

#### Dark Corners of Windows

Registry Analysis

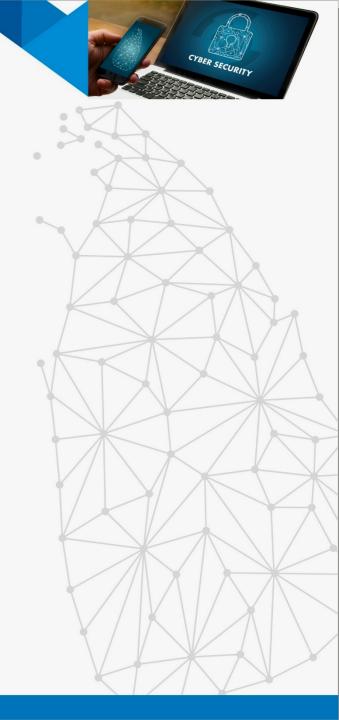
by Ravindu W Meegasmulla Associate Information Security Engineer





#### About Me?

- Working with Sri Lanka CERT over 4 years
- Conducted over 100 digital forensic investigations



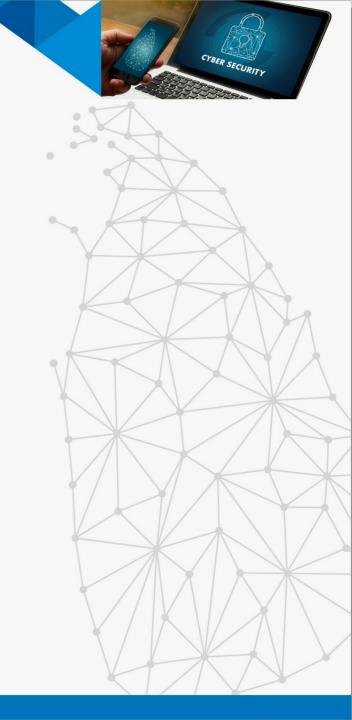


#### Agenda

- Introduction to Windows Registry
  - Structure
  - Viewing the Windows registry
- Registry Analysis tools
- Registry Based Investigation
  - Time Zone Investigation
  - Last Shutdown time
  - Operating System information
  - Users in the system
  - Mounted devices
  - Connected USB devices
  - Network related investigation
  - Tracking User Activities

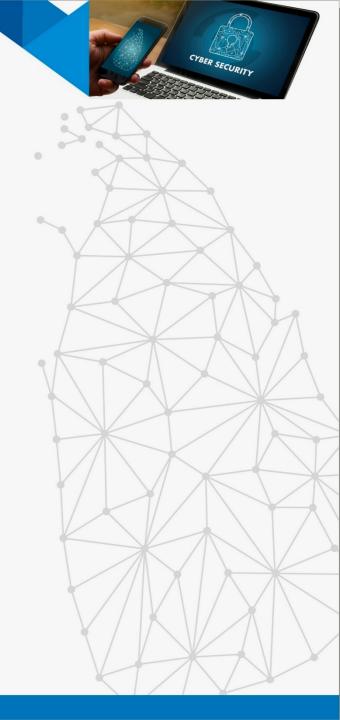






#### **Topics not Covered**

Deep analysis of Connected USB devices





#### Windows Registry?

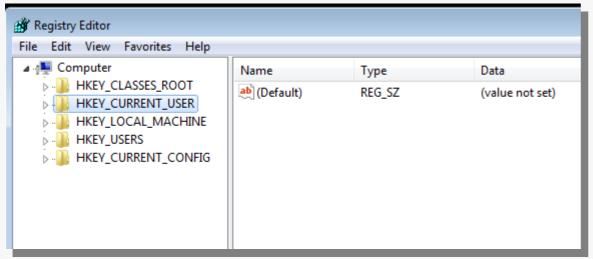


- It is a hierarchical database which contains the settings and configurations for the computer, hardware, services, security, and users etc.
- Active when operating system boots/starts
- Four main hives will read into the memory
  - Software Information/Settings related to software installed on the system
  - System Information/Settings related to the system
  - Security Information/Settings related to security of the system
  - SAM Information/Settings related to users of the system
- "NTUSER.DAT" registry file will come alive when a user authenticate to the system



#### 2-Ways of viewing the registry

Using a run command "regedit"



- Using a digital forensic investigation tool
  - Mount the 4 main hives located in below locations to the tool
    - windir\system32\config\System
    - windir\system32\config\Software
    - windir\system32\config\Security
    - windir\system32\config\SAM







#### View from a forensic tool - EnCase

Name		File Physical Logical Ext Size Size			ltem Path					
🗋 system			2,359,296	2,359,296	CBARROW\C\WIN	NDOWS\system32\config\system				
🗋 software			11,272,192	11,272,192	CBARROW\C\WIN	NDOWS\system32\config\software				
userdiff userdiff			262,144	262,144	CBARROW\C\WINDOWS\system32\config\userdiff					
🗋 system.LOG	LOG 2,048 1,024 CBARROW\C\WINDOWS\system32\config\system.LOG									
□ software.LOG		LOG	2,048	1,024	CBARROW\C\WIN	NDOWS\system32\config\software.LO	G			
default.LOG		LOG	2,048	1,024	CBARROW\C\WIN	NDOWS\system32\config\default.LOG				
userdiff.LOG		LOG	2,048	1,024	CBARROW\C\WIN	NDOWS\system32\config\userdiff.LOC	3			
🗋 system.sav		sav	376,832			NDOWS\system32\config\system.sav				
TempKey.LOG		LOG	2,048			NDOWS\system32\config\TempKey.LC	_			
software.sav		sav	606,208			NDOWS\system32\config\software.sav	v	al	ltem	
default.sav		sav	90,112		2 CBARROW\C\WINDOWS\system32\config\default.sav		2	Path		
☐ SECURITY			262,144			NDOWS\system32\config\SECURITY				
□ SAM		105	262,144			NDOWS\system32\config\SAM		4,096	CBARROW\C\Documents and Settings\Clyde\SendTo	
SECURITY.LOG SAM.LOG		LOG	2,048 2,048		, ,		JG	256	CBARROW\C\Documents and Settings\Clyde\Start Menu	
AppEvent.Evt		Evt	65,536		CBARROW\C\WINDOWS\system32\config\AppEvent.Evt		,+		ŭ ,	
Appevent.evt		LVC	05,550	05,550	CBARROWICIWII	VDOWS (System 52 (confing toppe ventile)	,,,	4,096	CBARROW\C\Documents and Settings\Clyde\Templates	
	WINDOV	VS				144		144	CBARROW\C\Documents and Settings\Clyde\WINDOWS	
	Work					4,096		4,096	CBARROW\C\Documents and Settings\Clyde\Work	
	☐ NTUSER.DAT		DAT	1,048,576	1,0	)48,576	CBARROW\C\Documents and Settings\Clyde\NTUSER.DAT			
	□ NTUSER.DAT.LOG			LOG	2,048		1,024	CBARROW\C\Documents and Settings\Clyde\NTUSER.DAT		
🗋 ntuser.ir		ni			ini	180		180	CBARROW\C\Documents and Settings\Clyde\ntuser.ini	

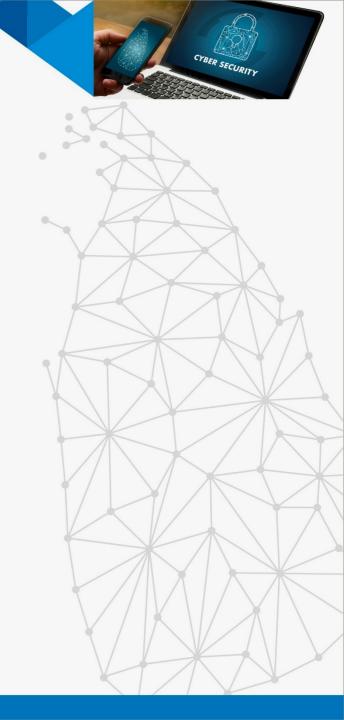




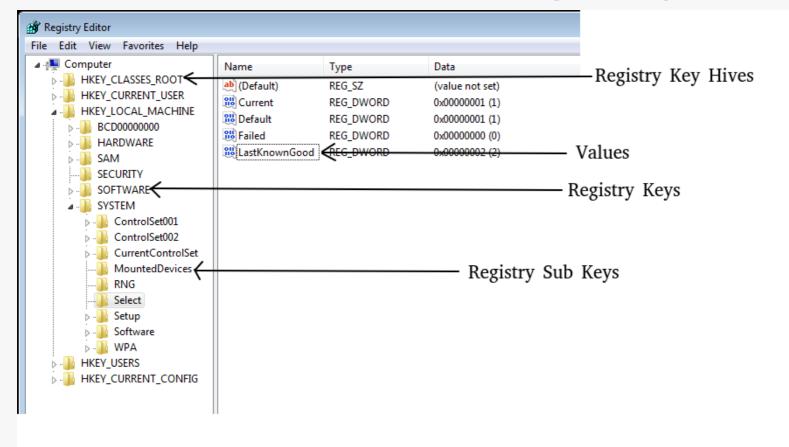
# Confusing?

Subtree/Key	Filename
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE	windir\system32\config\ System\
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE	windir\system32\config\ Software
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE	windir\system32\config\ Security
HKEY_USERS	windir\system32\config\SAM
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\BCD00000000	\Boot\BCD
HKEY_CURRENT_USERS	NTUSER.DAT

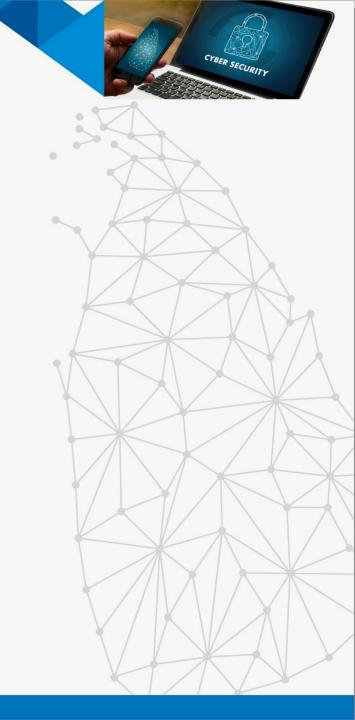




#### Structure of the Registry



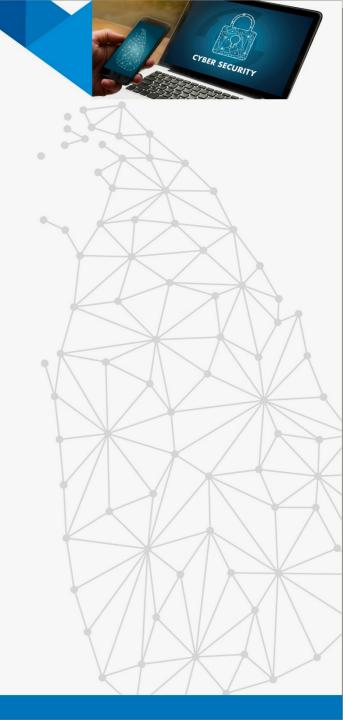




#### Registry Analysis Tools

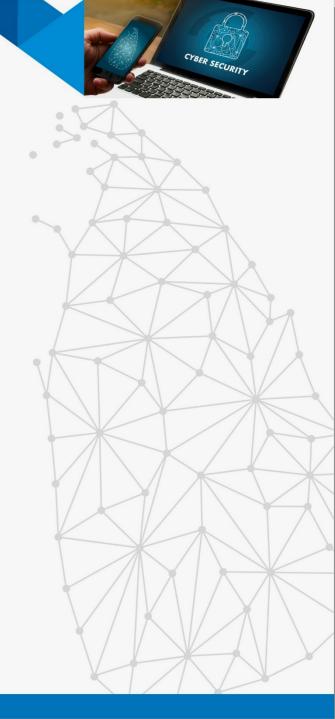
- Regedit.exe
- Reg.exe
- Autoruns.exe
- Scripting tools
  - Ex: Perl Win32::TieRegistry
- Regshot
- RegMon
- Build into tools Encase, F-Response, FTK
- RegRipper, RIP.pl, regslack





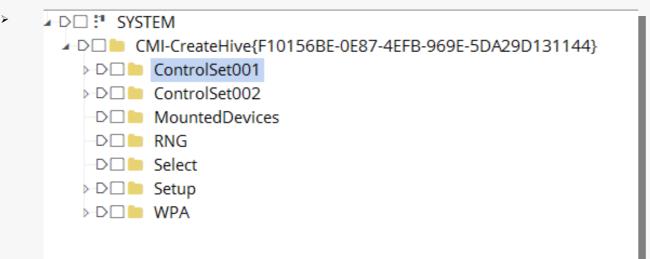
#### When to use registry analysis

- Network related investigations
- Malware infections
- Suspicious user activities
- Fake document forgery investigations
- And many more





- Finding out the Time Zone
  - Located in SYSTEM Hive
  - What are ControlSets?
    - Contains system configuration information (Devices, Drivers and Services)
    - System:NTRegistry/CMI-CreateHive[xxxxx]/ControlSet001/Control/TimeZoneinformation
    - Regedit location HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control
    - Values are stored in little-endian format(least significant bytes are processed first) 32-bit integer and displayed as hex values

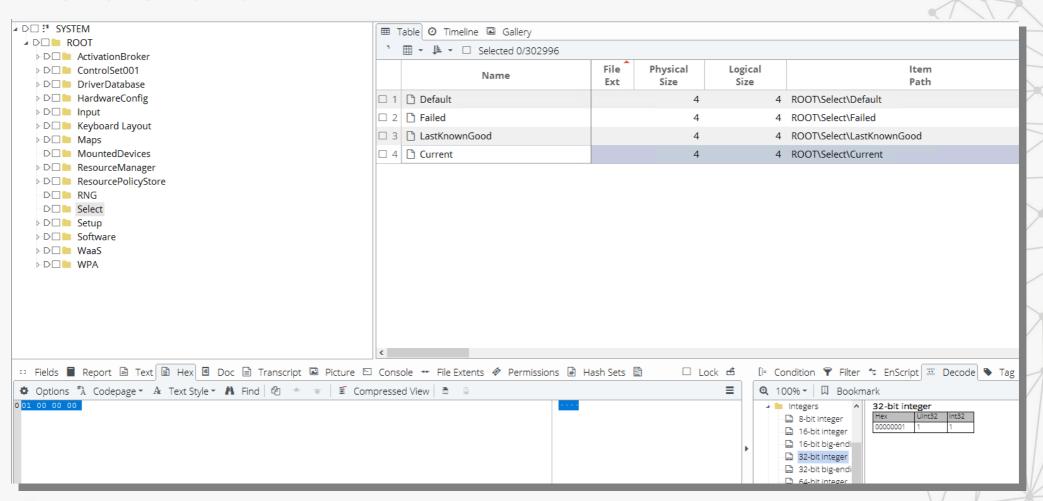








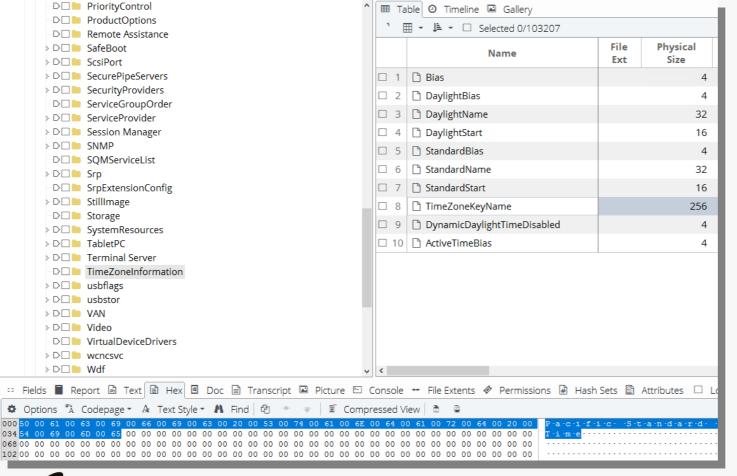
• Time Zone Contd.

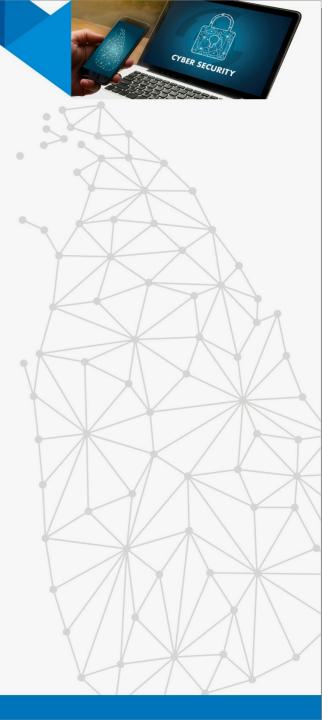






Time Zone Contd.

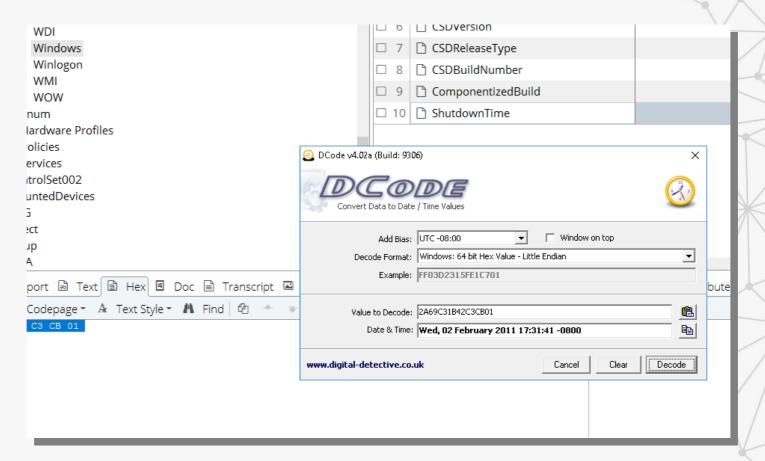








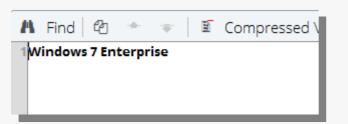
- Identify last shutdown time period
- System\ControlSet001\Control\TimeZoneinformation\Windows

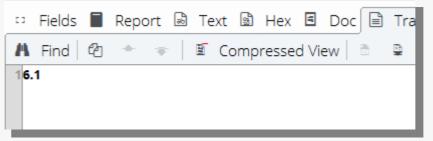




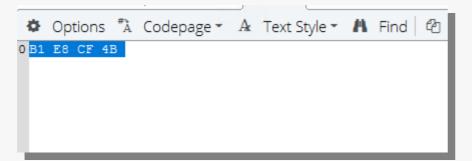


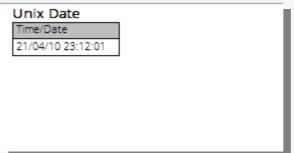
- Identifying the OS information and OS installed date/time
  - Information can be found in the SOFTWARE Hive
    - Software Hive\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ProductName
    - > Software Hive\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\CurrentVersion





Software Hive\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\InstallDate



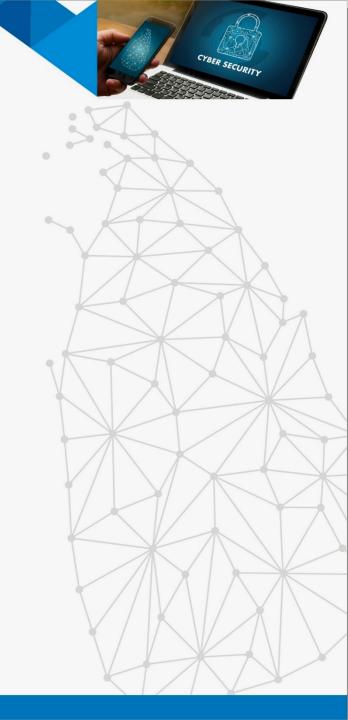








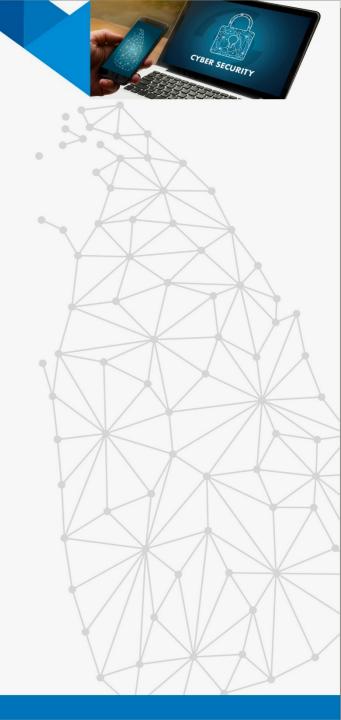
- Users in the system
- Our goal is to:
  - > Identify the domain users and local users in the system



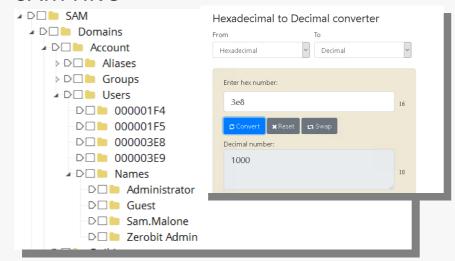


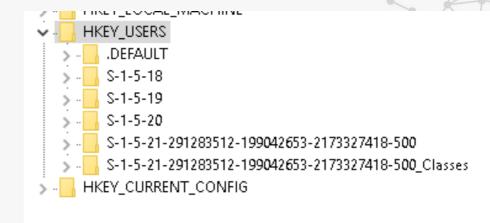
- Users in the system contd.
  - Windows Security and Relative ID
  - > SID is used to identify the computer system
  - RID is used to identify the specific user
  - SID appears as:
    - > S-1-5-21-3774130484-663992614-3010368698-1000
  - USER ID (RID)
    - Administrator 512
    - Guest 501
    - Custom users 1000 onward





- Users in the system contd.
  - > SAM Hive





Finding SID using terminal

```
C:\Users\Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\Users\Administrator>\wmic useraccount get name,sid

Name SID

Administrator S-1-5-21-291283512-199042653-2173327418-500

DefaultAccount S-1-5-21-291283512-199042653-2173327418-503

Guest S-1-5-21-291283512-199042653-2173327418-501

C:\Users\Administrator>_
```

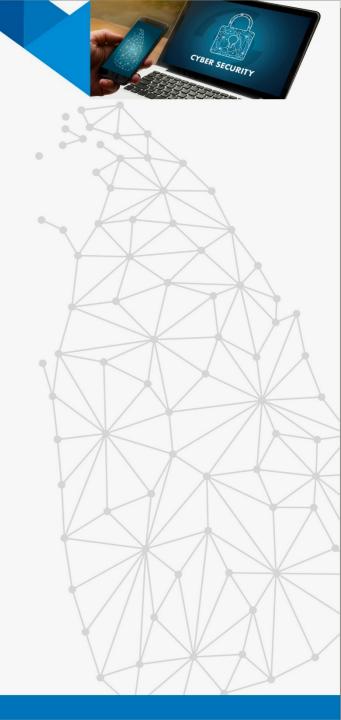




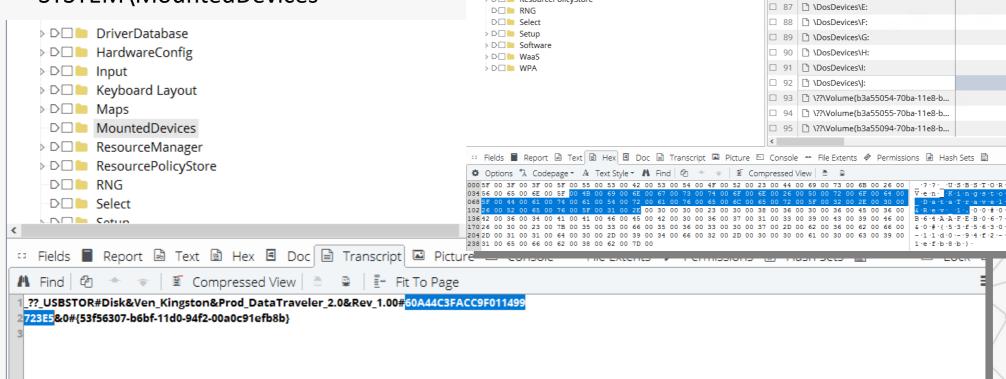


- Mounted Devices & USB Devices
- Our goal is to
  - Identify the mounted devices
  - Gather more information on each mounted devices
  - Finding the HardwareID
  - Map the hardwareID with the USB devices found in the crime scene





- Mounted Devices
  - List of Mounted devices on a system
  - SYSTEM\MountedDevices



□ ■ MountedDevices

▶ □ ■ ResourceManager

▶ □ ■ ResourcePolicyStore

☐ 86 🖺 \DosDevices\D:

24

24

12

218

238

214

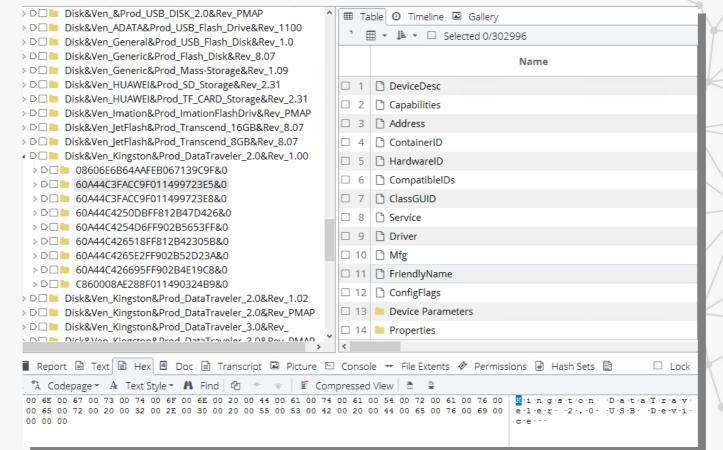
216

212





- USB Devices
  - SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Enum\USBSTOR\







- Network related investigations.
- Our goal is to:
  - Identifying Network Interface Cards
  - Identifying IP addresses, DHCP Server, LeaseObtainedTime, LeaseTerminatedTime, etc.
  - Identifying the SSID
  - Identifying the MAC address of the Wireless access point.

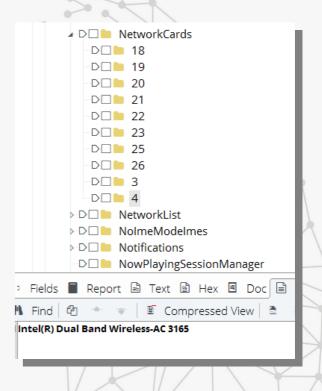




- Network related investigations Contd.
  - Finding the NIC's
    - > SOFTWARE\Microsoft\WindowsNT\CurrentVersion\NetworkCards
    - GUID is important

{7559DD84-DB7A-42AE-9A0B-9AA7AB1A8660}

- Finding more information
  - > SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Tcpip\Parameters\Interfaces\{GUID}





• Network related investigations Contd.

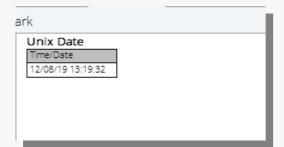
> □ ■ Adapters	□ 1 🗋 EnableDHCP
DNSRegisteredAdapters	□ 2 🖰 MTU
←□□ Interfaces	
¬□□■ {11d2a2b8-0ee2-4e13-9f57-c26cbd6ec6b8}	3 UseZeroBroadcast
-□□	☐ 4 ☐ Domain
-□□	□ 5  NameServer
□□ [226AC763-C689-4048-93D0-5452D61BFA3A]	
□□	□ 6 □ DhcpIPAddress
□□	□ 7 🗋 DhcpSubnetMask
□□□ {38cd87c3-e1cc-4402-b217-73fae61ce381}	□ 8 🖰 DhcpServer
-D□ (3efb8523-b8e8-441e-b7a1-eb072bf9f10b)	
-D□ <b>(</b> 3f33a990-b4da-4a2c-8640-b4ec8721570a}	9 🖺 Lease
-□□	□ 10 🗋 LeaseObtainedTime
□□	□ 11 🗅 T1
→ 51f8a38e-dcb1-4281-b406-77abb12e941a}	C 42 C T2
→ G6bb1ddf5-c82c-4305-beb7-da9fd17453fd}	□ 12 🗅 T2
↓ □ □ [7559dd84-db7a-42ae-9a0b-9aa7ab1a8660]	☐ 13 ☐ LeaseTerminatesTime
D□ 055726C69636027596D26496	☐ 14 🖰 AddressType
D□ 055726C69636F575966496	□ 45 □ PaleServerNerrAverse
D□ 2514E444949514D2E414E4F4	☐ 15 🗋 IsServerNapAware
-D□ <b>25</b> 56463627F63737F525F6F66647F607	☐ 16 ☐ DhcpConnForceBroadcastFlag
¬□□□ 35C42534352364C425 •	<

24 28

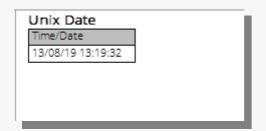




- Network related investigations Contd.
  - LeaseObtainedTime



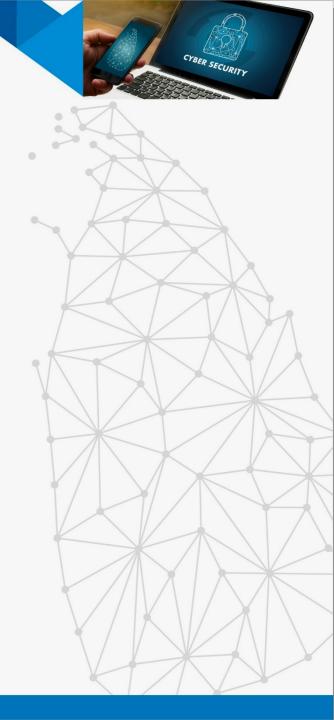
LeaseTerminatedTime



- Identified what time frame this interface connected to the network.
- Which network is connected to remains to be discovered.

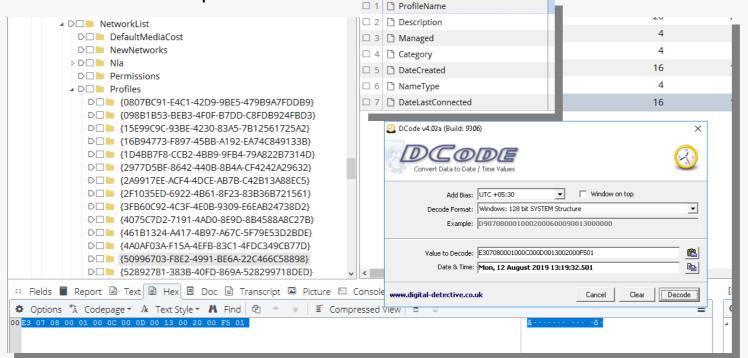


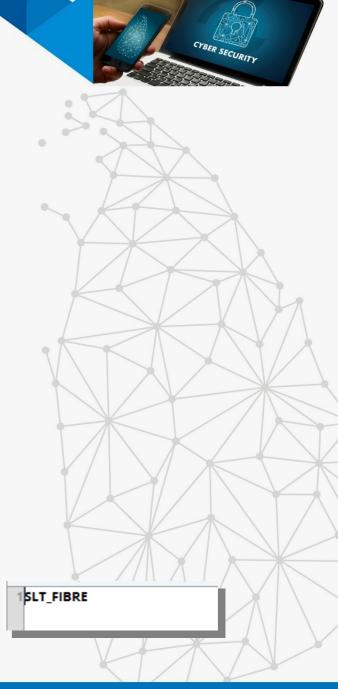




- Network related investigations Contd.
  - Identifying the network profiles
    - > Software\Microsoft\WindowsNT\CurrentVersion\NetworkList\Profiles

Each Profile has unique GUIDs

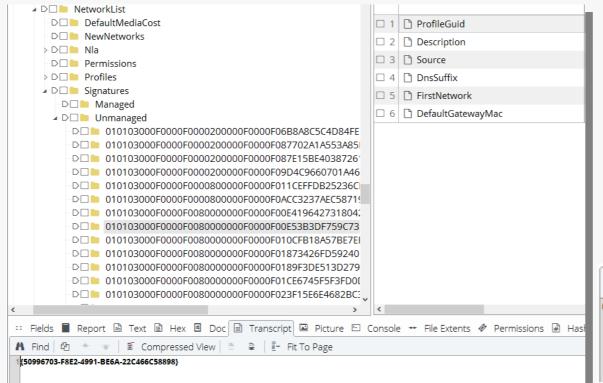


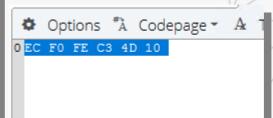






- Network related investigations Contd.
  - Finding the MAC address of the wireless access point
    - Software\Microsoft\Windows\WindowsNT\CurrentVersion\NetworkList\Signatures\Unmanaged

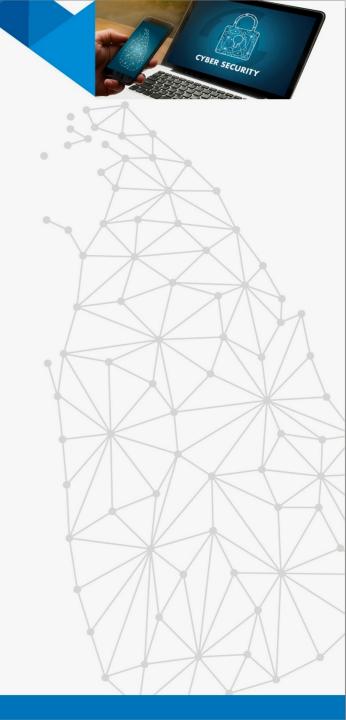








- Tracking User Activities
- Our goal is to:
  - Identifying the user behavior



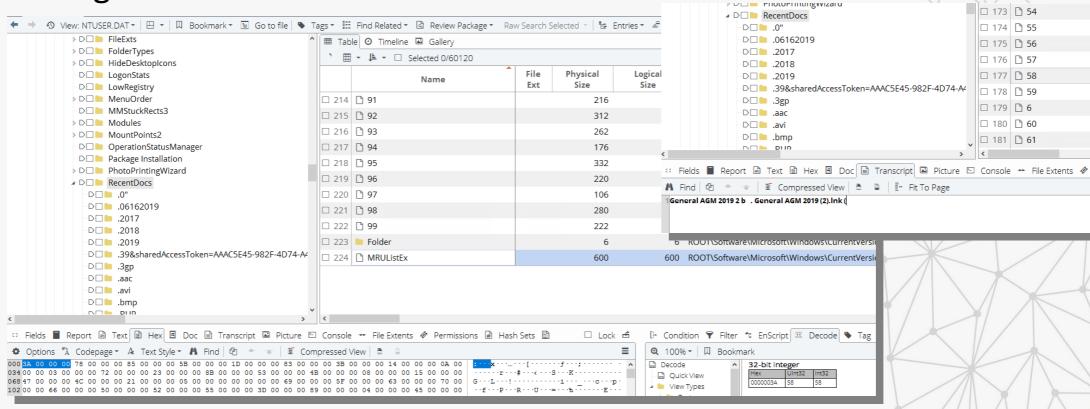




- CYBER SECURITY
- Identifying MRU (Most Recently Used) files on a suspect computer system (Tracking User activities) - NTUSER.DAT
  - Contains User-specific data
  - Located at root of each user account on the system
  - Typed Url's
    - > NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\TypedURLs
  - Opened Recent Documents
    - > NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\RecentDocs
      - MRUListEx will record the order in which the files were accessed
      - > Each file number is represented in 8 bytes hexadecimal format. Convert each to 32-bit integer
      - > Each file extension has its own folder.
        - Contains MRUListEx
        - File name



• Tracking User activities Contd.



☐ 173 **[**] 54

□ 174 🖺 55

□ 175 **[**] 56

□ 176 🖺 57

□ 177 🖺 58

□ 178 🖺 59

□ 179 🖺 6

□ 180 🖺 60

□ 181 🖺 61



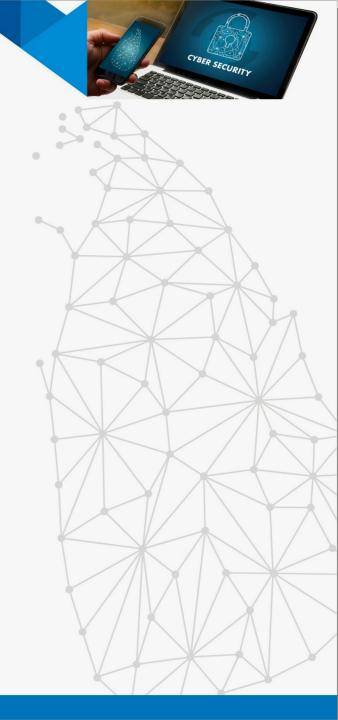


• Tracking User activities Contd.

Ⅲ Table ② Timeline ☑ Gallery							
5 III → Ji → □ Selected 0/60120							
	Name	File Ext	Physical Size	Logical Size			
□ 191	.msg	msg	4	4	ROOT\Soft		
□ 192	MTS	MTS	4	4	ROOT\Soft		
□ 193	nomedia	nome	8	8	ROOT\Soft		
□ 194	odt	odt	4	4	ROOT\Soft		
□ 195	opdownload	opdo	11	11	ROOT\Soft		
□ 196	pdf .pdf	pdf	4	4	ROOT\Soft		
□ 197	▶ .PL	PL	3	3	ROOT\Soft		
□ 198	npng .png	png	4	4	ROOT\Soft		
□ 199	.ppsx	ppsx	5	5	ROOT\Soft		
□ 200	ppt .ppt	ppt	4	4	ROOT\Soft		
□ 201	pptm	pptm	5	5	ROOT\Soft		
□ 202	pptx	pptx	5	5	ROOT\Soft		
□ 203	.pst	pst	4	4	ROOT\Soft		
□ 204	nar .rar	rar	4	4	ROOT\Soft		
<							





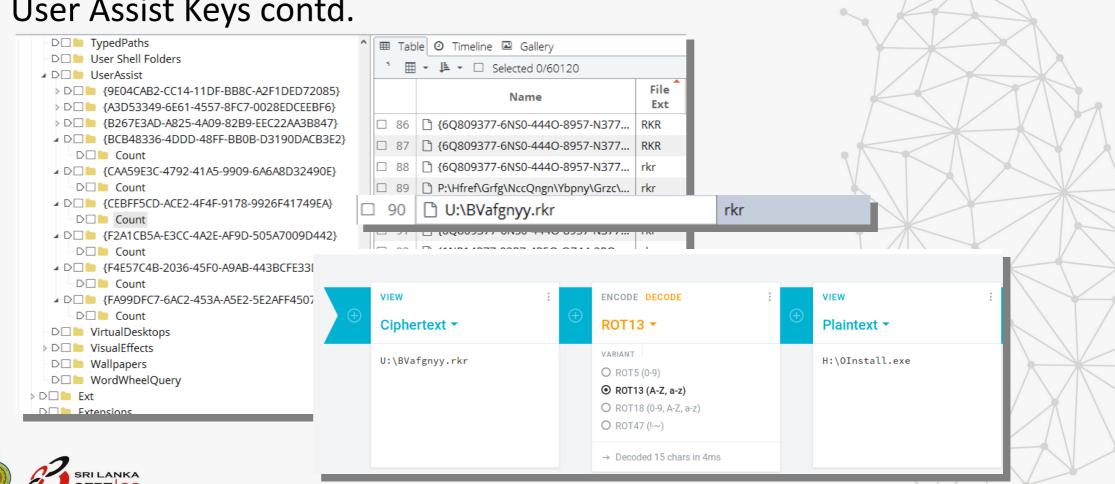


- Tracking User activities Contd.
  - User Assist Keys
    - NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\ Explorer\UserAssist\{GUID}\Count
    - Mostly frequently opened EXE and LNK files
    - Keys are encrypted with ROT-13
    - What action user took through shell
    - Also shows when it has happened
    - Encase Provides Enscrpt to decode
    - UserAssistView tool can be used https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/userassist\_view.html





- Tracking User activities Contd.
  - User Assist Keys contd.



- Tracking User activities Contd.
  - > Enscript

A	В
Decoded Name	
VEME CTLSESSION	
3 UEME CTLSESSION	
4 UEME CTLSESSION	
5 UEME CTLSESSION	
6 UEME CTLCUACount:ctor	<invalid></invalid>
7 Microsoft. Getstarted_8wekyb3d8bbwe!App	30/04/19 10:05:53
8 VEME CTLSESSION	
9 {1AC14E77-02E7-4E5D-B744-2EB1AE5198B7}\mspaint.exe	29/03/19 10:05:02
Microsoft.Windows.Explorer	12/08/19 13:30:41
1 windows,immersivecontrolpanel cw5n1h2txyewy!microsoft.windows,immersivecontrolpanel	29/03/19 15:08:25
2 Microsoft-MicrosoftEdge 8wekyb3d8bbwe!MicrosoftEdge	12/08/19 13:44:33
3 KasperskyLab,Kis,Ul,Toasts	14/02/19 16:26:54
4 {1AC14E77-02E7-4E5D-B744-2EB1AE5198B7}\cmd.exe	<invalid></invalid>
5 Microsoft. Windows, Control Panel	30/07/19 10:01:33
6 Microsoft Windows Store 8wekyb3d8bbwe!App	28/07/19 08:30:15
7 Microsoft. ZuneMusic 8wekyb3d8bbwe! Microsoft. ZuneMusic	12/08/19 08:11:37
8 Microsoft. Windows, Photos Bwekyb3d8bbwe! App	12/08/19 13:44:18
9 {1AC14E77-02E7-4E5D-B744-2EB1AE5198B7}\msdt.exe	14/10/18 19:40:15
0 Microsoft.ZuneVideo_8wekyb3d8bbwe!Microsoft.ZuneVideo	12/08/19 13:44:44
21 Microsoft Office OUTLOOK EXE.15	12/08/19 08:48:29
2 {1AC14E77-02E7-4E5D-B744-2EB1AE5198B7}\OpenWith.exe	<invalid></invalid>
3 Microsoft.Windows.MediaPlayer32	11/08/19 23:37:56
4 {1AC14E77-02E7-4E5D-B744-2EB1AE5198B7}\fsquirt.exe	<invalid></invalid>
5 OperaSoftware OperaWebBrowser 1495693551	12/08/19 08:35:49
6 {7C5A40EF-A0FB-4BFC-874A-C0F2E0B9FA8E}\GreenTree Applications\YTD Video Downloader\ytd.exe	27/07/19 17:48:01
7 Microsoft Windows Cortana_cw5n1h2txyewy!CortanaUl	09/08/17 14:28:29
8 Microsoft Windows ShellExperienceHost_cw5n1h2txyewy!App	<invalid></invalid>
29 Microsoft Microsoft Edge 8wekyb3d8bbwe!ContentProcess	<invalid></invalid>
0 Microsoft MSPaint 8wekyb3d8bbwe! Microsoft MSPaint	20/02/19 13:36:56
1 Microsoft LockApp_cw5n1h2txyewy!WindowsDefaultLockScreen	<invalid></invalid>
32 {1AC14E77-02E7-4E5D-B744-2EB1AE5198B7}\WFS_exe	18/04/19 12:27:39
3 Microsoft Windows Scan 8wekyb3d8bbwe!App	11/08/19 18:37:01
4 Chrome	21/07/19 16:06:39
85 (6D809377-6AF0-444B-8957-A3773F02200E)\CONEXANT\SA3\HP-NB-ALQ\SmartAudio3.exe	<invalid></invalid>
6 Microsoft SkypeApp_kzf8qxf38zg5c!App	11/09/18 14:26:10
R7 Microsoft Windows SecHealthUI_cw5n1h2txyewy!SecHealthUI	<invalid></invalid>
8 Microsoft Windows People Experience Host _cw5n1h2txyewy!App	<invalid></invalid>
9 Microsoft Microsoft Edge_8wekyb3d8bbwelPdfReader	<invalid></invalid>
U C:\Users\Test\Desktop\YTDSetup.exe	21/11/18 15:37:45
1 Microsoft Office OUTLOOK EXE 16	27/05/19 08:41:47



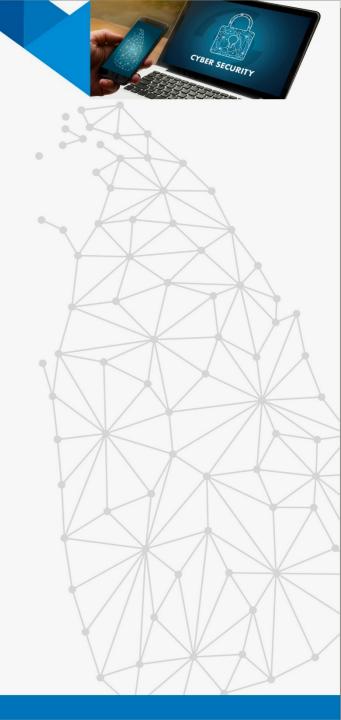


- Tracking User activities Contd.
  - UserAssistViewer On a running machine

	File Edit View Options Help					
Item Name 💚	Index	Count	Modified Time	ClassID		
⊕ 308046B0AF4A39CB	35	27	9/24/2019 9:41:29	{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
● 8216C80C92C4E828	148	1	7/4/2019 3:34:48 PM	{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
\\tsclient\Forensic_Server\Microsoft Word\setup.exe	165	2	6/26/2019 10:46:38	{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Player_Cut\p.exe	111	0	1/8/2019 9:13:18 AM	{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\Im	48	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\IX	85	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\W	46	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\W	172	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\{46	129	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\{46	130	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\{56	83	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\{56	84	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\1\{67	126	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\2\Im	146	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\2\W	141	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\2\~n	98	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\7zS0	33	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\7zS8	32	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\7zSC	34	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\AppData\Local\Temp\{AE9	41	0		{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\010 Editor.Ink	207	0	9/6/2018 10:07:18	{F4E57C4B-2036-45F0-A		
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Amped FIVE (32-bi	209	0	9/11/2018 12:53:56	{F4E57C4B-2036-45F0-A		
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Amped FIVE (64-bi	208	1	5/3/2019 2:24:46 PM	{F4E57C4B-2036-45F0-A		
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\DCode.exe	59	5	9/23/2019 4:15:34	{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\encase_forensic_i	47	0	2/18/2019 11:12:18	{CEBFF5CD-ACE2-4F4F		
<ul> <li>C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\HashCalc.Ink</li> </ul>	206	0	1/18/2019 10:19:24	{F4E57C4B-2036-45F0-A		
Cilliand Administrator Dockton Lee Shorteut Ink	102	. http://www.nirsof	0/16/2010 2:17:56	TEMESTOND ONDE MEET IN		







- Tracking User activities Contd.
  - RunMRU
    - > NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\ Explorer\RunMRU

Most recently used typed items. (Start button, Run commands, etc.)

MRUList will shows the order

		V \ \	
	Name	Type	Data
	ab (Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
	ab a	REG_SZ	gpedit.msc\1
	ab b	REG_SZ	cmd\1
> - FileExts	ab) c		
> - FolderTypes		REG_SZ	notepad\1
	<u>ab</u> d	REG_SZ	mspaint\1
LowRegistry	ab e	REG_SZ	explorer\1
> - MenuOrder	ab f	REG_SZ	regedit\1
> - Modules	MRUList	REG_SZ	fbceda
MountPoints2			
Package Installation			
> - PlmVolatile			
> RecentDocs			
> - Remote			
> - SearchPlatform			
> - SessionInfo			





- Tracking User activities Contd.
  - OpenSaveMRU
    - Files that have been opened or saved with a windows shell dialog box

> NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\

Explorer\ComDlg32\OpenSavedPIDIMRU





- Tracking User activities Contd.
  - OpenSaveMRU Contd.
    - Each file extension have a folder
    - Each folder have a MRUListEx to order
    - \* folder will contain information about the latest 10 files regardless of the file extension
    - File Name and location



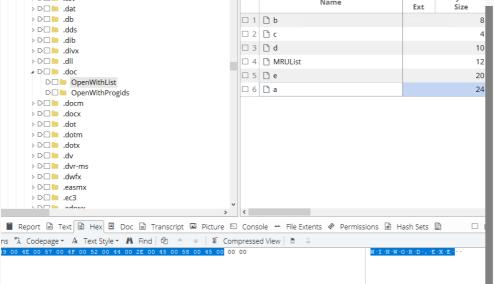




CYBER SECURITY

- Tracking User activities Contd.
  - FileExts NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\ Explorer\FileExts
    - > Tell the system what application to use to open a file
    - Folders with each file extension

Each folder contains MRUList to list the order of applications







- What if there are no values?
  - "Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence"
    - Windows washer removes the registry entries
      - > Last run times of windows washer becomes evidence





# Thank You! & Any Questions?

