

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

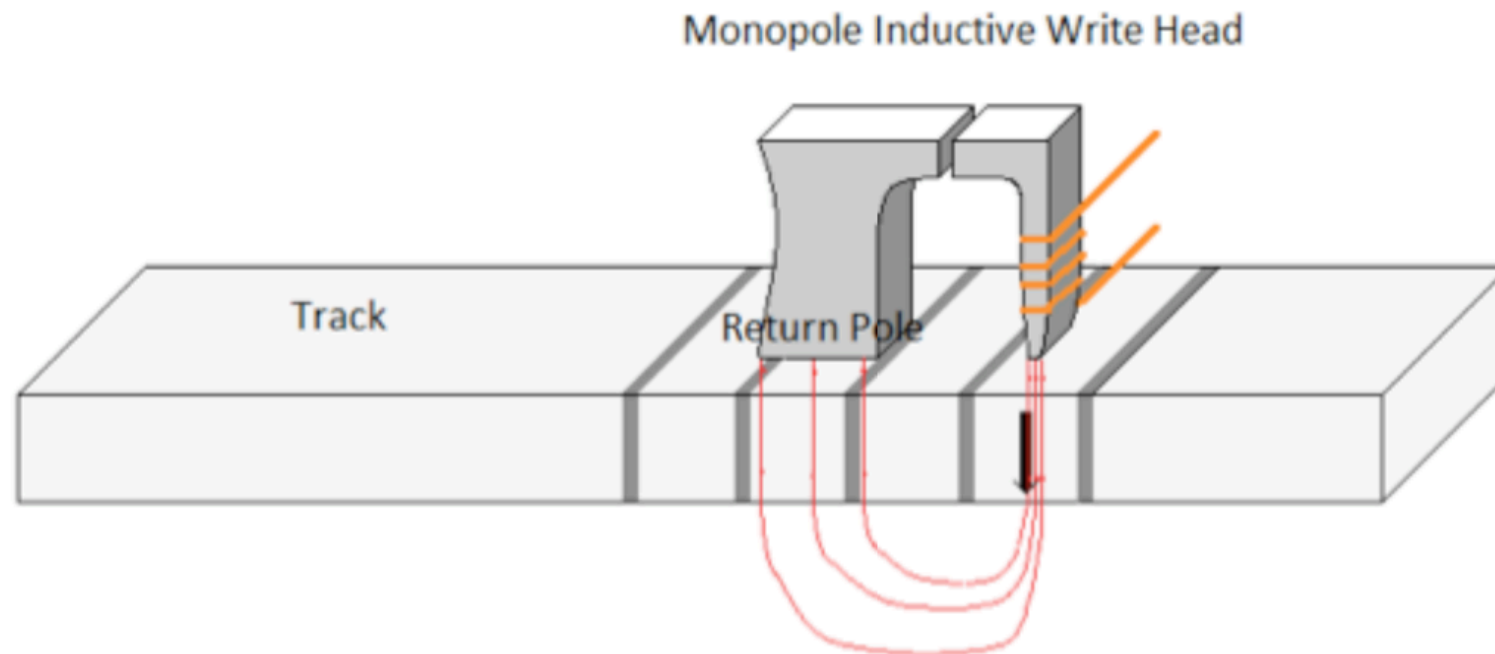
- Scheme of an investigation
 - Problem or incident triggers intervention
 - Preliminary identification of the goal of the investigation
 - Identification of potential evidence and its acquisition
 - Forensic Analysis of potential evidence
 - Requires refining the task and looking for more potential 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

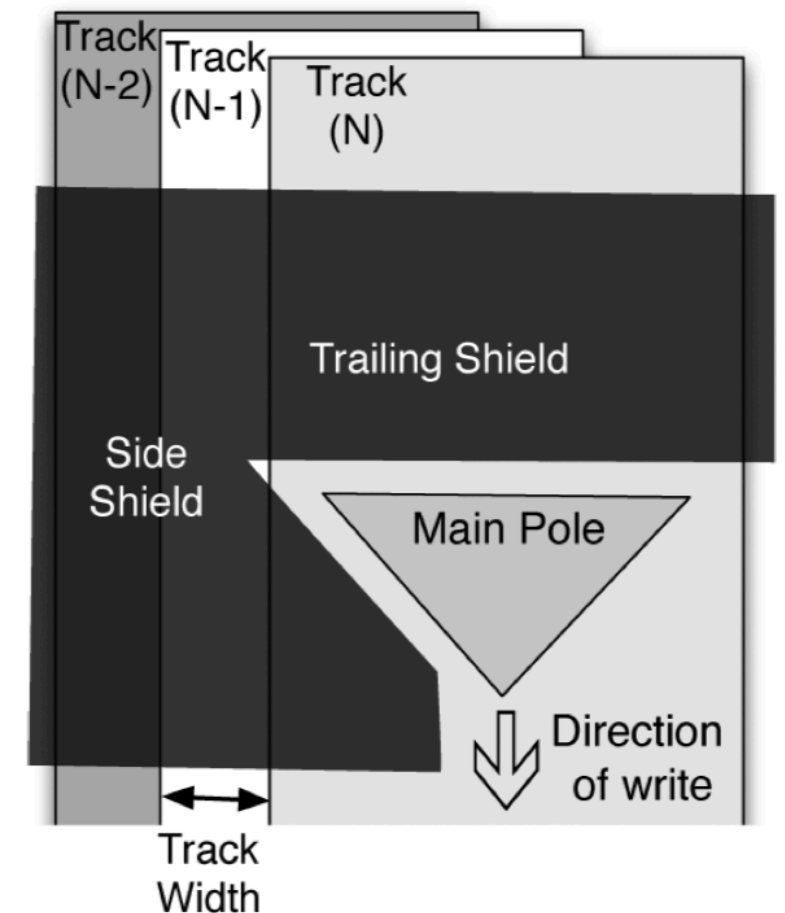
Media Forensics

- 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





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

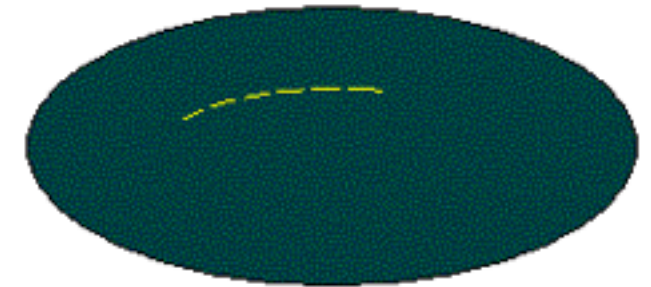
Media Forensics

- 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

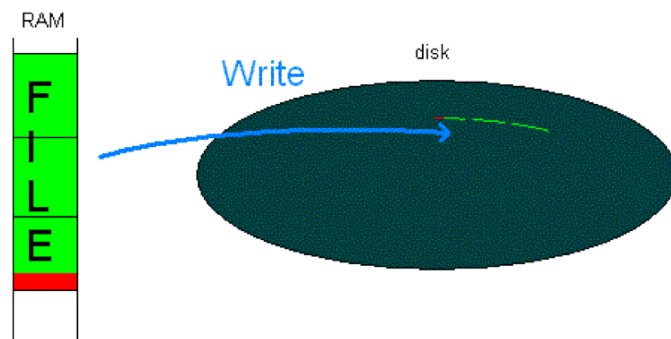
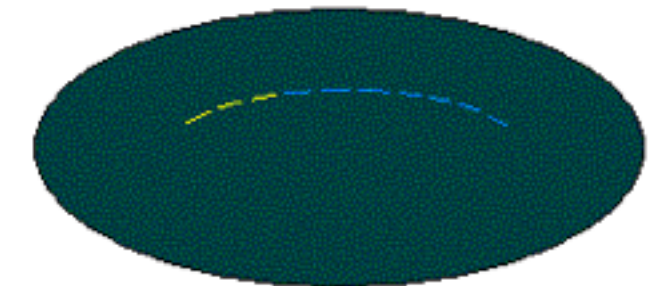
Media Forensics

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

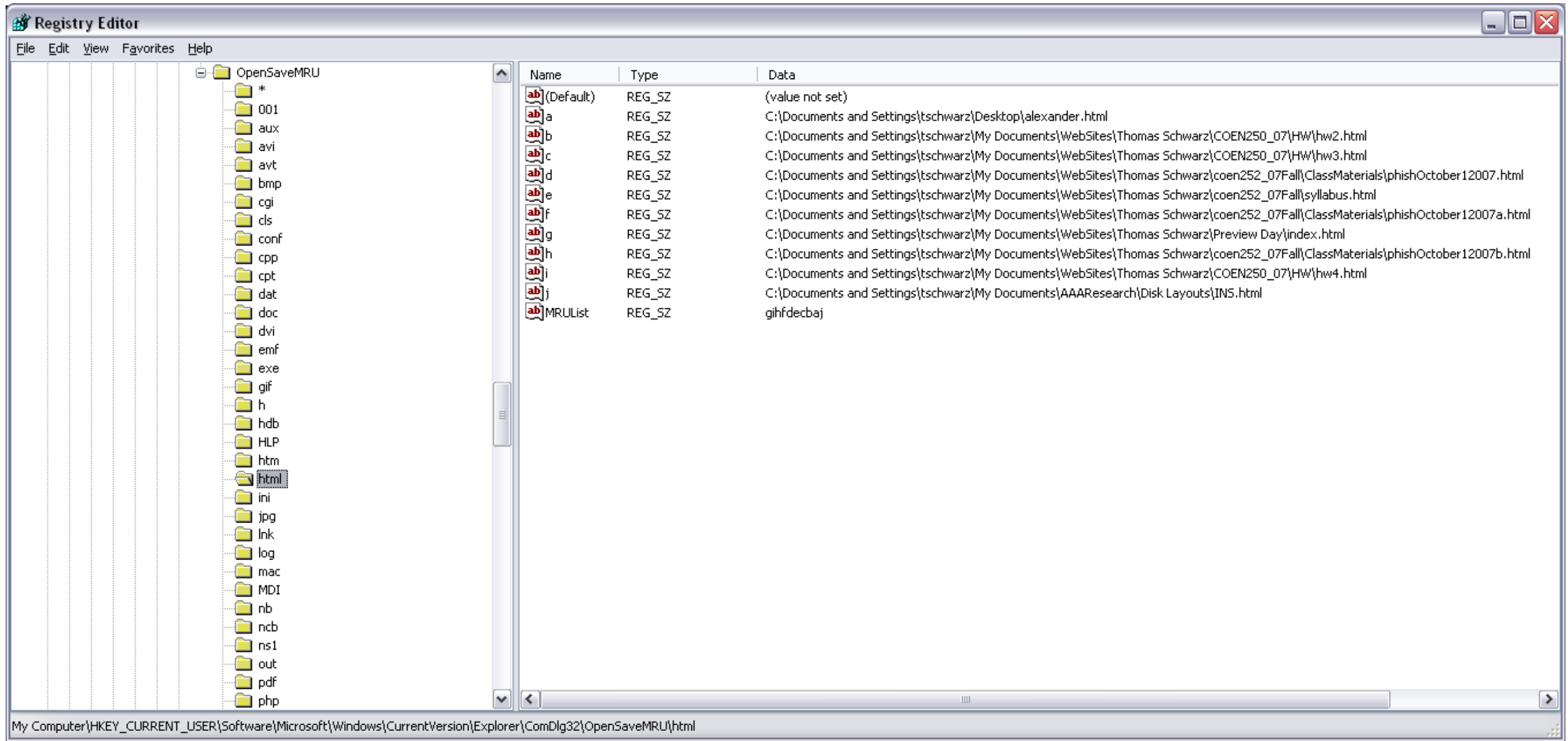
File 1 stored in several disk sectors marked for deletion



Partially overwritten by File 2.



Media Forensics



Media Forensics

- Metadata:
 - Note the time stamps

The screenshot shows the WinHex application window displaying a hex dump of a file. The main window title is "WinHex" and the menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "Search", "Position", "View", "Tools", "Specialist", "Options", "File Manager", "Window", and "Help". The toolbar contains various icons for file operations and navigation. The main area shows "Hard disk 0" and "Hard disk 0, Partition 2". A hex dump is displayed with columns for "Offset" (0-15) and "Access". A dialog box titled "Hexadecimal - Decimal" is open, showing the conversion of the hexadecimal value "139C5" to the decimal value "80325". The hex dump shows a file structure with entries like "FILE0...8...", "8...X...", "4...", "H...", "ABS<^A...ABS<^A...", "0...p...", "R...", "ABS<^A...ABS<^A...", "ABS<^A...", ".\$.Log.Fil", "e...I...H...", "@...", "y?...@...", "...2.@ç?... ", "yyyy...", "I...H...@...", "...y?... ", "@...", "...2.@ç?... yyyy..."

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	Access
00C7FE97B0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE97C0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE97D0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE97E0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE97F0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	34	0A	...
00C7FE9800	46	49	4C	45	30	00	03	00	38	0F	00	02	00	00	00	00	FILE0...8...
00C7FE9810	02	00	01	00	38	00	01	00	58	01	00	00	00	04	00	00	...8...X...
00C7FE9820	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	02	00	00	00	...
00C7FE9830	34	0A	00	00	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	00	60	00	00	00	4...
00C7FE9840	00	00	18	00	00	00	00	00	48	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	...H...
00C7FE9850	60	E3	DF	A7	3C	B0	C3	01	60	E3	DF	A7	3C	B0	C3	01	`ABS<^A...`ABS<^A...
00C7FE9860	60	E3	DF	A7	3C	B0	C3	01	60	E3	DF	A7	3C	B0	C3	01	`ABS<^A...`ABS<^A...
00C7FE9870	06	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE9880	00	00	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE9890	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	30	00	00	00	70	00	00	00	...0...p...
00C7FE98A0	00	00	18	00	00	00	02	00	52	00	00	00	18	00	01	00	...R...
00C7FE98B0	05	00	00	00	00	00	05	00	60	E3	DF	A7	3C	B0	C3	01	...`ABS<^A...
00C7FE98C0	60	E3	DF	A7	3C	B0	C3	01	60	E3	DF	A7	3C	B0	C3	01	`ABS<^A...`ABS<^A...
00C7FE98D0	60	E3	DF	A7	3C	B0	C3	01	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	`ABS<^A...
00C7FE98E0	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	06	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE98F0	08	03	24	00	4C	00	6F	00	67	00	46	00	69	00	6C	00	..\$.Log.Fil
00C7FE9900	65	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	80	00	00	00	48	00	00	00	e...I...H...
00C7FE9910	01	00	40	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	..@...
00C7FE9920	FF	3F	00	00	00	00	00	00	40	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	y?...@...
00C7FE9930	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE9940	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	32	00	40	E7	3F	0C	00	00	...2.@ç?...
00C7FE9950	FF	FF	FF	FF	00	00	00	00	20	00	00	00	20	02	00	00	yyyy...
00C7FE9960	01	02	00	00	00	00	00	05	20	00	00	00	20	02	00	00	...
00C7FE9970	80	00	00	00	48	00	00	00	01	00	40	00	00	00	01	00	I...H...@...
00C7FE9980	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	FF	3F	00	00	00	00	00	00	...y?...
00C7FE9990	40	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	@...
00C7FE99A0	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	00	...
00C7FE99B0	32	00	40	E7	3F	0C	00	00	FF	FF	FF	FF	00	00	00	00	2.@ç?... yyyy...
00C7FE99C0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	...

Sector 6553420 of 156151800 Offset: C7FE9800 = 70 Block: n/a Size: n/a

Media Forensics

The screenshot displays the AccessData FTK version 1.42 build 03.12.05 interface. The window title is "AccessData FTK version 1.42 build 03.12.05 -- C:\Documents and Settings\Thomas Schwarz\My Documents\Temp\FTKCase...". The main menu includes File, Edit, View, Tools, and Help. Below the menu are tabs for Overview, Explore, Graphics, E-Mail, Search, and Bookmark. The "Search" tab is active, showing "Indexed Search" and "Live Search" options. A search results pane on the right lists 98 hits in 9 files, with one hit highlighted: "1 Hit - Disk0\Part_2\NONAME-NTFS\Docum...". The main preview area shows a document with the following text:

Reviewed two articles for WDAS '03.
Reviewed article "Double Hashing with Mutiple Passbits" by Paul Martini and Walter Burkhard the International Journal of Foundations of Computer Science (<http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/~ijfcs>).
Reviewed article by Thomassian et.al for FAST '03.
Reviewed article for IEEE Transactions on Computers.

Member of Ph.D. committee for Q. Xin at UCSC.

Responsible for setting up the CFEWG (Computer Forensics Educator Working Group) meeting in Los Altos, California,

The bottom of the interface shows a file list table with columns: File Name, Full Path, Recycl..., Ext, File Type, Category, and Subje. The table contains three entries:

File Name	Full Path	Recycl...	Ext	File Type	Category	Subje
Activities Report 2002-2003.doc	Disk0\Part_2\NONAME-NTFS\Documents and ...		doc	Microsoft Wo...	Document	
Activities Report 2003_4.doc	Disk0\Part_2\NONAME-NTFS\Documents and ...		doc	Microsoft Wo...	Document	
Activities Report.doc	Disk0\Part_2\NONAME-NTFS\Documents and ...		doc	Microsoft Wo...	Document	

At the bottom, a status bar indicates "9 Listed", "0 Checked Total", and the current file path: "Disk0\Part_2\NONAME-NTFS\Documents and Settings\Thomas Sc...\Activities Report 2003_4.doc".

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

- 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

Search View Debugger Options Windows Help

Text COLLAPSE

0101 0101 "s" * N X off # 'x' S M K -/ ~ :

Hex View-A Exports Imports Names Functions Strings Structures Enums

```

text:0040246B
text:0040246B locret_40246B: ; CODE XREF: check_managed_app+3A1j
text:0040246B ; check_managed_app+4A1j
text:0040246B retn
text:0040246B check_managed_app endp
text:0040246C
text:0040246C ; :::::::::::::::::::: S U B R O U T I N E ::::::::::::::::::::
text:0040246C ; Attributes: library function
text:0040246C mainCRTStartup proc near
text:0040246C push 18h ; ExceptionInfo
text:0040246C push offset stru_408338 ; int
text:0040246E call __SEH_prolog
text:00402473 mov edi, 94h
text:00402478 mov eax, edi
text:0040247D call __chkstk
text:0040247F mov [ebp-18h], esp
text:00402484 mov esi, esp
text:00402487 mov [esi], edi
text:00402489 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:00402498 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 loc_4024CC: ; CODE XREF: mainCRTStartup+521j
text:004024CC shl eax, 8

```

N Names window

Name	Address
F Maillt	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)	nn

Line 3 of 541

Strings window

Address	Length	Type	String
...rdata:0...	00000008	C	connect
...rdata:0...	00000010	C	Connecting...\n
...rdata:0...	0000000E	C	gethostbyname
...rdata:0...	00000012	C	WSAStartup fail
...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	\n[CAPS LOCK
...rdata:0...	00000009	C	\n[""]\n
...rdata:0...	00000008	C	\n[]\n
...rdata:0...	00000009	C	\n[\]\n
...rdata:0...	00000008	C	\n[{]\n
...rdata:0...	00000009	C	\n[~]\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.

```

OllyDbg - KeyloggerIronGeek.exe



File View Debug Plugins Options Window Help

Navigation icons: back, forward, home, search, etc. Address bar: **L E M T W H C / K B R ... S**

C 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.GetVersionInformationExA]	pVersion Information GetVersionExA
00402492	. 8B4E 10	MOV ECX,DWORD PTR DS:[ESI+10]	
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	. 74 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	
004024D9	. FF15 48804000	CALL DWORD PTR DS:[<&KERNEL32.GetModuleHandleA]	pModule => NULL GetModuleHandleA
004024DF	. 66:8138 4D5A	CMP WORD PTR DS:[EAX],5A4D	
004024E4	. 75 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	. 75 12	JNZ SHORT Keylogge.00402505	
004024F3	. 0FB741 18	MOVZX EAX,WORD PTR DS:[ECX+18]	
004024F7	. 3D 0B010000	CMP EAX,10B	
004024FC	. 74 15	JE SHORT Keylogge.0040251D	

Program entry point

Paused