

# 66

“Stirring up anger causes trouble.”

## Cracking File Format

I have already explained about file format. Each file got its own standards for storing the contents. So for cracking or retrieving a particular type of file, we need to know its file format. Few of the software vendors don't document the file format that are used by their software. So to know file format, we need to perform some illegal operations. We must understand the fact that most of the software vendors use the file format that were proposed by some research scholars and non-profit organizations.

### 66.1 DEBUG

Using DEBUG we can find which character is stored in which location. That is, in which offset (distance) which character is stored can be viewed. To find that, you can even write your own program!

### 66.2 Finding out Signature

Most probably, the signature bytes will be available in the first part of the file. So comparing first few bytes of two files of some type (say .CHR), we can find out the '*signature*'. When two files of same type got same bytes at same offset, it might be the signature.

### 66.3 Algorithms

Most of the software might use certain specific algorithms. Mostly these algorithms might be documented. So you need to checkout different algorithms.

### 66.4 Standard Format

Most of the format used by the software might be a standard format. This format may be documented in some other texts. So you need to know different standard formats.