**Exploring Covert Communication in Android Devices**

Hiding secret information in Simple Message Service (SMS) of android mobile phone and sending SMS to the contacts present in phone across the mobile network is the main idea of the project. Sharing information in android apps is a very common criterion which involves sharing of images, videos, audio and countless text messages across the world. However, intruders and hackers always try to observe data passing through the network. Hence, we took this as a potential area for research and development to implement new algorithms for hiding secret information using the most commonly used SMS and Contacts (default native apps) for android smartphones. In android mobile phones, we make use of text messages present in the SMS app that can recognize ASCII and UTF-8 encoding characters. By making use of these two character set we define the steganography algorithm to embed secret information in the carrier message. Along with the character set, we also make use of emoticons and spaces present in the SMS app to hide the information. We use bits (1, 0) to represent either the character in ASCII/UTF-8 in text steganography implementation. By representing (1, 0) for single and doubles spaces, (1, 0) for representing a set of emoticons by grouping these images were also used for embedding our secret information in the carrier.