## Module A.4 ASCII Encoding

**Level 1: Red Pill, Blue Pill**

**Decode the following message:**

Ymnx nx dtzw qfxy hmfshj. Fkyjw ymnx, ymjwj nx st yzwsnsl gfhp.

Dtz yfpj ymj gqzj unqq—ymj xytwd jsix, dtz bfpj zu ns dtzw gji fsi gjqnjaj bmfyjajw dtz bfsy yt gjqnjaj.

Dtz yfpj ymj wji unqq—dtz xyfd ns Btsijwqfsi, fsi N xmtb dtz mtb ijju ymj wfggny mtqj ltjx.

Wjrjrgjw: fqq N'r tkkjwnsl nx ymj ywzym. Stymnsl rtwj.

Hint #1: The code is a simple letter shift cypher

Hint #2:<http://practicalcryptography.com/ciphers/simple-substitution-cipher/>

* What single letter is always capitalized?

I

* Identify the 2 letter words and use the “frequency analysis” tables

Is and To

* Identify the most common letters and use the “frequency analysis” tables

E and T

Final Hint / Solution:

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytftrd6rxps>

Final Question:

* What is the shift amount? How many letters is the coded message shifted by?

The shift amount is 5. This is the key (A is F, B is G, C is H and so on): FGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCDE

**Write the Decoded Message below:**

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE. AFTER THIS, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK. YOU TAKE THE BLUE PILL--THE STORY ENDS, YOU WAKE UP IN YOUR BED AND BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT TO BELIEVE. YOU TAKE THE RED PILL--YOU STAY IN WONDERLAND, AND I SHOW YOU HOW DEEP THE RABBIT HOLE GOES. REMEMBER: ALL I'M OFFERING IS THE TRUTH. NOTHING MORE.

**Level 2: ASCII Code**

1. What does the ASCII acronym stand for?

It stands for American Standard Code for Information Interchange.

1. What is ASCII code used for?

It is used to turn characters and letters from the alphabet to binary so they can be used by computers. If the characters are in binary, the computer can understand them and effectively work with them. Without binary, computers can’t understand characters.

1. Why can’t computers just use the letters we type or the letters used by humans when we write things down?

Computer can’t understand letters as all computer data is in number and binary. So, all letters must be converted to binary for the computer to understand.

1. How do computers communicate with people who speak different languages and use different alphabets? What is used instead of the ASCII code table?

If the computer is using only ASCII than it can only communicate with people who know how to use the English alphabet. Extended ASCII is used instead of this, as it offers character of most languages around the world.

1. Write a Python program that uses the ord() function to convert some text letters into ASCII code numbers. Print the numbers to the console screen. Provide your program listing below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7 | a = ord('a')  b = ord('b')  c = ord('c')  print(a)  print(b)  print(c) |

1. Write a Python program that uses the chr() function to convert some ASCII code numbers into text letters. Print the letters to the console screen. Provide your program listing below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7 | a = chr(97)  b = chr(98)  c = chr(99)  print(a)  print(b)  print(c) |