Digital Forensics for Archivists: Fundamentals

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Digital Archives Specialist (DAS)

Curriculum and Certification Program offered by SAA:

- Foundational Courses—*must pass 4*
- Tactical and Strategic Courses—*must pass 3*
- Tools and Services Courses—*must pass 1*
- Transformational Courses—*must pass 1*

- **Course examinations are administered online.**

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Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Motivation and scope
- Technical background
- Representation Information
- File systems and file management
- Extracting data from media
- Tools and methods
- Conclusions, questions, discussion

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Welcome and Introductions

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Motivation and Scope
Applying Digital Forensics to Archival Work

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Many archivists know how to process this stuff:

Source: The Processing Table: Reflections on a manuscripts internship at the Lilly Library. https://processingtable.wordpress.com/tag/archival-processing/

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How about processing this stuff?

Source: "Digital Forensics and creation of a narrative." *Da Blog: ULCC Digital Archives Blog*. http://dablog.ulcc.ac.uk/2011/07/04/forensics/

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Same Goals as When Acquiring Analog Materials

- Ensure integrity of materials
- Allow users to make sense of materials and understand their context
- Prevent inadvertent disclosure of sensitive data

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Same Fundamental Archival Principles Apply

Provenance	• Reflect "life history" of records • Records from a common origin or source should be managed together as an aggregate unit
Original Order	Organize and manage records in ways that reflect their arrangement within the creation/use environment
Chain of Custody	• "Succession of offices or persons who have held materials from the moment they were created"[1] • Ideal recordkeeping system would provide "an unblemished line of responsible custody"[2]

1. Pearce-Moses, Richard. *A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology*. Chicago, IL: Society of American Archivists, 2005.
2. Hilary Jenkinson, *A Manual of Archive Administration: Including the Problems of War Archives and Archive Making* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1922), 11.

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But you might need some of this stuff:

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Luckily, there are a lot of people with expertise in using such tools in places like this:

El Paso County Sheriff's Office (Colorado)

http://shr.elpasoco.com/Law+Enforcement+Bureau/Investigations+Division/Computer+Crime+Lab.htm

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Here's what it looks like in libraries and archives:

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Stanford University Libraries and Academic Information Resources (SULAIR)

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British Library, London

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UNC School of Information and Library Science

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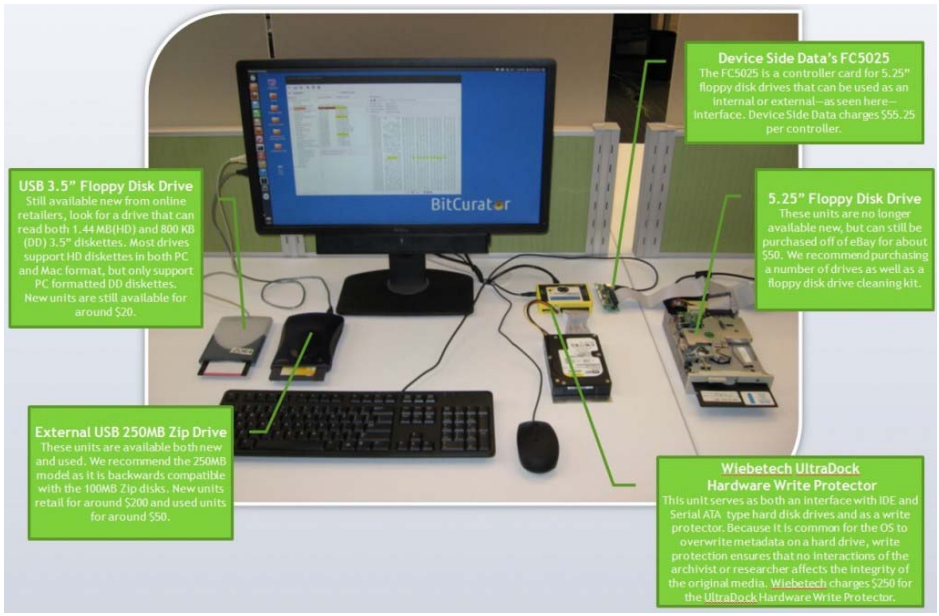

http://www.bitcurator.net/building-a-digital-curation-workstation-with-bitcurator-update/

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Outfitting a Born-Digital Archives Program
Ben Goldman, Penn State University

http://practicaltechnologyforarchives.org/issue2_goldman/

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Motivation

- Archivists are often responsible for acquiring or helping others access materials on removable storage media
- Information is often not packaged nor described as one would hope
- Information professionals must extract whatever useful information resides on the medium, while avoiding the accidental alteration of data or metadata

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Digital Forensics Can Help Archivists to Fulfill their Principles

Provenance	• Identify, extract and save essential information about context of creation
Original Order	• Reflect original folder structures, files associations, related applications and user accounts
Chain of Custody	• Documentation of how records were acquired and any transformations to them • Use well-established hardware and software mechanisms to ensure that data haven't been changed inadvertently
Identifying Sensitive Information	• Identify personally identifying information, regardless of where it appears • Flag for removal, redaction, closure or restriction

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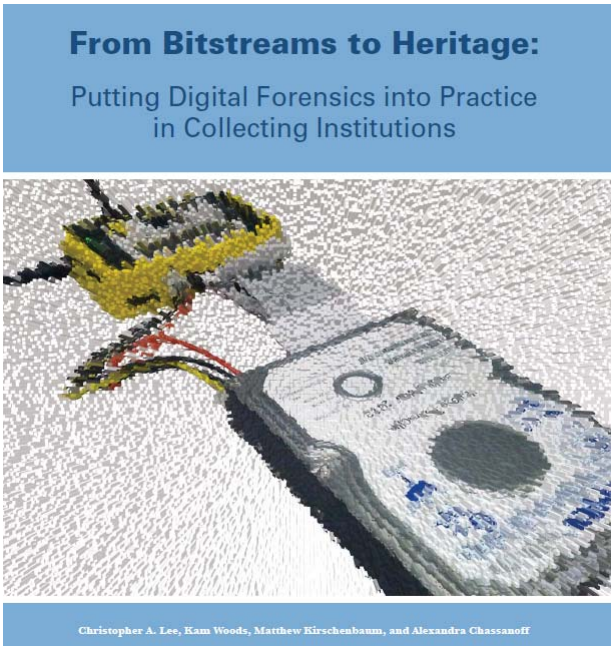
Applying Digital Forensics to Digital Collections – Previous Work*

- Ross and Gow (1999) - potential relevance of advances in data recovery and digital forensics to collecting institutions
- More recently - active stream of literature related to use of forensic tools and methods for digital collections, including activities at the British Library, National Library of Australia and Indiana University
- PERPOS (Georgia Tech) – has applied data capture and extraction to US presidential materials
- "Computer Forensics and Born-Digital Content in Cultural Heritage Collections" - symposium and report (2010)
- Born Digital Collections: An Inter-Institutional Model for Stewardship (AIMS) - framework for the stewardship of born-digital materials, including digital forensics methods
- Digital Records Forensics project - has articulated connections between the concepts of digital forensics and archival science

*See citations in:
http://ica2012.ica.org/files/pdf/Full%20papers%20upload/ica12Final00290.pdf 20



http://www.bitcurator.net/docs/bitstreams-to-heritage.pdf

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What this Course Covers

- Computational operations
- Layers of hardware and software that allow bitstreams on digital media to be read as files
- Roles and relationships of these layers
- Tools and techniques for ensuring completeness and evidential value of data

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Caveats and Such

- A vast space – we are only scratching the surface!
- Focus is on the foundational principles, methods and tasks that are applicable by a variety of tools
- This is a dynamic and evolving area, and these instructional materials evolve over time – your input is appreciated

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What is Digital Forensics (aka Forensic Computing)?

- "The process of identifying, preserving, analyzing and presenting digital evidence in a manner that is legally acceptable."*
- "Involves multiple methods of
  - **Discovering digital data (computer system, mobiles)**
  - **Recovering deleted, encrypted, or damaged file information**
  - Monitoring live activity
  - Detecting violations of corporate policy"**

*McKemmish, R. "What is Forensic Computing?" *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice* 118 (1999).
**Brad Glisson, Introduction to Computer Forensics & E-discovery, University of Glasgow, Week 1 Lecture, September 2008.

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Why should we care about digital forensics

- **Not** because you're expected to solve crimes or catch malicious users
- Recognition of how data can be recovered when **layers** of technology fail or are no longer available
- **Capturing evidence** from places that are not always immediately visible
- Ensuring that actions taken on files **don't make irreversible changes** to essential characteristics (e.g. timestamps)
- Attending to the **order of volatility** – some types of data change much more quickly and often than others
- Learning about wide array of **tools and techniques** already available to deal with born-digital materials
- Established practices for **documenting** what we do, so others will know what we might have changed
- Considerable **overlap** between **technical knowledge** required to do digital forensics and ad hoc acquisition of digital materials by libraries/archives

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Digital Forensics vs. Intelligence Gathering vs. Electronic Discovery

Roughly in order of least to most targeted:

Activity	Main Emphasis	Common Scenario
Intelligence Gathering	Finding specific timely and relevant facts about target individuals or organizations	Seize whole physical medium or covertly collect data; systematically search and analyze for bits of data and interesting patterns
Digital Forensics	Obtaining evidence in order to solve or prove a specific crime	Seize whole physical medium or intervene into a live system to capture data; prove chain of custody and evidential value at bit level; search for offending or incriminating data, often within "hidden" areas
Electronic Discovery	Identifying and collecting documents relevant to a specific legal claim or dispute	Plaintiff makes explicit requests for specific types of information; issue queries that reflect the specific requests; prove chain of custody and evidential value at document and procedural level; parties share results

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Common Digital Forensics Scenarios

- Evidence seized from home/office of "person of interest" in a criminal investigation (dead forensics)
- Response to system security breach, to determine what was done, by whom and how (live forensics)

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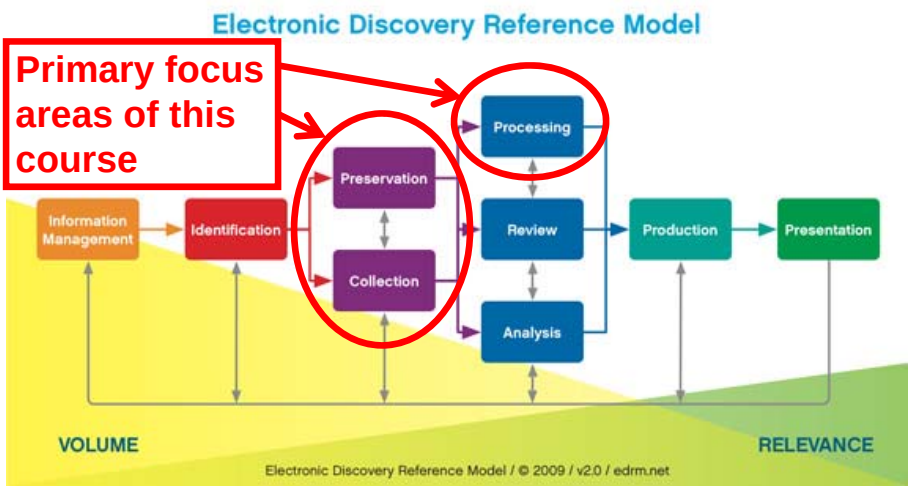

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Technical Background

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Nature of Digital Materials

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Digital objects are sets of **instructions for future interaction**

- Digital objects are useless (and don't even exist) if no one can interact with them
- Interactions depend on numerous technical components

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"Errors typically occur at the juncture between analog and digital states, such as when a drive's magnetoresistive head assigns binary symbolic value to the voltage differentials it has registered, or when an e-mail message is reconstituted from independent data packets moving across the TCP/IP layer of the Internet, itself dependent on fiber-optic cables and other hardwired technologies. All forms of modern digital technology incorporate **hyper-redundant error-checking** routines that serve to sustain an **illusion of immateriality** by detecting error and correcting it, reviving the quality of the signal, like old-fashioned telegraph relays, such that any degradation suffered during a subsequent interval of transmission will not fall beyond whatever **tolerances of symbolic integrity** exist past which the original value of the signal (or identity of the symbol) cannot be reconstituted."

Kirschenbaum, Matthew G. *Mechanisms: New Media and the Forensic Imagination.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008. p.12 (emphasis mine).

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Translation Across Layers

- Users view, read, write and click on things
- Programmers usually write & reuse source code
- Software & firmware manipulates data and instructions as bits (10100001110101)
- Physical equipment deals with magnetic charges, holes in optical disks, holes in punch cards

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Digital Resources - Levels of Representation

Level	Label	Explanation
8	Aggregation of objects	Set of objects that form an aggregation that is meaningful encountered as an entity
7	Object or package	Object composed of multiple files, each of which could also be encountered as individual files
6	In-application rendering	As rendered and encountered within a specific application
5	File through filesystem	Files encountered as discrete set of items with associate paths and file names
4	File as “raw” bitstream	Bitstream encountered as a continuous series of binary values
3	Sub-file data structure	Discrete “chunk” of data that is part of a larger file
2	Bitstream through I/O equipment	Series of 1s and 0s as accessed from the storage media using input/output hardware and software (e.g. controllers, drivers, ports, connectors)
1	Raw signal stream through I/O equipment	Stream of magnetic flux transitions or other analog electronic output read from the drive without yet interpreting the signal stream as a set of discrete values (i.e. not treated as a digital bitstream that can be directly read by the host computer)
0	Bitstream on physical medium	Physical properties of the storage medium that are interpreted as bitstreams at Level 1

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Interaction Examples

Level

Aggregation of objects
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File through filesystem
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Bitstream through I/O equipment
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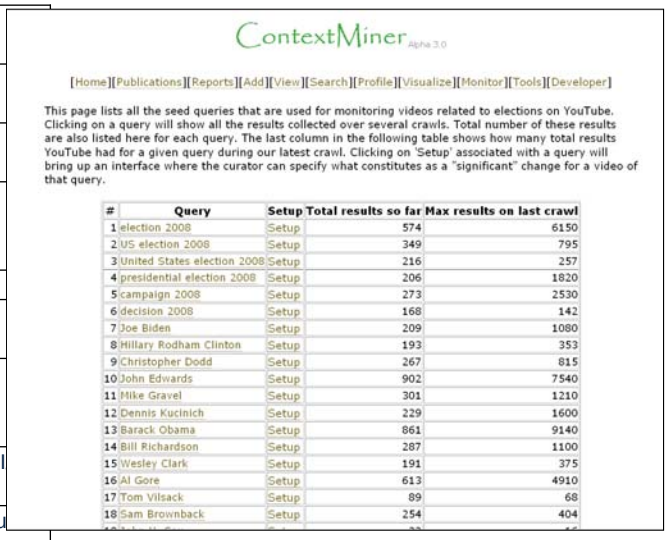

ContextMiner Alpha 3.0

[Home][Publications][Reports][Add][View][Search][Profile][Visualize][Monitor][Tools][Developer]

This page lists all the seed queries that are used for monitoring videos related to elections on YouTube. Clicking on a query will show all the results collected over several crawls. Total number of these results are also listed here for each query. The last column in the following table shows how many total results YouTube had for a given query during our latest crawl. Clicking on 'Setup' associated with a query will bring up an interface where the curator can specify what constitutes as a "significant" change for a video of that query.

#	Query	Setup	Total results so far	Max results on last crawl
1	election 2008	Setup	574	6150
2	US election 2008	Setup	349	795
3	United States election 2008	Setup	216	257
4	presidential election 2008	Setup	206	1820
5	campaign 2008	Setup	273	2530
6	decision 2008	Setup	168	142
7	Joe Biden	Setup	209	1080
8	Hillary Rodham Clinton	Setup	193	353
9	Christopher Dodd	Setup	267	815
10	John Edwards	Setup	902	7540
11	Mike Gravel	Setup	301	1210
12	Dennis Kucinich	Setup	229	1600
13	Barack Obama	Setup	861	9140
14	Bill Richardson	Setup	287	1100
15	Wesley Clark	Setup	191	375
16	Al Gore	Setup	613	4910
17	Tom Vilsack	Setup	89	68
18	Sam Brownback	Setup	254	404

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Interaction Examples

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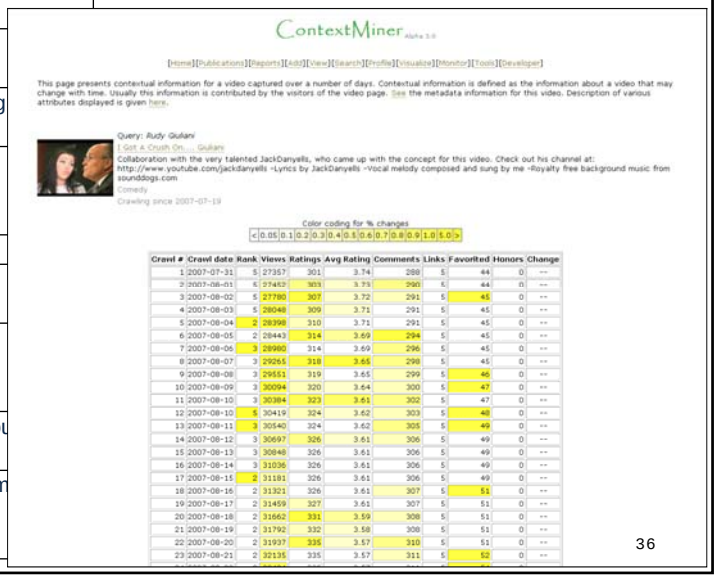

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This page presents contextual information for a video captured over a number of days. Contextual information is defined as the information about a video that may change with time. Usually this information is contributed by the visitors of the video page. See the metadata information for this video. Description of various attributes displayed is given here.

Query: Rudy Giuliani

I Got A Crush On.... Giuliani

Collaboration with the very talented JackDanyells, who came up with the concept for this video. Check out his channel at: http://www.youtube.com/jackdanyells -Lyrics by JackDanyells -Vocal melody composed and sung by me -Royalty free background music from sounddogs.com

Comedy

Crawling since 2007-07-19

Color coding for % changes

<	0.05	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	5.0 >

Crawl #	Crawl date	Rank	Views	Ratings	Avg Rating	Comments	Links	Favorited	Honors	Change
1	2007-07-31	5	27357	301	3.74	288	5	44	0	--
2	2007-08-01	6	27452	303	3.73	290	5	44	0	--
3	2007-08-02	5	27780	307	3.72	291	5	45	0	--
4	2007-08-03	5	28048	309	3.71	291	5	45	0	--
5	2007-08-04	2	28398	310	3.71	291	5	45	0	--
6	2007-08-05	2	28443	314	3.69	294	5	45	0	--
7	2007-08-06	3	28980	314	3.69	296	5	45	0	--
8	2007-08-07	3	29265	318	3.65	298	5	45	0	--
9	2007-08-08	3	29551	319	3.65	299	5	46	0	--
10	2007-08-09	3	30094	320	3.64	300	5	47	0	--
11	2007-08-10	3	30384	323	3.61	302	5	47	0	--
12	2007-08-10	5	30419	324	3.62	303	5	48	0	--
13	2007-08-11	3	30540	324	3.62	305	5	49	0	--
14	2007-08-12	3	30697	326	3.61	306	5	49	0	--
15	2007-08-13	3	30848	326	3.61	306	5	49	0	--
16	2007-08-14	3	31036	326	3.61	306	5	49	0	--
17	2007-08-15	2	31181	326	3.61	306	5	49	0	--
18	2007-08-16	2	31321	326	3.61	307	5	51	0	--
19	2007-08-17	2	31459	327	3.61	307	5	51	0	--
20	2007-08-18	2	31662	331	3.59	308	5	51	0	--
21	2007-08-19	2	31792	332	3.58	308	5	51	0	--
22	2007-08-20	2	31937	335	3.57	310	5	51	0	--
23	2007-08-21	2	32135	335	3.57	311	5	52	0	--

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Interaction Examples

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File through filesystem
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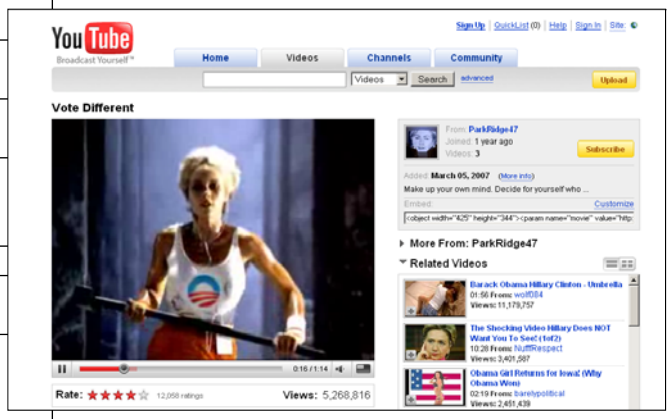
Sub-file data structure
Bitstream through I/O equipment
Raw signal stream through I/O equipment
Bitstream on physical medium



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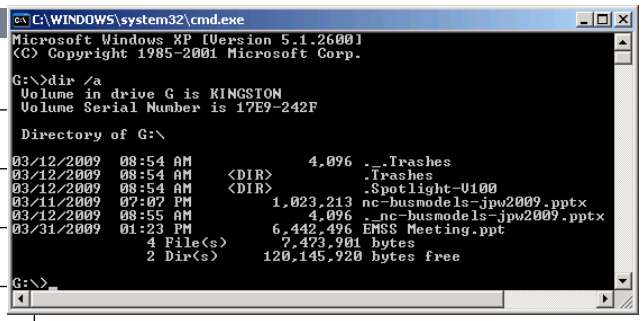

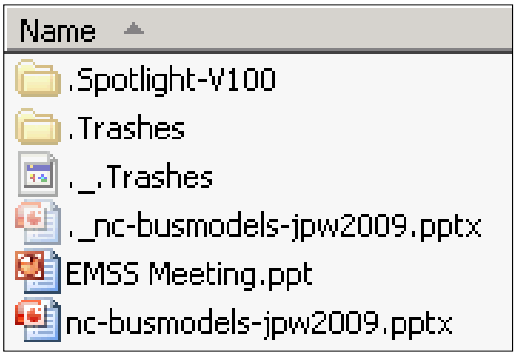

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Interaction Examples

Level

- Aggregation of objects
- Object or package
- In-application rendering
- File through filesystem
- **File as “raw” bitstream**
- Sub-file data structure
- Bitstream through I/O equipment
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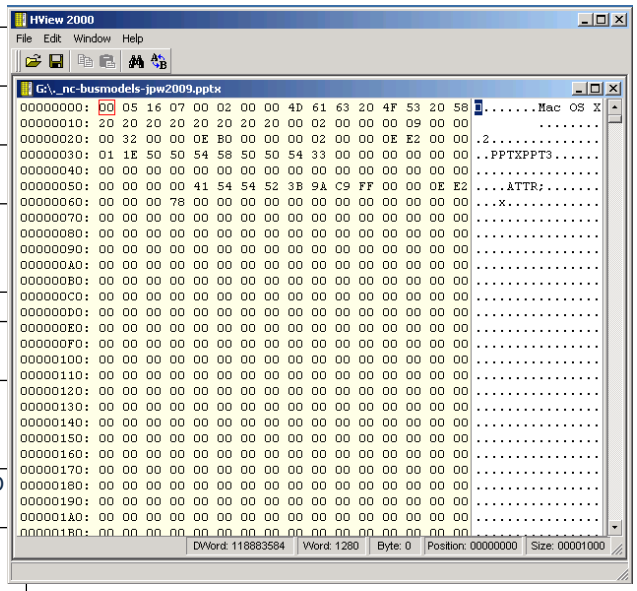

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Interaction Examples

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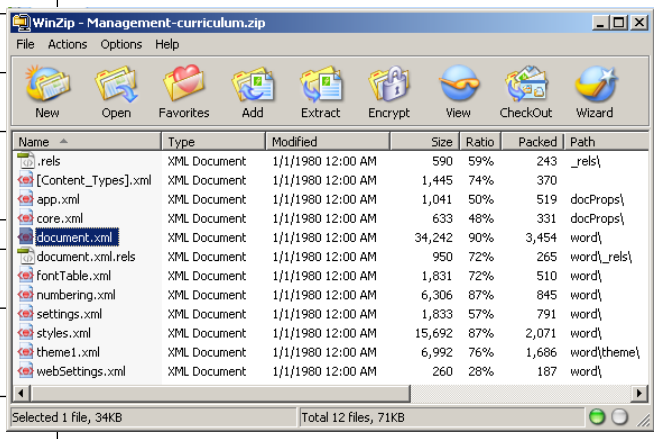
- Bitstream through I/O equipment
- Raw signal stream through equipment
- Bitstream on physical medium



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Interaction Examples

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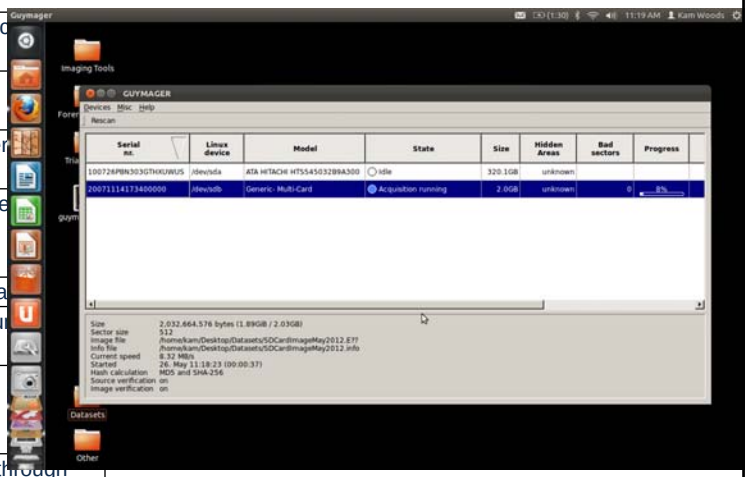

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Interaction Examples

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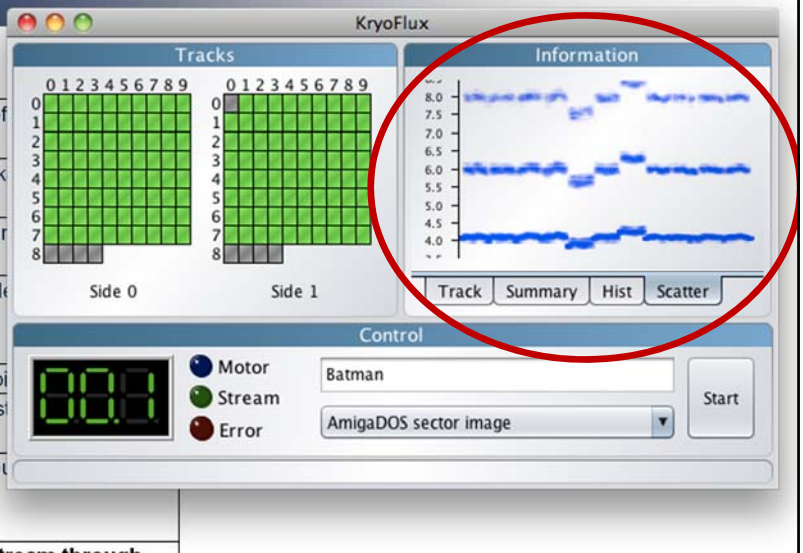

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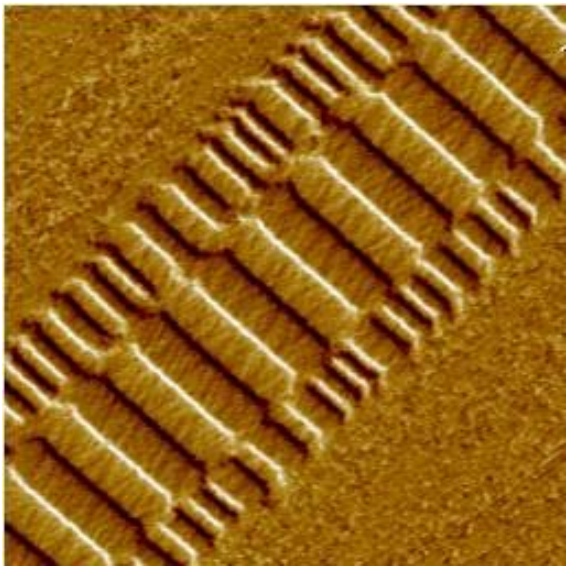

Veeco Instruments. http://www.veeco.com/library/nanotheater_detail.php?type=application&id=78&app_id=34

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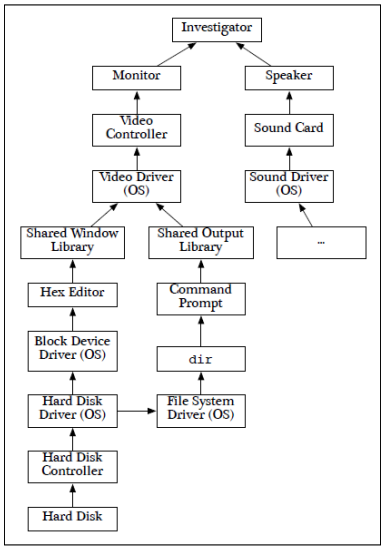
Multiple Paths for Viewing Bits



Carrier, Brian D. "A Hypothesis-Based Approach to Digital Forensic Investigations." Doctoral Dissertation, Purdue University, 2006. Figure 3-3 (p.60)

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Three Complicating Factors for Archivists:

1. **Medium Failure / Bit Rot**
2. **Obsolescence**
3. **Volatility**

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Bit Rot

- Preventing measures can help (proper storage and handling), but bits on a given medium will eventual flip or become unreadable
- In repositories
  - We maintain integrity of bit stream through security, checksums, periodic sampling and other validation
  - Bit rot and advantages of newer media both call for periodic refreshing and reformatting
- But:
  - The media we receive may not be so well maintained
  - Ensuring the **integrity of the bit stream** when transferring from one medium to another is extremely important

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Obsolescence

“Obsolete power corrupts obsoletely.”

- Ted Nelson

The technology associated with interpreting the representation at each of the layers can change or become less available

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Order of Volatility

- Some types of data change much more quickly and often than others
- Important to recognize in order to recover data from a computer system or media, while ensuring that actions don’t make irreversible changes to their record characteristics
- Example: If the contents of the browser cache are important to you, capture the cache before using the browser

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How and where does a computer store information?

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Bits – How Data are Conveyed in Computers

- Variable voltage electrical signals or pulses of light
- Bit represents a tiny "switch" with two possible states – on/off, true/false, 1/0
- Bit string or bitstream: a consecutive sequence of bits (e.g. 101000111010101)
- Rarely meaningful to humans – when looking at bitstream, usually use a hex editor (discussed later)

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Motivations for Storage Hierarchy

- Different forms of memory/storage have significantly different costs and performance
- Store recent data close by, in fast, expensive, volatile storage
- Store data that has not been used recently and is rarely used in slower, cheaper, less volatile storage

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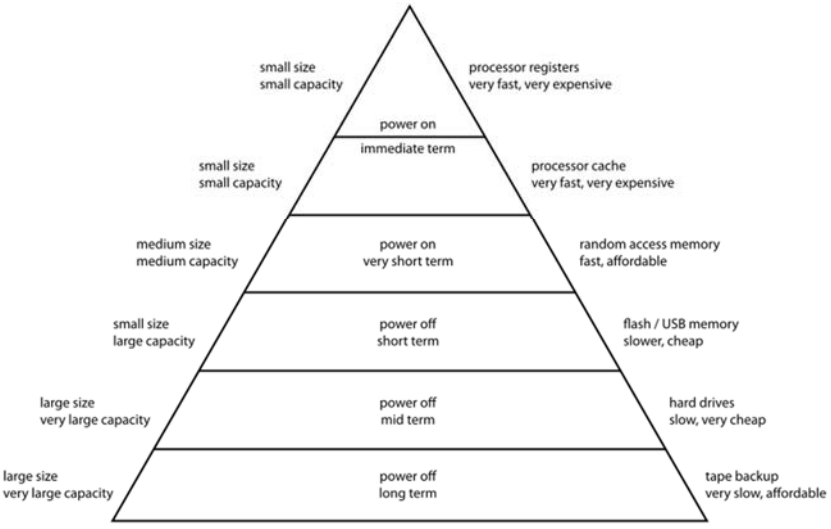
Computer Memory Hierarchy



Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:ComputerMemoryHierarchy.svg

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The Low-Level Building Blocks of Storage – Sectors and Clusters

- Your computer's processor manipulates data in the form of bitstreams, and data is stored on your computer's hard drive as bitstreams
- But moving the data from the hard drive to the processor depends on higher-level chunks: sectors and clusters
- Think of mail sent to a member of a family who all live in the same house – the envelope will indicate the house address but won't identify where that person's bedroom is located within the house

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Sectors

- Smallest unit of storage that can be assigned an address (i.e. can be directly identified & found by the computer system)
- Have specified size, depending on the type of storage, e.g.
  - CD-ROM = 2048 bytes (2,352 including error checking)
  - floppies (usually) = 512 bytes
  - modern hard drives = 4,096 (previously 512 bytes)
- Created when disk is low-level formatted (usually by manufacturer) with bad sectors identified by disk controller so data won't be written to them

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Clusters

- Groups of sectors
- Smallest unit of storage that can be tracked by the operating system
- Sizes depends on operating system, type & size of storage device – examples are 2048 bytes (4 sectors of 512 bytes) or 4096 bytes
- Defined during high-level formatting performed by operating system

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Magnetic Disk (e.g. Hard Drive or Floppy)

- Bits stored as magnetic fields of different polarity
- Magnetized surface of disk rotates under a read/write head
- Divided into tracks (like rings of a tree)
- Tracks divided into sectors and clusters
- Windows: File Allocation Table (FAT) or Master File Table (for NTFS) indicates, for given file, what clusters contain its content

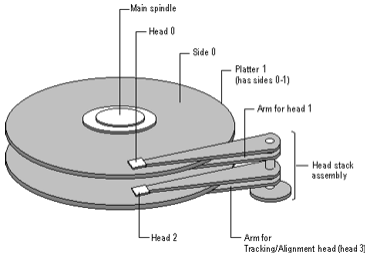

Image from : "Concepts." In Active UNDELETE v2.0 Documentation. Active Data Recovery Software. www.active-undelete.com/3tracks.htm

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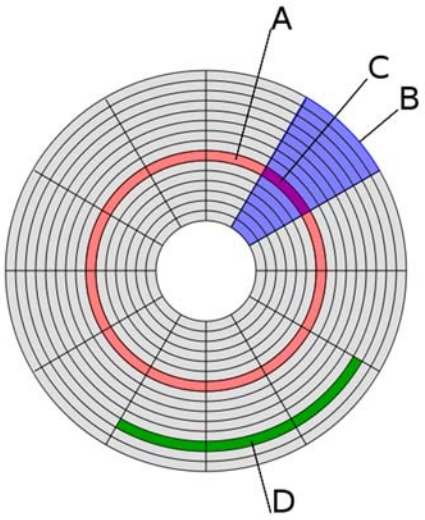

Hard Drive Structure:

A = track
B = sector
C = sector of a track
D = cluster

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Disk-structure2.svg

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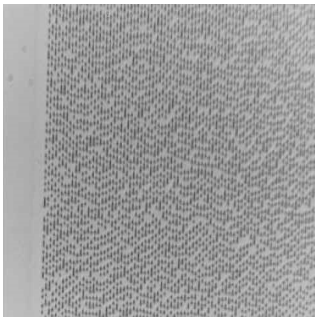
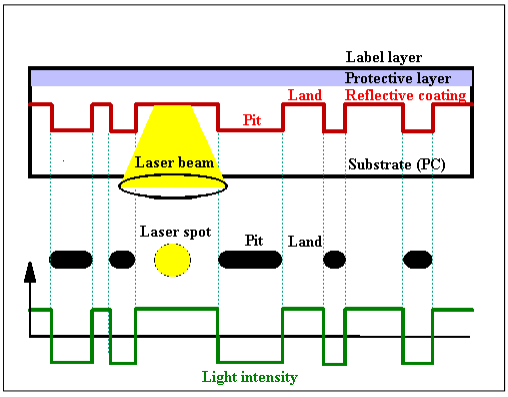
Optical Media – CD-ROM as Example



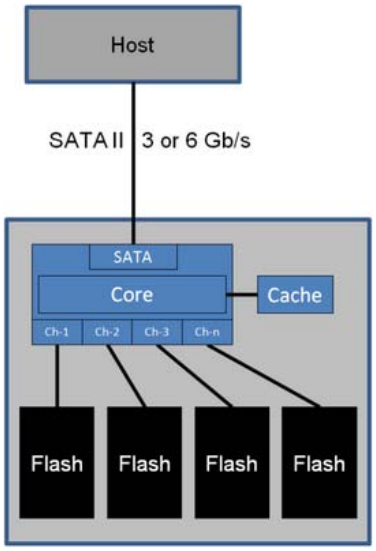


Source of Images: Compact Disk (CD). USByte.
http://www.usbyte.com/common/compact_disk_3.htm

58

Solid-State Drives (SSDs)

Source:
http://www.tomshardware.com/gallery/Samsung-SSD-256-ToggleDDR,0101-260898-0-0-0-0-jpg-.html



- Uses integrated circuits to store data
- No moving parts
- Can be read using same I/O equipment as used for hard drives
- Increasingly common in laptops

Source:
http://www.tomshardware.com/gallery/ssd-controller-external-cache,0101-260900-0-0-0-0-jpg-.html

59

Floppy Disks

- Physical storage is similar to hard drives described above (magnetic charges in a spinning disk)
- Various types and sizes, e.g. high density, double density, 3.5 inch, 5.25 inch, 8 inch
- 3.5 inch floppies are relatively easy to read using a USB drive, but older ones are more complicated…

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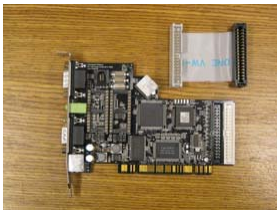
Floppy Controller Hardware

CatWeasel[1] (no longer available)

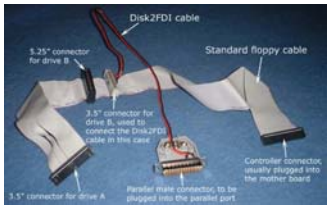


Disc Ferret[2]

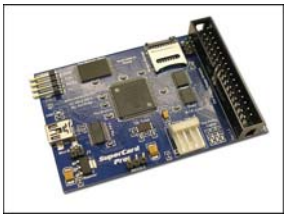
Kryoflux[3]

FC 5025[4]

Disk2FDI[5]



SuperCard Pro[6]

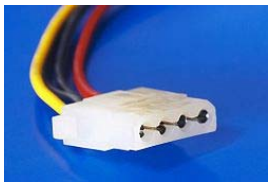


1. http://lib.stanford.edu/digitial-forensics-stanford-university-libraries/catweasel-universal-floppy-drive-controller
2. http://discferret.com/wiki/DiscFerret
3. http://www.kryoflux.com/
4. http://www.deviceside.com/fc5025.html
5. http://disk2fdi.joguin.com/D2FCABLE.htm
6. http://www.cbmstuff.com/proddetail.php?prod=SCP

61

Two Important Considerations for Internal Media that are Used as External Media

- Power - internal drive needs different connector (often Molex), not the kind that plugs into the wall
- Cooling – when pulled from the computer, you've also separated the drive from the fan, so you should often add an external one to ensure cooling



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Molex_female_connector.jpg

http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=1648567

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Kryoflux Running on a “Mini JukeBox”*

*Adapted from a Mini JukeBox setup designed by the National Library of Australia

Areas Designed to Store Temporary Data

- Files on disk used for virtual memory management – e.g. “swap files” in Windows 95/98, “page files” in Windows NT/2000/XP
- Temp files
- Various caches - e.g. browser cache, which includes copies of recently downloaded files
- “Recent documents” in Windows
- Cookies – “expires” attribute can indicate quick deletion or long-term retention
- History files – e.g. browsing & download history

Caching

- Storing a copy of a subset of data from a slower data source to a faster (more readily available) data source
- Examples:
  - CPU cache from main memory
  - Main memory cache from hard disk
  - Hard disk cache from CD-ROM
  - Proxy server cache from web sites

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Configuration and Log Files

- Often contain information about where files are located, when last opened, user preferences, state of files when last used
- In Windows, much of this happens in the Registry
- On a Mac, much of this happens in property list (p-list) files
- Another examples:
  - Index.dat – RSS feeds, URLs visited, search queries and recently opened files in Internet Explorer

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Windows Registry

- Information about:
  - Applications installed
  - Application settings
  - Hardware installed
  - Hardware settings
  - User interface and system preferences
  - User accounts
  - Locations of files and recent activities, e.g. Most Recently Used (MRU)
  - Lots of online activities, e.g. user names and passwords, browsing and search query history

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Representation Information

68

“No computation without representation”

Smith, Brian Cantwell. "Limits of Correctness in Computers." In *Computerization and Controversy: Value Conflicts and Social Choices*, edited by Rob Kling, 810-25. San Diego, CA: Academic Press, 1996. 815.

69

The 8 bits highlighted in the bit stream shown below can be interpreted in many ways, e.g., as an integer, a simple character code, a sound, a floating point number, an image, a logical bitmap, etc.

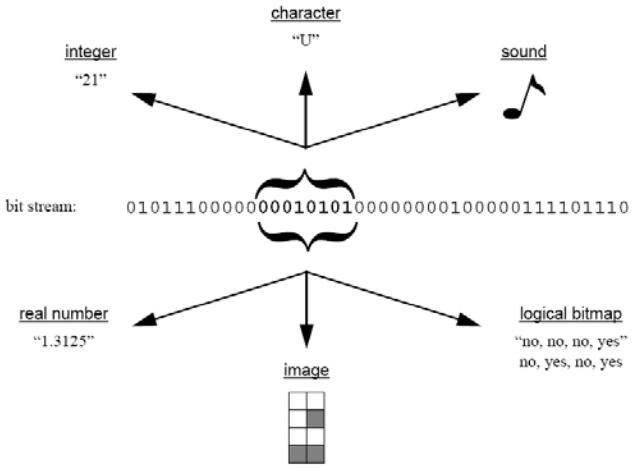

Figure 4: A bit stream can represent anything at all

Rothenberg, Jeff. "Ensuring the Longevity of Digital Information." Washington, DC: Council on Library and Information Resources, 1999.

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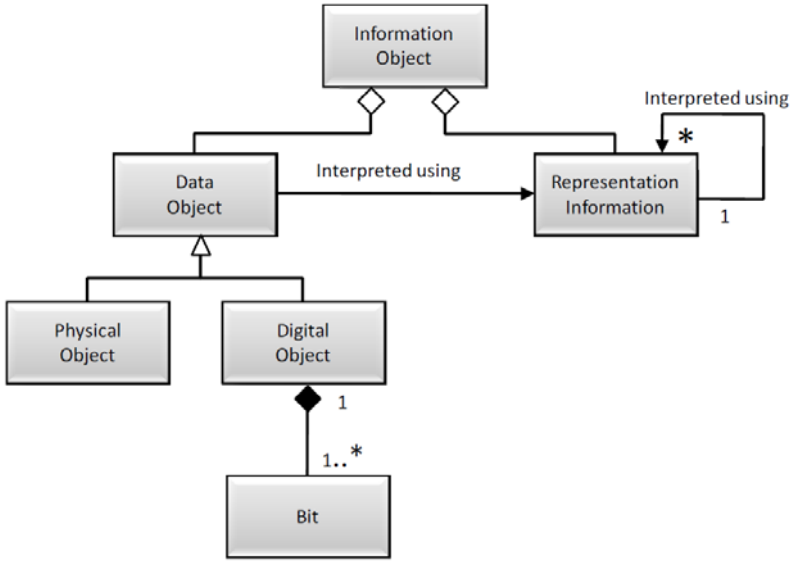
Representation Information

- "Information that maps a Data Object into more meaningful concepts" (OAIS) - makes humanly-perceptible properties happen
- Examples: file format, encoding scheme, data type

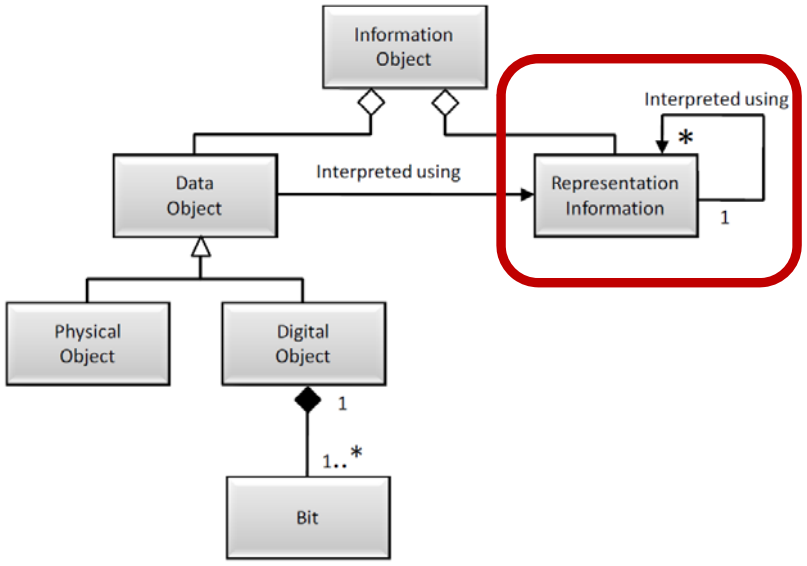
Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS). CCSDS 650.0-M-2 (Magenta Book). Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems, 2012. [ISO 14721:2012]. Figure 2-2.

71



Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS). CCSDS 650.0-M-2 (Magenta Book). Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems, 2012. [ISO 14721:2012]. Figure 4-10.

72



Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS). CCSDS 650.0-M-2 (Magenta Book). Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems, 2012. [ISO 14721:2012]. Figure 4-10.

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Representation Information can Reside in Many Places

- Within digital object itself
- Stored separately as metadata
- Encoded within software required to read and parse the digital object

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Finding Representation Information Within a File

- Keys fields
- Headers
- Manifests

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The 4 bits at the start of this bit stream are intended to be read as the "key" integer 7, meaning that the remaining bytes in the bit stream are each 7 bits long. However, there is no way to tell from the bit stream itself how long the key integer is; if we were to erroneously read the first 5 bits of the bit stream as the key (instead of the first 4), we would erroneously conclude that the remaining bytes were each 15 bits long.

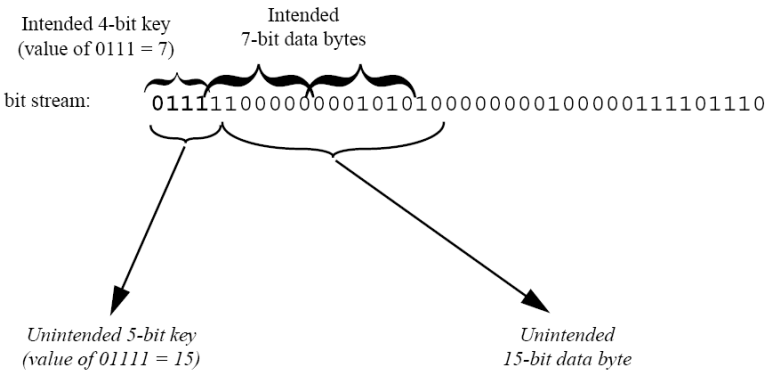

Figure 6: Bit streams cannot be made self-explanatory

Rothenberg, Jeff. "Ensuring the Longevity of Digital Information." Washington, DC: Council on Library and Information Resources, 1999.

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Not Just a Series of Bytes – Pointers and Offsets

- Pointer – reference within a file or programming code that leads from one place to another
  - Causes the data to be read out of serial order (i.e. a jump from one place to another place that does not immediately follow it within the data stream)
  - Ability to resolve the pointer is essential
- Offset – location that's some given distance from a starting point
  - Location calculated by adding offset to a base address (location)
  - Again, ability to resolve the offset to the precise location within a bitstream is essential

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Fonts and Character Encoding

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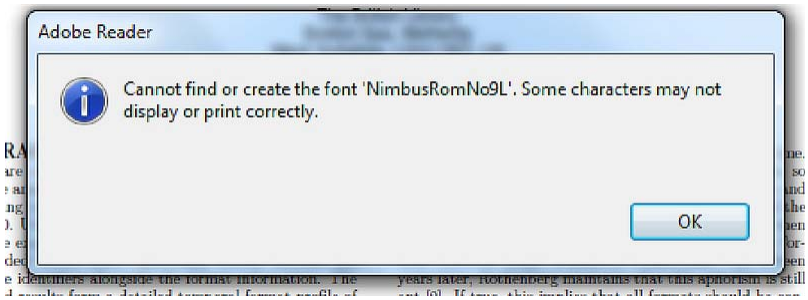
Font



PDF with missing fonts by prwheatly, on Flickr.

79

Font

- Determines how characters will appear on screen (generation of glyphs)
- Same character can appear completely different in two different fonts
- Can be a major issue in digital preservation, when consistent rendering is important
- Not usually a focus of digital forensics or data recovery efforts, which focus on simply making sense of the characters within a bitstream
- However, changes of fonts within a document can provide some hints to versioning and authorship

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Character Encoding

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ASCII – Major "installed base" of Character Encoding, Designed for the English-Speaking World

Symbol	Decimal	Binary
7	55	00110111
8	56	00111000
9	57	00111001
:	58	00111010
;	59	00111011
<	60	00111100
=	61	00111101
>	62	00111110
?	63	00111111
@	64	01000000
A	65	01000001
B	66	01000010
C	67	01000011

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Unicode

- **Huge** number of possible characters – not limited to 8-bits for each
- Mapped to unique codes (numbers)
- Standard first published in 1991
- Current version is 8.0 (June 2015)

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UTF-8

- *Unicode Transformation Format (UTF)* = set of conventions for how specific Unicode code points are represented as unique byte sequences
- UTF 8 is widely used – including in email and web pages
- Codes 0 to 127 are backward compatible with ASCII

See: Frequently Asked Questions: UTF-8, UTF-16, UTF-32 & BOM. Unicode, Inc. http://www.unicode.org/faq/utf_bom.html

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Escape Codes and Character Entities

- When a system doesn't allow use of certain characters (either because reserved for special uses or because not allowed at all), must do a translation to characters that it does allow
- Examples
  - In programming languages
  - In HTML – use & or % convention
  - In URLs - Use of "%" + hexadecimal label

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Special-Use or Disallowed Character	Hex Replacement	Notes
Space	%20	Extremely common when posting to Web from OS that allows white spaces in file names
"	%22	
#	%23	Used as "anchor" within URLs (link to specific section of page)
$	%24	
%	%25	Imagine what problems this might cause!
&	%26	Used within URL to separate query parameters
+	%2B	
,	%2C	
/	%2F	Used as separator between parts of a URL or directory path
:	%3A	
;	%3B	
<	%3C	Can appear when XML /HTML markup gets passed as part of URL
=	%3D	Used within URL to assign parameter value
>	%3E	Can appear when XML /HTML markup gets passed as part of URL
?	%3F	Used within URL to indicate query parameters
@	%40	Often appears as part of email address

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Compression

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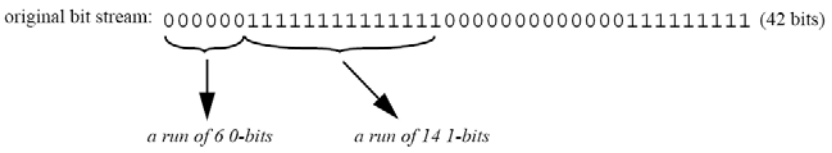
As a simple example of compressing a bit stream without loss, "run-length encoding" replaces each sequence of 0s (000...0) by a count, indicating how many 0 bits were present in the given "run" (similarly for 1s). This can reduce the size of a bit stream without losing any information. For example, each run in the original bit stream shown can be represented by a 5-bit byte whose first bit specifies whether the run is of 0s or 1s and whose remaining 4 bits specify the length of a run (of up to 15 bits). This scheme is most appropriate for data that contains long sequences of 0s or 1s, such as digital imagery.



Representing each run in the original bit stream as a pair **b : n** (where b is 0 or 1 to indicate the contents of the run, and n is the length of the run) produces:

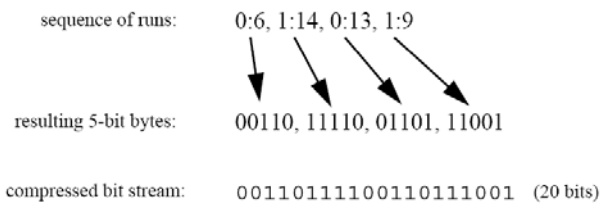


Figure 7: Compressing a bit stream

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Rothenberg, Jeff. "Ensuring the Longevity of Digital Information." Washington, DC: Council on Library and Information Resources, 1999.

Three Levels of Compression*

- Format of file implements compression internally - e.g. body of JPEG file is compressed but not file header
- Application creates completely new, compressed copy of file(s) – e.g. WinZip, gzip
- File system compresses data units – e.g. not writing data to series of sectors that are all filled with zeros

*Carrier, Brian. *File System Forensic Analysis. Boston, MA: Addison-Wesley, 2005.*

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Encryption

90

Encryption

- Special data ("keys") and algorithms used to transform data into a form that is purposely less easily readable
- Used for:
  - Confidentiality
  - Integrity
  - Non-repudiation
  - Authentication

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Encryption at Various Levels*

- Application that creates the file
- Application that reads an unencrypted file and creates an encrypted file
- Operating System – "Before a file is written to disk, the OS encrypts the file and saves the cipher text to the data units. The non-content data, such as the file name and last access time, are typically not encrypted. The application that wrote the data does not know the file is encrypted on the disk."
- Encrypt an entire volume – implemented in storage system below file system level

*Carrier, Brian. *File System Forensic Analysis. Boston, MA: Addison-Wesley, 2005.*

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Checksums – Compact Representations of Bitstreams

- A given bitstream, fed into an algorithm, will generate a short string of characters that is **extremely** unlikely to be generated by a different bistream fed into that same algorithm
- Most common = MD5, SHA-1
- Can determine:
  - If bits have changed after a transfer
  - If bits have flipped within a storage environment
  - Whether two different files are identical bitstreams
- A library of hash values can identify "known and notable" (EnCase terminology) files
  - Known – files that can be ignored (e.g. software listed in National Software Reference Library)
  - Notable – specific bitstreams that you're trying to find

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Checksums – Compact Representations of Bitstreams

- Tools for checksum generation
  - MD5Summer
  - HashDeep
  - MD5Deep
  - Fileverifier++
  - FF MD5Drop or command-line tool (Mac)
  - GtkHash (available in BitCurator environment)
  - Many others…

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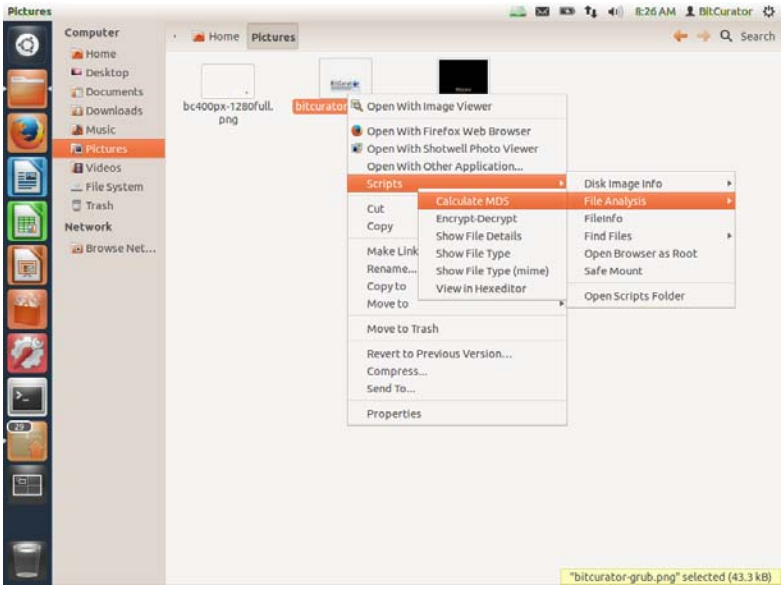
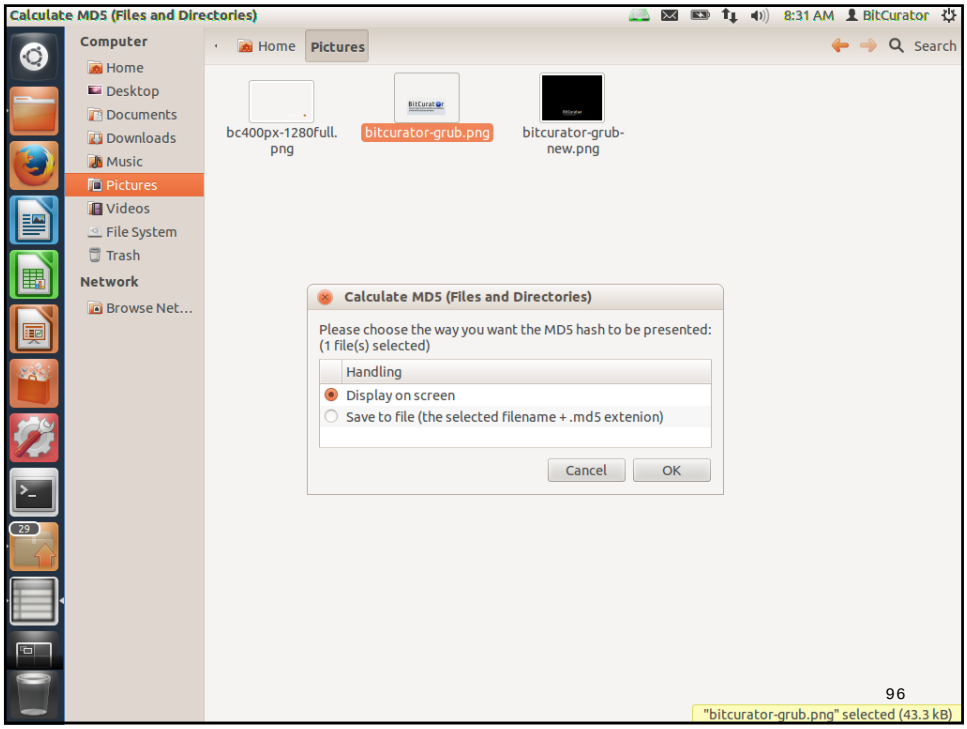
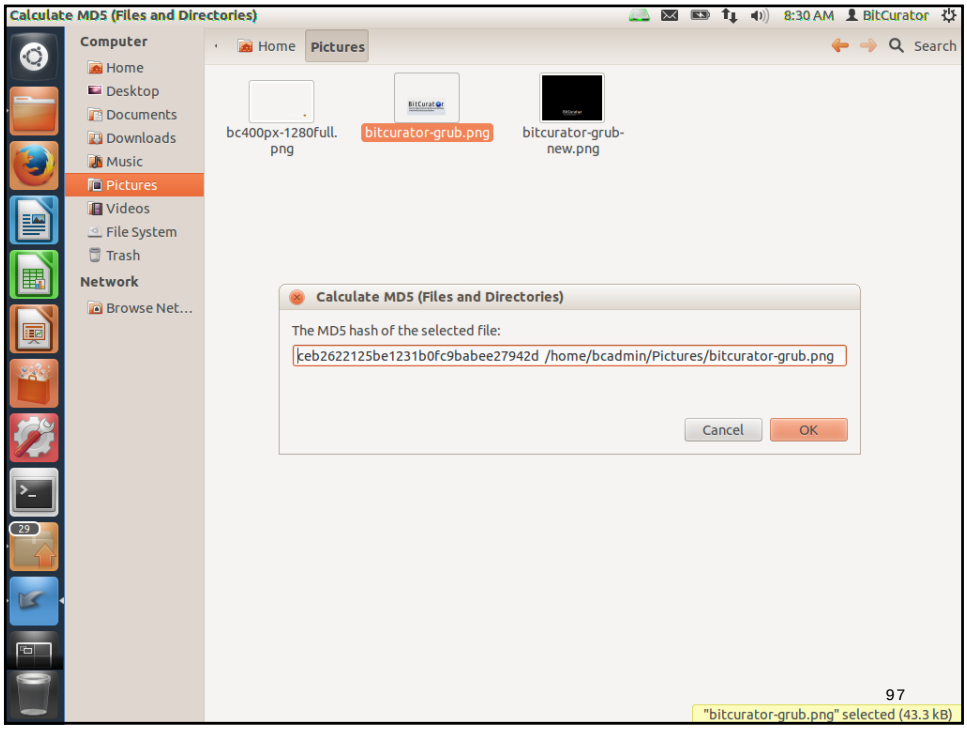
In BitCurator environment: Right Click on File or Directory and Calculate MD5



95



96



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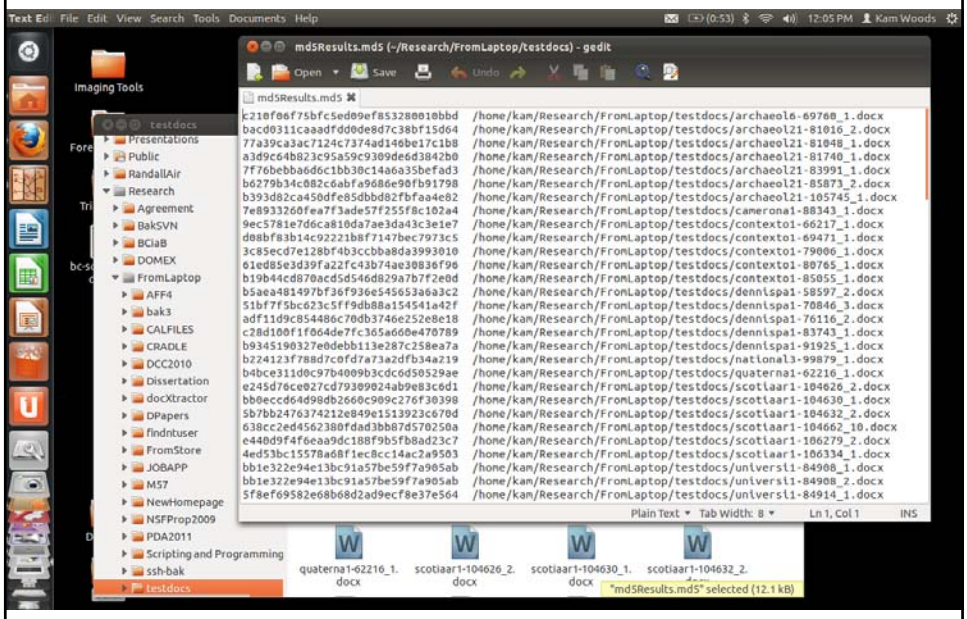
MD5 Hashes of an Entire Directory of Files



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Hexadecimal Notation

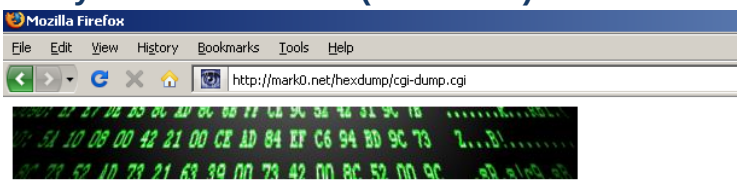
- A more compact and more humanly readable way of representing a stream of bits
  - Each character represents one of 16 possible values (0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D,E,F)
  - Conveniently, a series of two characters represented in hexadecimal can represent exactly one byte (2^8 = 256 possible values) of data, because $16^2 = 256$
- Hex dumps from computer's memory often used for debugging or reverse engineering software and for data recovery

How to Generate a Hex Dump

- Many free or inexpensive tools available for download, e.g. Cygnus Hex Editor, Hex Workshop, HexAssistant, HxD, Hex Fiend (Mac), GHex (Linux), MiniDumper*
- To generate your own hex dump from a given file, try: http://www.fileformat.info/tool/hexdump.htm
- Hex viewing will usually include a separate view to the right that presents the ASCII equivalent of all bytes, which can help the human eye to detect patterns
- Hex viewing only necessary when a file includes either non-ASCII strings of bits or corrupted file elements
- If file is composed completely of ASCII-encoded data, using a simple text editor (e.g. Notepad) is simpler way to view file contents

* See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_hex_editors

Syllabus for a class (HTML File)



Online Hex Dump

File size: 52102 Bytes

Beginning of file tells us what kind of file it is

```
0000: 3C 21 44 4F 43 54 59 50 45 20 68 74 6D 6C 20 50   <!DOCTYPE html P
0010: 55 42 4C 49 43 20 22 2D 2F 2F 57 33 43 2F 2  44   UBLIC "-//W3C//D
0020: 54 44 20 58 48 54 4D 4C 20 31 2E 30 20 54 72 61   TD XHTML 1.0 Tra
0030: 6E 73 69 74 69 6F 6E 61 6C 2F 2F 45 4E 22 20 22   nsitional//EN" "
0040: 68 74 74 70 3A 2F 2F 77 77 77 2E 77 33 2E 6  72   http://www.w3.or
0050: 67 2F 54 52 2F 78 68 74 6D 6C 31 2F 44 54 44 2F   g/TR/xhtml1/DTD/
0060: 78 68 74 6D 6C 31 2D 74 72 61 6E 73 69 74 69 6   xhtml1-transitio
0070: 6E 61 6C 2E 64 74 64 22 3E 0D 0A 3C 68 74 6D 6C   nal.dtd">..<html
0080: 20 78 6D 6C 6E 73 3D 22 68 74 74 70 3A 2F 2F 77    xmlns="http://w
0090: 77 77 2E 77 33 2E 6F 72 67 2F 31 39 39 39 2F 78   ww.w3.org/1999/x
00A0: 68 74 6D 6C 22 20 78 6D 6C 3A 6C 61 6E 67 3D 22   html" xml:lang="
00B0: 65 6E 22 20 64 69 72 3D 22 6C 74 72 22 20 6C 61   en" dir="ltr" la
00C0: 6E 67 3D 22 65 6E 22 3E 3C 68 65 61 64 3E 0D 0A   ng="en"><head>..
00D0: 0D 0A 09 0D 0A 09 09 3C 6D 65 74 61 20 68 74 74   .......<meta htt
00E0: 70 2D 65 71 75 69 76 3D 22 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74   p-equiv="Content
00F0: 2D 54 79 70 65 22 20 63 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 3D 22   -Type" content="
```

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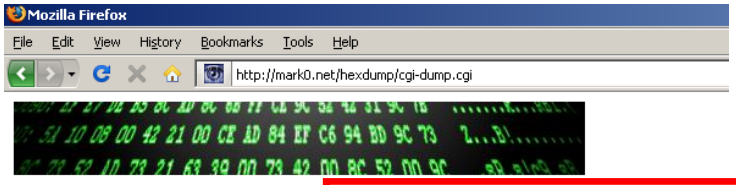
Slides from a lecture (PDF/A file)



Online Hex Dump

File size: 234791 Bytes

Contents of this PDF file are not as easy to read within ASCII view as the contents of the HTML file were, but note that, again, beginning of file tells us what kind of file it is

```
0000: 25 50 44 46 2D 31 2E 34 0A 25 E2 E3 CF D3 0D 0A   %PDF-1.4.%......
0010: 32 20 30 20 6F 62 6A 0A 3C 3C 2F 4C 65 6E 67 74   2 0 obj.<</Lengt
0020: 68 20 39 38 35 2F 46 69 6C 74 65 72 2F 46 6C 61   h 985/Filter/Fla
0030: 74 65 44 65 63 6F 64 65 3E 3E 73 74 72 65 61 6D   teDecode>>stream
0040: 0D 0A 68 DE B4 57 DB 72 DB 46 0C 7D E7 57 EC 53   ..h..W.r.F.}.W.S
0050: 87 EC 44 C8 DE 77 F9 5A A5 D3 A6 E3 A6 93 8A 1E   ..D..w.Z........
0060: 3F 64 FA C0 D0 B4 CC 96 26 6B 4A 49 C6 3F 92 EF   ?d......&kJI.?..
0070: 2D B0 BC 44 37 7B 68 C5 1D 5F A8 95 16 D8 03 E0   -..D7{h.._......
0080: E0 60 75 1F 09 56 B1 48 08 05 82 29 CB 16 CE E1   .`u..V.H...)....
0090: 0B 27 39 EB CA 08 D7 F8 7B 17 5D FD C8 9A 88 33   .'9.....{.]....3
00A0: 97 4A E0 8A 59 21 71 5B 2A 69 C7 15 7E F0 7A B9   .J..Y!q[*i..~.z.
00B0: B1 AC D8 30 11 7E 36 05 BE F3 CB 4A B0 F5 66 B0   ...0.~6....J..f.
00C0: DF F5 78 13 BD 9F 3E FD 29 8B 5E 67 99 44 9B EC   ..x...>.).^g.D..
00D0: 06 BD 6B 0E 1C 1D F7 0F CE 84 90 90 7A 26 24 07   ..k.........z&$.
00E0: E1 59 76 87 3B D6 F8 97 15 F4 EF 4B 14 BF 7D 77   .Yv.;......K..}w
00F0: 91 64 7F 47 3F 67 D1 7D 1F 82 B3 E0 F4 B8 5F 59   .d.G?g.}......_Y
```

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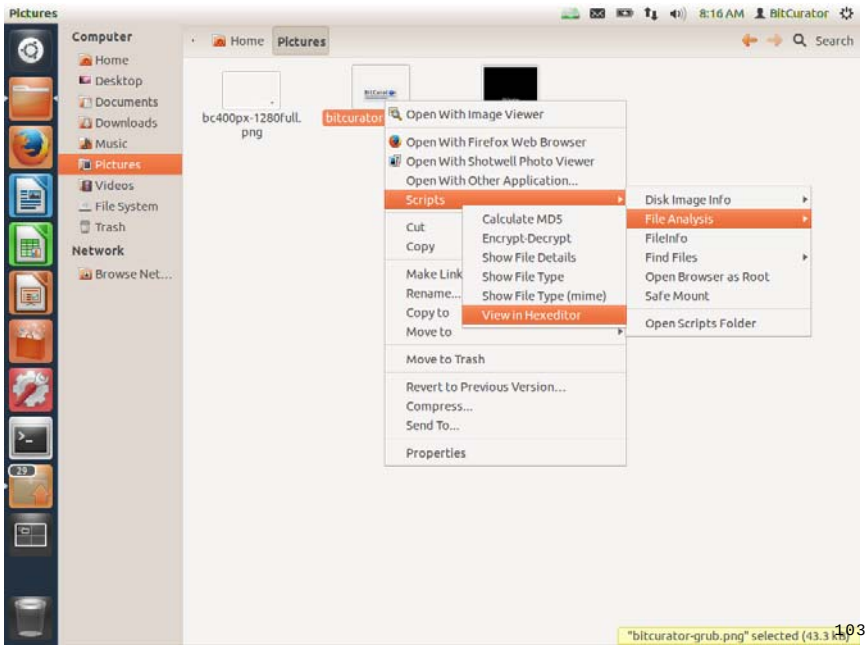
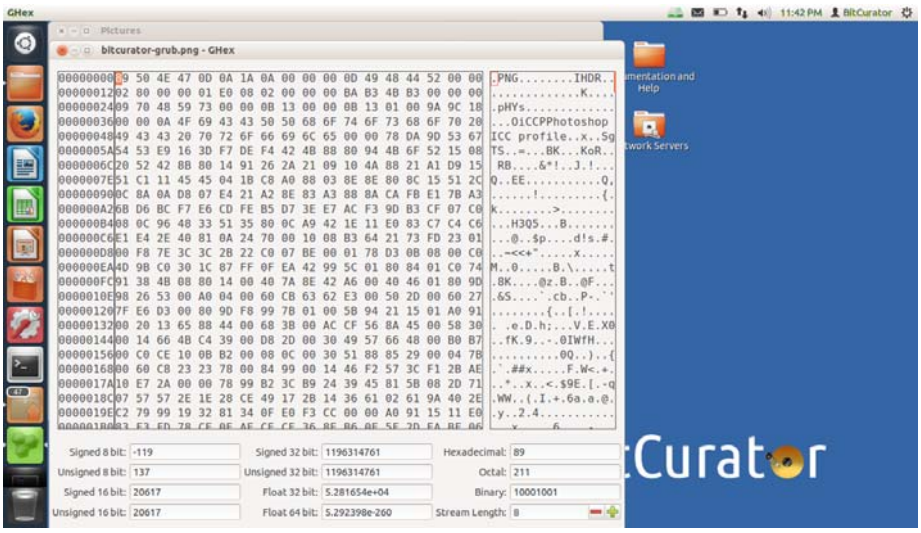
In the BitCurator environment:



103



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Let’s corrupt a bitstream.

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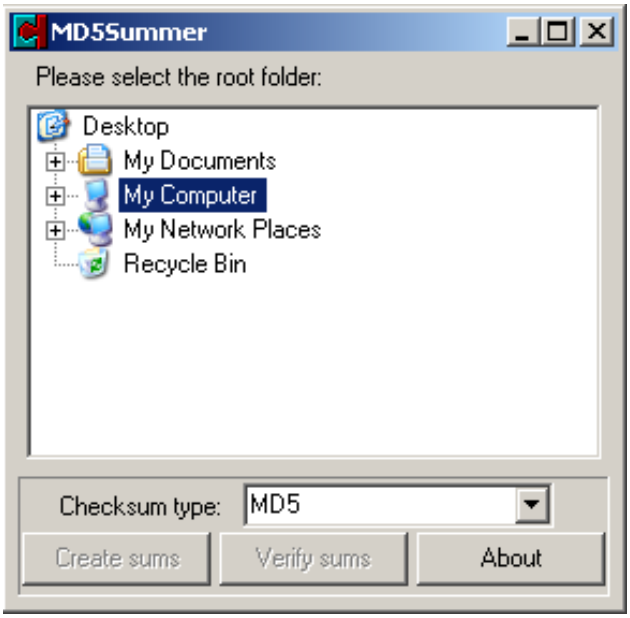
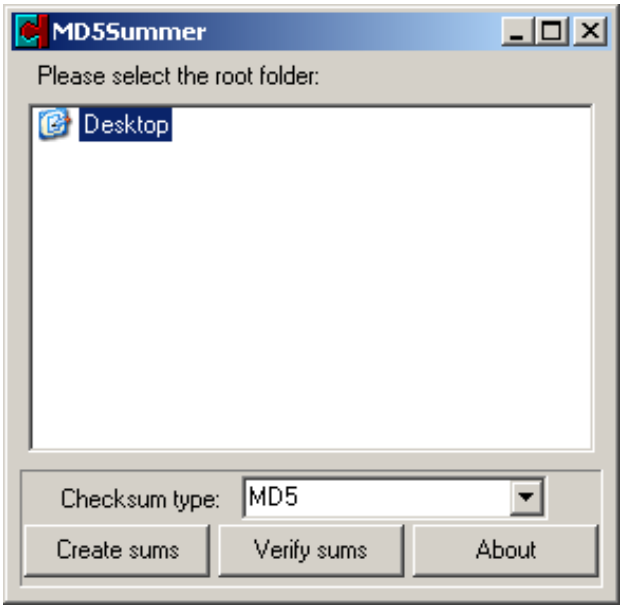
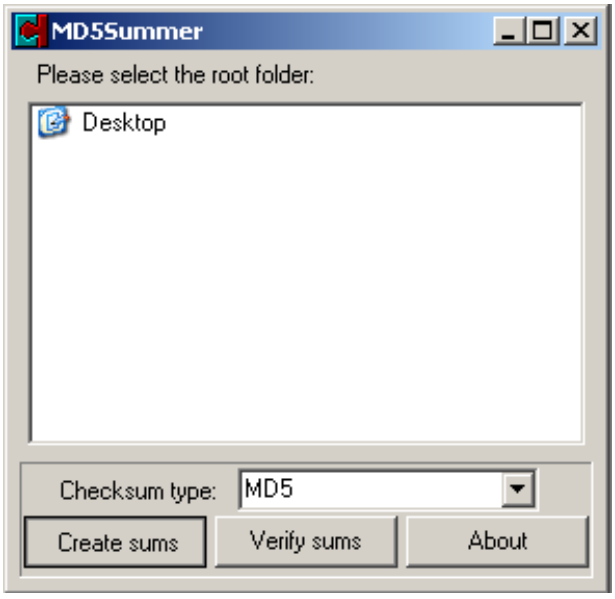


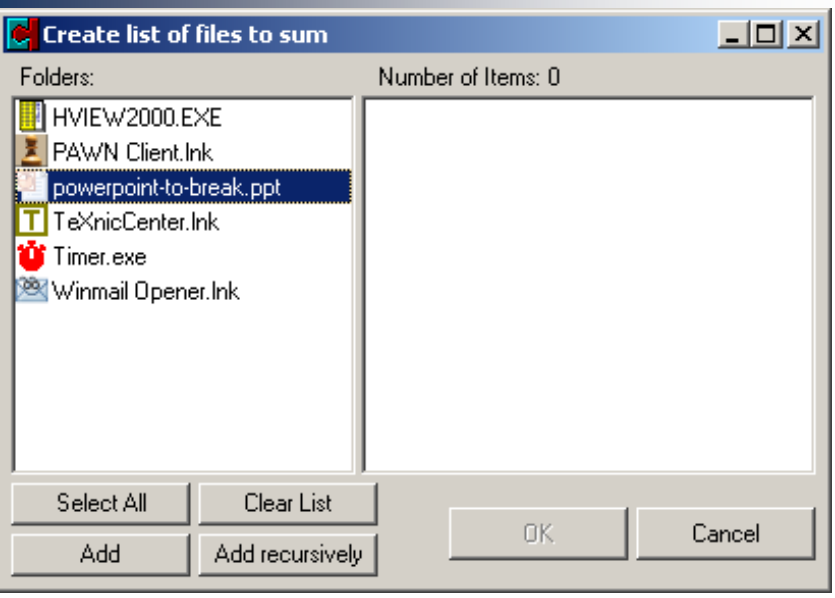
106


MD5Summer
Please select the root folder:
Desktop
Checksum type:
MD5
Create sums
Verify sums
About

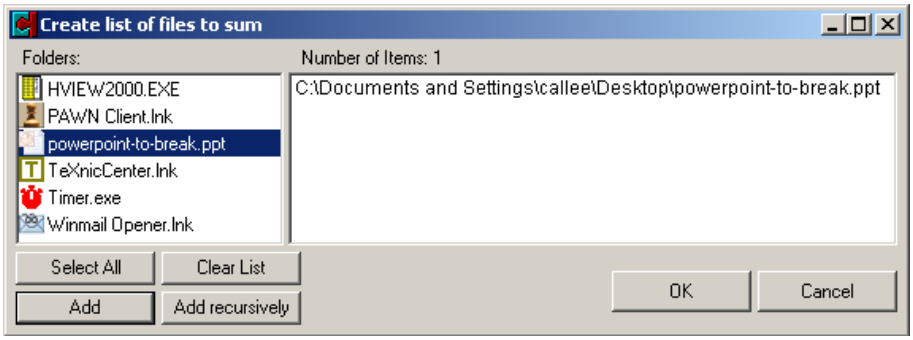
107


MD5Summer
Please select the root folder:
Desktop
Checksum type:
MD5
Create sums
Verify sums
About

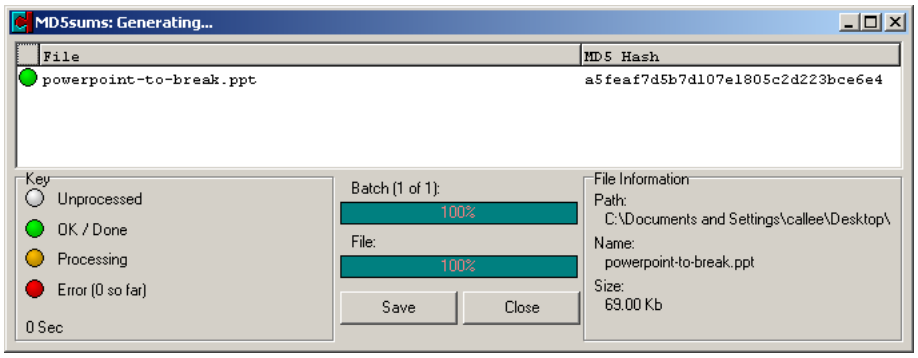
108


Create list of files to sum
Folders:
Number of Items: 0
HVIEW2000.EXE
PAWN Client.lnk
powerpoint-to-break.ppt
TeXnicCenter.lnk
Timer.exe
Winmail Opener.lnk
Select All
Clear List
Add
Add recursively
OK
Cancel

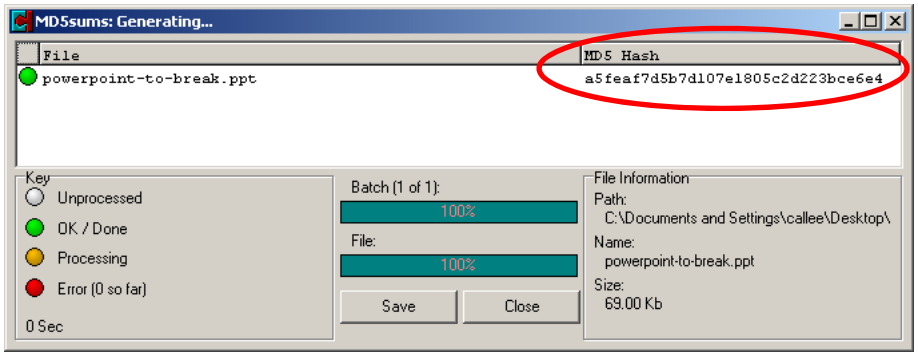
109


Create list of files to sum
Folders:
Number of Items: 1
HVIEW2000.EXE
PAWN Client.lnk
powerpoint-to-break.ppt
TeXnicCenter.lnk
Timer.exe
Winmail Opener.lnk
C:\Documents and Settings\callee\Desktop\powerpoint-to-break.ppt
Select All
Clear List
Add
Add recursively
OK
Cancel

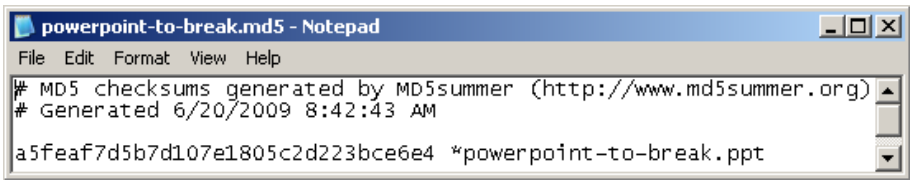
110


MD5sums: Generating...
File
MD5 Hash
powerpoint-to-break.ppt
a5feaf7d5b7d107e1805c2d223bce6e4
Key
Unprocessed
OK / Done
Processing
Error (0 so far)
0 Sec
Batch (1 of 1):
100%
File:
100%
Save
Close
File Information
Path:
C:\Documents and Settings\callee\Desktop\
Name:
powerpoint-to-break.ppt
Size:
69.00 Kb

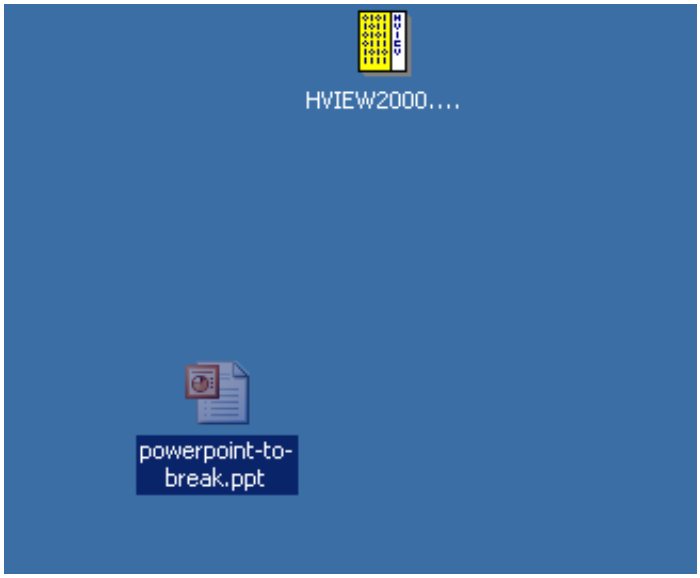
111


MD5sums: Generating...
File
MD5 Hash
powerpoint-to-break.ppt
a5feaf7d5b7d107e1805c2d223bce6e4
Key
Unprocessed
OK / Done
Processing
Error (0 so far)
0 Sec
Batch (1 of 1):
100%
File:
100%
Save
Close
File Information
Path:
C:\Documents and Settings\callee\Desktop\
Name:
powerpoint-to-break.ppt
Size:
69.00 Kb

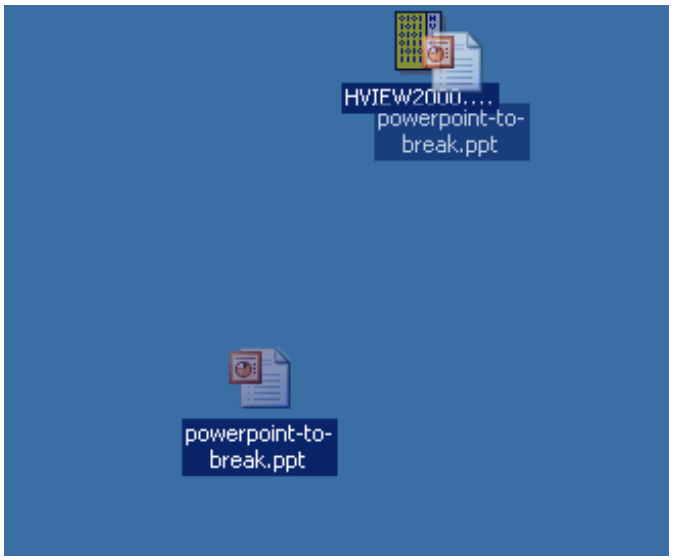
112


powerpoint-to-break.md5 - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
MD5 checksums generated by MD5summer (http://www.md5summer.org)
Generated 6/20/2009 8:42:43 AM
a5feaf7d5b7d107e1805c2d223bce6e4 *powerpoint-to-break.ppt

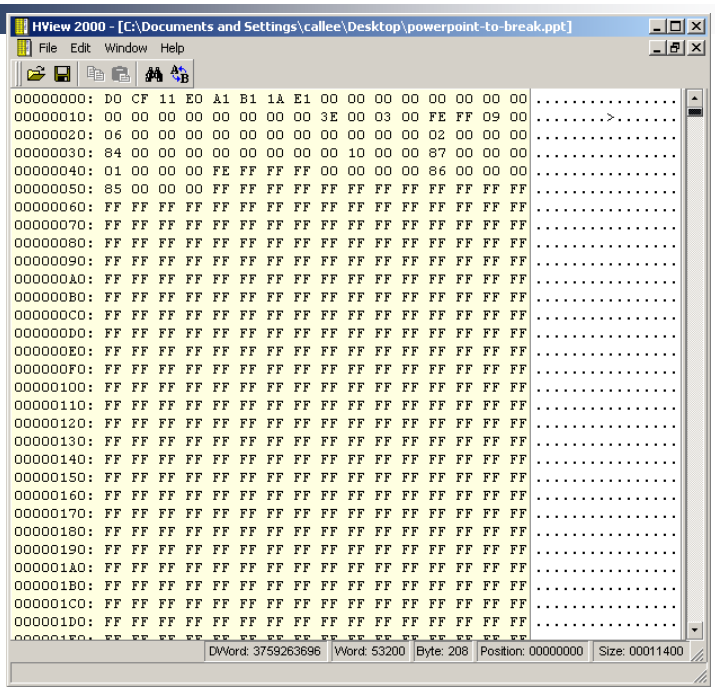
113


HVIEW2000....
powerpoint-to-break.ppt

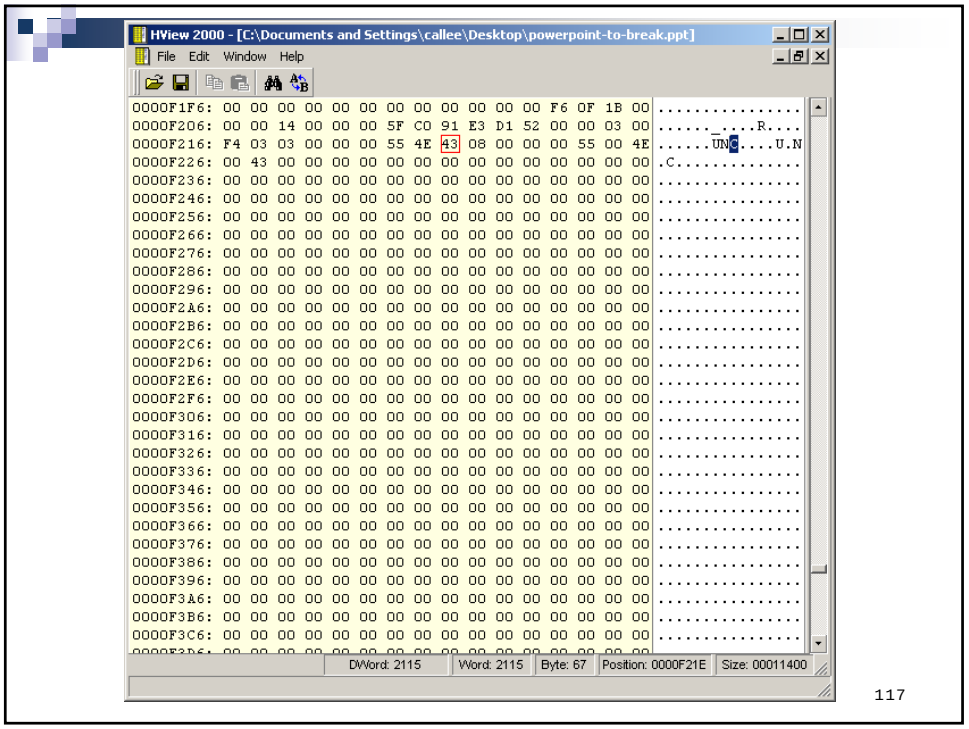
114


HVIEW2000....
powerpoint-to-break.ppt
powerpoint-to-break.ppt

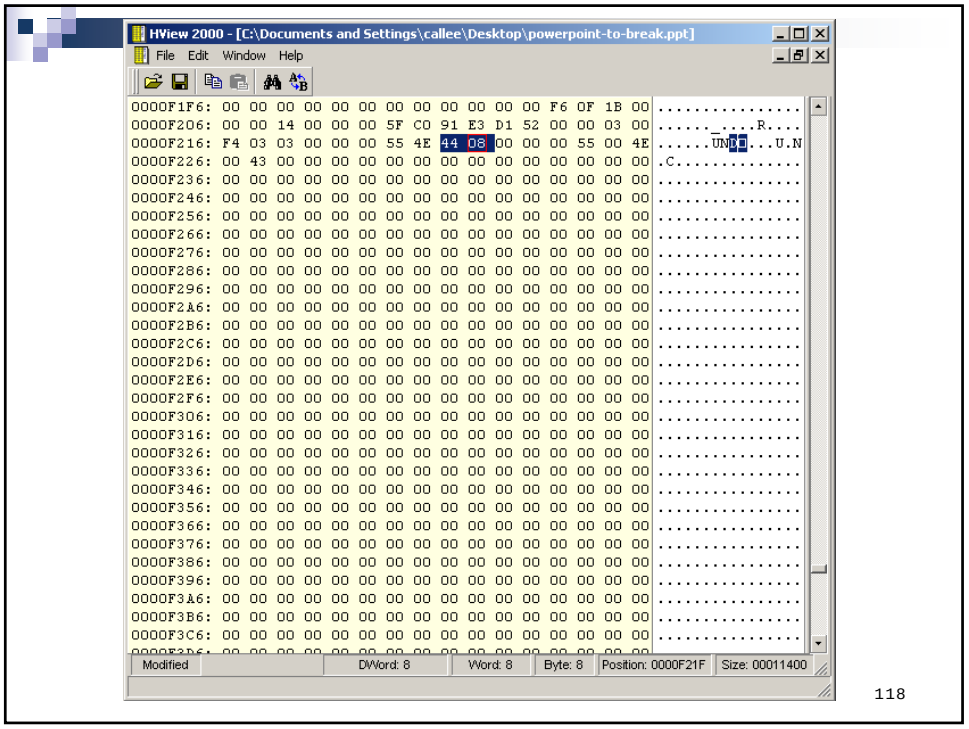
115


HView 2000 - [C:\Documents and Settings\callee\Desktop\powerpoint-to-break.ppt]
File Edit Window Help
00000000: D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000010: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 3E 00 03 00 FE FF 09 00 ....>.......
00000020: 06 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 ....
00000030: 84 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 10 00 00 87 00 00 00 ....
00000040: 01 00 00 00 FE FF FF FF 00 00 00 00 86 00 00 00 ....
00000050: 85 00 00 00 FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000060: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000070: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000080: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000090: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000000A0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000000B0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000000C0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000000D0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000000E0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000000F0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000100: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000110: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000120: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000130: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000140: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000150: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000160: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000170: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000180: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
00000190: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000001A0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000001B0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000001C0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
000001D0: FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF ....
DWord: 3759263696
Word: 53200
Byte: 208
Position: 00000000
Size: 00011400

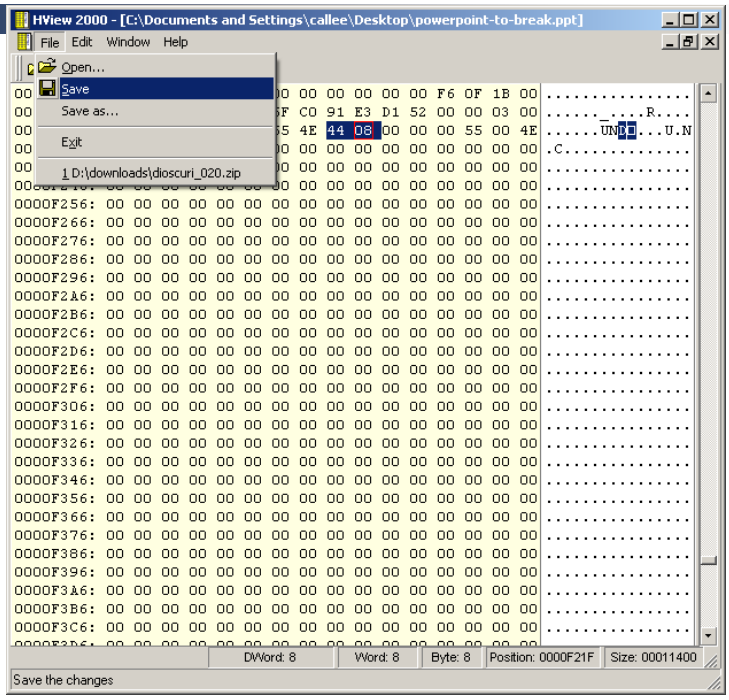
116


HView 2000 - [C:\Documents and Settings\callee\Desktop\powerpoint-to-break.ppt]
File Edit Window Help
0000F1F6: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 F6 0F 1B 00
0000F206: 00 00 14 00 00 00 5F C0 91 E3 D1 52 00 00 03 00
0000F216: F4 03 03 00 00 00 55 4E 43 08 00 00 00 55 00 4E
0000F226: 00 43 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
DWord: 2115
Word: 2115
Byte: 67
Position: 0000F21E
Size: 00011400

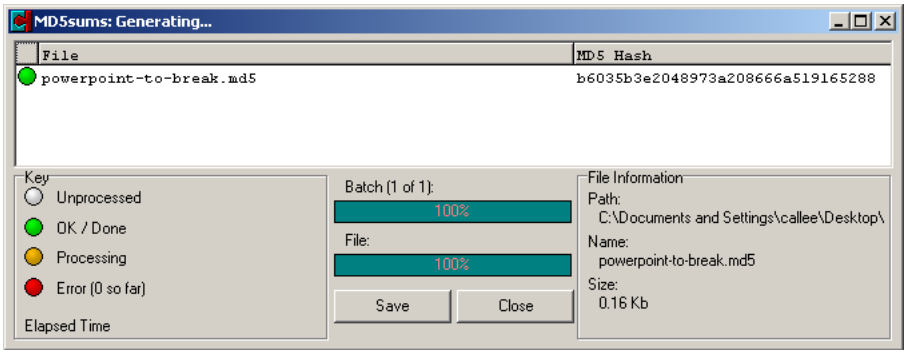
117


HView 2000 - [C:\Documents and Settings\callee\Desktop\powerpoint-to-break.ppt]
File Edit Window Help
0000F1F6: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 F6 0F 1B 00
0000F206: 00 00 14 00 00 00 5F C0 91 E3 D1 52 00 00 03 00
0000F216: F4 03 03 00 00 00 55 4E 44 08 00 00 00 55 00 4E
0000F226: 00 43 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
Modified
DWord: 8
Word: 8
Byte: 8
Position: 0000F21F
Size: 00011400

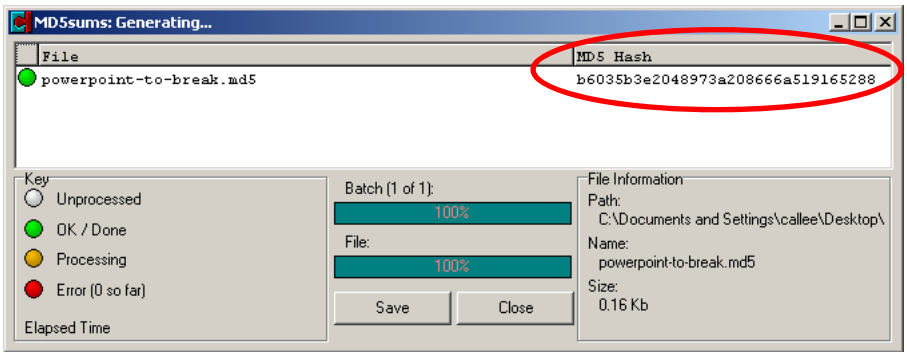
118


HView 2000 - [C:\Documents and Settings\callee\Desktop\powerpoint-to-break.ppt]
File Edit Window Help
Open...
Save
Save as...
Exit
1 D:\downloads\dioscuri_020.zip
DWord: 8
Word: 8
Byte: 8
Position: 0000F21F
Size: 00011400
Save the changes

119

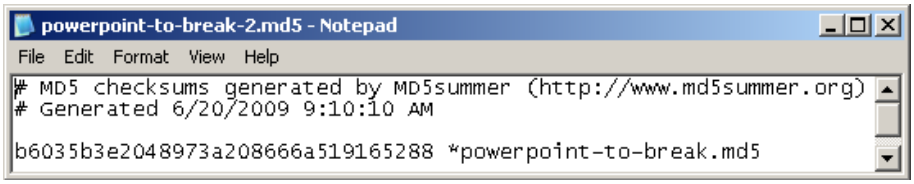

MD5sums: Generating...
File
MD5 Hash
powerpoint-to-break.md5
b6035b3e2048973a208666a519165288
Key
Unprocessed
OK / Done
Processing
Error (0 so far)
Elapsed Time
Batch (1 of 1):
100%
File:
100%
Save
Close
File Information
Path:
C:\Documents and Settings\callee\Desktop\
Name:
powerpoint-to-break.md5
Size:
0.16 Kb

120



That doesn't look right.
Let's compare it to our previous MD5 hash...

121



122

File Name	Change Made	MD5 Hash
powerpoint-to-break.ppt	------	a5feaf7d5b7d107e1805c2d223bce6e4
powerpoint-to-break.ppt	**One Bit Different** From: Character “C” (Hex = 43) To: Character “D” (Hex = 44)	b6035b3e2048973a208666a519165288

123

File Name	Change Made	MD5 Hash
powerpoint-to-break.ppt	------	a5feaf7d5b7d107e1805c2d223bce6e4
powerpoint-to-break.ppt	**One Bit Different** From: Character “C” (Hex = 43) To: Character “D” (Hex = 44)	b6035b3e2048973a208666a519165288

Note: A 1-byte change resulted in a completely different MD5 hash of the file.

124

Now do it yourself!

125

Get yourself a Microsoft Word File:

- Create a new folder on your desktop called dfa-test
- Find a file by searching in Google on a topic of interest along with “filetype:doc” or “filetype:docx”
- Save the file to your dfa-test folder

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Generate a Hash

- Open FileVerifier++
- Click on the “Options” button
- If the “Default Algorithm” is not set to MD5, then change it to MD5 and select “Apply”
- Click “Ok”
- Close the program and then launch it again (ensures that the settings have been changed)
- Click on the ”Dirs” button
- Navigate to the dfa-test folder on your desktop
- Click “Ok”
- You should now see the file path and associated hash for the file that you downloaded
- Leave this application running

127

Breaking the File and then Fixing It at the Bitstream Level

- **Open the file in HxD or Hex Fiend** (use File > Open or drag the file onto the HxD icon on your desktop).
- **Change a byte** within the file in HxD or Hex Fiend and then save the changed file (note the **specific place** that you changed)
- **Re-Verify hash values**
  - Exit out of HxD or Hex Fiend
  - In FileVerifier++, again click on “Verify All”
  - What status do you now see in the Verification column?
- Use HxD or Hex Fiend to **change the byte back** to its earlier state and save it
- **Re-Verify hash values**
  - Go back to FileVerifier++
  - Again click on “Verify All” and “OK”
  - What status do you now see in the Verification column?

128

Breaking the File and then "Fixing" It Using MS Word

- **Open the file in MS Word**
- **Change one word** within the file's content (note the **specific place** that you changed) and save it
- **Re-Verify hash values**
  - Exit out of MS Office
  - In FileVerifier++, again click on "Verify All"
  - What status do you now see in the Verification column?
- Use PowerPoint/Word to **change the text back** to its earlier state and save it
- **Re-Verify hash values**
  - Go back to FileVerifier++
  - Again click on "Verify All" and "OK"
  - What status do you now see in the Verification column?

129

Note on MD5 – Potential Collisions

- From a security perspective, MD5 has been "broken" since 2005
- Someone with malicious intent can create two different bitstreams that result in the same MD5 hash (i.e. MD5 collisions)

130

Implications of MD5 Being "Broken"

- Rarely a concern when MD5 is used for integrity checks on known items (e.g. verifying that a file was transferred correctly to a repository or that files in storage are still intact)
- Can be a concern if one is relying on a hash as proof of record authenticity – risks can include cases of internal tampering
- There are more robust hashes to address this (SHA-2)
- MD5 is still widely used, because it is fast to calculate and widely supported

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What have we covered so far?

✓ **Welcome and introductions**
✓ **Motivation and scope**
✓ **Technical background**
✓ **Representation Information**
4. File systems and file management
5. Extracting data from media
6. Tools and methods
7. Conclusions, questions, discussion

132

File systems and file management

133

How do computers store and manage files?

134

Volumes and Partitions

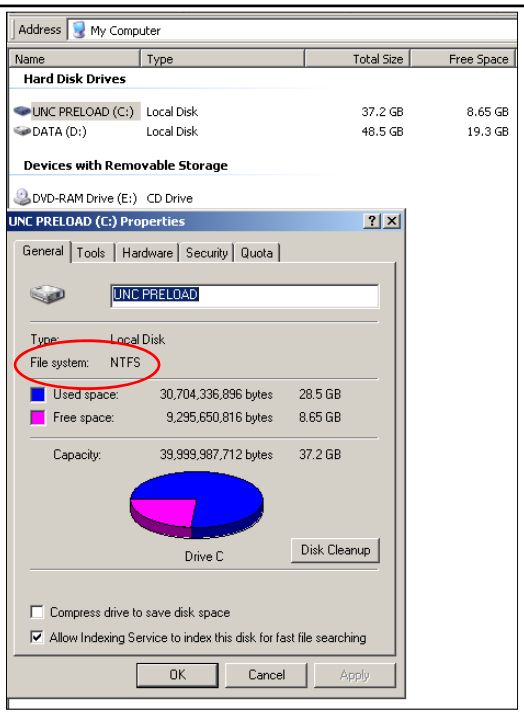
- **Volume**
  - Storage area defined at the logical OS level, which has a single filesystem & usually resides on one disk partition
- **Partition**
  - Exists at physical, media-specific level
  - May be used to set up multiple operating systems on same computer

135

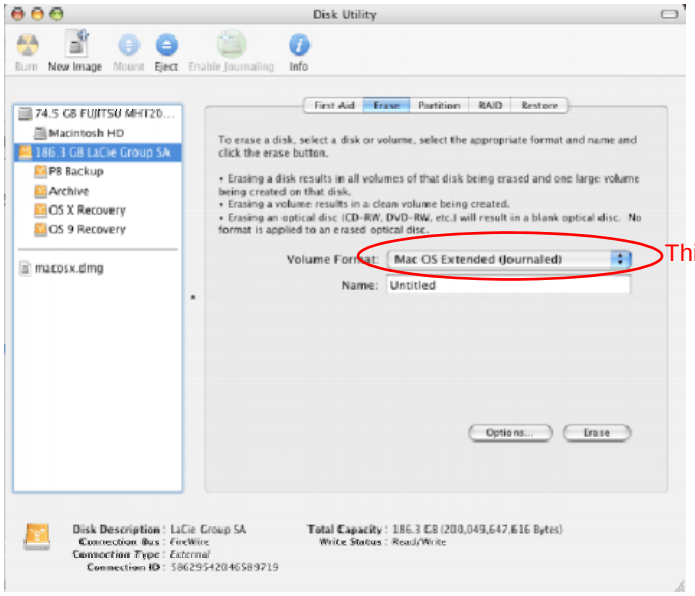
File System

- Access controls
- File names & identifiers
- File size (length)
- Where to find files in storage (sectors and clusters)
- MAC times
  - Modified – when the content was last changed
  - Accessed – time file was last accessed (by person or software)
  - Changed – last time metadata changed
  - Created – (implemented inconsistently, if at all, across different file systems)

136



137



This is HFS+

Source for underlying screenshot: "How to Use 1 External Drive between Mac and PC," nicknack, February 5, 2007, http://www.gigacrate.com/Articles/?p=53

138

File System Examples

Name	Operating System(s) Using it as Native File System [often other OSs can also recognize it]
FAT12, FAT16	MS-DOS
FAT32 (VFAT)	Windows 95, 98
exFAT	Windows XP SP2 and later (primary use: USB drives, SD cards)
NTFS	Windows NT, 2000, XP, Server 2003, Server 2008, Vista
MFS	Macintosh System 1-3
HFS (Hierarchical File System)	Macintosh System 4-8
HFS+	Macintosh System 8.1 – 9, OS X 10.0 – 10.11
APFS	macOS 10.12
ext, ext2, ext3, ext4 (Extended File System)	Linux
XFS	Linux, typically Enterprise variants (RHEL)
HPFS (High Performance File System)	OS/2
ISOFS (ISO 9660)	Any OS that reads data from a CD
JFS1 (Journaled File System)	AIX (IBM)
ReiserFS	Several Linux distributions
UFS (Unix File System) aka FFS (Fast File System)	Various flavors of Unix

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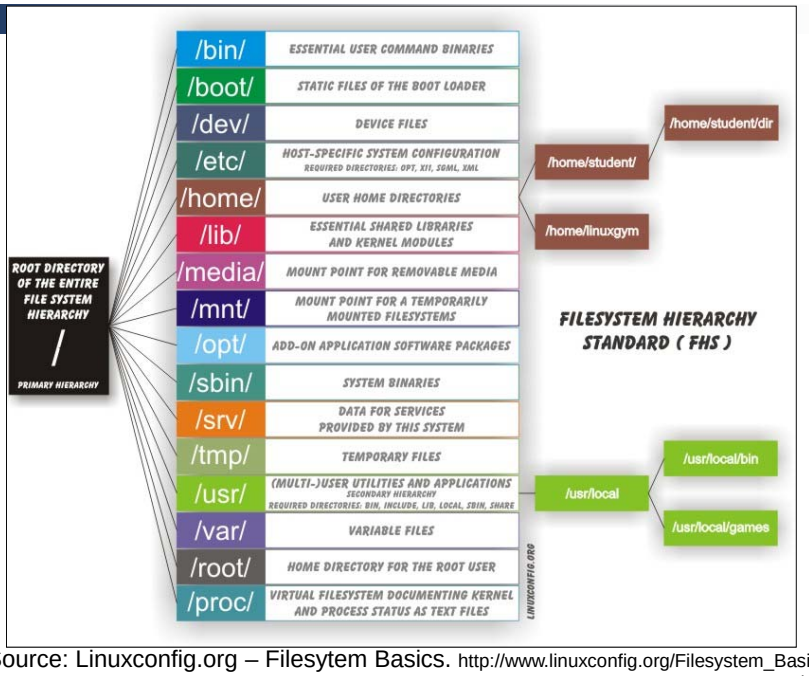
File System Examples

Name	Operating System(s) Using it as Native File System [often other OSs can also recognize it]
FAT12, FAT16	
FAT32 (VFAT)	
exFAT	s, SD cards)
NTFS	Vista
MFS	
HFS (Hierarchical File System)	
HFS+	
APFS	
ext, ext2, ext3, ext4 (Extended File System)	
XFS	
HPFS (High Performance File System)	
ISOFS (ISO 9660)	
JFS1 (Journaled File System)	
ReiserFS	
UFS (Unix File System) aka FFS (Fast File System)	

The filesystems you're most likely to encounter within archival collections

140



Source: Linuxconfig.org – Filesytem Basics. http://www.linuxconfig.org/Filesystem_Basics

141

Microsoft File Systems:

FAT and NTFS

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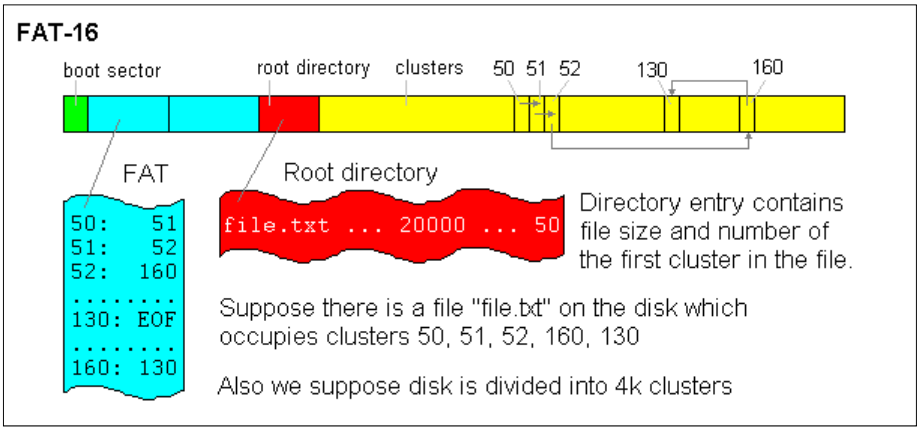
FAT

- Supported by all versions of Windows and most versions of UNIX
- Common in many removable media, e.g. thumb drives, memory cards

http://mono-for-android.1047100.n5.nabble.com/detect-SD-Card-path-td5710218.html

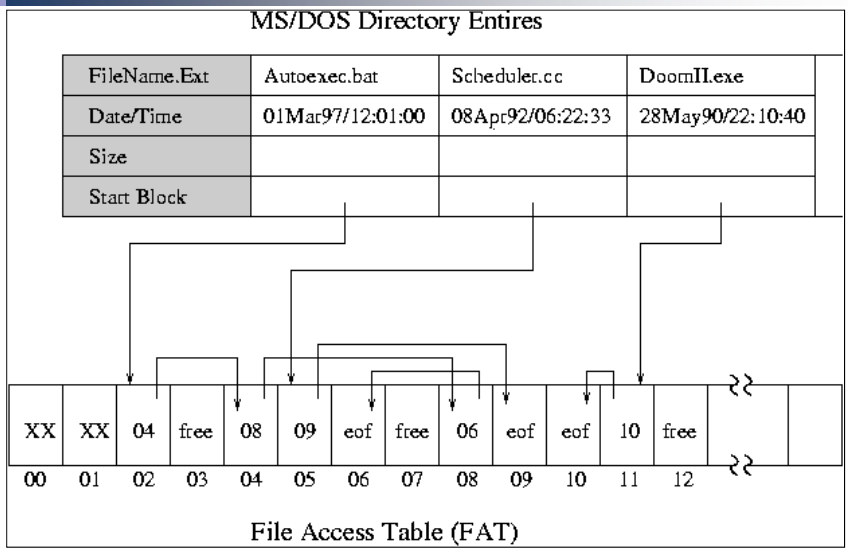
http://www.ubergizmo.com/2008/09/usb-thumb-drive/

143



Source: Mikhail, Ranish. "Partitioning Primer." August 5, 1998. http://www.ranish.com/part/primer.htm

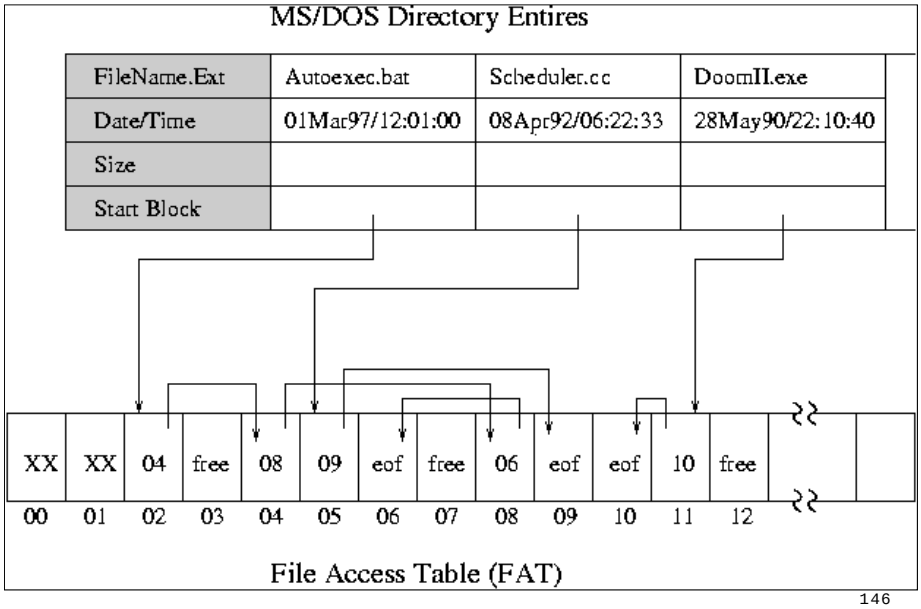
144



Source: Duong, Duc. "I/O devices and File systems." Vietnam OpenCourseWare. November 18, 2008. http://www.vocw.edu.vn/content/m10107/1.3/.

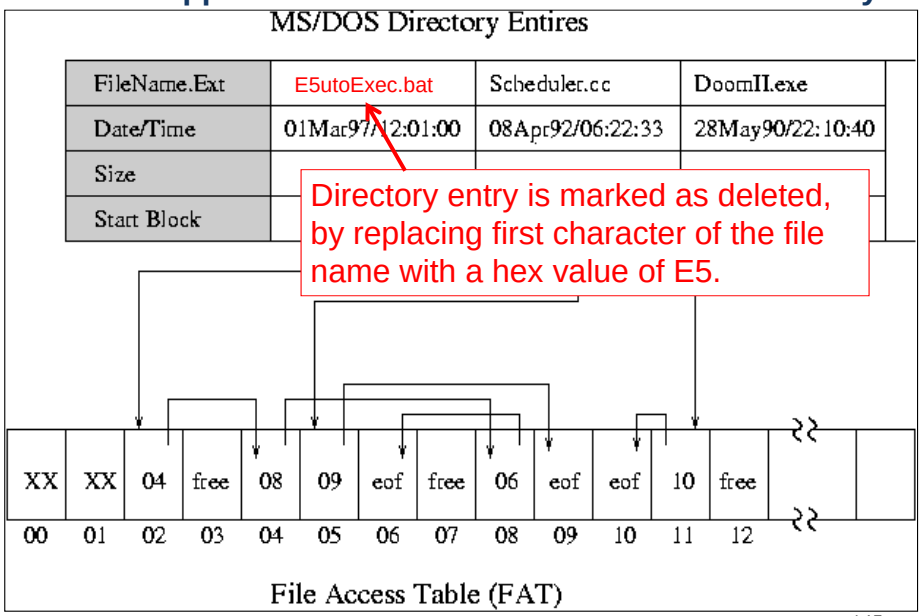
145

What Happens When a File is Deleted from a Directory



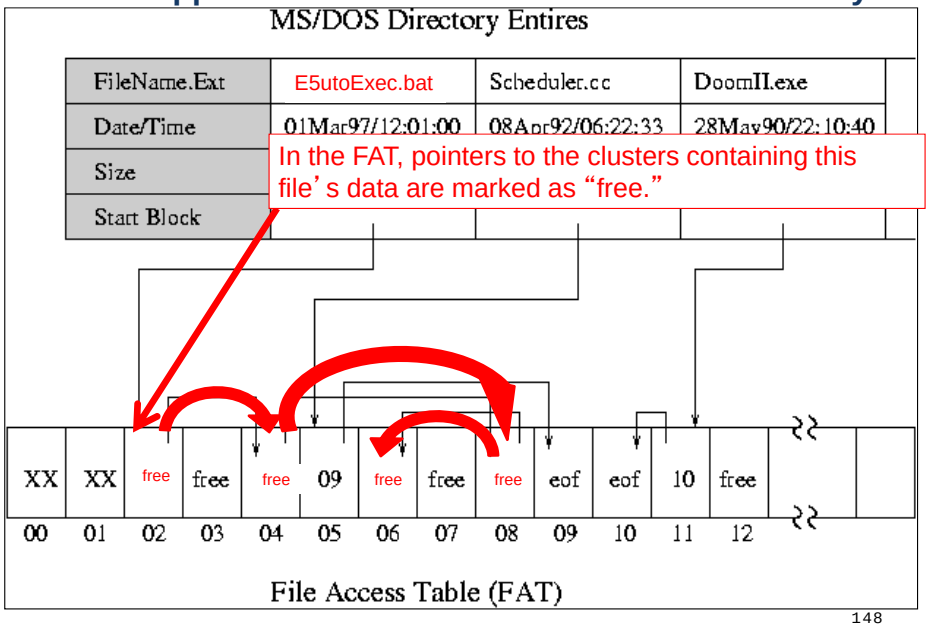
146

What Happens When a File is Deleted from a Directory



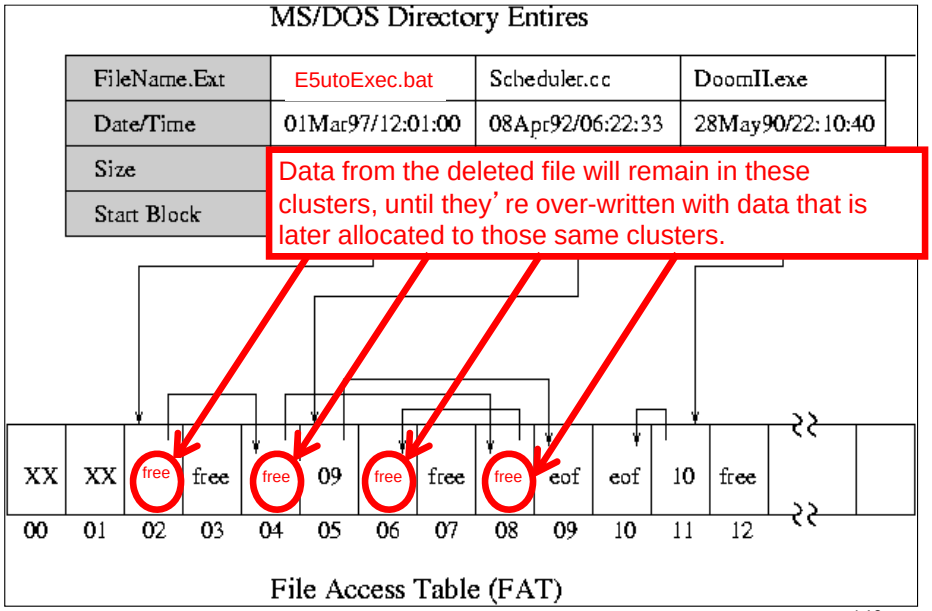
147

What Happens When a File is Deleted from a Directory



148

What Happens When a File is Deleted from a Directory



149

NTFS

- Directory and FAT functions are combined in the Master File Table ($MFT)
- Each MFT record is assigned a unique number
- Good for forensic discovery:
  - For small files (< about 600 bytes), content is stored directly in the MFT itself & remains until overwritten by another MFT record
- Not so good for forensic discovery:
  - After deletion of a file, NTFS replaces (overwrites) the MFT record the next time a new file is created

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"Archive" Formats as Portable File Systems

- Most popular: zip and tar
- Retain important metadata that was in original file system, but does add a layer of representation information (packaging and possibly compression) that software needs to understand
- Compression also reduces robustness in the face of bit loss (any given bit flip is more likely to prevent recovery/rendering of content)
- Note that both zip and tar can be stored uncompressed (more common with tar)

151

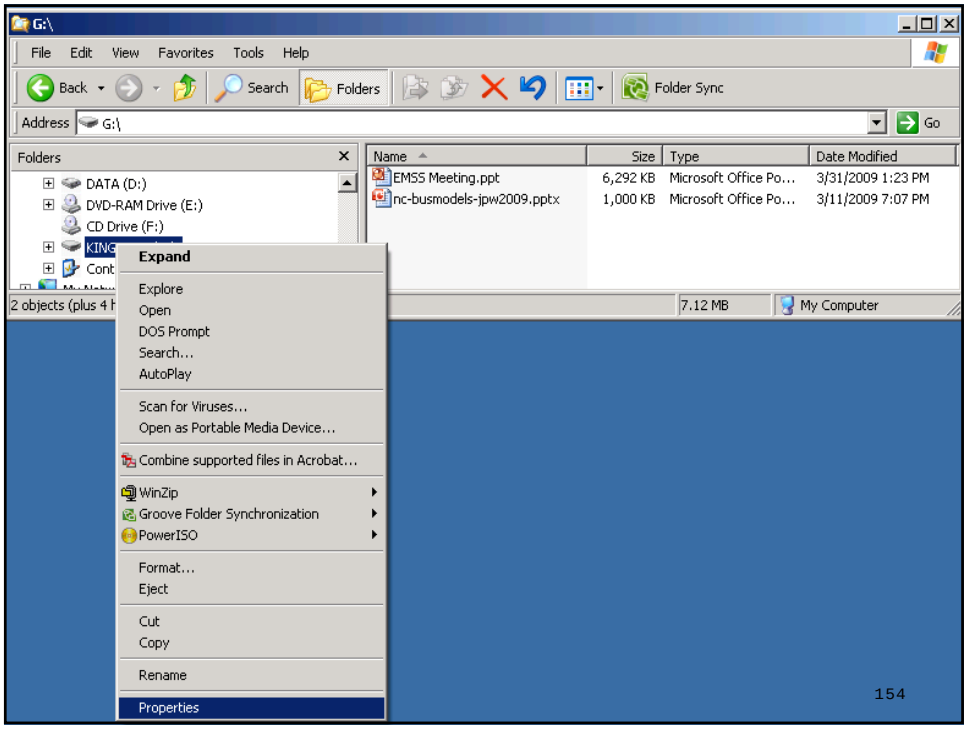
Bit-Level Treatment of Individual Files

152

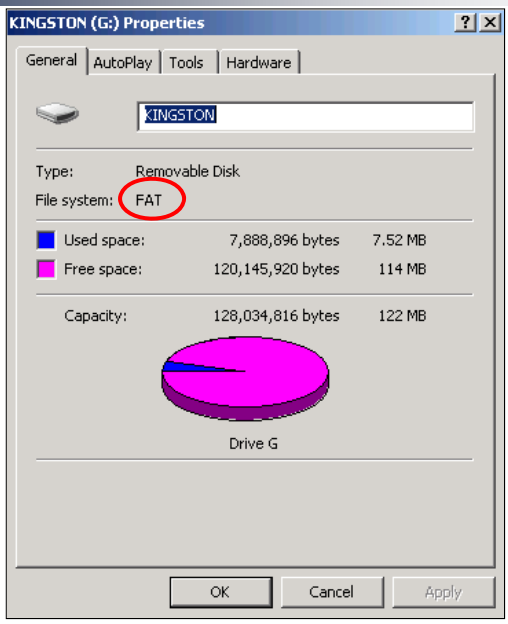
Example scenario:
A professor lets a couple of speakers use a USB thumb drive for their presentation slides.

Let's see what's on it...

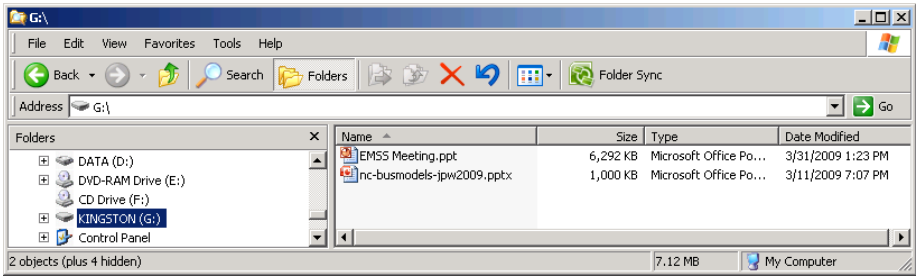
153



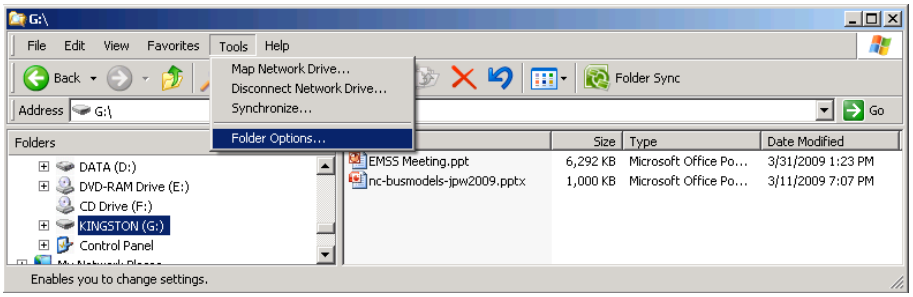
154


KINGSTON (G:) Properties
General
AutoPlay
Tools
Hardware
KINGSTON
Type: Removable Disk
File system: FAT
Used space: 7,888,896 bytes 7.52 MB
Free space: 120,145,920 bytes 114 MB
Capacity: 128,034,816 bytes 122 MB
Drive G
OK
Cancel
Apply

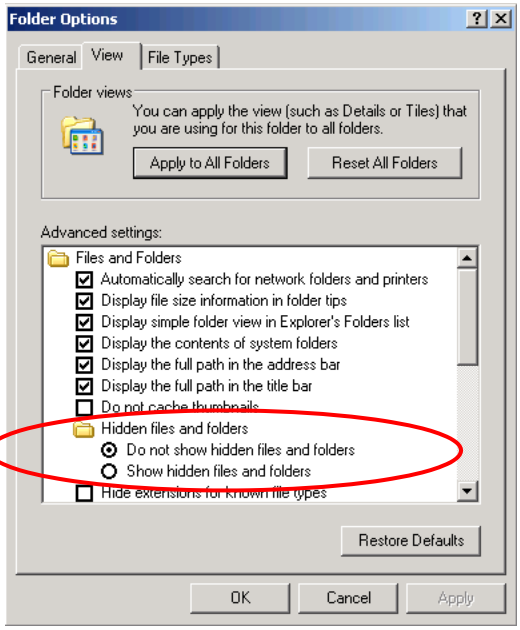
155


G:\
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Folders Folder Sync
Address G:\
Go
Folders
DATA (D:)
DVD-RAM Drive (E:)
CD Drive (F:)
KINGSTON (G:)
Control Panel
Name Size Type Date Modified
EMSS Meeting.ppt 6,292 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/31/2009 1:23 PM
nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx 1,000 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/11/2009 7:07 PM
2 objects (plus 4 hidden)
7.12 MB
My Computer

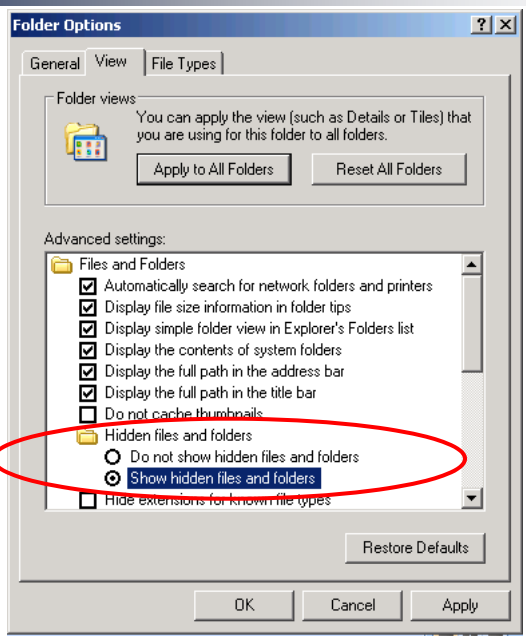
156


G:\
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back
Folder Sync
Address G:\
Go
Map Network Drive...
Disconnect Network Drive...
Synchronize...
Folder Options...
Folders
Size Type Date Modified
DATA (D:)
DVD-RAM Drive (E:)
CD Drive (F:)
KINGSTON (G:)
Control Panel
EMSS Meeting.ppt 6,292 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/31/2009 1:23 PM
nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx 1,000 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/11/2009 7:07 PM
Enables you to change settings.

157

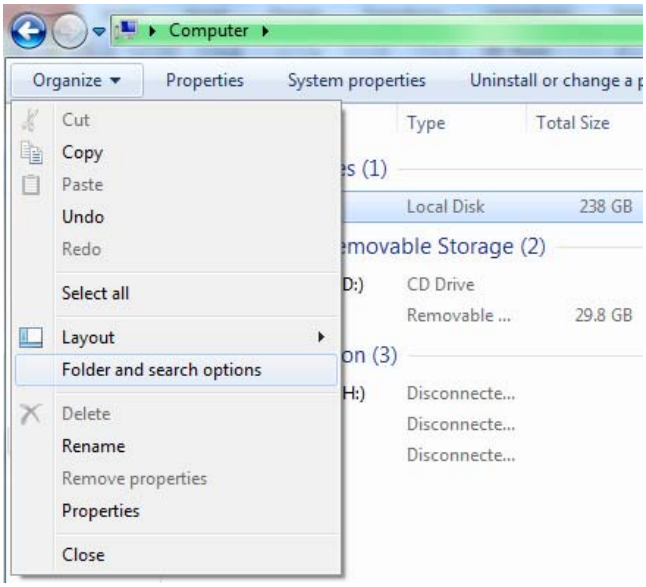

Folder Options
General View File Types
Folder views
You can apply the view (such as Details or Tiles) that you are using for this folder to all folders.
Apply to All Folders
Reset All Folders
Advanced settings:
Files and Folders
Automatically search for network folders and printers
Display file size information in folder tips
Display simple folder view in Explorer's Folders list
Display the contents of system folders
Display the full path in the address bar
Display the full path in the title bar
Do not cache thumbnails
Hidden files and folders
Do not show hidden files and folders
Show hidden files and folders
Hide extensions for known file types
Restore Defaults
OK
Cancel
Apply

158

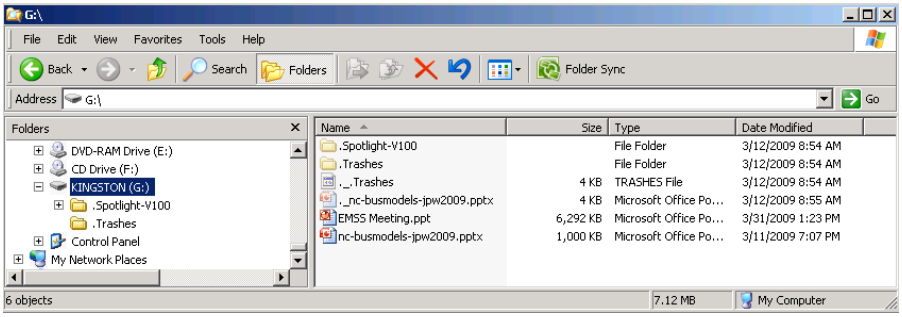


159

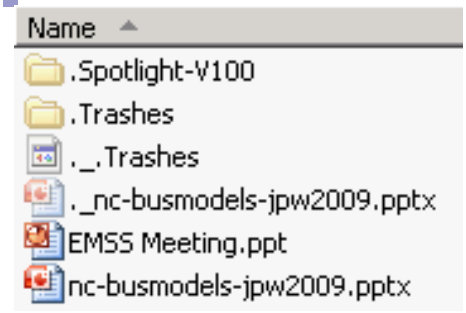
Note: The previous screenshots were from an older version of Windows. On a later version, you'll probably see something like this instead:



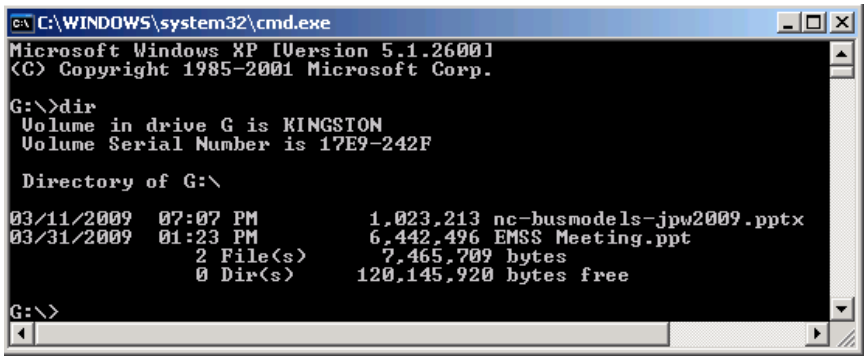
160


G:\
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Folders Folder Sync
Address G:\ Go
Folders
DVD-RAM Drive (E:)
CD Drive (F:)
KINGSTON (G:)
.Spotlight-V100
.Trashes
Control Panel
My Network Places
Name Size Type Date Modified
.Spotlight-V100 File Folder 3/12/2009 8:54 AM
.Trashes File Folder 3/12/2009 8:54 AM
._.Trashes 4 KB TRASHES File 3/12/2009 8:54 AM
._nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx 4 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/12/2009 8:55 AM
EMSS Meeting.ppt 6,292 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/31/2009 1:23 PM
nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx 1,000 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/11/2009 7:07 PM
6 objects
7.12 MB
My Computer

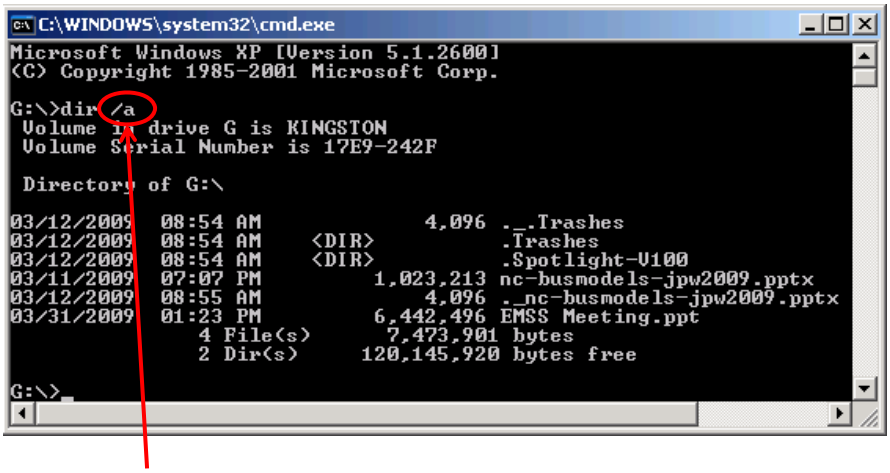
161


Name
.Spotlight-V100
.Trashes
._.Trashes
._nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx
EMSS Meeting.ppt
nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx

162

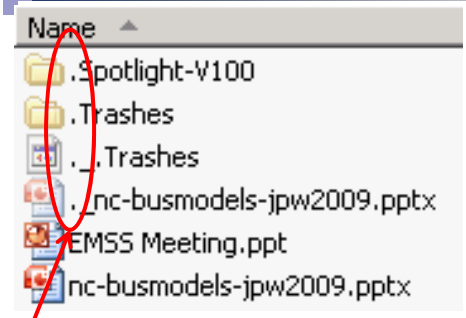


163



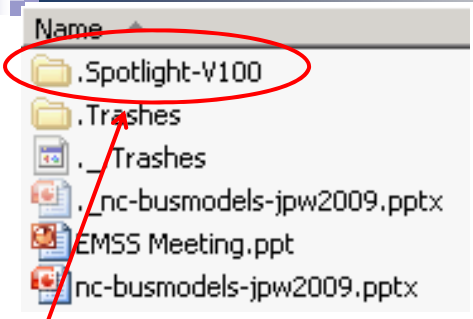
/a switch shows directories, read-only files, hidden files, system files

164



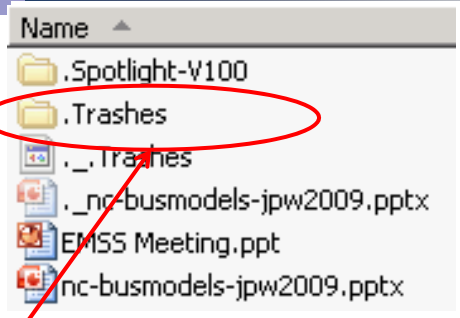
Period at beginning of file names indicates "hidden" files
•Not visible by default in Macintosh Finder
•Visible through Windows Explorer (with proper settings), DOS (using /a switch: dir /a) or Unix (-a switch: ls –a)

165



Spotlight is the desktop search utility on the Macintosh OS X. The contents of this folder serve as an index of all files that were on the thumb drive that last time was last used on a Mac OS X computer.

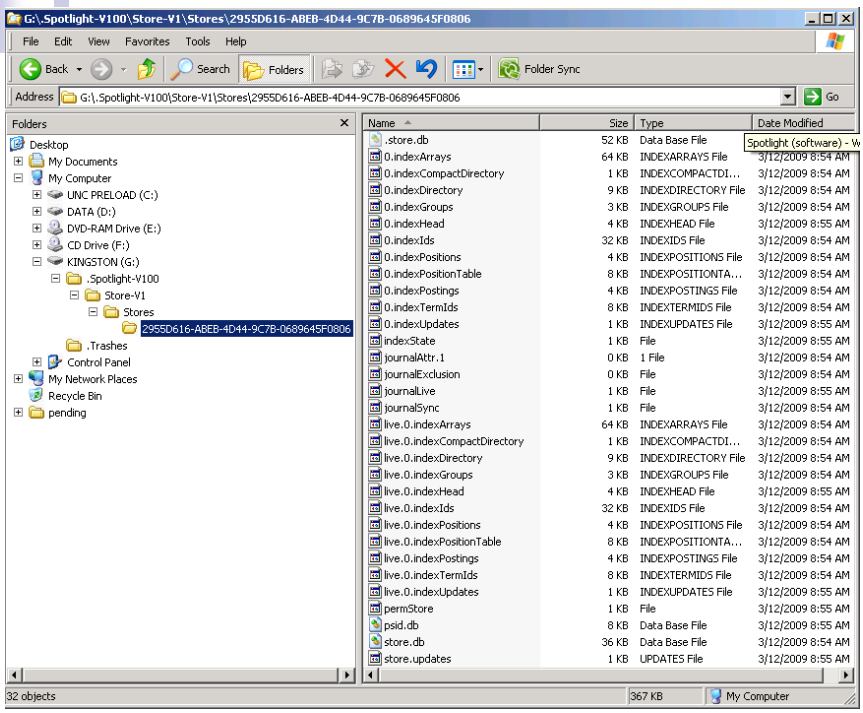
166



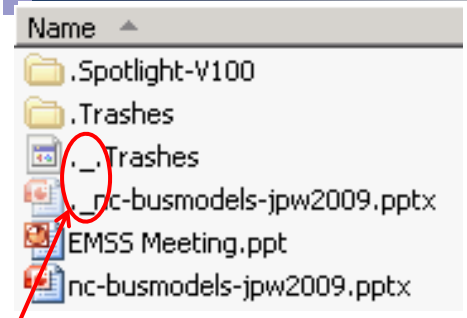
On a Mac, each user's home directory has a .Trash folder, and each volume has a .Trashes folder. This is similar to the Windows Recycling Bin

.Trashes for each volume contains a separate sub-folder for the trash files contributed by each user (named by UID).

167



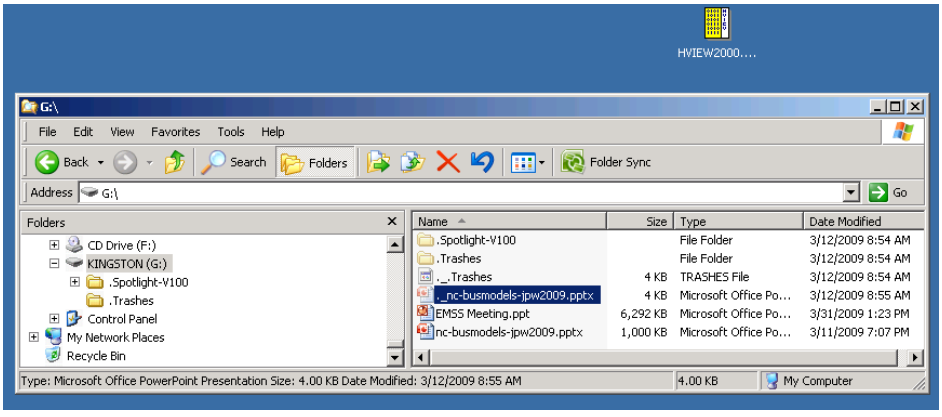
168



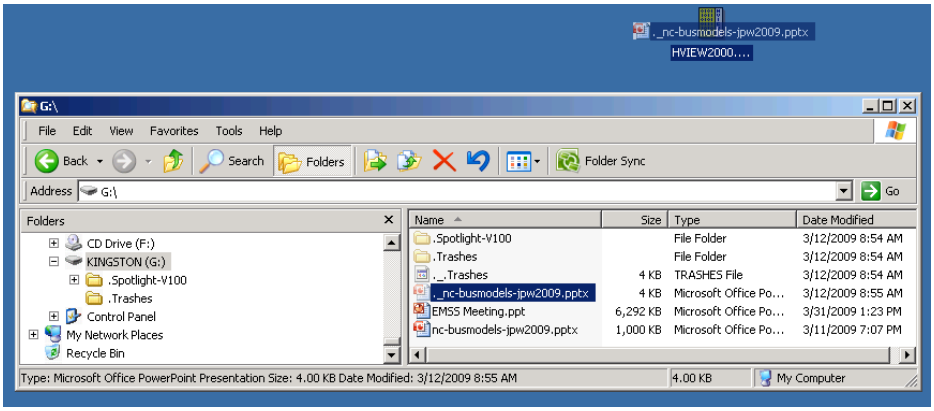
Files beginning with ._ are resource fork files, which the Mac file system uses to store icon, data type, and some other metadata about the file (content being stored in the data fork)

Maybe I should look at a hex dump of one of them to be sure...

169



170


._nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx
HVIEW2000....
G:\
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Folders Folder Sync
Address G:\
Go
Folders
CD Drive (F:)
KINGSTON (G:)
.Spotlight-V100
.Trashes
Control Panel
My Network Places
Recycle Bin
Name Size Type Date Modified
.Spotlight-V100 File Folder 3/12/2009 8:54 AM
.Trashes File Folder 3/12/2009 8:54 AM
._.Trashes 4 KB TRASHES File 3/12/2009 8:54 AM
._nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx 4 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/12/2009 8:55 AM
EMSS Meeting.ppt 6,292 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/31/2009 1:23 PM
nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx 1,000 KB Microsoft Office Po... 3/11/2009 7:07 PM
Type: Microsoft Office PowerPoint Presentation Size: 4.00 KB Date Modified: 3/12/2009 8:55 AM
4.00 KB
My Computer

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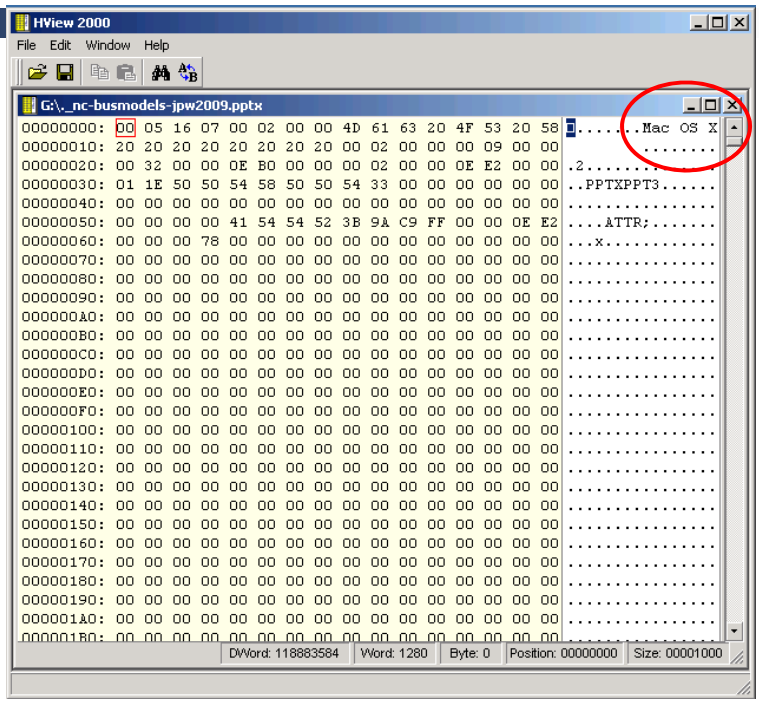
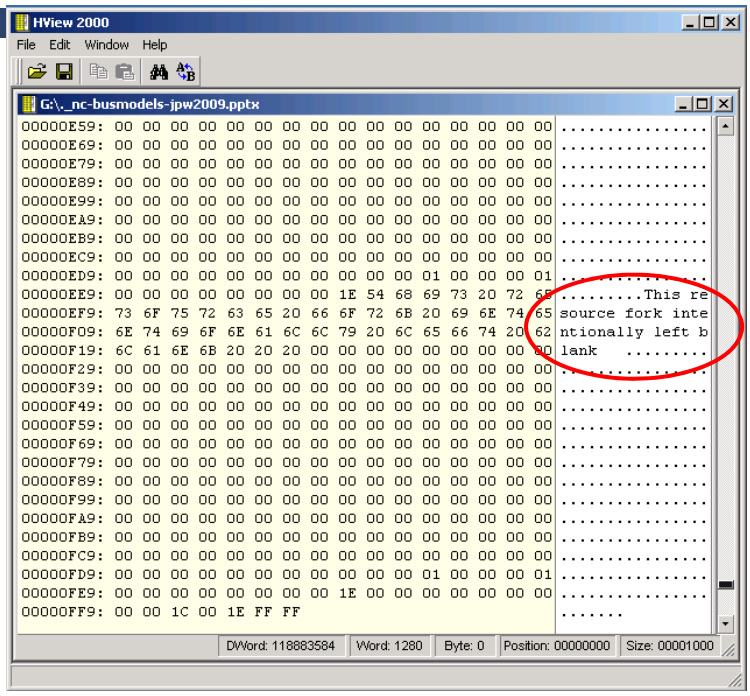

HView 2000
File Edit Window Help
G:\._nc-busmodels-jpw2009.pptx
00000000: 00 05 16 07 00 02 00 00 4D 61 63 20 4F 53 20 58 ....Mac OS X
00000010: 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 00 02 00 00 09 00 00 00 ....
00000020: 00 32 00 00 0E B0 00 00 00 02 00 00 0E E2 00 00 .2..............
00000030: 01 1E 50 50 54 58 50 50 54 33 00 00 00 00 00 00 ..PPTXPPT3......
00000040: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000050: 00 00 00 00 41 54 54 52 3B 9A C9 FF 00 00 0E E2 ....ATTR;.......
00000060: 00 00 00 78 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ...x............
00000070: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000080: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000090: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
000000A0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
000000B0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
000000C0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
000000D0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
000000E0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
000000F0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000100: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000110: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000120: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000130: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000140: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000150: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000160: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000170: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000180: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00000190: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
000001A0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
000001B0: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
DWord: 118883584 Word: 1280 Byte: 0 Position: 00000000 Size: 00001000

172



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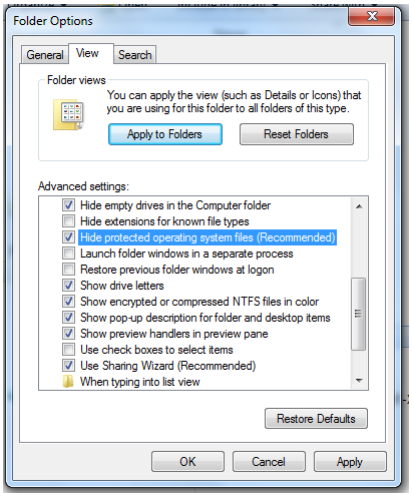
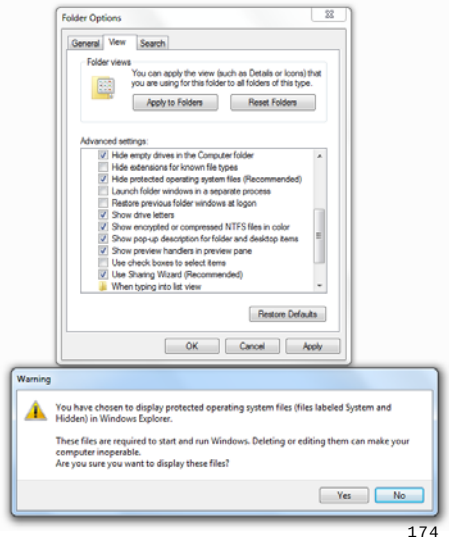
This wasn't necessary for seeing the hidden files (resource forks) in the previous example, but another system change you might want to make on your processing/forensics workstation to show system files that are normally hidden from the user:





174

Forms of "Hidden Data"

Not just what you see when you open a file in its native application

Listed roughly in order of difficulty for identification and retrieval

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Sanitization Taxonomy

LEVEL	WHERE FOUND	DESCRIPTION
Level 0	Regular files	Information contained in the file system. Includes file names, file attributes, and file contents. By definition, no attempts are made to sanitize Level 0 files information. Level 0 also includes information that is written to the disk as part of any sanitization attempt. For example, if a copy of Windows 95 had been installed on a hard drive in an attempt to sanitize the drive, then the files installed into the C:\WINDOWS directory would be considered Level 0 files. No special tools are required to retrieve Level 0 data.
Level 1	Temporary files	Temporary files, including print spooler files, browser cache files, files for "helper" applications, and recycle bin files. Most users either expect the system to automatically delete this data or are not even aware that it exists. Note: Level 0 files are a subset of Level 1 files. Experience has shown that it is useful to distinguish this subset, because many naive users will overlook Level 1 files when they are browsing a computer's hard drive to see if it contains sensitive information. No special tools are required to retrieve Level 1 data, although special training is required to teach the operator where to look.
Level 2	Deleted files	When a file is deleted from a file system, most operating systems do not overwrite the blocks on the hard disk that the file is written on. Instead, they simply remove the file's reference from the containing directory. The file's blocks are then placed on the free list. These files can be recovered using traditional "undelete" tools, such as Norton Utilities.
Level 3	Retained data blocks	Data that can be recovered from a disk, but which does not obviously belong to a named file. Level 3 data includes information in slack space, backing store for virtual memory, and Level 2 data that has been partially overwritten so that an entire file cannot be recovered. A common source of Level 3 data is disks that have been formatted with Windows `Format` command or the Unix `newfs` command. Even though the output of these commands might imply that they overwrite the entire hard drive, in fact they do not, and the vast majority of the formatted disk's information is recoverable with the proper tools. Level 3 data can be recovered using advanced data recovery tools that can "unformat" a disk drive or special-purpose forensics tools.
Level 4	Vendor-hidden data	This level consists of data blocks that can only be accessed using vendor-specific commands. This level includes the drive's controlling program and blocks used for bad-block management.
Level 5	Overwritten data	Many individuals maintain that information can be recovered from a hard drive even after it is overwritten. We reserve Level 5 for such information.

Garfinkel, Simson L., and Abhi Shelat. "Remembrance of Data Passed: A Study of Disk Sanitization Practices." *IEEE Security and Privacy* 1 (2003): 17-27.

176

Within the Files Themselves

- Lots of data in many files that you don't always see with the naked eye. For example:
  - Comments within the code
  - Stored rules & styles
  - Change tracking information
  - Metadata stored in file headers & elsewhere
  - Viruses!

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Examples of Hidden Data in MS Office Documents

- Application used to create document
- Authors, user names, organizational affiliations & author history
- Comments
- Custom properties
- Database queries
- Embedded objects (OLE) – elements not immediately visible (e.g. spreadsheet)
- Fast save – change history appended to end of file, rather than applied to body of document
- GUID – globally unique identifier for computer (see Leach et al, 2005)
- Hidden cells, slides, text – purposely hidden but then possibly forgotten
- Outlook (email) properties & routing slips
- Path information – audio & video paths, author history, linked objects, printers, hyperlinks, include fields, template
- Presentation notes
- Printer driver information
- RSID – Revision save ID (differentiates changes from different editing sessions)
- Tracked changes (added to PPT and Excel in Office XP)
- Versions
- Visual Basic code – including macros & viruses (and identity of code creators)
- Web server information
- White text (on white background)

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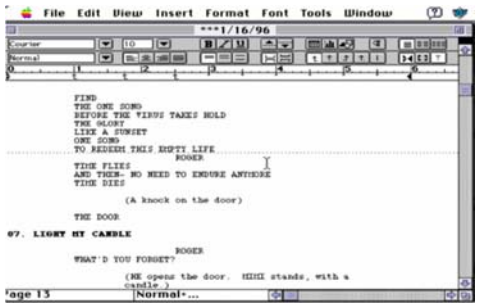
Jonathan Larson Fast Save Example




```
00028b60  09 09 09 2a 2a 2a 31 2f  31 36 2f 39 36 4f 55 52  |...***1/16/96OUR|
00028b70  20 57 45 44 44 49 4e 47  4f 4e 20 54 48 45 20 53  | WEDDINGON THE S|
00028b80  4f 46 41 53 4f 46 41 54  48 45 20 56 49 52 55 53  |OFASOFATHE VIRUS|
00028b90  20 54 41 4b 45 53 20 48  4f 4c 44 4d 45 45 54 20  | TAKES HOLDMEET |
00028ba0  59 4f 55 20 41 54 20 54  48 45 20 53 48 4f 57 49  |YOU AT THE SHOWI|
00028bb0  27 4c 4c 20 54 52 59 20  41 4e 44 20 43 4f 4e 56  |'LL TRY AND CONV|
00028bc0  49 4e 43 45 20 52 4f 47  45 52 20 54 4f 20 47 4f  |INCE ROGER TO GO|
00028bd0  43 4c 4f 53 45 20 4f 4e  43 41 4e 20 49 20 48 45  |CLOSE ONCAN I HE|
00028be0  4c 50 4d 69 73 73 20 50  6f 72 74 65 72 27 73 46  |LPMiss Porter'sF|
00028bf0  4f 52 47 45 54 20 49 54  50 41 55 4c 2a 2a 2a 2a  |ORGET ITPAUL****|
```

http://www.nypl.org/blog/2011/04/22/no-day-today-look-jonathan-larsons-word-files

179

Hidden Image Data

- Content outside crop area
- Layered objects (hidden from view)
- Pixel information in resized and embedded image
- Metadata:
  - GIF – comment extensions and application extensions
  - JPEG - camera use, date/time, distance settings, location, thumbnail image

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Example of EXIF Metadata from a JPEG File (Generated Using exiftool*)

```
---- ExifTool ----
ExifTool Version Number         : 9.38
---- System ----
File Name                       : IMG_20130823_151811.jpg
Directory                       : C:/Users/callee/Documents/images/digital-forensics-lab
File Size                       : 1785 kB
File Modification Date/Time     : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Access Date/Time           : 2013:10:14 17:13:02-04:00
File Creation Date/Time         : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Permissions                : rw-rw-rw-
---- File ----
File Type                       : JPEG
MIME Type                       : image/jpeg
Exif Byte Order                 : Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Image Width                     : 2592
Image Height                    : 1944
Encoding Process                : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample                 : 8
Color Components                : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling            : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
---- GPS ----
GPS Img Direction               : 83
GPS Img Direction Ref           : Magnetic North
GPS Latitude Ref                : North
GPS Latitude                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24"
GPS Longitude Ref               : West
GPS Longitude                   : 79 deg 2' 57.55"
GPS Altitude Ref                : Above Sea Level
GPS Altitude                    : 0 m
GPS Time Stamp                  : 19:18:06
GPS Processing Method           : NETWORK
GPS Date Stamp                  : 2013:08:23
---- IFD0 ----
Orientation                     : Unknown (0)
Camera Model Name               : Galaxy Nexus
Modify Date                     : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Y Cb Cr Positioning             : Centered
Y Resolution                    : 72
Resolution Unit                 : inches
X Resolution                    : 72
Make                            : Samsung
---- ExifIFD ----
Create Date                     : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Date/Time Original              : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Exif Version                    : 0220
Flash Energy                    : 0
Image Unique ID                 : OAEL01
Exposure Time                   : 1/17
ISO                             : 125, 0, 0
Scene Type                      : Directly photographed
Exposure Index                  : undef
Components Configuration        : Y, Cb, Cr, -
F Number                        : 2.8
Compressed Bits Per Pixel       : 0
Sensing Method                  : One-chip color area
Exposure Program                : Aperture-priority AE
Aperture Value                  : 2.6
Brightness Value                : 0
Subject Distance Range          : Unknown
Shutter Speed Value             : 1/15
Subject Distance                : 0 m
Saturation                      : Normal
Color Space                     : sRGB
Contrast                        : Normal
Metering Mode                   : Multi-spot
Flashpix Version                :
Exposure Compensation           : 0
Exif Image Height               : 1944
Max Aperture Value              : 2.6
Sharpness                       : Normal
Exif Image Width                : 2592
Focal Length                    : 3.4 mm
Digital Zoom Ratio              : 1
Light Source                    : Fluorescent
Scene Capture Type              : Standard
Flash                           : Off, Did not fire
Custom Rendered                 : Custom
White Balance                   : Auto
Exposure Mode                   : Auto
---- IFD1 ----
Compression                     : JPEG (old-style)
Image Width                     : 160
Image Height                    : 120
Thumbnail Offset                : 1239
Thumbnail Length                : 7164
---- Composite ----
Aperture                        : 2.8
GPS Altitude                    : 0 m Above Sea Level
GPS Date/Time                   : 2013:08:23 19:18:06Z
GPS Latitude                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N
GPS Longitude                   : 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
GPS Position                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N, 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
Image Size                      : 2592x1944
Shutter Speed                   : 1/17
Thumbnail Image                 : (Binary data 7164 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Focal Length                    : 3.4 mm
Light Value                     : 6.7
```

*http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/ (Also available through the BitCurator environment)

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Example of EXIF Metadata from a JPEG File (Generated Using exiftool*)

---- ExifTool ----
ExifTool Version Number : 9.38
---- System ----
File Name : IMG_20130823_151811.jpg
Directory : C:/Users/callee/Documents/images/digital-forensics-lab
File Size : 1785 kB
File Modification Date/Time : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Access Date/Time : 2013:10:14 17:13:02-04:00
File Creation Date/Time : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Permissions : rw-rw-rw-
---- File ----
File Type : JPEG
MIME Type : image/jpeg
Exif Byte Order : Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Image Width : 2592
Image Height : 1944
Encoding Process : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample : 8
Color Components : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
---- GPS ----
GPS Img Direction : 83
GPS Img Direction Ref : Magnetic North
GPS Latitude Ref : North
GPS Latitude : 35 deg 55' 2.24"
GPS Longitude Ref : West
GPS Longitude : 79 deg 2' 57.55"
GPS Altitude Ref : Above Sea Level
GPS Altitude : 0 m
GPS Time Stamp : 19:18:06
GPS Processing Method : NETWORK
GPS Date Stamp : 2013:08:23
---- IFD0 ----
Orientation : Unknown (0)
Camera Model Name : Galaxy Nexus
Modify Date : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Y Cb Cr Positioning : Centered
Y Resolution : 72
Resolution Unit : inches
X Resolution : 72
Make : Samsung
---- ExifIFD ----
Create Date : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Date/Time Original : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Exif Version : 0220
Flash Energy : 0
Image Unique ID : OAEL01
Exposure Time : 1/17
ISO : 125, 0, 0
Scene Type : Directly photographed
Exposure Index : undef
Components Configuration : Y, Cb, Cr, -
F Number : 2.8
Compressed Bits Per Pixel : 0
Sensing Method : One-chip color area
Exposure Program : Aperture-priority AE
Aperture Value : 2.6
Brightness Value : 0
Subject Distance Range : Unknown
Shutter Speed Value : 1/15
Subject Distance : 0 m
Saturation : Normal
Color Space : sRGB
Contrast : Normal
Metering Mode : Multi-spot
Flashpix Version :
Exposure Compensation : 0
Exif Image Height : 1944
Max Aperture Value : 2.6
Sharpness : Normal
Exif Image Width : 2592
Focal Length : 3.4 mm
Digital Zoom Ratio : 1
Light Source : Fluorescent
Scene Capture Type : Standard
Flash : Off, Did not fire
Custom Rendered : Custom
White Balance : Auto
Exposure Mode : Auto
---- IFD1 ----
Compression : JPEG (old-style)
Image Width : 160
Image Height : 120
Thumbnail Offset : 1239
Thumbnail Length : 7164
---- Composite ----
Aperture : 2.8
GPS Altitude : 0 m Above Sea Level
GPS Date/Time : 2013:08:23 19:18:06Z
GPS Latitude : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N
GPS Longitude : 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
GPS Position : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N, 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
Image Size : 2592x1944
Shutter Speed : 1/17
Thumbnail Image : (Binary data 7164 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Focal Length : 3.4 mm
Light Value : 6.7

*http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/ (Also available through the BitCurator environment)

182

Example of EXIF Metadata from a JPEG File (Generated Using exiftool*)

```
---- ExifTool ----
ExifTool Version Number         : 9.38
---- System ----
File Name                       : IMG_20130823_151811.jpg
Directory                       : C:/Users/callee/Documents/images/digital-forensics-lab
File Size                       : 1785 kB
File Modification Date/Time     : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Access Date/Time           : 2013:10:14 17:13:02-04:00
File Creation Date/Time         : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Permissions                : rw-rw-rw-
---- File ----
File Type                       : JPEG
MIME Type                       : image/jpeg
Exif Byte Order                 : Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Image Width                     : 2592
Image Height                    : 1944
Encoding Process                : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample                 : 8
Color Components                : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling            : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
---- GPS ----
GPS Img Direction               : 83
GPS Img Direction Ref           : Magnetic North
GPS Latitude Ref                : North
GPS Latitude                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24"
GPS Longitude Ref               : West
GPS Longitude                   : 79 deg 2' 57.55"
GPS Altitude Ref                : Above Sea Level
GPS Altitude                    : 0 m
GPS Time Stamp                  : 19:18:06
GPS Processing Method           : NETWORK
GPS Date Stamp                  : 2013:08:23
---- IFD0 ----
Orientation                     : Unknown (0)
Camera Model Name               : Galaxy Nexus
Modify Date                     : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Y Cb Cr Positioning             : Centered
Y Resolution                    : 72
Resolution Unit                 : inches
X Resolution                    : 72
Make                            : Samsung
---- ExifIFD ----
Create Date                     : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Date/Time Original              : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Exif Version                    : 0220
Flash Energy                    : 0
Image Unique ID                 : OAEL01
Exposure Time                   : 1/17
ISO                             : 125, 0, 0
Scene Type                      : Directly photographed
Exposure Index                  : undef
Components Configuration        : Y, Cb, Cr, -
F Number                        : 2.8
Compressed Bits Per Pixel       : 0
Sensing Method                  : One-chip color area
Exposure Program                : Aperture-priority AE
Aperture Value                  : 2.6
Brightness Value                : 0
Subject Distance Range          : Unknown
Shutter Speed Value             : 1/15
Subject Distance                : 0 m
Saturation                      : Normal
Color Space                     : sRGB
Contrast                        : Normal
Metering Mode                   : Multi-spot
Flashpix Version                :
Exposure Compensation           : 0
Exif Image Height               : 1944
Max Aperture Value              : 2.6
Sharpness                       : Normal
Exif Image Width                : 2592
Focal Length                    : 3.4 mm
Digital Zoom Ratio              : 1
Light Source                    : Fluorescent
Scene Capture Type              : Standard
Flash                           : Off, Did not fire
Custom Rendered                 : Custom
White Balance                   : Auto
Exposure Mode                   : Auto
---- IFD1 ----
Compression                     : JPEG (old-style)
Image Width                     : 160
Image Height                    : 120
Thumbnail Offset                : 1239
Thumbnail Length                : 7164
---- Composite ----
Aperture                        : 2.8
GPS Altitude                    : 0 m Above Sea Level
GPS Date/Time                   : 2013:08:23 19:18:06Z
GPS Latitude                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N
GPS Longitude                   : 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
GPS Position                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N, 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
Image Size                      : 2592x1944
Shutter Speed                   : 1/17
Thumbnail Image                 : (Binary data 7164 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Focal Length                    : 3.4 mm
Light Value                     : 6.7
```

*http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/ (Also available through the BitCurator environment)

183

Example of EXIF Metadata from a JPEG File (Generated Using exiftool*)

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---- System ----
File Name                       : IMG_20130823_151811.jpg
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File Size                       : 1785 kB
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File Access Date/Time           : 2013:10:14 17:13:02-04:00
File Creation Date/Time         : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Permissions                : rw-rw-rw-
---- File ----
File Type                       : JPEG
MIME Type                       : image/jpeg
Exif Byte Order                 : Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Image Width                     : 2592
Image Height                    : 1944
Encoding Process                : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample                 : 8
Color Components                : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling            : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
---- GPS ----
GPS Img Direction               : 83
GPS Img Direction Ref           : Magnetic North
GPS Latitude Ref                : North
GPS Latitude                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24"
GPS Longitude Ref               : West
GPS Longitude                   : 79 deg 2' 57.55"
GPS Altitude Ref                : Above Sea Level
GPS Altitude                    : 0 m
GPS Time Stamp                  : 19:18:06
GPS Processing Method           : NETWORK
GPS Date Stamp                  : 2013:08:23
---- IFD0 ----
Orientation                     : Unknown (0)
Camera Model Name               : Galaxy Nexus
Modify Date                     : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Y Cb Cr Positioning             : Centered
Y Resolution                    : 72
Resolution Unit                 : inches
X Resolution                    : 72
Make                            : Samsung
---- ExifIFD ----
Create Date                     : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Date/Time Original              : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Exif Version                    : 0220
Flash Energy                    : 0
Image Unique ID                 : OAEL01
Exposure Time                   : 1/17
ISO                             : 125, 0, 0
Scene Type                      : Directly photographed
Exposure Index                  : undef
Components Configuration        : Y, Cb, Cr, -
F Number                        : 2.8
Compressed Bits Per Pixel       : 0
Sensing Method                  : One-chip color area
Exposure Program                : Aperture-priority AE
Aperture Value                  : 2.6
Brightness Value                : 0
Subject Distance Range          : Unknown
Shutter Speed Value             : 1/15
Subject Distance                : 0 m
Saturation                      : Normal
Color Space                     : sRGB
Contrast                        : Normal
Metering Mode                   : Multi-spot
Flashpix Version                :
Exposure Compensation           : 0
Exif Image Height               : 1944
Max Aperture Value              : 2.6
Sharpness                       : Normal
Exif Image Width                : 2592
Focal Length                    : 3.4 mm
Digital Zoom Ratio              : 1
Light Source                    : Fluorescent
Scene Capture Type              : Standard
Flash                           : Off, Did not fire
Custom Rendered                 : Custom
White Balance                   : Auto
Exposure Mode                   : Auto
---- IFD1 ----
Compression                     : JPEG (old-style)
Image Width                     : 160
Image Height                    : 120
Thumbnail Offset                : 1239
Thumbnail Length                : 7164
---- Composite ----
Aperture                        : 2.8
GPS Altitude                    : 0 m Above Sea Level
GPS Date/Time                   : 2013:08:23 19:18:06Z
GPS Latitude                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N
GPS Longitude                   : 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
GPS Position                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N, 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
Image Size                      : 2592x1944
Shutter Speed                   : 1/17
Thumbnail Image                 : (Binary data 7164 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Focal Length                    : 3.4 mm
Light Value                     : 6.7
```

*http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/ (Also available through the BitCurator environment)

184

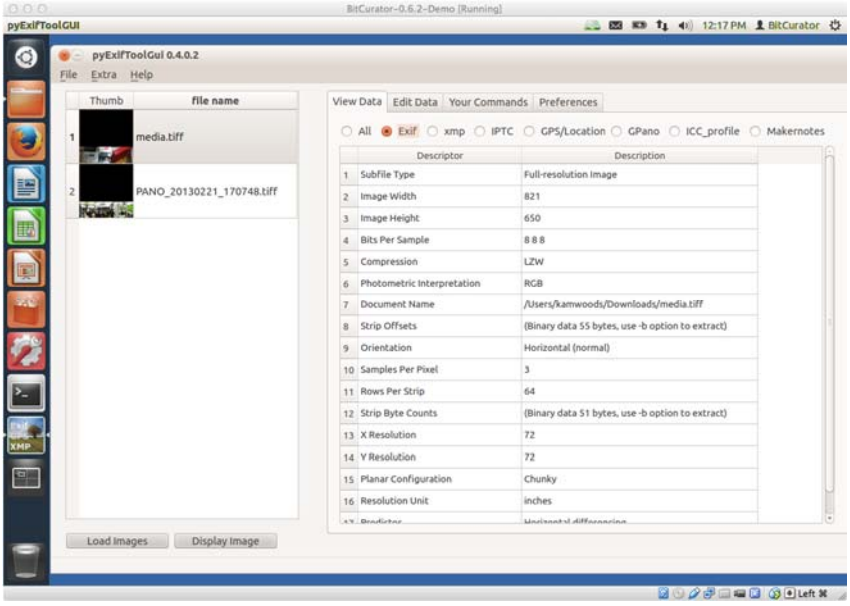
Example of EXIF Metadata from a JPEG File (Generated Using exiftool*)

```
---- ExifTool ----
ExifTool Version Number         : 9.38
---- System ----
File Name                       : IMG_20130823_151811.jpg
Directory                       : C:/Users/callee/Documents/images/digital-forensics-lab
File Size                       : 1785 kB
File Modification Date/Time     : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Access Date/Time           : 2013:10:14 17:13:02-04:00
File Creation Date/Time         : 2013:08:23 16:36:44-04:00
File Permissions                : rw-rw-rw-
---- File ----
File Type                       : JPEG
MIME Type                       : image/jpeg
Exif Byte Order                 : Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Image Width                     : 2592
Image Height                    : 1944
Encoding Process                : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample                 : 8
Color Components                : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling            : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
---- GPS ----
GPS Img Direction               : 83
GPS Img Direction Ref           : Magnetic North
GPS Latitude Ref                : North
GPS Latitude                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24"
GPS Longitude Ref               : West
GPS Longitude                   : 79 deg 2' 57.55"
GPS Altitude Ref                : Above Sea Level
GPS Altitude                    : 0 m
GPS Time Stamp                  : 19:18:06
GPS Processing Method           : NETWORK
GPS Date Stamp                  : 2013:08:23
---- IFD0 ----
                                : [illegible]
Camera Model Name               : Galaxy Nexus
Modify Date                     : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Y Cb Cr Positioning             : Centered
Y Resolution                    : 72
Resolution Unit                 : inches
X Resolution                    : 72
Make                            : Samsung
---- ExifIFD ----
Create Date                     : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Date/Time Original              : 2013:08:23 15:18:11
Exif Version                    : 0220
Flash Energy                    : 0
Image Unique ID                 : OAEL01
Exposure Time                   : 1/17
ISO                             : 125, 0, 0
Scene Type                      : Directly photographed
Exposure Index                  : undef
Components Configuration        : Y, Cb, Cr, -
F Number                        : 2.8
Compressed Bits Per Pixel       : 0
Sensing Method                  : One-chip color area
Exposure Program                : Aperture-priority AE
Aperture Value                  : 2.6
Brightness Value                : 0
Subject Distance Range          : Unknown
Shutter Speed Value             : 1/15
Subject Distance                : 0 m
Saturation                      : Normal
Color Space                     : sRGB
Contrast                        : Normal
Metering Mode                   : Multi-spot
Flashpix Version                :
Exposure Compensation           : 0
Exif Image Height               : 1944
Max Aperture Value              : 2.6
Sharpness                       : Normal
Exif Image Width                : 2592
Focal Length                    : 3.4 mm
Digital Zoom Ratio              : 1
Light Source                    : Fluorescent
Scene Capture Type              : Standard
Flash                           : Off, Did not fire
Custom Rendered                 : Custom
White Balance                   : Auto
Exposure Mode                   : Auto
---- IFD1 ----
Compression                     : JPEG (old-style)
Image Width                     : 160
Image Height                    : 120
Thumbnail Offset                : 1239
Thumbnail Length                : 7164
---- Composite ----
Aperture                        : 2.8
GPS Altitude                    : 0 m Above Sea Level
GPS Date/Time                   : 2013:08:23 19:18:06Z
GPS Latitude                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N
GPS Longitude                   : 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
GPS Position                    : 35 deg 55' 2.24" N, 79 deg 2' 57.55" W
Image Size                      : 2592x1944
Shutter Speed                   : 1/17
Thumbnail Image                 : (Binary data 7164 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Focal Length                    : 3.4 mm
Light Value                     : 6.7
```

*http://www.sno.phy.queensu.ca/~phil/exiftool/ (Also available through the BitCurator environment)

185

EXIF Metadata From Header of a TIFF File*



*Using pyExifToolGUI in the BitCurator environment

186

Identifying File Types

- Magic numbers and file signatures
- File extensions
- Metadata stored in file system
- MIME types

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Magic Numbers and File Signatures

- Distinct string or pattern that is found within files of a given type (most often in the header)
- Most effective searches for magic numbers often involve regular expressions (e.g. grep) in order to indicate multiple variations of a pattern
- Utilities that use this: file (Unix), TrID, DROID, FITS
- Examples:

File Format	Hex	ASCII
DOC	D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1	ÐÏà¡±á
JPG	FF D8 FF	ÿØÿ
PDF	25 50 44 46 2D 31 2E	%PDF-1.
ZIP	50 4B 03 04	PK..

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Try it Yourself!

- Go back to the file that you downloaded earlier and open it again in HxD or Hex Fiend
- What do you see at the beginning?
- Is there a pattern that matches one of these?

File Format	Hex	ASCII
DOC	D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1	ÐÏà¡±á
JPG	FF D8 FF	ÿØÿ
PDF	25 50 44 46 2D 31 2E	%PDF-1.
ZIP	50 4B 03 04	PK..

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File Information Tool Set (FITS) https://code.google.com/p/fits/

- FITS "identifies, validates, and extracts technical metadata for various file formats. It wraps several third-party open source tools, normalizes and consolidates their output, and reports any errors. FITS was created by the Harvard University Library Office for Information Systems for use in its Digital Repository Service (DRS)."
- Tools currently bundled into it:
  - Jhove
  - Exiftool
  - National Library of New Zealand Metadata Extractor
  - DROID
  - FFIdent
  - File Utility (windows)
- Note: you can find and run FITS from the command line in the BitCurator environment (found in "Additional Tools")

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File Extensions

- Changing file extension usually changes default application that OS uses to open (i.e. associates with) the file
- The “8.3” (eight characters, followed by three-character extension) limit in the past – based on FAT – resulted in many creative uses of the extension portion of file name (e.g. reports1.994, april-94.rpt)
- Convention is often still to use only three letters
- No authority for standardizing use, so three-letter extensions are often shared by many formats
- Security risks associated with trusting the file extension to be accurate – malicious code masquerading as another type of file (e.g. viruses sent as email attachments)

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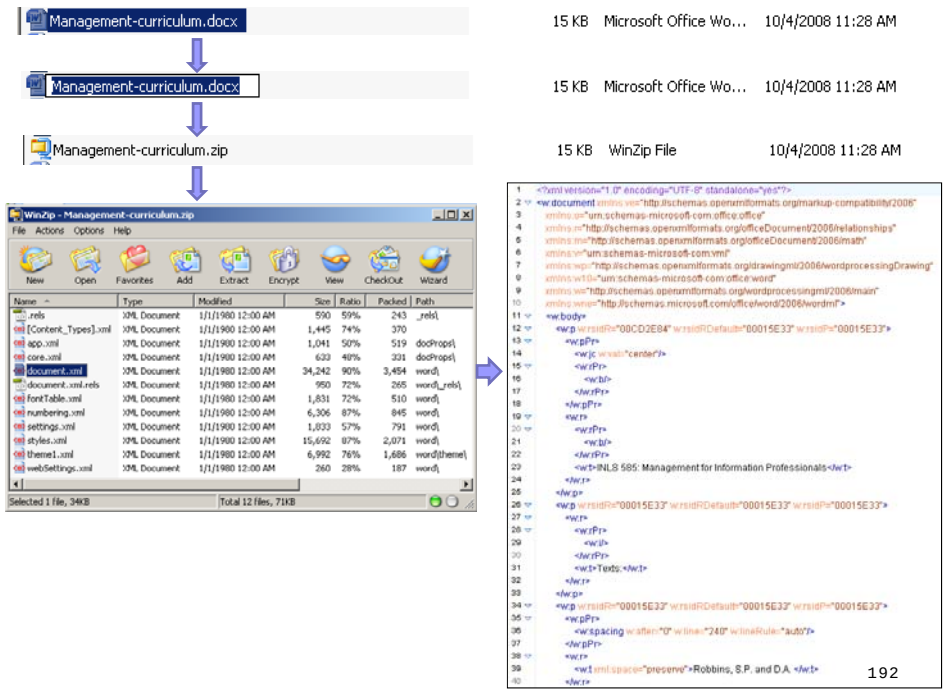


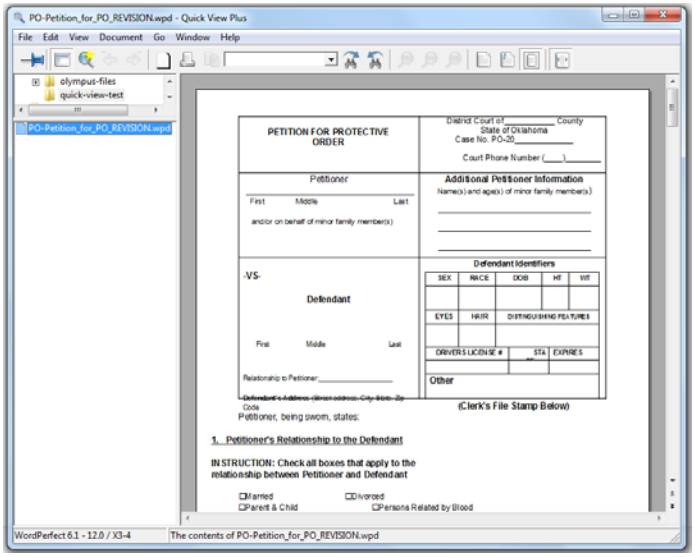
192

MIME types

- Widely adopted and recognized by applications
- Based on two-level hierarchy (e.g. text/html, application/octet-stream, image/tiff)
- Major advantage is official registration of MIME types through a central authority

193

Reproducing In-Application Rendering (Sort of) for Archival Processing



Viewing a WordPerfect document on a computer that doesn't have WordPerfect installed, using Quick View Plus

194

Properly Extracting Data from Media

195

Strategies for avoiding accidental manipulation of volatile data

- Use write-blocking equipment when first reading from a medium (hardware, if possible)
- Make bit-level image
- Create checksums before and after file transfers and transformations
- Pay special attention to irreversible changes...

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Examples of Irreversible Changes

- Lossy compression (e.g. JPEG)
- Lower-quality surrogate (e.g. thumbnail image, access copy of video)
- Format conversion (e.g. Word to PDF/A, Excel to CSV)
- Character encoding (e.g. EBCDIC to ASCII)
- Normalization of data values (e.g. date values in a database to a common date encoding)
- Rewriting pointers (e.g. links in a web site from absolute to relative or vice versa)
- Overwriting older versions files or values with newer versions
- Pulling files out of their native file system

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Write Blocking – One-Way Streets for Data

- Ensures that data can be read from the device, but no bits can be changed
- Doesn't just prevent changes conscious made by user but also changes made by the system
- Options for write blocking (in order of most to least certain to prevent writes to the drive):
  - Dedicated write blockers
  - Writing blocking tabs or settings on the device itself
  - Software-based write blocking

Image source: http://thinng.com/1555-one-way-sign-seat

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Dedicated Hardware Write Blockers

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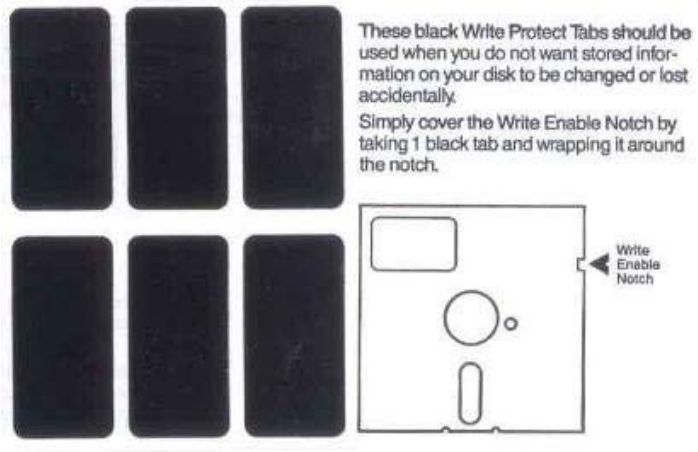
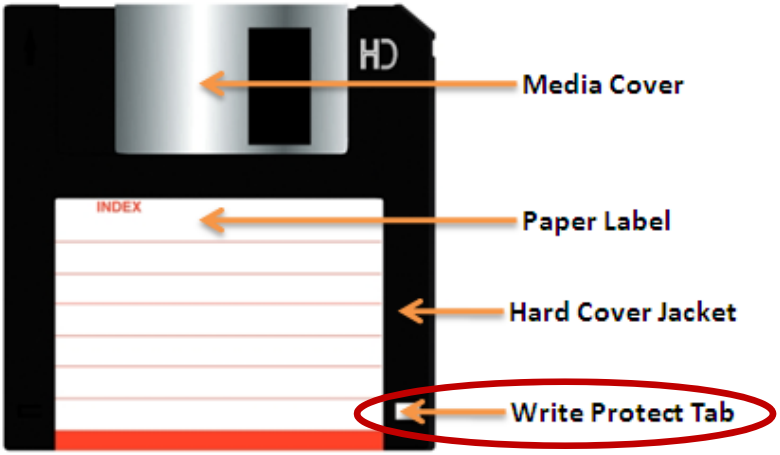
5.25 Inch Floppy – If light can get through, it's **not** write protected



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Floppy_tabs_3x2.jpg

200

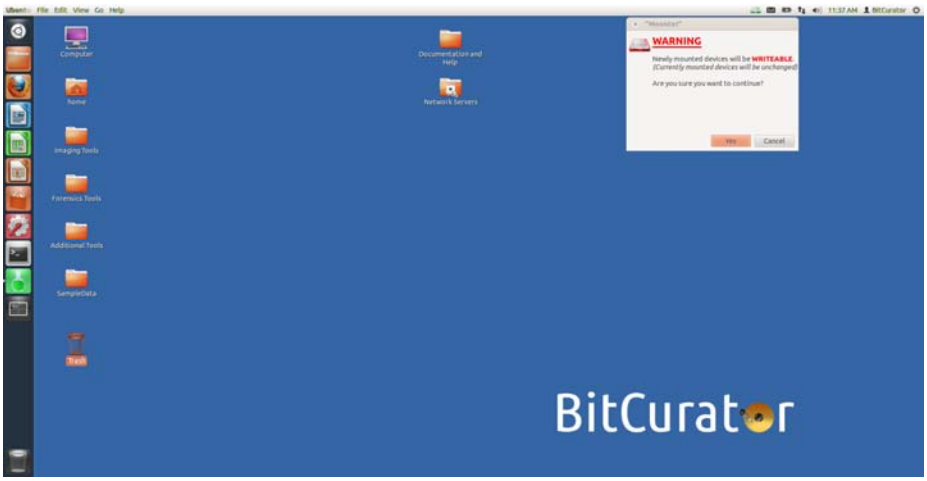
3.5 Inch Floppy – If light can get through, it **is** write protected



http://www.techmint.info/2009/09/security-write-protecting-floppy-disks.html

201

Example of Software Write Blocking – Mounted Devices set to Read-Only by Default



202

Getting below the File System – Low-Level Copying

- Getting an "image" of a storage medium involves working at a level below the file system
  - Can get at file attributes and deleted files not visible through higher-level copy operations
- Most commonly used tool is dd (or variant) - UNIX program for low-level copying and conversion of data from a storage device
- More specialized tools for creating forensic images include:
  - FTK Imager
  - Guymager
  - Imaging utilities in commercial applications (e.g. EnCase)

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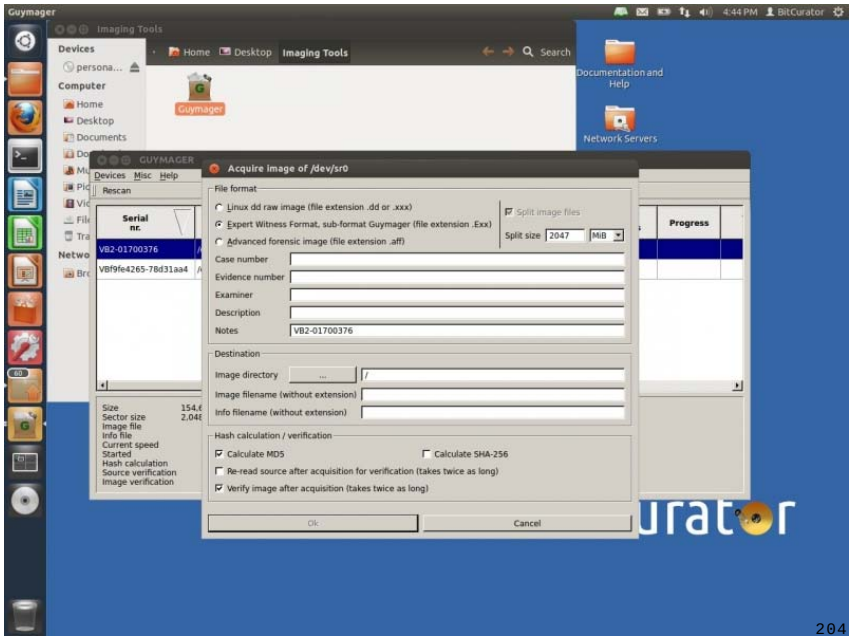
Main Acquisition Interface for Guymager



204

"The file system provides little if any help when you want to know about details of where and how it stores information; indeed, the entire **purpose of file systems is to hide such detail**. In order to look under the file system, you have to **bypass the file system code** and use tools that duplicate some of the file system's functionality."*

*Farmer, Dan, and Wietse Venema. *Forensic Discovery*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Addison-Wesley, 2005. (emphasis added)

205

Why Make a Bit-Level Image?

7 Reasons

206

1. Make sure full set of bits is safe

(allows you still to have the disk but not have to depend on fragile physical medium)

207

2. There may be surprises within the structure of the file system

(e.g. hidden files)

208

3. You could inadvertently change something in the act of examining or dealing with the files

- Byte order
- Character encoding
- File system information
  - MAC values
  - Access permissions
  - File typing
  - File sizes
- For example, when using a Windows machine to accession an HFS (Mac) disk, good idea to image the disk right away, so errors in translation across file systems can be noticed and corrected

209

4. Proof of file integrity and chain of custody

If there are questions about whether a given source was the basis for a given set of digital objects, one can go back to the original bits and compare hash values

210

5. Corrupted files and viruses

Having the whole bitstream available (in a controlled and safe staging area) makes it possible to determine what subset of the bitstream can actually be recovered in a useful way

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6. There are likely to be changes in preservation strategy or access conditions over time.

Default ingest process is to create a normalized AIP from a given type of SIP (e.g. convert all Word documents to PDF).

- This is almost certain to lose some information in the process
- Future techniques or access scenarios might require access to the original Word files
- Possibly also information embedded in the file system

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7. Embedded Contextual Information and User Artifacts

Depending on understanding of arrangement with the Producer, hidden data can also serve as important evidence for the curation of a collection, e.g. traces of data that indicate what application created the files, login or password information that's necessary for accessing various data sources*

*For further discussion of possibilities, see: Garfinkel, Simson, and David Cox. "Finding and Archiving the Internet Footprint." Paper presented at the First Digital Lives Research Conference: Personal Digital Archives for the 21st Century, London, UK, February 9-11, 2009.

213

A major rule of digital curation is to minimize irreversible transformations. Copying files off of the original bitstream and then discarding that bistream is just such an irreversible change (no way to then derive the original bits from the files you have).

It's pretty easy to screw up files or file attributes in numerous ways, and the imaging step can dramatically increase the possibility that those screw ups are reversible.

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The main point:

If you image first and ask questions later, you have a baseline data stream to which you can return if/when necessary.

215

Examples of Disk Image formats

- RAW and Split RAW (RAW stored across multiple files)
- Advanced Forensics Format (AFF)
- EnCase Evidence File (.E01)
- ISO (for CD-ROM)
- IMG (floppy)

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RAW (dd)

- Copies of the raw media data. Often split into smaller chunks to make them more manageable and so that the resulting images can fit onto limited filesystems and media such as FAT or DVD/CDROM.
- Advantages:
  - Very simple, use simple tools to manipulate the image.
  - Image can be easily split for storage and transport on removable media
  - Output can be piped to other applications for immediate processing
- Disadvantages:
  - Can be very large (no compression). Zipped raw images cannot be operated on directly with regular tools (efficiently perform arbitrary seeks).
  - Often too large to store on FAT formatted media
  - No metadata other than filenames, no hashes.
  - No checksumming on files – not robust
    - Missing segments (for example from scratched CD/DVD – can sometimes be overwritten with 0's).
    - Overwritten data (unrecoverable – no checksums on small blocks in file).

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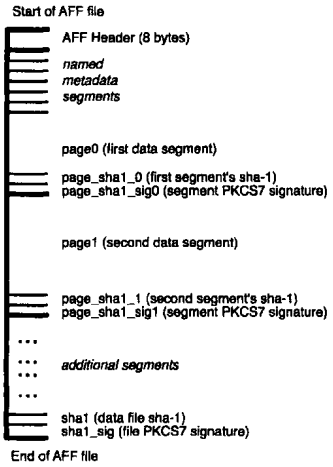
AFF

- Original AFF format: single file containing segments with drive data and metadata. Can be compressed.
- Large AFF files can be broken into multiple AFD format files. The smaller AFD files can be readily moved around a FAT32 file system which limits files to 2GB or stored on DVDs, which have similar size restrictions.
- AFM format stores the metadata in an AFF file, and the disk data in a separate raw file. This format allows analysis tools that support the raw format to access the data, but without losing the metadata.



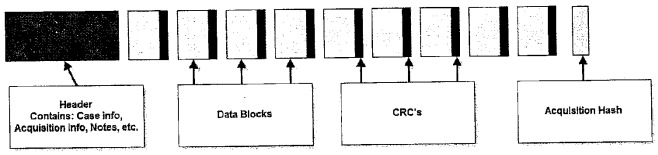
AFF File
(Not to Scale)

Image source: Simson Garfinkel, David Malan, Karl-Alexander Dubec, Christopher Stevens, and Cecile Pham, "AFF An Open Extensible Format for Disk Imaging," *Advances in Digital Forensics II*, edited by Martin S. Olivier and Sujeet Shenoi (New York: Springer, 2006), 13-28.

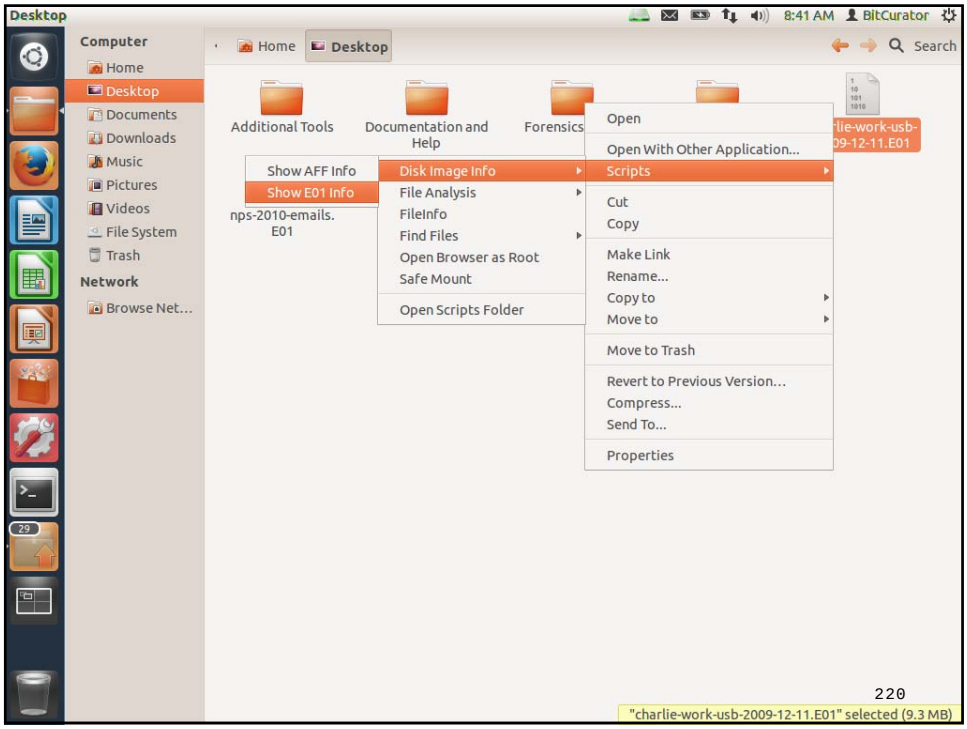
218

Expert Witness Format – EWF (EnCase)

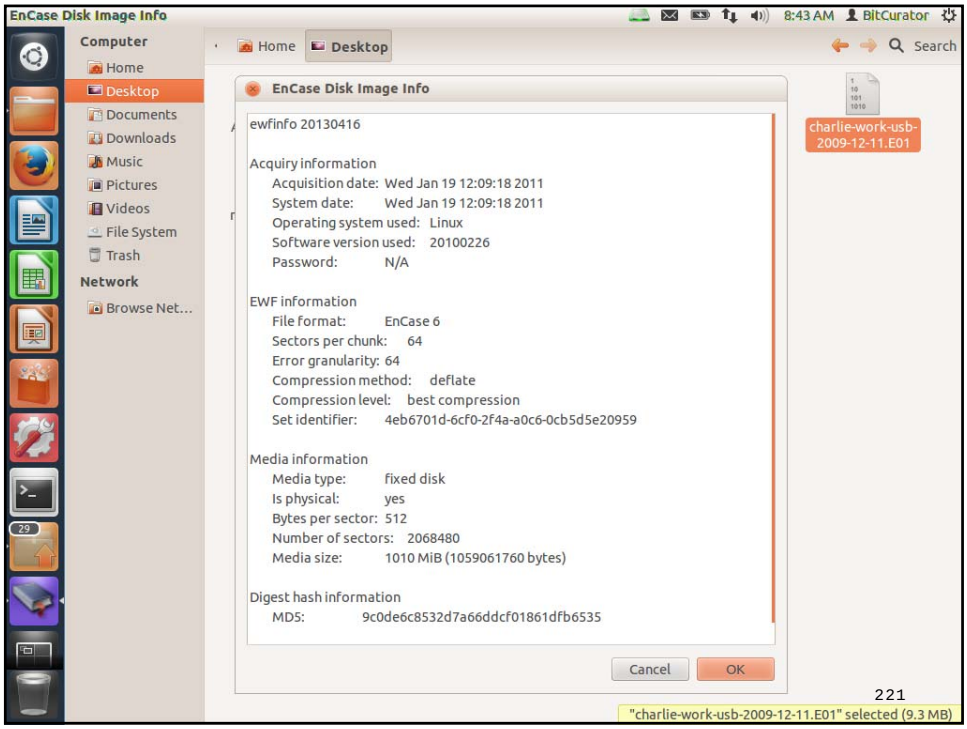
- Evidence file consists (in order) of: Acquisition information, Data Block, CRC (cyclic redundancy check), acquisition hash (MD5)
- Can be split for storage, transport
- CRC computed for every 32K block; balance between integrity and speed, also makes it very difficult to tamper with the evidence file (1 in 4 billion chance of collision)
- Cannot be manipulated with simple (open source UNIX) tools; support reverse engineered in libewf
- Previously limited to 2GB size
- Largely proprietary
- Has been reverse engineered by Joachim Metz in libewf (used in open source tools that read EWF) - http://sourceforge.net/projects/libewf/files/



219



220



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Four Ways to Interact with Disk Images

- Emulation
- Mount them like regular drives:
  - For ISO images - disk utilities in Mac OS or Windows 8/10
  - For forensically packaged disk images: ewfmount, OSFMount, BitCurator (mounting scripts built into the environment)
- Inspect them as forensic objects
  - FTK Imager
  - Autopsy
  - BitCurator (Disk Image Access tool)
- Dynamically navigate them from within a web browser (BCA Webtools)

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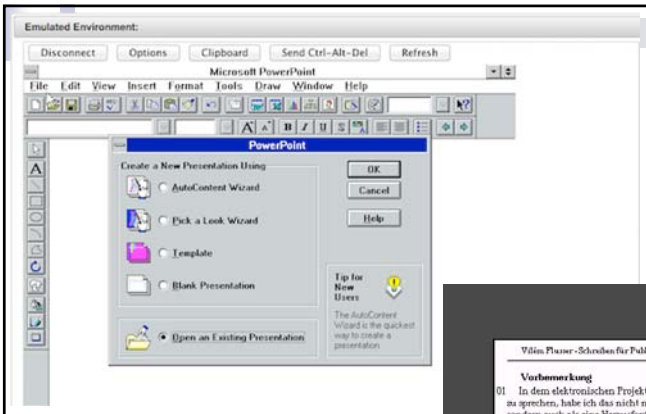
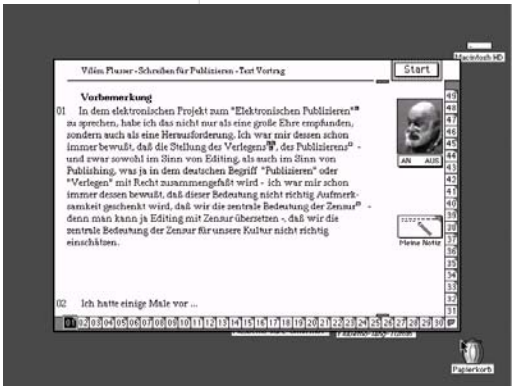
Emulation as a Service





http://bw-fla.uni-freiburg.de/demos.html

223

Mounting a Forensically Packaged Disk Image in the BitCurator Environment

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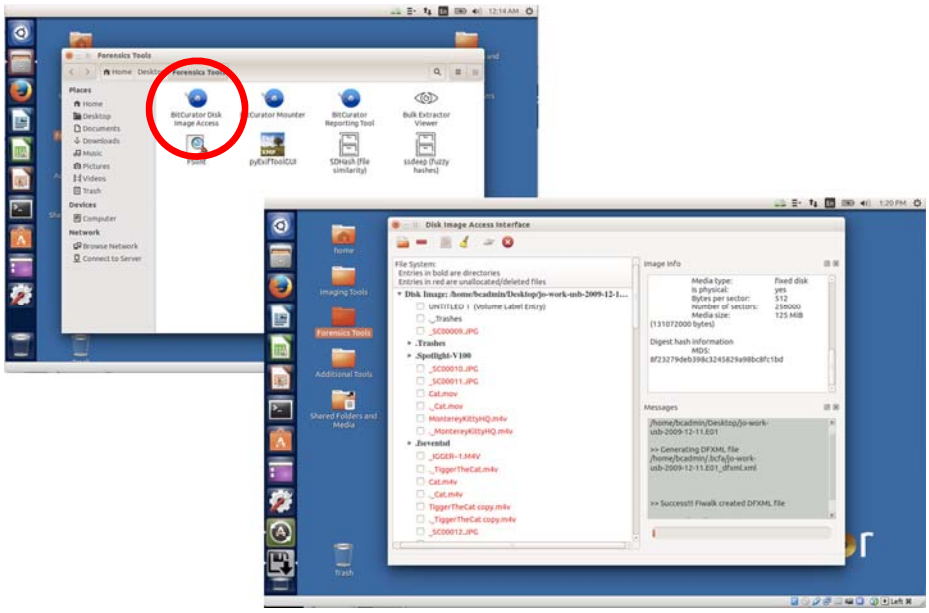
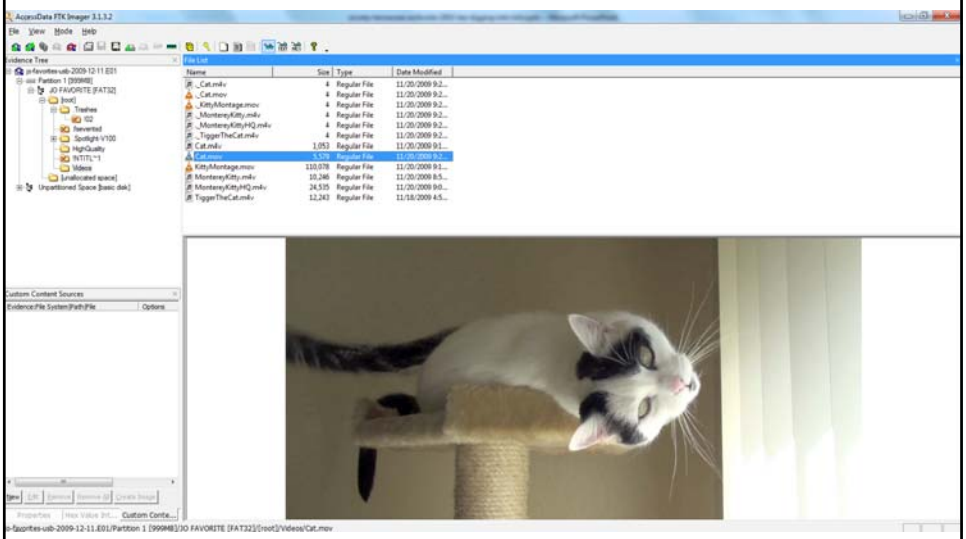
Exporting Files from a Disk Image



225

Viewing Contents of a Disk Image (.E01 format) in FTK Imager



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Forensic analysis meets the archives

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Guidelines for Evidence Collection & Archiving (RFC 3227) – Main Lessons

- “Such collection represents a considerable efforts on the part of the System Administrator.”
- “Keep detailed notes.”
- “Minimize changes to the data as you are collecting it.”
- “Do collection first and analysis later.”
- “Proceed from the volatile to the less volatile.”
- Computer evidence should be: *admissible*, *authentic*, *complete*, *reliable*, *believable*

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Digital Resources - Levels of Representation

Level	Label	Explanation
8	Aggregation of objects	Set of objects that form an aggregation that is meaningful encountered as an entity
7	Object or package	Object composed of multiple files, each of which could also be encountered as individual files
6	In-application rendering	As rendered and encountered within a specific application
5	File through filesystem	Files encountered as discrete set of items with associate paths and file names
4	File as “raw” bitstream	Bitstream encountered as a continuous series of binary values
3	Sub-file data structure	Discrete “chunk” of data that is part of a larger file
2	Bitstream through I/O equipment	Series of 1s and 0s as accessed from the storage media using input/output hardware and software (e.g. controllers, drivers, ports, connectors)
1	Raw signal stream through I/O equipment	Stream of magnetic flux transitions or other analog electronic output read from the drive without yet interpreting the signal stream as a set of discrete values (i.e. not treated as a digital bitstream that can be directly read by the host computer)
0	Bitstream on physical medium	Physical properties of the storage medium that are interpreted as bitstreams at Level 1

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Levels where digital forensics methods and tools can provide a lot of assistance

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Digital Forensics Industry and Tools

- Commercial products:
  - EnCase (Guidance Software)
  - FTK (AccessData)
- Open source tools – see:
  - http://www.sleuthkit.org/autopsy/
  - http://bitcurator.net
  - http://www.forensicswiki.org

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Commercial products

- Pros
  - GUI for non-specialists
  - Powerful search and indexing
  - Bookmarking, annotation, reporting
- Cons
  - Designed for law enforcement
  - High cost, low uptake in archival community

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Open source tools: Autopsy

- GUI for The Sleuth Kit (TSK) – software suite also used by BitCurator
- Available on Mac/Linux/Windows
- For “law enforcement, military, and corporate examiners”
- See http://www.sleuthkit.org/autopsy/

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BitCurator

- Funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
  - Phase 1: October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2013
  - Phase 2 – October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014
- Partners: School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at UNC and Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH)

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BitCurator Goals

- Develop a system for professionals in libraries, archives and museums that incorporates the functionality of open-source digital forensics tools
- Address two fundamental needs not usually addressed by the digital forensics industry:
  - incorporation into the workflow of archives/library ingest and collection management environments
  - provision of public access to the data

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BitCurator Environment*

- Bundles, integrates and extends functionality of open source software
- Can be run as:
  - Self-contained environment (based on Ubuntu Linux) running directly on a computer (download installation ISO)
  - Coming very soon: installation scripts to turn any Ubuntu Linux machine into a BitCurator Environment
  - Self-contained Linux environment in a virtual machine using e.g. Virtual Box or VMWare
  - As individual components run directly in your own Linux environment or (whenever possible) Windows environment

*To read about and download the environment, see: http://wiki.bitcurator.net/

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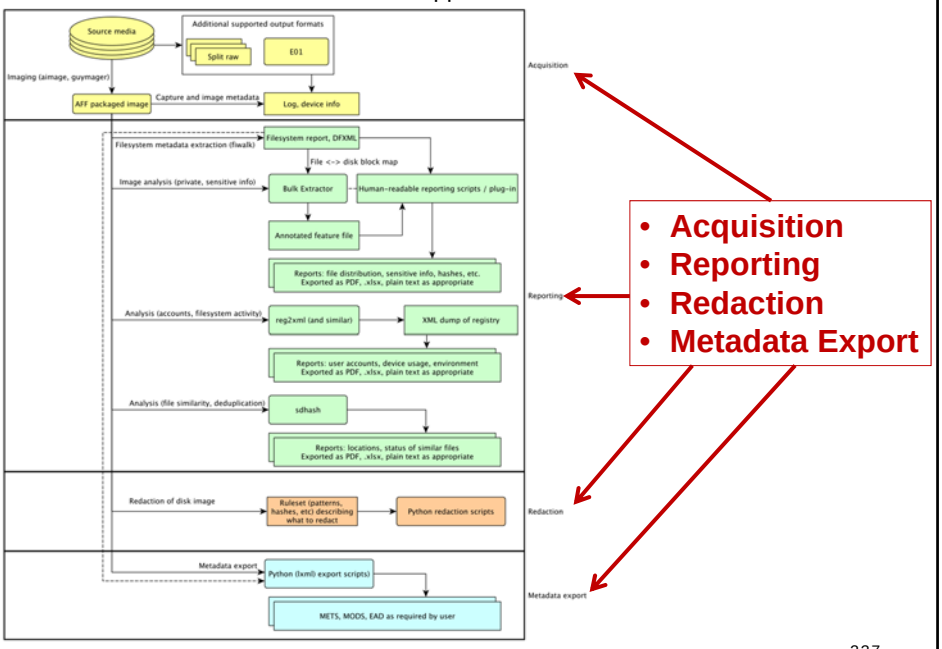
BitCurator-Supported Workflow



See: http://bitcurator.net

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Digging Deeper – Unallocated Space and Data Carving

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Unallocated Data Segments in Storage and File Slack

- Recall that computers store data within storage segments of given size (clusters)
- Unallocated storage
  - When file is deleted, pointer to data in each segment is removed, but data will sit in that segment until overwritten by something else (i.e. clusters are freed up for further use, but data within them can persist for a while)
  - Special case is when file is only partially written to a medium (e.g. failed copy due to insufficient space) and then "deleted" but data remains on medium until overwritten
- Overwriting of storage across a computer system is not uniform – "most activity accesses the same data, programs, and other resources over and over again"*

*Farmer, Dan, and Wietse Venema. *Forensic Discovery*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Addison-Wesley, 2005.

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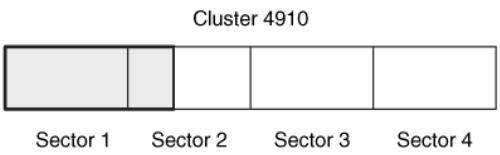
Consider an NTFS file system with a 2048-byte cluster and 512-byte sectors. Our file is 612 bytes, so it uses the entire first sector and 100 bytes of the second sector in the cluster. The remaining 412 bytes of the second sector are padded with data of the OSes choice. The third and fourth sectors may be wiped with zeros by the OS, or they might not be touched and might keep the data from a deleted file. We can see this in Figure 8.9, where the grayed areas are the file content and the white space is the slack space.

Figure 8.9. Slack space of a 612-byte file in a 4096-byte cluster.



Source: Carrier, Brian. *File System Forensic Analysis*. Boston, MA: Addison-Wesley, 2005.

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Data in "Slack" Space

- Storage space from the end of the file to the end of the last cluster used to store the file
  - **RAM slack** (in last sector of file) - If there is not enough data in file to fill the last sector, OS fills the space with whatever data is in memory at the moment (can be anything since computer was last booted) – no longer happens in recent versions of Windows (overwrites with zeros)
  - **Drive slack** (in last cluster of file) - If data from a file does not completely fill the cluster, then data remaining from previous files will remain at the end of the cluster

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Data Carving

- Extracting data from raw data blocks, rather than examining the contents of files through the file system.
- Can be done to reconstruct files, identify deleted information, and find data that was purposely hidden in various ways

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Carving Taxonomy

Carving: Extract data (files) from raw data (blocks).

Block-Based Carving: Analyze input on block-by-block basis to determine if a block is part of a possible output file.

Statistical Carving: Algorithm that analyzes the input on characteristic or statistic for example, entropy) to determine if the input is part of a possible output file.

Header/Footer Carving: A method for carving files out of raw data using a distinct header (start of file marker) and footer (end of file marker).

Header/Maximum (file) size Carving: A method for carving files out of raw data using a distinct header (start of file marker) and a maximum (file) size.

Header/Embedded Length Carving: A method for carving files out of raw data using a distinct header and a file length (size) which is embedded in the file format

File structure based Carving: A method for carving files out of raw data using a certain level of knowledge of the internal structure of file types.

Semantic Carving: A method for carving files based on a linguistic analysis of the file's content.

Fragment Recovery Carving (split carving): A carving method in which two or more fragments are reassembled to form the original file or object.

Repackaging Carving: A carving method that modifies the extracted data by adding new headers, footers, or other information so that it can be viewed with standard utilities.

Source: http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/File_Carving

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Digging as Deep as Possible – Physical Medium

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“Because of the way magnetic media are written it is very difficult to lose everything. With sufficient resources much material that most of us would expect to be lost can be recovered.”*

*Ross, Seamus, and Ann Gow. "Digital Archaeology: Rescuing Neglected and Damaged Data Resources.“ London: British Library, 1999.

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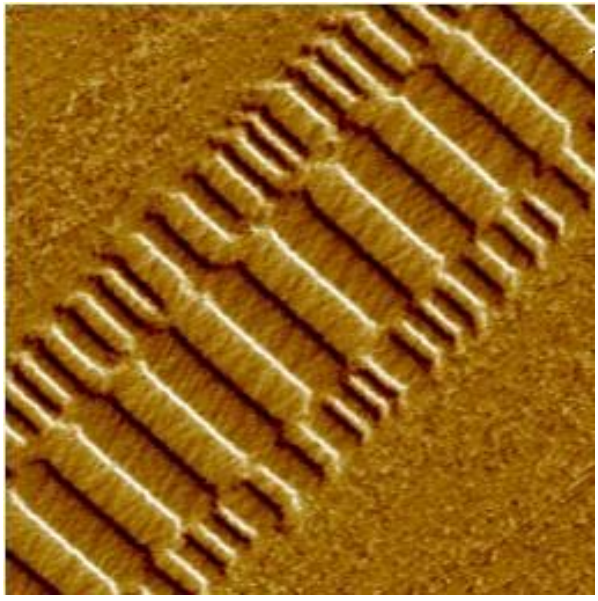

Veeco Instruments. http://www.veeco.com/library/nanotheater_detail.php?type=application&id=78&app_id=34

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Note: Finding over-written data from the surface of magnetic media is **extremely** slow and expensive – only applicable in cases of "heroic" recovery

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Identifying "Features" of Interest in Disk Images

Bulk Extractor

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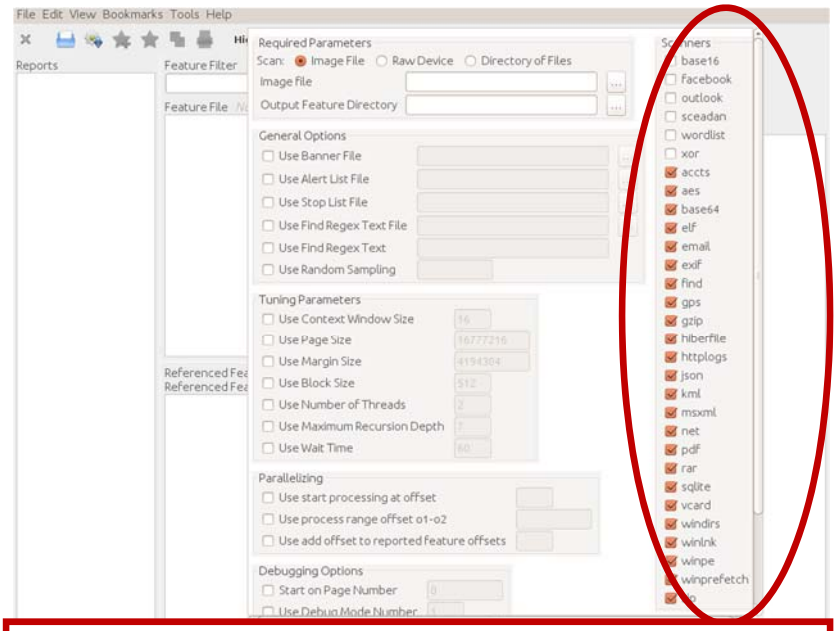
Identifying Potentially Sensitive Data using Bulk Extractor - Scanning Options



See: http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Bulk_extractor

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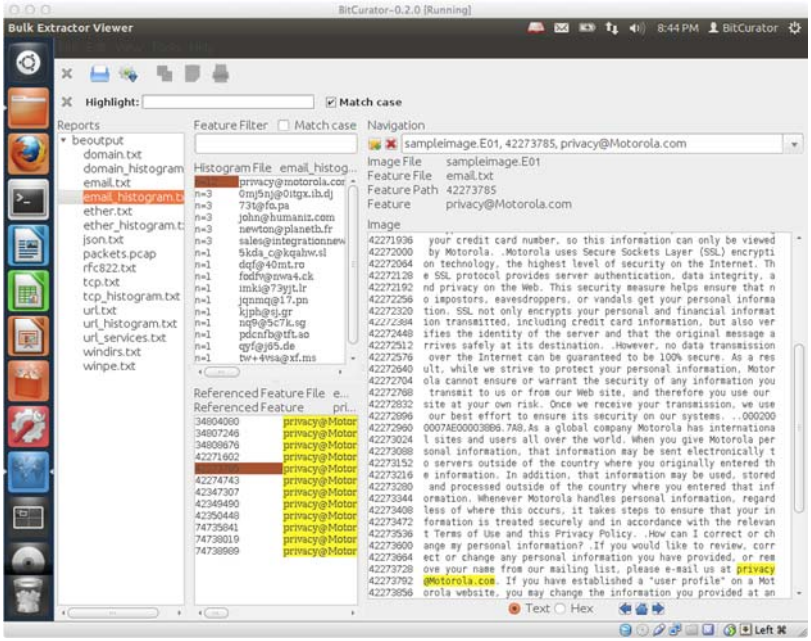
Histogram of Email Addresses (Specific Instances in Context on Right)



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Bulk Extractor Output*

File	Description
aes_keys.txt	AES encryption keys
alerts.txt	Processing errors
ccn.txt	Credit card numbers
ccn_track2.txt	Credit card “track 2” information, which has previously been found in some bank fraud cases
domain.txt	Internet domains found on the drive, including dotted-quad addresses found in text
email.txt	Email addresses
ether.txt	Ethernet MAC addresses found through IP packet carving of swap files and compressed system hibernation files and fragments
exif.txt	EXIF data from JPEG images and video segments
find.txt	Results of specific regular expression searches
gps.txt	Extracted GPS coordinates from Garmin XML and GPS-enabled JPEG files
ip.txt	IP addresses found through IP packet carving
json.txt	Extracted and validated JavaScript Object Notation fragments
kml.txt	Extracted KML files

*See http://afflib.org/archives/tag/bulk_extractor

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Bulk Extractor Output (continued)*

File	Description
report.txt	DFMXL file that explains what happened
rfc822.txt	Email message headers including Date:, Subject:, and Message-ID: fields
tcp.txt	TCP flow information found through IP packet carving
telephone.txt	Phone numbers (US and other countries)
url.txt	URLs, typically found in browser caches, email messages, and pre-compiled into executables
url_searches.txt	Histogram of terms used in Internet searches
url_services.txt	Histogram of the domain name portion of all URLs found on the media
winpefect.txt	Windows prefetch files and fragments, recorded as XML
wordlist.txt	A list of all “words” extracted from the disk, useful for password cracking
wordlist_*.txt	The wordlist with duplicates removed, formatted to be imported into a popular password-cracking program
zip.txt	Information about ZIP file components found on media (including compound files such as MS Office documents)

*See http://afflib.org/archives/tag/bulk_extractor

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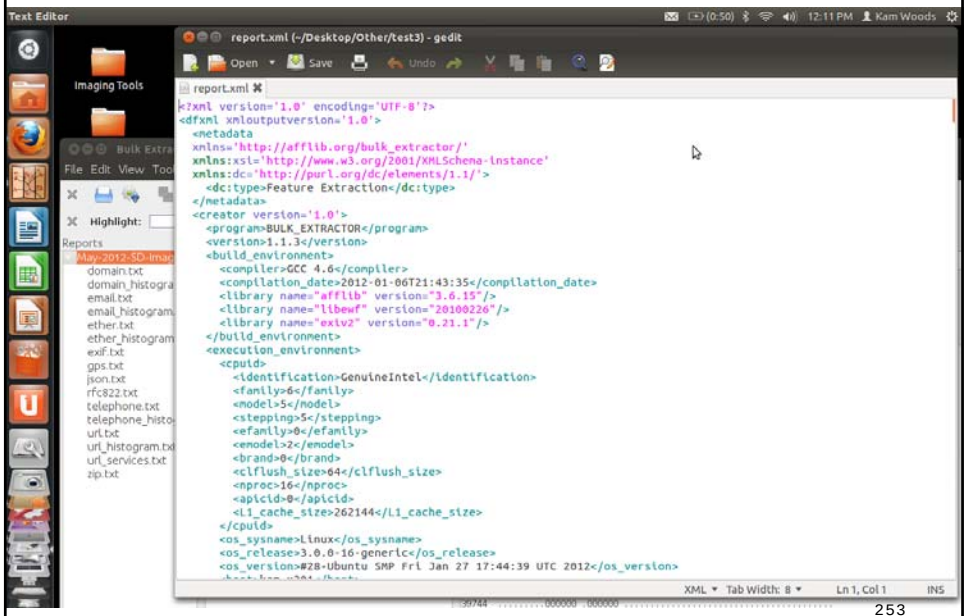
Technical Metadata (about the System Used to do the Capture) in a Bulk Extractor Report



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A Real World Example of Forensic Feature Extraction:

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https://www.theverge.com/2015/2/10/8013531/jeb-bush-florida-email-dump-privacy

A Real World Example of Forensic Feature Extraction:

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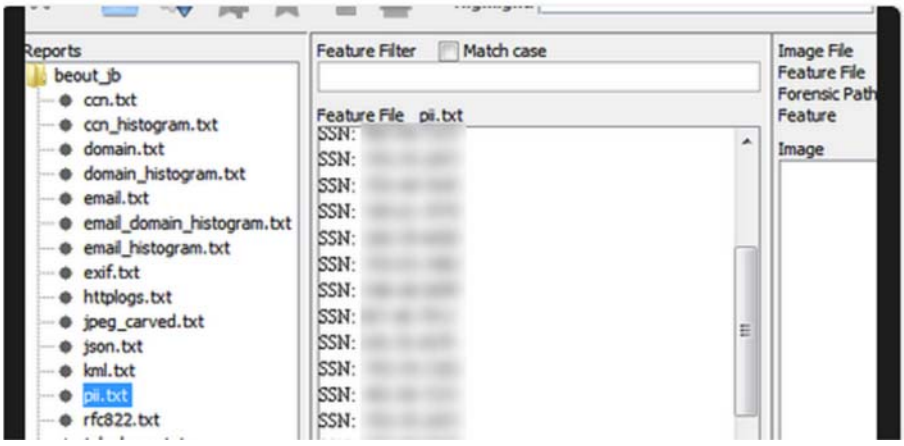
A Real World Example of Forensic Feature Extraction:



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Conclusions: Implied Changes with the Archival Profession

- Professional vocabulary evolving to include terms such as disk image, hex viewer, cryptographic hash, and filesystem
- Gaining access to new professional communities and guidance
- Use of tools designed to treat data at a low level – as raw bitstreams off media – rather than at the file level
- Potential to shift "center of gravity" about electronic records from design of institutional recordkeeping systems toward acquisition and management of records from a more diverse and unpredictable set of sources

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For further Guidance

- See supplemental materials
- Digital forensics vendors offer workshops (e.g. AccessData, Digital Intelligence, Guidance Software)
- http://www.forensicswiki.org/

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BitCurator Resources

Get the software
Documentation and technical specifications
Screencasts
Google Group
http://wiki.bitcurator.net/

People
Project overview
Publications
News
http://www.bitcurator.net/

Twitter: @bitcurator

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BitCurator Access

- Web-based access to raw and forensically packaged disk images
- Transforming and using digital forensics metadata in collecting environments
- Redaction of file items, metadata and hidden data from disk images
- OS and executable virtualization for legacy disk images

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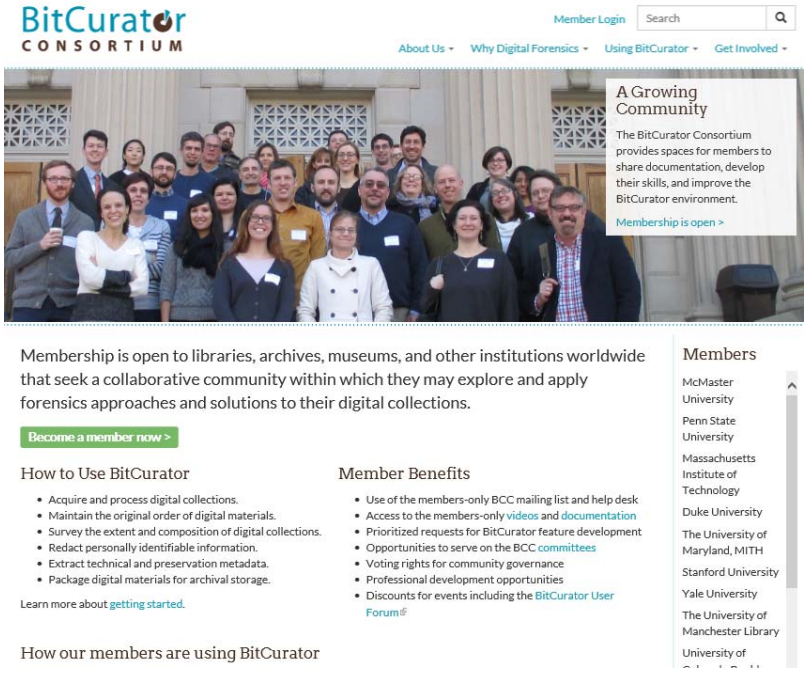

http://bitcuratorconsortium.org

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http://www2.archivists.org/groups/manuscript-repositories-section/jump-in-3 262

To Learn More about Available Software

Forensics Wiki. http://forensicswiki.org

BitCurator environment. http://wiki.bitcurator.net

BitCurator Access software. http://access.bitcurator.net

Community Owned digital Preservation Tool Registry (COPTR)
http://coptr.digipres.org/

Information Guides on Tools for Electronic Records. Minnesota State Archives.
http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/tools.php

Lifecycle Tools for Archival Email Stewardship.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V1N22xnr5e0EbDlZWx58bjYO6rkrMrYH9wGX9-CK8c4/

Tools for processing, managing, and preserving electronic records. University of Minnesota.
https://www.lib.umn.edu/dp/guides

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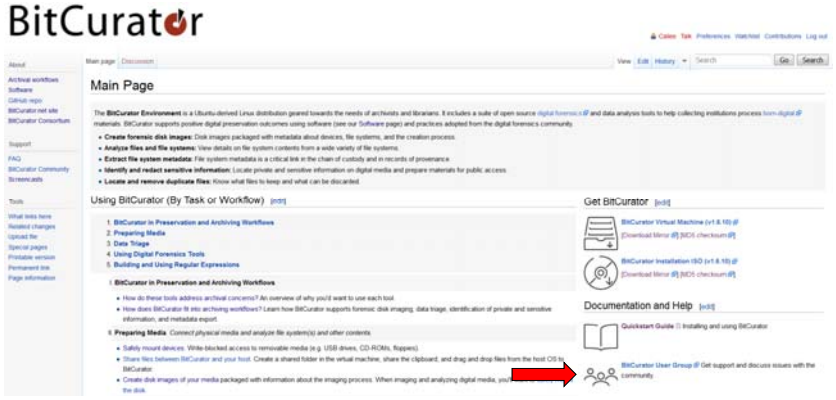
Online Forums

BitCurator User Group
https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/bitcurator-users



Digital Curation List
https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/digital-curation

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Further Education

Digital Forensics for Archivists: Advanced (SAA)

http://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/course-catalog/digital-forensics-for-archivists-advanced#.V1SSg-S0OzA

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Thank you!

Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Questions?

http://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/das/FAQs

education@archivists.org

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