Stenographic File Integrity Checker

Name: Prateek(166), Dev Sharma(179)

1. Demo

The tool demonstrates hiding cryptographic hashes of files inside cover files (such as audio WAV files) using steganography. Below is the demonstration flow:

- 1. Generate SHA256 hash of the file (e.g., report.pdf).
- 2. Embed this hash into a cover file (e.g., cover.wav).
- 3. Extract the hidden hash from the stego file (stego.wav).
- 4. Verify the integrity by comparing the stored hash with the current hash.

Demonstration of modified file detection:

- When the original file is altered, the current hash differs from the stored hash.
- The verification process flags the file as tampered.

2. Report

Embedding and Extraction Logic

The embedding process converts the hash of the target file into binary and hides it within the least significant bits of the cover file's audio samples. During extraction, the process reads the modified LSBs, reconstructs the binary data, and recovers the original hash for comparison.

Potential Limitations

- Limited capacity: The cover file size restricts how many hashes or files can be stored.
- Format dependency: Current implementation supports WAV audio files; other formats may require different encoding strategies.
- Susceptibility to recompression: If cover files are re-encoded or compressed, hidden data may be lost or corrupted.

Ideas for Improvement or Scaling

- Extend support to images (PNG, BMP) and other media formats.
- Add encryption before embedding for confidentiality of hashes.
- Enable batch processing of multiple files with a manifest.
- Develop a graphical web interface for user-friendly interaction.
- Explore robust steganography methods resistant to lossy transformations.

3. Unit Tests

Basic unit tests were implemented to ensure correctness of core functions:

- Test embedding: Verify that hashes can be correctly embedded in cover files.
- Test extraction: Ensure extracted hashes match the original hashes embedded.
- Test verification: Confirm that unchanged files pass verification and modified files are flagged.

4. Proof of concept





