Commit Acts of Steganography Before it's too late

Gabriel Kaptchuk

Real World Cryptography 2022

Based on Meteor: Cryptographically Secure Steganography for Realistic Distributions (CCS'21)

joint work with Tushar Jois, Matthew Green, and Avi Rubin

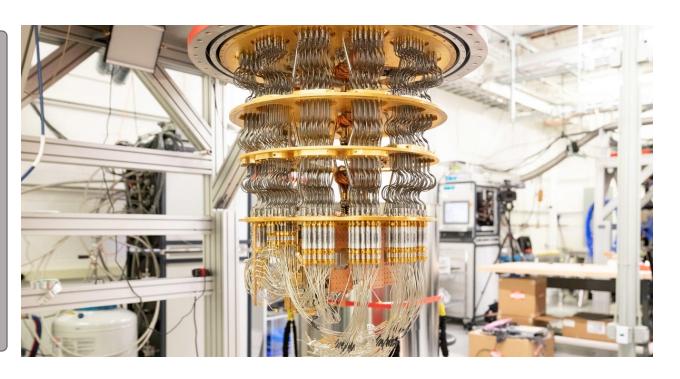
Commit Acts of Steganography Before it's too late

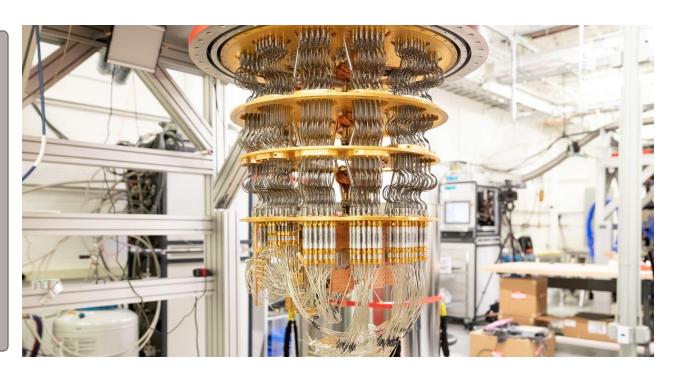
Gabriel Kaptchuk

Real World Steganography 2022

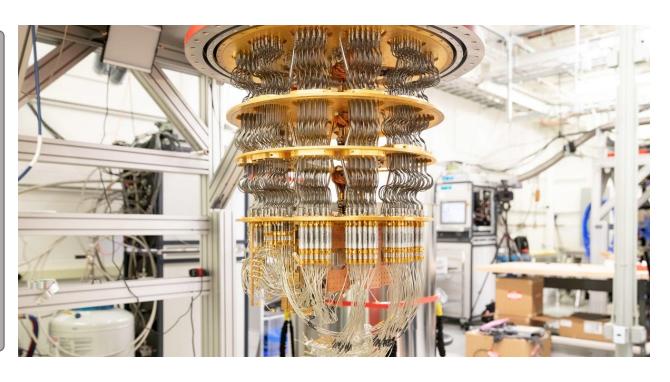
Based on Meteor: Cryptographically Secure Steganography for Realistic Distributions (CCS'21)

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See Friday 9am Session

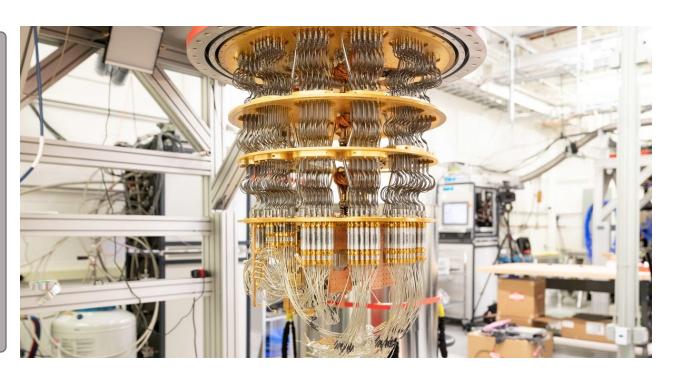


A BILL

To establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Eliminating Abusive
- 5 and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of
- 6 2022" or the "EARN IT Act of 2022".

See Friday 9am Session



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See Friday 9am Session

See Mallory Knodel's Talk

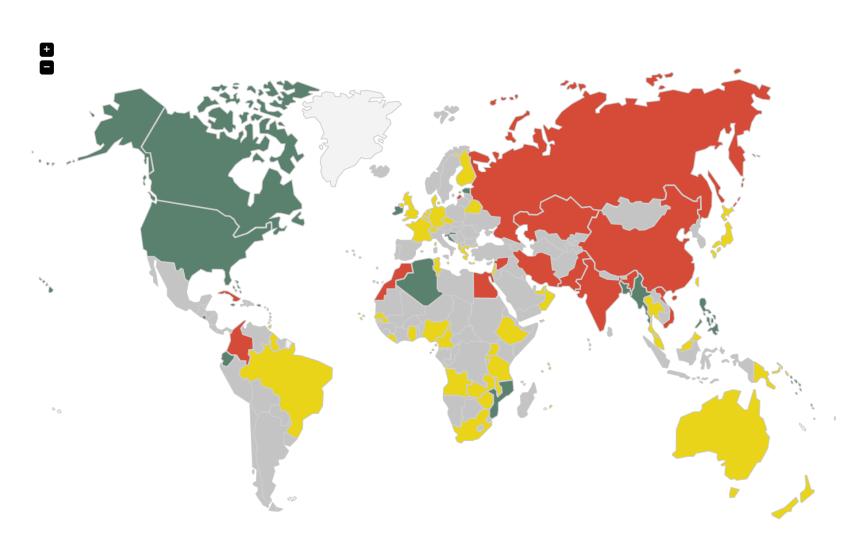
Encryption Doomsday Prepping

Minimal restrictions

Some restrictions

Widespread restrictions

No information available



Encryption Doomsday Prepping

Some restrictions

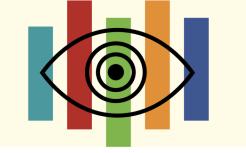
Minimal restrictions



India's Draconian Rules for Internet Platforms Threaten **User Privacy and Undermine Encryption**

BY KATITZA RODRIGUEZ AND KURT OPSAHL | JULY 20, 2021

No information



Australia passes controversial anti-encryption law that could weaken privacy globally

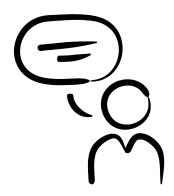
Companies are required to give access to encrypted communications



Illustration by Alex Castro / The Verge



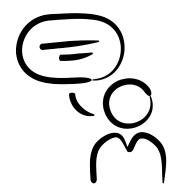
Widespread restrictions i



"Let's engage in civil disobedience to protest Putin's invasion of Ukraine"



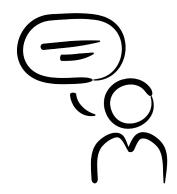




"Let's engage in civil disobedience to protest Putin's invasion of Ukraine"





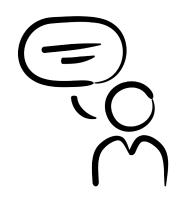


"Let's engage in civil bedience to protest Putin's invarion of Ukraine"



"Hey! Sorry I haven't texted in a hot sec... How is your grandmother doing?"





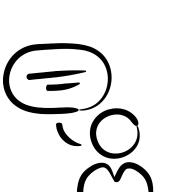
"Let's engage in civil bedience to protest Putin's invarion of Ukraine"



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How is your grandmother doing?"

Format Transforming Encryption

[LDJ+14, DCRS13b, DCS15, OYZ+20]





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"Hey! Sorry I haven't texted in a hot sec... How is your grandmother doing?"

Format Transforming Encryption

[LDJ+14, DCRS13b, DCS15, OYZ+20]

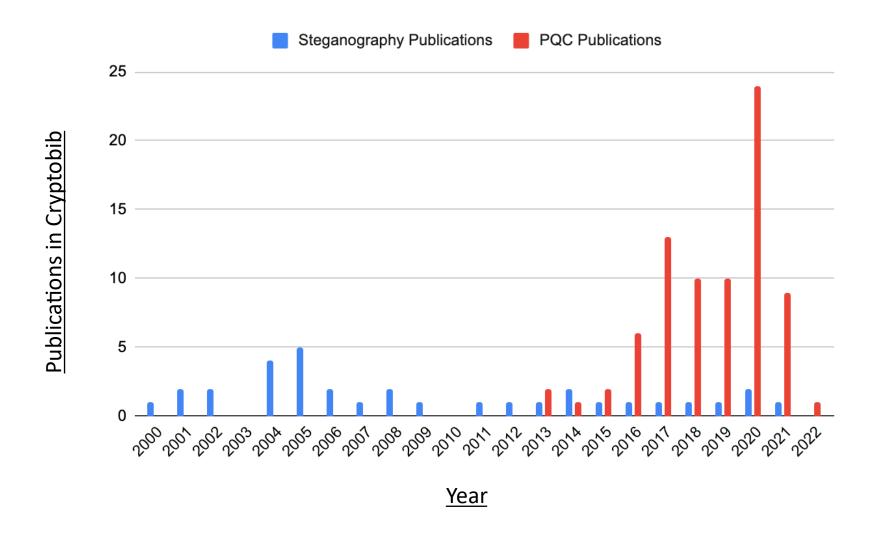
Tor Pluggable Transport

[MLDG12] [WWY+12] [WGN+12] [HRBS13] [DCRS13a] [WPF13] [FLH+15]

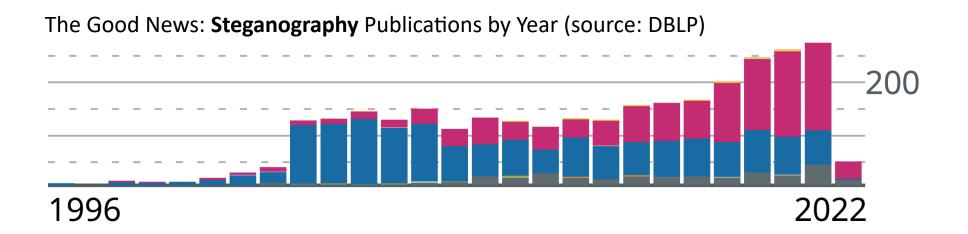
Encryption Doomsday Prepping

Are we ready for pseudorandomness to be considered suspicious?

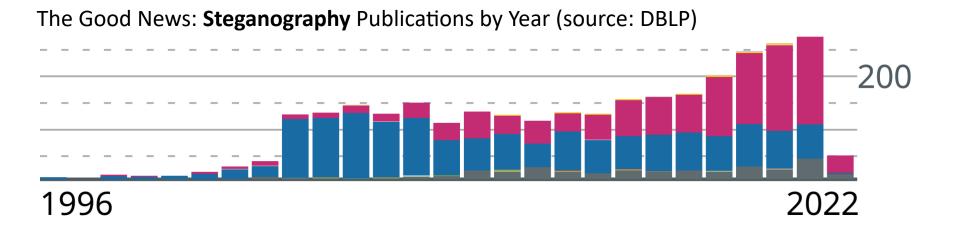
Where is OUR effort?

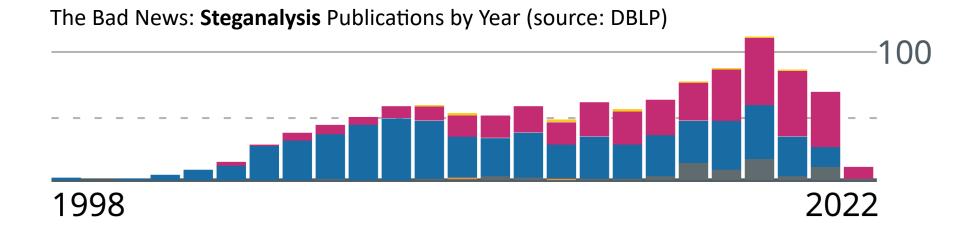


Where is the effort?



Where is the effort?





1. Pick a covertext channel (communication to blend in with)

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Bible Verses

"And there was evening and there was morning, a third day"

"Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who knew not Joseph."

"Then shall there be presented with the bullock a meal-offering of three tenth parts of ..."

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Pro-Putin Posters



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Pro-Putin Posters



Emoji



1. Pick a covertext channel (communication to blend in with)



2. Encode your message:



2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"



2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...

Emoji



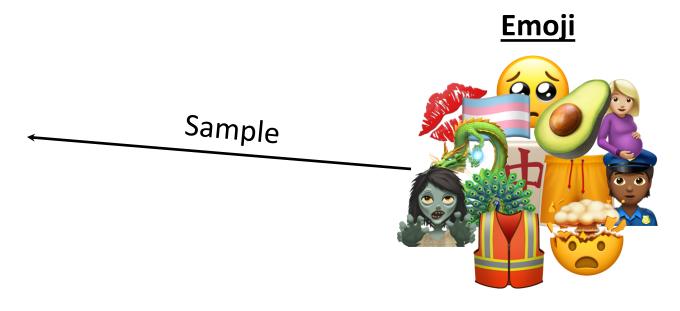
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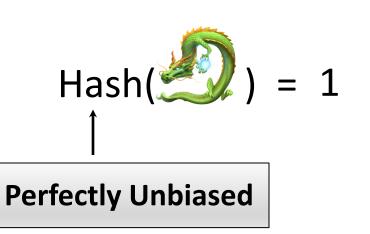
Emoji

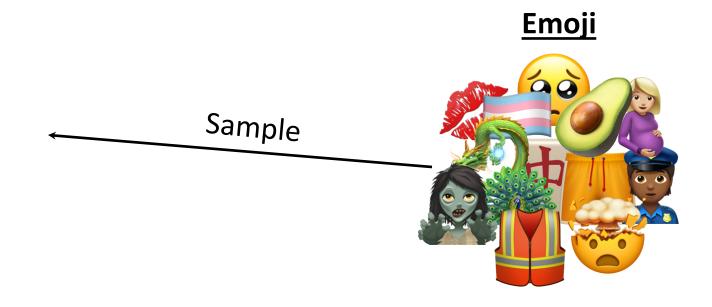
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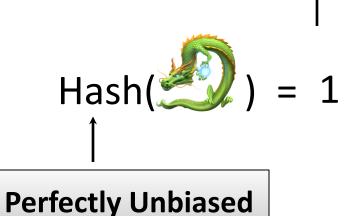


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Pseudorandom Ciphertext

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Sample



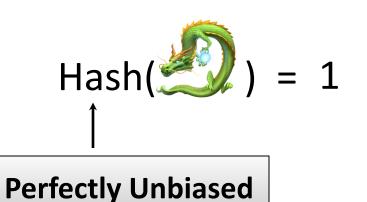
Emoji

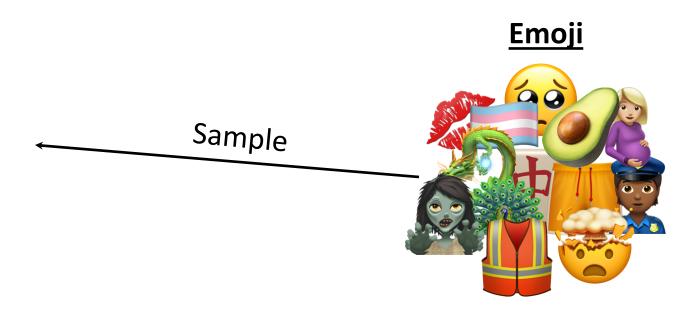
2. Encode your message:

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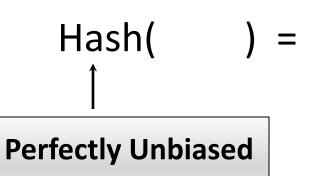


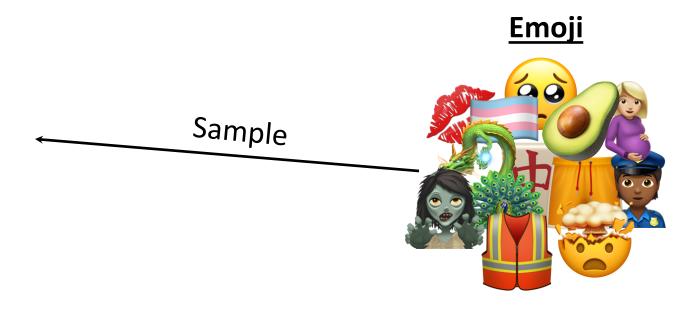
2. Encode your message:

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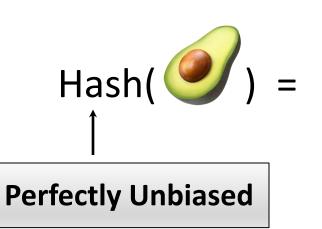


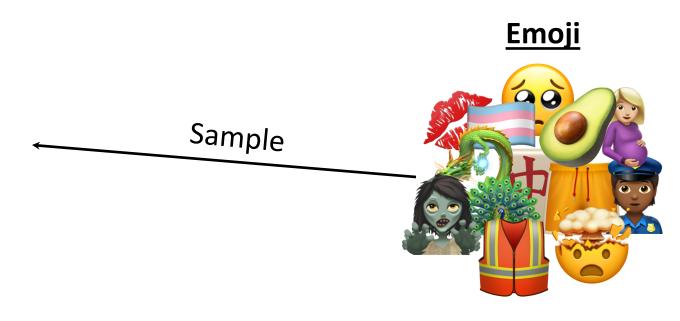
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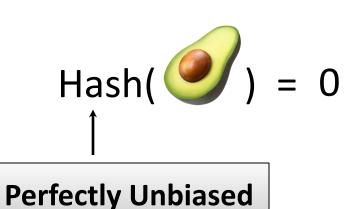


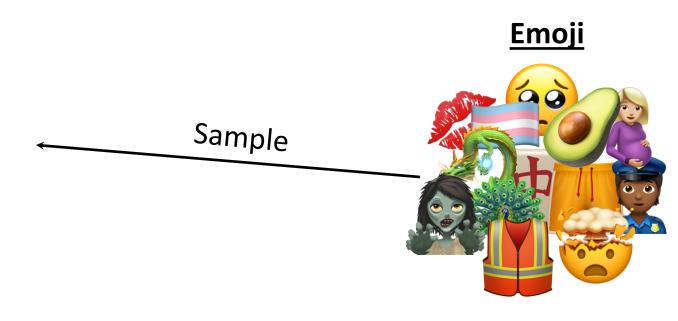
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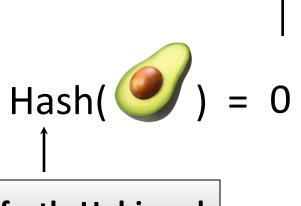


2. Encode your message:

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Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

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Perfectly Unbiased







Emoji

2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...

Hash(

Perfectly Unbiased

Sample



Emoji



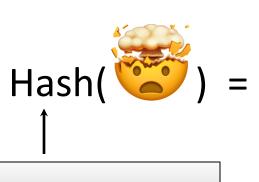


2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...



Perfectly Unbiased





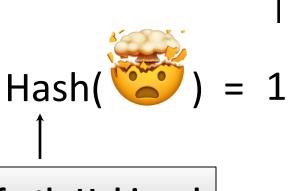
Emoji

2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

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Perfectly Unbiased





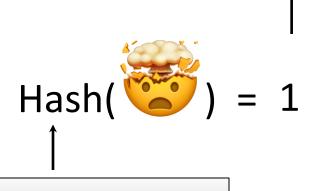
Emoji

2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

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Perfectly Unbiased



Sample



Emoji

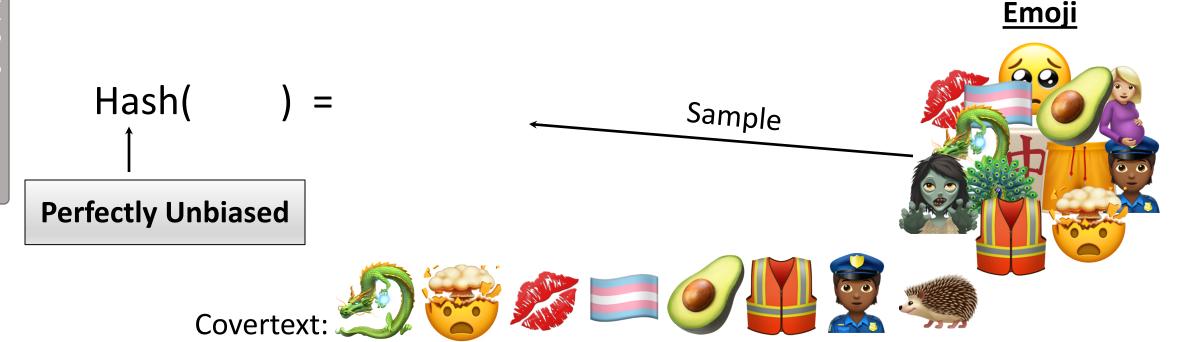
Covertext:

2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...

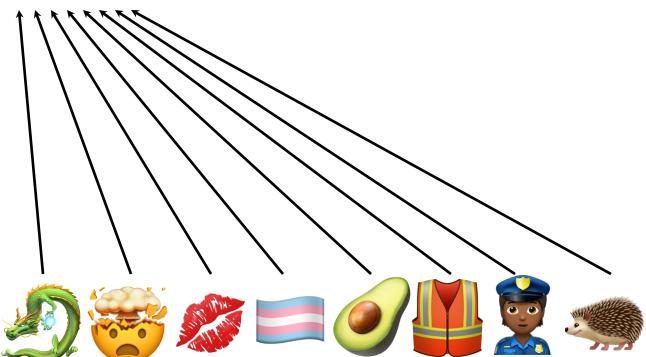


3. Decode your message:

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...



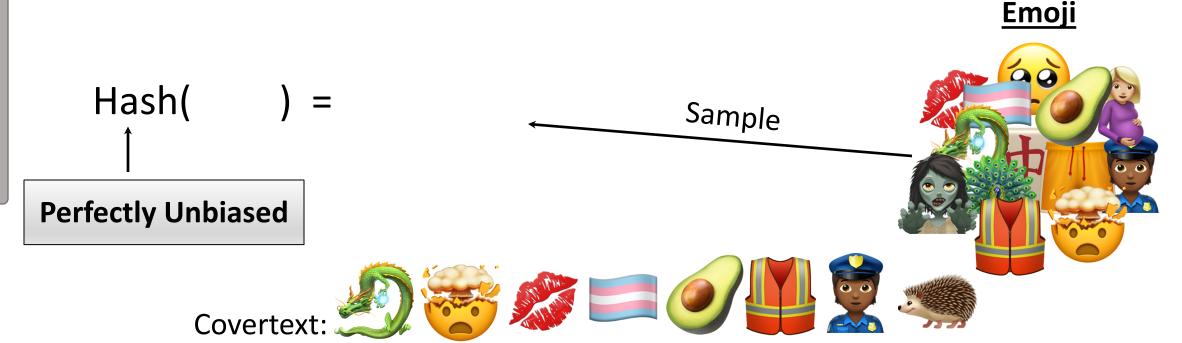
Covertext:

2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

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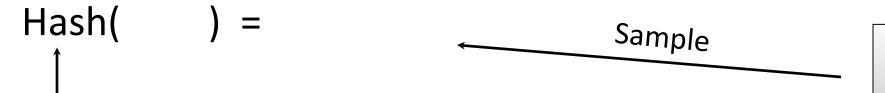
2. Encode your message:

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Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...

<u>Emoji</u>



Natural Human Language

Perfectly Unbiased















2. Encode your message:

Perfectly Unbiased

Pseudorandom Ciphertext

Plaintext: "Crypto means Cryptography"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...

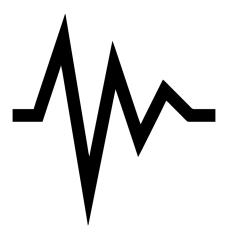
<u>Emoji</u>

Natural Human Language

Barriers to Deploying Universal Steganography



Appropriate Samplers

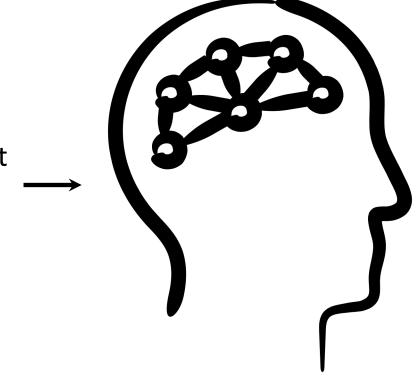


Minimum Entropy Requirements

Generative Models and Samplers

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico."

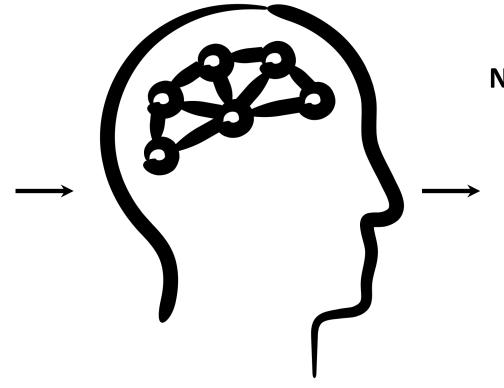


Generative Models

Generative Models and Samplers

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico."



Next Word Prediction:

32% - "An"

17% - "The"

12% - "A"

23% - "However"

15% - "Since"

1% - Other Options

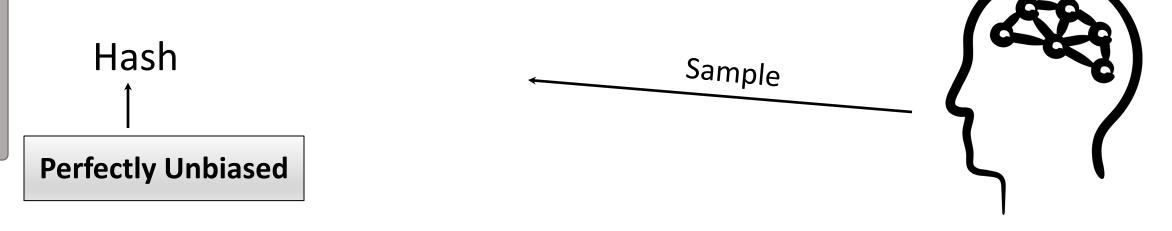
Generative Models

2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom (random looking)

Plaintext: "Attack@Dawn"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...



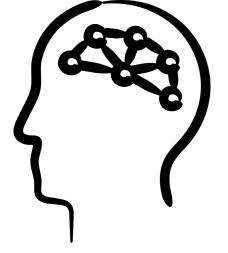
2. Encode your message:

Pseudorandom (random looking)

Plaintext: "Attack@Dawn"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...

 100% Failure Rate

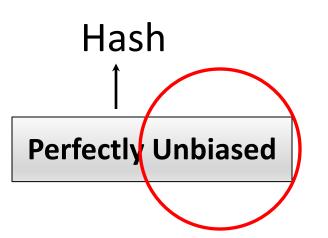


2. Encode your message:

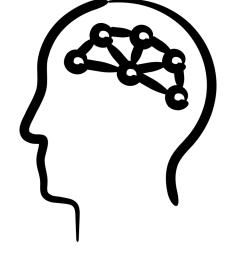
Pseudorandom (random looking)

Plaintext: "Attack@Dawn"

Ciphertext: 110110000001110100000010...



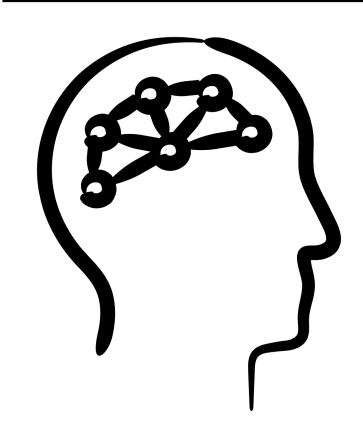
100% Failure Rate



Generative Models

Context:

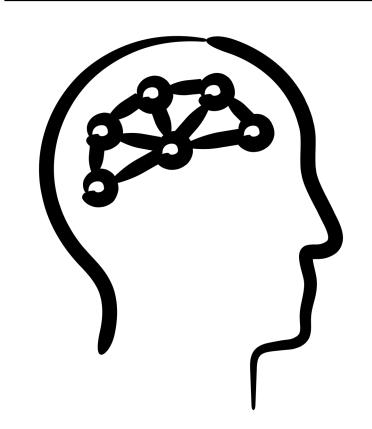
"The largest carnivore of the Cretaceous period was the Tyranosaurus"



Generative Models

Context:

"The largest carnivore of the Cretaceous period was the Tyranosaurus"



Next Word Prediction:

98% - "Rex"

1% - "Spinosaurus"

1% - "Giganotosaurus"

Generative Models

Context:

"The largest carnivore of the Cretaceous period was the Tyranosaurus"



Next Word Prediction:

98% - "Rex"

1% - "Spinosaurus"

1% - "Giganotosaurus"

A Perfectly Unbiased Hash Function Does Not Exist!

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico."





Next Word Prediction:

32% - "An"

17% - "The"

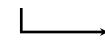
12% - "A"

23% - "However"

15% - "Since"

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico."





Encrypted Message

(as bits)

"The"

Next Word Prediction:

32% - "An"

17% - "The"

12% - "A" 23% - "However"

15% - "Since"

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico."





Encrypted Message

(as bits)

Next Word Prediction:

32% - "An"

17% - "The"

12% - "A"

23% - "However"

15% - "Since"

1% - Other Options

Context:

"The"

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico."

Next Word Prediction:

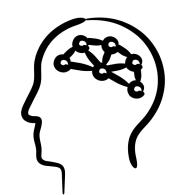
32% - "An"

17% - "The"

12% - "A"

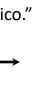
23% - "However"

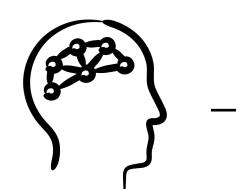
15% - "Since"



Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico."





Encrypted Message

(as bits)

Next Word Prediction:

32% - "An"

17% - "The"

12% - "A"

23% - "However"

15% - "Since"

1% - Other Options

Context:

"The"

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico."

"The"

First few bits of encrypted message

(as bits)

Next Word Prediction:

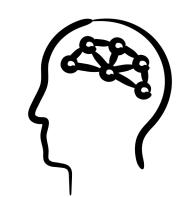
32% - "An"

17% - "The"

12% - "A"

23% - "However"

15% - "Since"



2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

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Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

Mask: 000110000001110100000010... +

2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

Mask: 000110000001110100000010... +

Random: 010110010110100101110110...

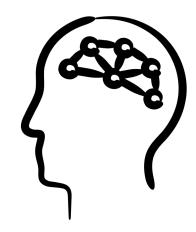
2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

Mask: 000110000001110100000010... +

Random: 010110010110100101110110...

Context:



2. Encode your message:

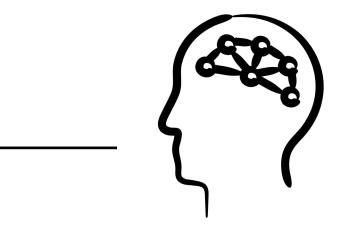
Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

Mask: 000110000001110100000010... +

Random: 010110010110100101110110...

An	The	Α	However	Since
(32%)	(17%)	(12%)	(23%)	(15%)

Context:



2. Encode your message:

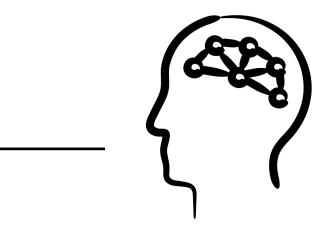
Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

Mask: 000110000001110100000010... +

Random: 010110010110100101110110...

An The A However Since (32%) (17%) (12%) (23%) (15%)

Context:



2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

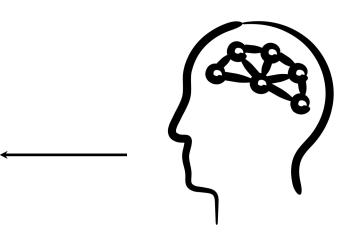
Mask: 000110000001110100000010... +

Random: 010110010110100101110110...

An The A However Since (32%) (17%) (12%) (23%) (15%)

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico.

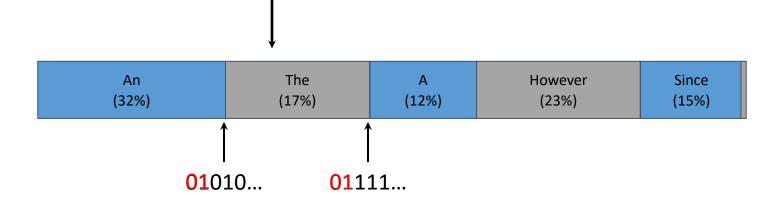


2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

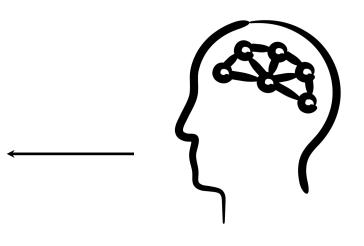
Mask: 000110000001110100000010... +

Random: 010110010110100101110110...



Covertext: The

Context:

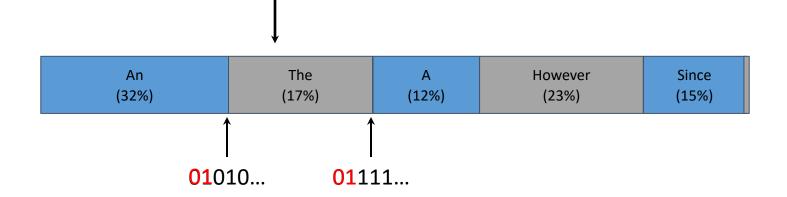


2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "010000010111010001110100...

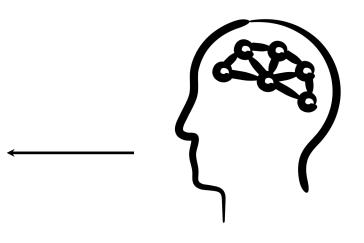
Mask: 000110000001110100000010... +

Random: **01**0110010110100101110110...



Covertext: The

Context:

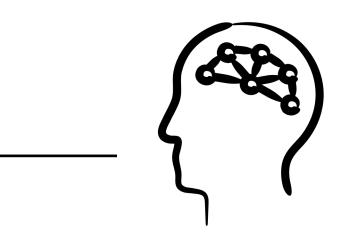


2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: ~"010000010111010001110100... Mask: 000110000001110100000010... + Random: **01**0110010110100101110110... An The However Since Α (32%)(17%)(12%)(23%)(15%)**01**010... 01111...

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico.



2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "0000010111010001110100...

Mask: +

Random:

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico.

The



2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "0000010111010001110100...

Mask: 1011110100100101000010... +

Random: 1011100010100100100110...

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico.

The



2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "0000010111010001110100...

Mask: 1011110100100101000010... +

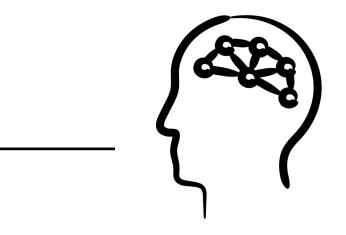
Random: 1011100010100100100110...

asteroid	best	current	only	Yucatan	first
(21%)	(5%)	(26%)	(9%)	(23%)	(16%)

Context:

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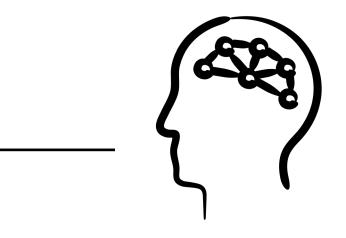
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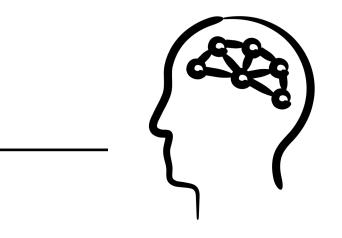
Random: 1011100010100100100110...

asteroid best current only Yucatan first (21%) (5%) (26%) (9%) (23%) (16%)

Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico.

The



Covertext: The Yucatan

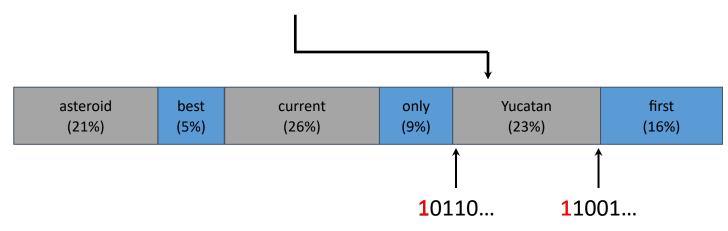
Meteor Protocol

2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "0000010111010001110100...

Mask: 1011110100100101000010...

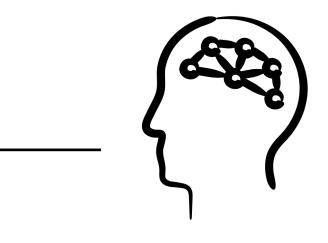
Random: 1011100010100100100110...



Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico.

The



Covertext: The Yucatan

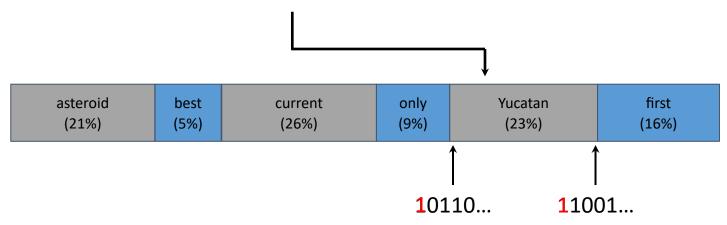
Meteor Protocol

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Plaintext: "0000010111010001110100...

Mask: 1011110100100101000010...

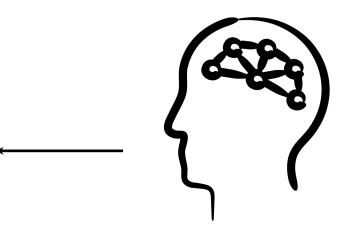
Random: 1011100010100100100110...



Context:

"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico.

The



Covertext: The Yucatan

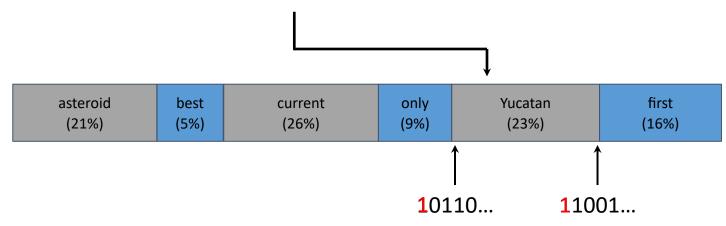
Meteor Protocol

2. Encode your message:

Plaintext: "0000010111010001110100...

Mask: 1011110100100101000010...

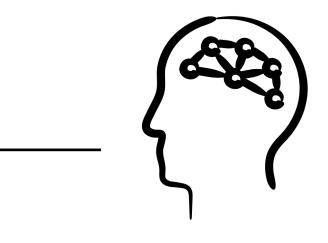
Random: 1011100010100100100110...



Context:

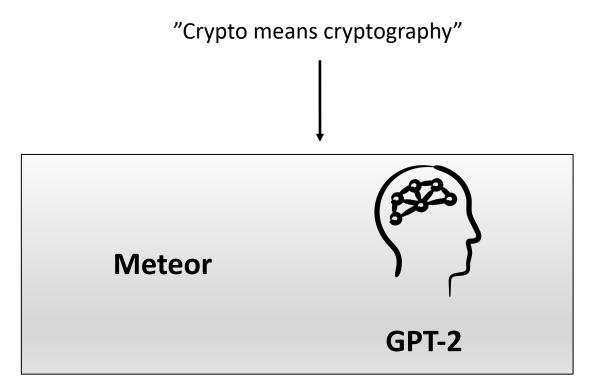
"Evidence indicates that the asteroid fell in the Yucatan Peninsula, at Chicxulub, Mexico.

The



Covertext: The Yucatan







"Crypto means cryptography"



Matthew Green 🤣 @matthew_d_green · Apr 6

Restaurants continue to bring Tabasco in response to clearly-articulated

A "Demo"



Restaurants continue to bring Tabasco in response to clearly-articulated requests for "hot sauce" and this needs to change.



Q

1

17 8

142

 \triangle



"Crypto means cryptography"





"Crypto means cryptography"





I know this Spring that the process has gone fairly smoothly, but I think the hot sauce space needs to be more transparent and less afraid to be underestimated by restaurants. I'd rather have really #anythingelse



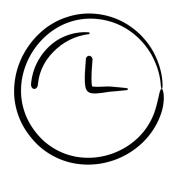


Gabe Kaptchuk @gkaptchuk

Replying to @matthew_d_green

I know this Spring that the process has gone fairly smoothly, but I think the hot sauce space needs to be more transparent and less afraid to be underestimated by restaurants. I'd rather have really #anythingelse

Meteor Performance



~.1 sec to encode an ASCII Character on GPU, 5x slower on CPU, 50x slower on mobile



Provable indistinguishability from model output (CPA-like security)



Code conveniently pre-loaded into a Google Codelab

Lots Left To Do







Increasing Efficiency

Porting Over E2E Security Lessons

Understanding Deployment Considerations

Thank You!

For paper, demo, and blog: https://meteorfrom.space/

Gabe Kaptchuk -- gabe@kaptchuk.com Twitter: @gkaptchuk

Tushar Jois -- jois@cs.jhu.edu Twitter: @tusharjois

Matt Green -- mgreen@cs.jhu.edu Twitter: (let's be honest, you already follow him)

Avi Rubin -- rubin@cs.jhu.edu Twitter: @avirubin

Parameters	Samples (Tokens)	${ m Time} \ ({ m Sec})$	Stegotext Len. (KiB)	Overhead (Length)
$H_p = k = 16$	502.8	42.69	2.3	149.4x
$H_p = k = 32$	880.4	128.41	4.1	261.8x
$H_p = k = 64$	1645.0	361.28	7.5	482.1x
$H_p = k = 128$	2994.6	765.40	13.6	870.7x

Input Length: 16 bytes

Meteor Performance

Device	Load	Encode	Decode	Overhead (time)
GPU	5.867	6.899	6.095	$1 \times$
CPU	5.234	41.221	40.334	$4.6 \times$
Mobile	1.830	473.58	457.57	$49.5 \times$

Input Length: 160 bytes