Master Spy Help File

User manual and help file

Starting a Game

On opening the Master Spy application, a welcome screen appears with the options of, selecting a level, loading a past game, exiting the application and an option to begin a game.
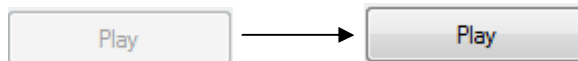
To begin a new game, use the drop down box to select an appropriate difficulty level.

These difficulty levels range from recruit, officer, investigator, detective and police chief.
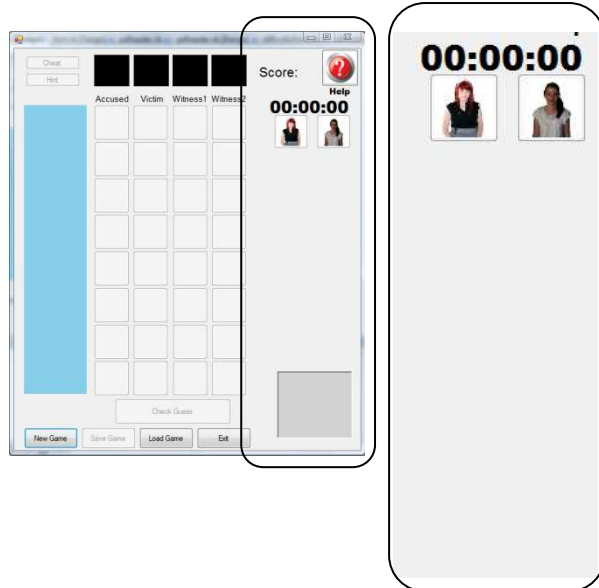

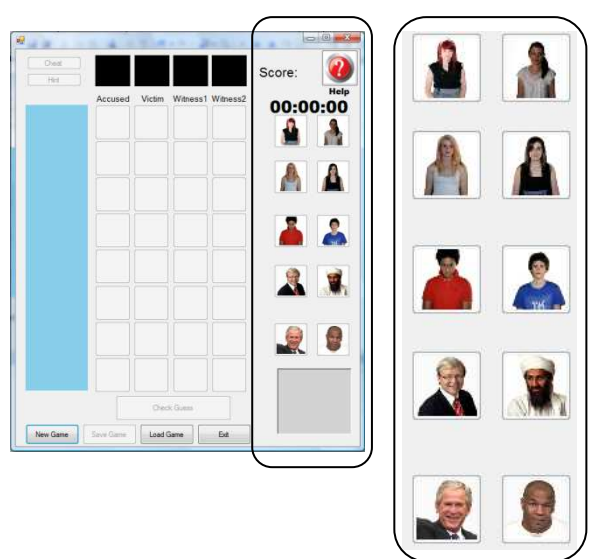Once you have selected a level, the play button will be enabled and users are now ready to play.

About the Game

After passing the difficulty form, a new form appears on screen. The layout of this screen depends on the difficulty level selected.

Recruit (easiest level)


Police Chief (hardest level)

The harder the difficulty selected the more characters there are to choose from.

The aim of the game is match the characters on the side to the characters hidden behind the black squares. That game randomly selects for **different** *(if possible)* characters from the selection down the side and places them in the puzzle up the top of the page.
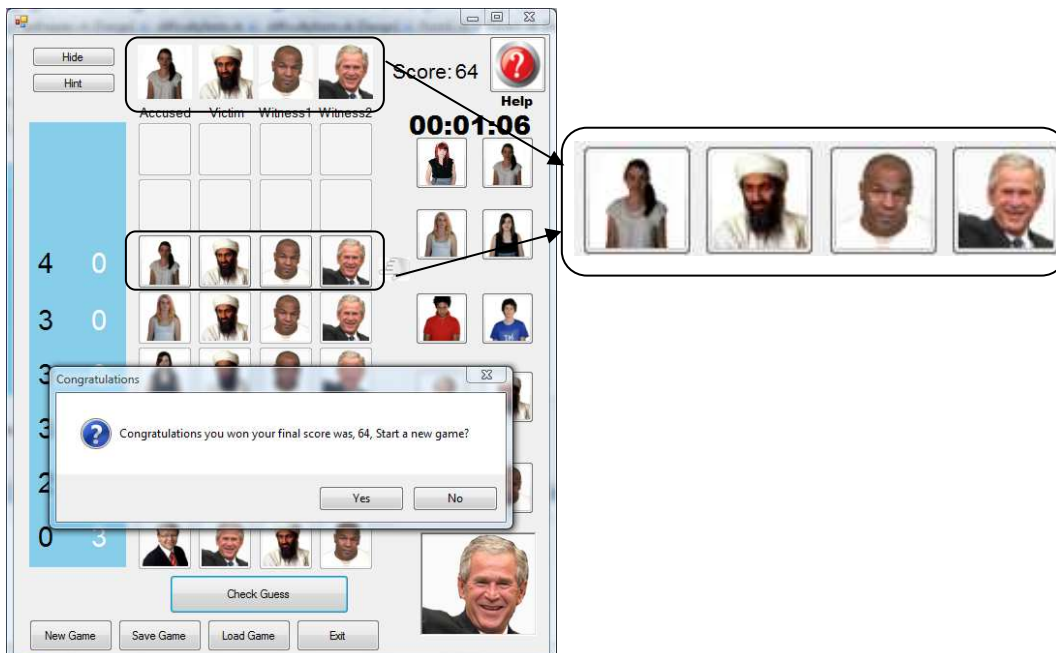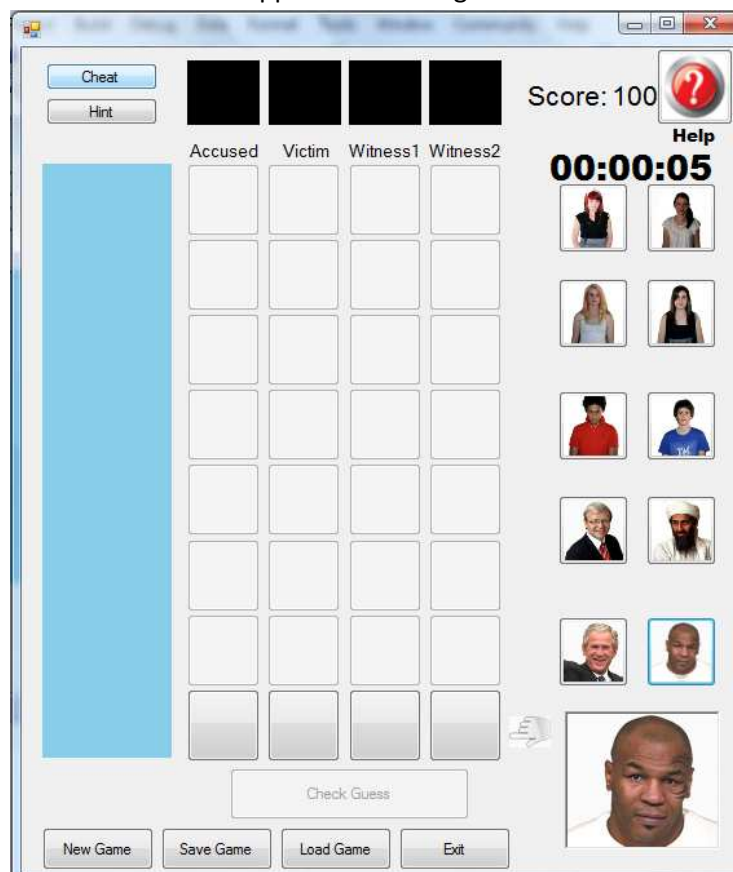
If however a user fails to make the correct selection in 8 guesses, then a user loses the game.
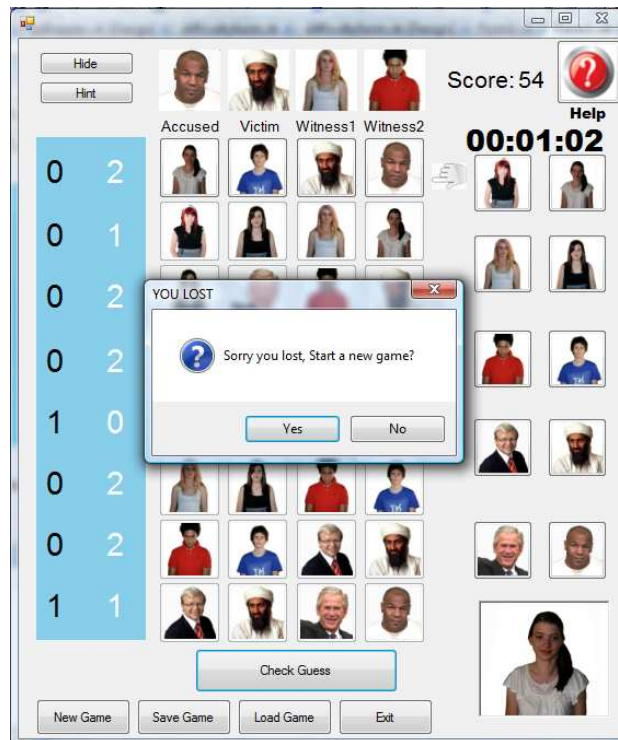

Selecting a Character

To select a character simple click with a mouse or press enter with a key board on the highlighted character. The character then appears in the larger box at the bottom of the page.

To make a guess, after selecting a character simple click on one of the buttons on the page, once all four enabled buttons have been filled with an image users can check their guess using the enabled check guess button.
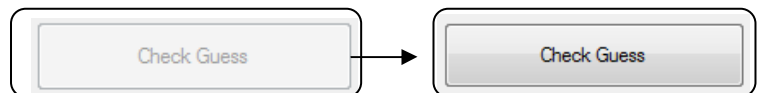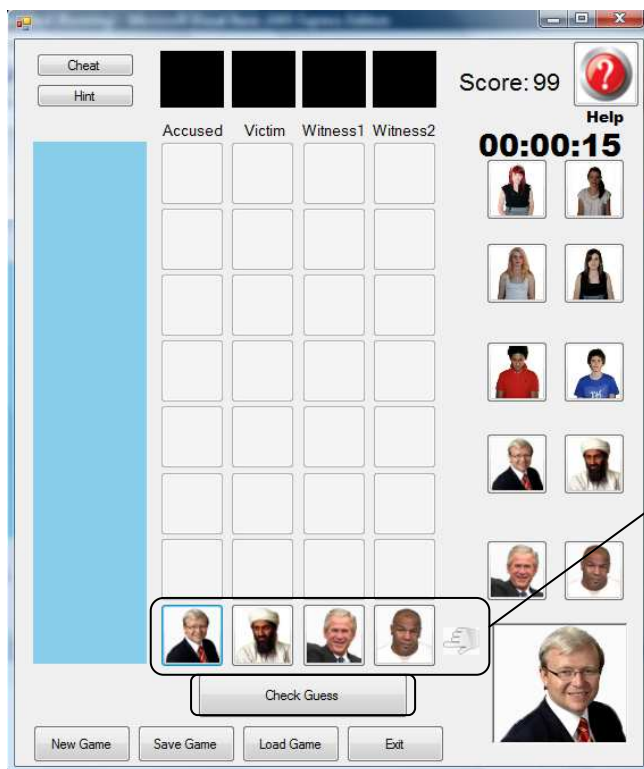
Black and White results

After the guess boxes have been made, black and white numbers appear on the left hand side of the screen, these results show the player if characters they selected are in the puzzle and if the player has any in the correct spot. If the player has some characters in the correct spot the game does not tell them what ones are in the correct spot.
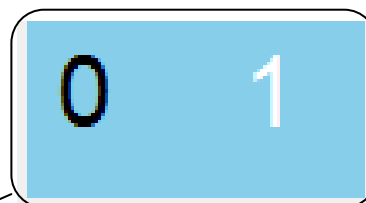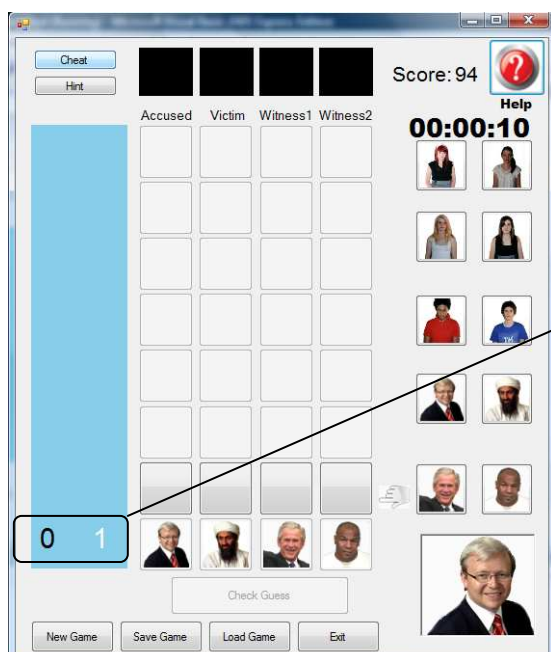
In this case, out of the four characters the player has selected in the guess boxes, **1** is in the puzzle but in an incorrect position and **0** are in the puzzle **and** in the

correct position. These numbers mix with logic can then be used to find the correct puzzle combination.

Hint Function

When a player clicks on the hint function then a popup appears, in the popup box is a randomly selection piece of information about a randomly selected character in the puzzle.

In this example the popup box is describing what one of the witnesses to the crime looks like. The player then must find a character who matches the description and place him in the correct position.

Cheat Function

The cheat function allows players to view the hidden puzzle.
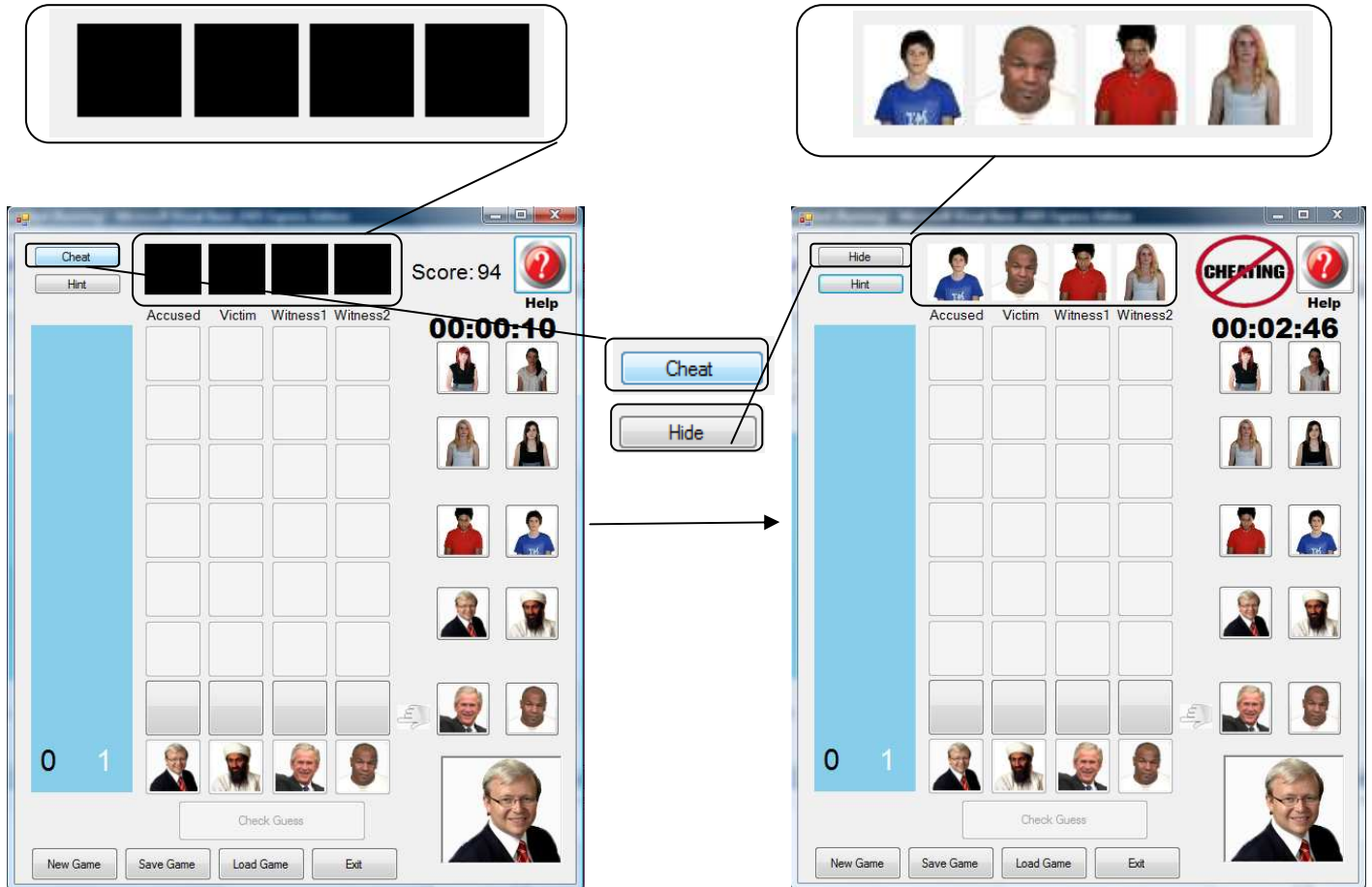
Score

Players should aim to get the highest score possible, your score decreases with the more time you take, it decreasing each time a player hits the check guess button and decreases each time you click the hint button. So the aim is to finish the puzzle in as little time as possible, in as little guesses as possible and with as little amount of hints as possible.


Score: 100

Score: 64

Congratulations you won your final score was, 64, Start a new game?
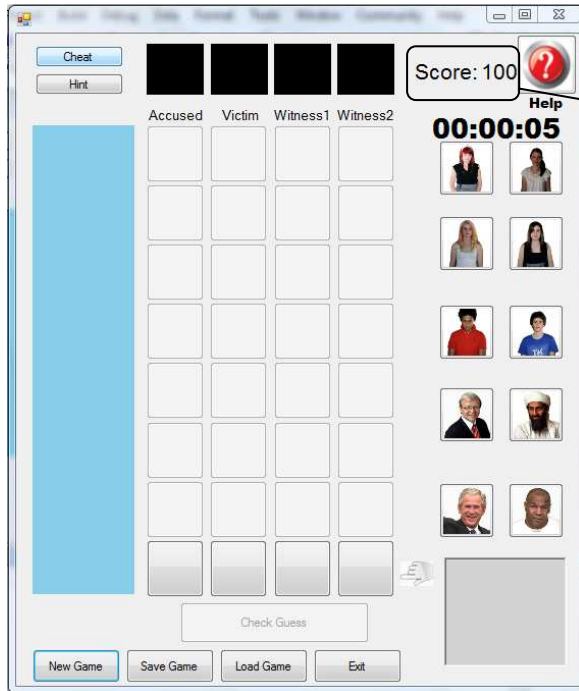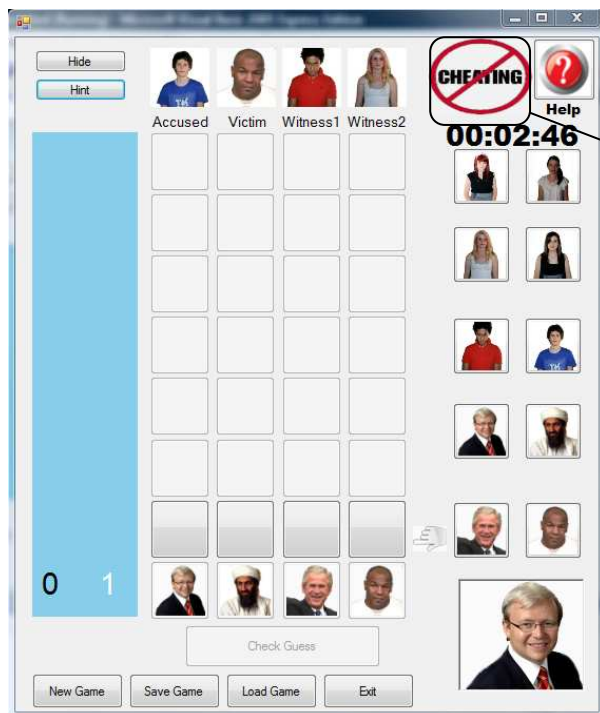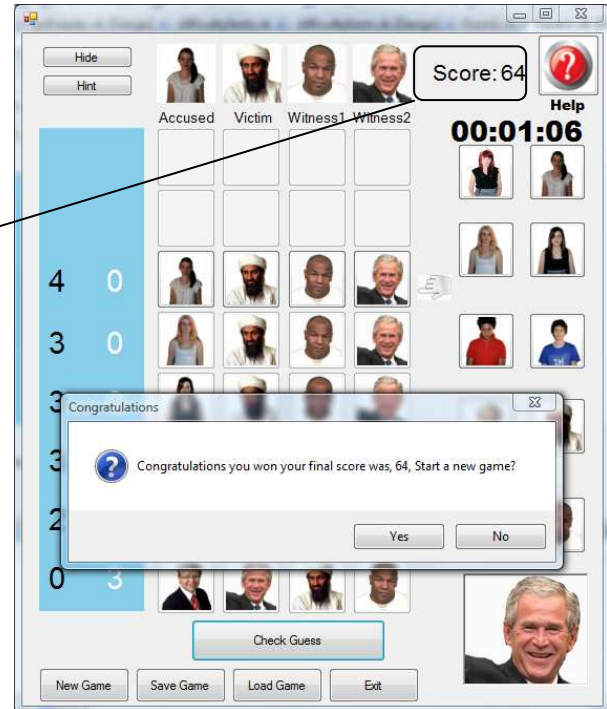
However if a player clicks the cheat button then the score is disabled and a cheated sign appears.

CHEATING

Saving a game

If you are unable to finish your mastermind game then all is not lost, you can save your data to a text file which can be opened at a later date. You can also save finished games to show off your score and your completed puzzle to your peers.
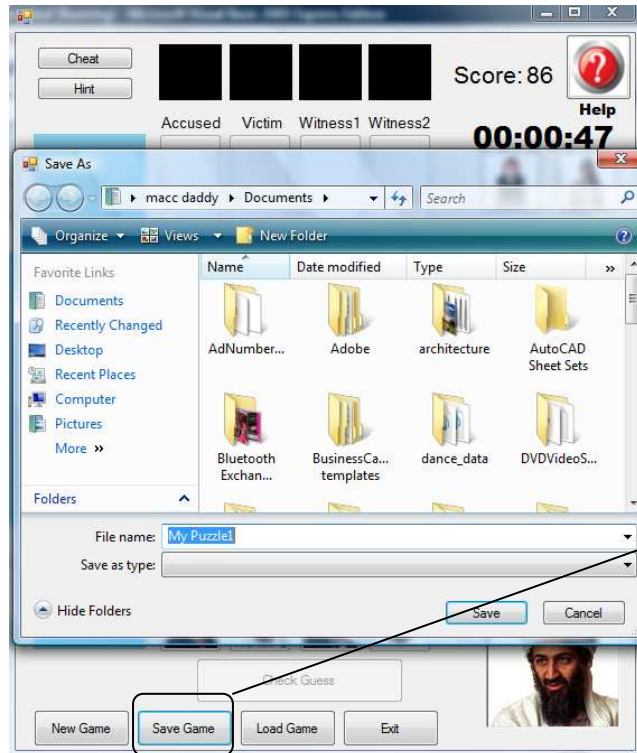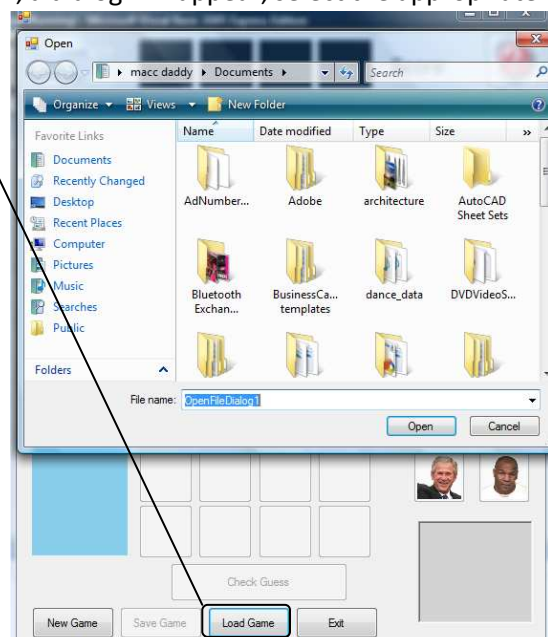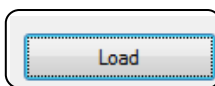

When you click the save game button at the button of the page, the save game dialog will appear, simply specify a name and location for your game and save it.
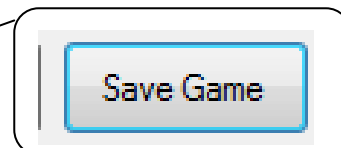
Load Game Function

If you wish to open a game you have previously started or completed simple click the Load Game button in either the start form or the main game form, a dialog will appear, select the appropriate file.
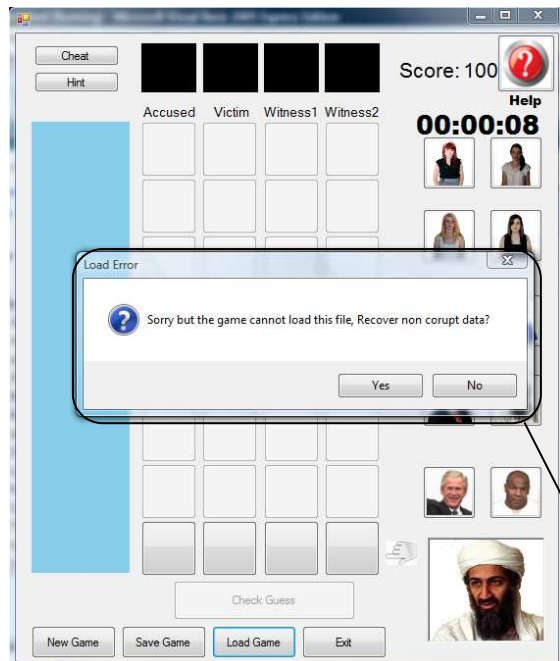
Corrupt Data

If however the file being loaded is corrupt the software will check to see if the critical data is still in tack, if so the software will recover what it can, if not the software will alert the player then restart.

Recoverable corruption

Terminal Corruption

Load Error

Sorry but the game cannot load this file, Recover non corupt data?

Yes   No

major project master mind

Sorry critical data appears courpt, restart game?

OK