

Chapter 5: A Picture Focuses <Technically Challenge Read>

Later that evening TomJones resumes reading Song Yet Sung. His mind drifts back to Liz Spotoc, her wound, the communication code.

“Now suppose that one of the two, Stacy or Frank, had a large file on a storage media of any type, what data might it contain? For Stacy it would most likely be either one or more stories on which she was working, a collection of pictures and videos from family and friends, or may be a system backup. For Frank it would be a copy of his software development projects, a collection of his development tools and environments, or a backup of his system.

“What we know is that the file is a large RAR compression file. Because of its size it will be difficult and time consuming. Access to the compressed file is guarded by a password or pass phrase.

“Let’s see what a search of the Internet reveals.” TomJones casually enters the search string “RAR compression files where is the password maintained”.

That string pops a webpage of useful hits. The seemingly best response is found on the Quora site <https://www.quora.com/How-can-I-open-a-compressed-rar-folder-which-is-password-protected>. Reading the responses it seems that the best answer involves using an application PassFab Another search string, PassFab for RAR, is prepared and fired. The vendor was found to provide a free trial for Windows operating environment. Adjusting the search string to “ubuntu PassFab for RAR” leads to an equivalent application for Ubuntu found at the “<https://askubuntu.com/questions/364198/what-rar-password-recovery-tools-are-available> site.

Following the flow given on that page

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:ole.wolf/rarcrack
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install
```

Once installed using it proved a bit difficult but another search string using “rarcrack usage” produced videos and examples. <<Started 1714hr Monday 211227>>

```
rarcrack 210203_dahlongega.rar --type rar
RarCrack! 0.2 by David Zoltan Kedves (kedazo@gmail.com)
```

```
INFO: the specified archive type: rar
INFO: cracking 210203_dahlongega.rar, status file:
210203_dahlongega.rar.xml
Probing: '3u' [92 pwds/sec]
Probing: '8f' [98 pwds/sec]
Probing: 'cL' [93 pwds/sec]
...
Probing: '2pCR' [81 pwds/sec]
Probing: '2pHi' [91 pwds/sec]
Probing: '2pLx' [87 pwds/sec]
...
Probing: '3c15' [86 pwds/sec]
Probing: '3c5s' [90 pwds/sec]
...
```

This brute approach continued as TomJones returned to reading the novel. It was still running as TomJones called it a night.

Rejoining the battle in the morning TomJones noticed that the brute force rarcracker application is still working.

Probing: 'jqMW' [87 pwds/sec]

Probing: 'jqR3' [85 pwds/sec]

...

Probing: 'nemj' [87 pwds/sec]

Probing: 'neqC' [89 pwds/sec]