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1. ABSTRACT

Long-distance communication between two parties has always been vulnerable to interception. A variety of techniques, including cryptography, VPN tunneling, end-to-end encryption, and steganography, have been developed regarding security concerns for data that is being moved or stored.

Steganography is the art of concealing data on plain site. In a conventional computer file (such as an image, text file, or audio file), the unused bit is replaced by the bits of secret information using digital steganography.

Cryptography is a method of using advanced mathematical principles in storing and transmitting data in a particular form so that only those, for whom it is intended for, can read and process it.

The project will be able to encrypt and decrypt the data as well as hide the data in other images, audio files, and PDF files, making it impossible for the data to be detected.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The rapid development of digital media technology has been driven by the need for a quick and effective means of storing and sharing information. The technology at our time has given us a time and space-efficient way to store and transfer those data, but the data are still vulnerable to attack, directly on the host or while being sent. As a result, we needed to take a number of security measures, such as access restrictions, VPN tunneling, steganography, and cryptography.

Cryptography has been dated to be in use even before the Egyptian civilization and we still use the technique. So, it is no doubt that cryptography is the best tool to conseal an information. However, Cryptography only hides the message, which works most of the time. But with the right key, one can easily decrypt the encrypted message. One of the best measure that could be taken to prevent unauthorized access it to hide the encrypted data such that its existence itself is hidden. This is where Steganography comes in.

Integrating these two, cryptography and steganography, is the way I chose to ensure that the application is robust. Therefore, this system will be able to maintain the security of the information being transmitted.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

We aim to acheive data security by encrypting the data and hiding its existence in plain site. In order to acheive this, here are some core objective of the project

1. Encrypting the data through cryptography.
2. After encryption, the file is then embedded into other media format using steganography. This adds another layer of security to the data by hiding it in plain site.
3. Finally, data in the carrier media is then extracted to get the embedded file from carrier media.

4. SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE

Data security through steganography and cryptography encompass the protection of sensitive information, ensuring confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity.

1. Steganography allows one to exchange sensitive information without attracting attention.
2. It can also be used to securely store confidential data by hiding it within seemingly innocuous files.
3. Implementing both steganography and cryptography ensures that sensitive information remains confidential and accessible only to authorized parties.

By implementing strong data security measures, including steganography and cryptography, organizations can demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding sensitive information.

5. LIMITATION

The Limitation of the project are:

1. This project only allows .wav audio format.
2. Only lossless image file format could be used like .png.
3. Being a standalone desktop application, the exchange of the password to decrypt should be done through another secure channel.

6. LITERATURE STUDY

6.1. REVIEW

The best security measure that concerned entities could take to protect their confidential data is to conceal its existence. The next step that could be taken to protect those data is to encrypt the data with a robust encryption algorithm, such that a third party which got hold of the information could not figure out the actual content of those data. Thus this project will implement the security practice of Steganography and cryptography.

Steganography is the art and science of hiding communication of the information. This project system thus embeds hidden content in unremarked- able cover media so as not to arouse an eaves-dropper's suspicion.

Cryptography converts data into a format that is unreadable for an unauthorized user, allowing it to be transmitted without unauthorized entities decoding it back into a readable format, thus maintaining the security of the data. This Project intend to provide user with a symmetric encryption algorithm like AES-256.

6.2. EXISTING SYSTEM

6.2.1. **OpenegSto**

OpenStego provides data hiding as well as Watermarking. OpenStego perform Steganography effectively with image files of type JPEG, JPG, BMP, GIF, PNG etc. The output of OpenStego is a PNG file. It is an open source and free Steganography tool developed using Java. It also provide watermarking which is used to detect an unauthorized copy of image files. But it does not support audio steganography and encryption of the files.

6.2.2. **RSteg**

RSteg is also image Steganography tool developed using Java. Performing Steganography using RSteg is simple. All that is require is an Image file, text to be encrypted and password to be set for decryption. The final output is stored as PNG. The stegano-image plug into the same Steganography detection tool for decryption along with a password.

Although similar kind of software are available to perform the steganography on both images and audio steganography ,the is no any software that are equipped with all the feature like steganography using audio , image , video and pdf files with additional encryption technique. Thus this project of our tried to bring together all this features in a single desktop program.

6.3. BASIC STRUCTURE OF STEGANOGRAPHY

The basic structure of Steganography is made up of three components.

1. **Carrier** - The carrier can be a painting, a digital image, audio file, even a TCP/IP packet among other things. It is the object that will 'carry' the hidden message.
2. **Message** - The message (hidden) is being carried by the object (carrier).
3. **Password** - A key is used to decode/decipher/discover the hidden message.

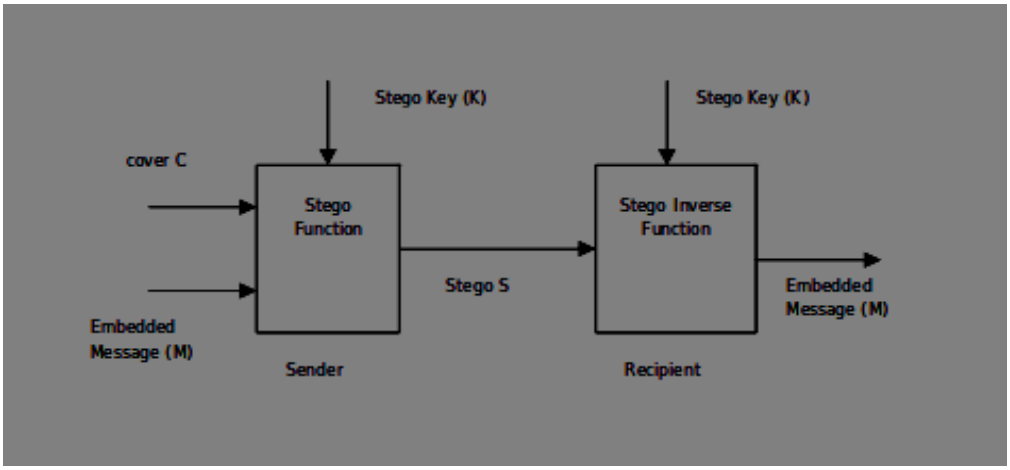


Figure 1: basic steganograph structure

Here, the carrier media is given as input along with the file that is to be hidden in that media. The file is hidden into the carrier media using the steganographic algorithm I.e. LSB algorithm in this project. In stegano analysis, the message or the hidden file is extracted from the carrier media.

6.4. CRYPTOGRAPHY VS STEGANOGRPAHY

Steganography is not the same as cryptography. Cryptography hides the contents of a secret message from malicious people, whereas steganography conceals the existence of the message. In cryptography, the structure of a message is scrambled to make it meaningless and unintelligible unless the decryption key is available. In contrast, steganography does not alter the structure of the secret message, but hides it inside a cover media so it cannot be seen.

6.5. STEGANOGRAPHY TECHNIQUES:

Digital data can be embedded in many ways into the carrier media, Using either the spatial domain (LSB Replacement, Matrix embedding, Histogram modification) or transform domain (Discrete cosine Transform, Fast Fourier Transform) steganographic algorithm, the message is hidden into the cover media and the stegno media is obtained. The most common techniques of data hiding in images are:

1. **Appending data bytes at the end of carrier:** The secret data bytes are appended at the end of the carrier media such as image and the carrier media is then compressed to its original size to reduce the suspects of having secret data. Advantage is that it is very easy to implement. Disadvantage is it is very easy to detect and get the message.
2. **Transform domain based embedding**: Transform Embedding Techniques embed the data by modulating coefficients in a transform domain, such as Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT), Discrete Cosine Transform (DCT) (used in JPEG compression) or Discrete Wavelet Transform (DWT). Modifying the transform coefficients provides more robustness to the compression (especially to lossy), cropping, or some image processing, than LSB techniques.
3. **Least significant bit (LSB) insertion:**LSB techniques embed the message bits directly into the least significant bit plane of the cover image in a deterministic sequence. Here the binary representations of the secret data have been taken and the LSB of each byte is overwritten. This results in a change with too low amplitude to be human-perceptible. LSB embedding is simple, popular and many use these technique.

6.6. LSB ENCODING ALGORITHM

1. Carrier media and the Message file along with the key is inputted.
2. Convert the message file into the binary format and generate the stream of bits
3. Bytes representing the carrier-media is taken in a single array and byte stream is generated.
4. Message bits are taken sequentially and then are placed in LSB of the byte representing the carrier media

5. Repeat the step 4. Till all the message bits are placed in image.

Output: stegno-media

6.7. LSB DECODING ALGORITHM

1. The Stegano-media and the key is inputted.

2. Array of the bytes are generated.

3. The total number of bits of message and the bytes representing the stego-media are taken.

4. The bits stream of the message is generated.

5. Available bits are grouped to form bytes such that each byte represents single ASCII character.

6. Character are stored in the text file.

Output: Recovered hidden message text file.

6.8. ADVANCED ENCRYPTION STANDARD

The **Advanced Encryption Standard** (**AES**), also known by its original name **Rijndael** is a specification for the encryption of electronic data established by the US. National Institute of Standard and Technology in 2001. [*Wikipedia*].

AES is widely adopted symmetric encryption algorithm after its declassified .In 2003, The US government begin to use AES as the encryption standard for protecting classified information. AES is a symmetric key symmetric block cipher. It comprises three block ciphers: AES-128, AES-192, and AES-256.Each cipher encrypts and decrypts data in the block of 128bits using the cryptographic keys of 128,192, 256 bits respectively.

6.8.1. OPERATION OF AES

AES is an iterative cipher .It is based on the substitution-permutation network'. It comprises of a series of linked operation, some of which involve replacing inputs by specific outputs (substitution) and permutation.

AES performs all its computations on bytes rather than bits. Hence AES treats the 128 bits of a plain text block as 16bytes.These 16bytes are arranged in four columns and four rows for processing as a matrix.

The AES encryption algorithm defines a number of transformations that are to be performed on data stored in an array. The first step of the cipher is to put the data into an array; after which the cipher transformations are repeated over a number of encryption rounds. AES uses 10 rounds for 128 bit keys, 12 rounds for 192 bit keys and 14 rounds for 256 bit keys. Each of these rounds uses different 128-bit round key which is calculated from the original AES key.

6.8.1.1. ENCRYPTION PROCESS

The AES encryption algorithm defines a number of transformations that are to be performed on data stored in an array. The first step of the cipher is to put the data into an array; after which the cipher transformations are repeated over a number of encryption rounds. AES uses 10 rounds for 128 bit keys, 12 rounds for 192 bit keys and 14 rounds for 256 bit keys. Each of these rounds uses different 128-bit round key which is calculated from the original AES key.

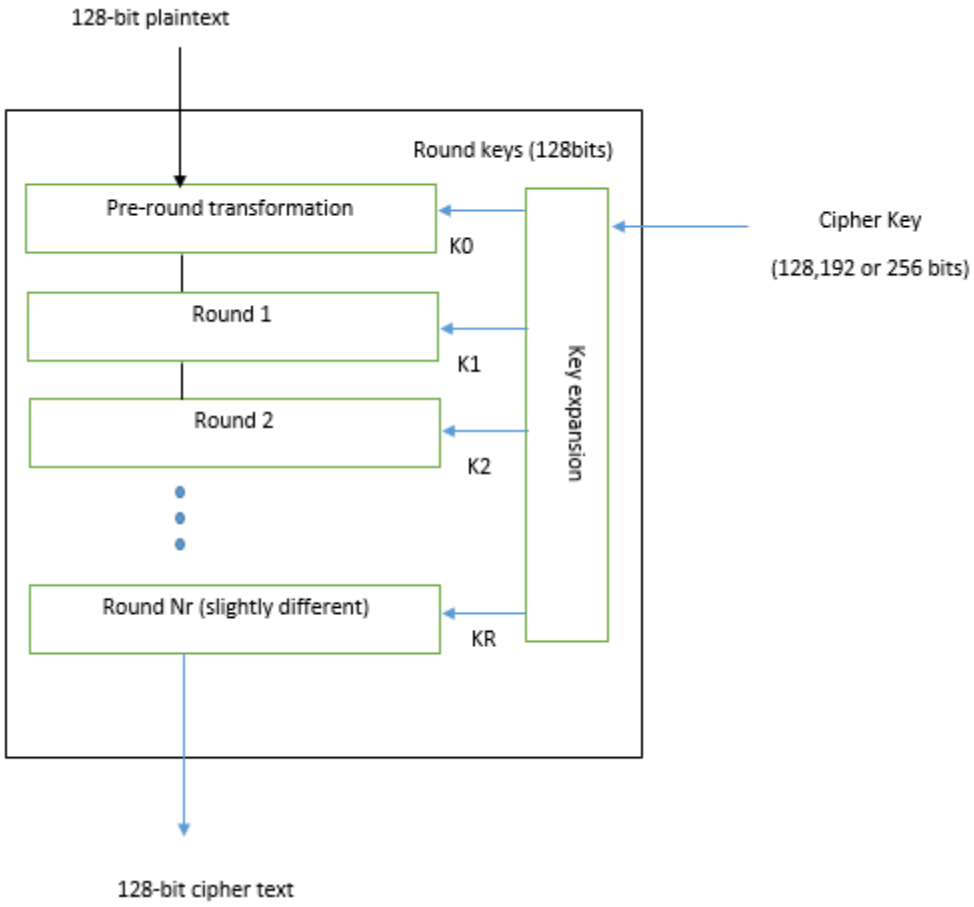


Figure 2:AES encryption

AES consists of four different types of layers, each of them manipulates all 128 bits of the data path (also called states).

Each round, with the exception of the first, consists of all three layers and they are

Bytes Substitution layer: The 16 input bytes are substituted by looking up a fixed table (S box) given in design. The result is in a matrix of four rows and four columns

Shift Rows: Each of the four rows of the matrix is shifted to the left.

Mix columns: Here this function takes input the four byte of one column and outputs four completely new bytes which replaces the original column. This step is not performed in the last round

Add round key: The 16bytes of matrix are now considered as 128 bits and are XORed to the 129bits of the round key. If this is the last round then the output is the cipher text. Otherwise the resulting 128bits are interpreted as 16 byte and we begin another similar round.\

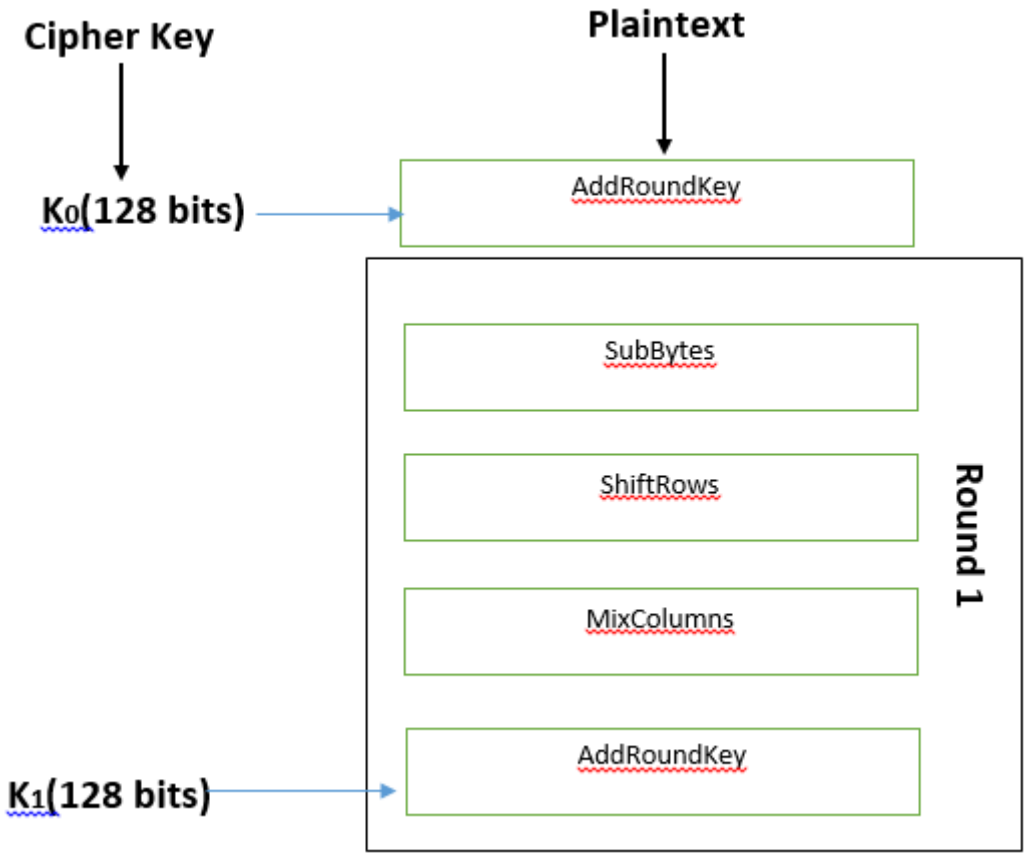


Figure 3: AES encryption 2

6.8.1.2. DECRYPTION PROCESS

The Process of decryption of an AES cipher text is similar to the encryption process in the reverse order. Each round consists of the four processes conducted in the reverse order.

1. Add round key

2. Mix columns

3. Shift rows

4. Byte substitution

6.8.2. BLOCK CIPHER AND MODES OF OPERATION

A block cipher processes the data block of fixed size. Usually the size of a message is larger than the block size. Hence, the long message is divided into a series of sequential message blocks, and the cipher operates on these blocks one at a time. The strength of the encryption scheme depend upon the key length not the block size.

MODES OF OPERATION

There are different modes of the operation of a block cipher. The different modes result in the different properties being achieved which add to the security of the underlying block cipher. Some of them are:

EBC: Electronic Code Book

CBC: Cipher Block Chaining

CFC: Cipher Feedback Mode

CIPHER CHAINING MODE

CBC mode of operation provides message dependence for generating cipher text and makes the system non-deterministic. In CBC mode, the current plaintext block is added to the previous cipher text block, the result is encrypted with the key. Decryption is thus the reverse process, which involves decrypting the current cipher text and then adding the previous cipher text block to the result.

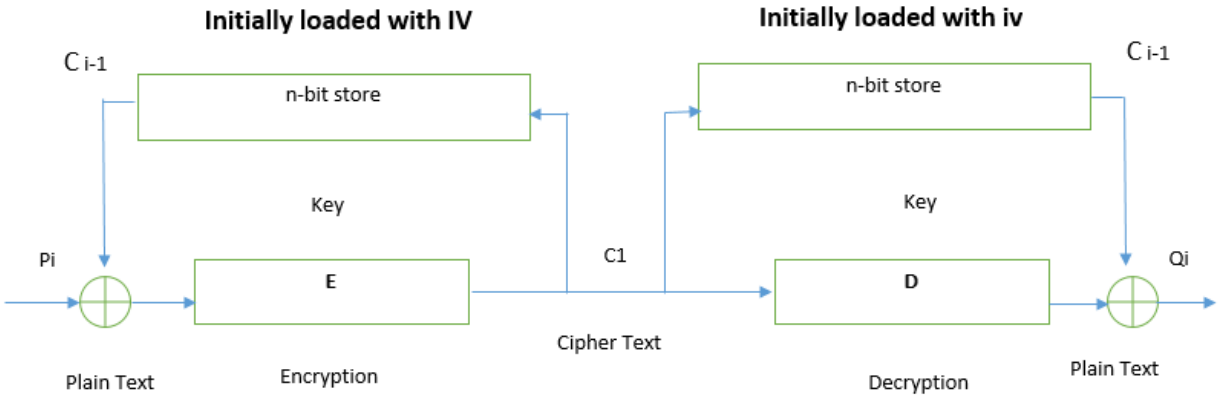


Figure 4: cypher chaining mode

7. METHODOLOGY

7.1. Method

For the development of this project we choose to use Incremental Model as this model provide an easy and effective way to work on one function at a time and gradually completing the all other function to give final fully- functional software.

7.2. Model

7.2.1. Incremental Model

The framework we will be using for developing this project is Incremental Model. This model combines linear sequential model with the iterative prototype model. New functionalities will be added as each increment is developed. The phases of linear sequential model are: Analysis, Design, Coding and Testing. The software repeatedly passes through these phase in iteration and an increment is delivered with progressive changes. Total of 6 increment is expected to be required to complete the project.

- 1st Iteration: Encryption and decryption of text file.

- 2nd Iteration: Encryption of data into .PNG file.
- 3rd Iteration: Encryption of data into audio (.wav) file.
- 4th Iteration: Decryption of data from both .PNG and .WAV file
- 5th Iteration: Encryption and decryption of text file into .MOV file
- 6th Iteration: Graphical User Interface and implementation of all iteration to a single Program.

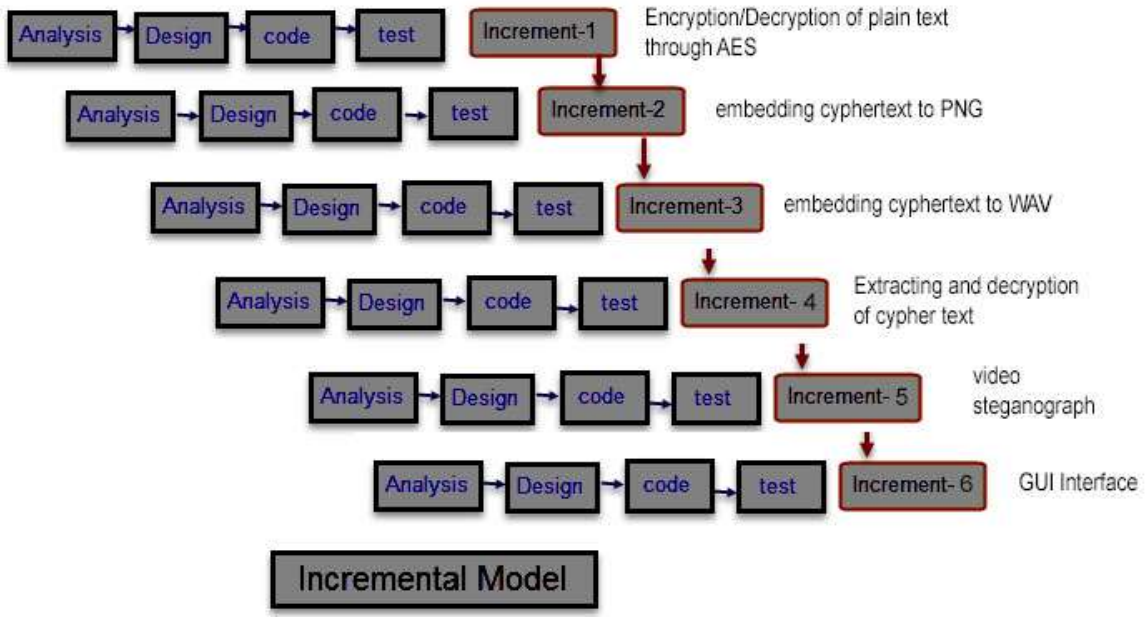


Figure 5:Incremental Model

7.2.1.1. Analysis Phase

In this phase, requirement analysis was performed in order to find out the requirements of the system. The outcome of this phase is a SRS which is an acronym for "System Requirement Specifications".

7.2.1.2. Design phase

In this phase, the System Requirement Specification is translated into the system's design. Here, Entity Relationship Diagram, Use Case Diagram, Flowcharts was developed.

7.2.1.3. Coding Phase

During this phase we implement our design using the python code.The programs are coded and each feature run as a indivudual mode. Intergration of these module is left to be done.

7.2.1.4. Testing Phase

During this phase Unit test on each of the four module has been successfully performed.

7.3. Requirement Analysis

Requirements analysis encompasses those tasks that go into determining the needs or conditions to meet for a new or altered product or project, taking account of the possibly conflicting requirements of the various stakeholders, analyzing, documenting, validating and managing software or system requirements [wiki].Analysis phase emphasizes an investigation of the problem and the requirement rather than a solution.

7.3.1. Input Requirement

The input requirement of this project are:-

- A carrier media
- A text file that has a message
- A passphrase to generate the key

7.3.2. Output Requirement

Since the output of the program yield the steganomedia .output requirement for the program is directory where we can create and write a file.

7.3.3. Functional Requirement

- Encrypt the message file using the encryption algorithm
- Decrypt the encrypted file using the decryption algorithm.
- Embed the encrypted file into the carrier media
- Decode the embedded encrypted file into the plain text file.

7.3.4. Interface Requirement

- Provide user to select the image and message file from the storage.
- Provide user the interface to input the password and the key.

7.4. System Design

7.4.1. Use case

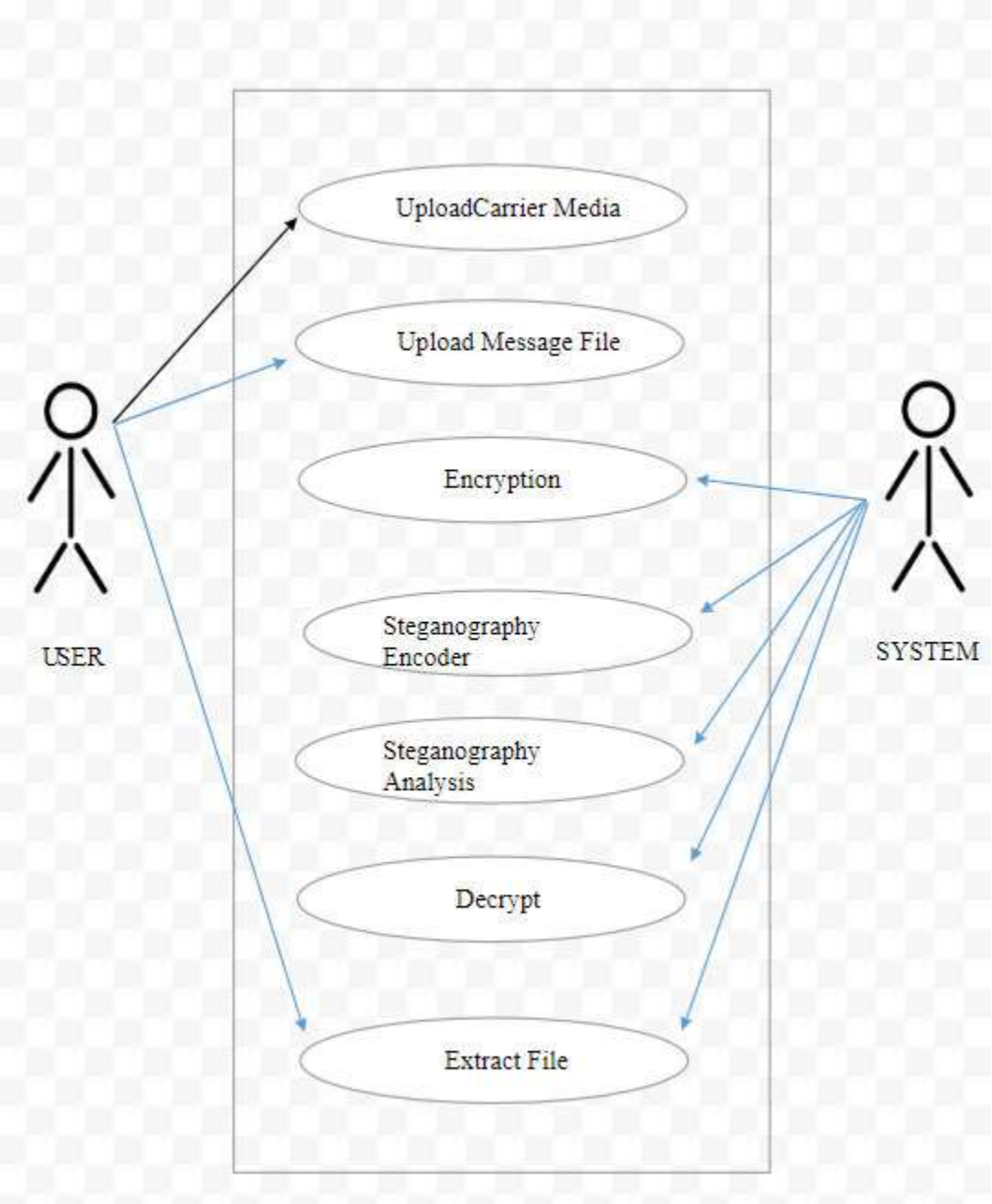


Figure 6:use case diagram

7.4.2. Flowchart

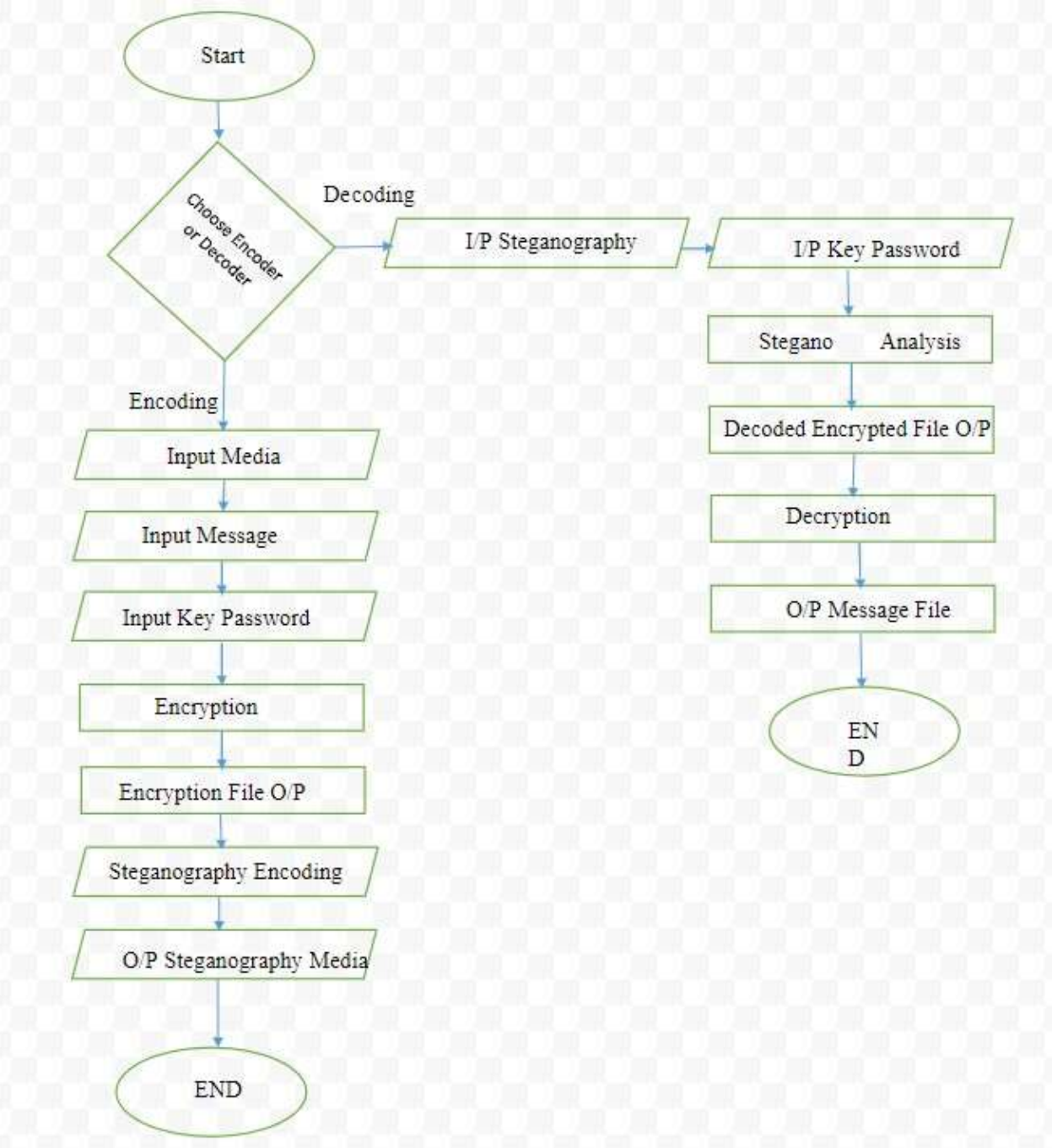


Figure 7:Flow chart

7.4.3. System Sequence Diagram

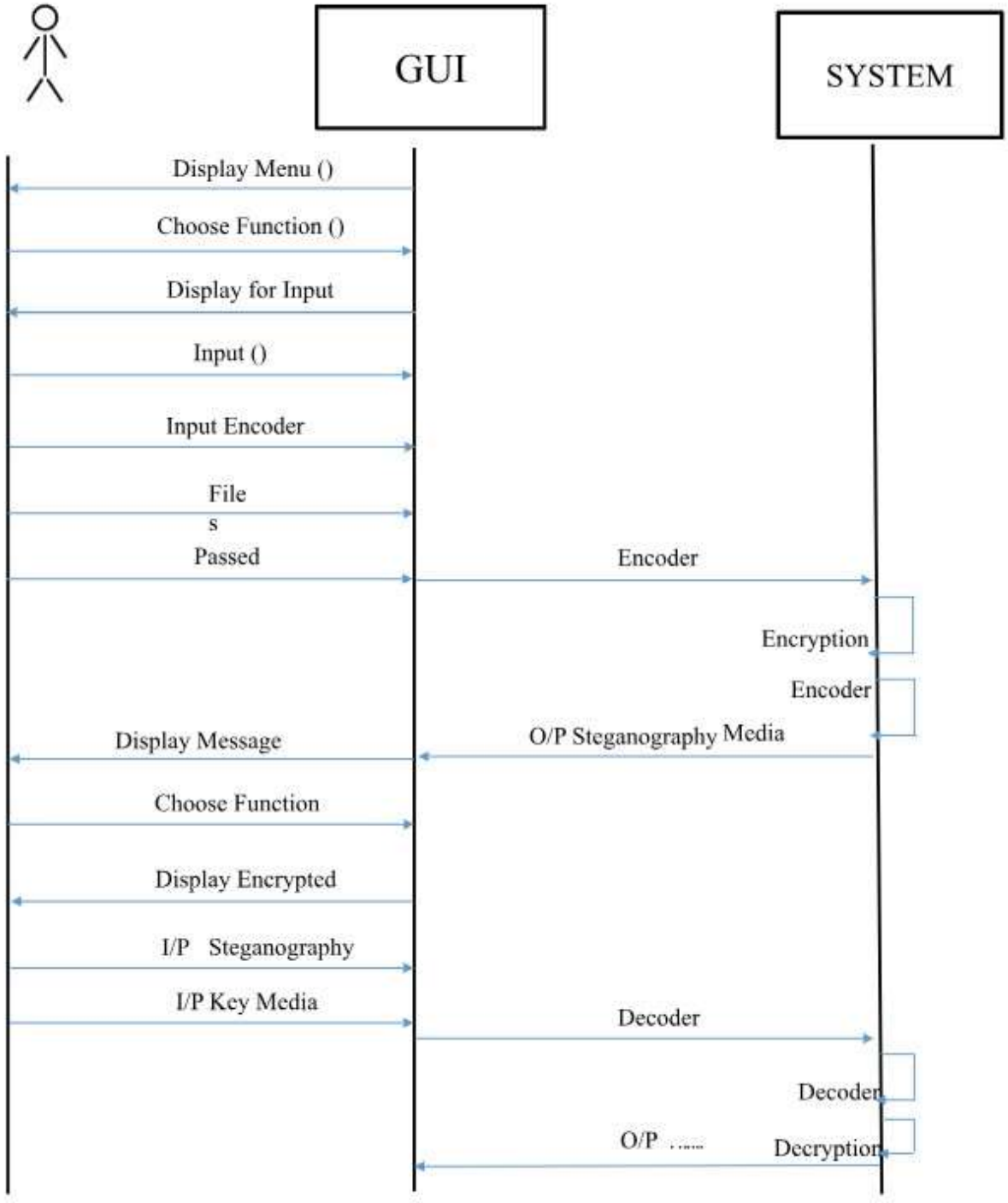


Figure 8: System sequence diagram

7.5. Tasked Done So Far

1. Program to encrypt and decrypt the text file.
2. Program to hide the encrypted file into the Image and extract it
3. Program to hide the encrypted file into the audio and extract it.

7.6. Task Remaining

1. Program to encode the text file into the pdf files
2. A GUI interface for the program

7.7. Testing

Using different test cases, test for each of the function developed until this period has been performed.

7.7.1. Testing table

Test No	Function	Test	Expected Result	Outcome
1.	Encryption	Generate the cipher text from the message file	A encrypted file containing the cipher text	Successful
2.	Decryption	Decrypt the encrypted file	A text file with readable message	Successful
3.	Encoding	Embed the message file in image	The message hidden in the image	Successful
4.	Decoding	Decode carrier image to get hidden file	Recovered text file	Successful
5.	Encoding	Embed the message file in audio file	The message file hidden in the audio	Successful
6.	Decoding	Decode carrier audio to get hidden file	Recovered text file	Successful

7.7.2. Test evidence

```
def GetKey(password):
    hasher = SHA256.new(password.encode('utf-8'))
    return hasher.digest()

def Test():
```

```
TERMINAL  PROBLEMS  OUTPUT  DEBUG CONSOLE

PS C:\crypt-steg\AES encryption> & C:/Python39/python.exe "c:/crypt-steg/AES encryption/simp_AES.py"
Press 1 for Encrypt and 2 for Decrypt: 1
Type in File that you want to encrypt: usage.txt
Choose a Password: 123
Encrypting.......
Completed
PS C:\crypt-steg\AES encryption> & C:/Python39/python.exe "c:/crypt-steg/AES encryption/simp_AES.py"
Press 1 for Encrypt and 2 for Decrypt: 2
Type in Filename that you want to decrypt: usage.txt.hidn
Type in the Password: 123
Decrypting.......
Completed
PS C:\crypt-steg\AES encryption>
```

Figure 9:successfull ecnryption/decryption

```
TERMINAL  PROBLEMS  OUTPUT  DEBUG CONSOLE

PS C:\crypt-steg\LSB STEG> python3 LSBSteg.py
Usage:
  LSBSteg.py encode -i <input> -o <output> -f <file> -p <password>
  LSBSteg.py decode -i <input> -o <output>  -p <password>
PS C:\crypt-steg\LSB STEG> python3 LSBSteg.py encode -i input.png -o outputhidden.png -f usage.txt -p 123
Encrypting.......
Encryption Completed. File successfully hidden
PS C:\crypt-steg\LSB STEG> python3 LSBSteg.py decode -i outputhidden.png -o usage.txt -p 123
PS C:\crypt-steg\LSB STEG>
```

Figure 10: Successful encryption and decryption to PNG file

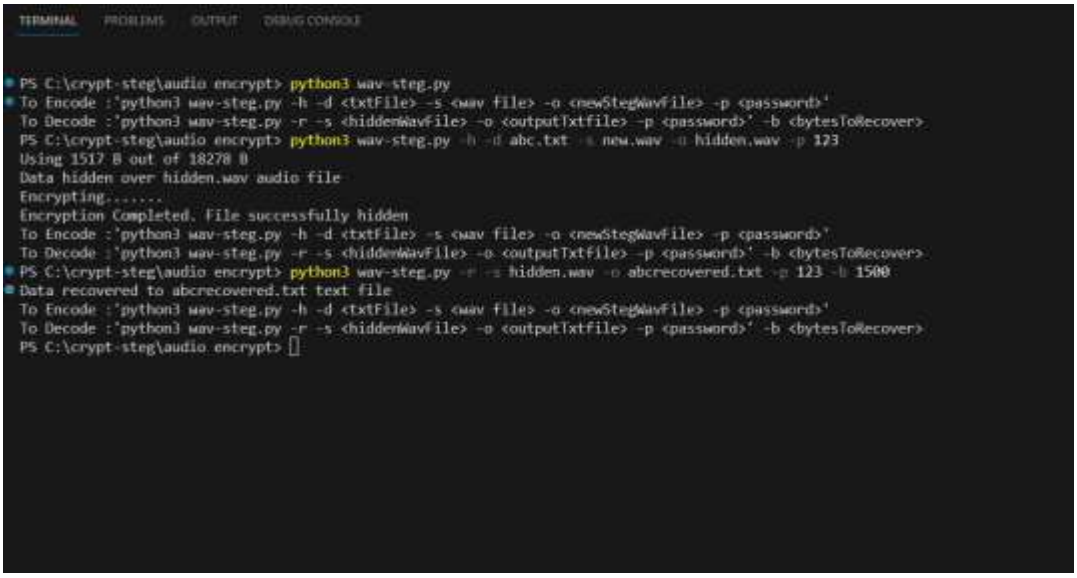


Figure 11: audio stegenograph

8. DELIVERABLES

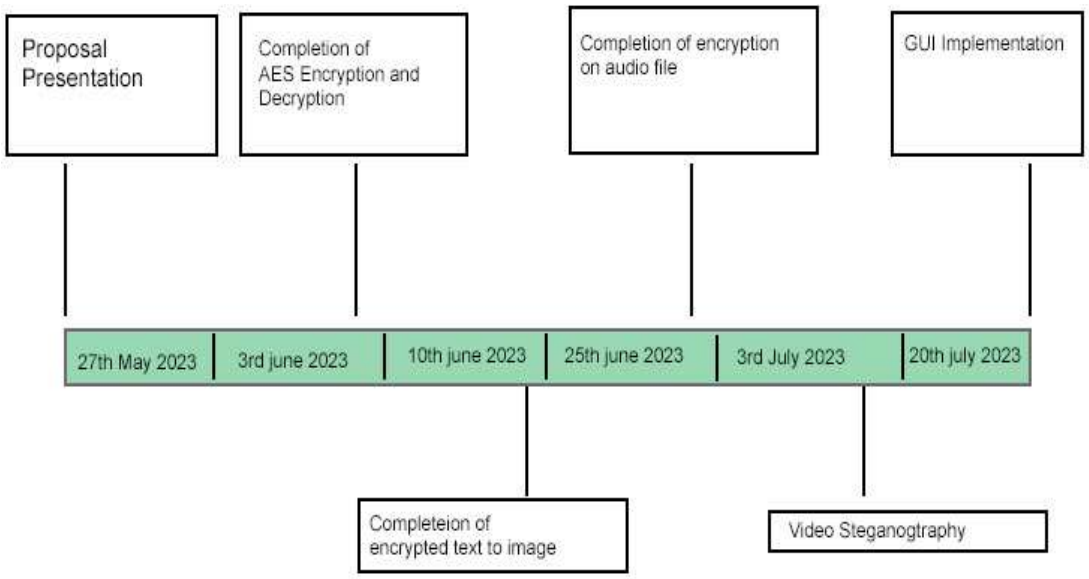
At the completion of this project, it will deliver the following:

1. A fully function desktop application program that can encrypt and decrypt the files, and also hide those encrypted file to a carrier media.

2. A detailed project report document.

9. TASK AND TIME SCHEDULE

Phases	1st Increment	2nd increment	3rd increment	4th Increment	5th increment
Analysis Phase	5Days	5Days	3Days	3Days	5Days
Design Phase	5Days	5Days	3Days	3Days	5Days
Coding and Implementaion	7Days	7Days	10Days	5Days	7Days
Testing and Debugging	2Days	2Days	2Days	2Days	2Days
Documention	1Day	1Day	1Day	4Day	7Days
Approximated Duration	20 Days	20Days	19Days	17 days	26Day



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