

Hiding messages in plain sight

Japanese firm Fujitsu has developed a technology that can encode data into a picture which is invisible to the human eye but can be decoded by a mobile phone with a camera.

Fujitsu's new technique works by taking advantage of the sensitivities of the human eye, which struggles to see the colour yellow. The key is to take the yellow hue in a picture or photograph and skew it slightly to create a pattern. A camera is sensitive to that yellow hue but the human eye doesn't see it very well. Pictures printed with the technique look perfectly normal but a mobile phone camera can see the code printed into the image.



Adapted from: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/6361891.stm>

Your Task

You work in the cryptography department of MI5.

You have just been asked to develop a new method of coding data so that top secret messages can safely be sent from HQ to spies out in the field.

Your new coding system can only make use everyday objects which the spys could easily get hold of.

Explain your new method of coding top secret data below.

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