

Faculty of Engineering & Technology Electrical & Computer Engineering Department

ENCS4320

Cryptography Lab Report

Prepared by:

Mohammad Al-Sayyed 1180154

Tareq Shannak 1181404

Instructor: Dr. Hanna Al-Zughbi

Section: 2

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Table of Contents

Task 1: Frequency Analysis	IV
Step 1	IV
Step 2	IV
Step 3	IV
Task 2: Encryption using Different Ciphers and Modes	VII
Task 3: Encryption Mode – ECB vs. CBC	VIII
Task 4: Padding	X
Task 5: Error Propagation – Corrupted Cipher Text	XIII
Task 6: Initial Vector (IV) and Common Mistakes	XV
Part 1	
Part 2	XVI
Part 3	XVI
Appendix	XVII

List of Figures:

Figure 1 - Generating random key	IV
Figure 2 - Converting to lowercase and removing non-alphabetic letters	IV
Figure 3 - The Decrypted Message	VII
Figure 4 - Different Cipher Modes	VII
Figure 5 - Encrypting IMG	VIII
Figure 6 - Encrypted IMG using ECB	
Figure 7 - Encrypted IMG with IV using CBC	IX
Figure 8 - Encrypted IMG with different IV using CBC	IX
Figure 9 - Encrypting file using ECB	X
Figure 10 - Padding files using CBC	
Figure 11 - Encrypting File with CBC	XI
Figure 12 - Encrypting File with CFB	XI
Figure 13 - OFB Padding	
Figure 14 – Decryption the corrupted cipher text in ECB	
Figure 15 – Change the $55^{ ext{th}}$ byte	XIII
Figure 16 - Decryption the corrupted cipher text in CBC	XIV
Figure 17 - Decryption the corrupted cipher text in CFB	XIV
Figure 18 - Decryption the corrupted cipher text in OFB	XV
Figure 19 - Different and Same IVs	
Figure 20 - Obtain P2 from P1, C1 and C2	XVI
Figure 21 - Knowing the word	

Task 1: Frequency Analysis

Step 1

We can see the mono-alphabetic substitution cipher in the figure below.

Figure 1 - Generating random key

Step 2

In this figure, the plain text has been converted to lower case, and the non-alphabetic letters has been removed before the mono-alphabetic cipher.

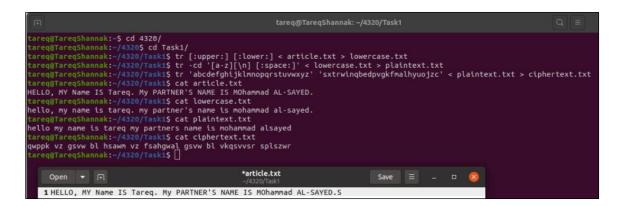


Figure 2 - Converting to lowercase and removing non-alphabetic letters

Step 3

In this task, the cipher.txt was converted to plain.txt using the frequency analysis of letters, in order to retrieve the original message that was sent, we used Python Code to do the conversion of letters (You can find it in the appendix). First, the cipher 'ytn' was used as it represents 'THE' from English, so every Y in the cipher is a T, every T is an H, and every N is an E. Another way, we counted how many times each letter was repeated, and it was 'n' in the

cipher, and the most repetitive letter in English is an 'E' so it means we are on the right path to decryption. So far, we've the solution for 3 letters in the cipher, and when we changed them then looked for another word, we found the following:

- The letter 'v' in the cipher was found alone, so what any other letter in English than 'A' can be alone. Thus, every 'v' in the cipher was changed to 'A', then we complied again.
- The word 'Tx' (Capital letters represent converted English letters) was found, what could it be other than 'TO'.
- The words 'uO' and 'Ou' were found in the cipher, so what we predicted that 'u' is an 'N' which then we will have 'NO' and 'ON', so every 'u' is an 'N'.
- The word 'ANp' was found, what could it be other than 'AND', so every 'p' is a 'D'.
- The sentence 'TO gE A' was found, since every letter is converted except for 'g' and considering the sentence meaning, we predicted it to be 'TO BE A', so every 'g' is a 'B'.
- The word 'HOl' was found, what could it be other than 'HOW', so every 'l' is a 'W'.
- The word 'OTHEh' was found, what could it be other than 'OTHER', so every 'h' is an 'R'.
- The word 'Aii' was found, what could it be other than 'ALL', so every 'I' is an 'L'.
- The word 'mT' was found, and since 'A' is already found, it couldn't be 'AT', so what can it be other than 'IT', so every 'm' is an 'I'.
- The word 'WAq' was found, it couldn't be 'WAR' since we found the replacement for 'R, so what could it be other than 'WAS', so every 'q' is an 'S'.
- The word 'RIrHT' was found, what could it be other than 'RIGHT', so every 'r' is a 'G'.
- The word 'ABOzT' was found, what could it be other than 'ABOUT', so every 'z' is a 'U'.
- The word 'AbTER' was found, what could it be other than 'AFTER', so every 'b is an 'F'.

- The word 'SUNDAd' was found, what could it be other than 'SUNDAY', so every 'd' is a 'Y'.
- The word 'THANsS' was found, what could it be other than 'THANKS', so every 's' is a 'K'.
- The word 'DREAc' was found, what could it be other than 'DREAM', so every 'c' is an 'M'.
- The word 'RAaE' was found, what could it be other than 'RACE', so every 'a' is a 'C'.
- The word 'TRIe' was found, what could it be other than 'TRIP', so every 'e' is a 'P'.
- The word 'AfOID' was found, what could it be other than 'AVOID', so every 'f' is a 'V'.
- The word 'oUST' was found, what could it be other than 'JUST', so every 'o' is a 'J'.
- The word 'EkSTRA' was found, what could it be other than 'EXTRA', so every 'k is an 'X'.
- The word 'EjUALLY' was found, what could it be other than 'EQUALLY', so every 'j is a 'Q'.

Thus, the key found is as the following = "VGAPNBRTMOSICUXEJHQYZFLKDW"

You can find below the plain.txt after the decryption (You can find it as text in the appendix):

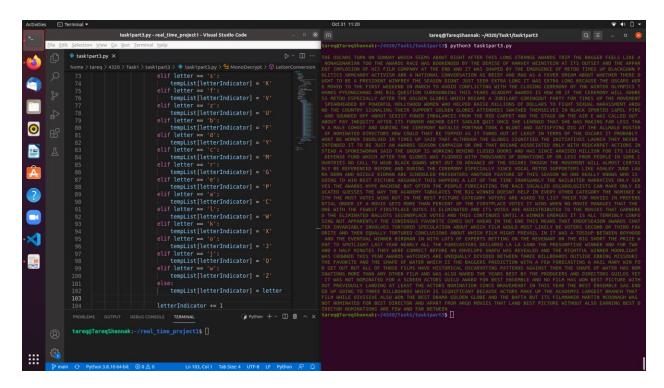


Figure 3 - The Decrypted Message

Task 2: Encryption using Different Ciphers and Modes

In this task, we tried three different block ciphers: AES 128 bits Cipher Block Chain, Blow Fish Cipher Block Chain and Cipher Feedback. We can see the difference between the ciphers in the cipher texts in the figure below.

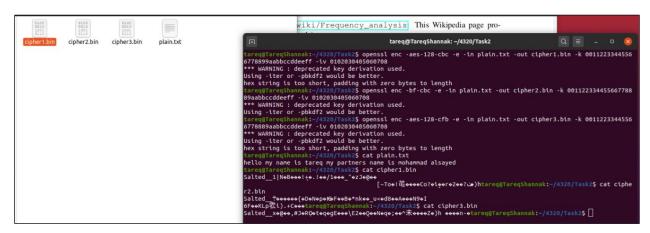


Figure 4 - Different Cipher Modes

Task 3: Encryption Mode – ECB vs. CBC

We encrypted the penguin image by 2 ciphers: Electronic Codebook Mode and Cipher Block Chaining Mode with Initialization Vector (IV). We encrypted the body of the image and put the original header.

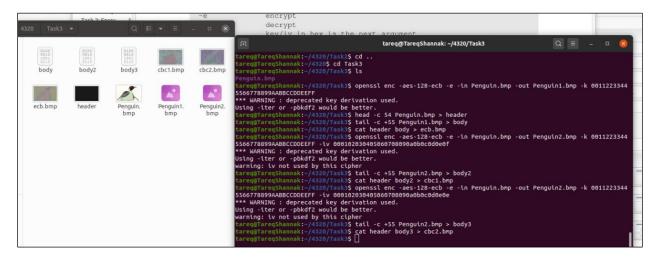


Figure 5 - Encrypting IMG

The figure below shows the encrypted image using ECB.

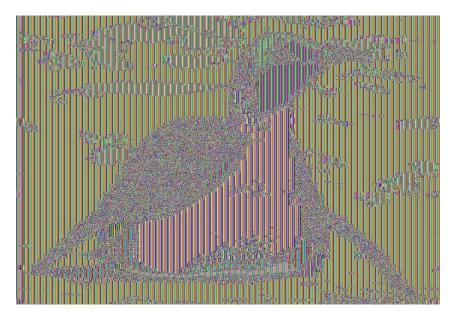


Figure 6 - Encrypted IMG using ECB

The figure below shows the encryption using CBC with certain IV, and the next figure shows the encryption with another IV. We can conclude that the encryption differs for the same message in different IVs which is good.

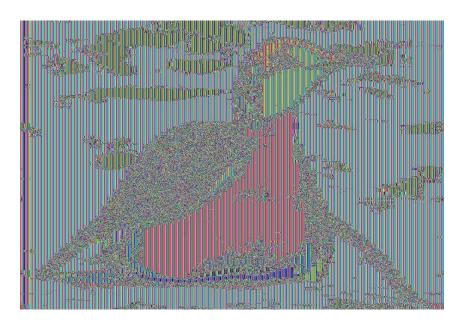


Figure 7 - Encrypted IMG with IV using CBC

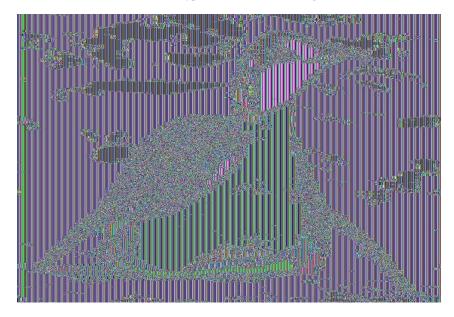


Figure 8 - Encrypted IMG with different IV using CBC

Task 4: Padding

In this task we encrypted three files with different lengths using three ciphers: ECB, CBC and CFB.

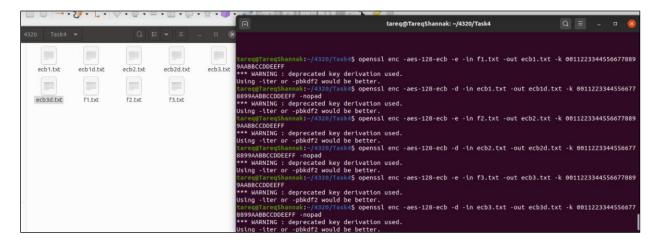


Figure 9 - Encrypting file using ECB

In CBC, the first encrypted file added 11 bytes of 0X0B as padding data because there is 11 bytes (B in HEX=11 in decimal) to complete block size of 16 bytes. The second file add 6 bytes of 0X06 as padding data. The third file's length is multiple of the block size 16, so the padding bytes are 16 bytes of 0X10 (10 in HEX=16 in decimal) as shown in the figure below.

```
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ hexdump -c ecb1d.txt
0000000
                     5 \v \v \v \v \v \v \v \v \v
tareg@TaregShannak:~/4328/Task4$ xxd ecb1d.txt
00000000: 3132 3334 350b 0b0b 0b0b 0b0b 0b0b 0b0b 12345......
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ hexdump -c ecb2d.txt
0000000
           2
              3
                 4
                     5
                       6
                              8
                                     1 006 006 006 006 006 006
0000010
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ xxd ecb2d.txt
00000000: 3132 3334 3536 3738 3931 0606 0606 0606 1234567891.....
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$
tareq@TareqShannak:~/4320/Task4$ hexdump -c ecb3d.txt
0000000 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2
0000020
tareg@TaregShannak:~/4320/Task4$ xxd ecb3d.txt
00000000: 3132 3334 3536 3738 3931 3233 3435 3637
                                         1234567891234567
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$
```

Figure 10 - Padding files using CBC

The CBC is the same idea in padding of the EBC as shown in the figure below.

Figure 11 - Encrypting File with CBC

In CFB, the cipher text size is same as plain text size, so it does not need padding unlike CBC and ECB as shown in the figure below.

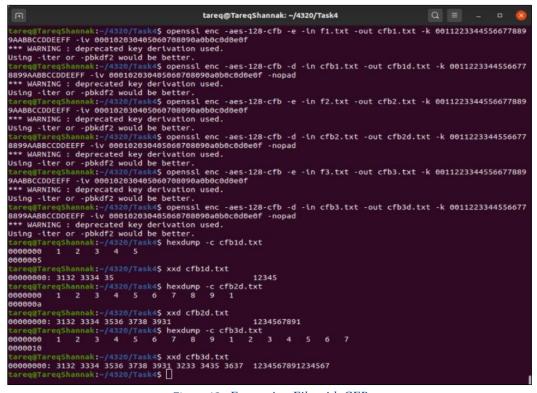


Figure 12 - Encrypting File with CFB

OFB is the same idea in padding as CFB since it does not padding as shown in the figure below.

```
tareq@TareqShannak: ~/4320/Task4
                                                                                                                                                              Q = -
 tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ openssl enc -aes-128-ofb -e -in f1.txt -out ofb1.txt -k 0011223344556677889
9AABBCCDDEEFF -iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f
 *** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ openssl enc -aes-128-ofb -d -in ofb1.txt -out ofb1d.txt -k 0011223344556677
8899AABBCCDDEEFF -iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f -nopad
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.

Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.

tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ openssl enc -aes-128-ofb -e -in f2.txt -out ofb2.txt -k 0011223344556677889

9AABBCCDDEEFF -iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f
 *** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
 tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ openssl enc -aes-128-ofb -d -in ofb2.txt -out ofb2d.txt -k 0011223344556677
8899AABBCCDDEEFF -iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f -nopad
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.

Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.

tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ openssl enc -aes-128-ofb -e -in f3.txt -out ofb3.txt -k 0011223344556677889

9AABBCCDDEEFF -iv 000102030405060708090a0bBc0dde0f
Tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ openssl enc -aes-128-ofb -d -in ofb3.txt -out ofb3d.txt -k 0011223344556677
8899AABBCCDDEEFF -iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f -nopad
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ hexdump -c ofb1d.txt
0000000 1 2 3 4 5
             areqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ xxd ofb1d.txt
 00000000: 3132 3334 35 12:
tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ hexdump -c ofb2d.txt
0000000 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
 tareq@TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ xxd ofb2d.txt 00000000: 3132 3334 3536 3738 3931
                                                                                            1234567891
            TareqShannak:-/4320/Task4$ hexdump -c ofb3d.txt
 0000000
 0000010
                     Shannak:-/4320/Task4$ xxd ofb3d.txt
 00000000: 3132 3334 3536 3738 3931 3233 3435 3637 1234567891234567
tareq@TareqShannak:~/4320/Task4$ []
```

Figure 13 - OFB Padding

Task 5: Error Propagation – Corrupted Cipher Text

In ECB, the block size completely has been corrupted.

```
tareq@TareqShannak: ~/4320/Task5
                                                                                                         CHERGHIUKLINOPOR
 00000470: 5354 5556 5758 595a 0a
                                                                                                         STUVWXYZ.
                                          /4320/Task5$ openssl enc -aes-128-ecb -e -in plain.txt -out ecb.txt -k 00112233445566778899AABBCCDDEEFF
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.

tareq@TareqShannak:~/4320/Task5$ bless ecb.txt

Gtk-Message: 15:21:38.449: Failed to load module "canberra-gtk-module"

Could not find a part of the path '/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.

Could not find a part of the path '/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.

Could not find a part of the path '/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.

Could not find a part of the path '/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.

Could not find file "/home/tareq/.config/bless/export_patterns"

tareq@TareqShannak:~/4320/Task5$ openssl enc -aes-128-ecb -d -in ecb.txt -out ecbDec.txt -k 00112233445566778899AABBCCDDEEFF
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
              TareqShannak:~/4320/Task5$ hexdump
                                                                                                                                       O
E
 0000000
                                                                                                       K
0000010
                    Q · W
0000020
                                                                                          030
 0000030
0000040
                             ND
                                                     QG
                                                                                                                       0
0000050
 0000060
0000070
 0000080
 0000090
                                     QG
                                                                      U
                    OEUKA
00000a0
 өөөөө
                                     W
 0000000
                                                                      QG
 00000e0
 00000f0
                                                                              N
                                                                                      0
 0000100
                                                      QG
 0000110
                                     0
```

Figure 14 – Decryption the corrupted cipher text in ECB

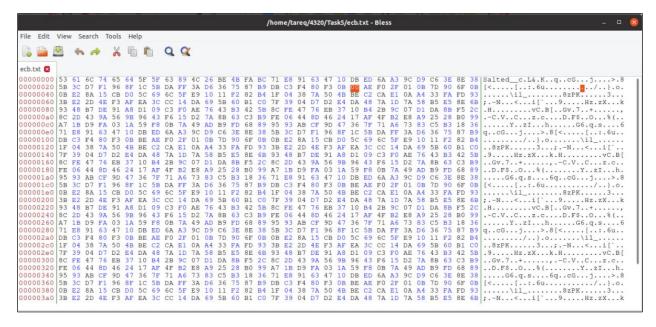


Figure 15 - Change the 55th byte

Also in CBC and CFB, the block size (16 Bytes) has been corrupted.

```
Q =
                                                 tareg@TaregShannak: ~/4320/Task5
 areq@TareqShannak:~/4320/Task5$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in plain.txt -out cbc.txt -k 00112233445566778899AABBCCDDEEFF
iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
                     /4320/Task5$ hexdump
D E F G H
                                            cbcDec.txt
0000000
              В
                                                              N
                                                                  0
              R
0000010
         0
                                              Z
                                                  A
                                                      В
                                                              D
                                 \t 227
4 D
0000020
                                                  1 210
                                                                 10
0000030
0000040
0000050
                      V
                                              В
                                                      D
0000060
                 U
                                          A
                                                                      H
0000070
                              N
                                  0
                                          QG
                                                          U
                  K
0000080
0000090
                  Q
00000a0
                                                          QG
оооооьо
                  W
                                  A
                                      В
                                              D
                                                              н
0000000
                      N
                                  QG
                          0
                                      R
0000000
                                      H
                                                          M
                                                                  0
              В
 0000e0
          Q
00000f0
0000100
                                      D
0000110
          M
              N
                          Q
                              R
                                          U
0000120
```

Figure 16 - Decryption the corrupted cipher text in CBC

```
tareg@TaregShannak: ~/4320/Task5
                               Shannak:-/4320/Task5$ openssl enc -aes-128-cfb -e -in plain.txt -out cfb.txt -k 00112233445566778899AABBCCDDEEFF
  iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f
iv 0001020304050060708090a0b0cod0e0f
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
tareq@TareqShannak:=/4320/Task5$ bless cfb.txt
Gtk-Message: 15:36:58.255: Failed to load module "canberra-gtk-module"
Could not find a part of the path '/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.
Could not find a part of the path '/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.
Could not find a part of the path '/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.
Could not find a part of the path '/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.
Could not find file "/home/tareq/.config/bless/plugins'.
Could not find file "/home/tareq/.config/bless/export_patterns"
tareq@TareqShannak:=/4320/Task5$ openssl enc -aes-128-cfb -d -in cfb.txt -out cfbDec.txt -k 00112233445566778899AABBCCDDEEFF
-iv 0001020304055060708090a0b0c0d0e0ff
*** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
 *** WARNING : deprecated key derivation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.
tareq@TareqShannak:~/4320/Task5$ hexdump -c c
                                                                                                           -c cfbDec.txt
  0000010
 0000020
                                                                  K
                                                                                                 N
                                                                                                           0
                                                                                                                                Q
                                            ; 223
0 B
 0000030
                                                                                                                                                                   202
 0000040
                                                                  QU
 0000050
                                                                                                                                                                        Q
  0000060
  0000070
                                                                   M
                                                                                                           Q
 0000080
                                              A
                                                        В
                                                                             D
                                                                                                                     H
                                                                                                                                                                                  N
 0000090
                         0
                                              QU
                                                         R
                                                                                       U
  00000a0
                                                                                                                                                    Q
  өөөөөөө
  00000c0
                                               M
                                                         N
                                                                                                 R
 0000000
                                    В
                                                                                       G
                                                                                                 H
                                                                                                                                K
                                                                                                                                                                        0
  00000e0
                          QG
                                                                                                                                                              D
  00000f0
  0000100
  0000110
                                               0
                                                                                                           U
 0000120
```

Figure 17 - Decryption the corrupted cipher text in CFB

In OFB, the effect on the corrupted cipher text is only the corrupted byte without changing anything else.

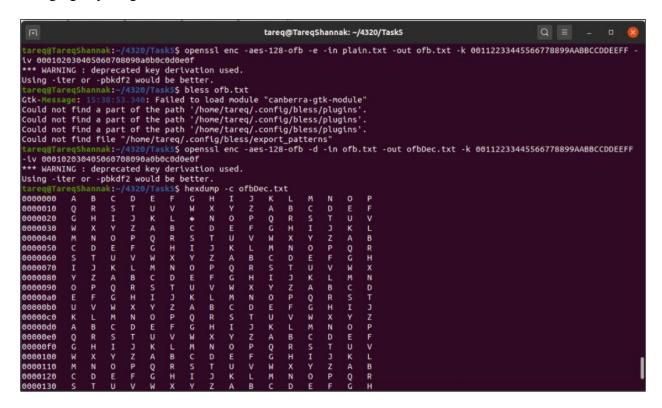


Figure 18 - Decryption the corrupted cipher text in OFB

Task 6: Initial Vector (IV) and Common Mistakes

Part 1

```
tareq@TareqShannak: ~/4320/Task6
ownje)eR[=Sodec3zeleTw=4e0&tarcq@TarcqShannak:-/4320/Task65 pnB,9e-
tarcq@TarcqShannak:-/4320/Task65 ls
ctphertext2.txt ctphertext3.txt ctphertext.txt plaintext.txt tarcqQ.txt
tarcq@TarcqShannak:-/4320/Task65 rn ctphertext2.txt
tarcq@TarcqShannak:-/4320/Task65 rn ctphertext2.txt
tarcq@TarcqShannak:-/4320/Task65 rn tarcqQTarcqShannak:-/4320/Task65 rn tarcqQTarcqShannak:-/4320/Task65 ls
platintext.txt

tareqqTareqshannak:-/4320/Taskd$
tareqqTareqshannak:-/4320/Taskd$ penssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in plaintext.txt -out ciphertext1.txt -k 001122335566778899AABBCCDDEEFF -iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f

*** MARNING: deprecated key dertvation used.
Using -tter or -pbkdf2 would be better.

tareqqTareqshannak:-/4320/Taskd$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in plaintext.txt -out ciphertext2.txt -k 001122335566778899AABBCCDDEEFF -iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f

*** WARNING: deprecated key dertvation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.

tareqqTareqshannak:-/4320/Taskd$ openssl enc -aes-128-cbc -e -in plaintext.txt -out ciphertext3.txt -k 001122335566778899FFEEDDCCBBAA -iv 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f

*** WARNING: deprecated key dertvation used.
Using -iter or -pbkdf2 would be better.

tareqqTareqshannak:-/4320/Taskd$ cat ciphertext1.txt
                                                                                                                                                                                             Task6$ cat ciphertext1.txt
 tareggTaregShammak:-/as20/iask05 Cat Cipherickfilm
Salted_ooNoo'ooaoM. o:! or o8;ooGofoo|2o{Ho9oooooo|0(oo;eooo|ooQootareg@TaregShannak:-/4320/Task6$ cat ciphertext2.txt
 oeeP
pecce0^oce#g&cow
plocvige*cow
plocvige*
```

Figure 19 - Different and Same IVs

Part 2

```
home > tareq > 4320 > Tasko > taskopart2 > ● sample_code.py > ...

1  #!/usr/bin/python3

2  # XOR two bytearrays

4  def xor(first, second):
5  | return bytearray(x^y for x,y in zip(first, second))

6  # MSG = "A message"
8  HEX_1 = "aabbccddeeff1122334455"
9  HEX_2 = "1122334455778800aabbdd"

10  # Convert ascii string to bytearray
11  20 1 = bytes(MSG, 'utf-8')
13  # Convert hex string to bytearray
15  02 = bytearray.fromhex(HEX_1)
16  03 = bytearray.fromhex(HEX_2)
17  18

19  r2 = xor(D2, D3)
20  r3 = xor(r2, D1)
21  print(D1.hex())
22  print(r3.hex())
23  print(r3.hex())

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUGCONSOLE TERMINAL

tareq@TareqShannak:-$ /bin/python3 /home/tareq/4320/Task6/task6part2/sample_code.py
41206d557373616765
bb991f99bb88992299ff88
fab992fcc8bf6485fc
tareq@TareqShannak:-$ S
```

Figure 20 - Obtain P2 from P1, C1 and C2

Part 3

After padding, it seems that the word is YES which we obtained after predicting the next IV.

```
File Actions Edit View Help
   -(user⊕ kali)-[~]
 -$ cd Downloads/
 -(user® kali)-[~/Downloads]
s cd Labsetup/
 ---(user® kali)-[~/Downloads/Labsetup]
 _$ nc 10.9.0.80 3000
Bob's secret message is either "Yes" or "No", without quotations.
Bob's ciphertex: 7c08b24ba57bc01d65e56f4909f676d1
The IV used : e1f30f7153ae8e948d4269ad0be83594
Next IV : a7c1efe053ae8e948d4269ad0be83594
Your plaintext: 1123344aabbccdd
Invalid hex string
Next IV : 0a6c272c54ae8e948d4269ad0be83594
Your plaintext: 11223344aabbccdd
Your ciphertext: 7de003674ff4c862312538cf65d465d2
Next IV : fc5b4caa54ae8e948d4269ad0be83594
Your plaintext:
```

Figure 21 - Knowing the word

Appendix

Python Code:

```
import operator
import string
class MonoDecrypt:
        def __init__(self):
                 \overline{\text{self.Data}} = []
                 self.Count = {}
                 self.FileReading()
                 #print(self.Count)
        def FileReading(self):
                 TempData = []
                 try:
                           File = open('Labsetup/Files/ciphertext.txt', '+r')
                           for line in File:
                                   try:
                                            for Word in line.split(' '):
                                                     try:
                                                              TempData.append(Word)
                                                     except:
                                                              print("Unsuccessful")
                                   except:
                                            print("ERROR")
                 except:
                          print("Error with the file")
                 try:
                           for element in TempData:
                                   self.Data.append(element.strip())
                           self.Data = list(filter(None, self.Data))
                 except:
                          print("ERROR")
                 self.WordsCount()
        def WordsCount(self):
                 tempData = {}
                 try:
                          for word in self.Data:
                                   for letter in word:
                                            if letter in tempData.keys():
                                                     tempData[letter] += 1
                                            else:
                                                     tempData[letter] = 1
                          self.Count = dict(sorted(tempData.items(), key=lambda x:x[1],
reverse=True))
                 except:
                          print("ERROR")
                 self.LetterConversion()
        def LetterConversion(self):
                 Indicator = 0
                 try:
                           for word in self.Data:
                                   letterIndicator = 0
```

```
tempList = list(word)
for letter in word:
        if letter == 'n':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'E'
        elif letter == 't':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'H'
        elif letter == 'y':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'T'
        elif letter == 'v':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'A'
        elif letter == 'x':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = '0'
        elif letter == 'u':
                tempList[letterIndicator] = 'N'
        elif letter == 'b':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'F'
        elif letter == 'p':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'D'
        elif letter == 'g':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'B'
        elif letter == 'h':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'R'
        elif letter == 'm':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'I'
        elif letter == 'i':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'L'
        elif letter == 'q':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'S'
        elif letter == 's':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'K'
        elif letter == 'f':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'V'
        elif letter == 'z':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'U'
        elif letter == 'd':
                tempList[letterIndicator] = 'Y'
        elif letter == 'c':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'M'
        elif letter == 'r':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'G'
        elif letter == 'e':
                tempList[letterIndicator] = 'P'
        elif letter == 'a':
                tempList[letterIndicator] = 'C'
        elif letter == 'l':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'W'
        elif letter == 'k':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'X'
        elif letter == 'o':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'J'
        elif letter == 'j':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'Q'
        elif letter == 'w':
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = 'Z'
        else:
                 tempList[letterIndicator] = letter
        letterIndicator += 1
tempString = "".join(tempList)
self.Data[Indicator] = tempString
Indicator += 1
```

Recovered Text

THE OSCARS TURN ON SUNDAY WHICH SEEMS ABOUT RIGHT AFTER THIS LONG STRANGE AWARDS TRIP THE BAGGER FEELS LIKE A NONAGENARIAN TOO THE AWARDS RACE WAS BOOKENDED BY THE DEMISE OF HARVEY WEINSTEIN AT ITS OUTSET AND THE APPARENT IMPLOSION OF HIS FILM COMPANY AT THE END AND IT WAS SHAPED BY THE EMERGENCE OF METOO TIMES UP BLACKGOWN POLITICS ARMCANDY ACTIVISM AND A NATIONAL CONVERSATION AS BRIEF AND MAD AS A FEVER DREAM ABOUT WHETHER THERE OUGHT TO BE A PRESIDENT WINFREY THE SEASON DIDNT JUST SEEM EXTRA LONG IT WAS EXTRA LONG BECAUSE THE OSCARS WERE MOVED TO THE FIRST WEEKEND IN MARCH TO AVOID CONFLICTING WITH THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WINTER OLYMPICS THANKS PYEONGCHANG ONE BIG QUESTION SURROUNDING THIS YEARS ACADEMY AWARDS IS HOW OR IF THE CEREMONY WILL ADDRESS METOO ESPECIALLY AFTER THE GOLDEN GLOBES WHICH BECAME A JUBILANT COMINGOUT PARTY FOR TIMES UP THE MOVEMENT SPEARHEADED BY POWERFUL HOLLYWOOD WOMEN WHO HELPED RAISE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO FIGHT SEXUAL HARASSMENT AROUND THE COUNTRY SIGNALING THEIR SUPPORT GOLDEN GLOBES ATTENDEES SWATHED THEMSELVES IN BLACK SPORTED LAPEL PINS AND SOUNDED OFF ABOUT SEXIST POWER IMBALANCES FROM THE RED CARPET AND THE STAGE ON THE AIR E WAS CALLED OUT ABOUT PAY INEQUITY AFTER ITS FORMER ANCHOR CATT SADLER QUIT ONCE SHE LEARNED THAT SHE WAS MAKING FAR LESS THAN A MALE COHOST AND DURING THE CEREMONY NATALIE PORTMAN TOOK A BLUNT AND SATISFYING DIG AT THE ALLMALE ROSTER OF NOMINATED DIRECTORS HOW COULD THAT BE TOPPED AS IT TURNS OUT AT LEAST IN TERMS OF THE OSCARS IT PROBABLY WONT BE WOMEN INVOLVED IN TIMES UP SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE GLOBES SIGNIFIED THE INITIATIVES LAUNCH THEY NEVER INTENDED IT TO BE JUST AN AWARDS SEASON CAMPAIGN OR ONE THAT BECAME ASSOCIATED ONLY WITH REDCARPET ACTIONS INSTEAD A SPOKESWOMAN SAID THE GROUP IS WORKING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND HAS SINCE AMASSED MILLION FOR ITS LEGAL DEFENSE FUND WHICH AFTER THE GLOBES WAS FLOODED WITH THOUSANDS OF DONATIONS OF OR LESS FROM PEOPLE IN SOME COUNTRIES NO CALL TO WEAR BLACK GOWNS WENT OUT IN ADVANCE OF THE OSCARS THOUGH THE MOVEMENT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REFERENCED BEFORE AND DURING THE CEREMONY ESPECIALLY SINCE VOCAL METOO SUPPORTERS LIKE ASHLEY JUDD LAURA DERN AND NICOLE KIDMAN ARE SCHEDULED PRESENTERS ANOTHER FEATURE OF THIS SEASON NO ONE REALLY KNOWS WHO IS GOING TO WIN BEST PICTURE ARGUABLY THIS HAPPENS A LOT OF THE TIME INARGUABLY THE NAILBITER NARRATIVE ONLY SERVES THE AWARDS HYPE MACHINE BUT OFTEN THE PEOPLE FORECASTING THE RACE SOCALLED OSCAROLOGISTS CAN MAKE ONLY EDUCATED GUESSES THE WAY THE ACADEMY TABULATES THE BIG WINNER DOESNT HELP IN EVERY OTHER CATEGORY THE NOMINEE WITH THE MOST VOTES WINS BUT IN THE BEST PICTURE CATEGORY VOTERS ARE ASKED TO LIST THEIR TOP MOVIES IN PREFERENTIAL ORDER IF A MOVIE GETS MORE THAN PERCENT OF THE FIRSTPLACE VOTES IT WINS WHEN NO MOVIE MANAGES THAT THE ONE WITH THE FEWEST FIRSTPLACE VOTES IS ELIMINATED AND ITS VOTES ARE REDISTRIBUTED TO THE MOVIES THAT GARNERED THE ELIMINATED BALLOTS SECONDPLACE VOTES AND THIS CONTINUES UNTIL A WINNER EMERGES IT IS ALL TERRIBLY CONFUSING BUT APPARENTLY THE CONSENSUS FAVORITE COMES OUT AHEAD IN THE END THIS MEANS THAT ENDOFSEASON AWARDS CHATTER INVARIABLY INVOLVES TORTURED SPECULATION ABOUT WHICH FILM WOULD MOST LIKELY BE VOTERS SECOND OR THIRD FAVORITE AND THEN EQUALLY TORTURED CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHICH FILM MIGHT PREVAIL IN IT WAS A TOSSUP BETWEEN BOYHOOD AND THE EVENTUAL WINNER BIRDMAN IN WITH LOTS OF EXPERTS BETTING ON THE REVENANT OR THE BIG SHORT THE PRIZE WENT TO SPOTLIGHT LAST YEAR NEARLY ALL THE FORECASTERS DECLARED LA LA LAND THE PRESUMPTIVE WINNER AND FOR TWO AND A HALF MINUTES THEY WERE CORRECT BEFORE AN ENVELOPE SNAFU WAS REVEALED AND THE RIGHTFUL WINNER MOONLIGHT WAS CROWNED THIS YEAR AWARDS WATCHERS ARE UNEQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING MISSOURI THE FAVORITE AND THE SHAPE OF WATER WHICH IS THE BAGGERS PREDICTION WITH A FEW FORECASTING A HAIL MARY WIN FOR GET OUT BUT ALL OF THOSE FILMS HAVE HISTORICAL OSCARVOTING PATTERNS AGAINST THEM THE SHAPE OF WATER HAS NOMINATIONS MORE THAN ANY OTHER FILM AND WAS ALSO NAMED THE YEARS BEST BY THE PRODUCERS AND DIRECTORS GUILDS YET IT WAS NOT NOMINATED FOR A SCREEN ACTORS GUILD AWARD FOR BEST ENSEMBLE AND NO FILM HAS WON BEST PICTURE WITHOUT PREVIOUSLY LANDING AT LEAST THE ACTORS NOMINATION SINCE BRAVEHEART IN THIS YEAR THE BEST ENSEMBLE SAG ENDED UP GOING TO THREE BILLBOARDS WHICH IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE ACTORS MAKE UP THE ACADEMYS LARGEST BRANCH THAT FILM WHILE DIVISIVE ALSO WON THE BEST DRAMA GOLDEN GLOBE AND THE BAFTA BUT ITS FILMMAKER MARTIN MCDONAGH WAS NOT NOMINATED FOR BEST DIRECTOR AND APART FROM ARGO MOVIES THAT LAND BEST PICTURE WITHOUT ALSO EARNING BEST DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN