Experiment No. 6 — Use Sleuth Kit to Analyze Digital Evidence

Aim:

To use The Sleuth Kit (TSK) command-line tools to analyze a disk image and recover digital evidence.

PROCEDURE:

Sleuth Kit is used to analyze disk images and recover digital evidence. It allows examination of file systems, listing of files and partitions, recovery of deleted files, and extraction of metadata. Optional timeline analysis helps track file activity, and all findings can be compiled into a report for secure storage.

```
kali@kali: ~
File Actions Edit View Help
  --(kali⊕kali)-[~]
—$ <u>sudo</u> apt update
<u>sudo</u> apt install sleuthkit -y
[sudo] password for kali:
Ign:1 http://http.kali.org/kali kali-rolling InRelease
Ign:1 http://http.kali.org/kali kali-rolling InRelease
Ign:1 http://http.kali.org/kali kali-rolling InRelease
Err:1 http://http.kali.org/kali kali-rolling InRelease
Temporary failure resolving 'http.kali.org'
956 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
Warning: Failed to fetch http://http.kali.org/kali/dists/kali-rolling/InRelea
<u>se</u> Temporary failure resolving 'http.kali.org'
Warning: Some index files failed to download. They have been ignored, or old
ones used instead.
sleuthkit is already the newest version (4.12.1+dfsg-0kali6).
Summary:
 Upgrading: 0, Installing: 0, Removing: 0, Not Upgrading: 956
```

```
kali@kali: ~/forensics/exp6

File Actions Edit View Help

—(kali@kali)-[~]
—$ mkdir -p ~/forensics/exp6
:d ~/forensics/exp6
Id if=/dev/zero of=test_image.img bs=1M count=50

60+0 records in
60+0 records out
62428800 bytes (52 MB, 50 MiB) copied, 0.0339567 s, 1.5 GB/s
```

Step 3 — Format the Image with a Filesystem

```
(kali@kali)-[~/forensics/exp6]

ship mkfs.ext4 test_image.img

mke2fs 1.47.2 (1-Jan-2025)
Discarding device blocks: done
Creating filesystem with 51200 1k blocks and 12824 inodes
Filesystem UUID: 1b2d5ff4-8d0a-44cc-bf54-5e64fd799622
Superblock backups stored on blocks:
8193, 24577, 40961

Allocating group tables: done
Writing inode tables: done
Creating journal (4096 blocks): done
Writing superblocks and filesystem accounting information: done
```

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/forensics/exp6]
$ sudo mkdir -p /mnt/testmount
sudo mount -o loop test_image.img /mnt/testmount

sudo touch /mnt/testmount/file1.txt
echo "This is digital evidence file." | sudo tee /mnt/testmount/file1.txt
sudo mkdir /mnt/testmount/docs
echo "Confidential report inside docs folder." | sudo tee /mnt/testmount/docs
/report.txt
sudo umount /mnt/testmount

[sudo] password for kali:
\\This is digital evidence file.
Confidential report inside docs folder.
```

Step 6 — View Metadata of a File

```
-(kali®kali)-[~/forensics/exp6]
—$ istat test_image.img 12 > metadata_info.txt
cat metadata_info.txt
inode: 12
Allocated
Group: 0
Generation Id: 0
uid / gid: 0 / 0
mode: rrw-
Flags: Extents,
size: 32768
num of links: 1
Inode Times:
Accessed: 2025-10-21 11:33:11.000000000 (EDT)
File Modified: 2025-10-21 11:33:11.000000000 (EDT)
Inode Modified: 2025-10-21 11:33:11.000000000 (EDT)
File Created:
                  2025-10-21 11:33:11.000000000 (EDT)
Direct Blocks:
3493 3494 3495 3496 3497 3498 3499 3500
3501 3502 3503 3504 3505 3506 3507 3508
3509 3510 3511 3512 3513 3514 3515 3516
3517 3518 3519 3520 3521 3522 3523 3524
```

Result:

```
(kali@ kali)-[~/forensics/exp6]

$ icat test_image.img 14 > report_recovered.txt
cat report_recovered.txt

Confidential report inside docs folder.
```

```
-(kali@kali)-[~/forensics/exp6]
fls -m / -r test_image.img > body.txt
mactime -b body.txt > timeline.txt
cat timeline.txt | head -n 10
Old package separator "'" deprecated at /usr/bin/mactime line 154.
Old package separator "'" deprecated at /usr/bin/mactime line 167.
11
/lost+found
Tue Oct 21 2025 11:33:28
                               31 macb r/rrw-r--r-- 0
                                                                 0
                                                                           13
 /file1.txt
                                40 macb r/rrw-r--r-- 0
 /docs/report.txt
                              1024 macb d/drwxr-xr-x 0 0
                                                                           1833
 /docs
 -(kali@kali)-[~/forensics/exp6]
star -czvf sleuthkit_results.tar.gz filesystem_info.txt file_list.txt metadata_info.txt timeline.txt
filesystem_info.txt
file_list.txt
metadata_info.txt
timeline.txt
```