CSE-478: Introduction to Computer Security Lab Lab-2

Lab 2: Attacking Classic Crypto Systems

Objectives:

• To attack classic crypto systems

Submission:

• Checkpoints and a report explaining the approaches taken.

Instruction:

In this lab, we are going to attack two classic crypto systems. The main objective is to demonstrate the weaknesses of these crypto systems. Use any programming language to code programs that could be used to break these systems by decrypting the corresponding cipher. Once a system is broken, show the result to your teacher.

Also, prepare a report in which outline the approach you have taken to break each crypto system. You don’t need to be concise. I would like to know your thought process of attacking the crypto system. Therefore, add as many details as possible.

Checkpoint – 1 (Marks 5)

The following cipher has been created using the Caesar cipher. Write a program to decipher it.

**Cipher**: odroboewscdrolocdcwkbdmyxdbkmdzvkdpybwyeddrobo

Write a program to break it and display the result. Show it your teacher.

Checkpoint – 2 (Marks 8 + 7)

The following two ciphers have been created using a substitution cipher with different keys. Write a program to decipher each of them. Which input was easier to break? Explain your answer.

For your convenience, a frequency distribution of English characters is given in the next page.

**Cipher-1:** af p xpkcaqvnpk pfg, af ipqe qpri, gauuikifc tpw, ceiri udvk tiki afgarxifrphni cd eao- -wvmd popkwn, hiqpvri du ear jvaql vfgikrcpfgafm du cei xkafqaxnir du xrwqedearcdkw pfg du ear aopmafpcasi xkdhafmr afcd fit pkipr. ac tpr qdoudkcafm cd lfdt cepc au pfwceafm epxxifig cd ringdf eaorinu hiudki cei opceiopcaqr du cei uaing qdvng hi qdoxnicinw tdklig dvc- -pfg edt rndtnw ac xkdqiigig, pfg edt odvfcpafdvr cei dhrcpqnir--ceiki tdvng pc niprc kiopaf dfi mddg oafg cepc tdvng qdfcafvi cei kiripkqe

**Cipher-2:** aceah toz puvg vcdl omj puvg yudqecov, omj loj auum klu thmjuv hs klu zlcvu shv zcbkg guovz, upuv zcmdu lcz vuwovroaeu jczoyyuovomdu omj qmubyudkuj vukqvm. klu vcdluz lu loj avhqnlk aodr svhw lcz kvopuez loj mht audhwu o ehdoe eunumj, omj ck toz yhyqeoveg auecupuj, tlokupuv klu hej sher wcnlk zog, klok klu lcee ok aon umj toz sqee hs kqmmuez zkqssuj tckl kvuozqvu. omj cs klok toz mhk umhqnl shv sowu, kluvu toz oezh lcz yvhehmnuj pcnhqv kh wovpue ok. kcwu thvu hm, aqk ck zuuwuj kh lopu eckkeu ussudk hm wv. aonncmz. ok mcmukg lu toz wqdl klu zowu oz ok scskg. ok mcmukg-mcmu klug aunom kh doee lcw tuee-yvuzuvpuj; aqk qmdlomnuj thqej lopu auum muovuv klu wovr. kluvu tuvu zhwu klok zlhhr klucv luojz omj klhqnlk klcz toz khh wqdl hs o nhhj klcmn; ck zuuwuj qmsocv klok

movie *A Cristmas Story*. In tis movie, te young caracter, Rapie, uses a circular decoder pin representing a substitution cipher to decode a secret message broadcast over the radio. He is a bit disappointed, however, when

CSE-478: Introduction to Computer Security Lab Lab-2 ~~he discovers that the message is~~

“BE SURE TO DRINK YOUR OVALTINE,”

omghmu zlhqej yhzzuzz (oyyovumkeg) yuvyukqoe ghqkl oz tuee oz (vuyqkujeg) cmubloqzkcaeu tuoekl. ck tcee lopu kh au yocj shv, klug zocj. ck czm'k mokqvoe, omj kvhqaeu

which was little more than a commercial.

tcee dhwu hs ck! aqk zh sov kvhqaeu loj mhk dhwu; omj oz wv. aonncmz toz numuvhqz tckl Simple substitution ciphers like the one Ralphie used, which are based lcz whmug, whzk yuhyeu tuvu tceecmn kh shvncpu lcw lcz hjjckcuz omj lcz nhhj shvkqmu. lu on substituting letters of the alphabet, are easily broken. The main weak vuwocmuj hm pczckcmn kuvwz tckl lcz vueokcpuz (ubduyk, hs dhqvzu, klu zodrpceeu ness in such ciphers is that they don’t hide the underlying frequencies of the

aonncmzuz), omj lu loj womg juphkuj ojwcvuvz owhmn klu lhaackz hs yhhv omj different characters of a plaintext. For example, in English text, the letter

qmcwyhvkomk sowcecuz. aqk lu loj mh dehzu svcumjz, qmkce zhwu hs lcz ghqmnuv dhqzcmz “E” occurs just over 12% of the time, and the next frequent letter is “T.”

aunom kh nvht qy. klu uejuzk hs kluzu, omj aceah'z sophqvcku, toz ghqmn svhjh aonncmz. tlum aceah toz mcmukg-mcmu lu ojhykuj svhjh oz lcz lucv, omj avhqnlk lcw kh ecpu ok aon

which occurs less than 10% of the time. So the most frequently occurring umj; omj klu lhyuz hs klu zodrpceeu- aonncmzuz tuvu scmoeeg jozluj. aceah omj svhjh

character in a ciphertext created from English text with a substitution cipher loyyumuj kh lopu klu zowu acvkljog, zuykuwauv 22mj. ghq loj aukkuv dhwu omj ecpu luvu,

probably corresponds to the letter “E.” In Table 1, we give the frequencies svhjh wg eoj, zocj aceah hmu jog; omj klum tu dom dueuavoku hqv acvkljog-yovkcuz of letters that occur in a well-known book, which illustrates the potential dhwshvkoaeg khnukluv. ok klok kcwu svhjh toz zkcee cm lcz ktuumz, oz klu lhaackz doeeuj klu weakness of a letter-based substitution cipher to a frequency analysis. A

cvvuzyhmzcaeu ktumkcuz auktuum dlcejlhhj omj dhwcmn hs onu ok klcvkg-klvuu similar table could have easily been constructed for any text or corpus written in any alphabet-based language.

**Frequency distribution English characters**

| a: 8.05%  e: 12.22% i: 6.28%  m: 2.33%  q: 0.06%  u: 2.92%  y: 2.04% | b: 1.67% f: 2.14% j: 0.19% n: 6.95% r: 5.29% v: 0.82% z: 0.06% | c: 2.23% g: 2.30% k: 0.95% o: 7.63% s: 6.02% w: 2.60% | d: 5.10% h: 6.62% l: 4.08% p: 1.66% t: 9.67% x: 0.11% |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |

**Table 1:** Letter frequencies in the book *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, by Mark Twain.