Encryption and Forensics/Data Hiding

Cryptography Background

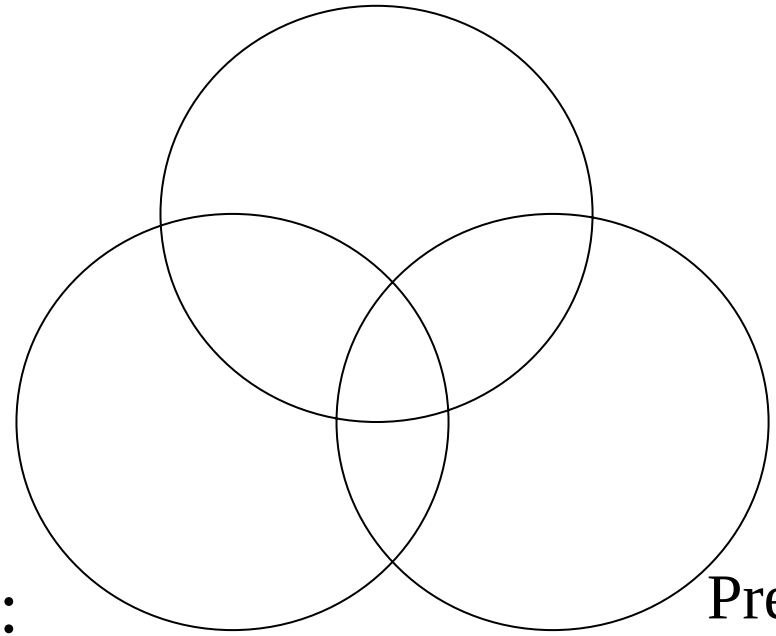
See:

http://www.cacr.math.uwaterloo.ca/hac/

For more information

Security Objectives

Confidentiality (Secrecy):
Prevent/Detect/Deter improper disclosure of information



Integrity:
Prevent/Detect/Deter improper modification of information

Availability:
Prevent/Detect/Deter improper denial of access to services provided by the system

Security Services

- Confidentiality: protection of any information from being exposed to unintended entities.
  - Information content
  - Parties involved
  - Where they are, how they communicate, how often, etc.
- Authentication: assurance that an entity of concern or the origin of a communication is authentic - it's what it claims to be or from
- Integrity: assurance that the information has not been tampered with

Encryption/Decryption

- Plaintext: a message in its original form
- Ciphertext: a message in the transformed, unrecognized form
- Encryption: the process for producing ciphertext from plaintext
- Decryption: the reverse of encryption
- Key: a secret value used to control encryption/decryption

Cryptanalysis: Break an Encryption Scheme

- Ciphertext only
  - Analyze only with the ciphertext
  - Exhaustive search until “recognizable plaintext”
  - Need enough ciphertext
- Known Plaintext
  - <plaintext, ciphertext> is obtained
  - Great for monoalphabetic cipher
- Chosen Plaintext:
  - Choose plaintext, get the ciphertext
  - Useful if limited set of messages

Methods for Attacking Encrypted Text

- Table 4-1 of the textbook
- Cryptanalysis
  - Ciphertext only
    - Analyze only with the ciphertext
    - Exhaustive search until “recognizable plaintext”
    - Need enough ciphertext
  - Known Plaintext
    - <plaintext, ciphertext> is obtained
  - Chosen Plaintext:
    - Choose plaintext, get the ciphertext
    - Useful if limited set of messages
- Password Guess (Similar to known plaintext)
  - Dictionary
  - Educated Guess
  - Brute Force

Methods for Attacking Encrypted Text – Con’t

- Scavenge Password
  - Physical Search
  - Logical Search
  - Network Sniff
- …

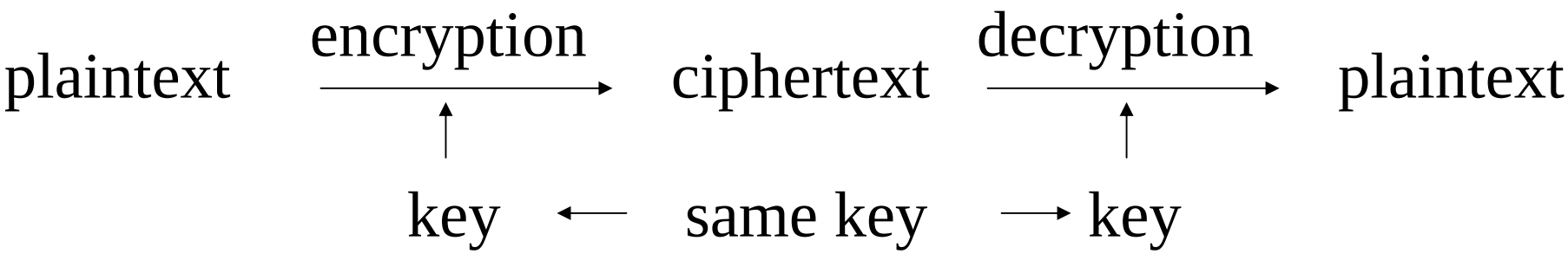
Computationally Difficult

- Cryptographic algorithms need to be reasonably efficient
- Cryptographic algorithms are not impossible to break with the key
  - e.g. try all the keys – brute-force cryptanalysis
  - Time can be saved by spending money on more computers.
- A scheme can be made more secure by making the key longer
  - Increase the length of the key by one bit
    - The good guy's job just a little bit harder
    - The bad guy's job up to twice as hard.

Types of Cryptographic functions

- Secret Key Cryptography
  - One key
- Public Key Cryptography
  - Two keys: public, private
- Hash function
  - No key

Secret Key Cryptography



- Same key is used for both encryption and decryption
  - Symmetric cryptography
  - Conventional cryptography
- Ciphertext is about the same length as the plaintext
- Examples: DES, IDEA, AES…

Public Key Cryptography

- Invented/published in 1975
- Each individual has two keys:
  - Private key is kept secret
  - Public key is publicly known
- Much slower than secret key cryptography
- Also known as
  - Asymmetric cryptography

Public Key Cryptography cont'd

- Digital Signature
  - Only the party with the private key can generate a digital signature
  - Verification of the signature only requires the knowledge of the public key
  - The signer cannot deny he/she has done so.
  - Example illustrated in Fig. 4-4 and 4-5

Applications of Public Key Cryptography

- Security uses of public key cryptography
  - Known public key cryptography is orders of magnitude slower than the best known secret key cryptographic algo.
- Transmitting over an Insecure Channel

Alice		Bob
Encrypt m_A using e_B	$\longrightarrow$	Decrypt to m_A using d_B
Decrypt to m_B using d_A	$\longleftarrow$	Encrypt m_B using e_A

- e: public key, d: private key
- Secure Storage on Insecure Media
  - Because of performance issues, you can randomly generate a secret key, encrypt the data with that secret key, and encrypt the secret key with the public key
  - Using public key of a trusted person

Hash Algorithms

- Message digests, one-way transformations

- Easy to compute h(m)
- Given h(m), no easy way to find m
- Computationally infeasible to find m_1 and m_2, so that $h(m_1) = h(m_2)$

Trusted Intermediaries

- Cannot do pair-wise authentication with secret key technology
  - Each computer needs to know n-1 keys
- Key Distribution Center (KDC)
- Certification Authorities (CAs)
- Certificate

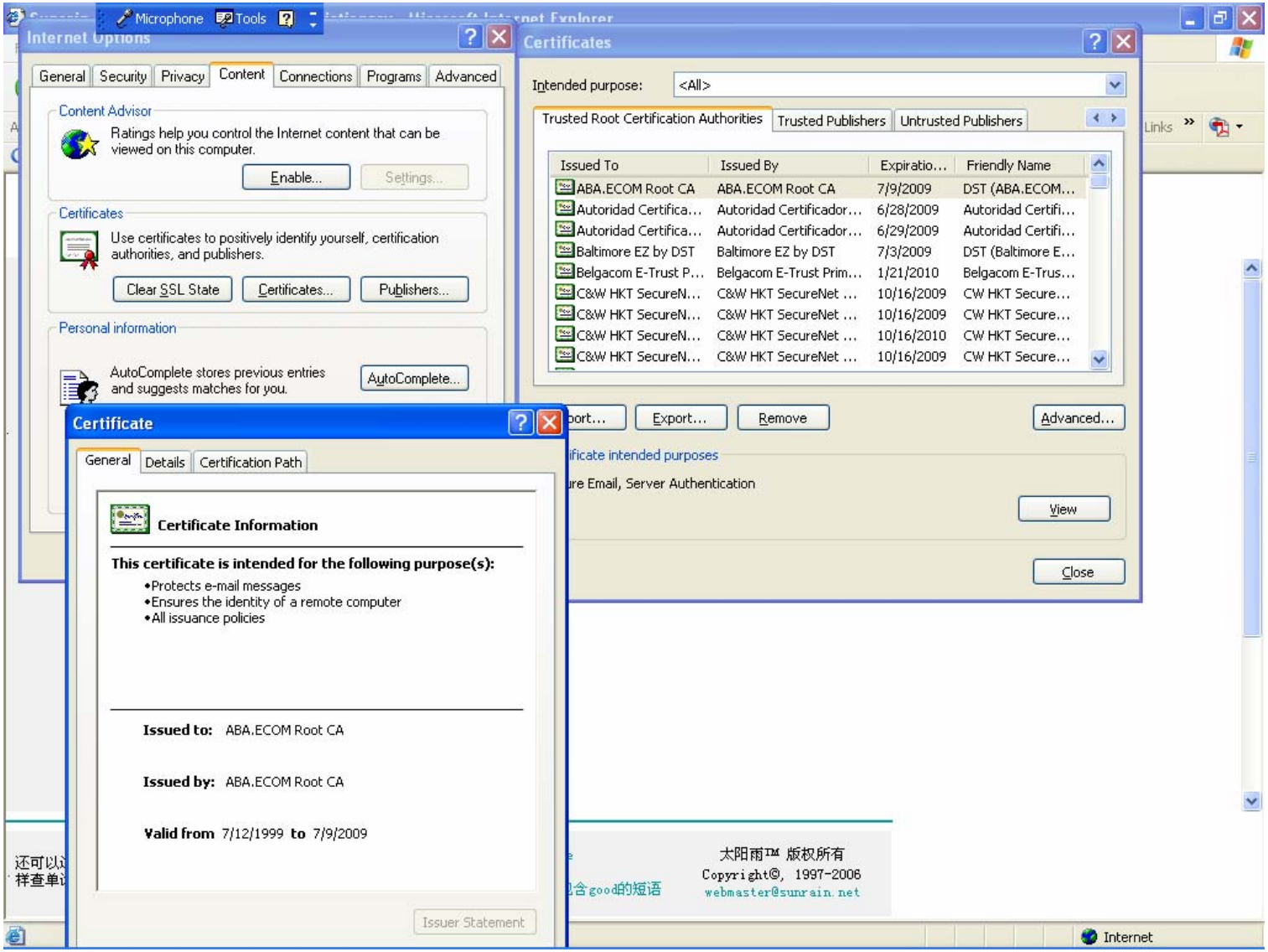
Key Distribution Center

- Use a trusted node known as Key Distribution Center (KDC)
  - Secret key cryptography
- The KDC knows keys for all nodes
  - α asks KDC for secret (securely) to talk to β
  - KDC encrypts $R_{\alpha\beta}$ with the key shared between α and KDC, send to α
  - KDC encrypts $R_{\alpha\beta}$ with the key shared between β and KDC, send to β : ticket

Certification Authorities (CAs)

- Public key cryptography
  - Problem: How can you be sure that the public keys are correct?
- CA: ensure validity of public keys
- Certificates
  - Signed messages specifying a name (Alice) and the corresponding public key
  - All nodes need to be preconfigured with the CA's public key

Certificate Authorities Trusted by IE



- http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/ie/reskit/6/part2/c06ie6rk.mspx?mfr=true

Certification Practice Statement

- Certification Practice Statement (CPS)
  - How certificate authorities operate, maintain the security of their infrastructures.
  - Certificate Revocation List
- One example:
  - Verisign CPS
    - http://www.verisign.com/repository/CPS/

Codes and Compression

- uuencode
  - http://www.winzip.com/uu00002.htm
  - Uuencoding obscures binary data, but not ASCII text
  - Winzip can open and extract uuencoded files
- Compression
  - Recognizable patterns
  - Lossless data compression
    - Zip, gzip
    - GIF, TIFF..
  - Lossy data compression
    - JPEG, MPEG…
- Data is often compressed before it is encrypted

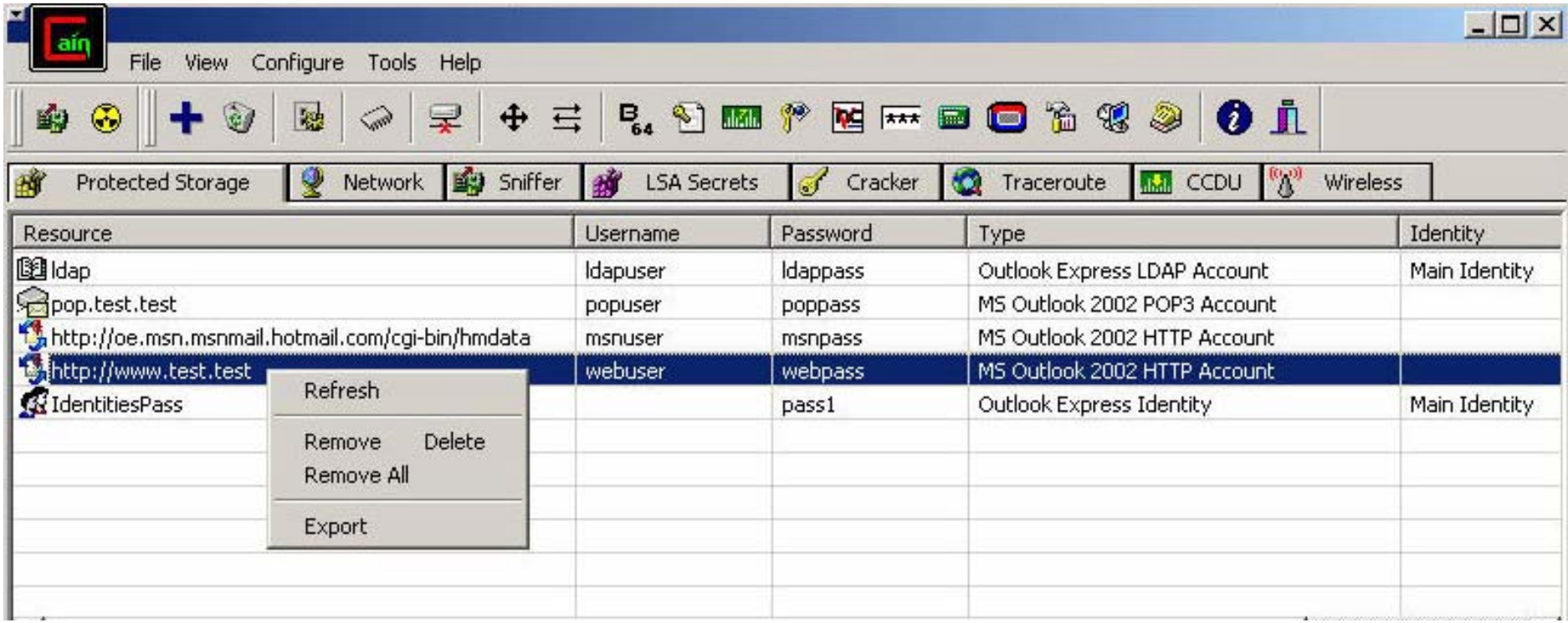
Challenges

- Any transformation performed on text data make it difficult or impossible to do a batch search for keywords!
- How to identify encrypted data
  - To see if it can be compressed

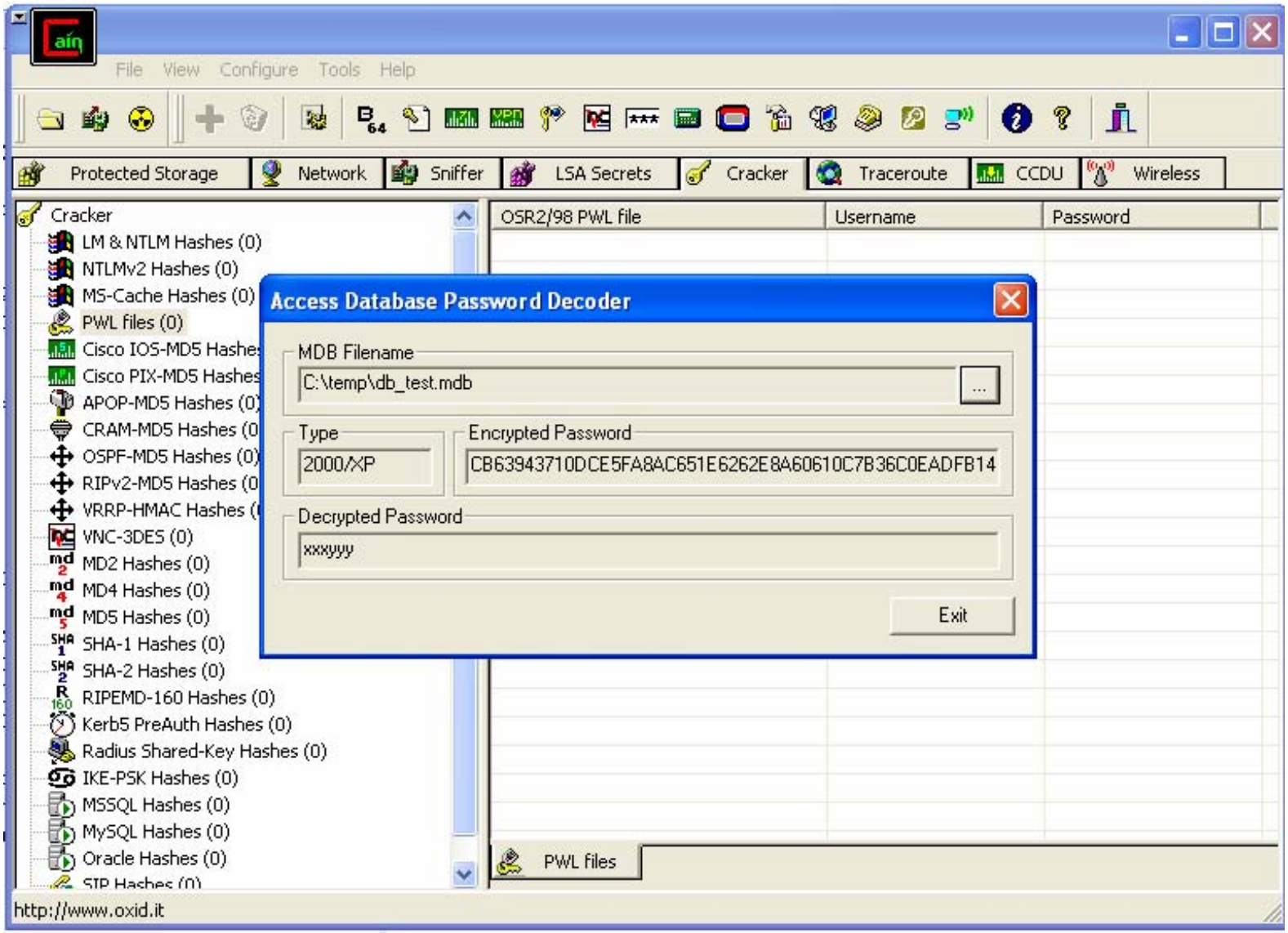
Password recovery tool for Windows

- Cain:
  - *http://www.oxid.it/cain.html (Doc: http://www.oxid.it/ca_um/)*
  - Uncovering cached password
  - Recovering password by sniffing the network
  - Cracking encrypted password using Dictionary
  - Brute-force and Cryptanalysis attacks
  - …

Cain – uncover password from protected storage

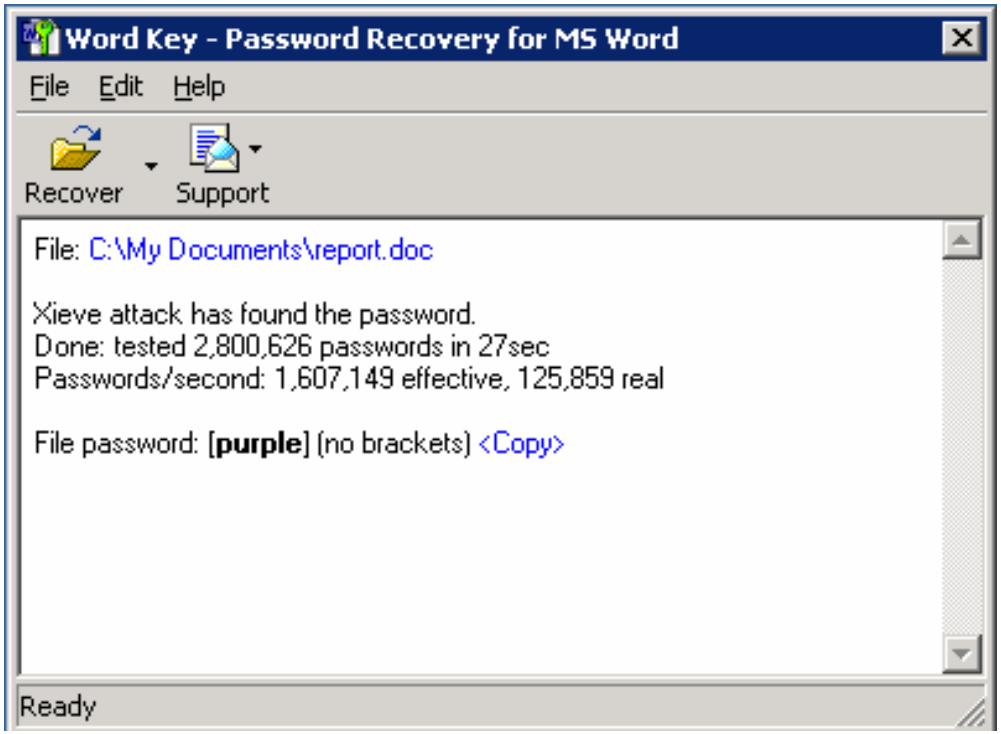


Cain – attack against encrypted password



Password Cracker

- www.lostpassword.com



- L0phCrack
- ZipPassword

Hiding and Finding Data

- Changing a file's extension
  - Windows uses the filename extension to identify the data type of the file
  - *Quick View Plus*
- Check the file header
  - Contain a hexadecimal value that can be usually be correlated to file type
- File Format Information
  - *http://www.wotsit.org/*

Steganography

- Steganos: secret or hidden
- Graphy: drawing or writing
- http://www.stegoarchive.com/

File Systems

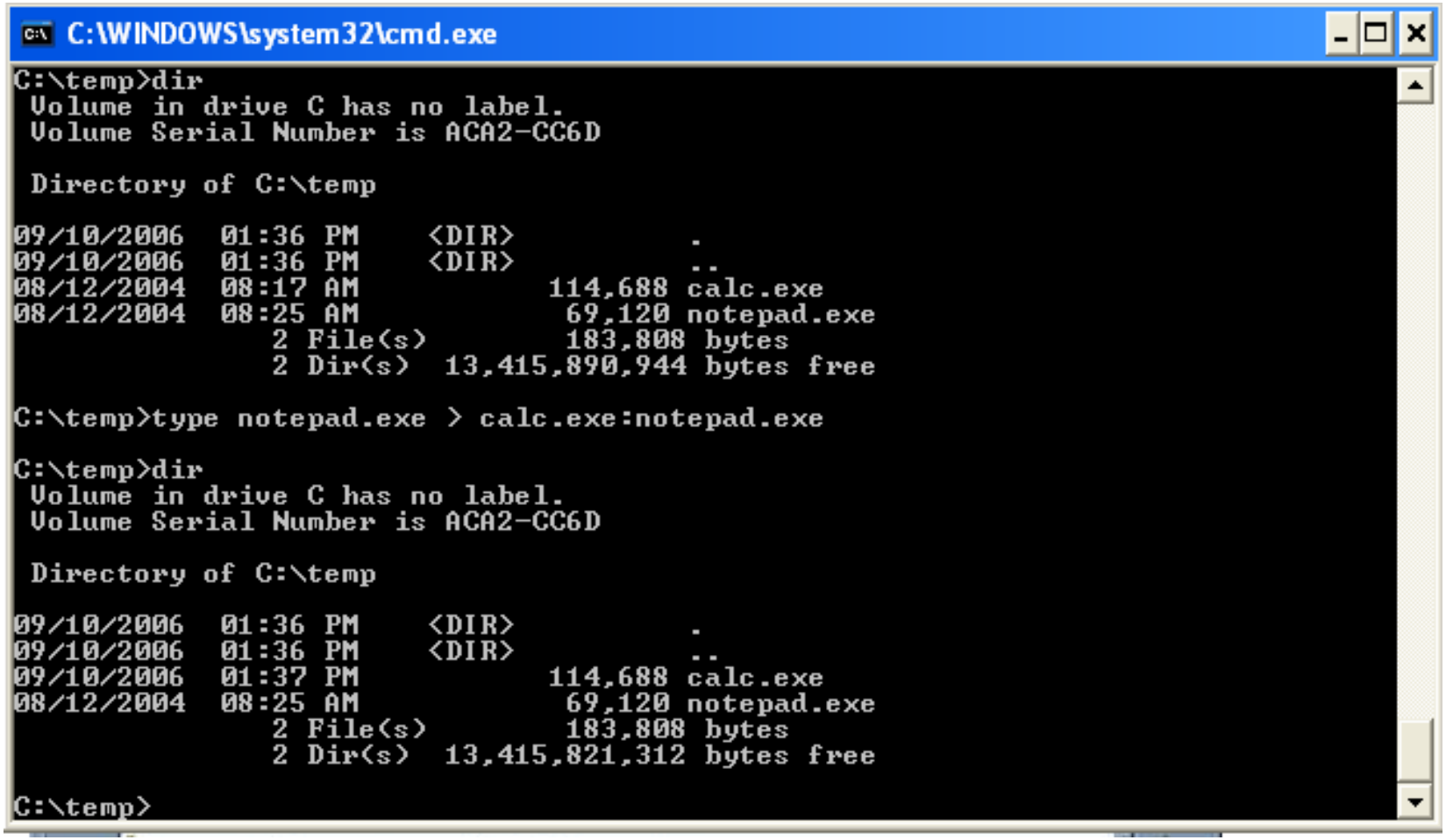
	FAT12	FAT16	FAT32
Developer	Microsoft		
Full Name	File Allocation Table		
	(12-bit version)	(16-bit version)	(32-bit version)
Introduced	1977 (Microsoft Disk BASIC)	July 1988 (MS-DOS 4.0)	August 1996 (Windows 95 OSR2)
Partition identifier	0x01 (MBR)	0x04, 0x06, 0x0E (MBR)	0x0B, 0x0C (MBR) EBD0A0A2-B9E5-4433-87C0-68B6B72699C7 (GPT)

- Windows NT and Windows XP support NTFS, FAT16, and FAT 32.

NTFS Alternate Data Streams (ADS)

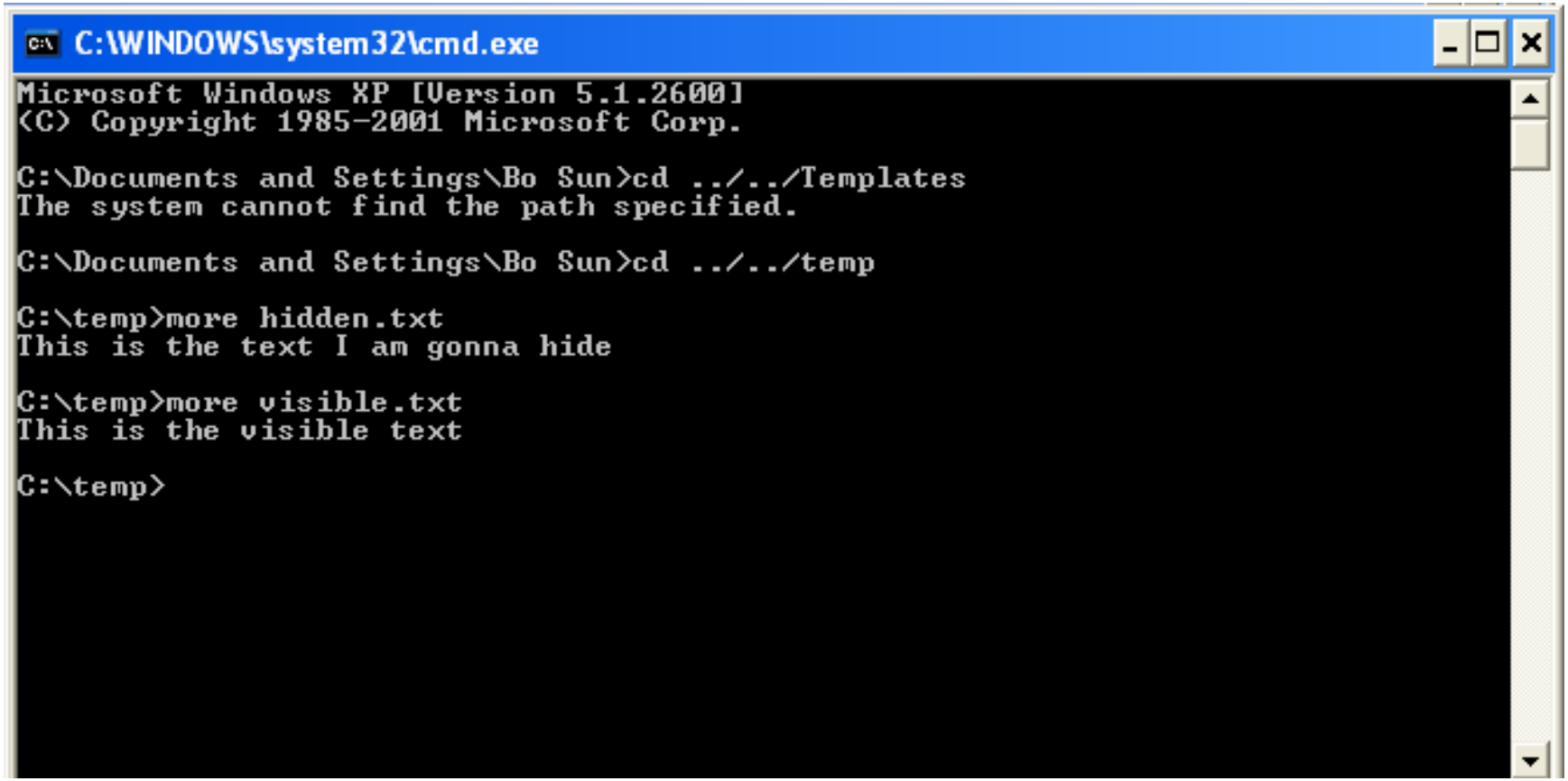
- NTFS file systems supports multiple data streams
- Allow files to be associated with more than one data stream
- Method of hiding executables or proprietary content
- Uses NTFS file system multiple attributes
- Syntax – {file name}:{stream name}
- Create: type file > visible:hidden
- Reference:
  - http://www.windowsecurity.com/articles/Alternate_Data_Streams.html

ADS Example 1

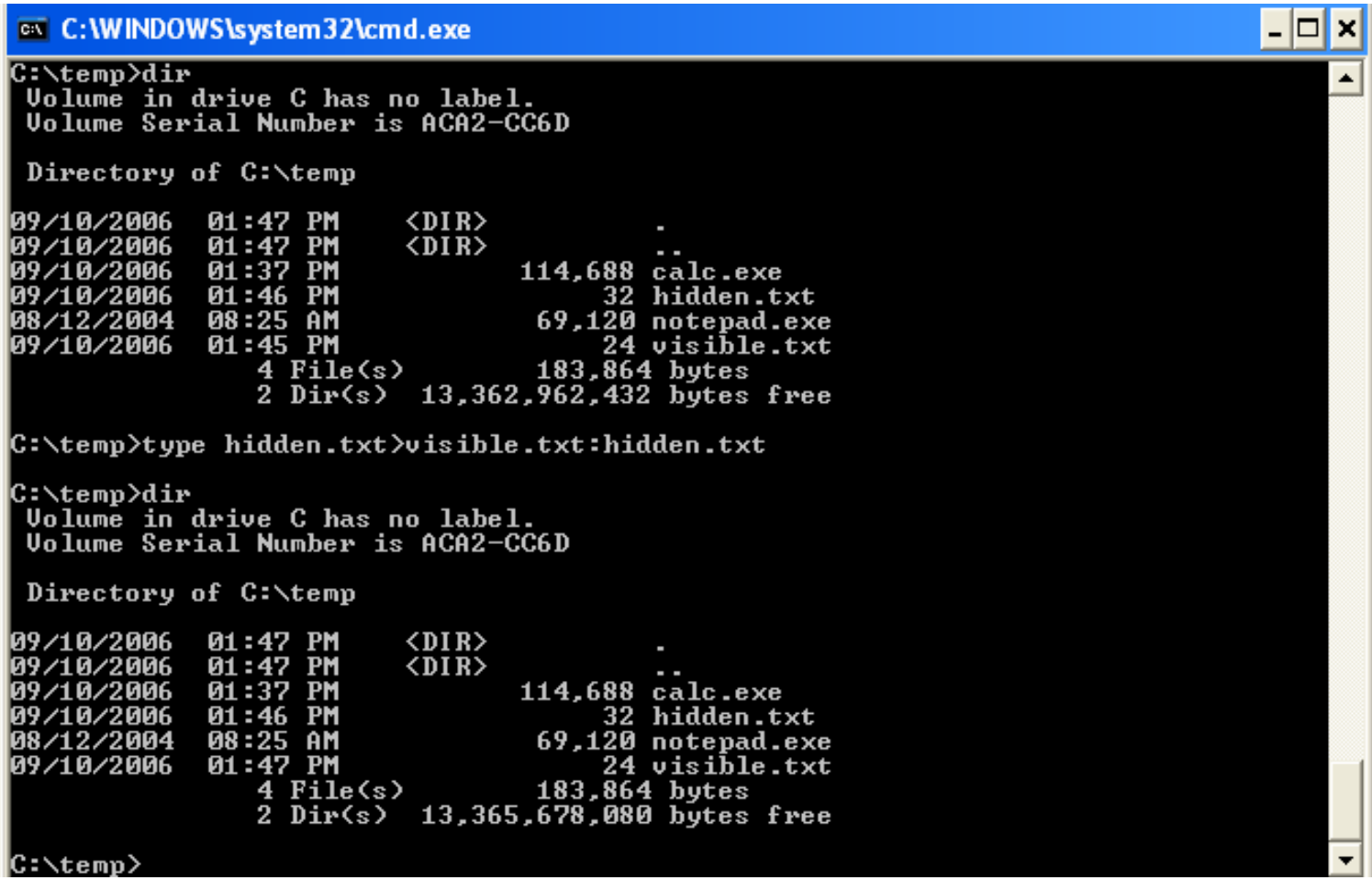


- *start c:\temp\calc.exe:notepad.exe*

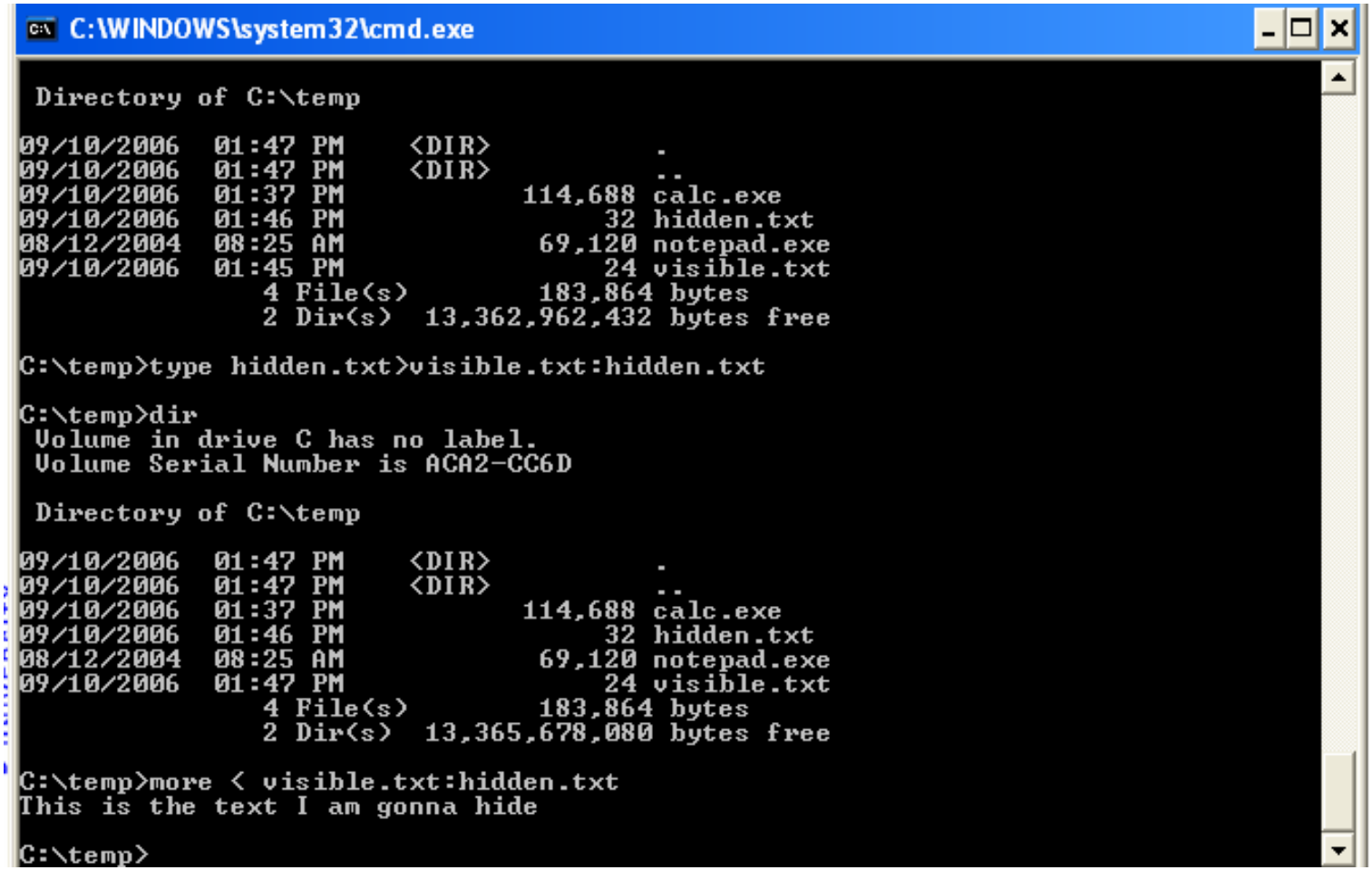
ADS Example 2



ADS Example 2 – Con't



ADS Example 2– Con't



LADS – List Alternate Data Streams

- http://www.heysoft.de/nt/ep-lads.htm