Computer Forensics

Marquette University 2017

Computer Forensics

- Reconstruction of events in a (or related to) an information technology system
  - Short History:
    - 1980s:
      - Massive use of PCs in businesses and homes
      - Computer as a witness appears
      - First instances of computer crime
    - 1990s:
      - Computer Forensics becomes a discipline
      - Specialized tools are developed
      - Processes for acquiring evidence are adopted
    - 2000s:
      - Computer Forensics becomes its own academic discipline
      - With remote storage and investigations

Computer Forensics

- Deployed in organizations
  - Reconstruction of abuses of IT resources
    - Intellectual property protection, Fraud detection, Litigation support
  - Reconstruction of intrusion incidents
    - What was affected?
    - Cleaning
- Intrusion prevention

Computer Forensics

- Used by public order agencies
  - Majority of mayor crime involve computing devices
    - Cell phones, GPS, PC, Tablets

Computer Forensics

- IT system
  - Can be target of a crime
    - Intrusions, worms, virus, DoS, unauthorized changes to a database, …
  - Can be the instrument of a crime
    - Falsifying email, change of grades against pay, using google maps to plan crimes, …
  - Can obtain evidence of a crime
    - Communications, …

Evidence

- Computer Forensics evaluates and safeguards evidence
  - Needs to comply with the requirements of evidence handling
    - Character of an investigation can change during its lifetime
  - But mistreated evidence will not regain its value

Evidence

- In the US, forensics needs to use the scientific method
  - Needs to satisfy the Daubert criteria
    - Existence of standards and controls
    - Acceptance of methods by the scientific community
    - Peer-reviewed publications
    - Known error rate

Computer Evidence

- Character of IT evidence
  - Artifacts can be reproduced completely faithfully
    - Means that one can work with complete security with an exact copy of evidence
  - Recognized falsified evidence needs expertise
    - But is in general possible

Evidence

- Chain of custody
  - Preservation of evidence in a verifiable manner
  - Implies the use of verifiable tools
  - In practice, there is much destroyed evidence
    - Often by helpful system administrators

Computer Forensics

- Subdisciplines
  - Storage forensics and life system analysis
  - Network forensics
  - File and especially malware forensics

Computer Forensics

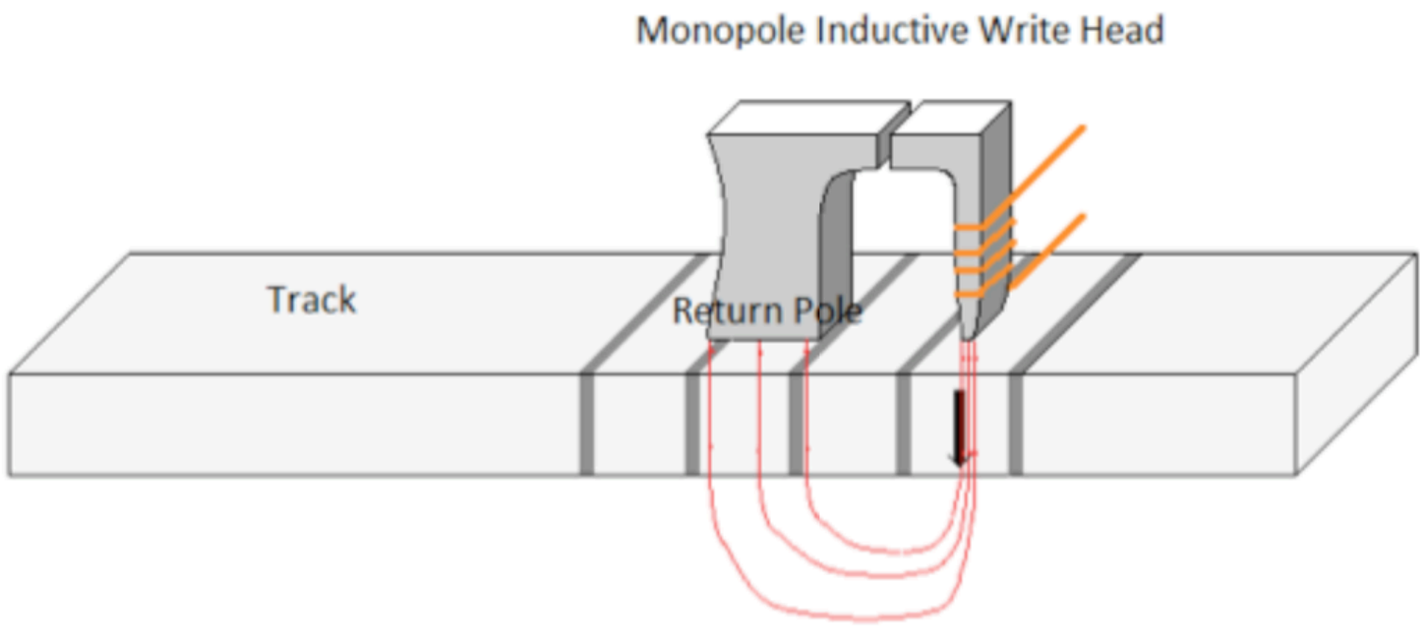
- Scheme of an investigation
  - Problem or incident triggers intervention
    - Preliminary identification of the goal of the investigation
  - Identification of potential evidence and its acquisition
  - Forensic Analysis of potential evidence
    - Requires refining the task and looking for more potential evidence
    - Interacting with the detective in charge or the decision makers
  - Presentation of the reconstruction of events and the evidence in a manner accessible to decision makers

Media Forensics

- Majority of data is stored on disks or flash memory
- Disks and flash memory have particular properties
- Stored in blocks / pages of 512B or 4KB

Media Forensics

- Disk properties
  - Disks have become smarter over the years
  - Write by magnetizing pattern on disk
  - In concentric tracks divided into sectors



Media Forensics

- Reading is done using the Giant Magneto-Resistive Effect
  - Latest capacity increases due to shingled writing
  - Overwrites parts of previously written track

Media Forensics

- Disk Drive Characteristic
  - Only writes complete blocks
  - Needs internal disk interface in order to restore data
    - Bits are encoding using a proprietary magnetic coding with in-built error detection and correction
    - Would need an electron microscope and the coding to even have a chance of recovering data
- Disks do not need to erase data to overwrite a sector
- Small chance of a disk having latent sector failures (sector cannot be read, e.g. because of an off-track write)

Media Forensics

- Only complete sectors are written
- File systems delete data by marking them as unread, but the data remains
- File system organizes data in unexpected ways: backups, revision control, copy on write, journaling file system, etc
- Disk drive behavior is not controlled by file system:
  - bad block replacement, optimizations, …
- To completely delete a file:
  - Overwrite sectors where file was stored
    - Called *wiping*
  - No longer need to worry about previous magnetic patterns not completely erased by an overwrite
  - Overwrite sectors where meta-data is stored
  - Or physically destroy the file

Media Forensics

- HDD
  - Have become more intelligent
    - Use sophisticated combined magnetic and error-correcting coding
    - Use write buffers
    - Use address translation because the traditional values for cylinder & sector do not have the best range
    - Even block numbers have to be translated
    - Can use timing tool to find out the real geometry

Media Forensics

- HDD access:
  - Now only possible through the disk controller
  - Block-based command allow true access to the data
    - But not to the magnetic patterns etc.

Media Forensics

- SSD
  - Use Flash Memory
    - Data organized in pages which are part of erase-blocks
      - SSD constantly moves used pages elsewhere to create empty erase-blocks
      - Erase-block is then erased
  - FTL: Flash Translation Layer
    - Internal outlay of data varies
    - View of data from outside the SSD stays the same

Media Forensics

- Evidence protection for HDD
  - Since HDD contents do not change without operations:
    - Can use a hash of all the contents in order to prove that there was no alteration
- Acquiring hard-drive for evidence
  - Use a write-blocker
    - Software or hardware
  - Make copy of disk
    - add one for the defense
  - Analyze the copy


NOWRITE
FPU


FORENSIC
ULTRADOCK v4
WiebeTECH
DC


FireFly™ 800
Digital Intelligence


FireFly™ 800
Digital Intelligence
Pwr WrBlk Act
DC IN
+5V
800/400
Bilingual

Media Forensics

- Problems with acquiring a hard drive
  - Invisible partitions (no problem)
  - Host Protected Area (no problem for good software)
  - Device Configuration Overlay (no problem for good software)
- Even though people will tell you that you can data there

Media Forensics

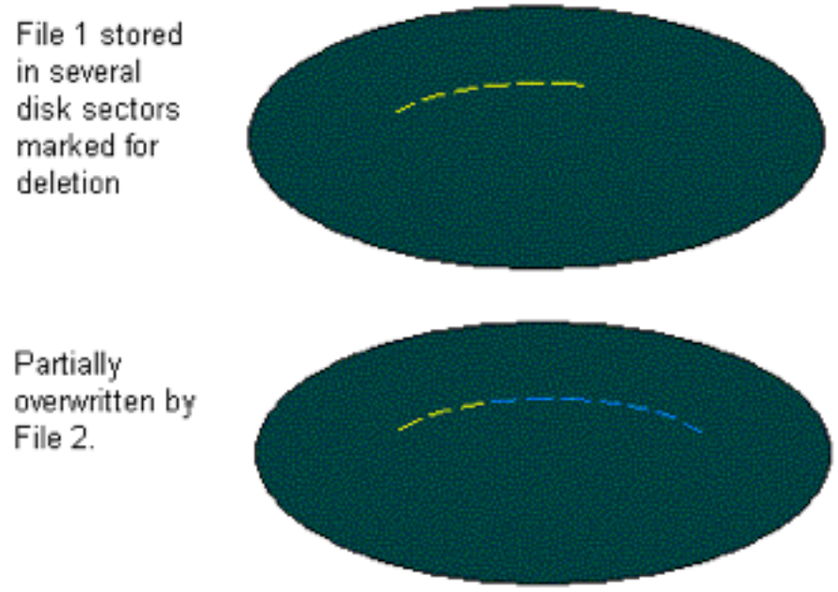
- SSD:
  - Since they change content the moment they have electricity:
    - Use strict evidence handling procedures to ensure that the SSD was not contaminated
  - Create a copy with write-blocker
    - But you can no longer prove that the copy is a true copy by hash or bitwise comparison

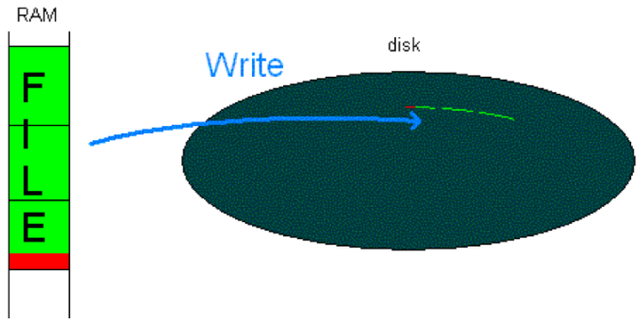
Media Forensics

- What can you do
  - User files
    - Temporary internet files
    - Registry contents
    - Files identified by keyword searches
      - E.g. look for social security numbers
    - Printer spooling files, images, etc.
    - Logs, prefetch files

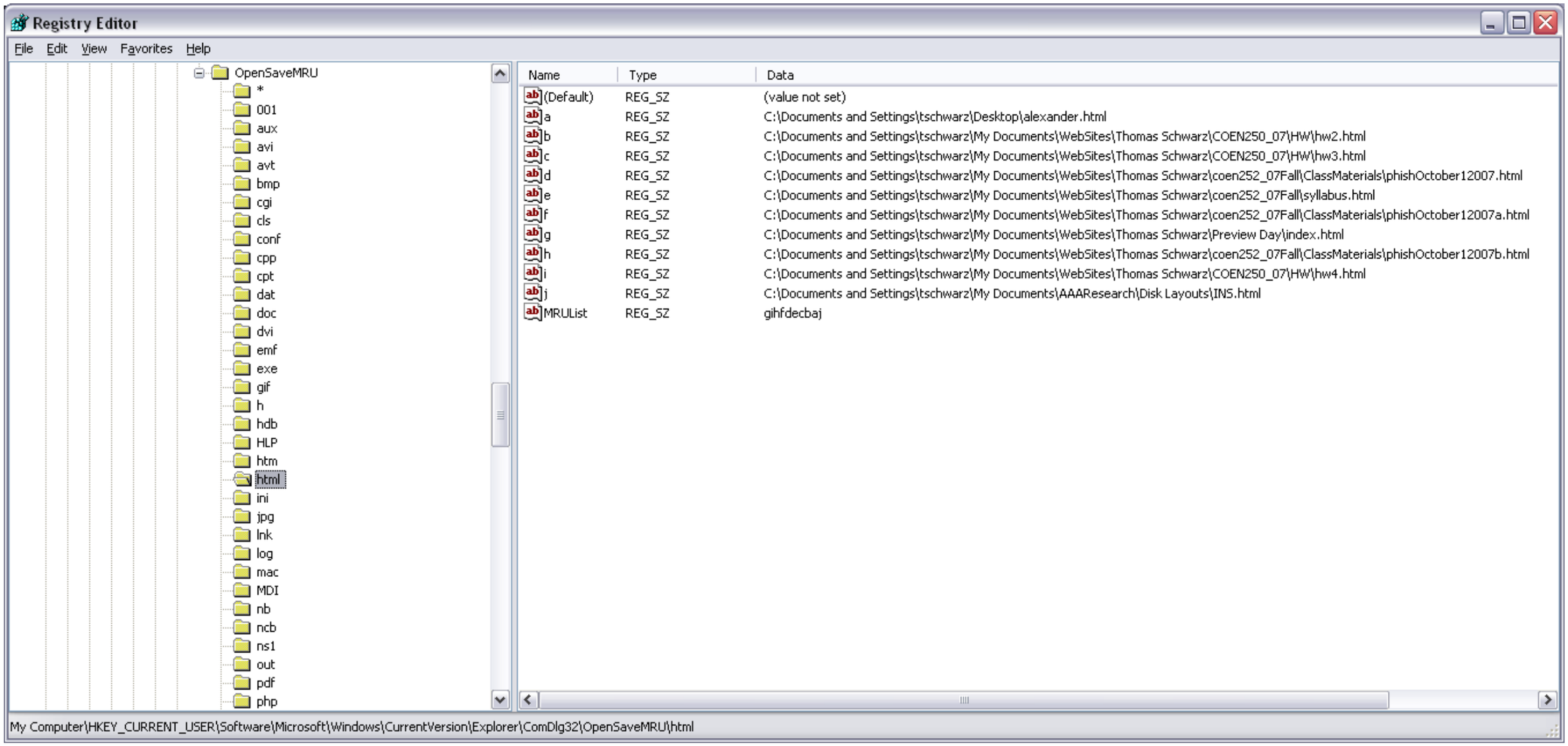
Media Forensics

- Deleted files
  - Are usually around
    - Information is in the file itself
    - And the metadata
    - Can be partially available
- RAM Slack



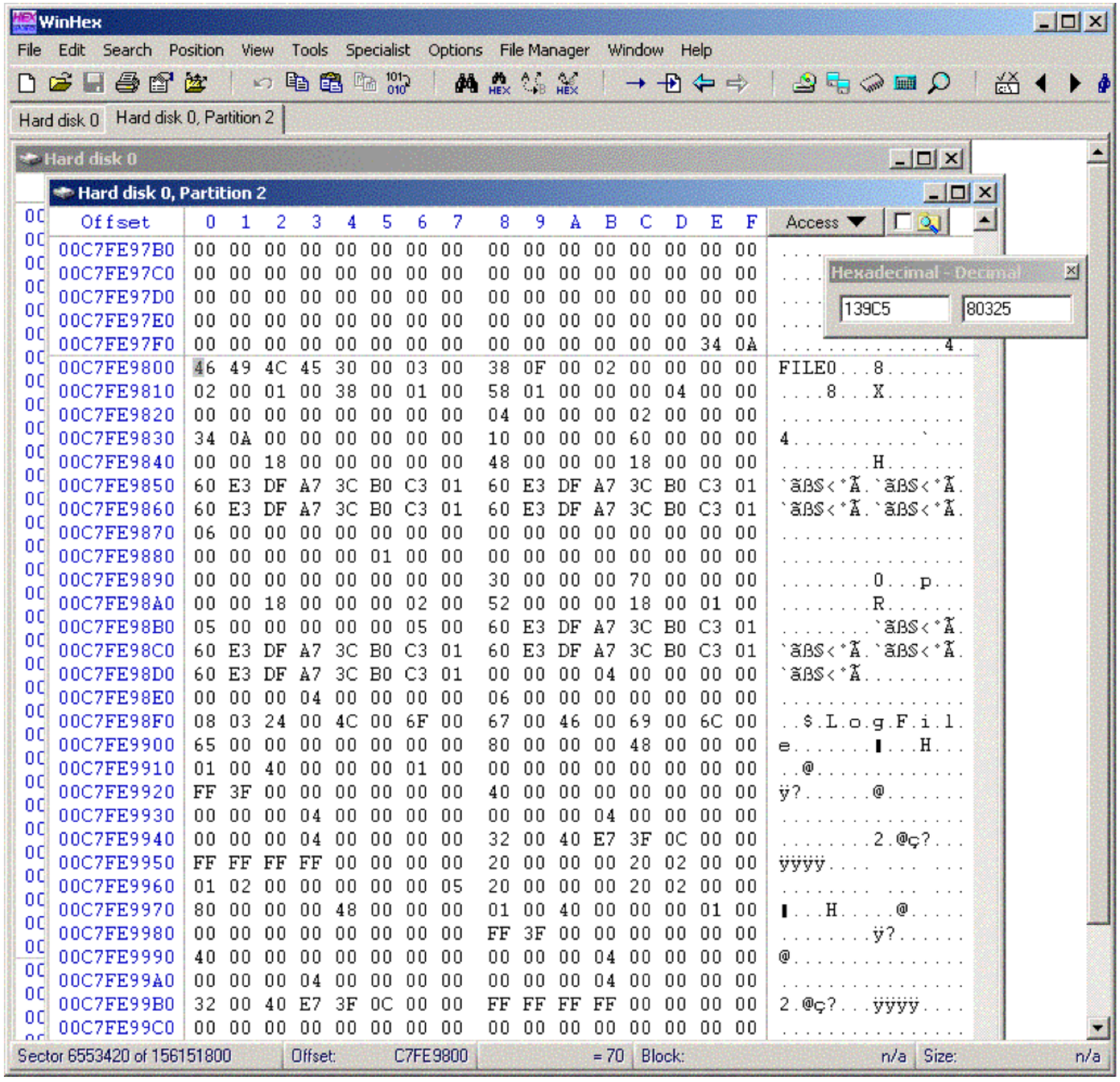


Media Forensics

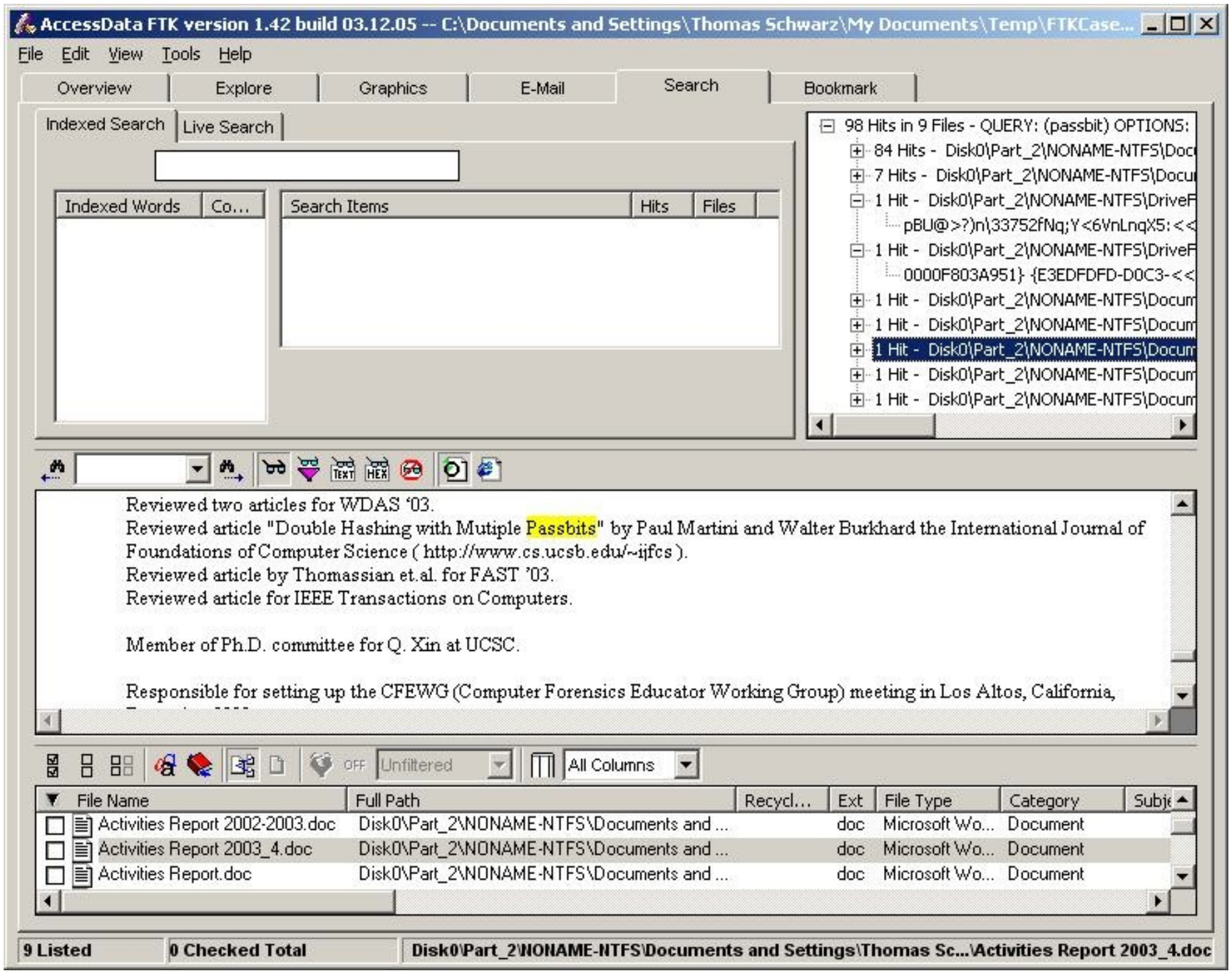


Media Forensics

- Metadata:
  - Note the time stamps



Media Forensics



Media Forensics

- File and OS System Metadata
  - Registry
  - Inode numbers are assigned in order

Media Forensics

- Anti-forensics
  - Wiping software
  - Time stamp changer
  - …

New challenges in Media Forensics

- Move to SSD as standard storage system for individual devices
- Storage in the cloud
  - Usually strongly encrypted
  - Larger difficulty of obtaining warrants

Network Forensics

- Relies on
  - Logs
    - Authentication Services
    - Emails
    - Intrusion Detection Systems
- Rarely on directly intercepted data

Network Forensics

- Email investigations
  - Email consists of message proper and headers
    - Headers are added at each step of the way
    - Use inconsistencies to find evidence for forging
  - Principal method:
    - Verify details of each header
      - IP address - whois
      - Timestamps (beware of time zone changes and non-synchronized clocks)

Malware Forensics

- Malware Forensics
  - Find malware and analyze its functionality
    - Example: Code Red

```
GET /default.ida?NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN
NNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN
%u9090%u6858%ucbd3%u7801%u9090%u6858%ucbd3%u7801
%u9090%u6858%ucbd3%u7801%u9090%u9090%u8190%u00c3
%u0003%u8b00%u531b%u53ff%u0078%u0000%u00=a HTTP/1.0
```

Malware Forensics

- Reverse Engineering
  - Use deassembler to obtain a more readable version
  - Use debuggers (Ollydbf, Softice, IDA-Pro)
  - Run programs in a sandbox and monitor access to file systems
    - Filemon, TCPView, RegMon, ProtMon, WinObj, Process Explorer

uments and Settings\Thomas Schwarz\My Documents\Visual Studio Projects\Forensics\KeyloggerIronGeek\Release\KeyloggerIronGeek.exe

Search View Debugger Options Windows Help

Text COLLAPSE

Hex View-A | Exports | Imports | Names | Functions | Strings | Structures | Enums

```
text:0040246B
text:0040246B locret_40246B:                           ; CODE XREF: check_managed_app+3A↑j
text:0040246B                                          ; check_managed_app+4A↑j
text:0040246B                 retn
text:0040246B check_managed_app endp
text:0040246B
text:0040246C
text:0040246C ; ||||||||||||||| S U B R O U T I N E |||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||||
text:0040246C
text:0040246C ; Attributes: library function
text:0040246C
text:0040246C mainCRTStartup  proc near
text:0040246C                 push    18h             ; ExceptionInfo
text:0040246E                 push    offset stru_408338 ; int
text:00402473                 call    __SEH_prolog
text:00402478                 mov     edi, 94h
text:0040247D                 mov     eax, edi
text:0040247F                 call    _chkstk
text:00402484                 mov     [ebp-18h], esp
text:00402487                 mov     esi, esp
text:00402489                 mov     [esi], edi
text:0040248B                 push    esi             ; lpVersionInformation
text:0040248C                 call    ds:__imp__GetVersionExA@4 ; Get extended information about the
text:0040248C                                         ; version of the operating system
text:00402492                 mov     ecx, [esi+10h]
text:00402495                 mov     _osplatform, ecx
text:0040249B                 mov     eax, [esi+4]
text:0040249E                 mov     _winmajor, eax
text:004024A3                 mov     edx, [esi+8]
text:004024A6                 mov     _winminor, edx
text:004024AC                 mov     esi, [esi+0Ch]
text:004024AF                 and     esi, 7FFFh
text:004024B5                 mov     _osver, esi
text:004024BB                 cmp     ecx, 2
text:004024BE                 jz      short loc_4024CC
text:004024C0                 or      esi, 8000h
text:004024C6                 mov     _osver, esi
text:004024CC
text:004024CC loc_4024CC:                              ; CODE XREF: mainCRTStartup+52↑j
text:004024CC                 shl     eax, 8
```

Names window

Name	A
F MailIt	00
F get_keys	00
F _main	00
C Sleep(x)	00
C AllocConsole()	00
C GetAsyncKeyState(x)	00
C ShowWindow(x,x)	00
C FindWindowA(x,x)	00
F closesocket(x)	00
F send(x,x,x,x)	00
F recv(x,x,x,x)	00
F connect(x,x,x)	00
F socket(x,x,x)	00
F htons(x)	00

Line 3 of 541

Strings window

Address	Length	T...	String
".." .rdata:0...	00000008	C	connect
".." .rdata:0...	00000010	C	Connecting....\n
".." .rdata:0...	0000000E	C	gethostbyname
".." .rdata:0...	00000012	C	WSAStartup faile
".." .rdata:0...	00000009	C	SMTP.log
".." .rdata:0...	0000000D	C	smtp.scu.edu
".." .rdata:0...	00000013	C	irong33k@gmail.
".." .rdata:0...	0000000D	C	The Log Dude
".." .rdata:0...	00000010	C	\r\n[CAPS LOCK
".." .rdata:0...	00000009	C	\r\n["\"]\r\n
".." .rdata:0...	0000000B	C	\r\n[ ]}]\r\n
".." .rdata:0...	00000009	C	\r\n[\\]\r\n
".." .rdata:0...	0000000B	C	\r\n[[{]\r\n
".." .rdata:0	00000009	C	\r\n[~]\r\n

```
e 'C:\Program Files\IDA\idc\onload.idc'...
ction 'OnLoad'...
ing the input file...
 to explore the input file right now.
ype' at 00408D10 is deleted...
ignature: Microsoft VisualC 2-7/net runtime
ype information...
gate_stkargs: function is already typed
ment information is propagated
utoanalysis is finished.
```

own | Disk: 15GB | 0000246C | 0040246C: mainCRTStartup

OllyDbg - KeyloggerIronGeek.exe

File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help

L E M T W H C / K B R ... S ?

CPU - main thread, module Keylogge

```
0040246C  $ 6A 18          PUSH 18
0040246E  . 68 38834000    PUSH Keylogge.00408338
00402473  . E8 C01D0000    CALL Keylogge.__SEH_prolog
00402478  . BF 94000000    MOV EDI,94
0040247D  . 8BC7           MOV EAX,EDI
0040247F  . E8 2C300000    CALL Keylogge._chkstk
00402484  . 8965 E8        MOV DWORD PTR SS:[EBP-18],ESP
00402487  . 8BF4           MOV ESI,ESP
00402489  . 893E           MOV DWORD PTR DS:[ESI],EDI
0040248B  . 56             PUSH ESI
0040248C  . FF15 5C804000  CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetVersio  [pVersionInformatic
00402492  . 8B4E 10        MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+10]              GetVersionExA
00402495  . 890D 8CA74000  MOV DWORD PTR DS:[_osplatform],ECX
0040249B  . 8B46 04        MOV EAX,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+4]
0040249E  . A3 98A74000    MOV DWORD PTR DS:[_winmajor],EAX
004024A3  . 8B56 08        MOV EDX,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+8]
004024A6  . 8915 9CA74000  MOV DWORD PTR DS:[_winminor],EDX
004024AC  . 8B76 0C        MOV ESI,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+C]
004024AF  . 81E6 FF7F0000  AND ESI,7FFF
004024B5  . 8935 90A74000  MOV DWORD PTR DS:[_osver],ESI
004024BB  . 83F9 02        CMP ECX,2
004024BE  .v74 0C          JE SHORT Keylogge.004024CC
004024C0  . 81CE 00800000  OR ESI,8000
004024C6  . 8935 90A74000  MOV DWORD PTR DS:[_osver],ESI
004024CC  > C1E0 08        SHL EAX,8
004024CF  . 03C2           ADD EAX,EDX
004024D1  . A3 94A74000    MOV DWORD PTR DS:[_winver],EAX
004024D6  . 33FF           XOR EDI,EDI
004024D8  . 57             PUSH EDI                                   [pModule => NULL
004024D9  . FF15 48804000  CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetModule  GetModuleHandleA
004024DF  . 66:8138 4D5A   CMP WORD PTR DS:[EAX],5A4D
004024E4  .v75 1F          JNZ SHORT Keylogge.00402505
004024E6  . 8B48 3C        MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[EAX+3C]
004024E9  . 03C8           ADD ECX,EAX
004024EB  . 8139 50450000  CMP DWORD PTR DS:[ECX],4550
004024F1  .v75 12          JNZ SHORT Keylogge.00402505
004024F3  . 0FB741 18      MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR DS:[ECX+18]
004024F7  . 3D 0B010000    CMP EAX,10B
```

Program entry point

Paused