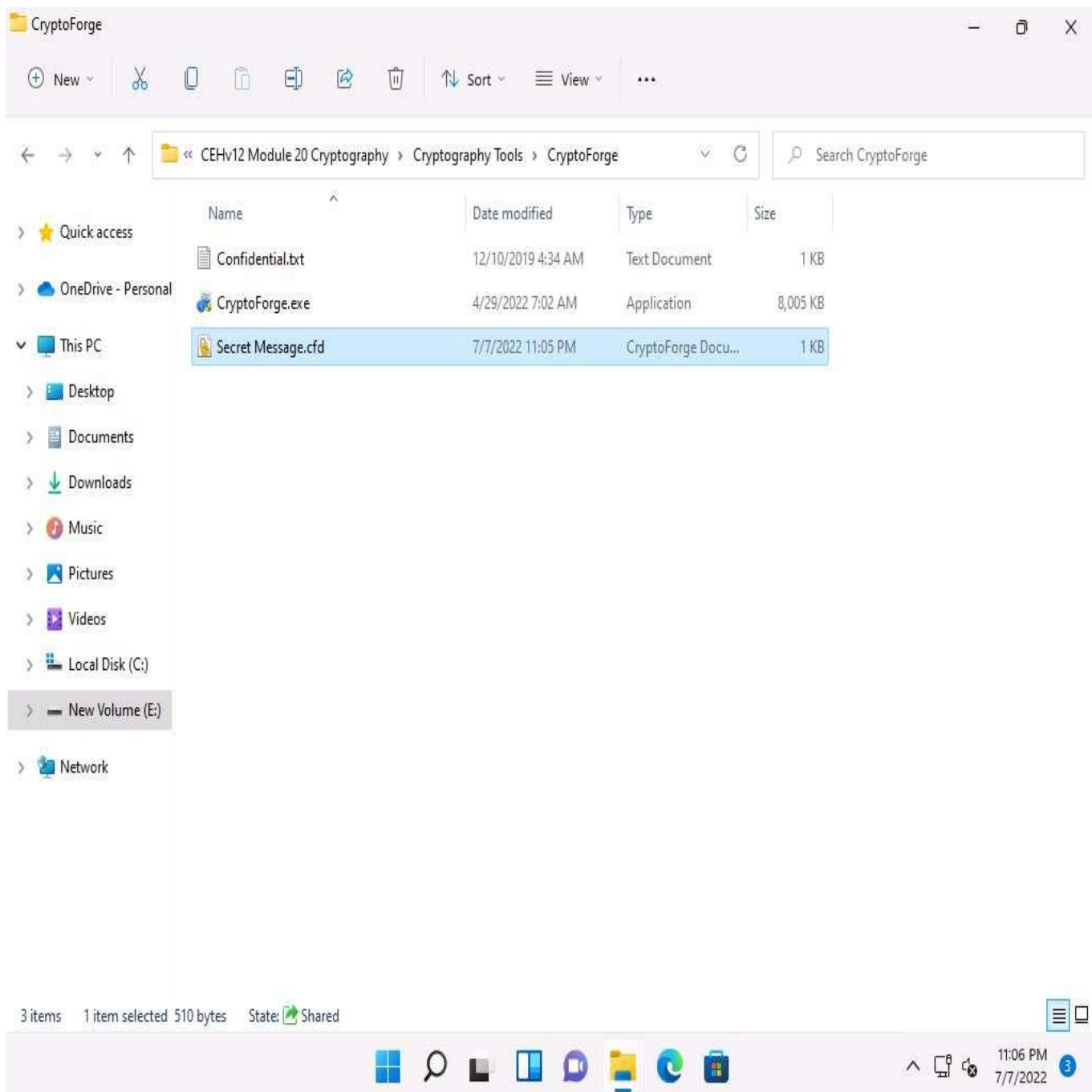
15. ☐ Now, you need to save the file. Click **File** in the menu bar and click **Save**.



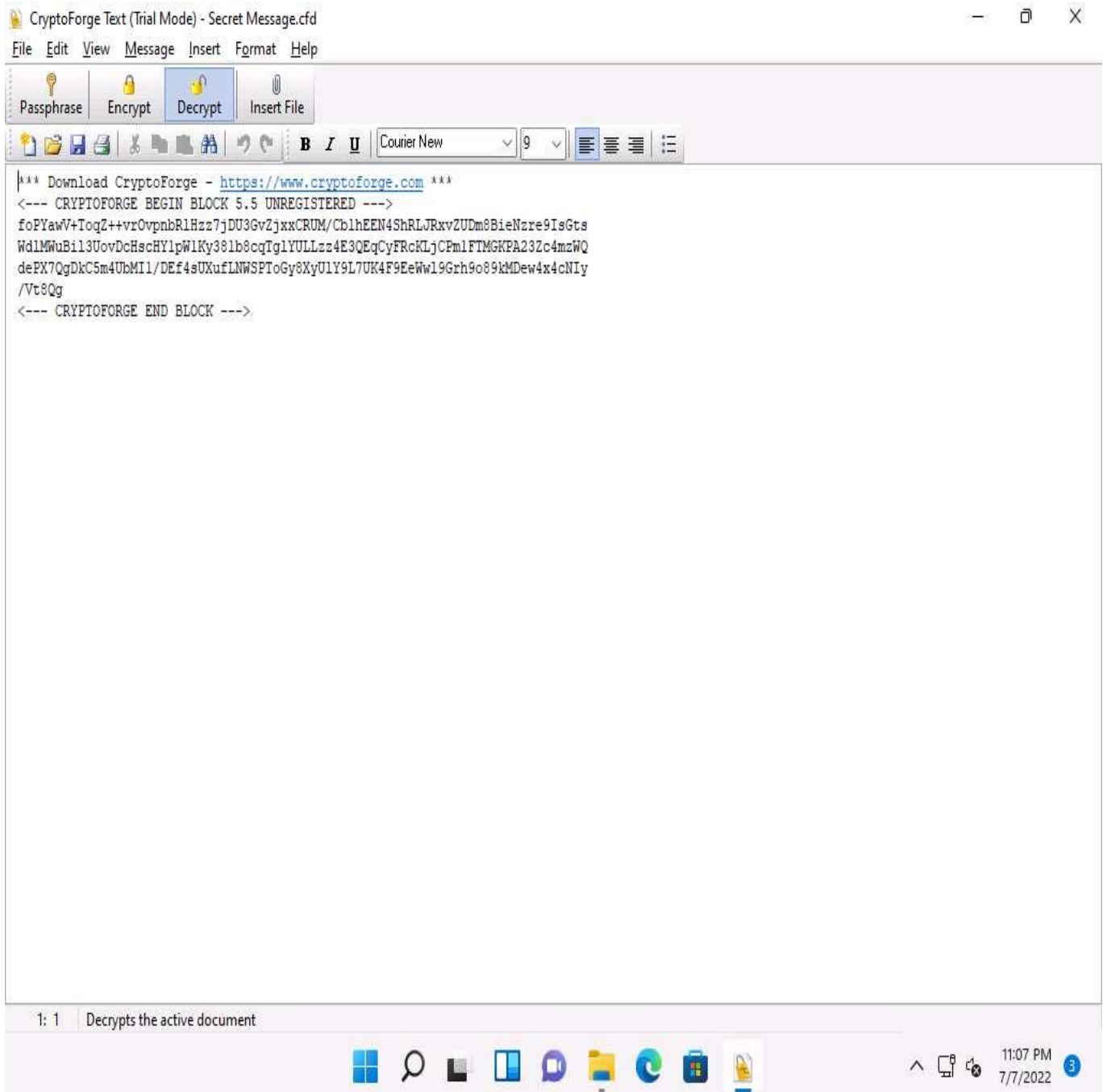
16. ☐ The **Save As** window appears; navigate to **Z:\CEHv12 Module 20 Cryptography\Cryptography Tools\CryptoForge**, specify the file name as **Secret Message.cfd**, and click **Save**.



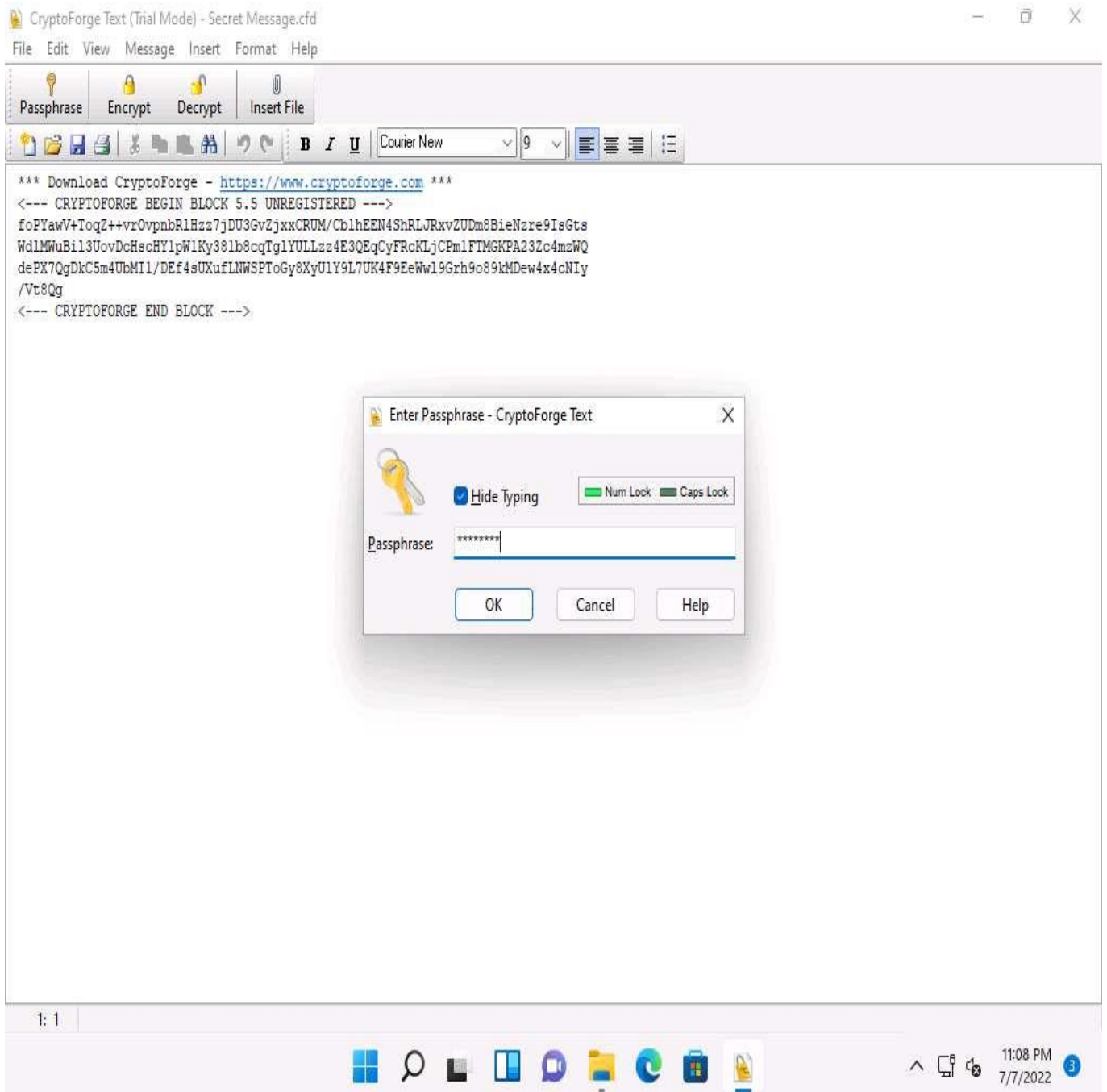
17. ☐ Close the **CryptoForge Text** window.
18. ☐ Now, let us assume that you shared the file through the mapped network drive and shared the password to decrypt the file in an email message or through some other means.
19. ☐ Click on [Windows 11](#) to switch to the **Windows 11** machine and navigate to **E:\CEH-Tools\CEHv12 Module 20 Cryptography\Cryptography Tools\CryptoForge**.
20. ☐ You will observe the encrypted file in this location; double-click the file **Secret Message.cfd**.



21. ☐ The **CryptoForge Text** window appears, displaying the message in an encrypted format. Click **Decrypt** from the toolbar to decrypt it.

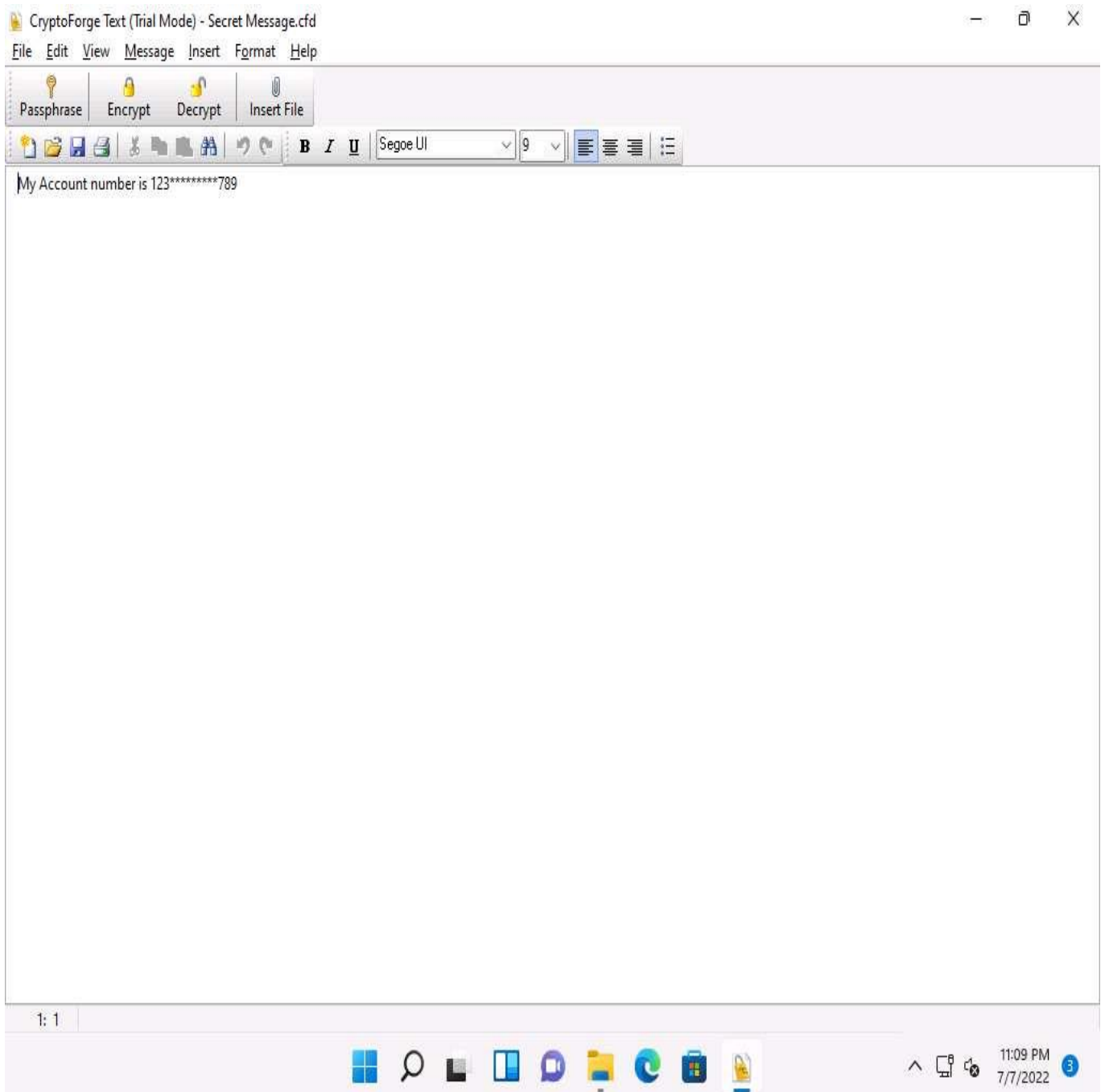


22. ☐ The **Enter Passphrase - CryptoForge Text** dialog-box appears; enter the password you provided in **Step#13** to decrypt the message in the **Passphrase** field and click **OK**.



23. ☐ The **CryptoForge Text** window appears, displaying the message in plain-text format, as shown in the screenshot.

In real-time, you may share sensitive information through email by encrypting data using CryptoForge.



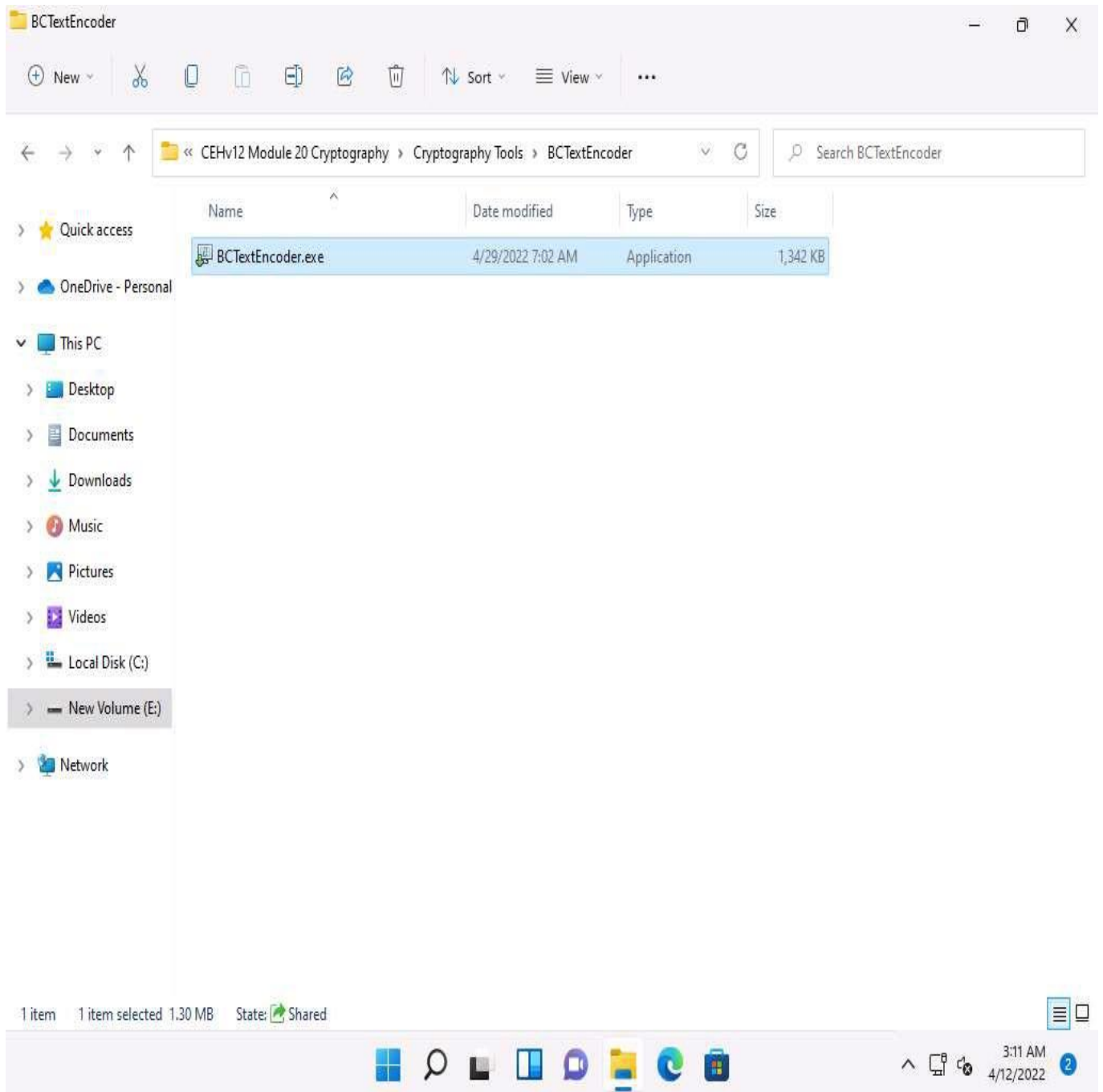
- 24. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of performing file and text message encryption using CryptoForge.
 - 25. ☐ Close all open windows and document all the acquired information.
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Task 5: Encrypt and Decrypt Data using BCTextEncoder

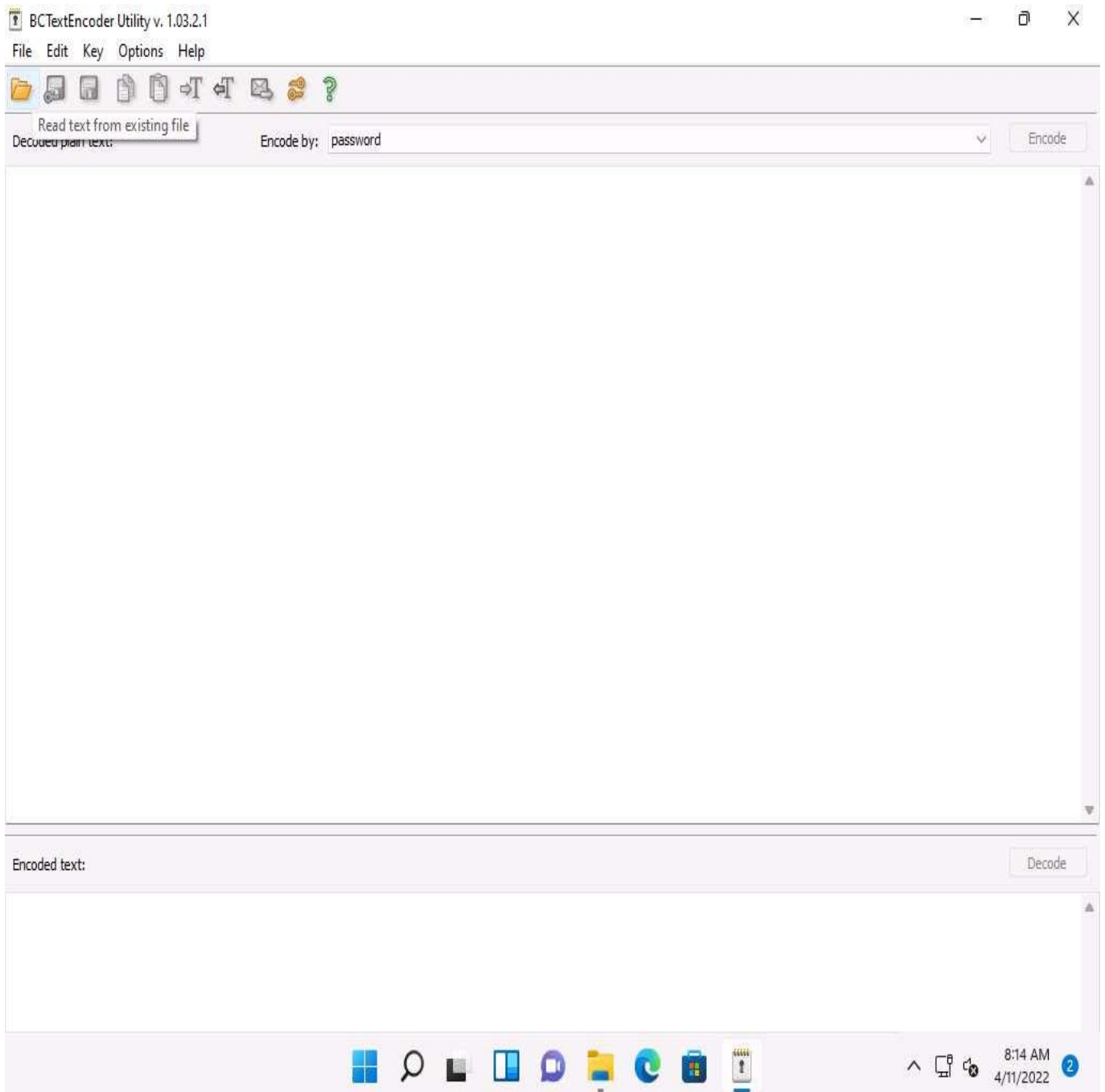
BCTextEncoder simplifies encoding and decoding text data. Plain text data are compressed, encrypted, and converted to text format, which can then be easily copied to the clipboard or saved as a text file. This utility software uses public key encryption methods and password-based encryption, as well as strong and approved symmetric and public key algorithms for data encryption.

Here, we will use the BCTextEncoder tool to encrypt and decrypt data.

1. ☐ In **Windows 11** machine, navigate to **E:\CEH-Tools\CEHv12 Module 20 Cryptography\Cryptography Tools\BCTextEncoder** and double click **BCTextEncoder.exe**.



2. ☐ The **BCTextEncoder Utility** window appears, as shown in the screenshot.

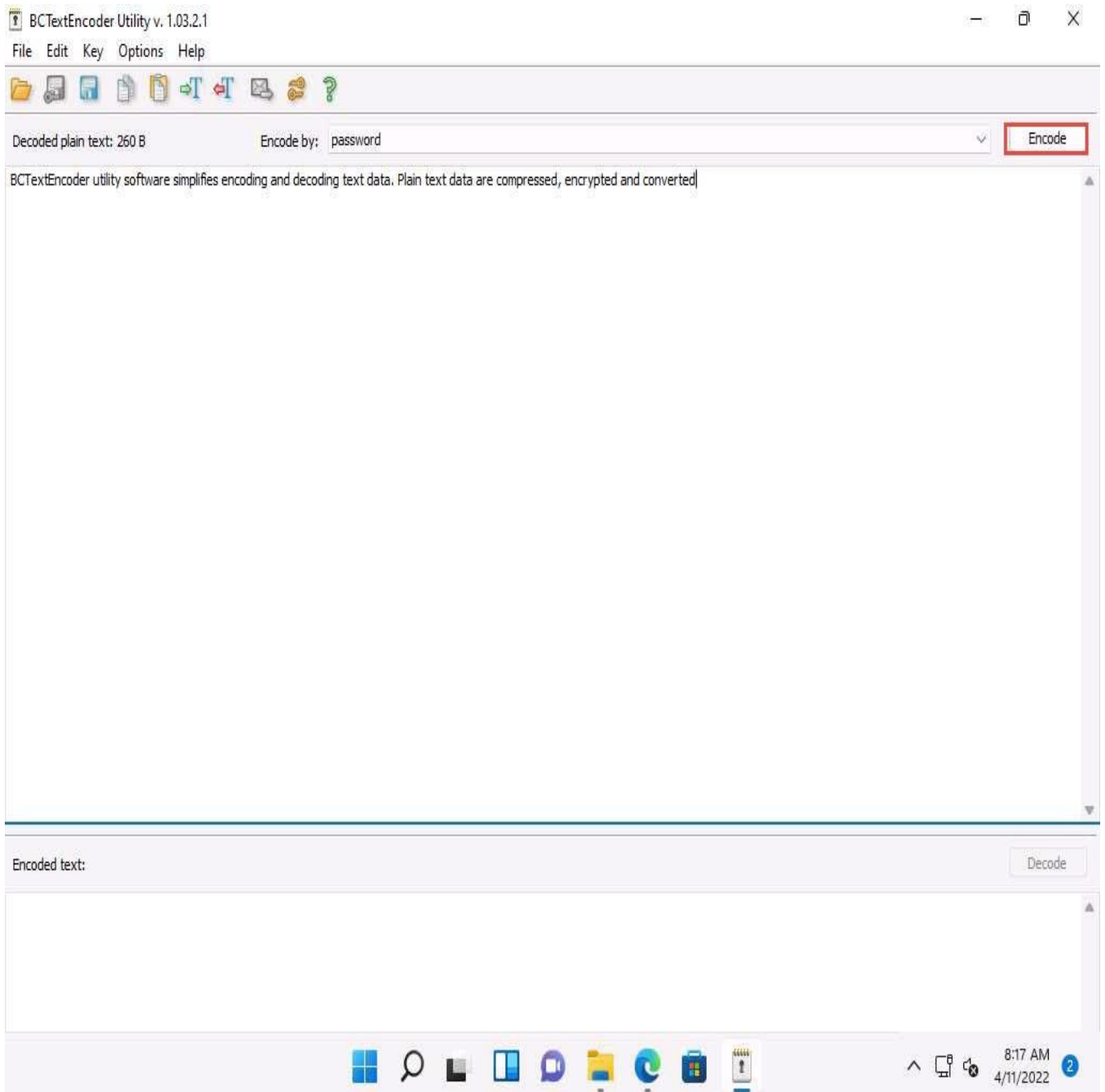


3. ☐ To encrypt the text, insert text in the clipboard.

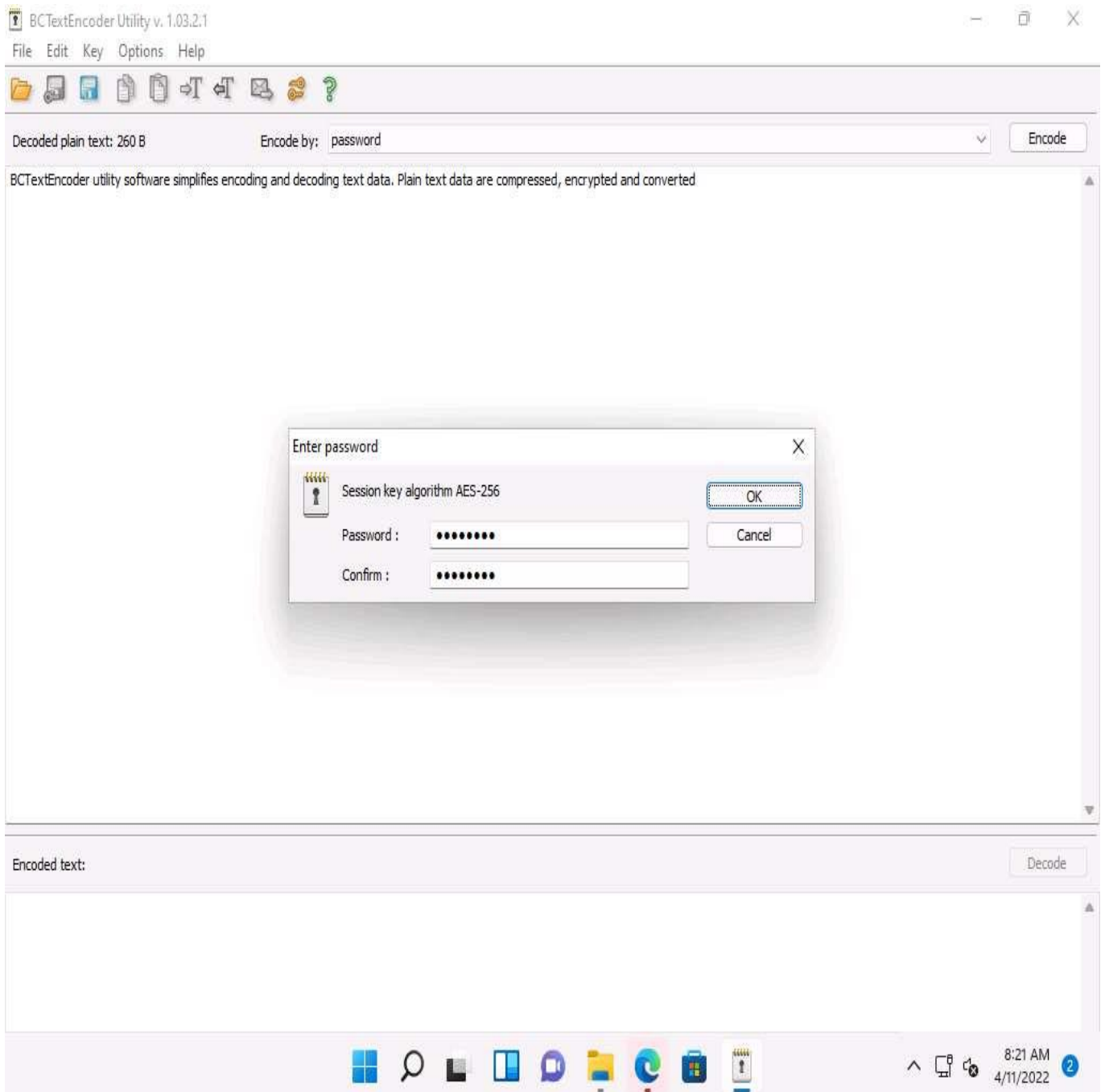
Or

Select the data that you want to encode and paste it to the clipboard by pressing **Ctrl+V**.

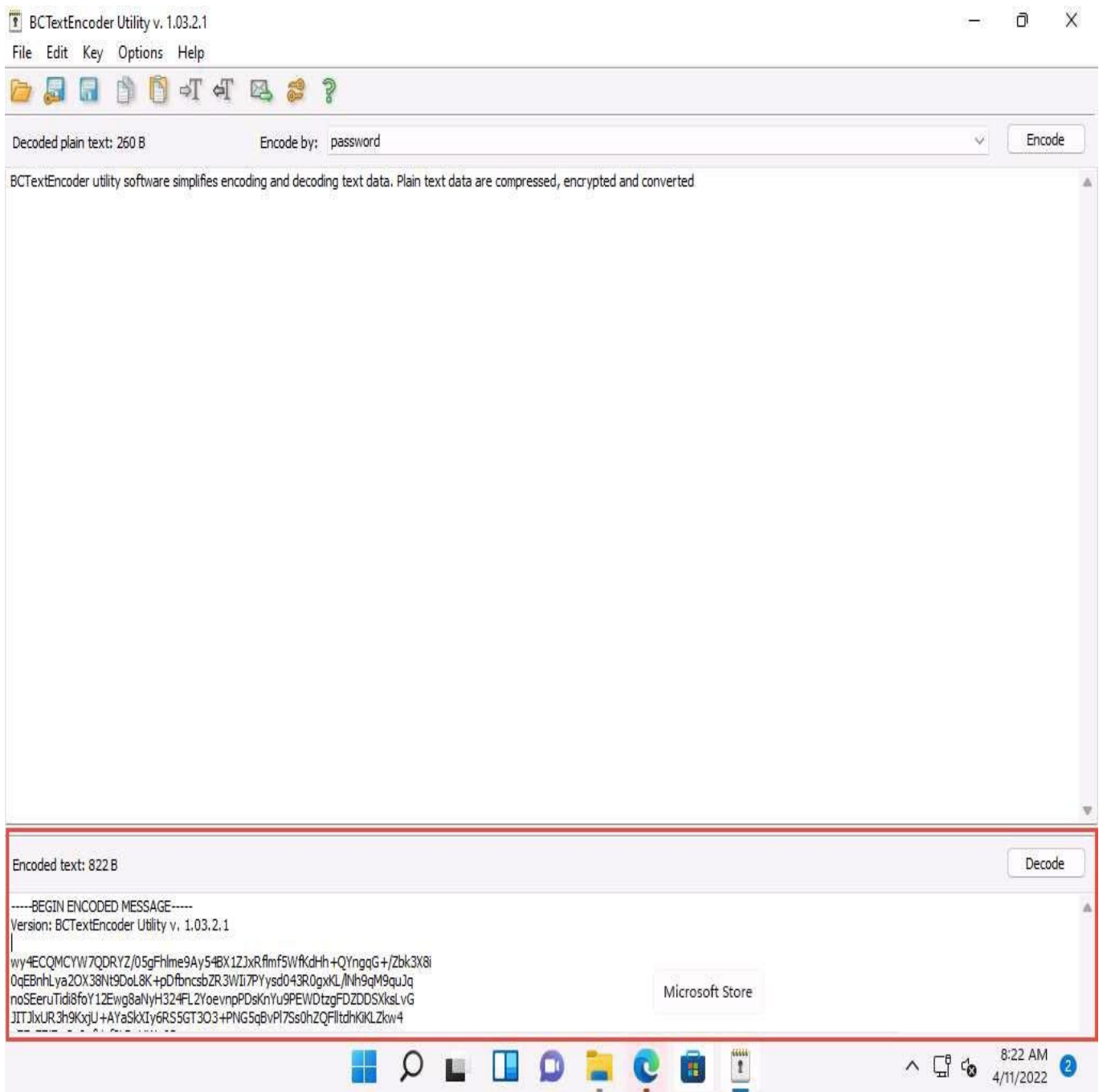
4. ☐ Ensure that the **password** option is selected in the **Encode by** field and click **Encode**.



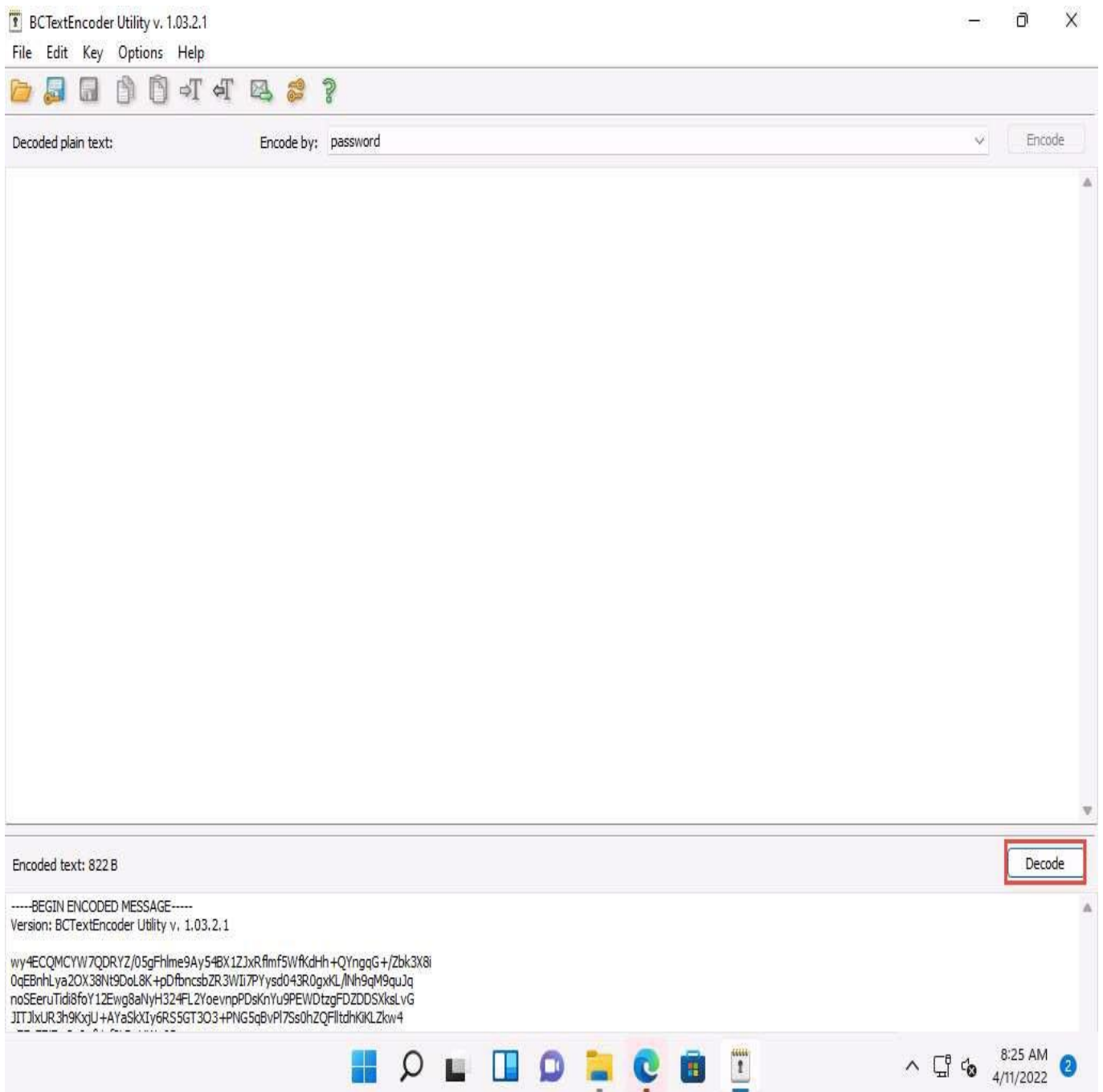
5. ☐ The **Enter password** pop-up appears; enter the password into the **Password** field and retype it in the **Confirm** field; then, click **OK**. (Here, we use the password **test@123**).



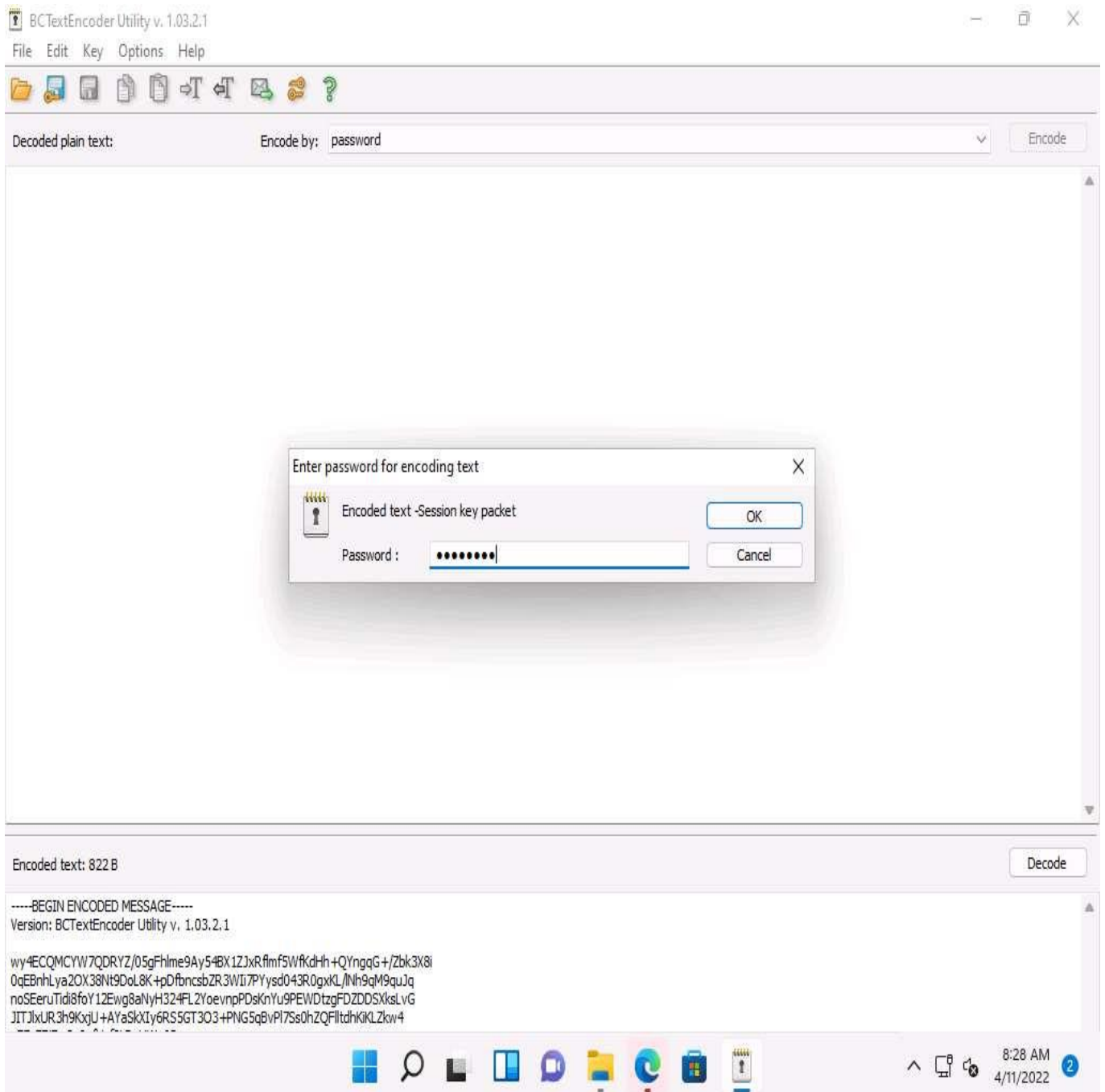
6. ☐ **BCTextEncoder** encodes the text and displays it in under the **Encoded text** section, as shown in the screenshot.



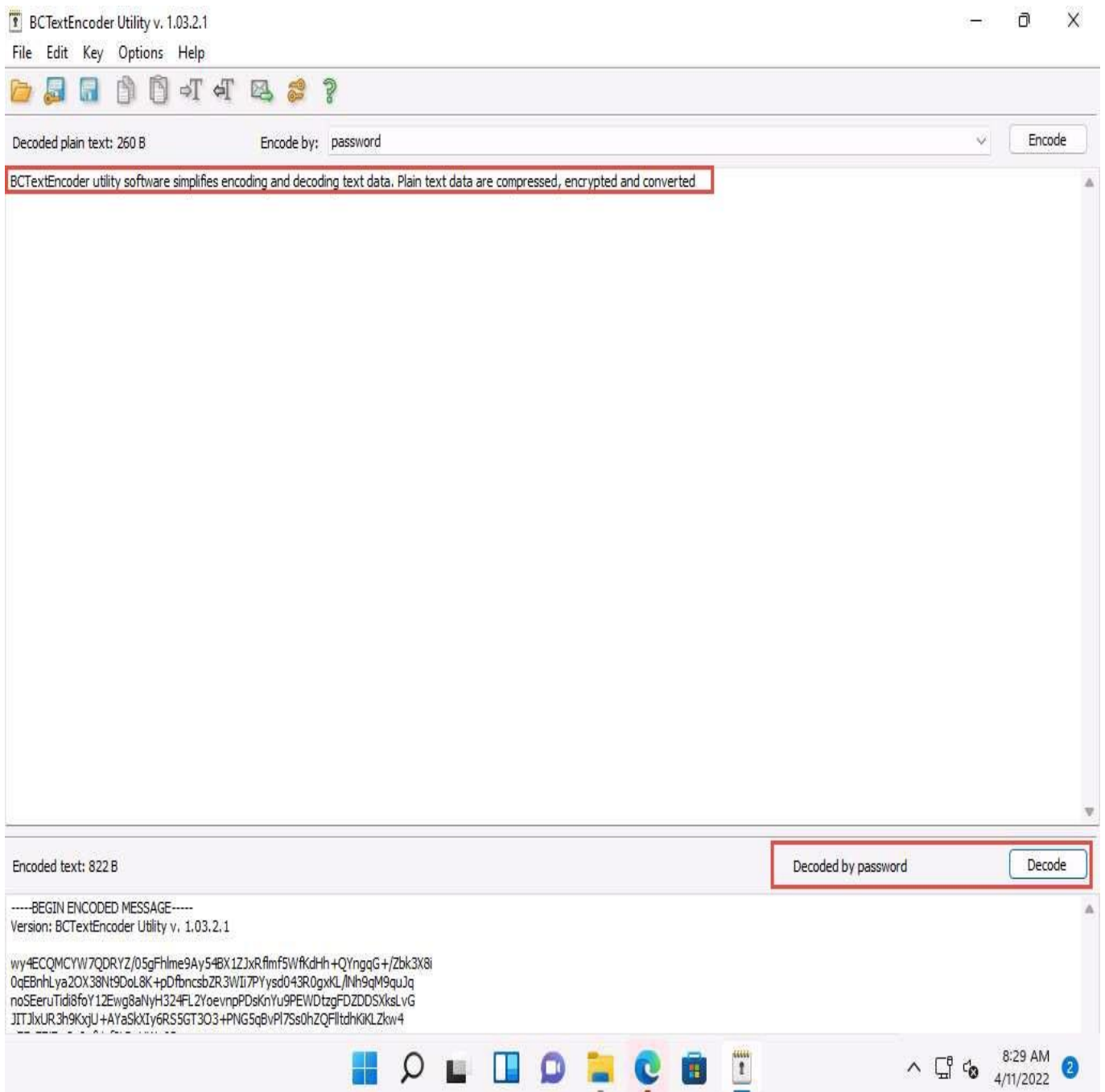
7. ☐ To decrypt the data, first, you need to clean the **Decoded plain text** in the clipboard, and then click the **Decode** button.



8. ☐ The **Enter password for encoding text** dialog-box appears; insert the **Password (test@123)** into the password field and click **OK**.



9. ☐ The decoded plain text appears under the **Decoded plain text** section, as shown in the screenshot.



In real-time, using this procedure, you can encode the text while sending it to the intended user along with the password used for encryption. The user for whom the text is intended should have the BCTextEncoder application installed on his/her machine. He/she will have to paste the encoded text into the **Encoded text** section and use the password you shared, to decode it to plain text.

10. ☐ This concludes the demonstration of encrypting and decrypting the data using BCTextEncoder.
11. ☐ You can also use other cryptography tools such as **AxCrypt** (<https://www.axcrypt.net>), **Microsoft Cryptography Tools** (<https://docs.microsoft.com>), and **Concealer** (<https://www.belightsoft.com>) to encrypt confidential data.
12. ☐ Close all open windows and document all the acquired information.