



THE CRYPTO CHALLENGE CONTEST

DOUBLE COLUMN TRANSPOSITION – PART 5

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June 2014

Introduction

The Double Column Transposition (DCT) cipher was one of the most popular hand ciphers in the 20th century. It was extensively used from World War I to the Cold War by all sides.

With long enough keys (longer than 20) and if different keys are used for the first and second transposition, it is very difficult to break this cipher – even with modern computing equipment and methods.

This series offers several mid-level DCT challenges with keys shorter than 20 or with other weaknesses, which should allow for their cracking using Hill Climbing or other computerized methods.

Challenge

This is the last part of this DCT series. It challenges you with an encryption in which both keys are 19 letters long. The keys were both derived from English expressions or sentences.

You can download the ciphertext as an additional file.

The solution is the concatenation (without spaces) of the first and the second literal key in capital letters. The whole solution is 38 (19 + 19) letters long.

Good luck!

Hints

The plaintext is in English and it deals with the cipher method itself and classical methods to solve double transposition ciphers. The expression "doubletransposition" appears three times in the plaintext.