



COMPUTER NETWORK SECURITY

F2oCN – COURSEWORK 1

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Introduction

For this coursework we had been asked to carry out six tasks as follows

Task 1: Doing encryption

Task 2: Encryption modes

Task 3: Data Corruption

Task 4: Reflection on cipher and modes

Task 5: Hash sums

Task 6: Dictionary Attack

All this was done on Linux (CentOS 7 used via virtual box) and using Openssl. The overall goal of this coursework was to develop an understanding of cryptography as well as the various ciphers and modes.

Task 1: Doing Encryption

For this task we were tasked with encrypting a file with three different ciphers with each of three modes. I chose the following ciphers and the following modes:

Ciphers

1. aes-128
2. bf
3. camellia-128

Modes

1. ecb
2. cbc
3. ofb

Following is the required evidence

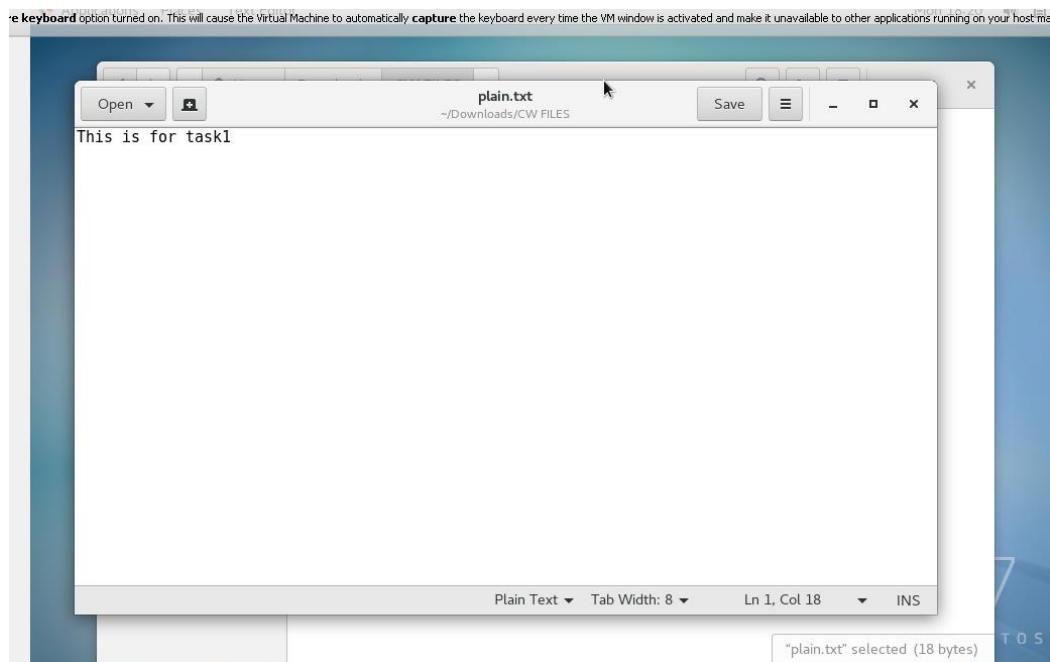


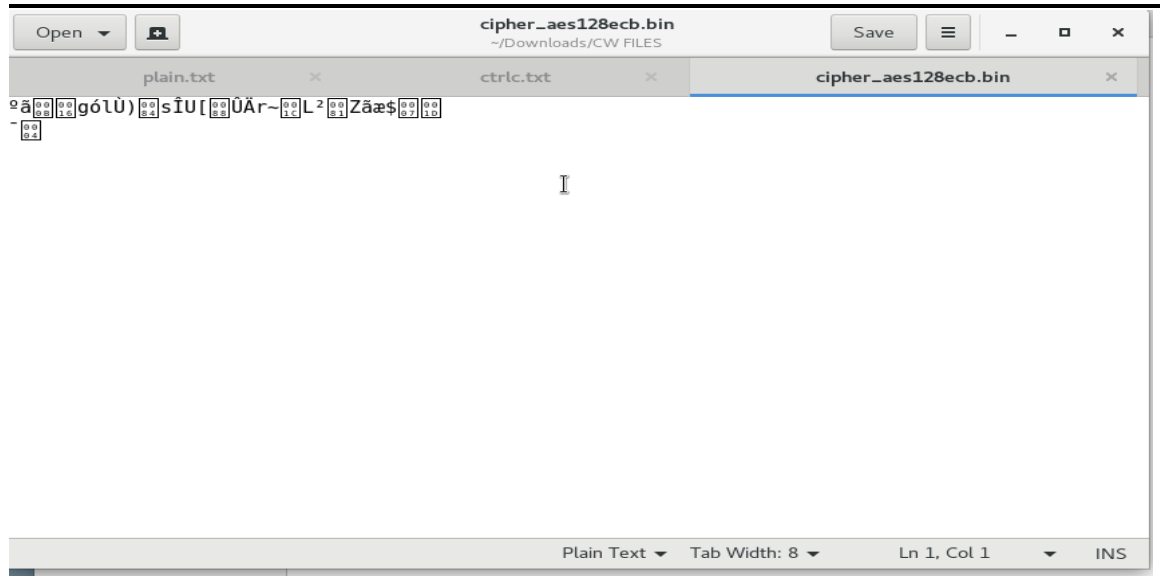
Figure 1.1

Figure 1.1 above shows the plain.txt containing some text

1. AES-128 Cipher

First done with ECB mode

```
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -aes-128-ecb -e -in plain.txt -out cipher_aes128ecb.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
warning: iv not use by this cipher
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$
```



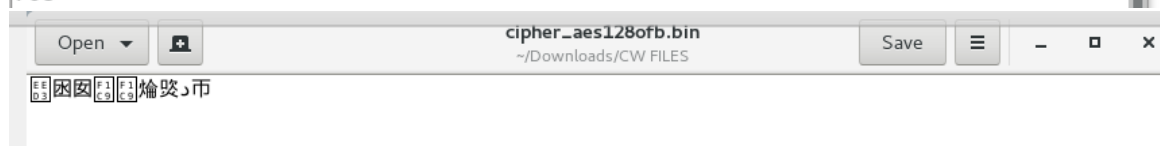
Next done using CBC mode

```
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in plain.txt-out  
cipher_aes128cbc.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 010203040506070
```



And the third mode of choice OFB

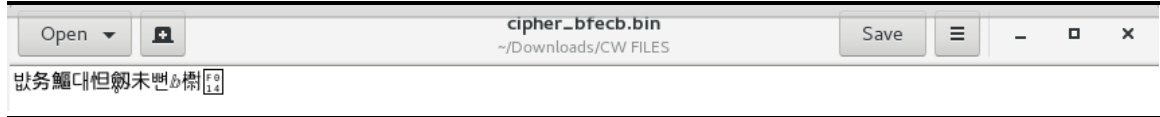
```
[jason@souza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -aes-128-ofb -e -in plain.txt -out cipher_aes128ofb.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
```



2. Bf Cipher

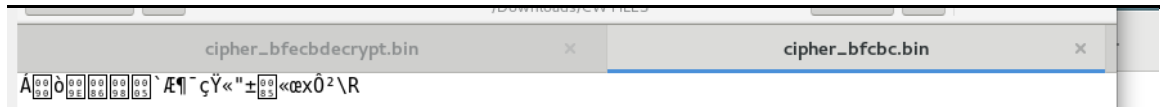
First done using the ECB mode

```
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -bf-cbc -e -in plain.txt -out cipher_bfcbc.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
```



Next done using the CBC mode

```
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -bf-cbc -e -in plain.txt -out cipher_bfcbc.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
```



Finally done using the OFB mode

```
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -bf-ofb -e -in plain.txt -out cipher_bfofb.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$
```

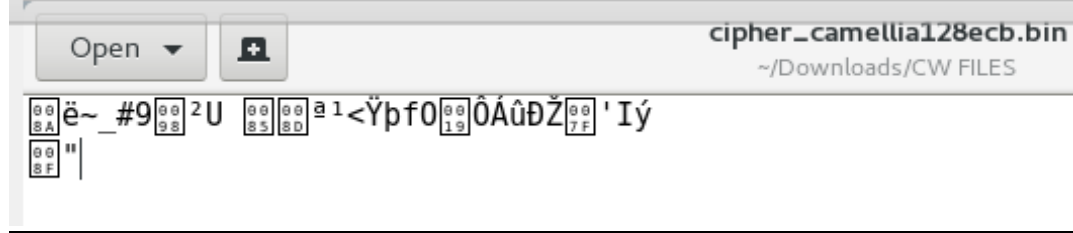


3. Camellia-128 Cipher

First done using the ECB mode

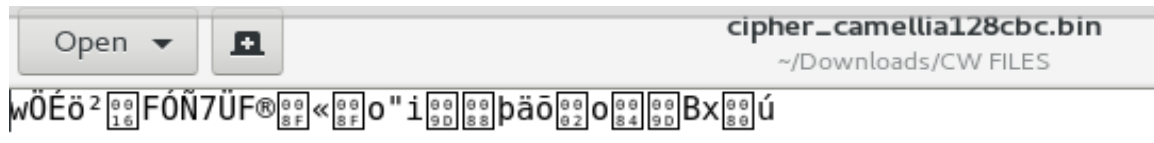
```
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -camellia-128-ecb -e -in plain.txt -out cipher_camellia128ecb.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
warning: iv not use by this cipher
```

keyboard option turned on. This will cause the Virtual Machine to automatically **capture** the keyboard every



Next done using the CBC mode

```
jason@souza@localhost: CW FILES$ openssl enc -camellia-128-cbc -e -in plain.t
ct -out cipher_camellia128cbc.bin \-K 00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff \-iv 010
2030405060708
```



Finally done using the OFB mode

```
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -camellia-128-ofb -e -in plain.txt -out cipher_camellia128ofb.bin \-K 0011223344556677889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
```



Task 2: Encryption Modes

For this task we had to encrypt the following picture (named pic_original.bmp)

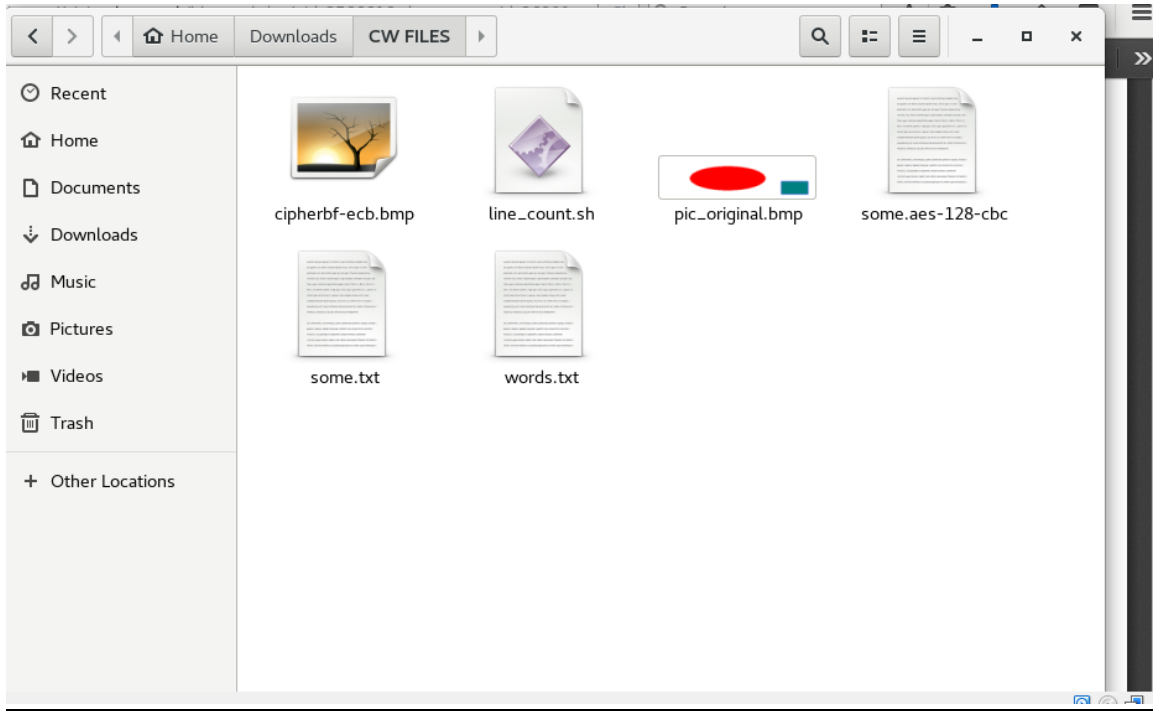


The picture above had to be encrypted using any cipher but only in the ECB and CBC (chain block cipher) so as to compare the two modes of encryption. **The cipher I chose was aes-128 with evidence as follows:**

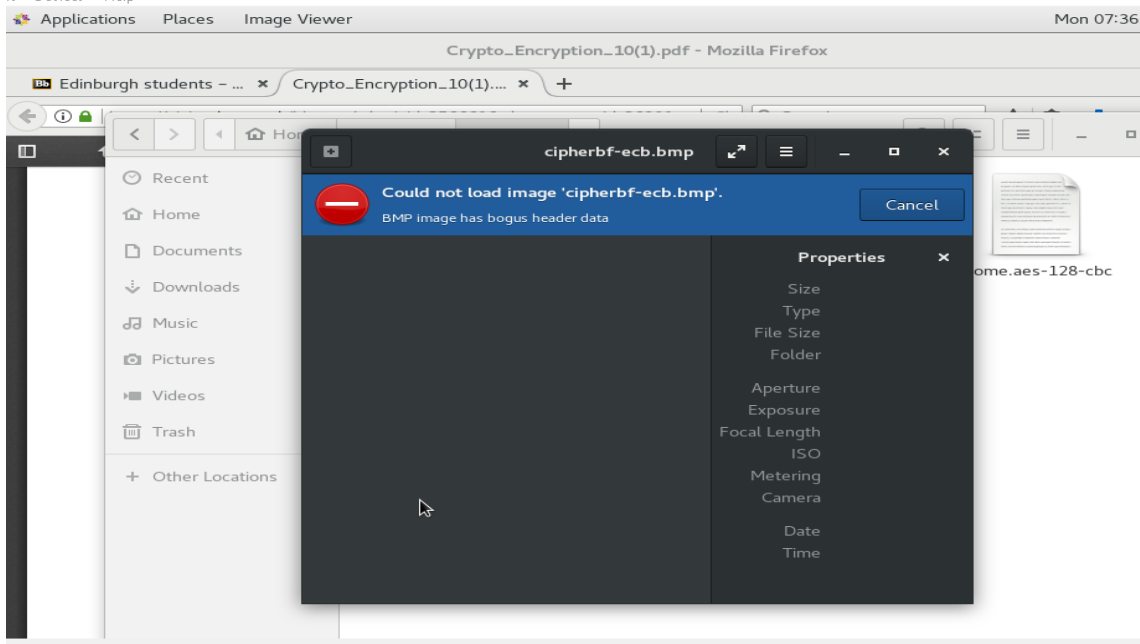
ECB

```
[jason@souza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -aes-128-ecb -e -in pic_original.bmp -out cipher_aes128ecb.bmp \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
```

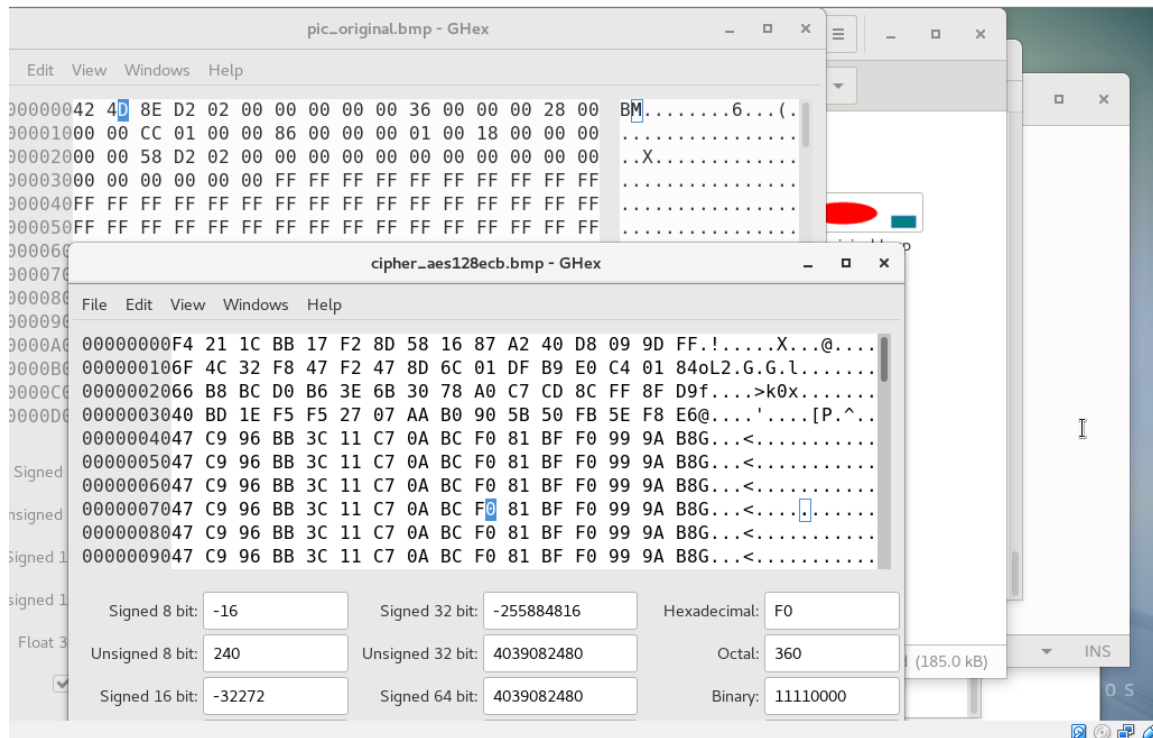
The encrypted file as shown in the directory



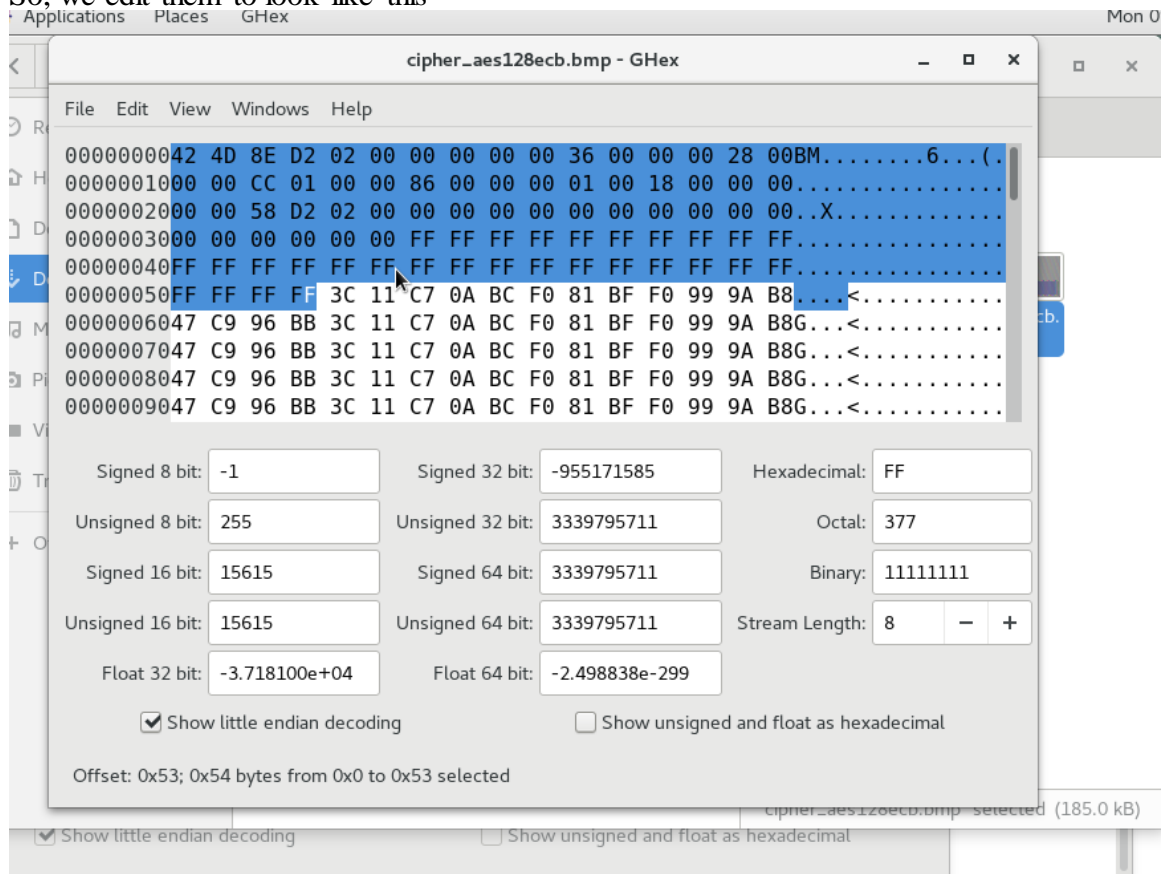
On opening the file, the following error appears as suggested in the coursework guidelines



On comparing the original bmp and the encrypted file in ghex we observe the headers are different(first 54 bytes)



So, we edit them to look like this



Then the following is observed:

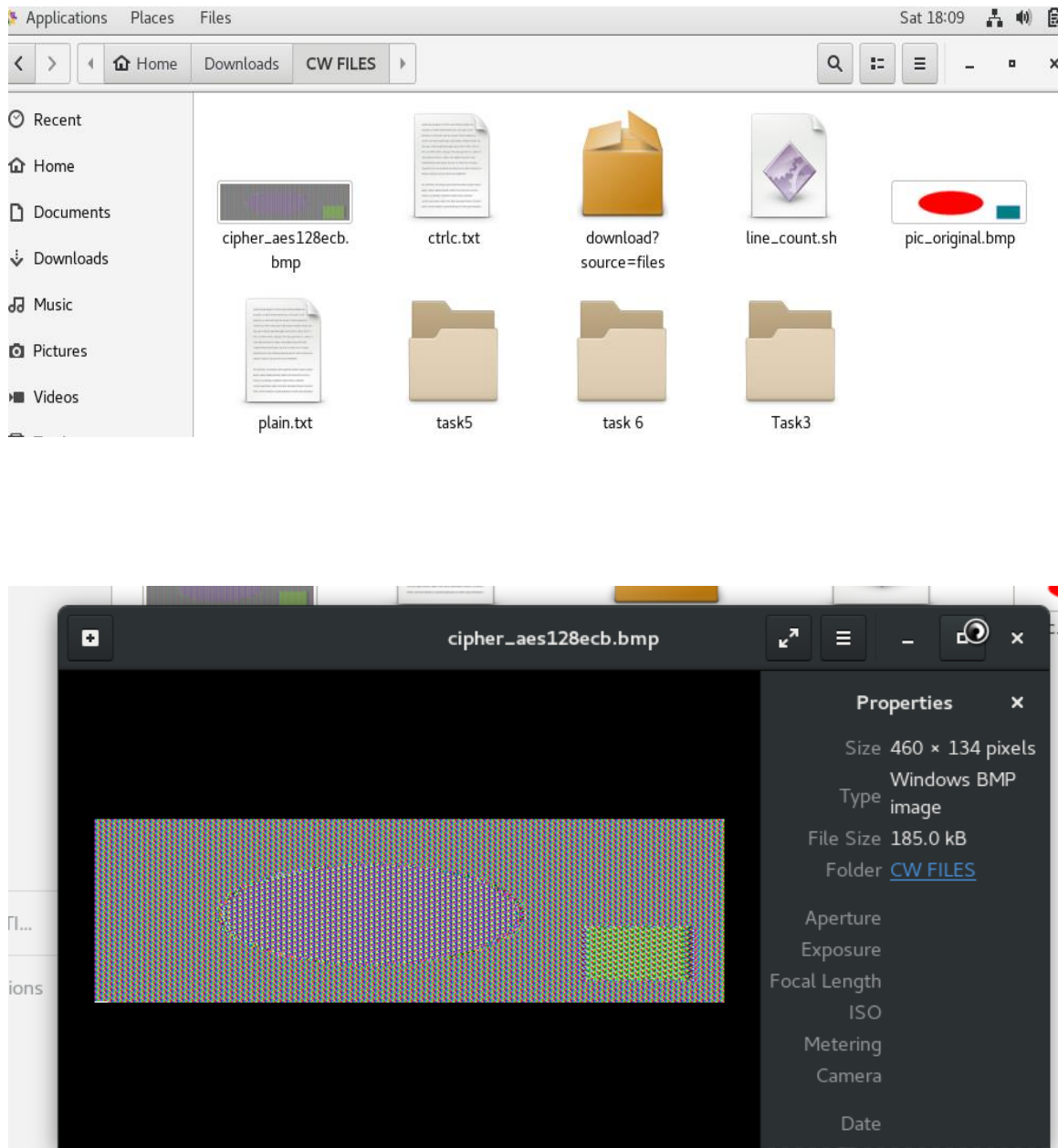
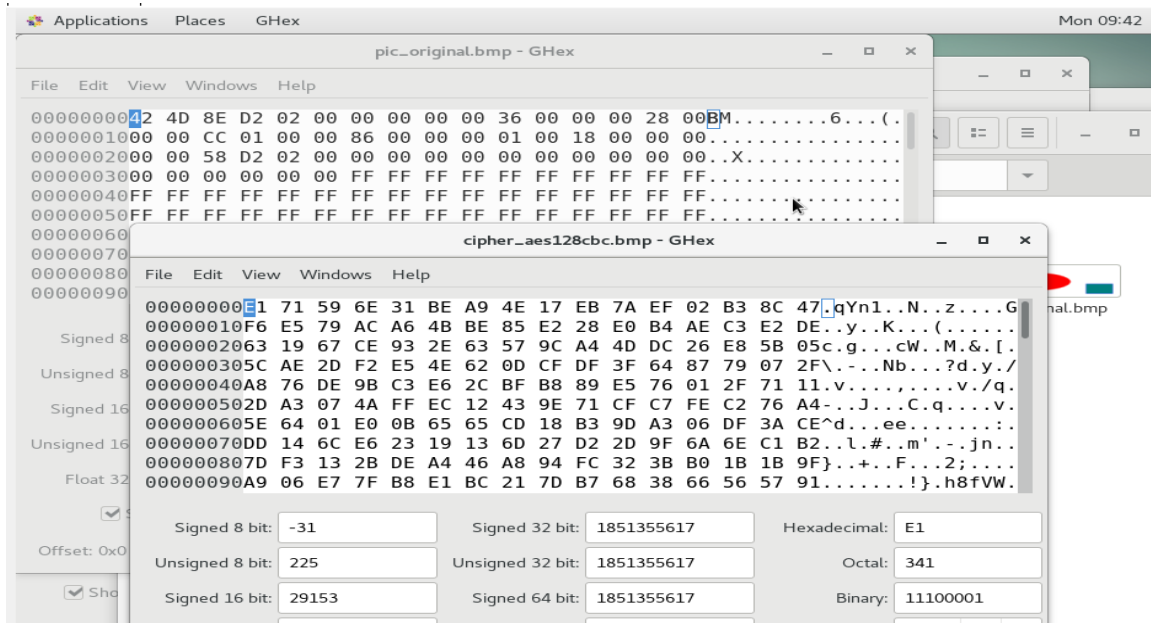
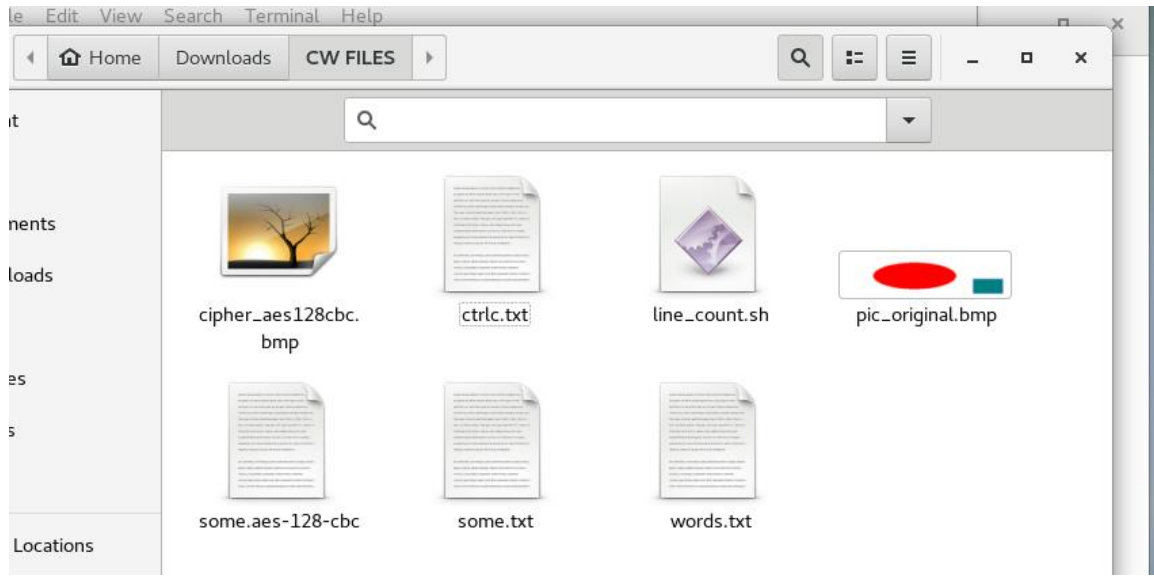


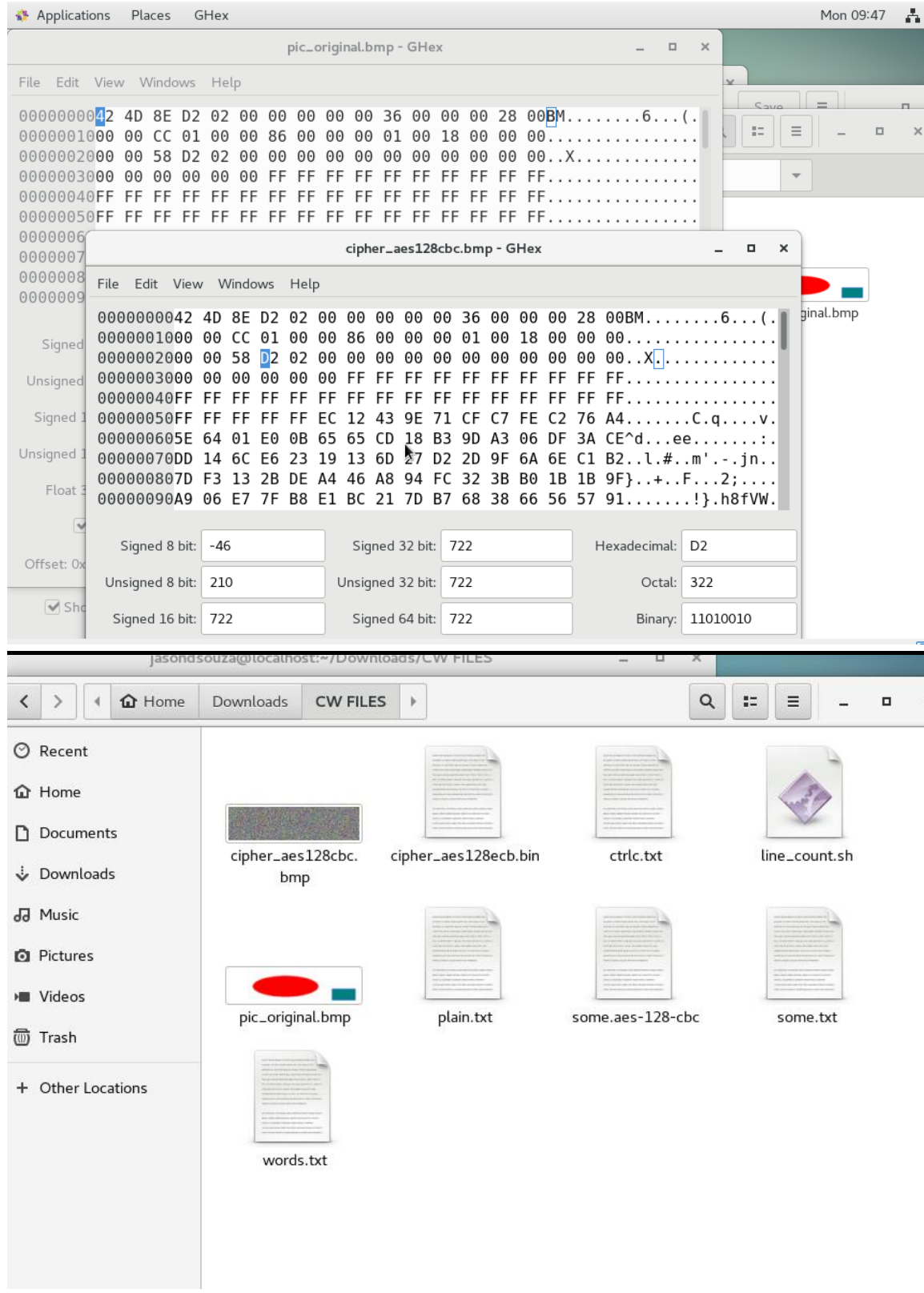
Figure 2.1

CBC

Similar steps as in the case of ecb

```
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in pic_original.  
bmp -out cipher_aes128cbc.bmp -K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff -iv 0102030  
405060708  
[jasondsouza@localhost CW FILES]$
```





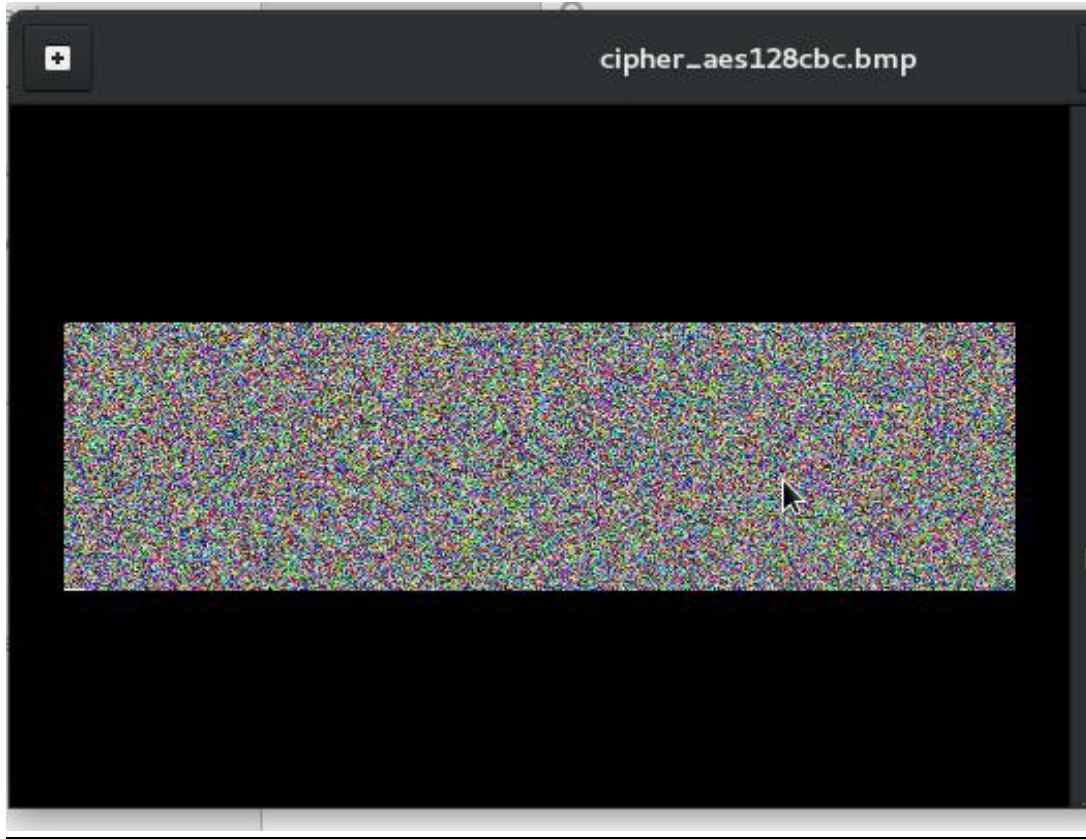


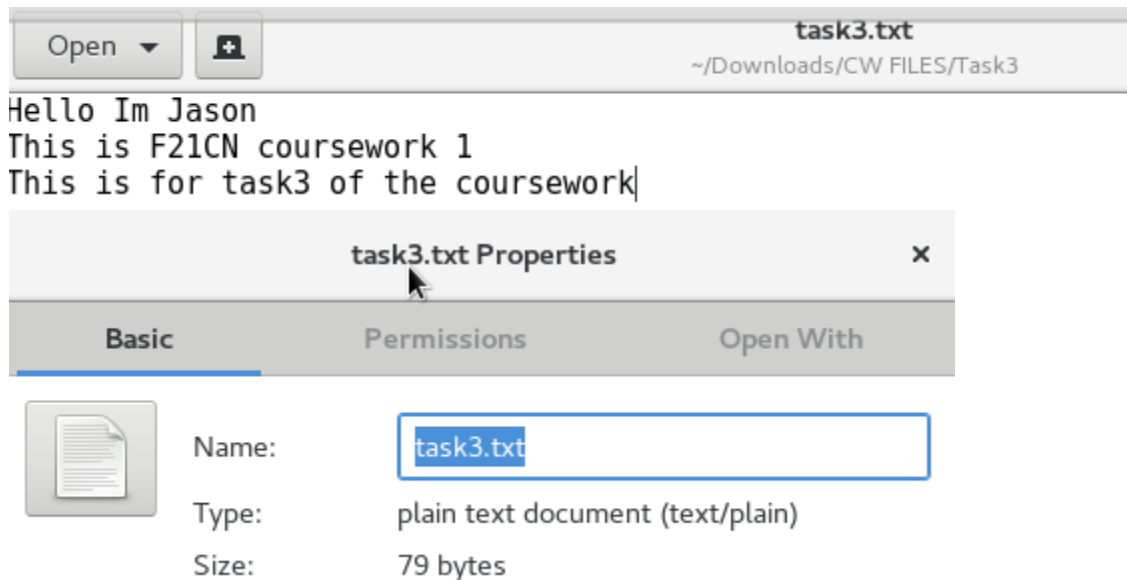
Figure 2.2

Observations

As can be inferred from the Figures 2.1 and 2.2 more of the picture is visible in the encrypted ECB image whereas nothing can be seen in the CBC image (all scrambled). From an image point of view ECB is better but from an encryption standpoint CBC is better (In the case of ECB it can be understood that the original picture must contain a square and a circle while this is not the case for the CBC image)

Task 3: Data Corruption

For this task we were asked to create a text file which was at least 64 bytes. Following is the file I made



We were then asked to encrypt this using the AES-128 cipher with the ECB, CBC, CFB and OFB modes as shown:

```
[jasondsouza@localhost Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-128-ecb -e -in task3.txt -out cipher_aes128ecb.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
warning: iv not use by this cipher

[jasondsouza@localhost Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in task3.txt -out cipher_aes128cbc.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708

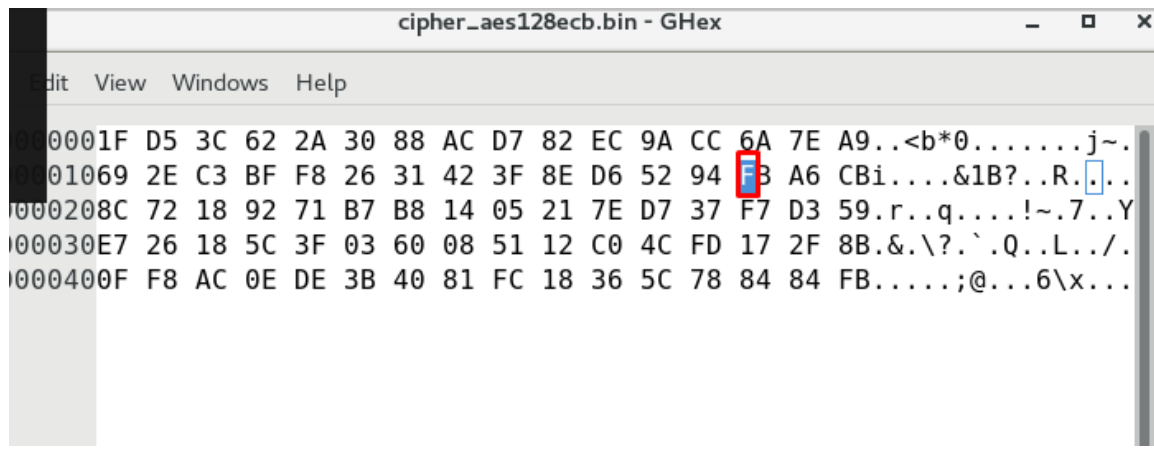
[jasondsouza@localhost Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-128-ofb -e -in task3.txt -out cipher_aes128ofb.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
[jasondsouza@localhost Task3]$

[jasondsouza@localhost Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cfb -e -in task3.txt -out cipher_aes128cfb.bin \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
```

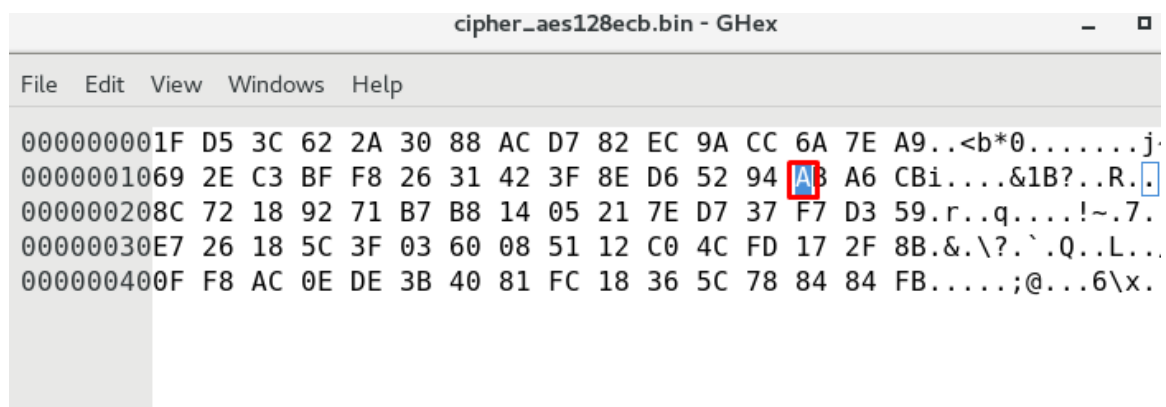
Then we were asked to change a single bit of the 30th byte to corrupt the encrypted file

EFB

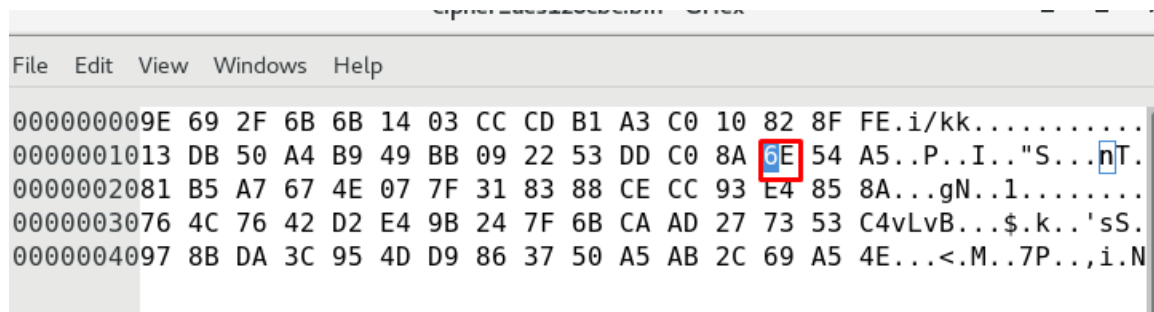
This is the original encrypted file

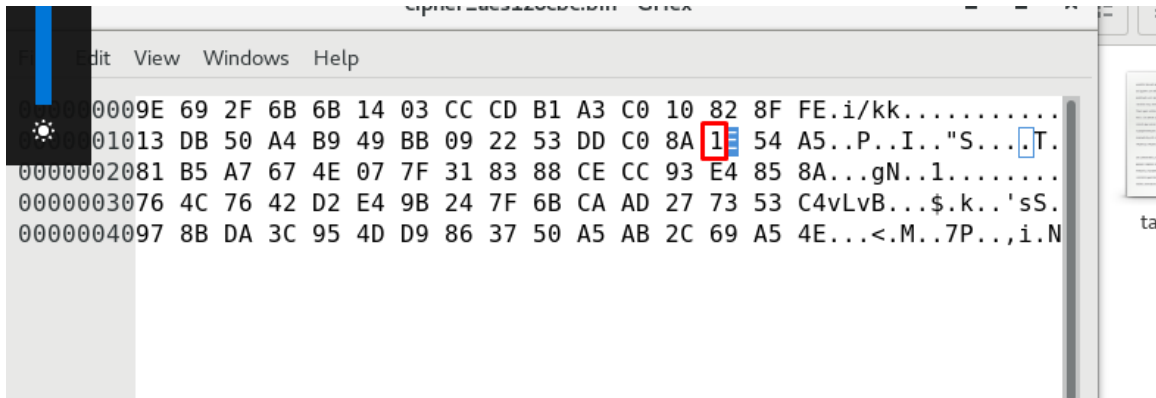
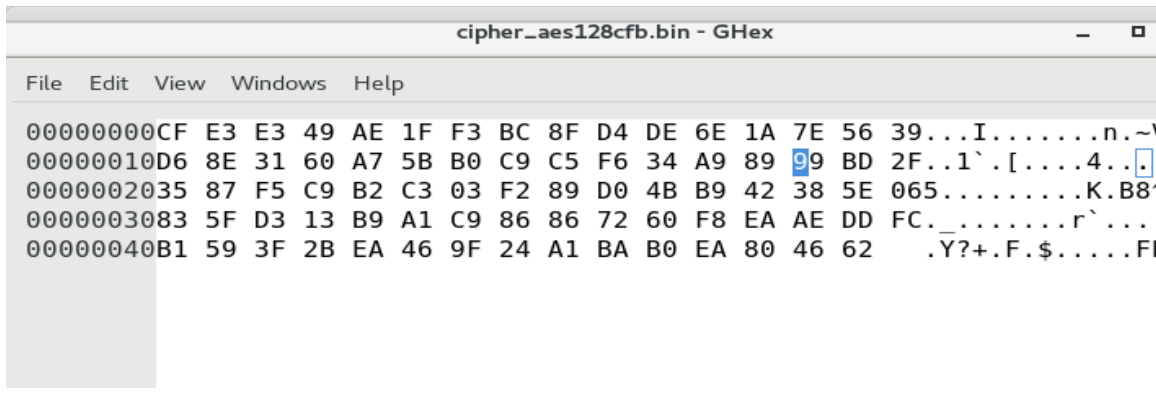
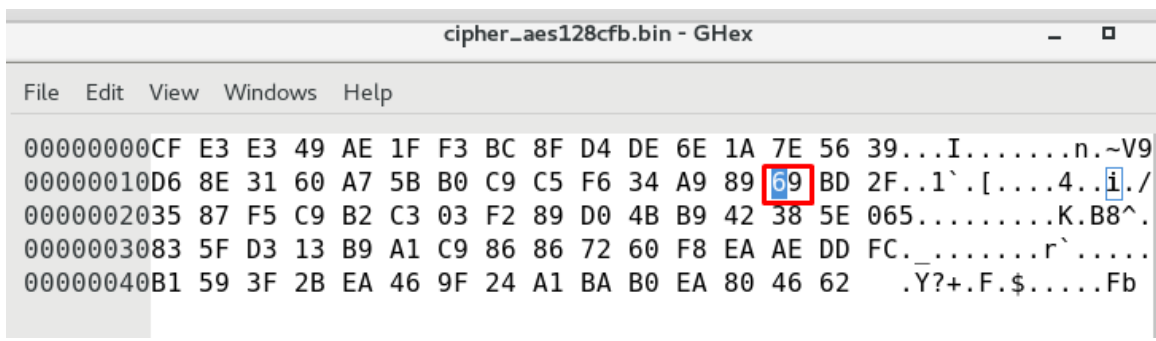


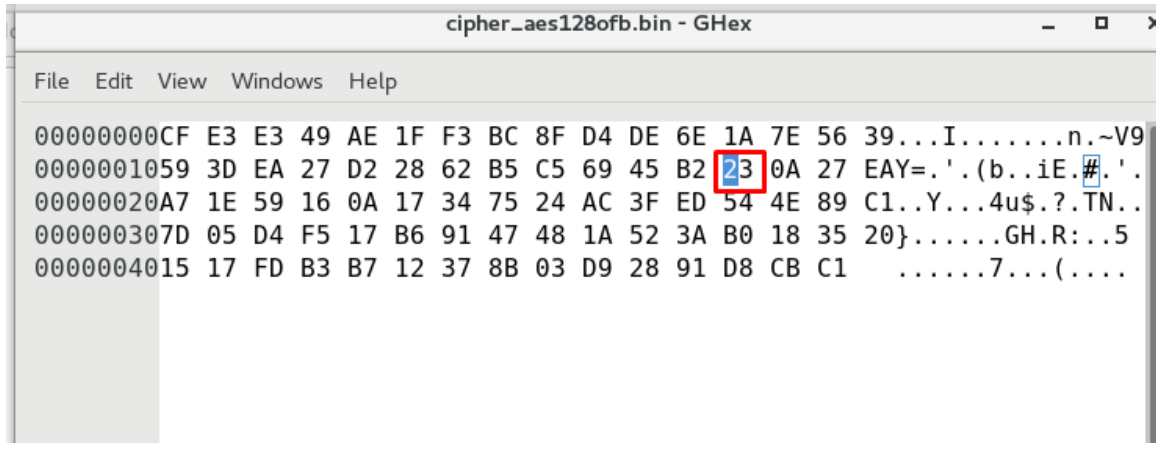
This is after changing the single digit of the 30th byte

**CBC**

Just like in the case of ECB the following is done for CBC, CFB and OFB.



**CFB****OFB**



My answer before task

This task asked to answer which of the corrupted encrypted files i.e. ECB, CBC, CFB or OFB would be best at recovering the corrupted information. I feel OFB (Output Feedback Mode) would be the better mode out of the 4 mentioned as it works as a stream cipher and has the advantages of a stream cipher (as soon as byte arrives it can be sent instead of waiting for blocks).

The Task

Decryption of the corrupted encrypted file was carried out

```
[jasondsouza@localhost Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-128-ecb -d -in cipher_aes128ecb.bin -out cipher_aes128ecbdecrypt.txt \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
warning: iv not use by this cipher
```

```
[jasondsouza@localhost Task3]$ openssl enc -aes-128-cfb -d -in cipher_aes128cfb.bin -out cipher_aes128cfbdecrypt.txt \-K 00112233445566778889aabbccddeeff \-iv 0102030405060708
```

Similar commands for cbc and ofb were used and the following files are produced (the decrypt.txts for the four modes)

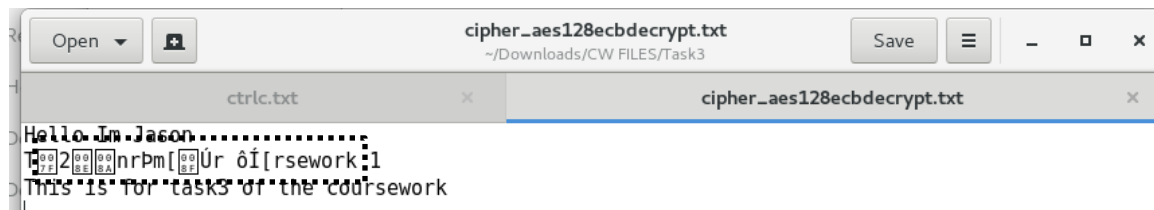


Figure 3.1

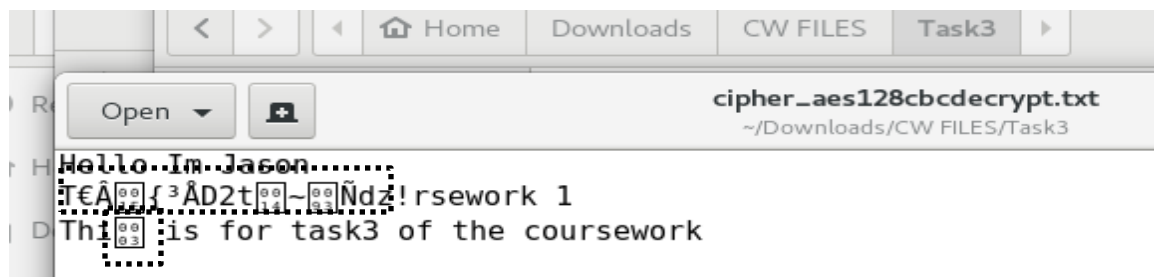
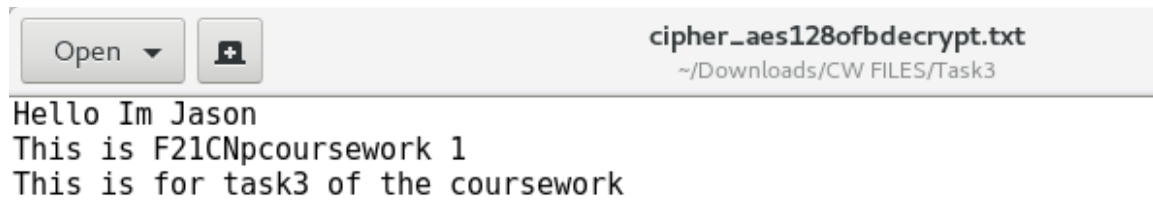


Figure 3.2



Figure 3.3**Figure 3.4**

In the ECB file only one block of data in the second line is affected (ECB encrypts each block independently) as can be seen in figure 3.1.

In the CBC file seen in figure 3.2, two blocks are affected one in the second line and one in the third line of my file.

As can be seen in figure 3.4, OFB has recovered most of the information from the correct file. Also, the most errors are observed in the CFB decrypted file shown in figure 3.3.

Task 4: Reflection on cipher and modes

In this task we are asked to reflect on the results of Tasks 2 and 3 in more detail.

Task 2 reflection

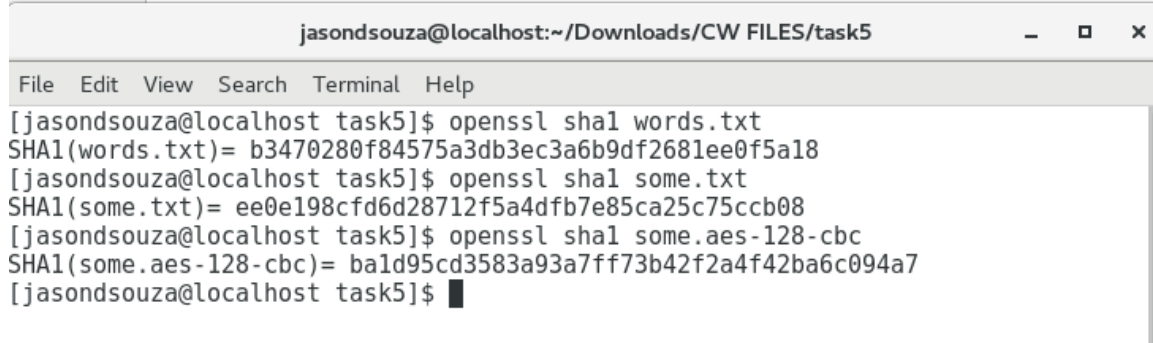
As done in task2, Figures 2.1 and 2.2 show the final encrypted images obtained using ECB and CBC modes respectively. Since we use encryption to keep data hidden, the ECB mode would not be preferred to the CBC mode. Main problem here is that blocks of plaintext that are identical are encrypted onto blocks of the ciphertext that are also identical which is why the data is not well hidden. We were asked to specifically answer which mode would be better to hide the highest degree of information and the answer is CBC because XOR is done before the encryption of each ciphertext block.

Task 3 reflection

As shown under task 3, OFB would be the best mode to use in case of fault during data transmission as almost all the text file was almost recovered.

Task 5: Hash sums

For this task we were asked to use openssl and check the SHA-1 checksum of three files (words.txt, some.txt, some.aes-128-cbc).

A screenshot of a terminal window titled 'jasondsouza@localhost:~/Downloads/CW FILES/task5'. The terminal shows the execution of three 'openssl sha1' commands. The first command for 'words.txt' returns 'b3470280f84575a3db3ec3a6b9df2681ee0f5a18'. The second command for 'some.txt' returns 'ee0e198cfd6d28712f5a4dfb7e85ca25c75ccb08'. The third command for 'some.aes-128-cbc' returns 'bald95cd3583a93a7ff73b42f2a4f42ba6c094a7'. The terminal window has a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Search', 'Terminal', and 'Help'.

```
jasondsouza@localhost:~/Downloads/CW FILES/task5
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[jasondsouza@localhost task5]$ openssl sha1 words.txt
SHA1(words.txt)= b3470280f84575a3db3ec3a6b9df2681ee0f5a18
[jasondsouza@localhost task5]$ openssl sha1 some.txt
SHA1(some.txt)= ee0e198cfd6d28712f5a4dfb7e85ca25c75ccb08
[jasondsouza@localhost task5]$ openssl sha1 some.aes-128-cbc
SHA1(some.aes-128-cbc)= bald95cd3583a93a7ff73b42f2a4f42ba6c094a7
[jasondsouza@localhost task5]$
```

Figure 5.1

Figure 5.1 shows the commands used to check the checksum of the files.

Following are the answers to the questions asked

1. Comparing these values to those given in the coursework guidelines, the checksum of some.txt is different.
2. The cryptographic concept here is that of data integrity.
3. Even if a few bytes are different/tampered with the checksum will be different so yes it can be used to check if files from origin are the same or been tampered with
4. The checksums are of same length as whatever the input size the output is of fixed length (MD5's is 128 while SHA-1's is 160 bytes)

Task 6: Dictionary Attack

For this task we were asked to write a bash script that provides the key used to encode a file. The shell script I wrote was named task6.sh and requires 3 arguments to run on the shell

`./task6.sh <file with possible keys> <any plaintext file> <Decrypted file>`

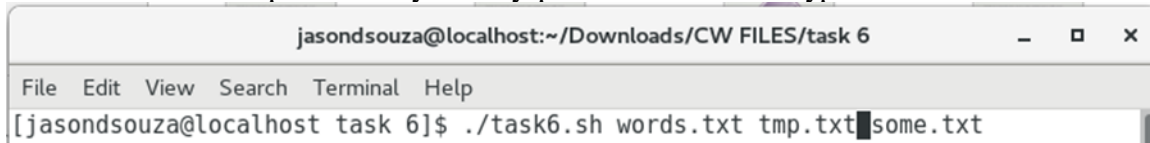


Figure 6.1

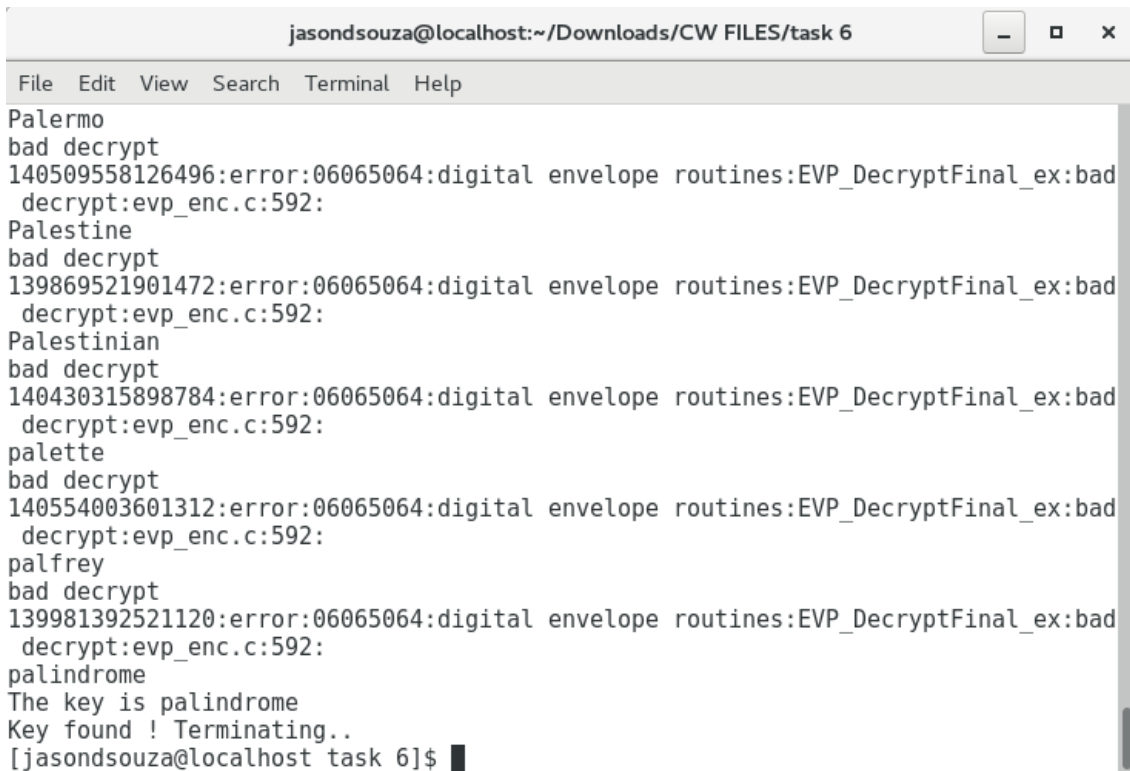


Figure 6.2

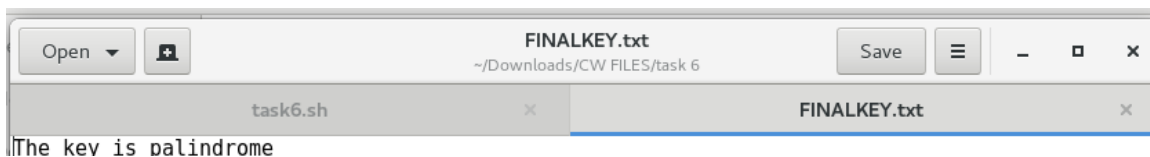


Figure 6.3

Figures 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 show the working of my script and following I have pasted my script code

I used

```
openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -d -in some.aes-128-cbc -out $compare -nosalt  
-k $LINE
```

Instead of

```
openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -d -in some.aes-128-cbc -out $compare -nosalt  
-K $LINE
```

This was done keeping in mind the coursework guidelines (iv NOT specified)

Note: The shell script copied from my linux machine and pasted in the following page was beautified using the website - <http://hilit.me/>

```
#!/bin/bash
# Simple line count example, using bash provided by Hans Wolfgang-Loidl
# Edits made to be compatible with coursework 1 to find the decryption key
by Jason Shawn D'Souza H00202543
# with the scenarios of the coursework guidelines
# Bash tutorial: http://linuxconfig.org/Bash\_scripting\_Tutorial#8-2-read-file-into-bash-array
# My scripting linked:
http://www.macs.hw.ac.uk/~hwloidl/docs/index.html#scripting
#
# Usage: ./task6.sh <file with possible keys> <a file to compare decrypted
text with possible key> <the actual decrypted file>
#eg: task6.sh words.txt compare.txt some.txt    ( NOTE: compare.txt has to
be plaintext file and some.txt should contain the decrypted text
# -----
-----

# Link filedescriptor 10 with stdin
exec 10<&0
# stdin replaced with a file supplied as a first argument
exec < $1
in=$1
compare=$2
some=$3
key="FINALKEY.txt"
while read LINE
do
    echo $LINE
    SSL=`openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -d -in some.aes-128-cbc -out $compare
-nosalt -k $LINE`
#echo SSL
#Nested if loop this first if condition is to check the exit status of the
above command
#Using line_count.sh as reference this condition was modified( -eq instead
of -ne)
#Since the exit status would be 0 for a successfull decryption
if [ $? -eq 0 ]; then
#This condition compares the decryption with key from a line of the
inputted file to that
#of the already provided decrypted file on vision
if [[ $(<$compare) == $(<$some) ]] ;then
    echo "The key is $LINE"
    #echo $LINE > keystmp.txt
    echo "The key is $LINE" > $key
    echo "Key found ! Terminating.."
    exit 1
fi
fi
done
echo "The key is `cat ${key}`"

# restore stdin from filedescriptor 10
#and close filedescriptor 10
exec 0<&10 10<&-
```


Summary

As mentioned in the Introduction, a set of six tasks had to be completed. Each task was completed with ease the exception being task 6 where various iterations of shell scripts were tested. Throughout this coursework, I learnt about the diverse types of ciphers and modes available. The results I expected before I did a task was the same after I did a task, this was due to the good teaching and lecture material made available to me. The only real problems were in task 6 where I had problems where the program would accept multiple keys (this was before I added the exit 1 and during the testing phase) but this was solved in the end with evidence being the code I have provided. **To conclude, all tasks of this coursework have been completed successfully and the required evidence has been provided.**