Vigenere Cipher Visualization User Documentation

Joshua Fawcett, Max Hopkins, Meghan Riehl, Yuyao Zhuge May 31, 2021

This visualization tool animates the steps of encrypting a short message using the Vigenere cipher. It allows the user to control various aspects of the animation. There are three types of screens: (a) menu screens, (b) information screens, (c) animation screens.

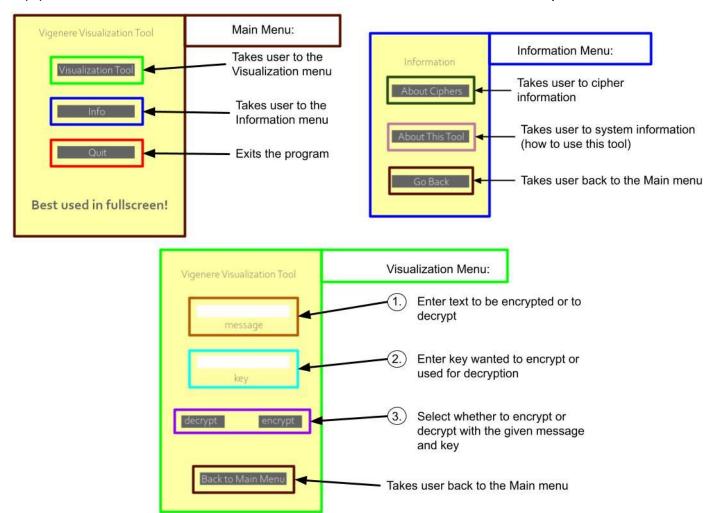
- (a) Menu Screens: Main menu, Information Menu, Visualization Menu
 - (i) These menus allow the user to navigate/ use the system
 - (ii) All menu screens (and information screens) lead back to the Main menu



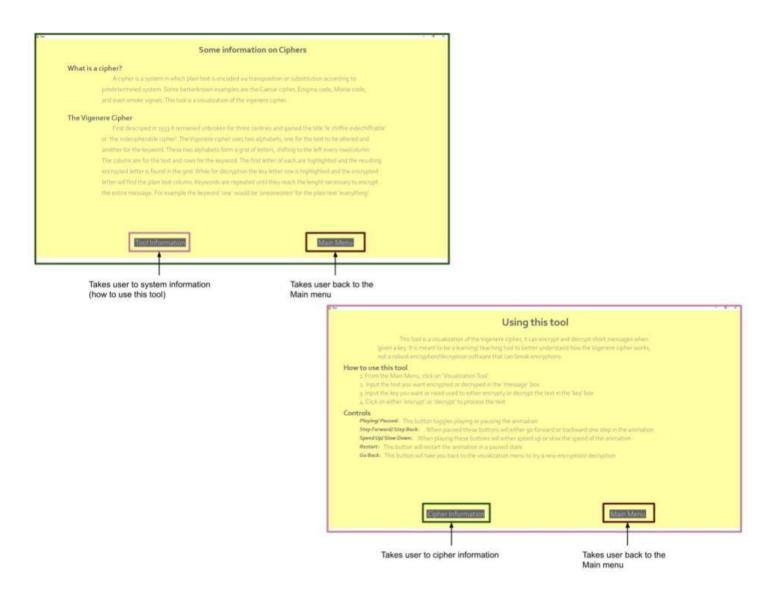




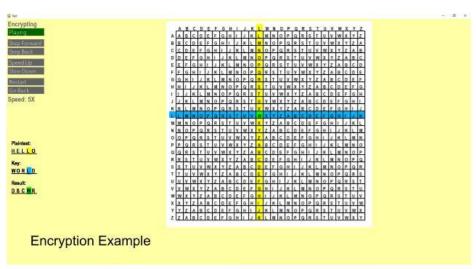
(a) Menu Screens Continued: A closer look at the buttons and input boxes

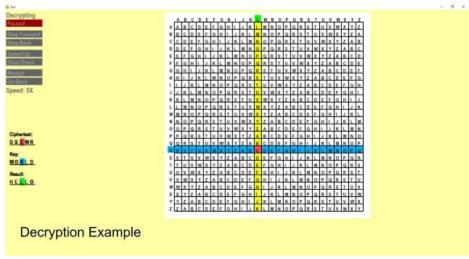


- (b) Information Screens: Information on Ciphers and Using this Tool
 - (i) The cipher information screen is basic information about ciphers and some more detail on the vigenere cipher.
 - (ii) The tool information screen explains how to use this tool and what the control buttons do on the animation screens

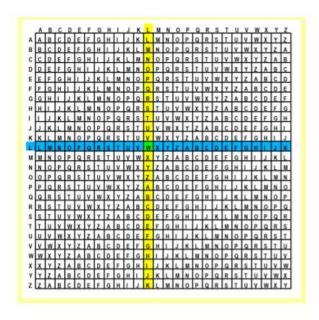


- (c) Animation Screens: Encryption and Decryption
 - (i) Between the two screens the button options are the same
 - (ii) The user can toggle between play and pause, control speed, step through the animation, restart the animation, and go back to the visualization menu to try a new encryption/decryption





(c) Animation Screens Continued: A closer look at the Tables



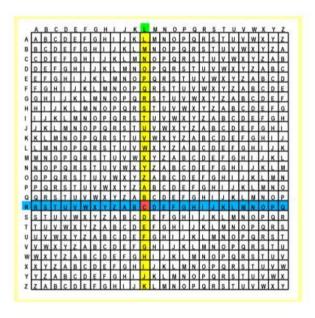
Encryption Table

- Blue row highlight is the key letter
- Yellow column highlight is the plain-text letter
- Green box highlight is the encrypted letter

Plaintext:
HELLO

Key:
WORLD

Result:
DSCWR



Decryption Table

- Blue row highlight is the key letter
- Red box highlight is the ciphertext letter
- Yellow column highlight directs to the decrypted letter up top
- Green box highlight is the decrypted letter

Ciphertext:

DSCWR

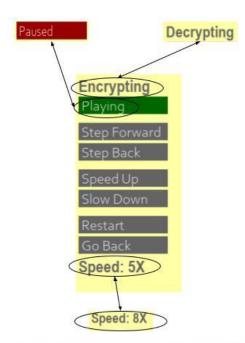
Key:

WORLD

Result:

HELLO

(c) Animation Screens Continued: A closer look at the control buttons



- The title of the button list shows whether the user is currently encrypting or decrypting text
- The play/pause button switch between two states
 - Green/Playing when the animation is playing
 - Red/Paused when the animation is paused
- Step Forward and Step Back
 - Only works on a paused animation
 - Forward The next step in the encryption/decryption
 - Back The last shown step in the encryption/decryption
- Speed Up/ Slow Down
 - Up Increases the speed of the animation
 - Down Decreases the speed of the animation
- Restart will start the animation over in paused state
- Go Back will take the user back to the visualization menu
- Speed: (1-10)X indicates the current speed of the animation (between 1 and 10)

Controls

Playing/Paused: This button toggles playing or pausing the animation

Step Forward/Step Back: When paused these buttons will either go forward or backward one step in the animation

Speed Up/Slow Down: These buttons will either speed up or slow the speed of the animation

Restart: This button will restart the animation in a paused state

Go Back: This button will take you back to the visualization menu to try a new encryption/decryption

Button explanations as seen on the Tool Information screen