

MysteryTwister C3

THE CRYPTO CHALLENGE CONTEST

CONCEALED MESSAGES – VIGENÈRE'S NIGHT SKY

Author: Klaus Schmeh

April 2012

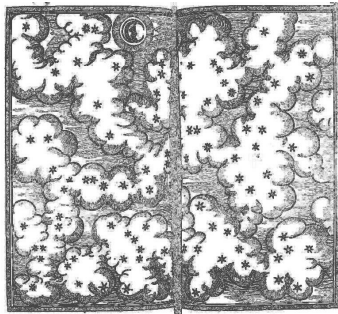
Introduction

A semagram is a secret message that can be hidden in a picture or a harmless document.

Small details in a picture can e.g. represent a message in morse code, or apparently bold printed letters in a text can transfer a concealed message [1].

In 1586 the book "Traicté des chiffres, ou Secrètes manières d'escrire" [2] has been published by the famous French mathematician Blaise de Vigenère.

It contains the picture below:



You can find this picture in the additional zip file.

We know that this secret message is concealed by the night sky with stars and clouds:

LES CIEUX EN CHACUN LIEU, LA PUISSANCE DE DIEU
RACOMPTENT AUX HUMAINS: CE GRAND ENTOUR ESPARS
NONCE DE TOUTES PARTS, L'OUVRAGE DE SES MAINS

It is most likely that the clouds serve only as embellishment while the message is encoded by the position of the stars.

Solution

Since the plaintext is well-known, a successful solution of this challenge has to contain:

- a) A detailed description of the approach
- b) An alphabetized list including all used letters and the corresponding picture detail

The solution can be sent via email to mtc3@cryptool.org.

Sources

Klaus Schmeh: "Versteckte Botschaften – Die faszinierende Geschichte der Steganografie", dpunkt Verlag, 2008

[1] Wikipedia: Steganography

[2] Blaise de Vigenère:

Traicté des chiffres, ou Secrètes manières d'écrire, 1586