

# SPY GAMES: DECODING OSAMA'S SECRETS AT 16

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.misc/2003-05/0417.html>

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Spy Games: Decoding Osama's Secrets At 16

By Meenakshi Kumar  
The Hindustan Times  
October 4, 2002

View picture here:

[http://www.hindustantimes.com/wfsf/2002/Oct/03/12\\_35/images/medium77004.jpg](http://www.hindustantimes.com/wfsf/2002/Oct/03/12_35/images/medium77004.jpg)

If Osama bin Laden is ever caught, our city lad Ankit Fadia can take some credit for lending a helping hand. The bright 16-year-old, who shot to limelight last year after writing a comprehensive book on computer security, Unofficial Guide To Ethical Hacking, was contacted last November by US intelligence agencies to decode Laden's encrypted messages.

"Laden and his men were using steganography – where you hide an information by using an image – to communicate. The Intelligence people had probably read about me in the New York Times, and they called me up to help them with whatever information I had on this system," says the class XII student of DPS, R K Puram. "It was hard to believe initially and I asked them to send their identity cards, to verify that nobody was pulling a fast one. Then, I sent them whatever I had. They sent a 'thank you very much' note and after that I haven't heard from them. I hope the information helped them."

With his first book catapulting him to stardom (he finds mention in the Limca Book Of Records among the five People of the Year), Fadia returns with a sequel, Network Security: A Hacker's Perspective (Macmillan), to be released later this month. This one, says this young admirer of Sabeer Bhatia and Bill Gates, is for professionals and offers "state-of-the-art solutions to

protect one's system from hackers and crackers".  
Although there are a few more books on the same subject  
in the pipeline, Fadia would like to write "Sidney  
Sheldon-type novels."

And it doesn't matter if, despite his help, Laden is not  
tracked because Fadia hopes to join an Intelligence  
agency some day. Hopefully, he'd then be taking all the  
credit.

Read the complete news at:

[http://www.hindustantimes.com/2002/Oct/04/674\\_77069,00310001.htm](http://www.hindustantimes.com/2002/Oct/04/674_77069,00310001.htm)

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Om Shanti

Panchaang for 23 Vaishakh 5104, Friday, May 23, 2003:

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