

# **Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques**


## **Module 05**





# Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques


*Anti-forensics techniques are the techniques the perpetrators use to avert detection through forensics investigation process. These techniques hinder proper forensics investigation process by reducing the quantity and quality of digital evidence.*

## ICON KEY

 Valuable information

 Test your knowledge

 Web exercise

 Workbook review

## Lab Scenario

In order to investigate web attacks, as a **forensic investigator**, you must be able to collect and analyze evidences from victims' or attackers' system. The attackers try to avert the forensics processes by applying some anti-forensics techniques that damage the evidence, hide the pathways used and delete the attacked data from the victims' systems. You must be aware of such techniques and their impact over the evidences and systems.

## Lab Objectives

The objective of this lab is to provide expert knowledge about:

- How to find anti-forensics techniques
- Bypass the anti-forensics attacks to collect the evidence

## Lab Environment

To carry out the lab, you need:


- A computer running **Windows 10** virtual machine
- A computer running **Windows Server 2012** virtual machine
- A web browser with an **Internet** connection
- Administrative privileges to run tools

## Lab Duration

Time: 55 Minutes

## Overview of Anti-forensics

There are different types of anti-forensics techniques such as data/file deletion, wiping/overwriting data and metadata, corruption / degaussing, cryptographic file systems, password protection, etc.

 **Tools demonstrated in this lab are available in C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques**



**T A S K 1****Overview**

## Lab Tasks

Recommended labs to assist you in Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques:

- Cracking Application Password
- Detecting Steganography

## Lab Analysis

Analyze and document the results related to the lab exercise. Give your opinion on your target's security posture and exposure.

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS  
RELATED TO THIS LAB.

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
## Lab


## 1


## Cracking Application Password


*Passware Kit Forensic is an electronic evidence discovery solution that reports all password-protected items on a computer and decrypts them.*

### ICON KEY

 Valuable information

 Test your knowledge

 Web exercise

 Workbook review

### Lab Scenario

Applications are a package of programs developed to perform certain tasks. The developers use encryptions and authentication to protect the data. Attackers also create such encrypted applications, which are difficult to see through. To be an expert **forensic investigator**, you must have the skills to crack system passwords, application passwords and other security mechanisms, which can act as hindrance in solving the case.

### Lab Objectives


The objective of this lab is to help investigators:

- Crack the application passwords

### Lab Environment

To carry out the lab, you need:

- The Passware Kit Forensic tool, located at **C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Password Cracking Tools\Passware Kit Forensic**.
- You can also download the latest version of **Passware Kit Forensic** from this link <https://www.passware.com/kit-forensic>.
- If you decide to download the latest version, screenshots shown in the lab might differ.
- A computer running **Windows 10**.
- Administrative privileges to install and run tools.
- A web browser with an **Internet** connection.

 **Tools demonstrated in this lab are available in C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques**



## Lab Duration

Time: 25 Minutes

## Overview of Passware Kit Forensic

**Passware Kit Forensic** is an electronic evidence discovery solution that reports all password-protected items on a computer and decrypts them. It reports all password-protected items on a computer and gains access to these items using the fastest decryption and password recovery algorithms.

## Lab Tasks

### TASK 1

#### Launching and Updating Password Recovery Bundle

1. Navigate to **Z:\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Password Cracking Tools\Passware Kit Forensic**.
2. Double-click **passware-kit-forensic-demo.msi** to launch the setup, and follow the wizard driven installation steps.

**Note:** If an **Open File - Security Warning** pop-up appears, click **Run**.

If a **User Account Control** pop-up appears, enter the credentials of Windows Server 2012 virtual machine.

3. During the final step of installation, ensure that **Run Passware Kit Forensic Demo** option is checked, and click **Finish**.
4. Passware Password Recovery Kit Forensic Demo GUI appears as shown in the following screenshot:

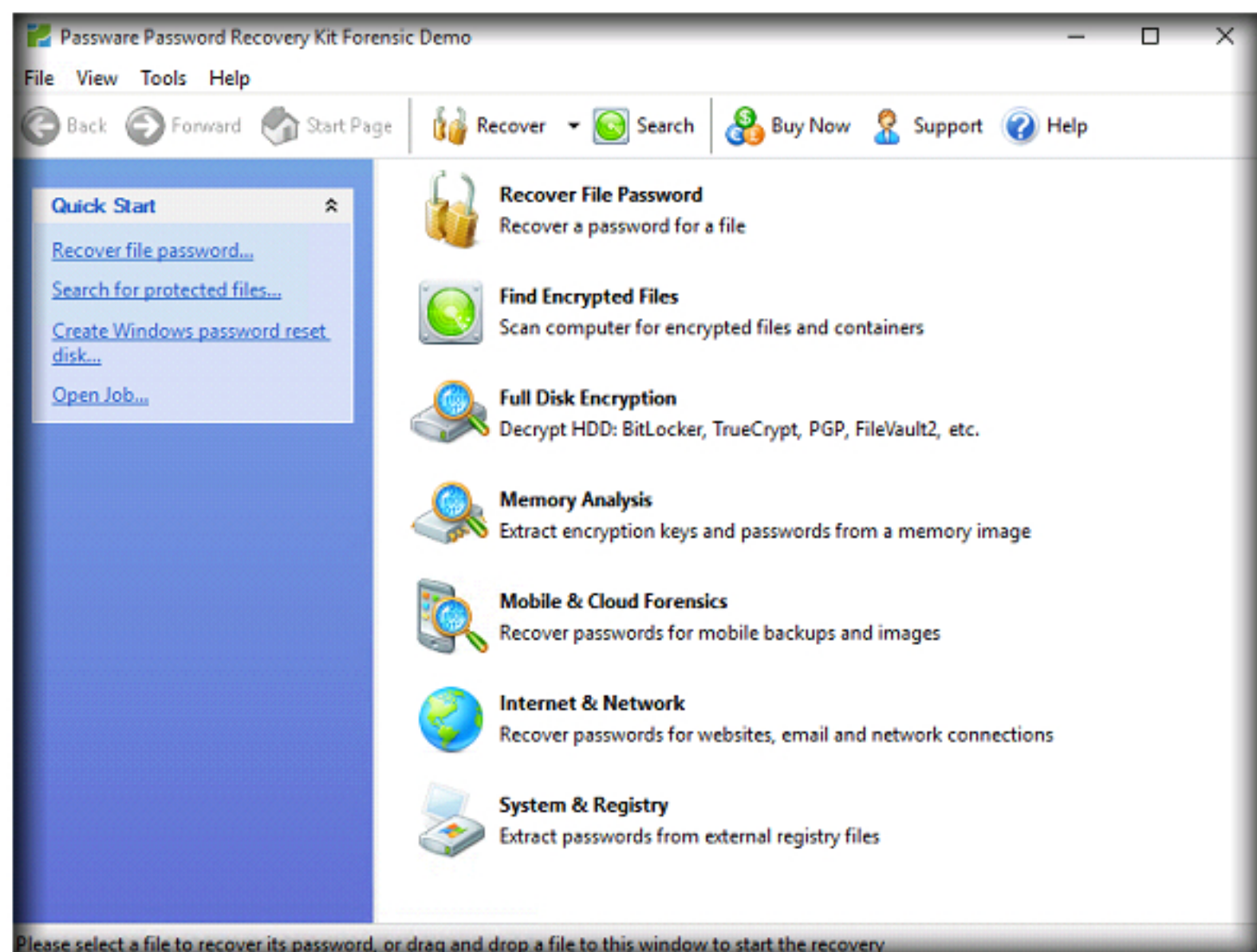


FIGURE 1.1: Passware Password Recovery Kit Forensic Demo GUI



- Click the **Recover File Password** option from the main window of the tool.

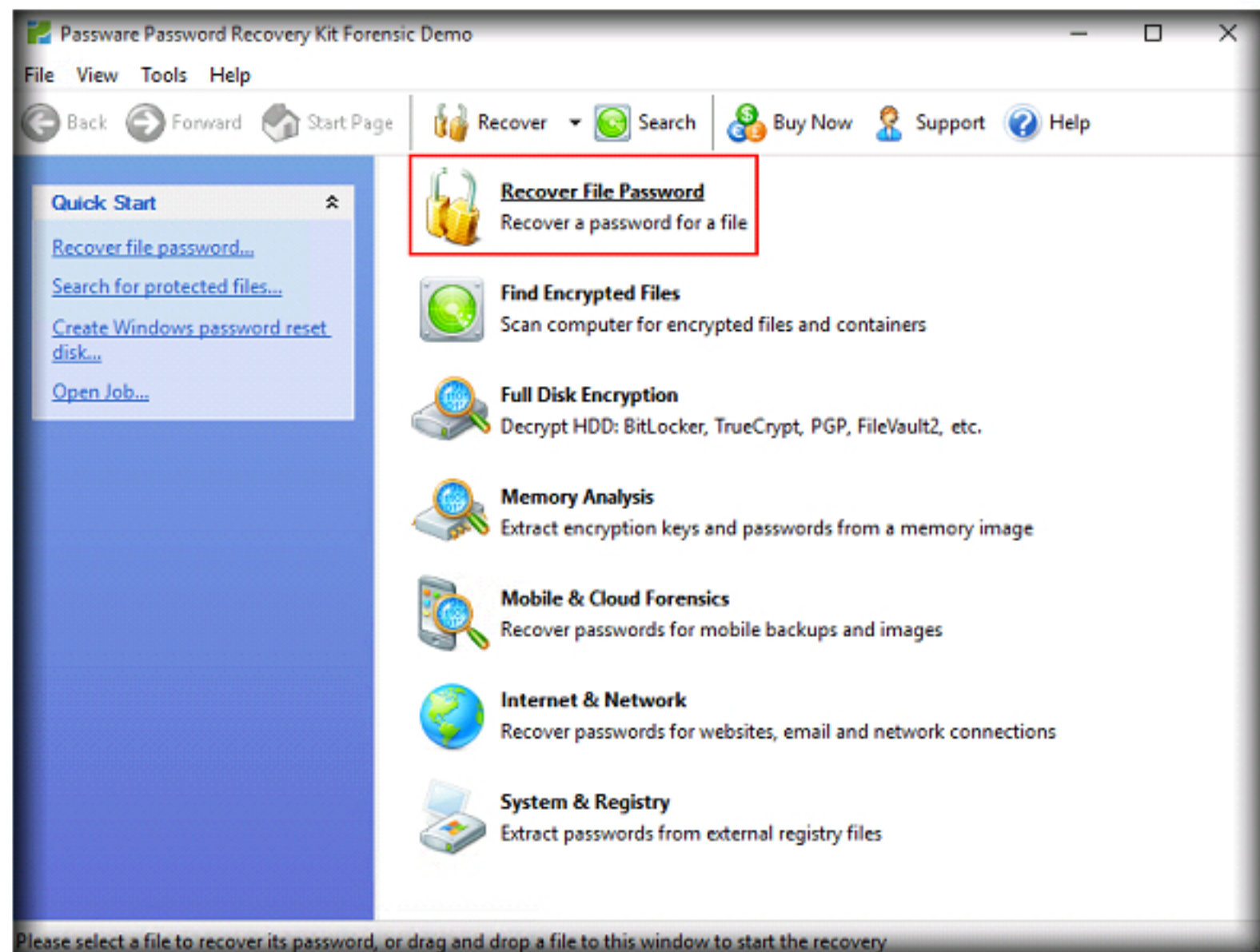


FIGURE 1.2: Recover File Password option

- Navigate to the location **Z:\Evidence Files**, select the file **Word\_Doc.docx** and click **Open**.

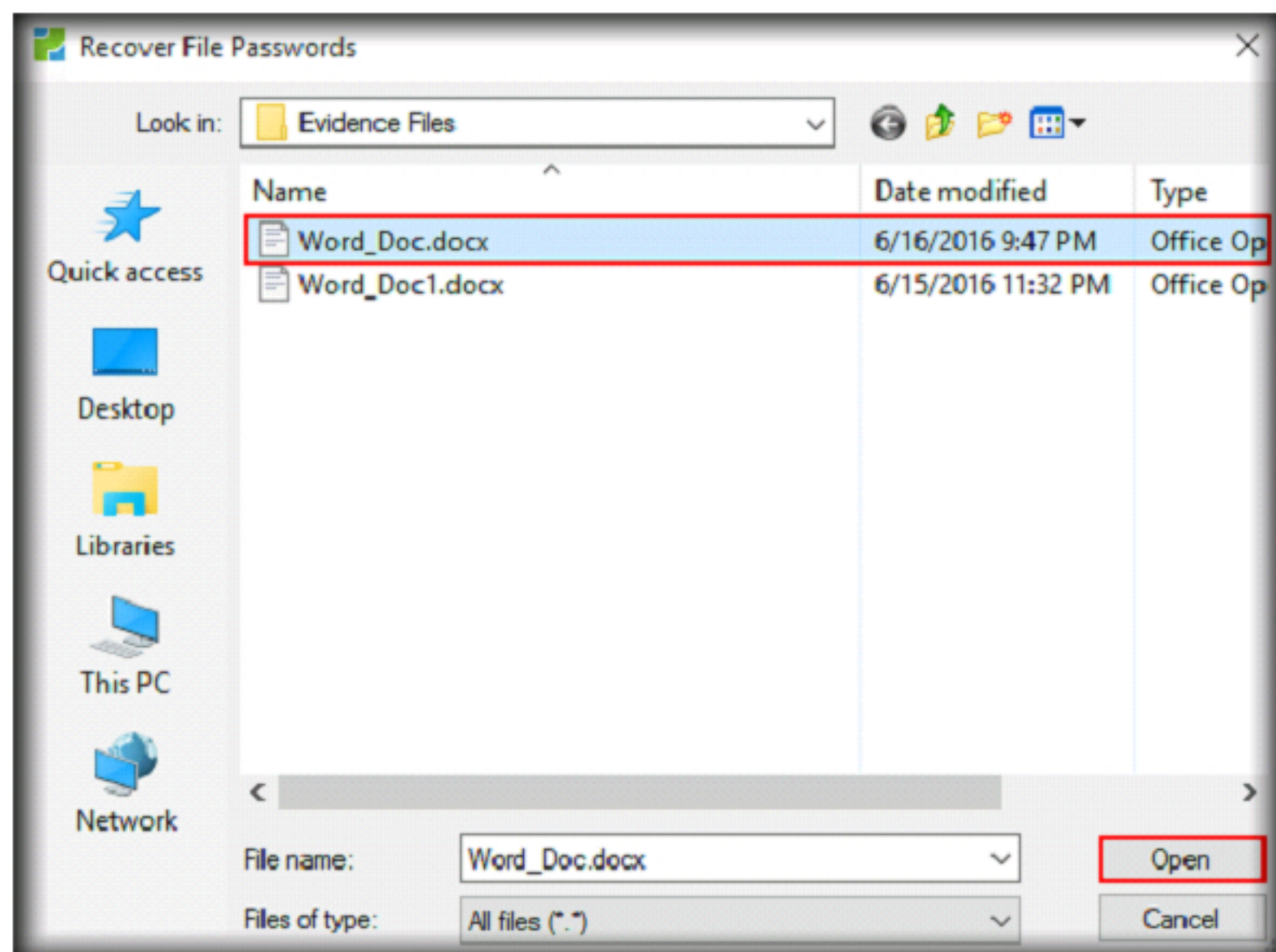


FIGURE 1.3: Open Word\_Doc.docx



7. Upon selecting the file, a wizard appears where you need to select **Use Predefined Settings** option.

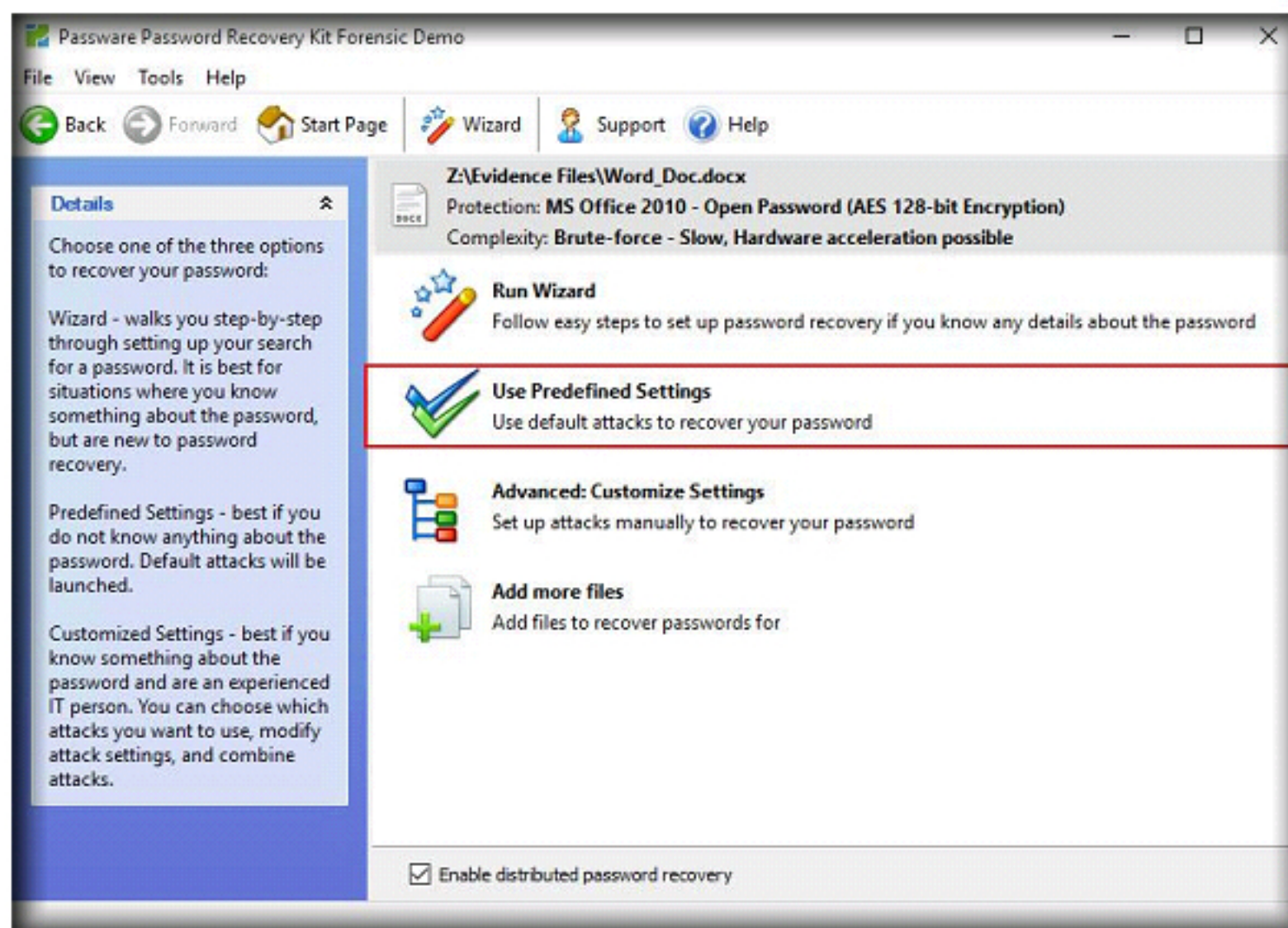


FIGURE 1.4: Use Predefined Settings option

8. The tool will take some time to crack the password. The time is proportionate to the number of characters the password has, as well as types of characters used.

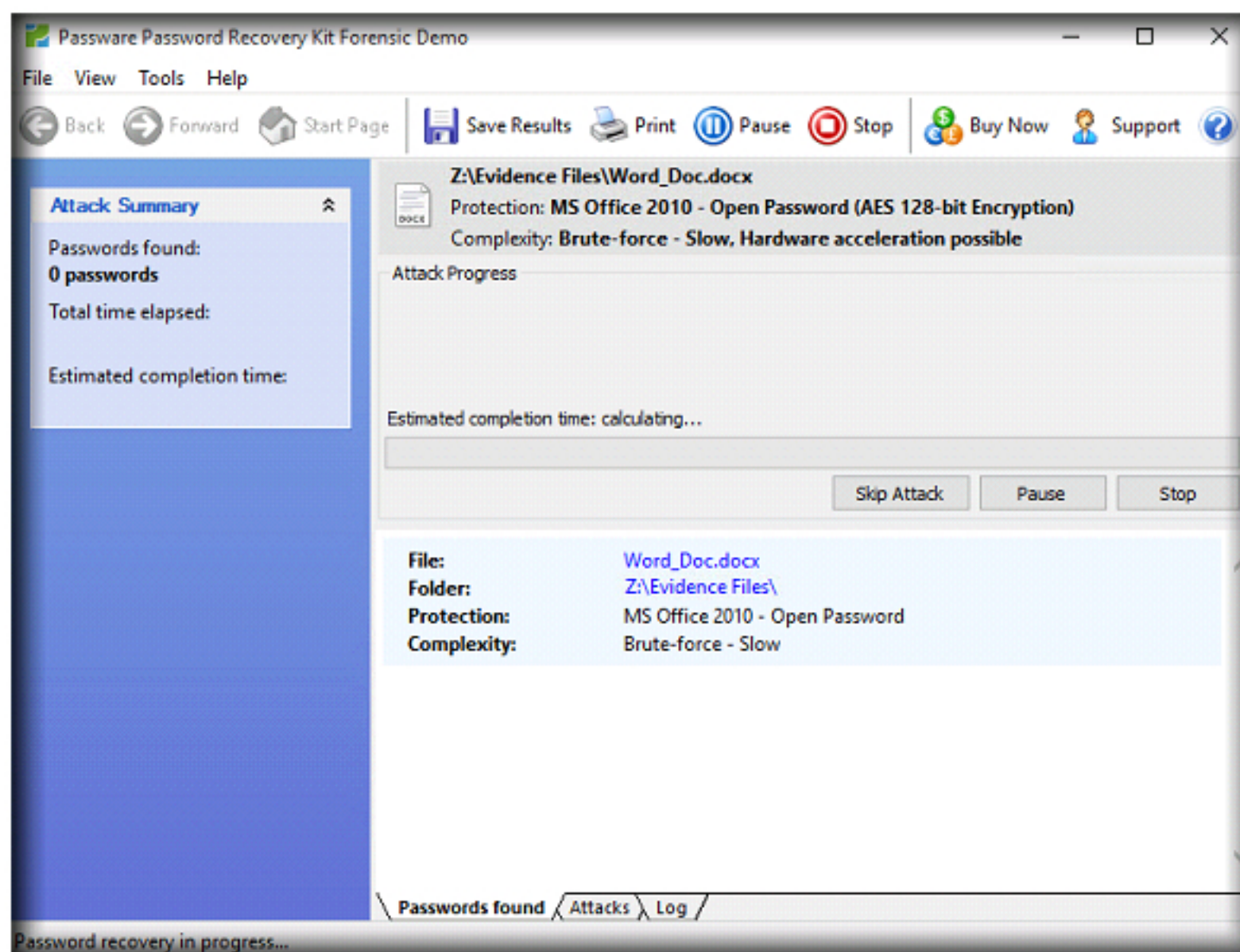


FIGURE 1.5: Password cracking screen



9. After analysis, the tool displays the password as shown in the screenshot:

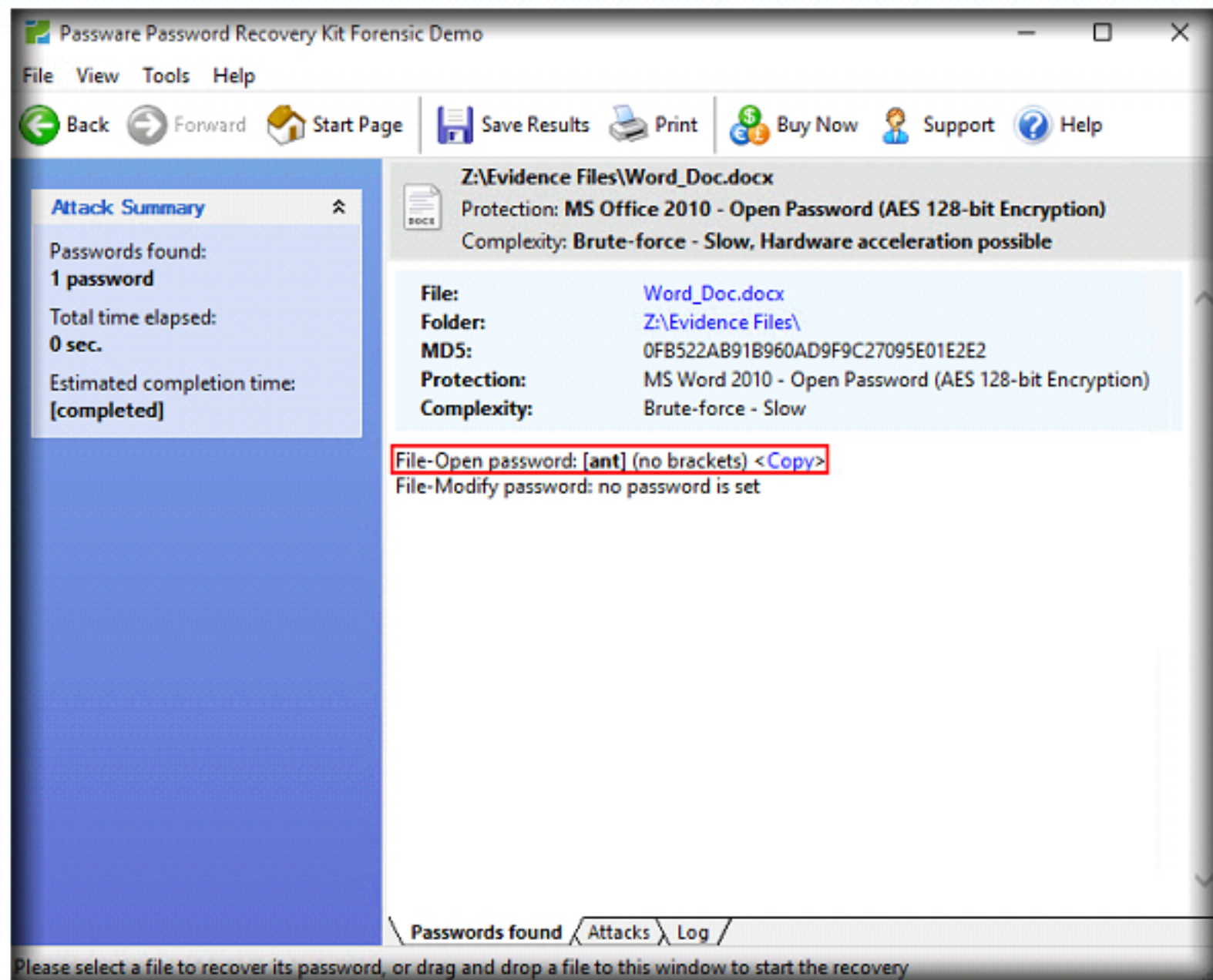


FIGURE 1.6: Password display

10. To crack password of a compressed folder or winRAR file, navigate to the **Z:\CHFIV9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques Password Cracking Tools\Advanced Archive Password Recovery**, and double click the **archpr\_setup\_en.msi** setup file.
11. Follow the installation instructions to install the tool.
- Note:** If an **Open File - Security Warning** pop-up appears, click **Run**.
- If a **User Account Control** pop-up appears, enter the credentials of Windows Server 2012 virtual machine.
12. During the final step of installation, ensure that **Run Advanced Archive Password Recovery** is checked, and click **Finish**.



13. **Advanced Archive Password Recovery** GUI appears as shown in the following screenshot:

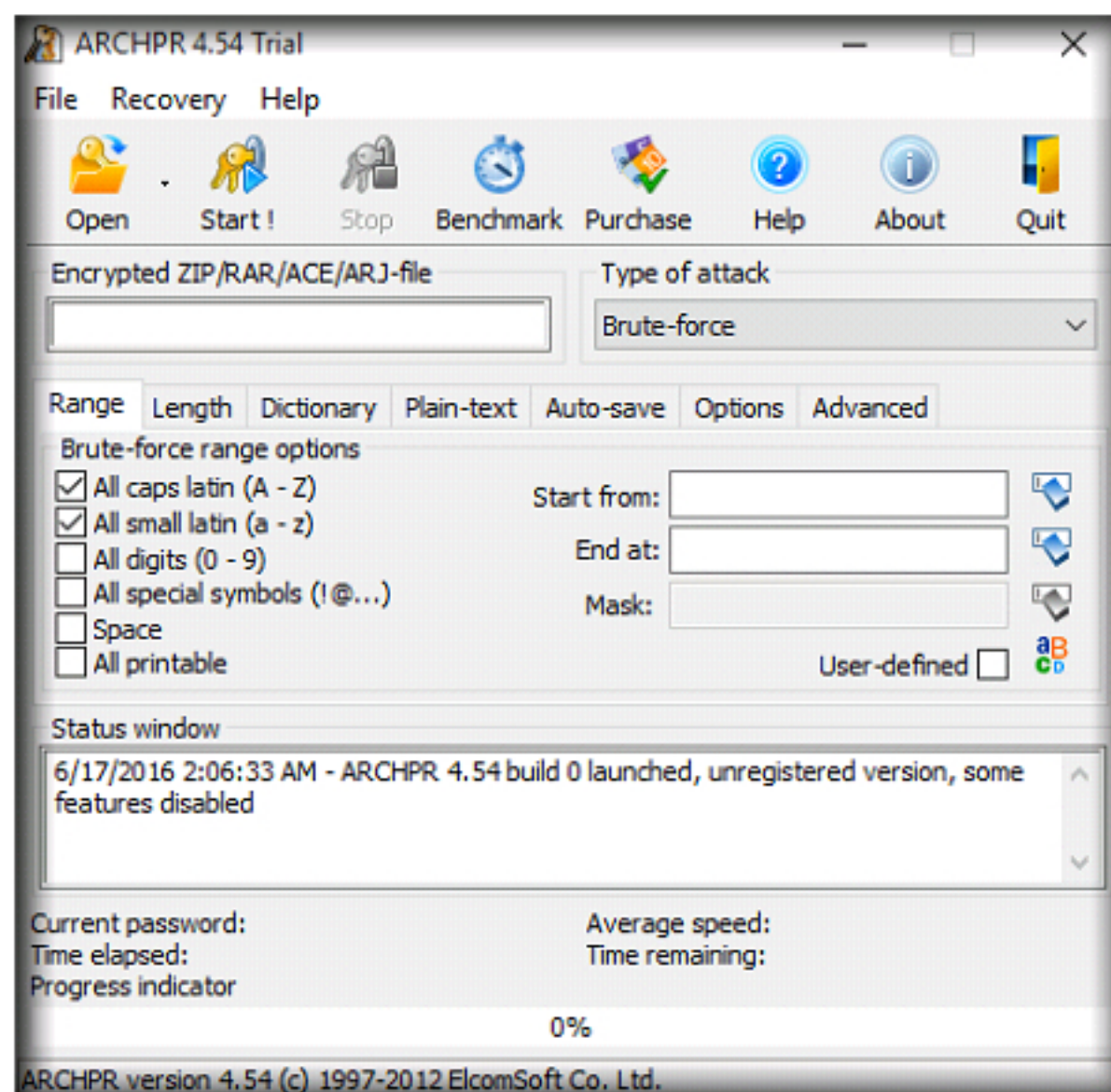


FIGURE 1.7: Advanced Archive Password Recovery GUI

14. Provide the cracking factors by providing parameters such as the **Type of attack**, **Range**, **length**, **Dictionary**, etc., by clicking the respective tabs and giving in the required details.

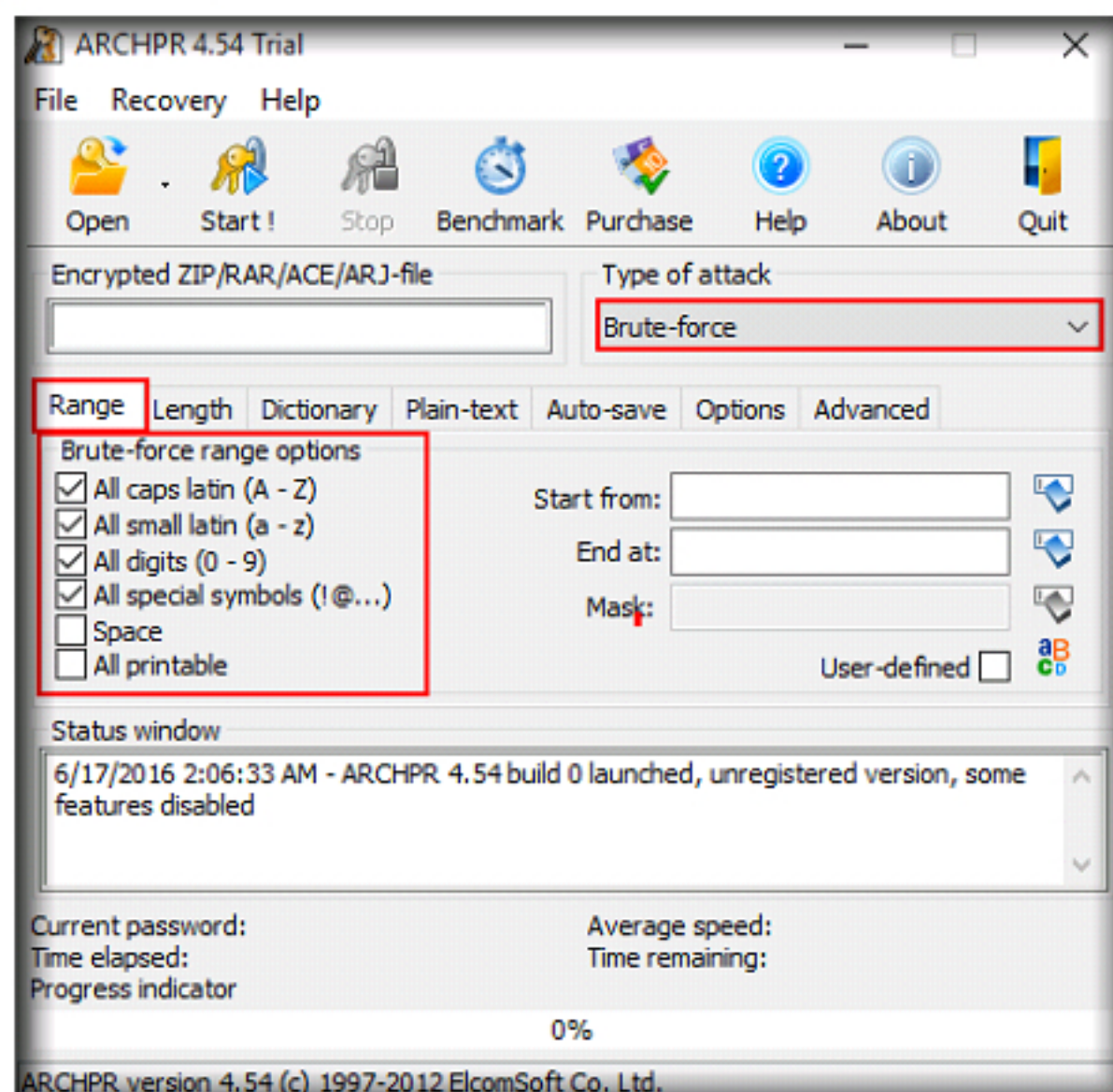


FIGURE 1.8: Provide parameters



15. Click the **Open** button from the toolbar of the main page to add the WinRAR file you want to crack.

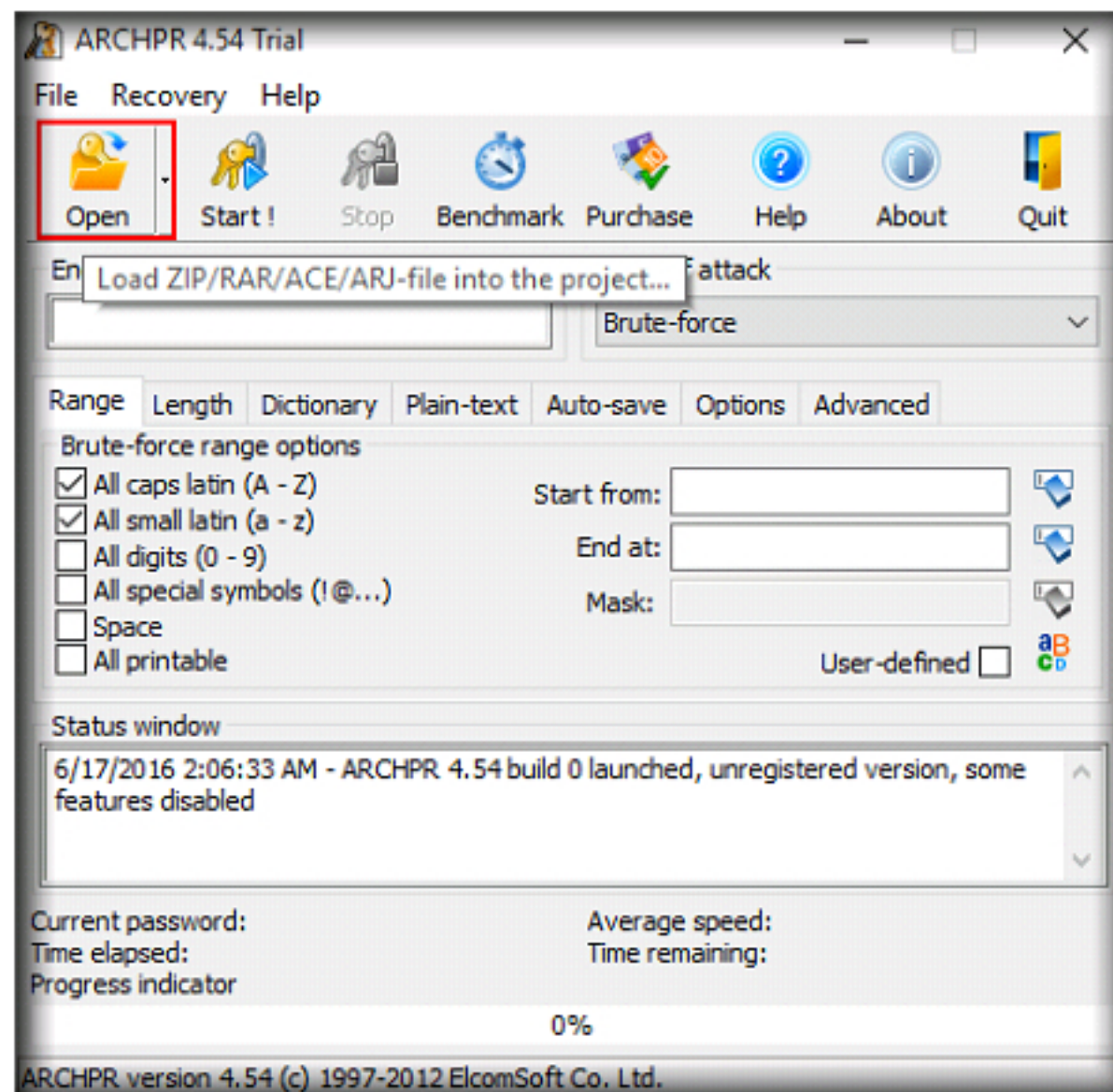


FIGURE 1.9: Click the Open button

16. Navigate to the file location **Z:\Evidence Files**, select the file **Compressed\_files.rar** and click **Open**.

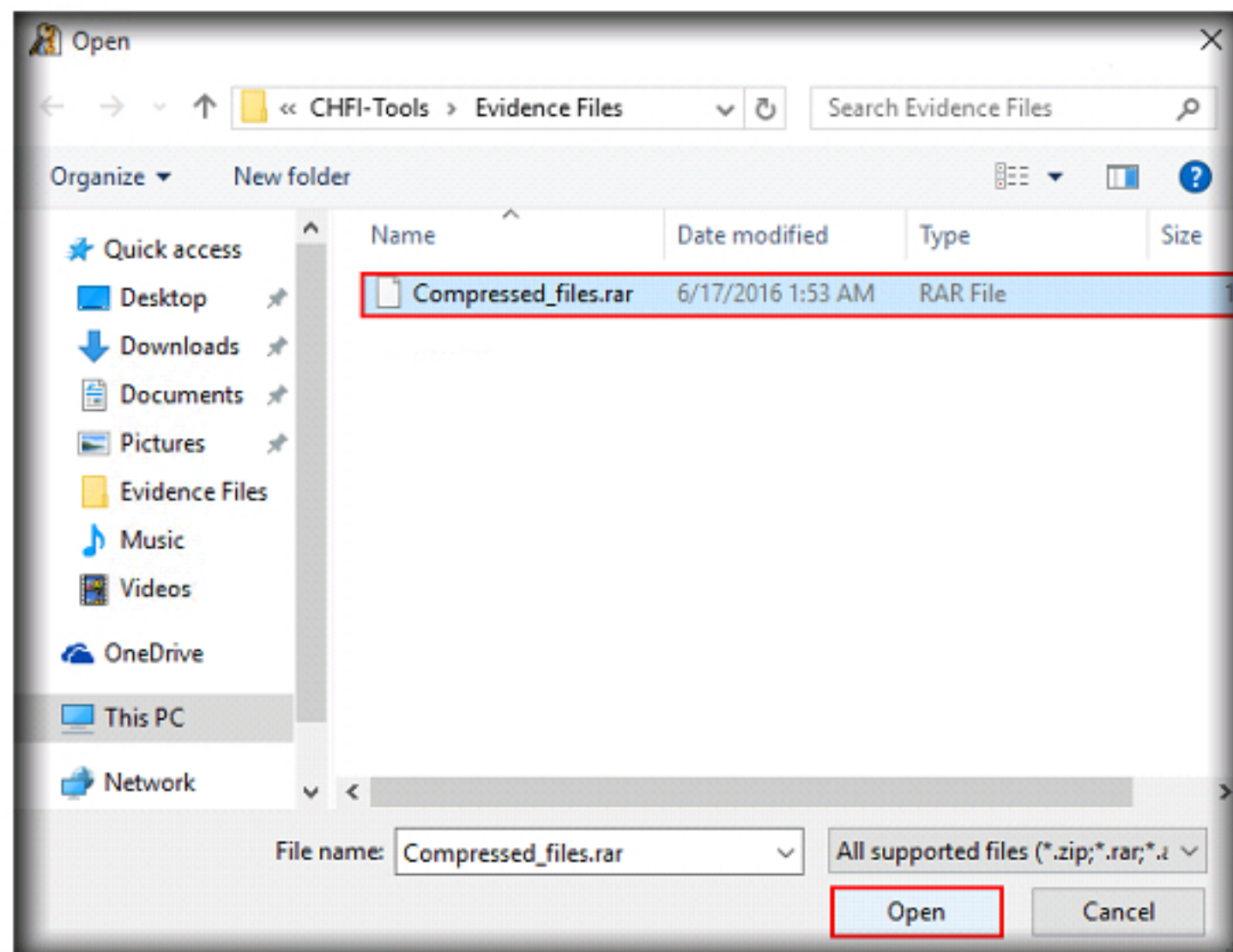


FIGURE 1.10: Select Compressed\_files.rar



17. The tool will start cracking the password automatically and display the process status in the provided status window.

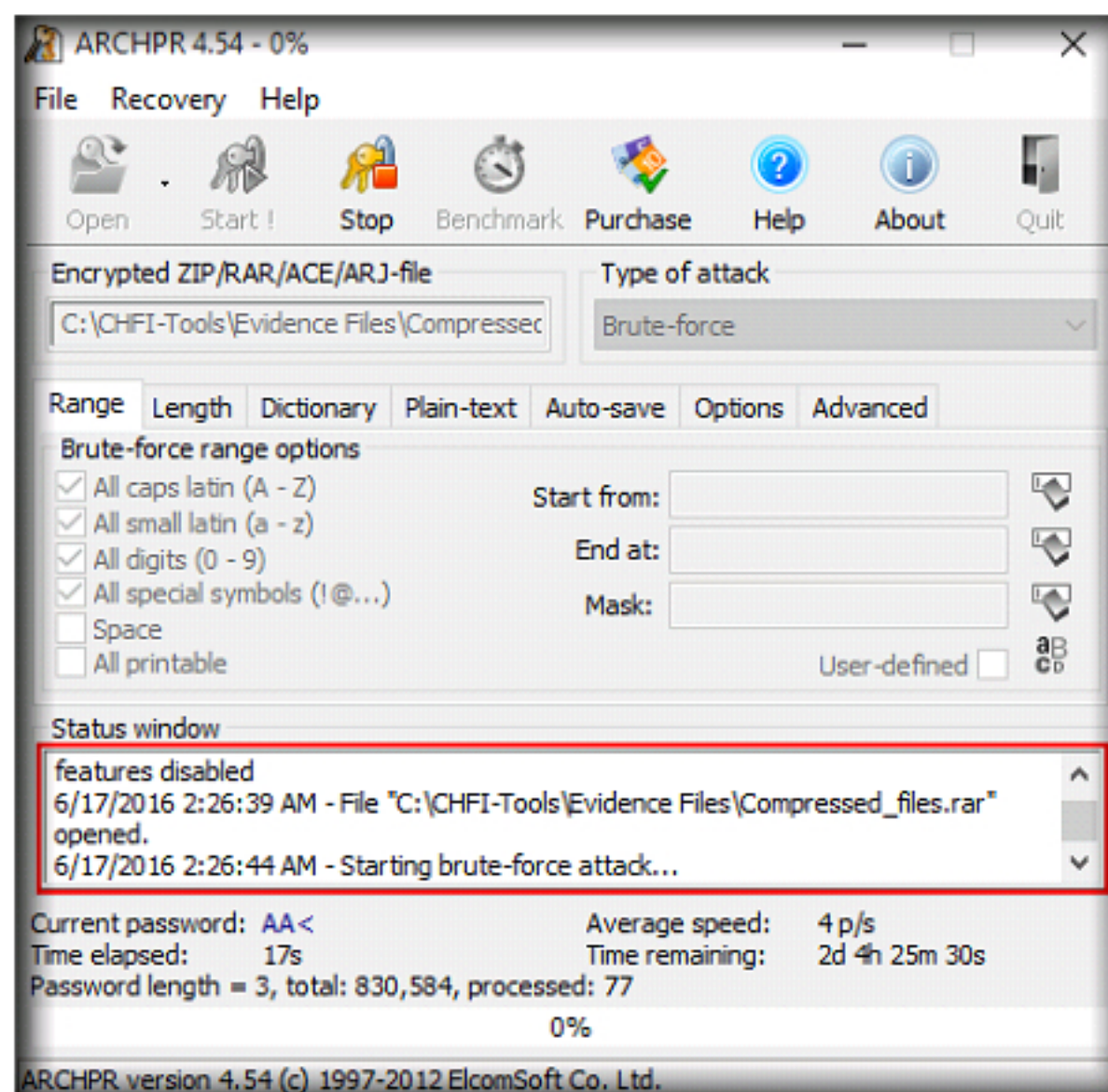


FIGURE 1.11: Process status display

18. After completion of cracking, the tool will display the **password** with details regarding the scan as shown in the screenshot:

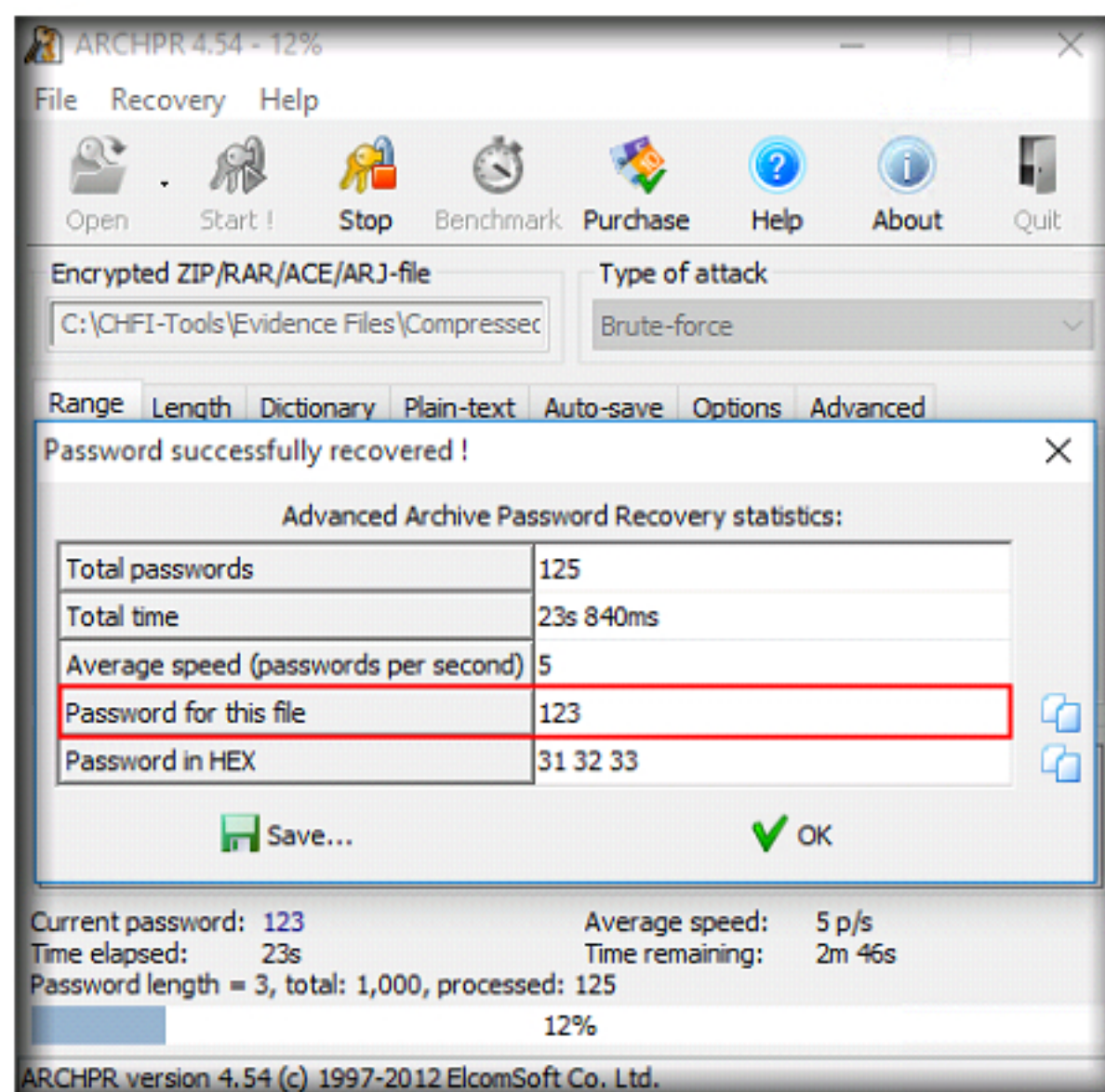


FIGURE 1.12: Password display

19. To crack password of a password-protected PDF file, navigate to the **Z:\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Password Cracking Tools\Advanced PDF Password Recovery**.



20. Double click the **apdfpr\_setup\_en.msi** setup file and follow the installation instructions to install the tool.

**Note:** If an **Open File - Security Warning** pop-up appears, click **Run**.

If a **User Account Control** pop-up appears, enter the credentials of Windows Server 2012 virtual machine.

21. During the final step of installation, ensure that **Run Advanced PDF Password Recovery** is checked, and click **Finish**.

22. **Advanced PDF Password Recovery** GUI appears as shown in the following screenshot:

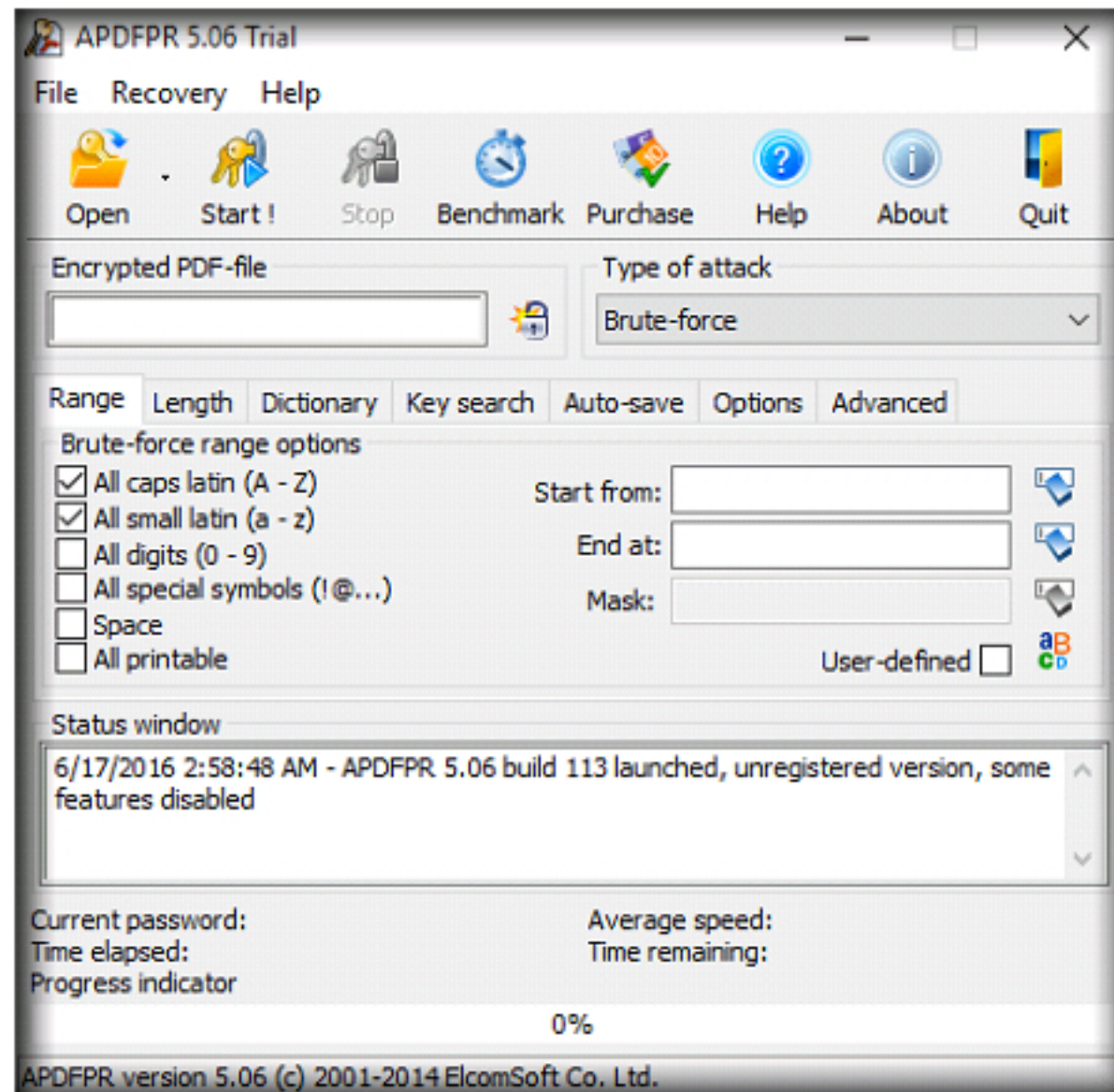


FIGURE 1.13: Advanced PDF Password Recovery GUI

23. Provide the cracking factors by providing parameters such as the **Type of attack**, **Range**, **length**, **Dictionary**, etc., by clicking the respective tabs and giving in the required details.

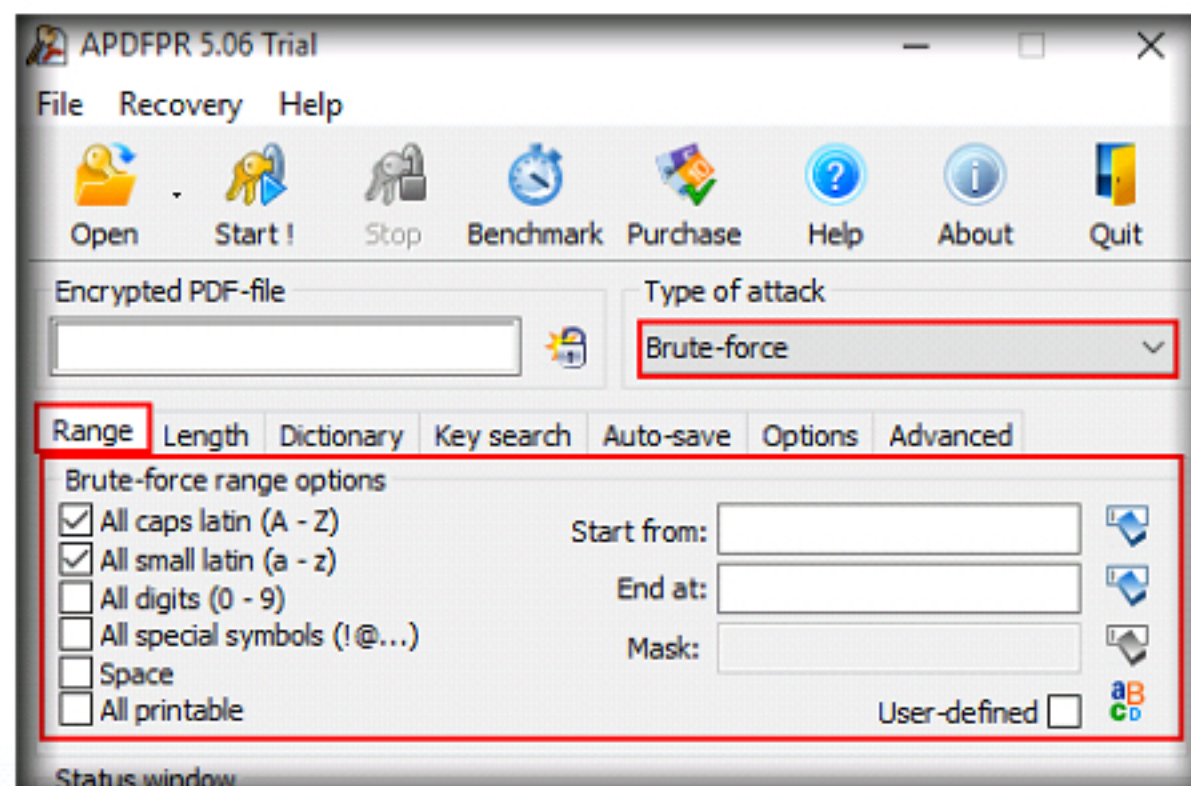


FIGURE 1.14: Provide parameters



24. Click the **Open** button from the toolbar of the main page to add the PDF file you want to crack.

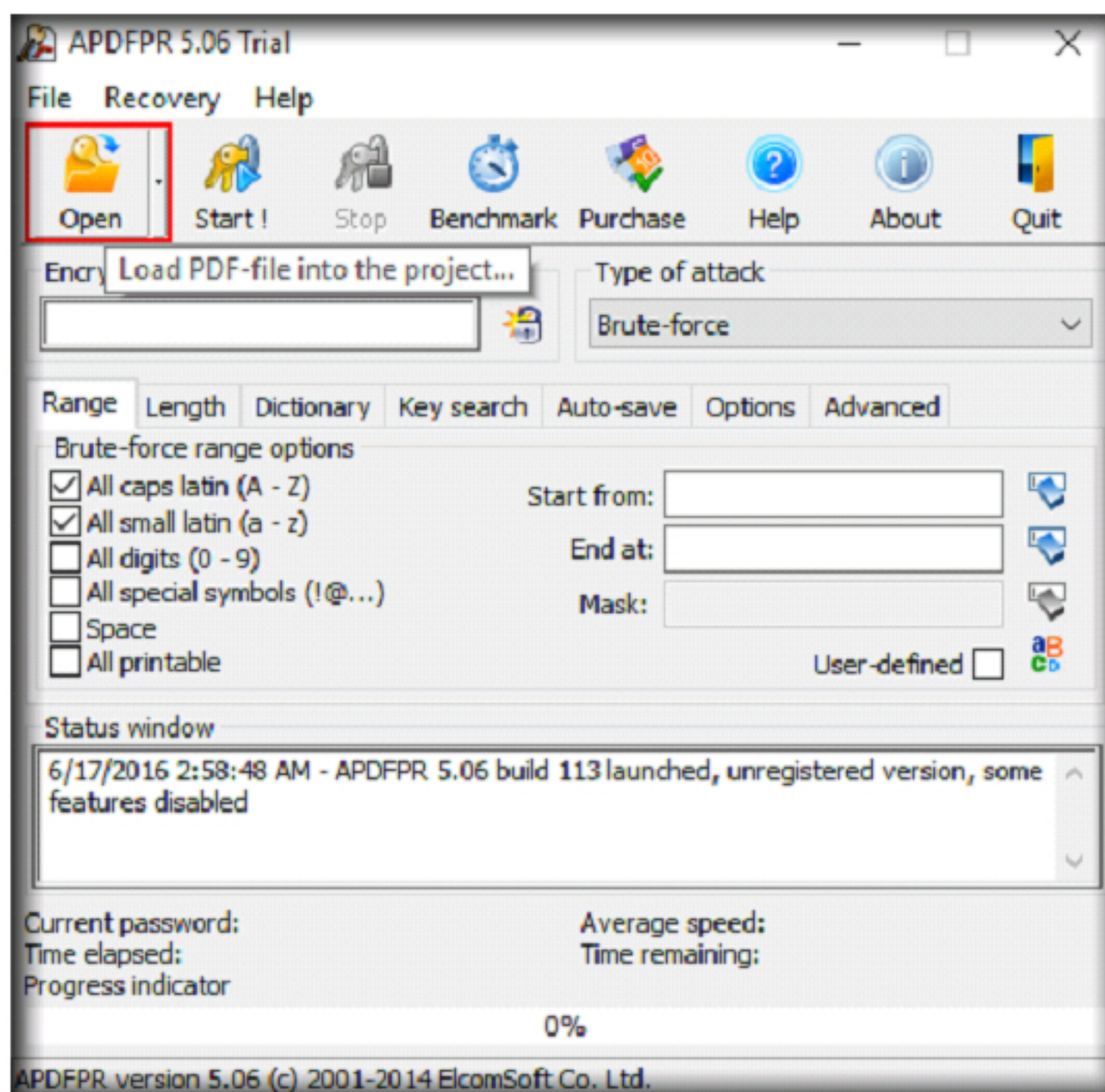


FIGURE 1.15: Click the Open button

25. Navigate to the file location **Z:\Evidence Files**, select the file **Confidential.pdf** and click **Open**.

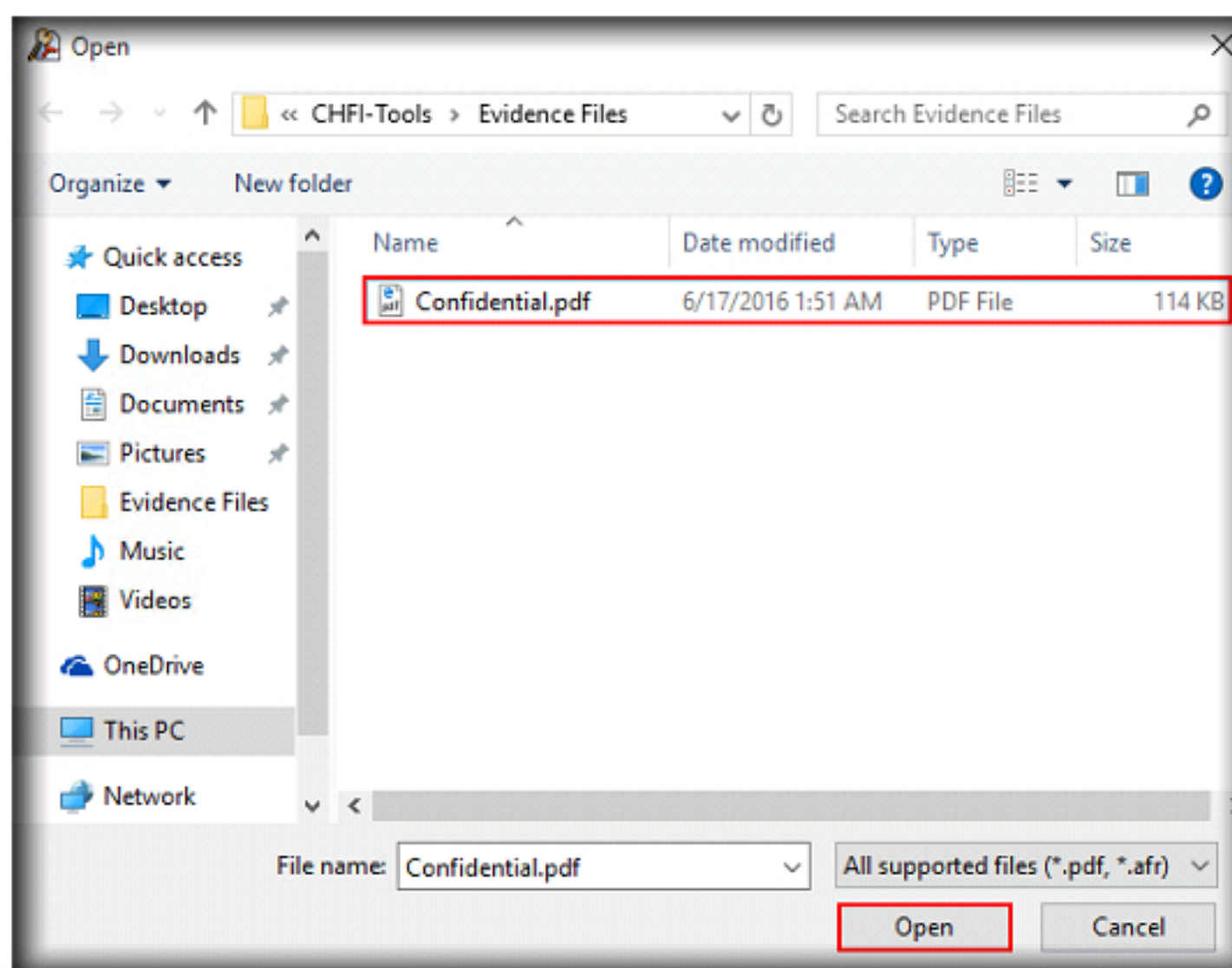


FIGURE 1.16: Select Confidential.pdf



26. The tool will start cracking the file password automatically.
27. **Note:** If the tool displays a message to enter the password, click the **Cancel** button and click **Start** on the tool page.

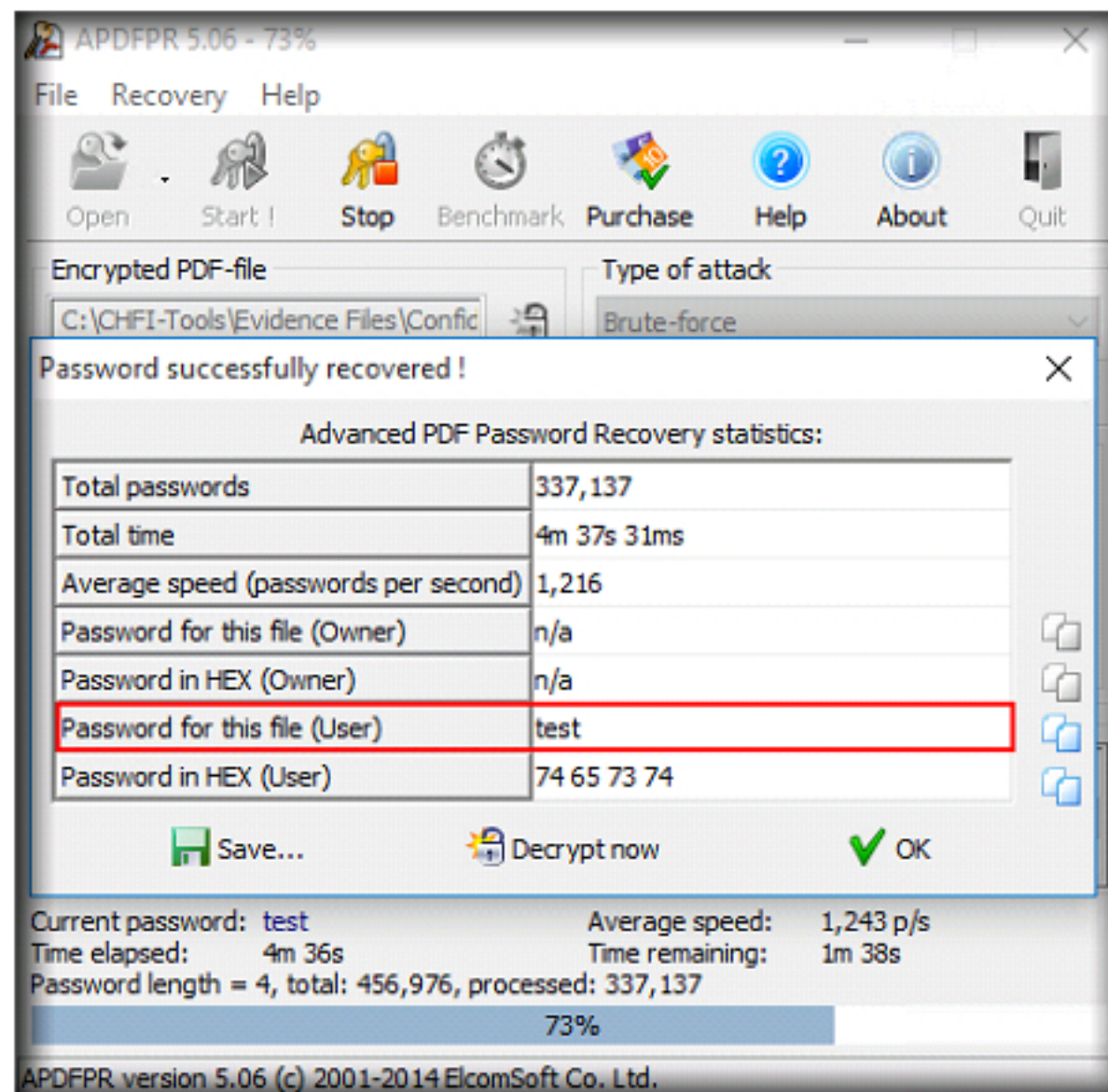


FIGURE 1.17: Crack file password

28. After analysis the tool will display a window with the password of the **Confidential.pdf** file.

## Lab Analysis

Analyze and document the results related to the lab exercise. Give your opinion on your target's security posture and exposure.

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS LAB.


Internet Connection Required	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Platform Supported	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classroom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> iLabs





## Detecting Steganography


*Steganography is the process of hiding information or file with another file. In other words, it is the process of disguising a harmful file as a safe file.*

### ICON KEY

 Valuable information

 Test your knowledge

 Web exercise

 Workbook review

### Lab Scenario

The attackers sometime try to deceive the users and the system security by hiding the malicious program with an apparently useful image or file. By doing this they can avert the security check and lure the victims to download and run the malware as well as escape from forensic identification. As an expert **forensic investigator**, you must be able to detect the steganography files and analyze them.

### Lab Objectives

The objective of this lab is to help investigators analyze files hidden using steganography and find their impact on the system or network.


### Lab Environment

To carry out the lab, you need:

- Stegspy, located at **C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Steganography Detection Tools\StegSpy.**
- OpenStego, located at **C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Steganography Detection Tools\OpenStego.**
- A computer running **Windows Server 2012.**
- Administrative privileges to run the tools.

### Lab Duration

Time: 30 Minutes

 **Tools demonstrated in this lab are available in C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques**



## Overview of StegSpy

**StegSpy** allows identification of hidden file and the program used to hide the message as well as the location of the hidden content. **StegSpy** currently identifies the use of steganography techniques such as:

- Hideman
- JPHideandSeek
- Masker
- JPegX
- Invisible Secrets

## Lab Tasks



### TASK 1

#### Launching SmartWhois

1. Navigate to **C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Steganography Detection Tools\StegSpy**.
2. Double-click **StegSpy2.1.exe** to launch the tool.

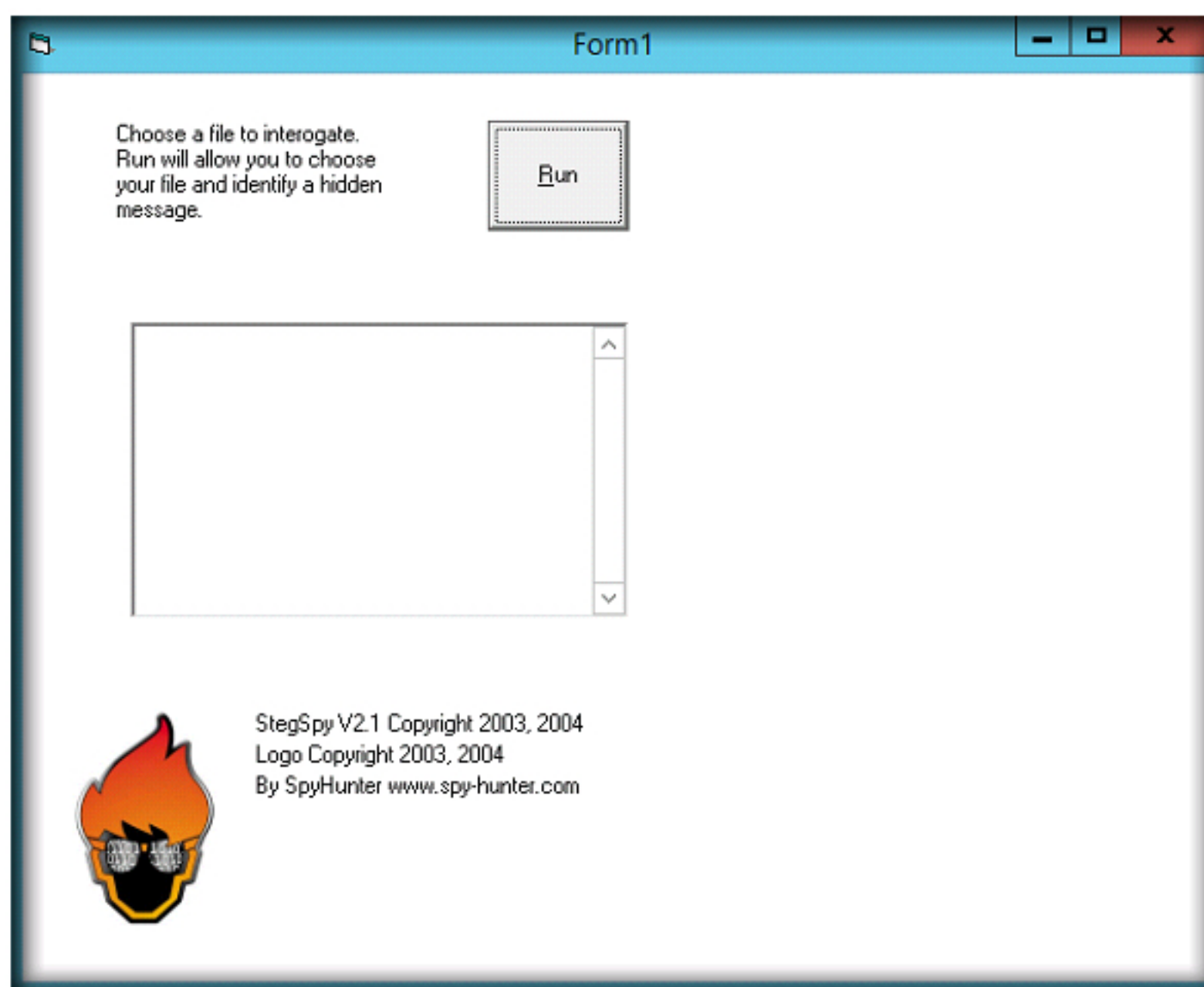


FIGURE 2.1: The StegSpy main window



3. Click the **Run** button from the tool main page to add the suspicious file.

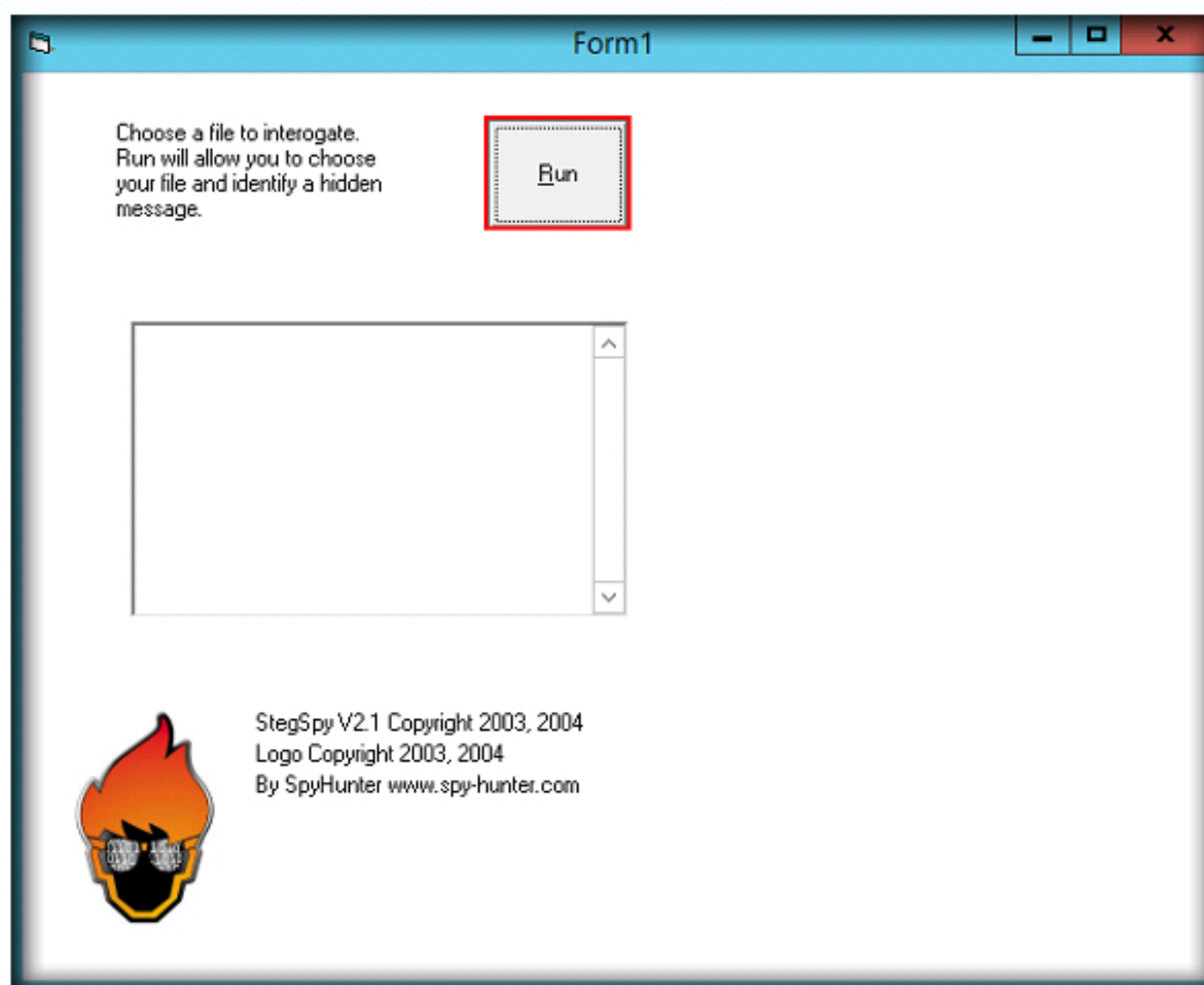


FIGURE 2.2: Click the Run button

4. Navigate to the location of the suspicious file, **C:\CHFI-Tools\Evidence Files\Image Files**, select the file **Flowers\_123.png** and click the **Open** button.

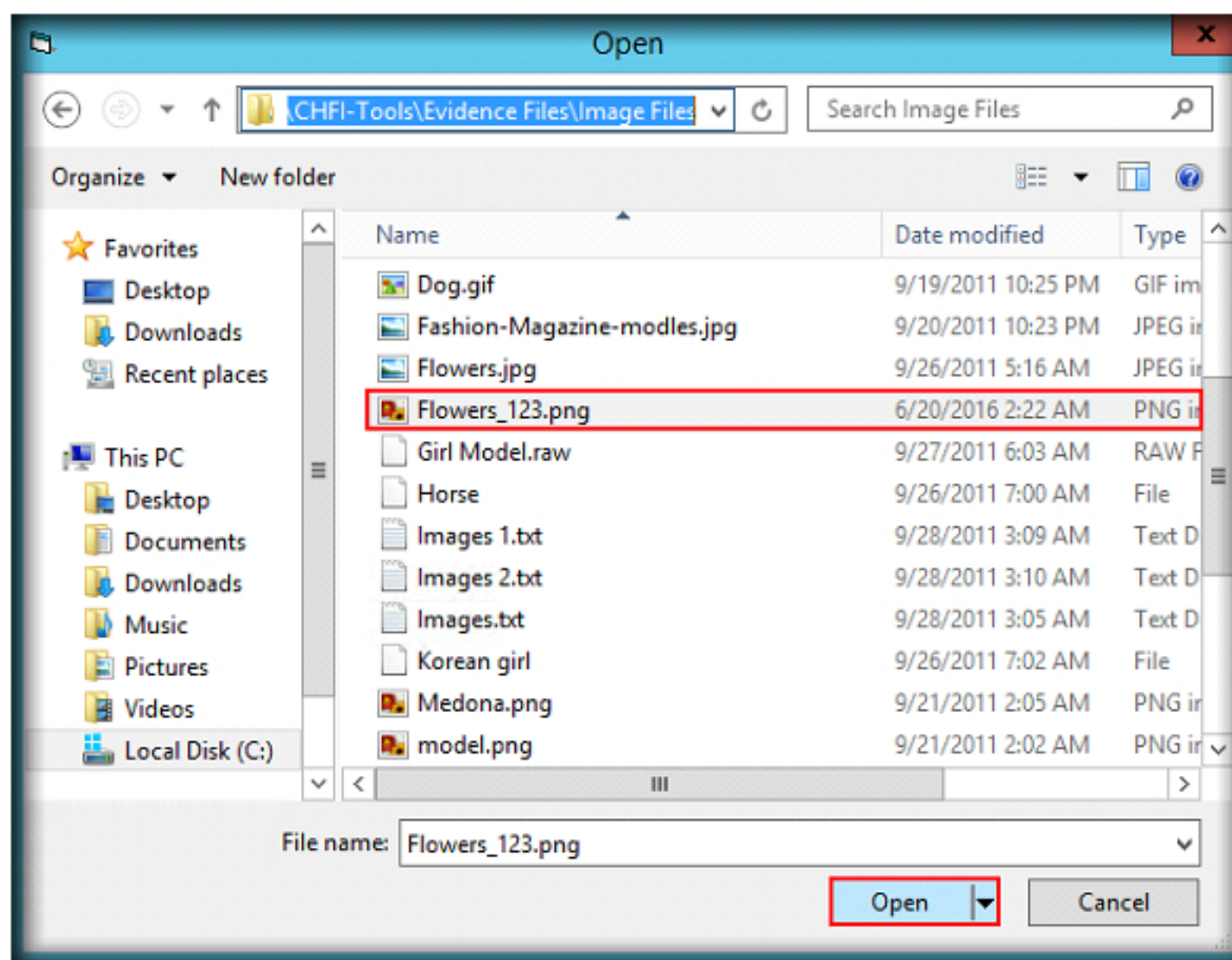


FIGURE 2.3: Select Flowers\_123.png



- The tool will scan the file and display the type of steganography technique used to hide another file in it.

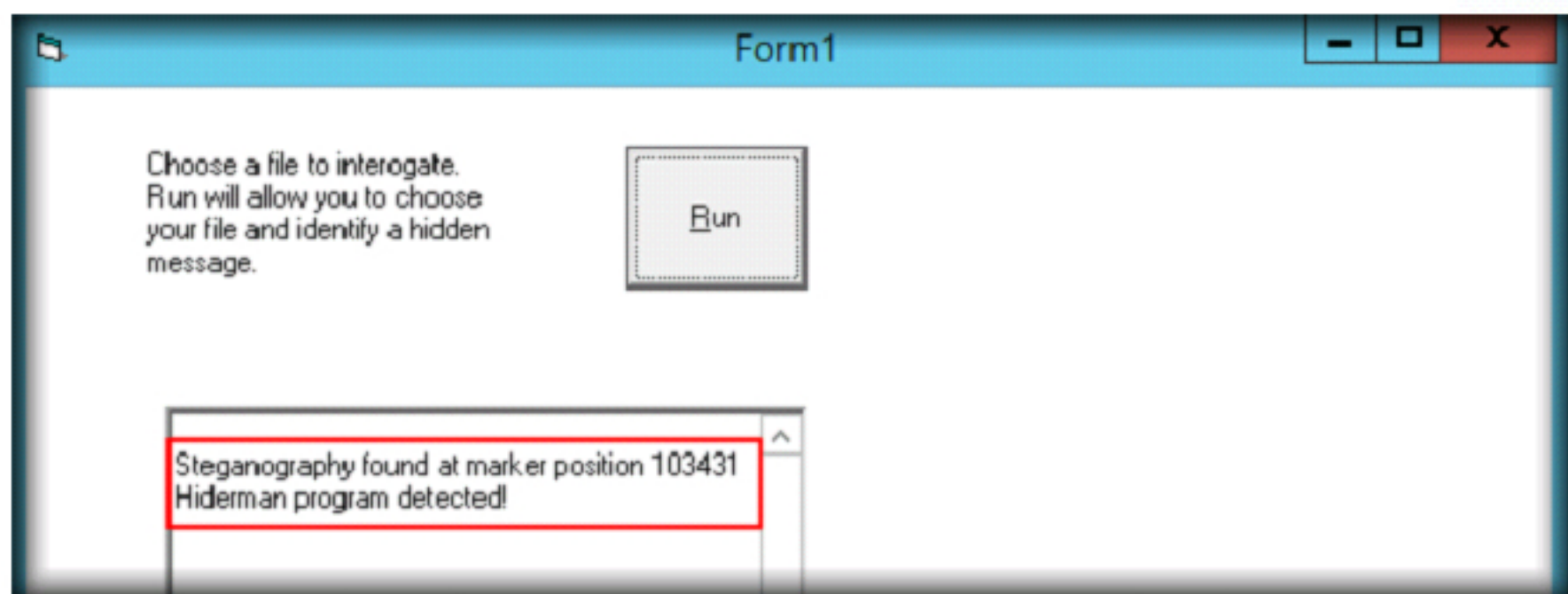


FIGURE 2.4: Display steganography type

- Navigate to the location of Image Steganography tool, **C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Steganography Detection Tools\Image Steganography**.
- Double click the **Image Steganography Setup.exe** file, to launch the setup and follow the instructions to install the **Image Steganography** tool.

**Note:** If an **Open File - Security Warning** pop-up appears, click **Run**.

- The tool will launch automatically after installation as shown in the following screenshot:

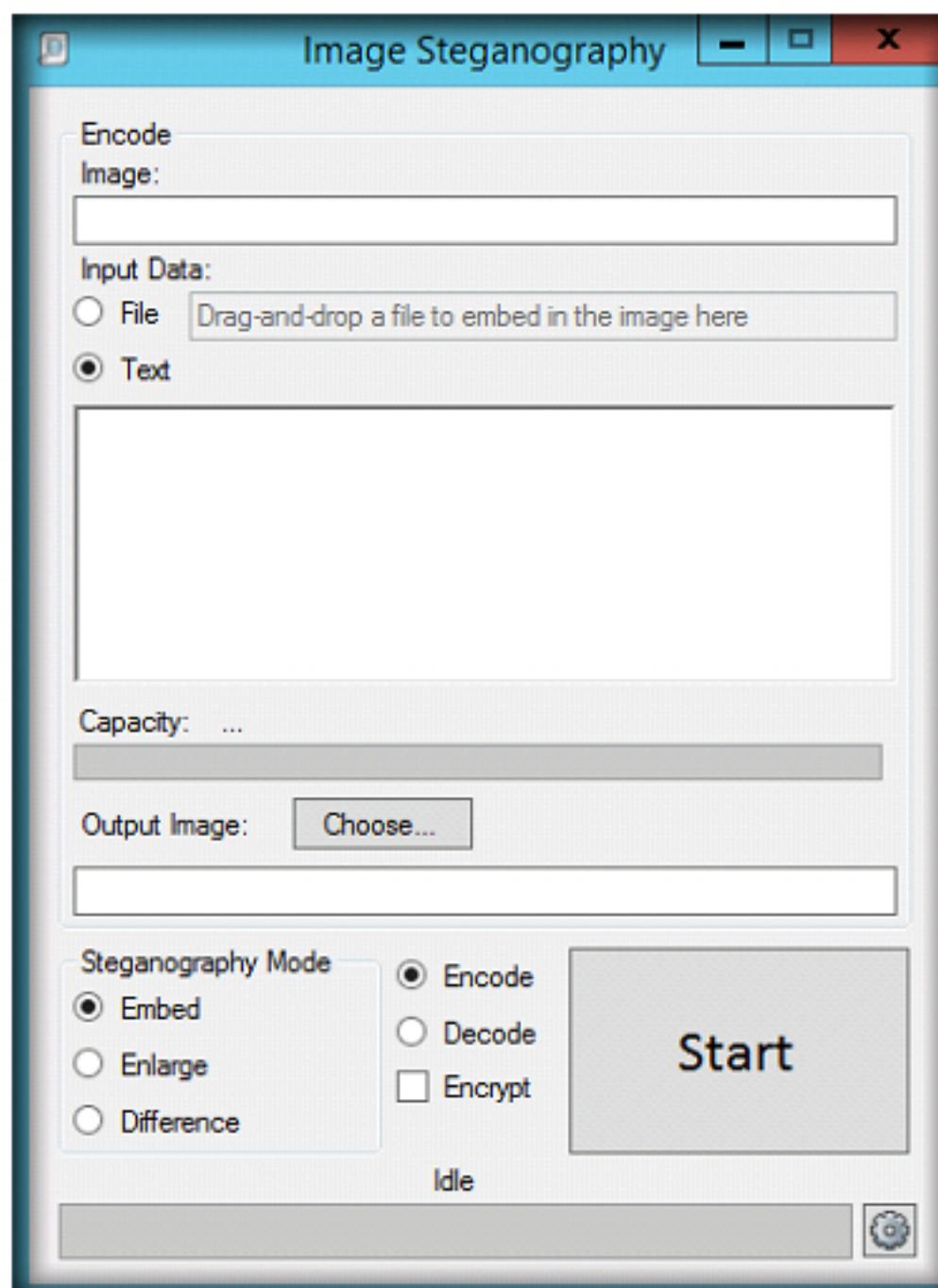


FIGURE 2.5: Tool launch screen



9. Check the **Decode** button to extract the hidden file from a steganography file.

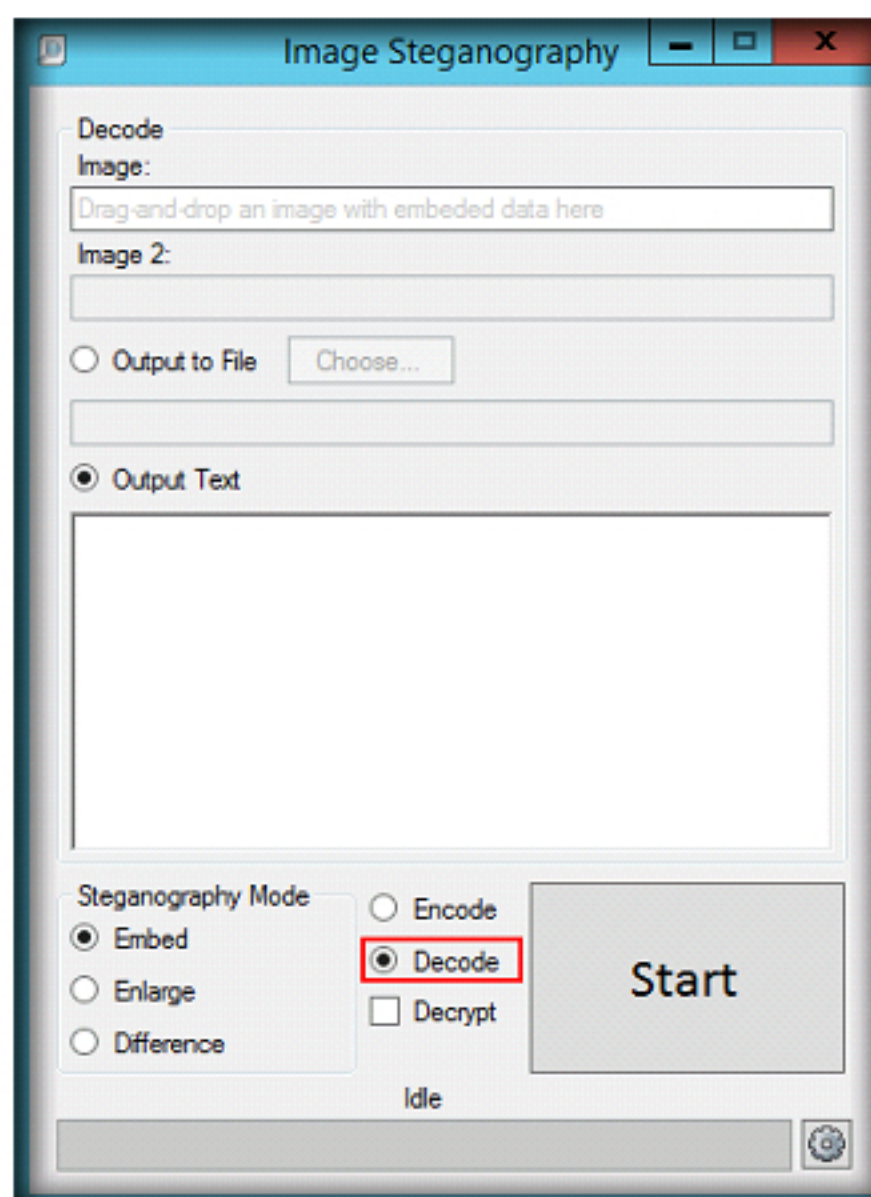


FIGURE 2.6: Check Decode button

10. Navigate to the location of the suspicious file, **C:\CHFI-Tools\Evidence Files\Image Files**, select the file **Flowers\_123.png** and drop it in the **Image** section of the **Image Steganography** tool.
11. Click the **Start** button to start extracting the file.

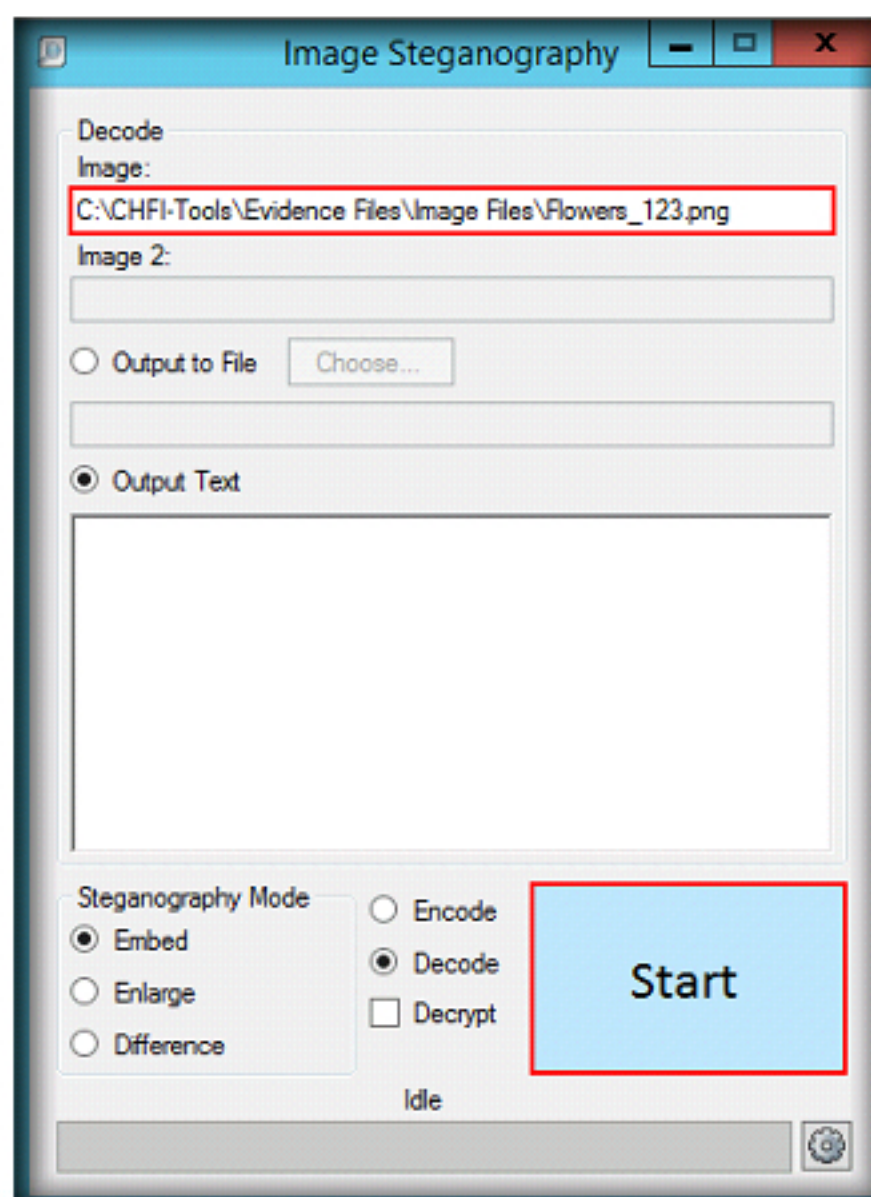


FIGURE 2.7: Click the Start button



12. The tool will analyze the file and display result if it could decipher it, else it will display a result box with message.
13. In this case, the tool failed to detect or extract the hidden content or file. It has displayed a message. Click **OK**.

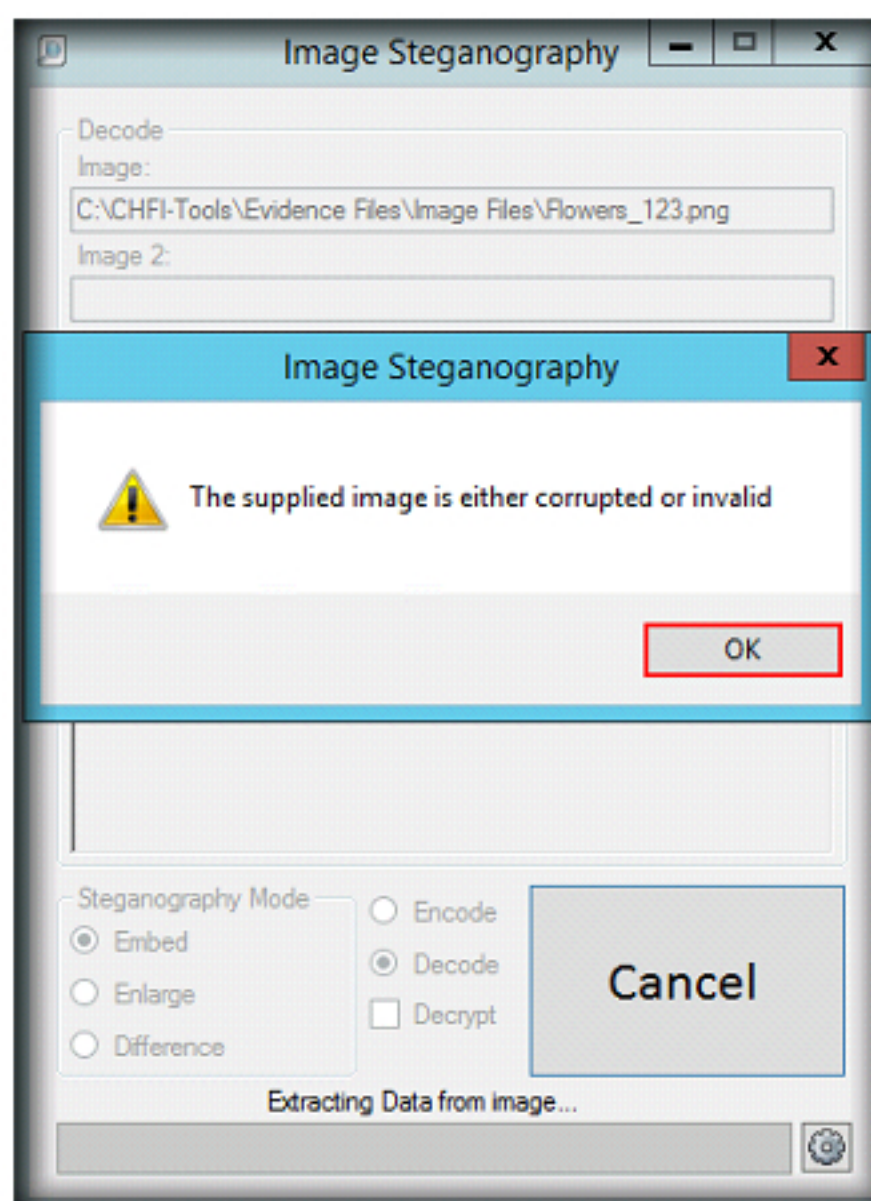


FIGURE 2.8: Image Steganography popup

14. You can try with other tools.
15. Navigate to the location **C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Steganography Detection Tools\OpenStego**, and double-click the **Setup-OpenStego-0.6.1.exe** file.
16. The **OpenStego** setup wizard appears, click **I Agree** button.

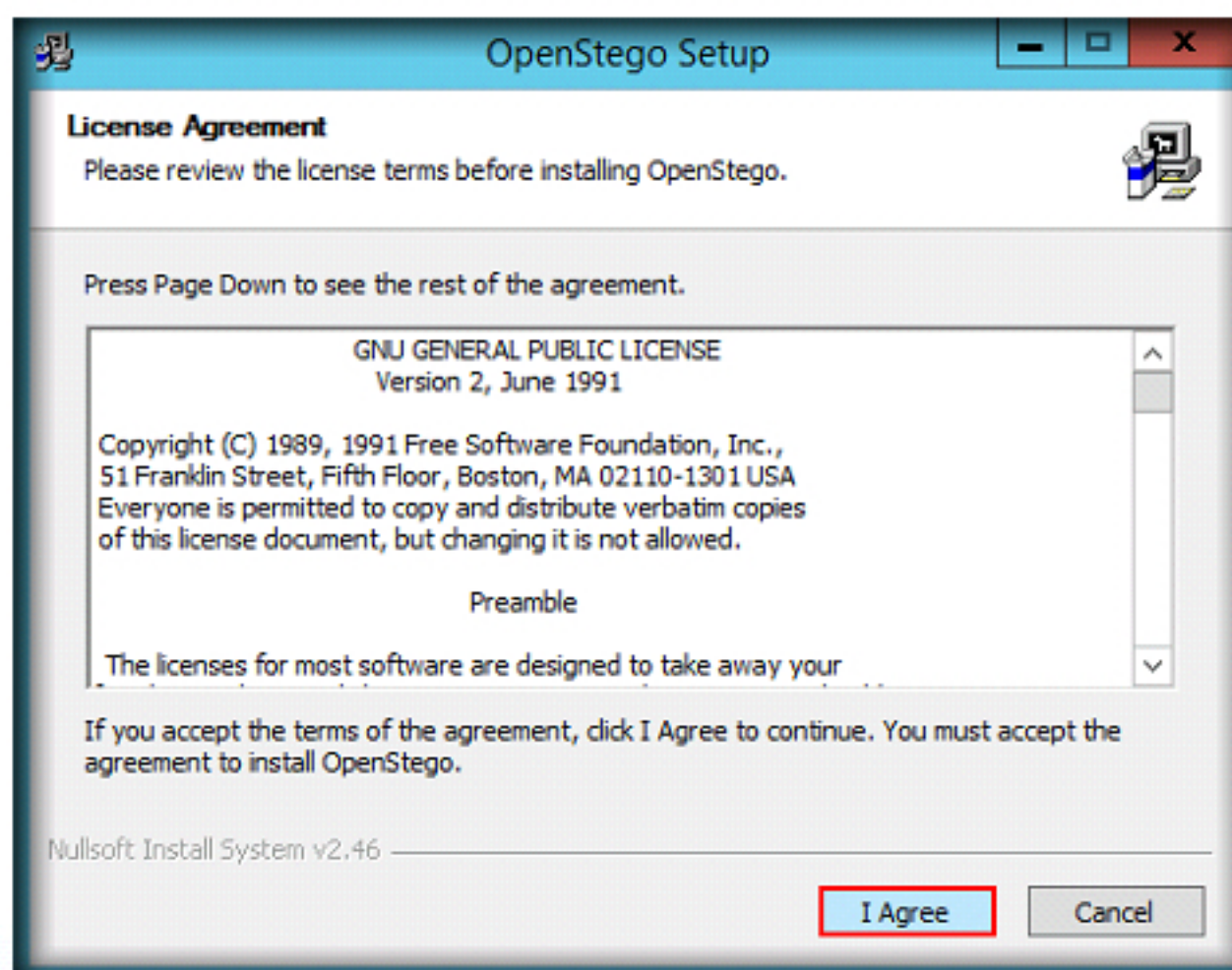


FIGURE 2.9: OpenStego setup wizard



17. In the next step of the wizard, if you are asked to download java runtime environment, click **No**.

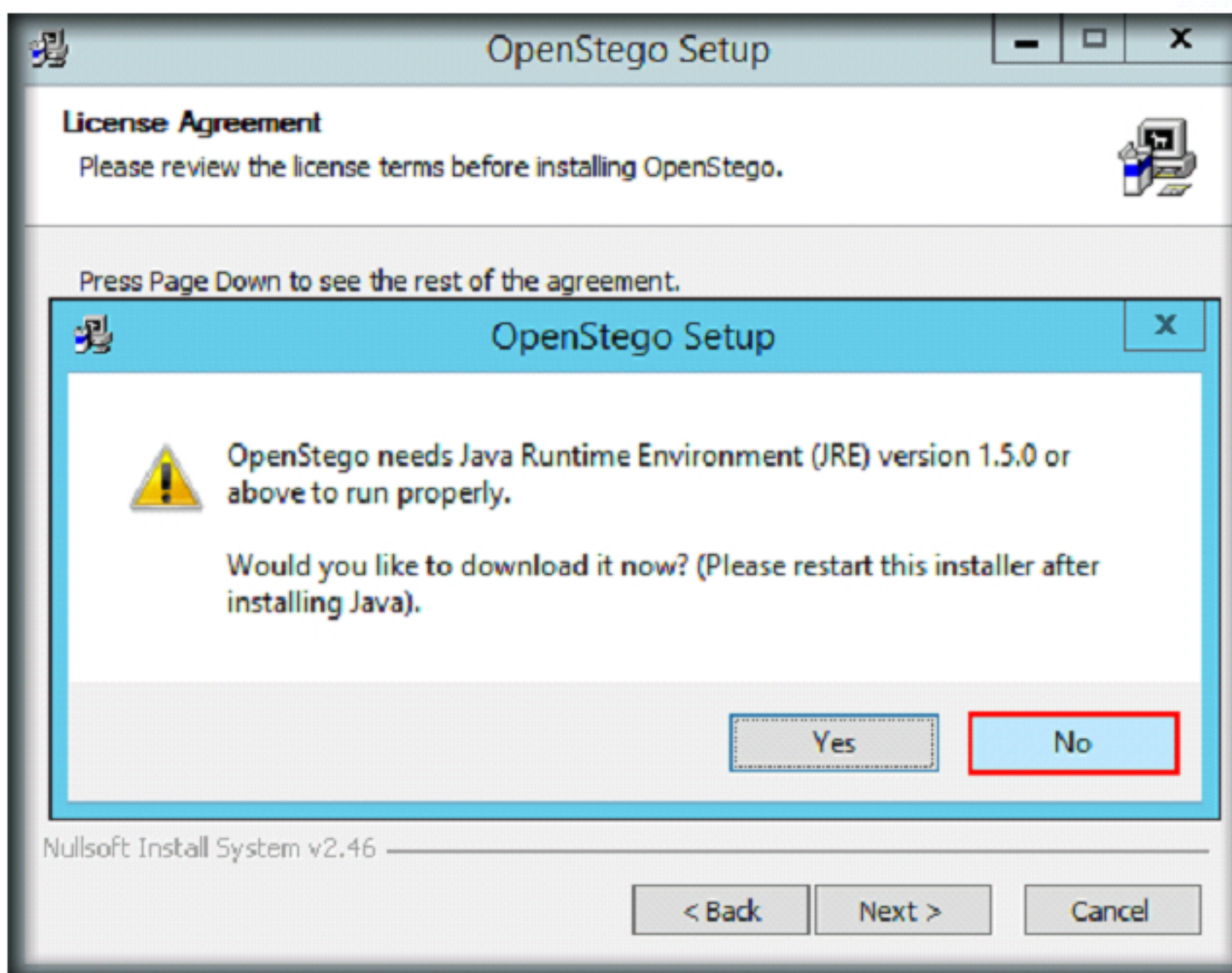


FIGURE 2.10: Download java runtime environment popup

18. After you click **No**, an **OpenStego** pop-up appears; click **OK**.

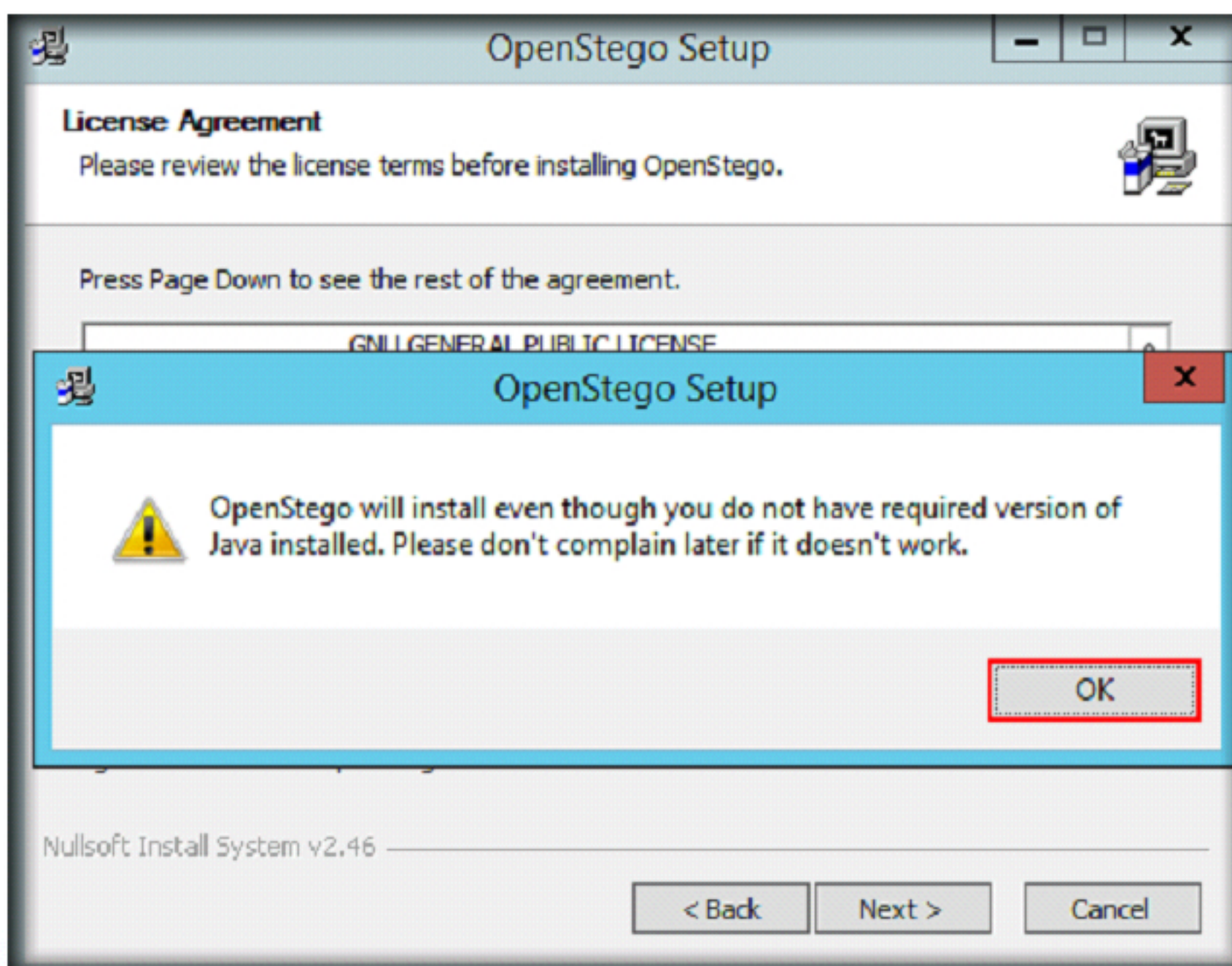


FIGURE 2.11: OpenStego Setup pop-up



19. In the next step of the wizard, click **Install**.

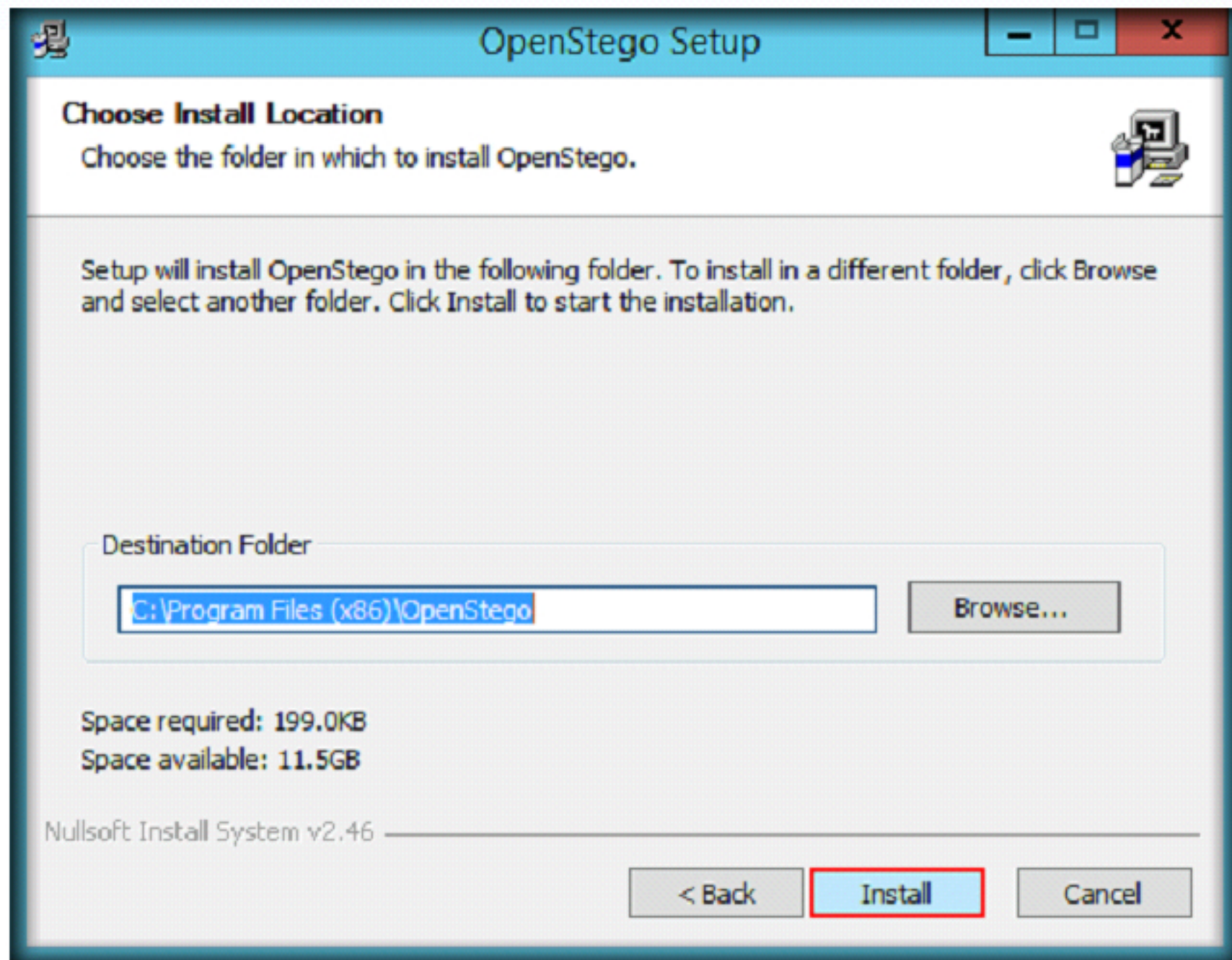


FIGURE 2.12: OpenStego Setup wizard

20. On completing the installation, click **Close**.

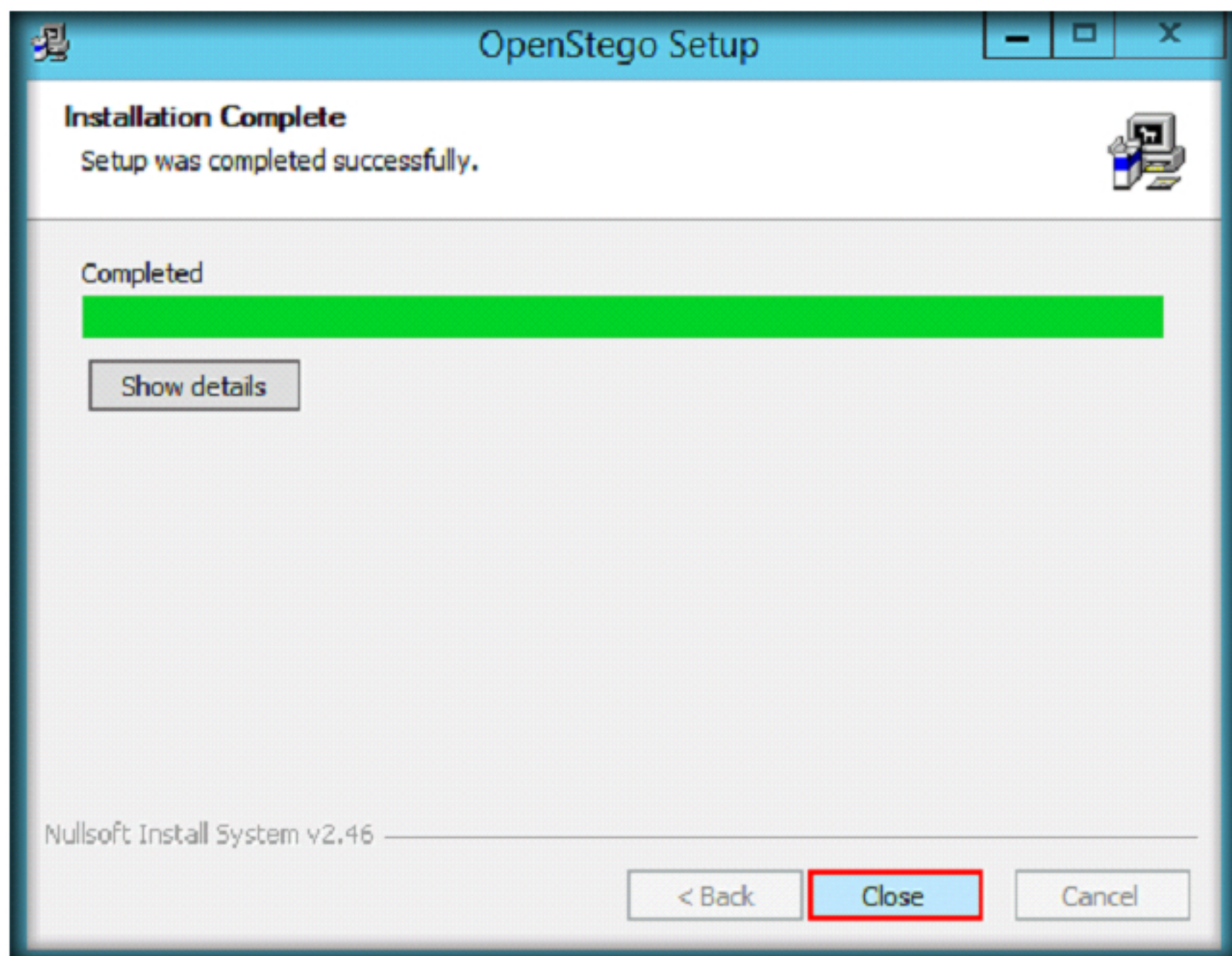


FIGURE 2.13: OpenStego Setup wizard



21. Navigate to the **Apps** screen, and click **Run OpenStego** icon to launch the application.
22. OpenStego GUI appears as shown in the following screenshot:

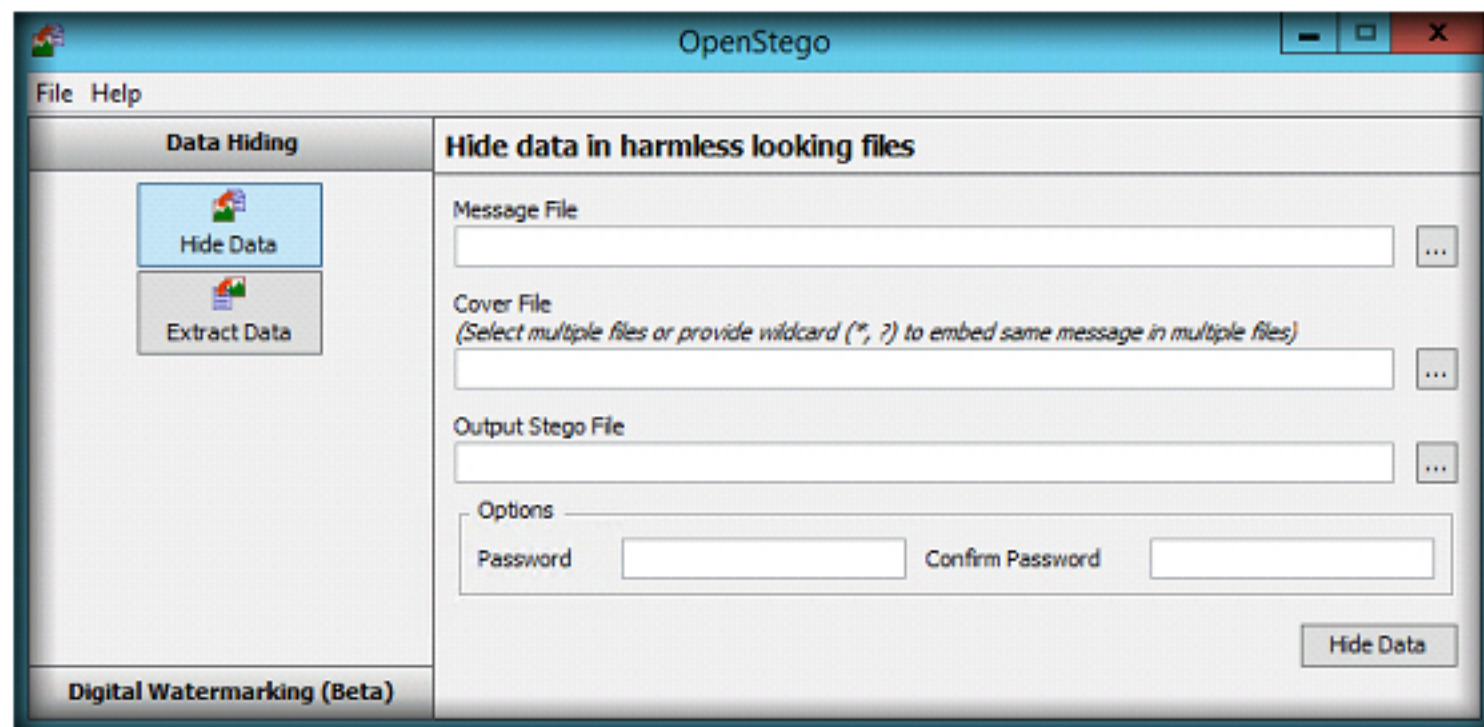


FIGURE 2.14: OpenStego GUI

23. Click the **Extract Data** button on the tool main page to give the steganography file as input in order to extract the hidden data.

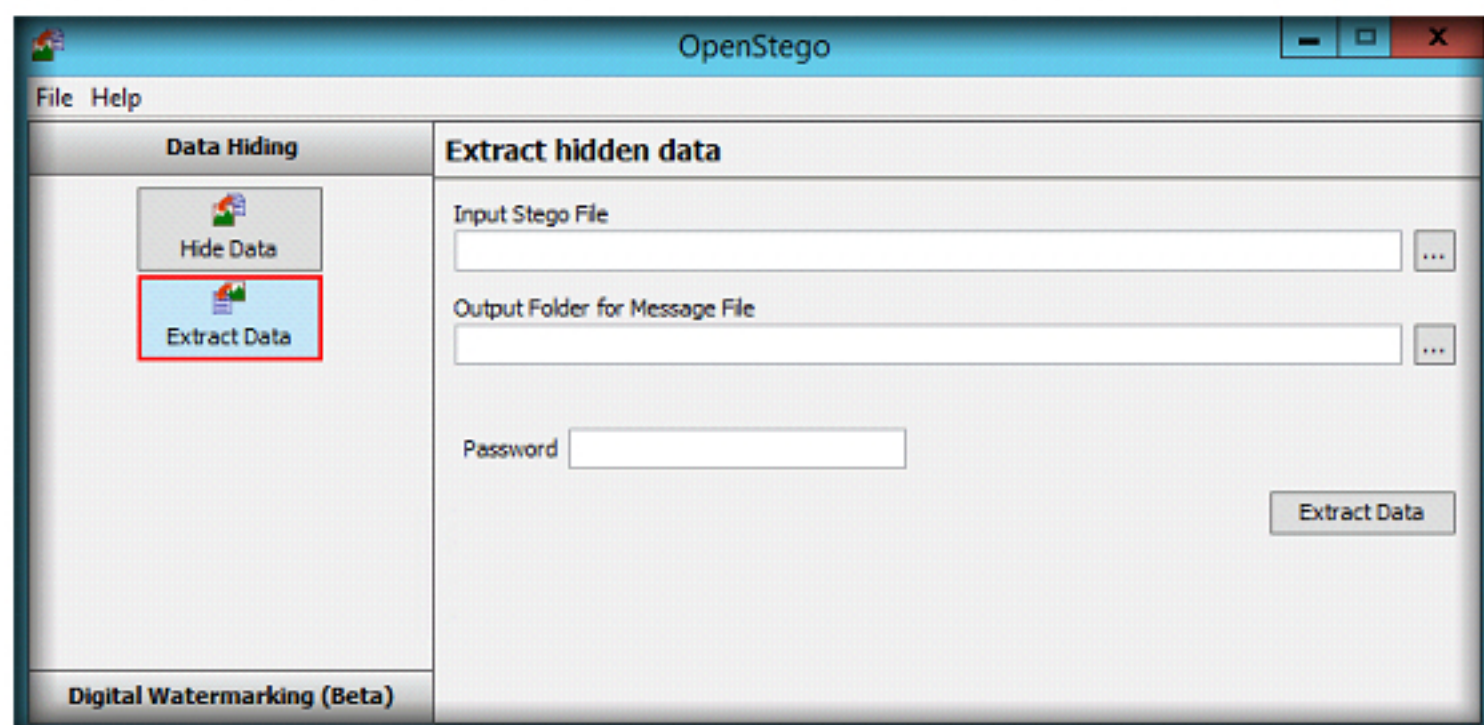


FIGURE 2.15: Extract Data button

24. Provide the location of the steganography file in the **Input Stego File** and specify a folder (here, **Desktop**) to provide output in the **Output Folder for Message File**. Click **Extract Data** button.

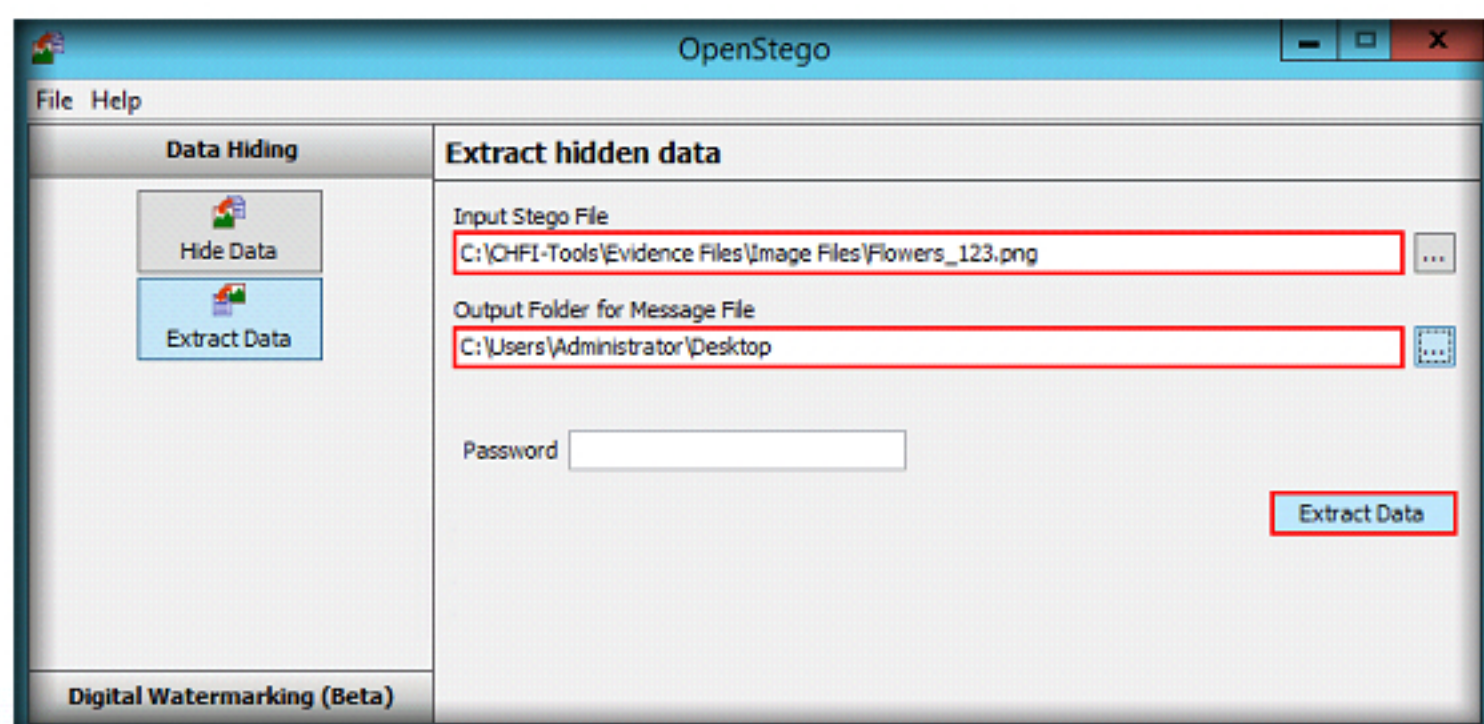


FIGURE 2.16: Input Stego File



25. The tool will analyze and extract the hidden file and store it in the provided output folder. Click **OK**.

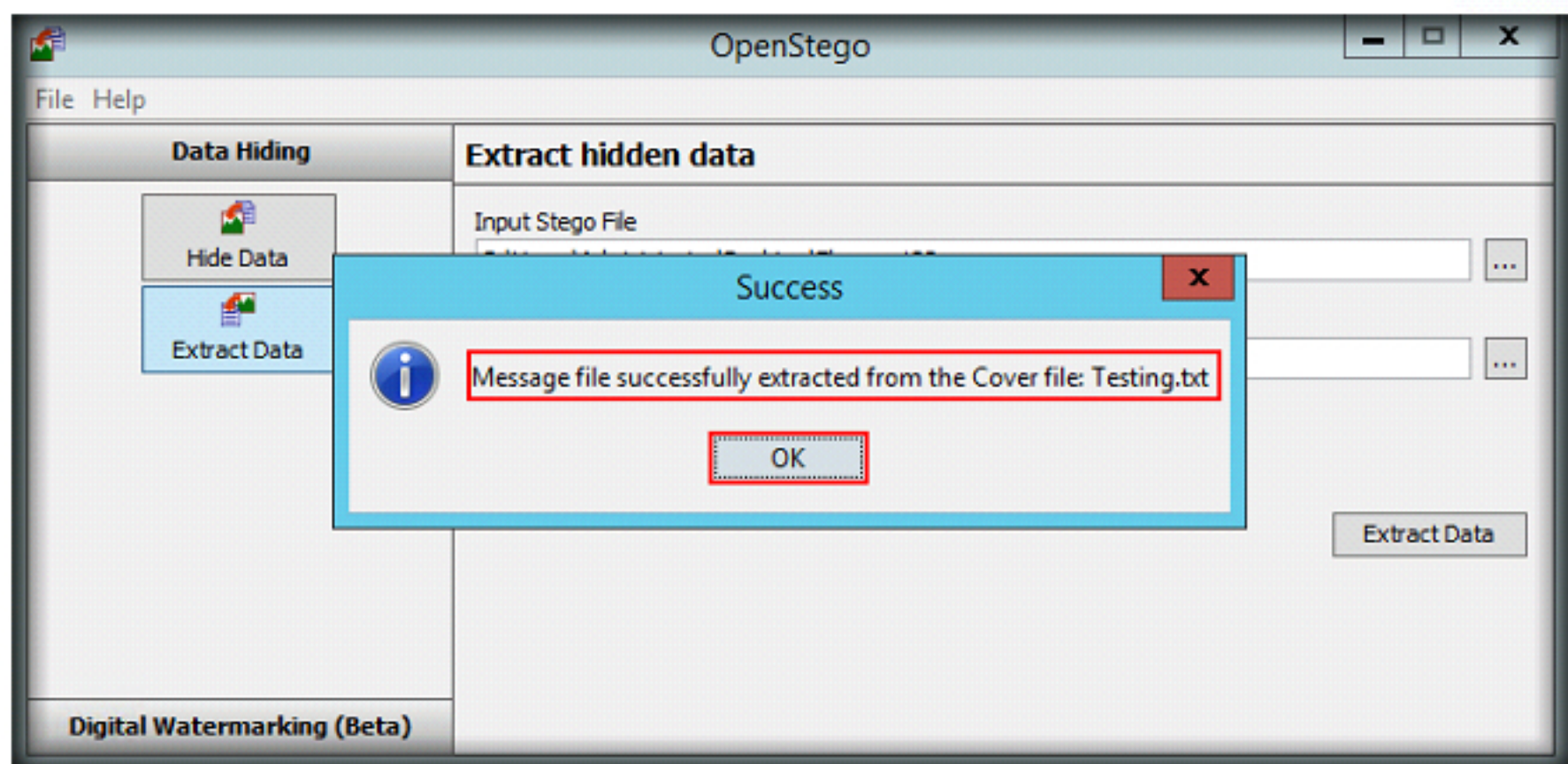


FIGURE 2.17: Success popup

26. The hidden file has been extracted to the Desktop, which contains the following text in it:

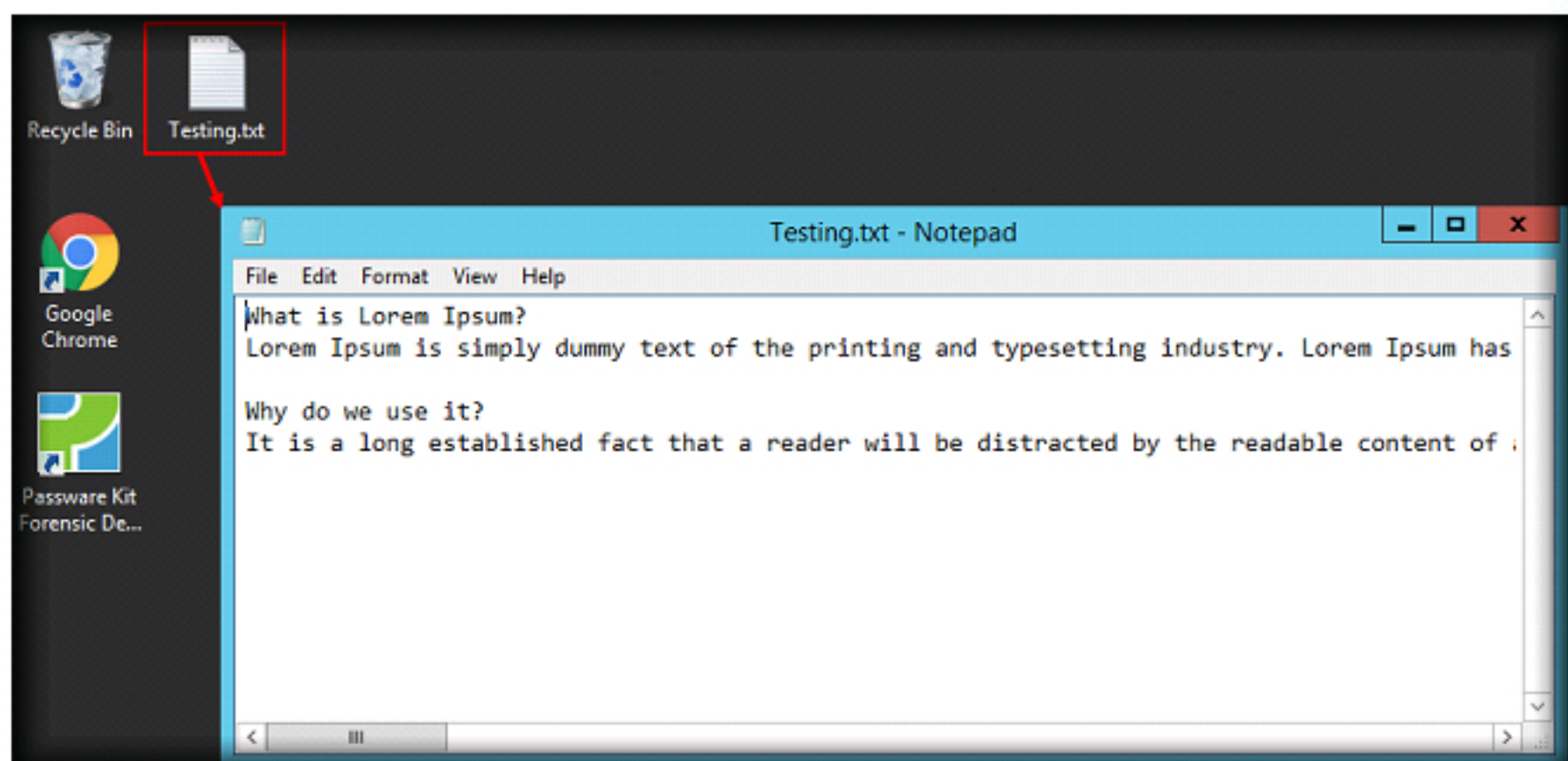


FIGURE 2.18: Extracted hidden file

27. You might also come across audio files that the attackers use to hide data, other files or malware in order to fool the user into clicking it. In this section, you will learn the process of extracting hidden data from an audio file.
28. Navigate to the location of the file DeepSound.msi, **C:\CHFI-Tools\CHFIv9 Module 05 Defeating Anti-forensics Techniques\Steganography Detection Tools**.
29. Double click the **DeepSoundSetup.msi** file, and follow the instructions to install the tool.
30. On completing the installation, a webpage associated with DeepSound application appears. Close it.

**TASK 2****Analyzing an Audio File**



31. Double-click **DeepSound** icon located on the Desktop, to launch the application.
32. DeepSound GUI appears as shown in the following screenshot:

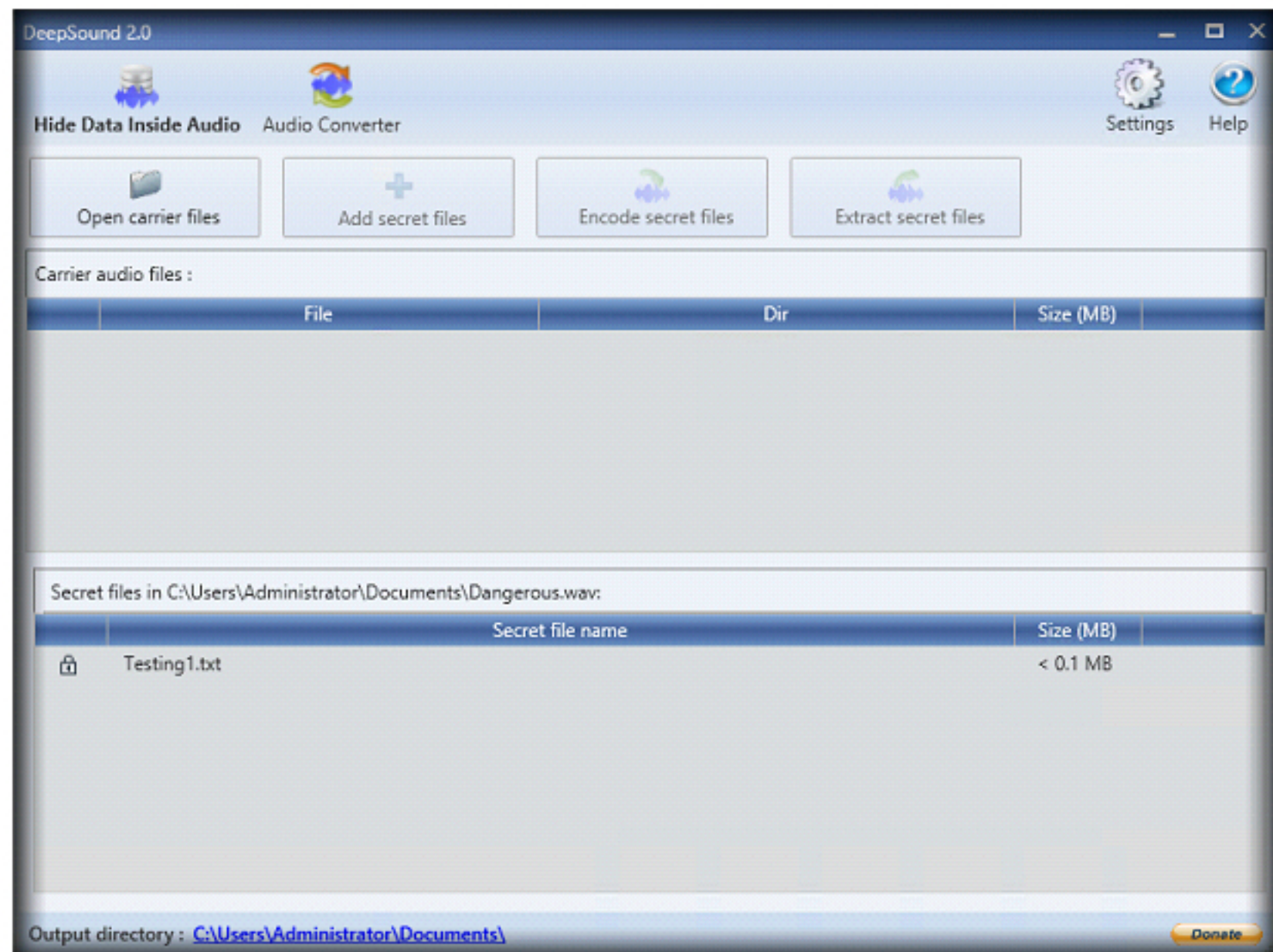


FIGURE 2.19: DeepSound GUI

33. Click the **Open carrier files** button to add the steganography file.

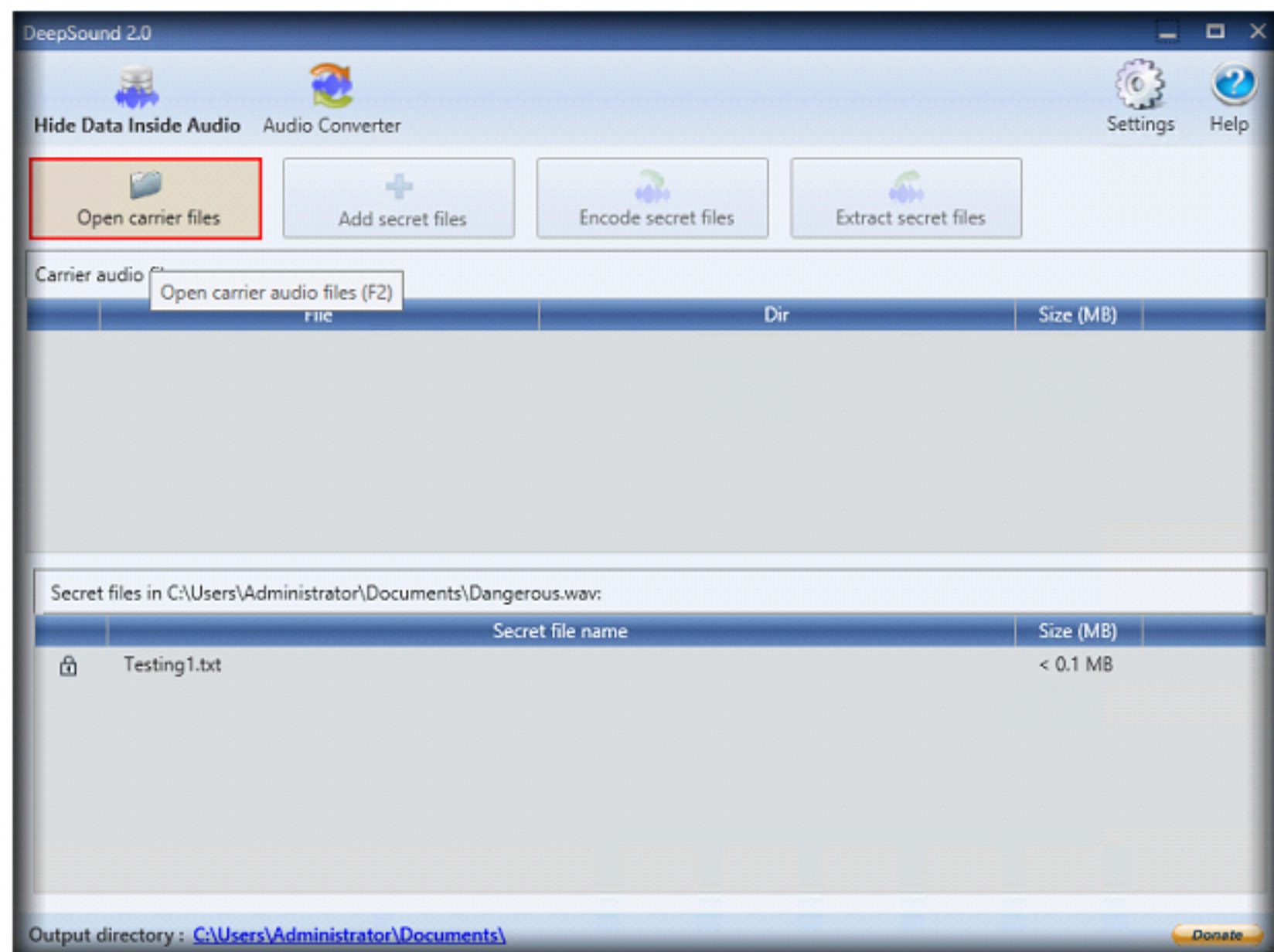


FIGURE 2.20: Open carrier files button



34. Navigate to the location **C:\CHFI-Tools\Evidence Files\Audio Files**, select the steganography file **Dangerous.wav** and click the **Open** button.

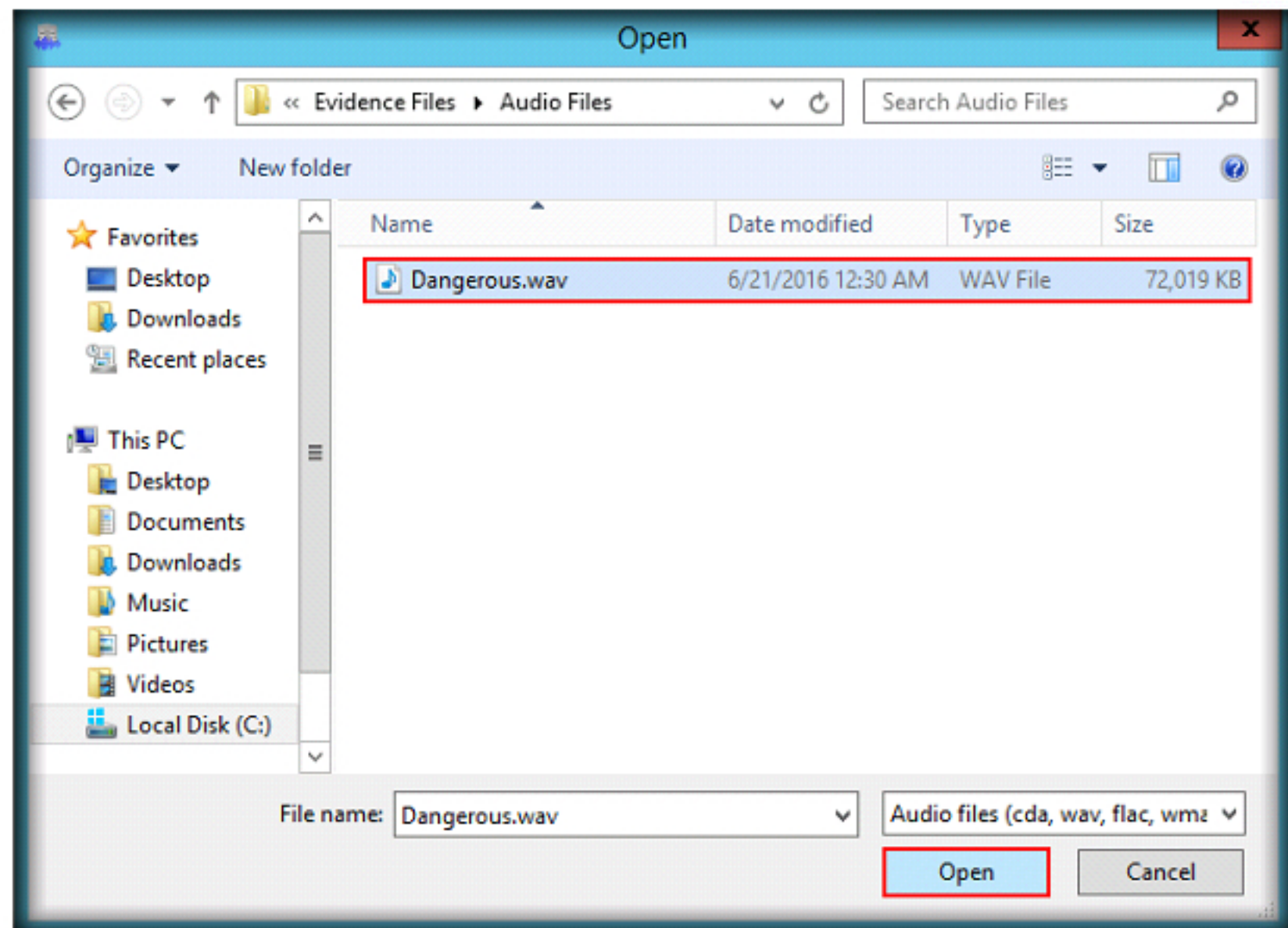


FIGURE 2.21: Open Dangerous.wav

35. Click the **Extract secret files** button to start extracting the hidden files or data.

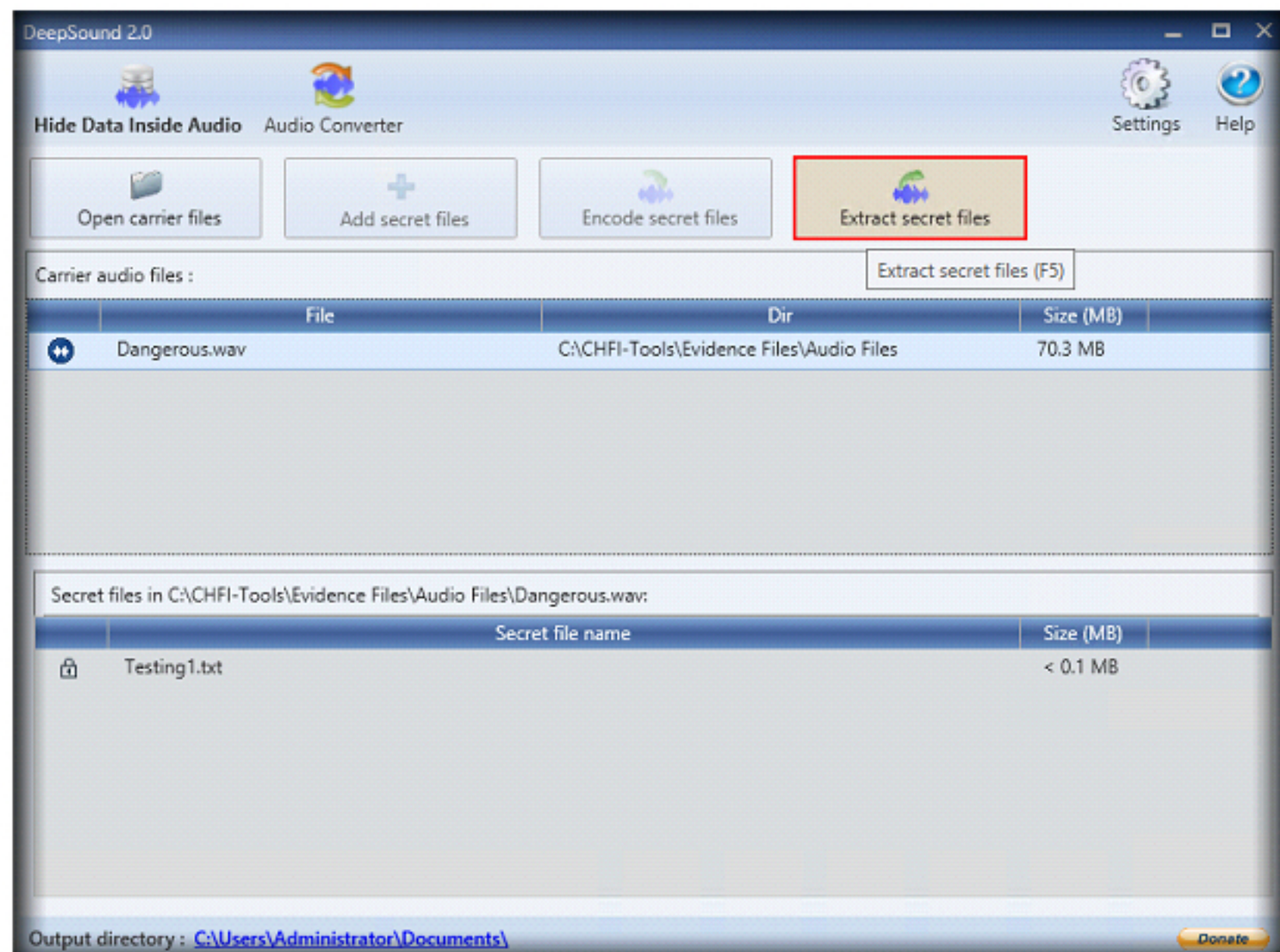


FIGURE 2.22: Extract secret files button



36. Post extraction, the tool will display a message box containing the location of extracted file. Click **OK**.

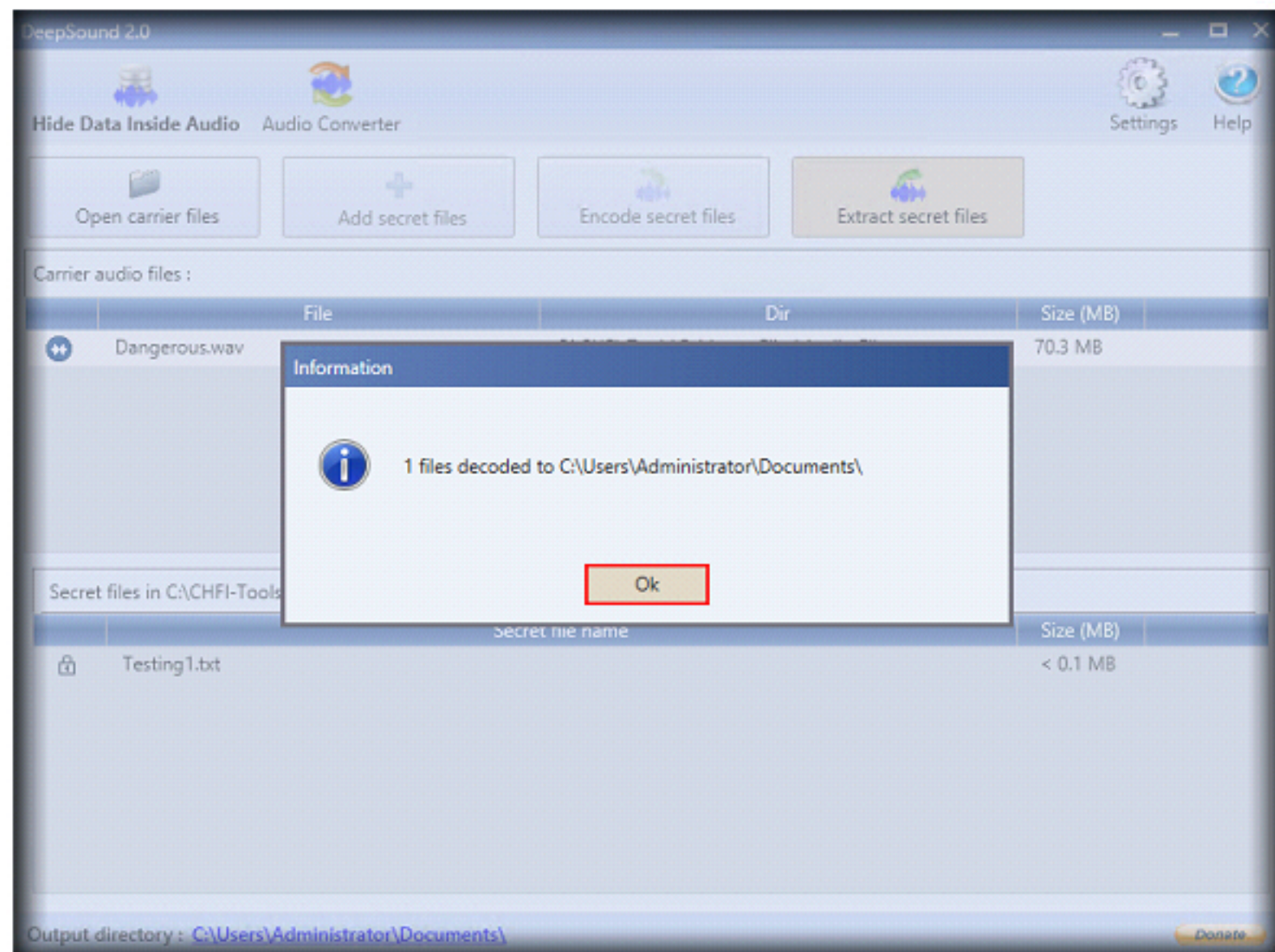


FIGURE 2.23: Message box

## Lab Analysis

Analyze and document the results related to the lab exercise. Give your opinion on your target's security posture and exposure.

PLEASE TALK TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS LAB.

Internet Connection Required	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Platform Supported	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classroom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> iLabs