TEST Engineering & Management

March - April 2020
ISSN: 0193-4120 Page No. 2150 - 2156

Data Transmission using Crypto-Steganography

Dr. S.N. Zaware, AISSMS IOIT, SPPU, Pune
Sujay Patil, AISSMS IOIT, SPPU, Pune
Parv Javheri, AISSMS IOIT, SPPU, Pune
Isha Doshi, AISSMS IOIT, SPPU, Pune
Urja Kamatkar, AISSMS IOIT, SPPU, Pune

Article Info
Volume 83
Page Number: 2150 - 2156
Publication Issue:
March - April 2020

Article History
***Article Received**: 24 July 2019*
***Revised**: 12 September 2019*
***Accepted**: 15 February 2020*
***Publication**: 18 March 2020*

Abstract:
In today's world as the number of people who have means of approach to the internet or technology is growing rapidly, so the need to conceal the sensitive data from attackers is of vital importance. On daily basis copious amount data transmissions take place which need to be secure and care needs to be taken that the sensitive data does not fall in any wrong hands. Various systems have been actualized previously in which single tier security is provided which is not that coherent and the systems are quite vulnerable. In order to overcome this impediment, the proposed system in the paper consists of 2 tier security which includes keyless cryptography and steganography. In Cryptography plain text is converted into cipher text and secrete message is embedded at the sender side which is decrypted at the receiver side. Whereas steganography is the process of hiding data behind the image. The first phase in the proposed systems includes cryptography which uses random logic for encryption and the second phase includes steganography which uses GCD logic. All the algorithms used in this system are keyless which in turn adds up to more security and makes the system light weighted.

Keywords: *Cryptography, Steganography, Encryption, Decryption, secrete message, cipher text.*

I. Introduction

Internet plays an important role for data transmission and data sharing. It is a worldwide and publicized medium, some confidentiality data might be stolen, copied modified or destroyed. In the recent years, there has been rapid growth in the technology and data security has become a major issue for internet users. Cryptography and Steganography are the most used techniques by developers for securely transferring the data. Cryptography means converting a plain text into an unreadable text also known as cipher text. It is the process of encrypting the secret message at senders' side and then decrypting the message at receivers' side so that even if someone steals the data in between it won't be of any use. At present large number of cryptography algorithms have been created with the primary objective of converting the text in to unreadable format for secure transmission. Cryptography mainly involves two types of keys: Symmetric key and Asymmetric key transmission [6]. In symmetric key transmission a common key is used for encryption and decryption of the message. In asymmetric key transmission different keys are used for encryption and decryption of the message. Asymmetric key is more secure but requires more time for encryption than symmetric encryption.

The term Steganography [7] is derived from the Greek word "steganos" which means Covered and "graphein" means Writing [8]. It is method of hiding the secret data inside the cover image such that only the receiver knows that the message is present in the image. It is very difficult for the third party to even detect that the message is being sent. Steganography can be classified as keyless, symmetric and asymmetric. In symmetric and asymmetric the key is privately shared between the sender and the receiver. The key is shared prior to sending the message. The process of steganography is highly based on the type of media used to hide the message [8]. Commonly used medium include text, image files, audio files and the protocols used in network transmission. Most of the times image steganography is preferred media because the difference in the image after encryption is impossible to detect with naked eyes.

II. Literature Survey

Our Work proposes a two-tiered secured system for data transmission using keyless cryptography and steganography which can be efficiently used for secured transmission of data. There are number of related works available. An Enhanced Text to Image Encryption Technique using RGB Substitution is proposed in [1]. The proposed model works in such a way that if anyone decrypts the image in which the data is hidden then he gets another image, which further confuses him whether the actual information is in text or in image format. Even when the same characters are repeated it cannot be tracked, since each character is assigned with random values whenever it repeats. And the AES encryption technique used make the data secure, for transmitting it over an insecure network.

A new scheme for solving the problem of embedding positions based on edges is proposed in [2]. For more clarity the algorithms used were divided into two main schemes: Embedding Scheme and Extraction Scheme. The proposed used colour images as cover, after separating selected cover image into their components, then one of the components used to find the edge position to be used as an index for the embedding positions at the other colour image components. In this paper it was determined that depending on the structure of the image the threshold value is selected dynamically (i.e. the schemes does not use the same threshold value of edge detection for different images but it will be different depend on the image). This makes the proposed method in the paper more secure because this threshold value can be used as a key between the sender and the receiver, also the value of the threshold changes when the cover image is changed.

A new steganography method for Embedding Message in JPEG Images is proposed in [3]. In this study, a steganography technique in JPEG images is proposed. Since a part of data may be lost after the discretization (or quantization) of frequency values in the JPEG compression procedure, in the proposed method, the embedded message is added to the image after the discretization stage. The method utilizes two adjacent pixels in the steganography process. For this purpose, two less significant bits of each pixel are considered for the embedding. The embedding process is performed according to a replacement table. Based on the bit's values in the embedded message, the pixel bits may be changed (increased or decreased). In order to evaluate the performance, two criteria, PSNR and maximum capacity of steganography have been calculated. The methods used in the paper are able to keep more amount of secret data while the quality of the images is almost similar to the original.

The model proposed [4] is basically a hybrid of both steganography and cryptography. They have developed a technique in which the cover image is used to hide data such that first it is converted into the 85-bit stream from 7-bit stream and then the hiding place is determined by a secret key. This hiding place is not directly visible and only be recovered with the use if the secret key. This makes our technique more reliable and promising. The recovery of data just follows the reverse path. The results confirm the power of our technique and in future we will develop more robust way to increase the capacity of our technique.

III. Workflow of Crypto-Steganographic System

Cryptography and steganography are the most commonly used technologies whenever we consider about the secured data transmission over the internet. In this new era of technology, everyday a new encryption method is proposed which requires an encryption key and the mapping database for it. In our method we are proposing a method with keyless encryption and decryption. This method is very light weighted and secure as there is no such separate key is required. The key to decrypt that message is itself encrypted within the message. In the traditional key encryption method if the key is somehow stolen by the third person then the data can be misused. Therefore, the proposed system is more secure because there is no involvement of transmission secret key.

In our system there two main parts of encryption

1. Text to text cryptography
2. Text to image steganography

By having these 2-way encryptions, the security of the system increases.

A. Text to text cryptography

In proposed system the encryption in first phase depends upon the length of the secret message. Each letter is first converted into its Unicode value. This Unicode value is added into the total length of the message.

The result of this is considered as a Unicode and the symbol associated with that Unicode is used for that letter. By this method every time the encryption letter changes with the change in the length of the message. For decrypting the message this process is used in reverse manner. The Unicode of each letters is decreased by the total length of the message and then it is converted into the actual letter.

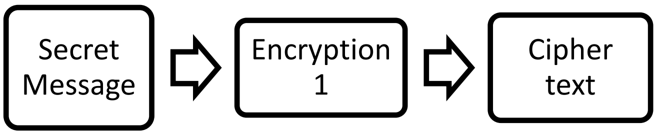


Fig1.Text to text cryptography

Algorithm1: Text to text cryptography

Step 1: Get the Unicode of the secret message for each letter.
Step 2: Get the total length of the secret message.

Step 3: Add the total length into the Unicode to get a new Unicode for each letter.

$$C = \sum_{0}^{n+1} unicode(S_0^n) + (n)$$

Where, C = ciphertext
S = secret message
n = total length of message

Step 4: Generate a new character formed by the new Unicode for each letter.

Step 5: Make a new message by using these new characters.

Step 6: Store this new message as *ciphertext* for further encryption.

B. Text to image steganography

In the first phase the text is encrypted into another text. In this phase, the system will encrypt that text into an image. For this the system uses a sample image to hide the text behind it. First image is converted into its bitmap where each pixel represents its RBG value.

The text is treated as a pixel so every letter in the text acts as one pixel. These pixels are plotted in the sample image by replacing some of its pixels. For choosing which pixels to be replaced are decided by using the GCD logic [5]. In this the GCD of the length and width of the image is found and it stored in n. After this, every nthpixel of the image is used for the replacement. When the replacement is done a new image is formed and this image is used for the transmission.While decrypting the image again GCD is found and the pixels on that result are converted back into the text.

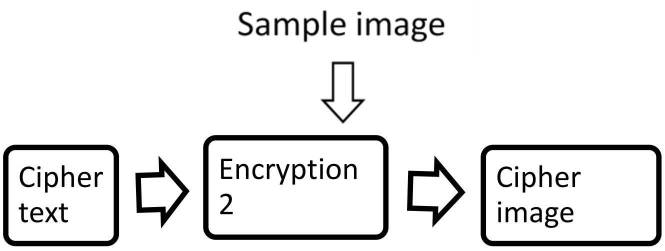


Fig 2.Text to image steganography

Algorithm2: Text to image steganography

Step 1: Get the *cyphertext* convert it into binary.

Step 2: Get the sample image for encryption.

Step 3: Convert the image into its RBG format.

Step 4: Calculate the GCD of the height and width ofthe image.

Step 5: Store GCD into *n*.

GCD (length, 0) = length

$$GCD(length , width) = GCD (width , length – width [\frac{lengt h}{widt h}])$$

Step 6: Replace each n^{th} pixel of the image by each symbol in cipher text.

Step 7: Store the next n^{th} pixel value as 0.

Step 8: Convert the RBG format into the new image.

Step 9: Store the new image as cipher image.

The combination of algorithm1 and algorithm2 completes the encryption part of the whole system. The encrypted image is transmitted over the network. Once the receiver receives the encrypted image the system decrypts the data from the image using the same logic in reverse manner. The workflow for the entire system is given in Fig. 3.

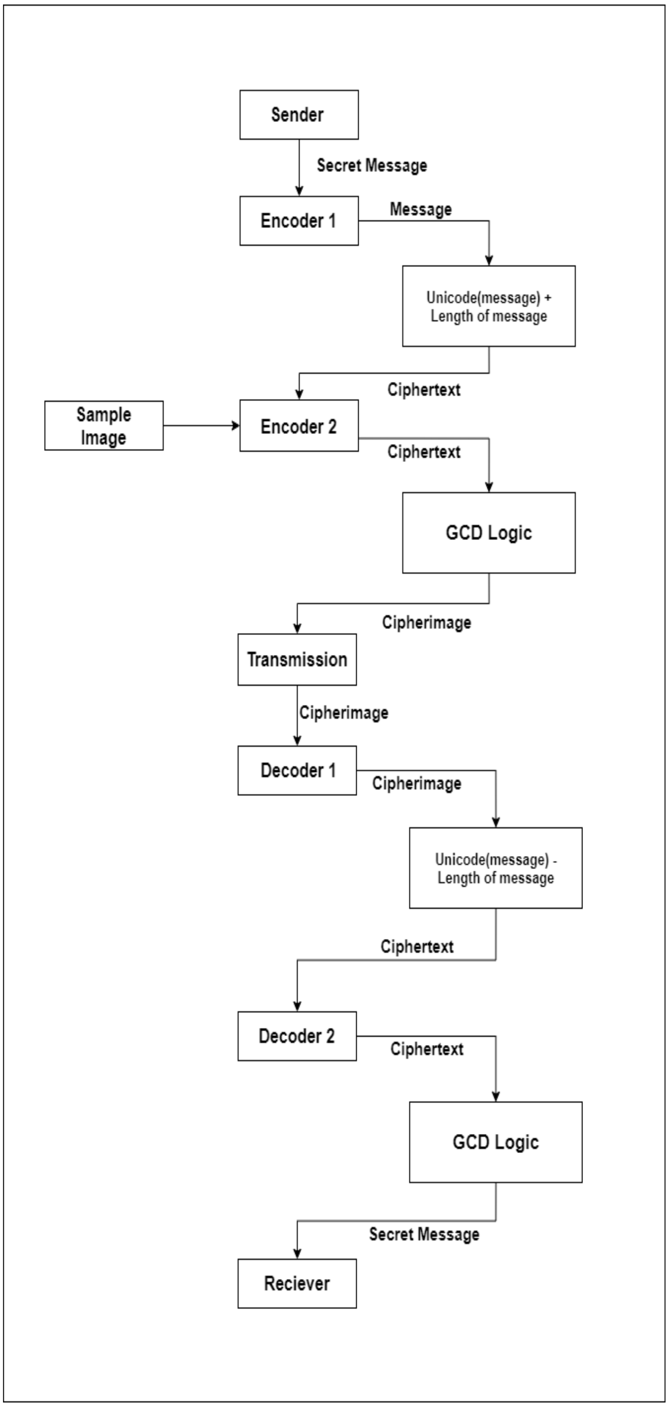
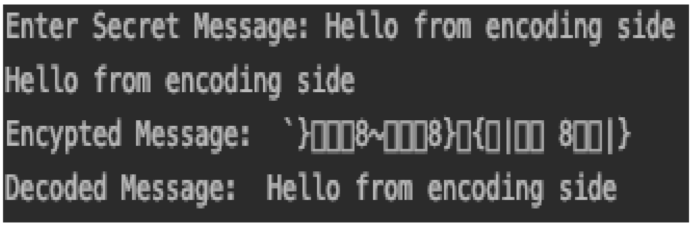


Fig 3.Workflow of Crypto-steganographic system

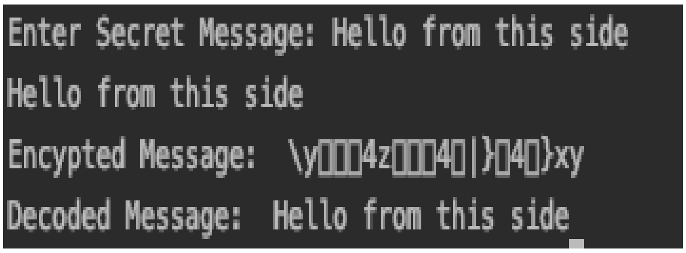
IV. Result Analysis

After the first phase of the proposed system the ciphertext of the secret message is shown in the figure below:



```
Enter Secret Message: Hello from encoding side
Hello from encoding side
Encypted Message:  `}□□□8~□□□8}□{□|□□ 8□□|}
Decoded Message:  Hello from encoding side
```

Fig 4. Text to Text Cryptography Example 1



```
Enter Secret Message: Hello from this side
Hello from this side
Encypted Message:  \y□□□4z□□□4□|}□4□}xy
Decoded Message:  Hello from this side
```

Fig 5. Text to Text Cryptography Example 2

The ciphertext for each letter changes with the change in the length. In Fig 4., the letter ‘H’ is converted into symbol (’) and in Fig 5., the same letter is converted into symbol (\).

After the phase 2 of the proposed system the sample image as in Fig 5 is embedded into the image shown in Fig 7.The difference between the two images as shown in Fig. 6 and 7 is not recognizable by the naked eyes.

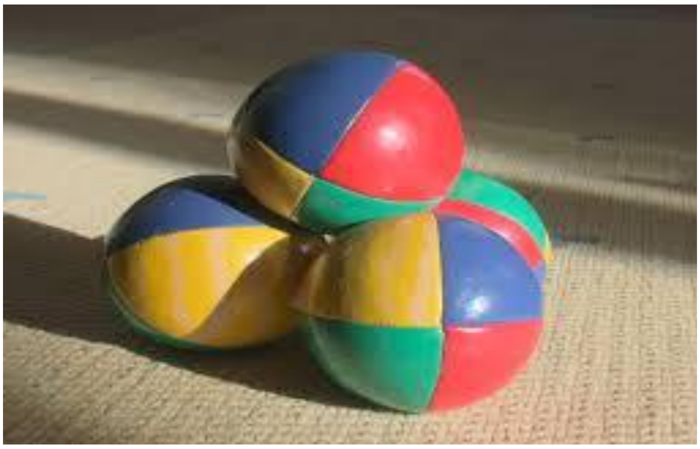


Fig 6. Sample Image before Encryption

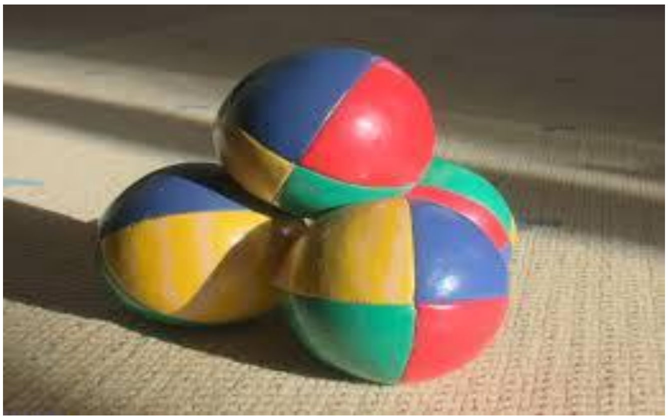


Fig 7. Sample image after Encryption

The Encryption and decryption of the secret message is successful after both the phases of the proposed system.

Histogram is a bar chart that shows the distribution of intensities in an image. Below Fig 8 and Fig 9 shows the color histogram of cover and cipher image respectively. It is very difficult to notice the difference between the histograms of the cover and cipher images with naked eyes. More than 85% of the values of the pixels in cipher image is same as the cover image.

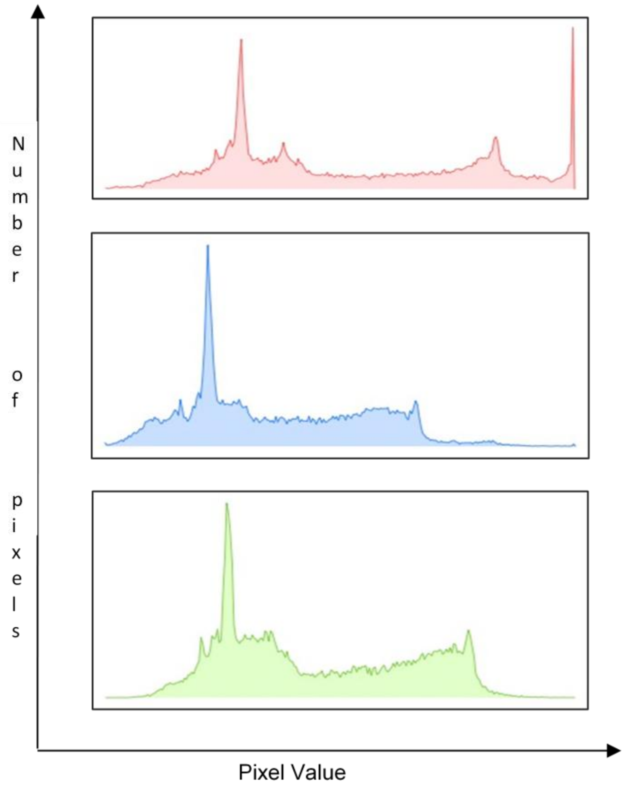


Fig 8. RGB Color Histogram of Cover Image

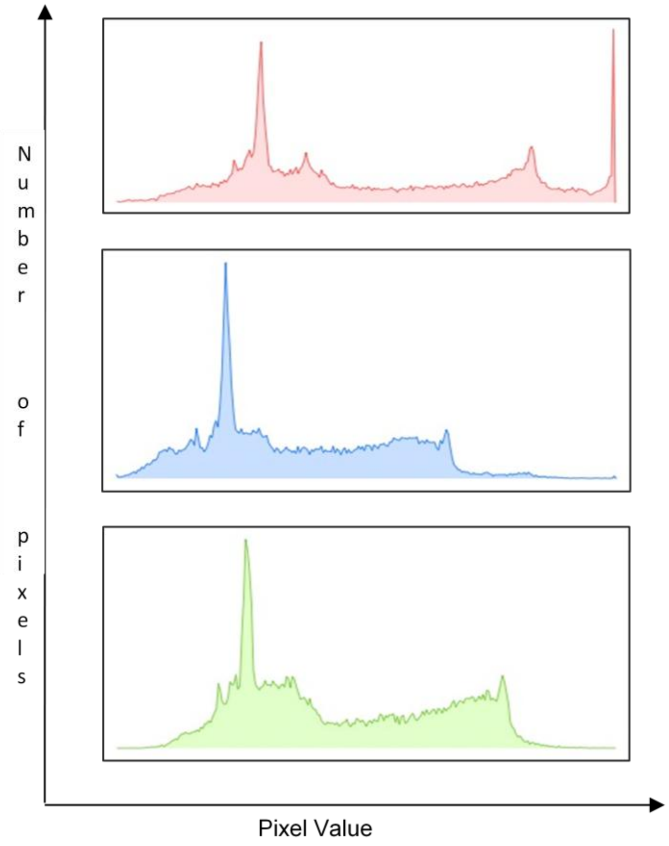


Fig 9. RGB Color Histogram ofCipher Image

V. Conclusion and Future Scope

Most often to provide security with the help of cryptography or steganography or even both whichincludes transference of secret key. But we have proposed a system which combines both cryptography and steganography with keyless transmission which improves security at greater extent. In this system the cryptographic method involves a different technique which uses message length and its Unicode value for encryption and similarly steganographic method also uses different technique which uses format like bmp, jpg etc. We have tested the system on different size of images from 250 x 150 to350 x 250. We found the result in such a way that the data hidden in the cover image does not affect the original size of the image. More than 90% of the image is preserved and only the intended receiver knows its existence.

Future Scope:

The main objective of crypto-steganographic system is to hide the message in to image. When we are considering message, it doesn’t face any problem related to size. We have tested the above system for up to 5 to 6 sentences and it works efficiently.But in future if we think to extend this system for providing security to the document then we need to do some enhancement into the algorithm which we have used. In present system we are first encrypting the message and then this cipher text is hidden in the image using LSB substitution with GCD logic. But for the enhancement of this system we can use RGB substitution, AES, Random key dependent algorithms in combination. So that the same system will be used for providing security to documents.

VI. References

[1] A. Joshy, K. X. A. Baby, S. Padma and K. A. F Fasila, "Text to image encryption technique using RGB substitution and AES," 2017 International Conference on Inventive Computing and Informatics (ICICI), Coimbatore, 2017, pp. 1133-1136.

[2] R. D. Rashid and T. F. Majeed, "Edge Based Image Steganography: Problems and Solution," 2019 International Conference on Communications, Signal Processing, and their Applications (ICCSPA), Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 2019, pp. 1-5.

[3] A. Darbani, M. M. AlyanNezhadi and M. Forghani, "A New Steganography Method for Embedding Message in JPEG Images," 2019 5th Conference on Knowledge Based Engineering and Innovation (KBEI), Tehran, Iran, 2019, pp. 617-621

[4] Kanojia, Pallavi & Choudhary, Vijay. (2019). LSB Based Image Steganography With The Aid of Secret Key and Enhance its Capacity via Reducing Bit String Length. 257-262. 10.1109/ICECA.2019.8821917

[5] https://dev.to/erikwhiting88/let-s-hide-a-secret-

message-in-an-image-with-python-and-opencv-1jf5

[6] G. Prashanti, B. V. Jyothirmai and K. S. Chandana, "Data confidentiality using steganography and cryptographic techniques," 2017 International Conference on Circuit ,Power and Computing Technologies (ICCPCT), Kollam, 2017, pp. 1-4.

[7] R. Gupta and T. P. Singh, "New proposed practice for secure image combing cryptography stegnography and watermarking based on various parameters," 2014 International Conference on Contemporary Computing and Informatics (IC3I), Mysore, 2014, pp. 475-479

[8] B. Mehboob and R. A. Faruqui, "A stegnography implementation," 2008 International

[9] Symposium on Biometrics and Security Technologies, Islamabad, 2008, pp. 1-5