Rekall Memory Forensics

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Rekall - our first user!

What is Rekall?

- An advanced memory analysis solution.
 - Historically a fork of the Volatility memory analysis framework
 - Most code rewritten/updated.
 - Fully open source and GPL all commits are public.
 - Focus on:
 - code quality public code reviews.
 - performance.
 - ease of use as a library Integrated into other tools.



Rekall project goals

- To make memory analysis:
 - Accessible
 - GUI, Data exports, Library API.
 - Fast and efficient
 - Reduce scanning/guessing algorithms.
 - Accurate works everywhere!
 - Profile repository gives accurate, specific information.
 - Powerful
 - Research novel analysis techniques.



How is it different from X?

- Other memory forensic frameworks rely on guessing global symbols through signature scanning.
- Rekall uses a different design philosophy:
 - Exact symbol information for the analyzed system
 - e.g. Fetch from Microsoft Symbol Server.
 - Store profiles in a public profile repository
 - Rekall fetches the required profile at runtime.
 - We have an index of kernel profiles.
 - We have over 200 different kernels in the public repository.



How is it different from X?

- This means we do not need to guess or try to deduce global symbols.
 - This makes Rekall much faster, more efficient and more accurate.
 - For example, Rekall does not use the Kernel Debugger Block
 - This can easily be overwritten by malware. Or newer versions of Windows.
 - This is similar to the way the kernel debugger works much more reliable.



How is it different from X?

- Rekall distributes and supports a complete memory acquisition solution.
 - We have synergy between acquisition and analysis.
 - Support all major operating systems:
 - Windows Winpmem tool.
 - Linux pmem tool + LMAP tool (No need to precompile on target system).
 - OSX OSXPmem tool (supports 10.9.4+).
 - Rekall acquisition tools allow for live system analysis (Triaging etc).



Basic research that you can use!

DFRWS 2013: Anti-Forensic Resilient Memory Acquisition, Johannes Stuettgen and Michael Cohen.

- Incorporated into WinPmem, LMAP and OSXPmem
 - OSXPmem is only memory acquisition software that works reliably since OSX 10.9.3 due to tightening of OSX API.
 - This technology enables implementation of LMAP

DFRWS 2014EU: Robust Linux Memory Acquisition with Minimal Target Impact, Johannes Stuettgen and Michael Cohen

- Only Linux memory acquisition software that works, precompiled, on any kernel out of the box. Regardless of kernel version or configuration!
- Really big deal for incident response!



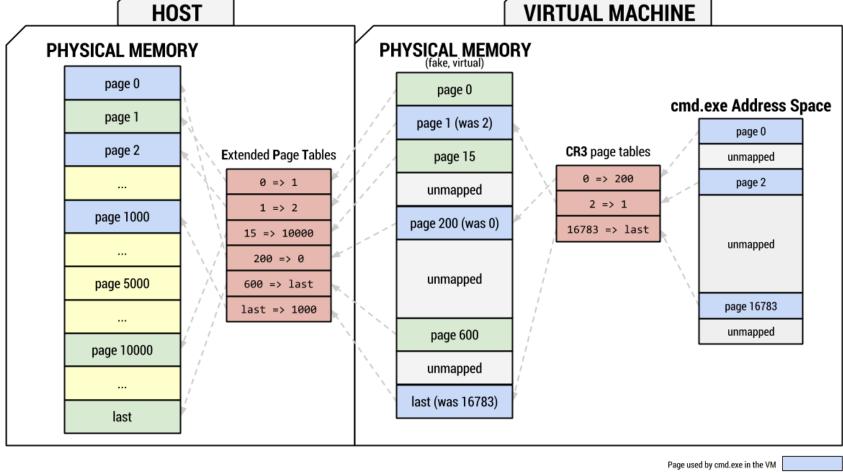
Virtual Machine introspection

By Jordi Sanchez

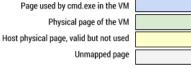
- Virtual Machines used everywhere!
 - Lots of different virtualization technologies (vmware, KVM, Virtual Box, MS Virtual Server etc).
 - For efficiency it turns out they all use the hardware to map memory into the guest OS.
- Rekall can analyze memory of guest OS from the host memory image!
 - Rekall also supports VM nesting.

http://www.rekall-forensic.com/posts/2014-10-03-vms.html





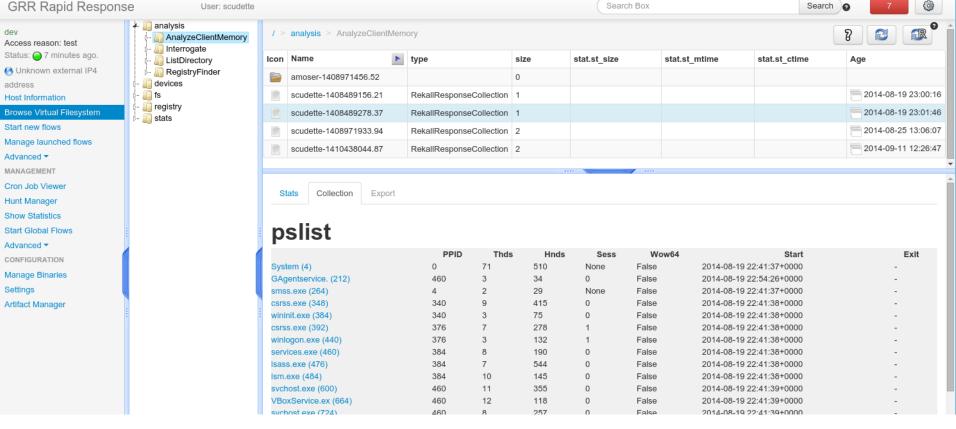




Rekall as a library

- Rekall was specifically designed to be included into a large project as a library.
 - Non-global objects thread safe.
 - Progress reporting/suspension points for event driven loops. (Particularly useful for GUI apps).
- Rekall is fully integrated into the GRR project
 - Can remotely analyze systems.
 - Data shipped back to the GRR server as JSON objects.





Rekall is integrated in GRR: Remote memory forensics at scale.



The Rekall User interfaces

- Rekall has 3 user interfaces:
 - Command line single shot, run and exit.
 - Interactive console IPython based (text only).
 - Webconsole most powerful.
- The same plugin works in all environments!
 - Writing a plugin is easy
 - You do not need to think about output formatting
 - the framework does it all!

Text Interactive Console

```
(Dev)scudette@scudette-glaptop:~/rekall$ rekal -f ~/images/win7.elf
The Rekall Memory Forensic framework 1.1.0 beta (Buchenegg).
"We can remember it for you wholesale!"
This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under
the terms of the GNU General Public License.
See http://www.rekall-forensic.com/docs/Manual/tutorial.html to get started.
win7.elf 12:47:07> pslist
    ----> pslist()
0xfa80008959e0 System
                                                     84
                                                              511 -
                                                                                2012-10-01 21:39:51+0000 -
win7.elf 12:47:41> session.profile
            )ut<4> <AMD64 profile nt/GUID/F8E2A8B5C9B74BF4A6E4A48F180099942 (Nt)>
win7.elf 12:47:48> print session.profile._EPROCESS(0xfa8002ad0190)
 EPROCESS _EPROCESS] @ 0xFA8002AD0190 (pid=2644)
 0x00 Pcb
                                   [_KPROCESS Pcb] @ 0xFA8002AD0190
 0x160 ProcessLock
                                    [_EX_PUSH_LOCK ProcessLock] @ 0xFA8002AD02F0
                                     TWinFileTime:CreateTime1: 0x5069AB54 (2012-10-01 14:40:20+0000)
 0x168 CreateTime
 0x170 ExitTime
                                     [WinFileTime:ExitTime]: 0x00000000 (-)
 0x178 RundownProtect
                                    [_EX_RUNDOWN_REF RundownProtect] @ 0xFA8002AD0308
                                     [unsigned int:UniqueProcessId]: 0x00000A54
 0x180 UniqueProcessId
 0x188 ActiveProcessLinks
                                    [ LIST ENTRY ActiveProcessLinks] @ 0xFA8002AD0318
 0x198 ProcessQuotaUsage
                                    <Array 2 x unsigned long long @ 0xFA8002AD0328>
 0x1A8 ProcessQuotaPeak
                                    <Array 2 x unsigned long long @ 0xFA8002AD0338>
 0x1B8 CommitCharge
                                     [unsigned long long:CommitCharge]: 0x00000349
 0x1C0 QuotaBlock
                                    <_EPROCESS_QUOTA_BLOCK Pointer to [0xFA80023F9900] (QuotaBlock)>
 0x1C8 CpuQuotaBlock
                                    <_PS_CPU_QUOTA_BLOCK Pointer to [0x00000000] (CpuQuotaBlock)>
  0x1D0 PeakVirtualSize
                                     [unsigned long long:PeakVirtualSize]: 0x02E5D000
```

- Fast and efficient
- Great for interactively exploring data types.
- Great for scripting complex analysis (no need to write plugin).

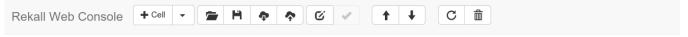


The Rekall Web Console interface

By Misha Bushkov

A GUI is not just a pretty thing!

- The Rekall Web console GUI helps drive analysis by:
 - Allowing the user to annotate her analysis
 - Notebook interface creates a mini "report" format.
 - Hides/Compacts long analysis to improve document flow.
 - Persistent file storage allows results to be managed and shared (based on Zip files).
 - Rekall files contain plugin output in JSON format
 Machine readable can be exported



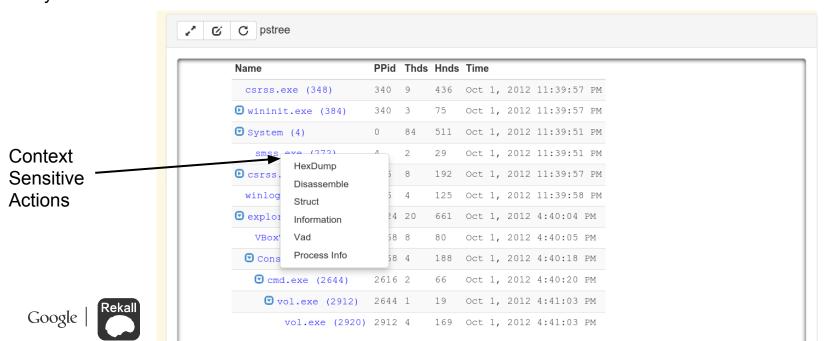
Rekall Memory Forensics

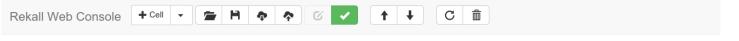
The web console is used to write notes about the analysis.

There is more!

Markdown Comments intersperse analysis.

- Markdown formatting.
 - Can provide links, lists, images etc.
- Persistent document file
 - o All results from analysis are stored in the file.
 - You do not need the original image to view the data.
 - Can include arbitrary files inside the Rekall document.





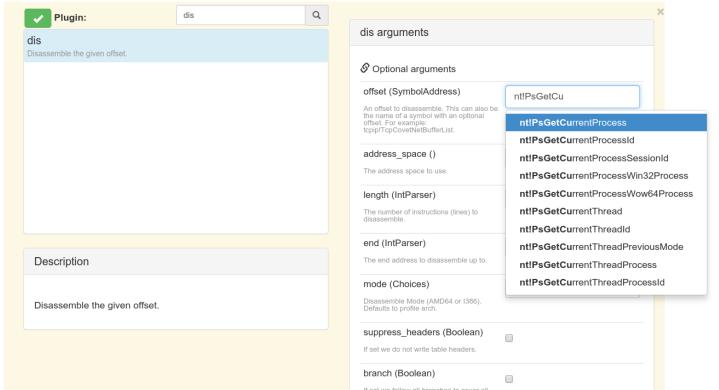
There is more!

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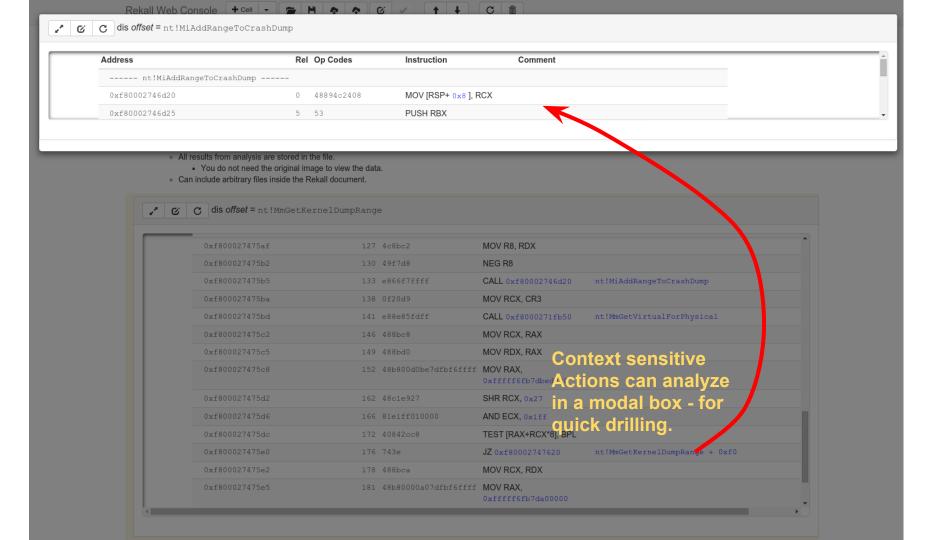
 You do not need the original image to view the data. Can include arbitrary files inside the Rekall document.

Context aware plugin arguments allow customized UI

Can Launch any Rekall plugins from UI.







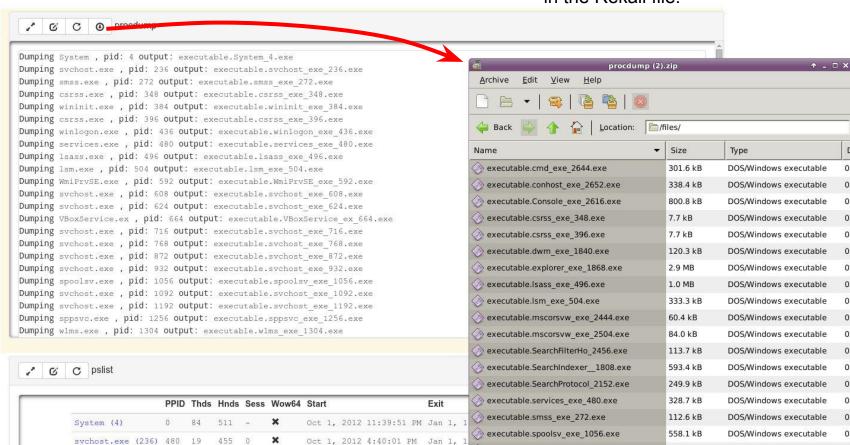
Rekall Web Console + Cell + Ce

Dumped files are also persistent in the Rekall file.

3.5 MB

DOS/Windows executable

Plugins that dump files can produce a zip file.



Oct 1, 2012 11:39:51 PM Jan 1,

executable.sppsvc_exe_1256.exe

41 objects (20.4 MB)

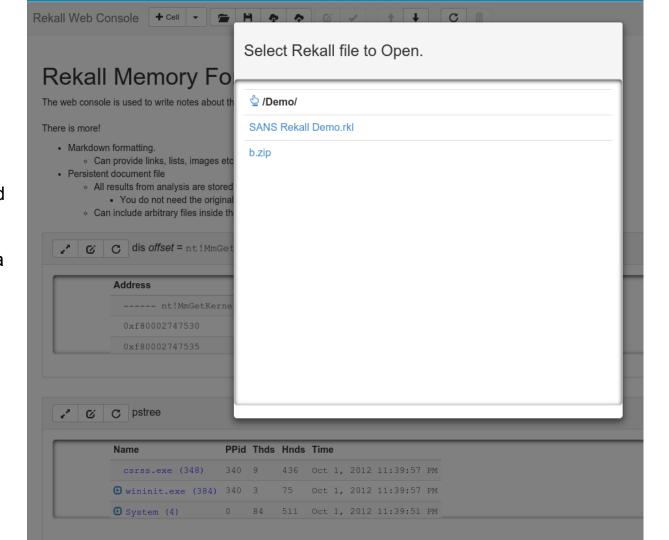


smss.exe (272)

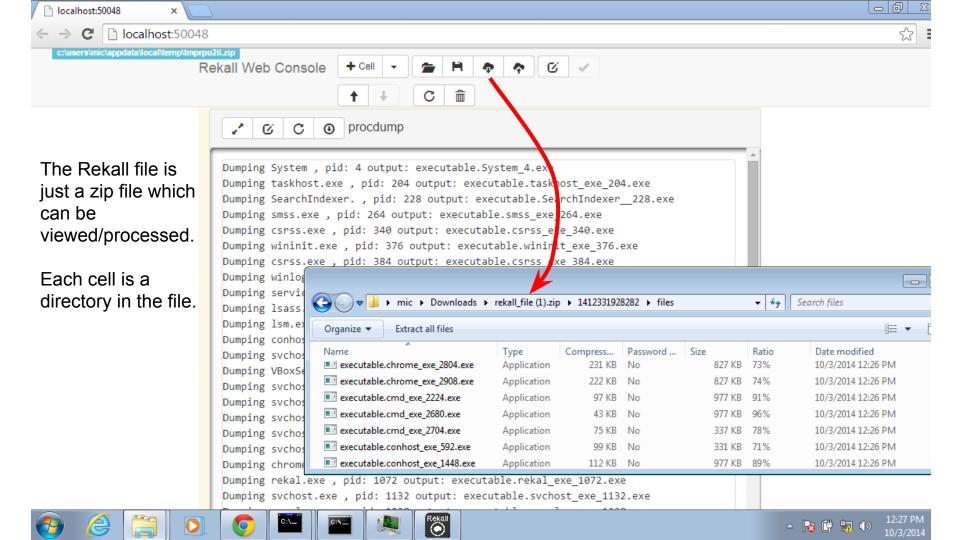
Analysis files can be restored at will.

The UI works directly with the analysis file so no need to "save" the document.

It is possible to download a current snapshot of the document at any time (e.g. for backup).







What makes it work?

- The UI uses Rekall's data export facility.
 - Rekall exports structured, semantically aware data:

 Rekall uses Cybox "like" format to



Rekall Export System

- Rekall has a rich and highly customizable export system
 - Output format chosen by "Renderer"
 - Text renderer is default.
 - Data Export renderer produces rich JSON (used by the UI).
 - XLS renderer produces Excel sheets.
 - If we can make the GUI work with the exported data, any application can work with it!
 - This means you do not have to use Rekall as a library. Can be part of arbitrary pipeline.



Future - where are we heading?

- The Memory analysis field is exciting!
 - Lots of cool contributions
 - We want to integrate them all into the one tool.
- Linux analysis without custom profile
 - This is a big problem for Linux analysis you must generate exact profile for each kernel you look at.
 - We have a way for collecting memory but we can not analyze it.
- More accessible and powerful user interface we need feedback!



Focus point: High level abstraction

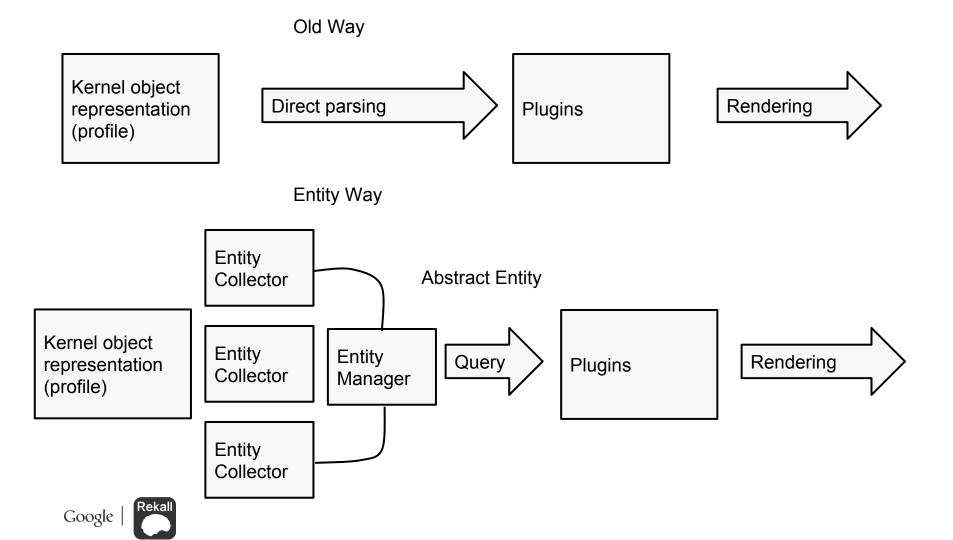
- Currently Memory analysis requires a lot of experience and knowledge.
 - Learning curve is steep and analysis is less accessible.
- We want to automate a lot of this.
 - Most of the time you just want to know:
 - Is this system owned?
 - There are common patterns to analysis
 - At least fire a red flag when something is weird.



Entity System - by Adam Sindelar

- Semantic layer to Rekall
 - Lives between overlay (data) and plugins (analysis)
 - Separates presentation (plugins) and collection (entity collectors)
- Features & Goals:
 - Speed (caching, de-duplication of effort)
 - Robustness (multiple entities for same object merge into one, preserving origin)
 - Treats analysis as a search problem





Entity System - Search

- Analysis as a search:
 - pslist/netstat and many others are basically search queries:
 - find all processes
 - find sockets where type=inet
 - IOCs and Artifacts are essentially a query language:
 - find process with comm=svchost.exe and parent. comm!= services.exe

Entity System - now & future

- Current Status:
 - OS X partially migrated to entities
 - Windows has initial support
- Future work:
 - Artifacts implementation
 - Query languages objectfilter, IOC, etc.
 - Data exchange (cybox/semantic protos) with plaso, timesketch and others.

http://www.rekall-forensic.com/

Sorry, Quaid. Your whole life is just a dream.



See you at the party, Richter!

