

REGISTRY AND BROWSER FORENSICS ANALYSIS

Introduction

The window's registry is a database that stores a considerable amount of hardware and software configuration, network connections, user preferences and setup information in a Microsoft Windows Operating System. This information is maintained in a comparable manner to a log file. Registry information is important to a forensic investigator especially when trying to establish a timeline of activities in a system (Harlan, 2011).

A browser is a software program that is used to present and explore content on the world wide web known as the internet. In our world today the web browser is a universally used tool as users utilize it to perform their daily tasks. These tasks include browsing, email access, downloading files et cetera. Being a useful tool, adversaries can equally misuse it to satisfy their sinister nature. This leaves tracks in the web browser's log files which can be acquired by a forensic examiner for reference as evidence in a case study. This evidence is in browsing history, bookmarks, cookies, and cache (Mayur & Dr. Bandu, 2018).

This lab we will be uploading picture files on the ExifTool by Phil Harvey which will return metadata that we will describe and explain depending on the properties in each file. We took two picture files, one with the GPS on and the other off to show the different details the tool returns. We will thereby compare the two picture file details and validate that indeed the tool used was accurate.

The figures below show a picture file with the GPS (Global positioning system) turned on which we will use to describe the metadata.



Figure 1/GPS on

The above figure shows the actual picture file that gives the details below.

```
C:\Users\student\Desktop\exi\exiftool-12.96_64\exiftool(-k).exe
ExifTool Version Number : 12.96
File Name : IMG_2113.JPG
Directory : C:/Users/student/Desktop
File Size : 4.8 MB
File Modification Date/Time : 2024:09:23 12:40:15-04:00
File Access Date/Time : 2024:09:24 11:32:08-04:00
File Creation Date/Time : 2024:09:24 11:32:07-04:00
File Permissions : -rw-rw-rw-
File Type : JPEG
File Type Extension : jpg
MIME Type : image/jpeg
JFIF Version : 1.01
Exif Byte Order : Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Make : Apple
Camera Model Name : iPhone 14 Pro Max
Orientation : Rotate 90 CW
X Resolution : 72
Y Resolution : 72
Resolution Unit : inches
Software : 18.0
Modify Date : 2024:09:23 12:40:15
Host Computer : iPhone 14 Pro Max
Y Cb Cr Positioning : Centered
Exposure Time : 1/2591
F Number : 1.8
Exposure Program : Program AE
ISO : 80
Exif Version : 0232
Date/Time Original : 2024:09:23 12:40:15
Create Date : 2024:09:23 12:40:15
Offset Time : -04:00
Offset Time Original : -04:00
Offset Time Digitized : -04:00
Components Configuration : Y, Cb, Cr, -
Shutter Speed Value : 1/2591
Aperture Value : 1.8
Brightness Value : 8.792776685
Exposure Compensation : 0
Metering Mode : Multi-segment
Flash : Off, Did not fire
Focal Length : 6.9 mm
```

Figure 2/GPS on one

The figure above shows the basic details of this picture file as follows:

File name – The name of the picture file

Directory – The directory that the image file was saved

File size – The size in megabytes

File modification, access and creation Date/Time – This shows the specific date and time of the file when it was created, accessed and modified.

File Permissions – This indicated using the -rw attributes where r stands for read and w stands for write.

Type- Then there is the type of the file which determines the extension type to be used to save it.

Camera model, software version, host computer – this is vital information that shows the device used by name, hence showing the version.

```
BT C:\Users\student\Desktop\ex\exiftool-12.96_64\exiftool(-k).exe
Flash : Off, Did not fire
Focal Length : 6.9 mm
Subject Area : 2012 1508 2217 1330
Marker Note Version : 15
Run Time Flags : Valid
Run Time Value : 184690200871791
Run Time Scale : 1000000000
Run Time Epoch : 0
AE Stable : No
AE Target : 166
AE Average : 169
AF Stable : Yes
Acceleration Vector : 0.03888388721 -0.9736849072 0.2313963174
Focus Distance Range : 0.38 - 0.93 m
Image Capture Type : Scene
Live Photo Video Index : 5251076
Photos App Feature Flags : 0
HDR Headroom : 1.54214704
AF Performance : 283 1 26
Signal To Noise Ratio : 60.33123016
Photo Identifier : C46D71DA-A4E9-487C-98C8-765EE982360D
Color Temperature : 5483
Camera Type : Back Normal
Focus Position : 41
HDR Gain : 0.002613561228
AF Measured Depth : 38
AF Confidence : 20
Semantic Style : { _0=1, _1=0, _2=0.0357142873108387, _3=4}
Sub Sec Time Original : 474
Sub Sec Time Digitized : 474
Flashpix Version : 0100
Color Space : Uncalibrated
Exif Image Width : 4032
Exif Image Height : 3024
Sensing Method : One-chip color area
Scene Type : Directly photographed
Exposure Mode : Auto
White Balance : Auto
Focal Length In 35mm Format : 24 mm
Scene Capture Type : Standard
Lens Info : 2.22000029-9mm f/1.779999971-2.8
```

Figure 3/GPS on2.

Focus distance range – this shows the distance the camera was focused on during the capturing of the picture file.

Camera type -This shows the specific camera used to take this picture file.

```

C:\Users\student\Desktop\ex\exiftool-12.96_64\exiftool(-k).exe

Lens Model          : iPhone 14 Pro Max back triple camera 6.86mm f/1.78
Composite Image    : General Composite Image
GPS Latitude Ref  : North
GPS Longitude Ref : West
GPS Altitude Ref  : Above Sea Level
GPS Time Stamp    : 16:40:14
GPS Speed Ref     : km/h
GPS Speed          : 0
GPS Img Direction : True North
GPS Img Direction : 222.5674133
GPS Dest Bearing Ref : True North
GPS Dest Bearing : 222.5674133
GPS Date Stamp    : 2024:09:23
GPS Horizontal Positioning Error: 9.335312339 m
Compression        : JPEG (old-style)
Thumbnail Offset   : 3022
Thumbnail Length   : 11159
MPF Version       : 0100
Number Of Images   : 2
MP Image Flags     : (none)
MP Image Format   : JPEG
MP Image Type     : Undefined
MP Image Length   : 231854
MP Image Start    : 4602076
Dependent Image 1 Entry Number : 0
Dependent Image 2 Entry Number : 0
Profile CMM Type  : Apple Computer Inc.
Profile Version   : 4.0.0
Profile Class     : Display Device Profile
Color Space Data  : RGB
Profile Connection Space : XYZ
Profile Date Time : 2022:01:01 00:00:00
Profile File Signature : acsp
Primary Platform  : Apple Computer Inc.
CMM Flags         : Not Embedded, Independent
Device Manufacturer : Apple Computer Inc.
Device Model      :
Device Attributes : Reflective, Glossy, Positive, Color
Rendering Intent  : Perceptual
Connection Space Illuminant : 0.9642 1 0.82491
Profile Creator   : Apple Computer Inc.

```

Figure 4/GPS on3.

The figure above shows one of the vital metadata that were trying to assess as gives the GPS details that we will use to verify the specific location the picture file was taken.

More device details are listed to give a wide view of the device used.

```

C:\Users\student\Desktop\exi\exiftool-12.96_64\exiftool(-k).exe

Connection Space Illuminant      : 0.9642 1 0.82491
Profile Creator                 : Apple Computer Inc.
Profile ID                      : ecfda38e388547c36db4bd4f7ada182f
Profile Description              : Display P3
Profile Copyright               : Copyright Apple Inc., 2022
Media White Point                : 0.96419 1 0.82489
Red Matrix Column                : 0.51512 0.2412 -0.00105
Green Matrix Column              : 0.29198 0.69225 0.04189
Blue Matrix Column               : 0.1571 0.06657 0.78407
Red Tone Reproduction Curve     : (Binary data 32 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Chromatic Adaptation            : 1.04788 0.02292 -0.0502 0.02959 0.99048 -0.01706 -0.00923 0.01508 0.75168
Blue Tone Reproduction Curve    : (Binary data 32 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Green Tone Reproduction Curve   : (Binary data 32 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Image Width                     : 4032
Image Height                    : 3024
Encoding Process                : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample                 : 8
Color Components                : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling           : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
Run Time Since Power Up         : 2 days 3:18:10
Aperture                        : 1.8
Image Size                      : 4032x3024
Megapixels                       : 12.2
Scale Factor To 35 mm Equivalent: 3.5
Shutter Speed                   : 1/2591
Create Date                      : 2024:09:23 12:40:15.474-04:00
Date/Time Original              : 2024:09:23 12:40:15.474-04:00
Modify Date                      : 2024:09:23 12:40:15-04:00
Thumbnail Image                 : (Binary data 11159 bytes, use -b option to extract)
GPS Altitude                     : 50.6 m Above Sea Level
GPS Date/Time                   : 2024:09:23 16:40:14Z
GPS Latitude                     : 28 deg 32' 34.39" N
GPS Longitude                    : 81 deg 41' 0.64" W
MP Image 2                       : (Binary data 231854 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Circle Of Confusion              : 0.009 mm
Field Of View                    : 73.7 deg
Focal Length                     : 6.9 mm (35 mm equivalent: 24.0 mm)
GPS Position                     : 28 deg 32' 34.39" N, 81 deg 41' 0.64" W
Hyperfocal Distance              : 3.08 m
Light Value                      : 13.3
Lens ID                          : iPhone 14 Pro Max back triple camera 6.86mm f/1.78

```

Figure 5/GPS on4.

The above figure shows more details of the GPS with the specification of the altitude, date/time, latitude and longitude.

The original date and time – showing the original date and time of when the picture file was created.

The picture file megapixels and size of its width and length.

There is also details of the camera settings used to capture the picture file e.g. Aperture, shutter speed etc.



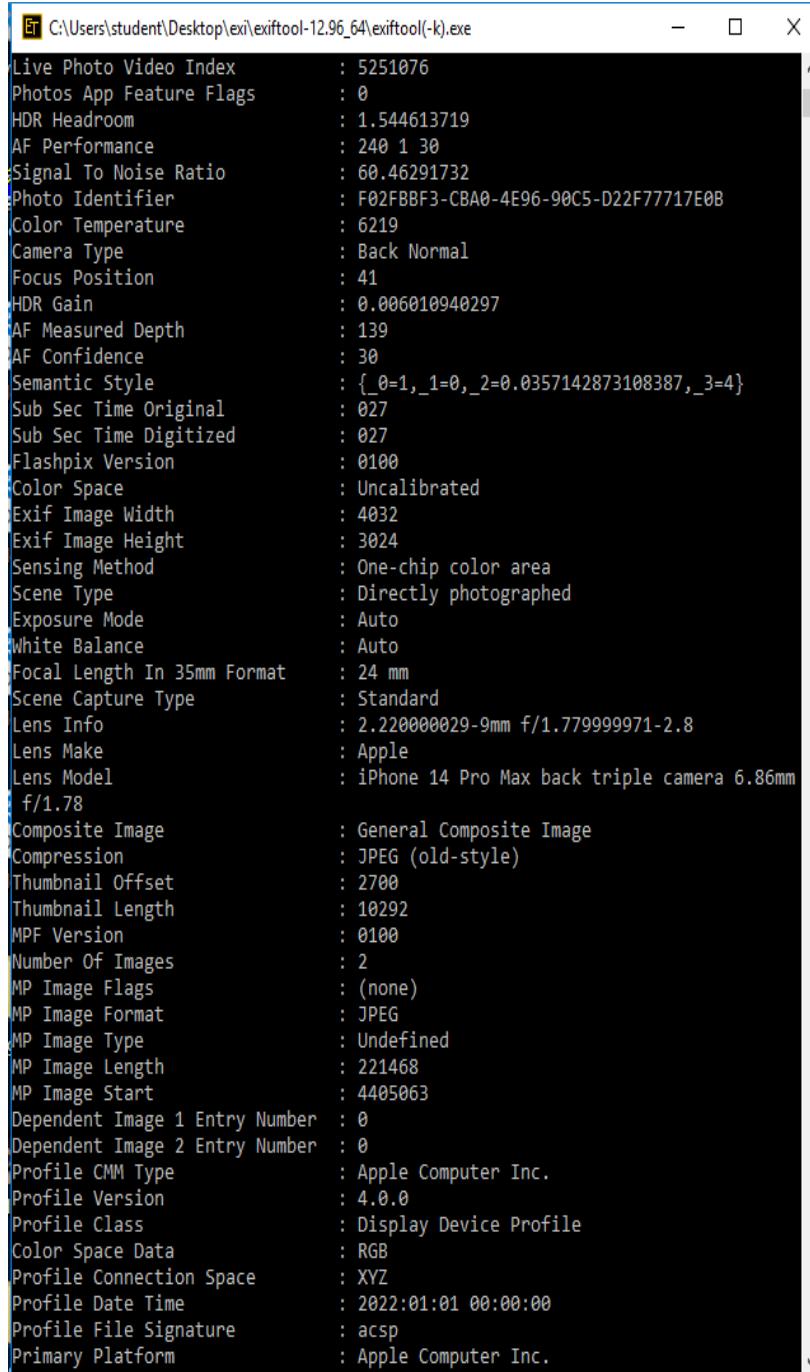
Figure 6/NO GPS

The above picture file shows our second test with the GPS option turned off. The other screenshots below show the same details as the prior ones but without showing any GPS information.

```
É C:\Users\student\Desktop\exi\exiftool-12.96_64\exiftool(-k).exe - □

File Type : JPEG
File Type Extension : jpg
MIME Type : image/jpeg
JFIF Version : 1.01
Exif Byte Order : Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Make : Apple
Camera Model Name : iPhone 14 Pro Max
Orientation : Rotate 90 CW
X Resolution : 72
Y Resolution : 72
Resolution Unit : inches
Software : 18.0
Modify Date : 2024:09:23 12:39:36
Host Computer : iPhone 14 Pro Max
Y Cb Cr Positioning : Centered
Exposure Time : 1/2660
F Number : 1.8
Exposure Program : Program AE
ISO : 80
Exif Version : 0232
Date/Time Original : 2024:09:23 12:39:36
Create Date : 2024:09:23 12:39:36
Offset Time : -04:00
Offset Time Original : -04:00
Offset Time Digitized : -04:00
Components Configuration : Y, Cb, Cr, -
Shutter Speed Value : 1/2660
Aperture Value : 1.8
Brightness Value : 8.836520241
Exposure Compensation : 0
Metering Mode : Multi-segment
Flash : Off, Did not fire
Focal Length : 6.9 mm
Subject Area : 2011 1508 2323 1330
Marker Note Version : 15
Run Time Flags : Valid
Run Time Value : 184650666404250
Run Time Scale : 1000000000
Run Time Epoch : 0
AE Stable : Yes
AE Target : 170
AE Average : 171
AF Stable : Yes
Acceleration Vector : 0.08863337338 -0.9370524874 0.3344542681
Focus Distance Range : 0.21 - 0.60 m
Image Capture Type : Scene
Live Photo Video Index : 5251076
Photos App Feature Flags : 0
```

Figure 7/GPS offI.



The screenshot shows a terminal window titled 'C:\Users\student\Desktop\ex\exiftool-12.96_64\exiftool(-k).exe'. The window displays a list of EXIF metadata entries for a file. The entries include various camera settings, lens information, and profile details. Key entries include 'Live Photo Video Index' (5251076), 'Photos App Feature Flags' (0), 'HDR Headroom' (1.544613719), 'AF Performance' (240 1 30), 'Signal To Noise Ratio' (60.46291732), 'Photo Identifier' (F02FBBF3-CBA0-4E96-90C5-D22F77717E0B), 'Color Temperature' (6219), 'Camera Type' (Back Normal), 'Focus Position' (41), 'HDR Gain' (0.006010940297), 'AF Measured Depth' (139), 'AF Confidence' (30), 'Semantic Style' ({}), 'Sub Sec Time Original' (027), 'Sub Sec Time Digitized' (027), 'Flashpix Version' (0100), 'Color Space' (Uncalibrated), 'Exif Image Width' (4032), 'Exif Image Height' (3024), 'Sensing Method' (One-chip color area), 'Scene Type' (Directly photographed), 'Exposure Mode' (Auto), 'White Balance' (Auto), 'Focal Length In 35mm Format' (24 mm), 'Scene Capture Type' (Standard), 'Lens Info' (2.220000029-9mm f/1.779999971-2.8), 'Lens Make' (Apple), 'Lens Model' (iPhone 14 Pro Max back triple camera 6.86mm f/1.78), 'Composite Image' (General Composite Image), 'Compression' (JPEG (old-style)), 'Thumbnail Offset' (2700), 'Thumbnail Length' (10292), 'MPF Version' (0100), 'Number Of Images' (2), 'MP Image Flags' ((none)), 'MP Image Format' (JPEG), 'MP Image Type' (Undefined), 'MP Image Length' (221468), 'MP Image Start' (4405063), 'Dependent Image 1 Entry Number' (0), 'Dependent Image 2 Entry Number' (0), 'Profile CMM Type' (Apple Computer Inc.), 'Profile Version' (4.0.0), 'Profile Class' (Display Device Profile), 'Color Space Data' (RGB), 'Profile Connection Space' (XYZ), 'Profile Date Time' (2022:01:01 00:00:00), 'Profile File Signature' (acsp), and 'Primary Platform' (Apple Computer Inc.).

Figure 8/GPS off2.

```
C:\Users\student\Desktop\ex\exiftool-12.96_64\exiftool(-k).exe
Profile Class : Display Device Profile
Color Space Data : RGB
Profile Connection Space : XYZ
Profile Date Time : 2022:01:01 00:00:00
Profile File Signature : acsp
Primary Platform : Apple Computer Inc.
CMM Flags : Not Embedded, Independent
Device Manufacturer : Apple Computer Inc.
Device Model :
Device Attributes : Reflective, Glossy, Positive, Color
Rendering Intent : Perceptual
Connection Space Illuminant : 0.9642 1 0.82491
Profile Creator : Apple Computer Inc.
Profile ID : ecfda38e388547c36db4bd4f7ada182f
Profile Description : Display P3
Profile Copyright : Copyright Apple Inc., 2022
Media White Point : 0.96419 1 0.82489
Red Matrix Column : 0.51512 0.2412 -0.00105
Green Matrix Column : 0.29198 0.69225 0.04189
Blue Matrix Column : 0.1571 0.06657 0.78407
Red Tone Reproduction Curve : (Binary data 32 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Chromatic Adaptation : 1.04788 0.02292 -0.0502 0.02959 0.99048 -0.01706 -0.00923 0.01508 0.75168
Blue Tone Reproduction Curve : (Binary data 32 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Green Tone Reproduction Curve : (Binary data 32 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Image Width : 4032
Image Height : 3024
Encoding Process : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample : 8
Color Components : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
Run Time Since Power Up : 2 days 3:17:31
Aperture : 1.8
Image Size : 4032x3024
Megapixels : 12.2
Scale Factor To 35 mm Equivalent: 3.5
Shutter Speed : 1/2660
Create Date : 2024:09:23 12:39:36.027-04:00
Date/Time Original : 2024:09:23 12:39:36.027-04:00
Modify Date : 2024:09:23 12:39:36-04:00
Thumbnail Image : (Binary data 10292 bytes, use -b option to extract)
MP Image 2 : (Binary data 221468 bytes, use -b option to extract)
Circle Of Confusion : 0.009 mm
Field Of View : 73.7 deg
Focal Length : 6.9 mm (35 mm equivalent: 24.0 mm)
Hyperfocal Distance : 3.08 m
Light Value : 13.4
Lens ID : iPhone 14 Pro Max back triple camera 6.86mm f/1.78
-- press ENTER --
```

Figure 9/GPS off3.

Since the aim of our lab was to verify indeed the GPS information returned by the ExifTool we had to verify using the latitude and longitude dimensions shown in the figures below.

DMS (degrees, minutes, seconds)*

Latitude N S 28 ° 32' 39" "

Longitude E W 81 ° 41' 0.64" "

Get Address

Figure 10/Dimensions.

```
GPS Latitude : 28 deg 32' 34.39" N
GPS Longitude : 81 deg 41' 0.64" W
```

Figure 11/Metadata.

The dimensions above were utilized to validate that the tool used was accurate as we populated them on a website <https://www.gps-coordinates.net/> which returned the location details below.

Address
13500 Laranja Street, Clermont, FL 34740, Unit
Get GPS Coordinates
DD (decimal degrees)*
Latitude 28.5428861
Longitude -81.68351111111112
Get Address
Lat,Long 28.5428861,-81.68351111111112
DMS (degrees, minutes, seconds)*
Latitude <input checked="" type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/> S 28 ° 32' 34.39" "
Longitude <input type="radio"/> E <input checked="" type="radio"/> W 81 ° 41' 0.64" "

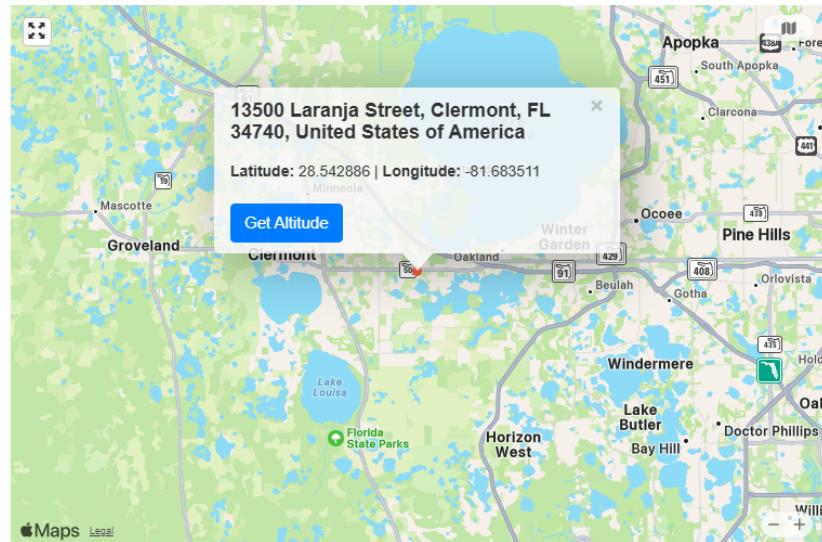


Figure 12/Validation

I hereby validate that the ExifTool was accurate and that it can be relied upon when undertaking an investigation.

Background

Extracting Registry

We use FTK Imager to extract our image which shows the folders in the figures below.

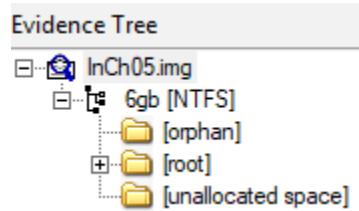


Figure 13/InCh05.

The figure above shows the folder in our image which is 6gb New Technology File System (NTFS). Then we expanded to 6gb NTFS which had three folders as shown above.

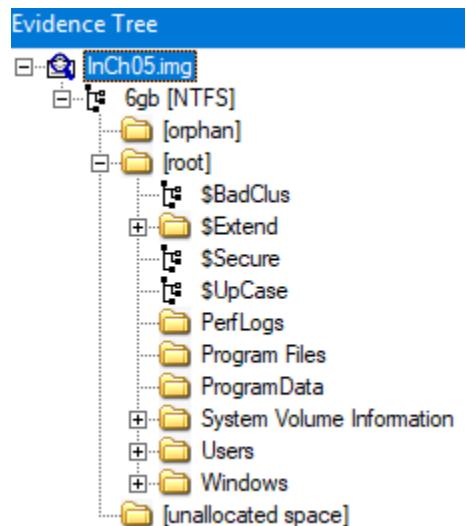


Figure 14/ROOT.

The above figure shows the root folder expanded which displays the various folders.

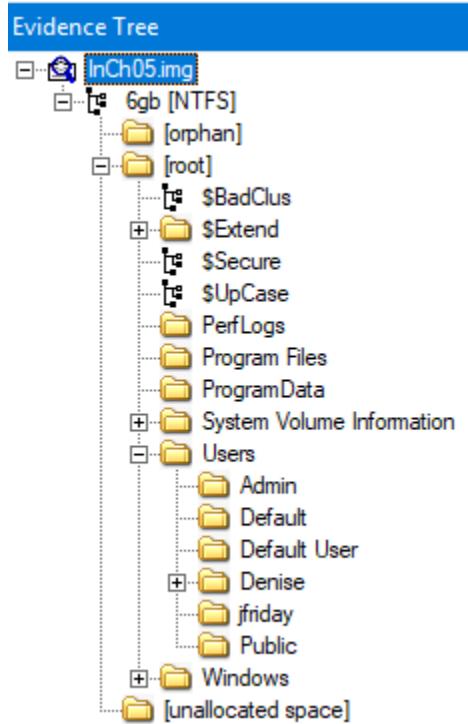


Figure 15/Users.

The above figure shows the expanded users folder. We expanded the Denise folder and exported the NTUSER.dat on to our virtual machine that we will utilize later. The figure below shows the contents in the Denise folder.

The screenshot shows the EnCase Evidence Tree and File List interface. The Evidence Tree pane on the left displays the file system structure of the 'InCh05.img' volume. The root directory contains several standard Windows folders like AppData, Contacts, Desktop, Documents, Downloads, Dropbox, Favorites, Games, Links, Music, Pictures, Saved, Searches, SkyDrive, and Video. It also includes system-related folders such as \$BadClus, \$Extend, \$Secure, \$UpCase, PerfLogs, Program Files, ProgramData, System Volume Information, Users (containing Admin, Default, Default User, and Denise), Windows (containing Prefetch, System32, and Windows), and unallocated space. The Windows folder under System32 is expanded, showing its subfolders: config, Journal, RegBack, systemprofile, and TxR. The config folder is currently selected. The File List pane on the right shows a detailed list of files from the root directory, including their names, sizes, types, and last modified dates. The list includes files like \$130, NTUSER.DAT, and various log files (Journal, RegBack, systemprofile, TxR, BCD-Template, COMPONENTS, COMPONENTS.LOG, DEFAULT, DEFAULT.LOG, DRIVERS, FP, SAM, SECURITY, SECURITY.LOG, SOFTWARE, SOFTWARE.LOG, SYSTEM, and SYSTEM.LOG).

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
AppData	1	Directory	8/25/2014 8:08...
Contacts	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:30...
Desktop	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:30...
Documents	1	Directory	8/26/2014 4:02...
Downloads	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:47...
Dropbox	1	Directory	8/25/2014 8:46...
Favorites	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:31...
Games	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:31...
Links	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:31...
Music	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:31...
Pictures	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:31...
Saved	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:31...
Searches	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:31...
SkyDrive	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:47...
Video	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:31...
\$130	4	NTFS Index All...	8/25/2014 7:47...
NTUSER.DAT	1,024	Regular File	8/24/2014 7:21...

Figure 16/Denise.

We went further and expanded the windows folder under root, then windows then system 32 and finally config. Under this folder we exported the SAM, DEFAULT, SYSTEM, SOFTWARE and SECURITY to our virtual machine as shown in the figure below.

This screenshot shows the same Evidence Tree and File List interface as Figure 16, but with a different focus. The Windows folder under System32 is expanded, and the config folder within it is selected. This reveals subfolders like Journal, RegBack, systemprofile, and TxR. The Journal, RegBack, and systemprofile folders are highlighted in blue, indicating they are selected for export. The File List pane on the right shows a detailed list of files from these three selected folders, including their names, sizes, types, and last modified dates. The selected files are: Journal, RegBack, and systemprofile.

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
Journal	1	Directory	8/22/2013 6:13...
RegBack	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:47...
systemprofile	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:47...
TxR	1	Directory	8/25/2014 7:47...
\$130	4	NTFS Index All...	8/25/2014 7:47...
BCD-Template	256	Regular File	2/6/2014 10:34...
COMPONENTS	30,720	Regular File	8/6/2014 1:17:4...
COMPONENTS.LOG	0	Regular File	8/22/2013 6:13...
DEFAULT	512	Regular File	8/6/2014 2:56:2...
DEFAULT.LOG	0	Regular File	8/22/2013 6:13...
DRIVERS	4,620	Regular File	8/6/2014 1:17:4...
FP	1	Regular File	8/22/2013 6:17...
SAM	256	Regular File	8/6/2014 2:56:2...
SECURITY	256	Regular File	8/6/2014 2:56:2...
SECURITY.LOG	0	Regular File	8/22/2013 6:13...
SOFTWARE	34,048	Regular File	8/6/2014 2:56:2...
SOFTWARE.LOG	0	Regular File	8/22/2013 6:13...
SYSTEM	9,216	Regular File	8/6/2014 2:56:2...
SYSTEM.LOG	0	Regular File	8/22/2013 6:13...

Figure 17/Config.

Examining the SAM Hive

Security Accounts Manager (SAM) is a database where the windows Microsoft operating system stores sensitive information such as user accounts, passwords, and security descriptors (Katie, 2022).

The figure below shows Registry viewer display that we used to open the SAM file that we had exported in the prior steps above. This shows the different users' details that contain vital information.

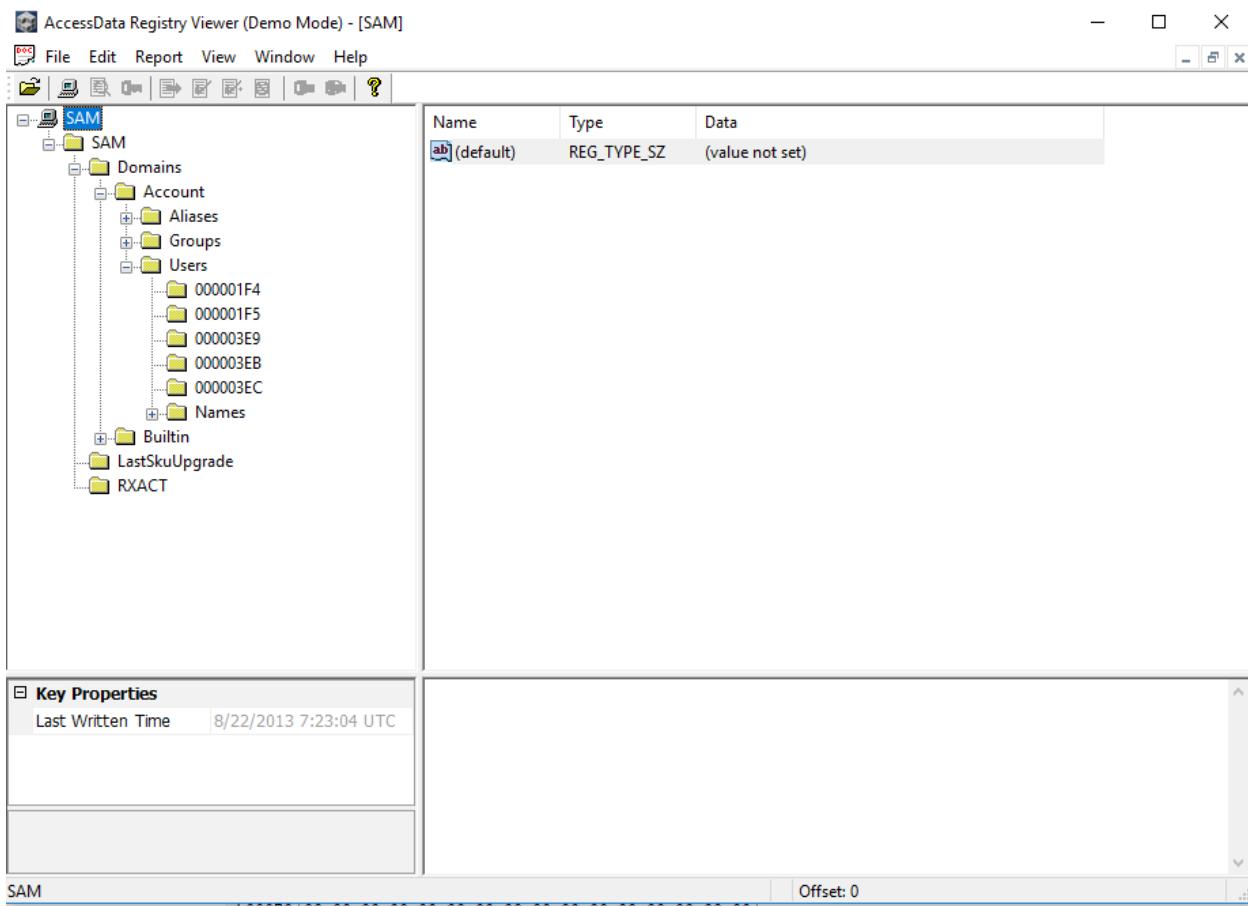


Figure 18/Registry Viewer

We used each user's information to populate the table below.

Name (Full Name)	Hex	Decimal Conversion	SID unique identifier	Password Required	Has Password
HomeGroupUser\$ (HomeGroupUser\$)	000003EB	1003	1003	True	True for NTLMv2 False LAN Manager
Administrator	000001F4	500	500	True	True for NTLMv2 False LAN Manager
Guest	000001F5	501	501	False	False for NTLMv2 False LAN Manager
Jfriday(jfriday)	000003E9	1001	1001	false	True for NTLMv2 False LAN Manager

Denise (Denise Robinson)	000003EC	1004	1004	True	True for NTLMv2 False LAN Manager
--------------------------	----------	------	------	------	--------------------------------------

Table 1/User Information

The folder names in hexadecimals when converted to decimal generate a figure that matches the SID unique identifier. This is vital since its comparison associates the folder with a user who has the matched SID unique identifier. SID unique identifier is a unique value used to identify a security entity such as a user account or a security group (Peter, 2022).

From our populated table above jfriday does not require a password while Denise requires one. Both users have passwords set and can be verified from the last password change logs for the users.

Passwords can be set but not required same as in jfriday's scenario where accounts can be set with a password not required flag and they can be able to log into the account with a blank password (Robert, 2024).

Jfriday was the user that logged into system the most with a count of seven. Denise Robinson never logged into the system according to our analysis in the log. Jfriday's account password last set on 2/6/2014 18:44:26 UTC (coordinated universal time).

The figures below validate the information we gave in the prior paragraphs.

Key Properties	
Last Written Time	3/4/2014 11:53:29 UTC
SID unique identifier	1004
User Name	Denise
Full Name	Denise Robinson
Logon Count	0
Last Logon Time	Never
Last Password Change	3/4/2014 11:53:06 UTC
Expiration Time	Never
Invalid Logon Count	0
Last Failed Login Time	Never
Account Disabled	false
Password Required	true
Country Code	0 (System Default)
Has LAN Manager Pass	false
Has NTLMv2 Password	true

Figure 19/Denise Info

Key Properties	
Last Written Time	3/4/2014 11:50:27 UTC
SID unique identifier	1001
User Name	jfriday
Full Name	jfriday
Logon Count	7
Last Logon Time	3/4/2014 10:41:08 UTC
Last Password Change	2/6/2014 18:44:26 UTC
Expiration Time	Never
Invalid Logon Count	0
Last Failed Login Time	2/25/2014 20:04:53 UTC
Account Disabled	false
Password Required	false
Country Code	0 (System Default)
Has LAN Manager Pass	false
Has NTLMv2 Password	true

Figure 20/Jfriday Info

Examining the System Hive

System hive contains information about all the hardware items in the system, including details about its configuration, device drivers, services, and system settings (Chirath, 2019). The figure below shows Registry viewer display that we used to open the SYSTEM file that we had exported earlier in this lab.

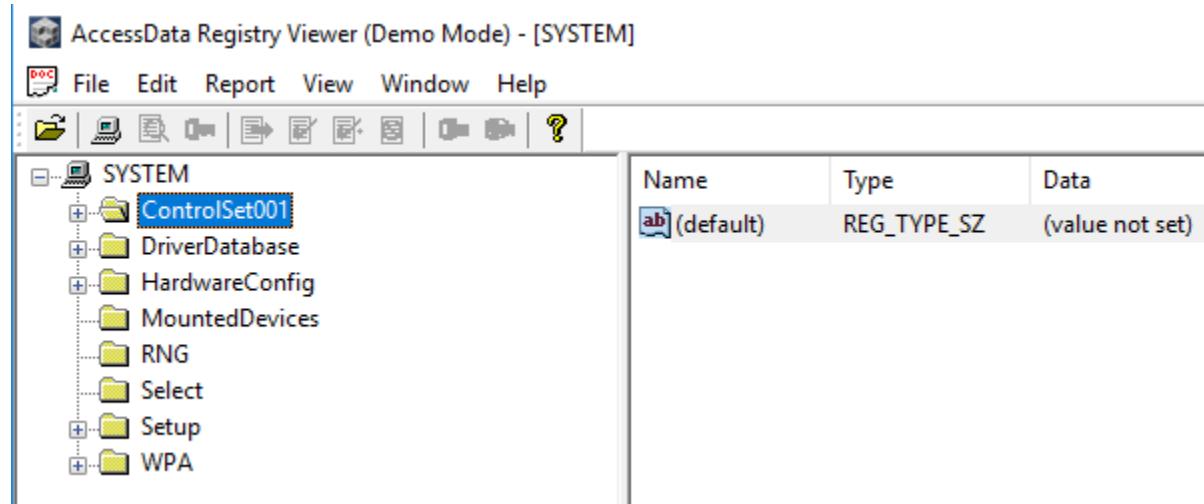


Figure 21/System.

The above figure shows that the current key set is 001. This key simply tells the active configuration settings that the operating system is currently using (Manish, 2024).

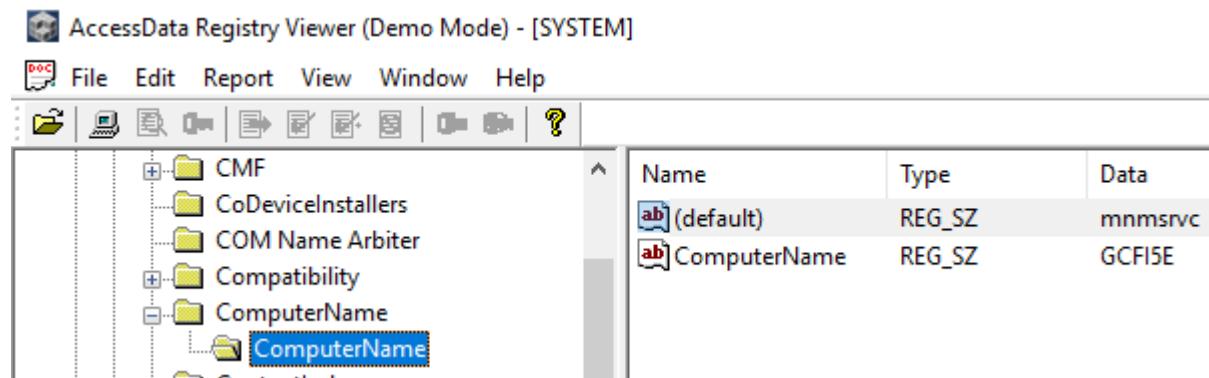


Figure 22/Computer name.

The above figure shows the computer name being GCFI53.

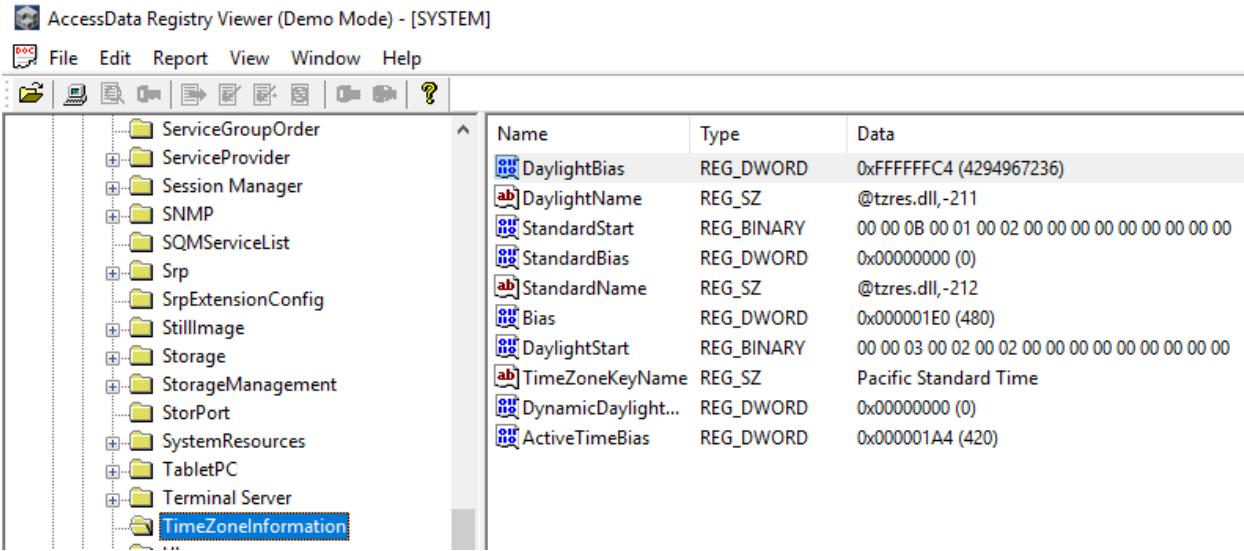


Figure 23/Time zone.

The above figure displays the time zone information of the computer which is set to Pacific Standard Time.

We expanded the Enum folder which contains additional details on hardware devices such as mounted USB storage devices, including external memory cards. Then we expanded the IDE (Integrated drive electronics) which stores details of hard drives and optical drives (Lih, 2011).

The friendly name is used to display a readable name for a device (imacken, 2017).

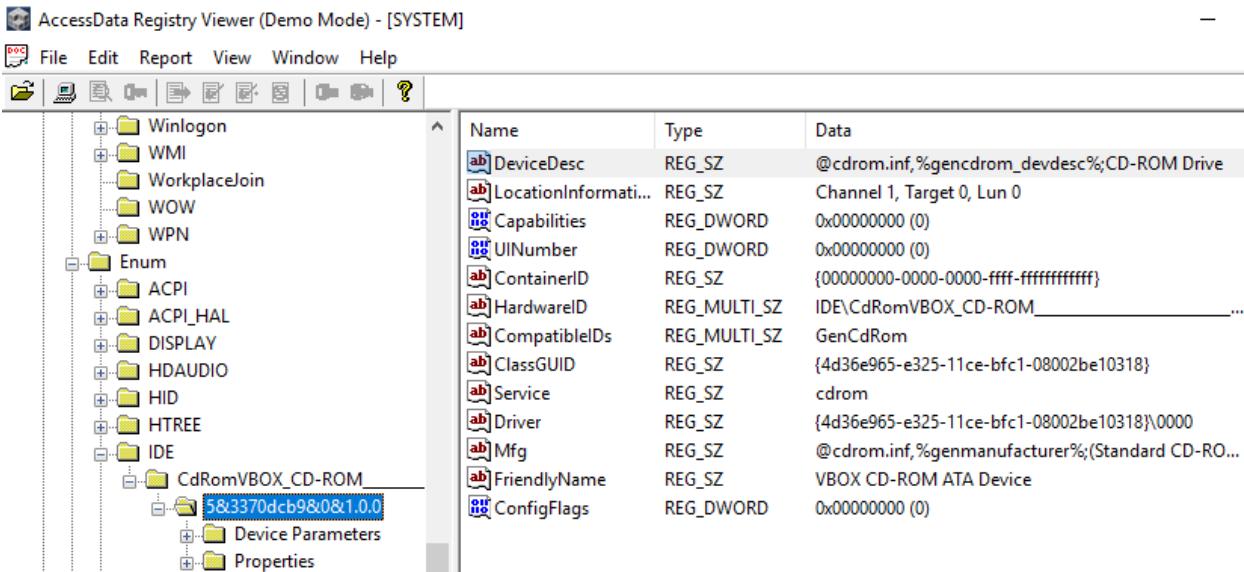


Figure 24/Friendly name.

The figure above shows the friendly name as VBOX CD-ROM ATA Device.

We clicked on the mounted devices to determine the letter which the CD ROM was mounted, and it is GUID value as shown in the figure below.

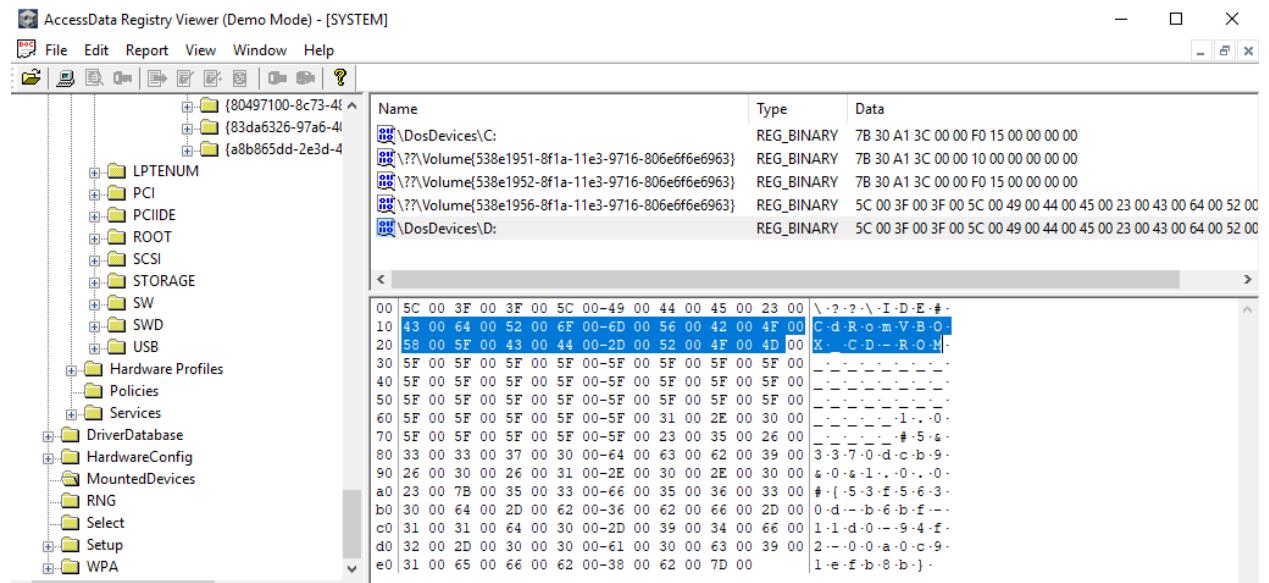


Figure 25/Drive letter.

The CD ROM was mounted to drive D as shown above and the GUID value was {53f5630d-b6bf-11d0-94f2-00a0c91efb8b}.

From the figure above there are only two mounted devices assigned to a drive letter which are C and D.

Examining the NTUSER.DAT File

NTUSER.DAT is a registry file where a user profile is loaded from. This file stores the user profile software and operating system settings. This file is usually created for every user on the computer (Random, 2024).

The figure below shows the Registry viewer display that we used to open the NTUSER.DAT file for the user Denise that we had exported earlier in this lab.

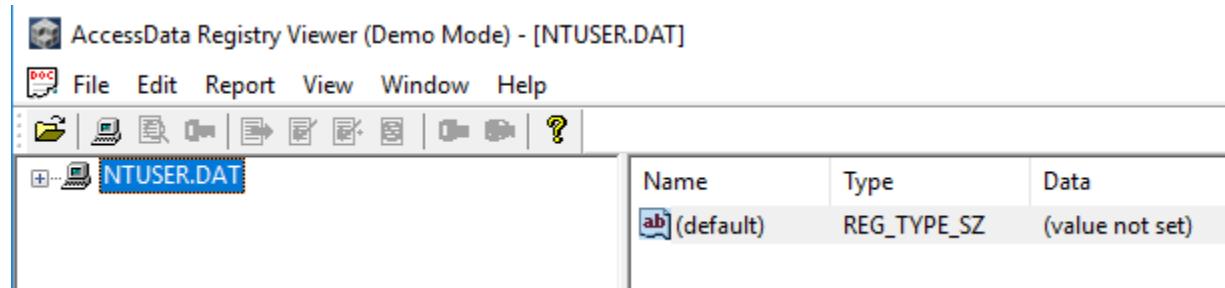


Figure 26/Denise.

The installed component GUID is well highlighted in blue in the figure below.

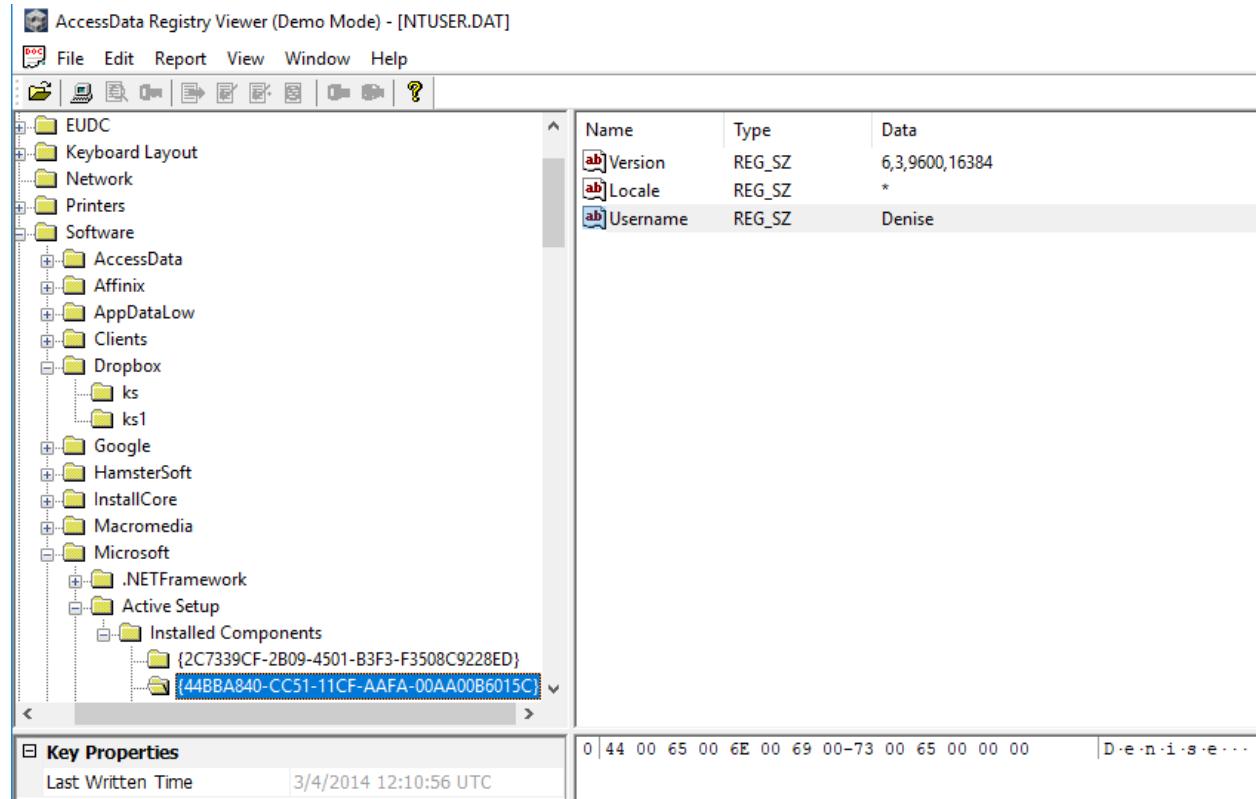


Figure 27/GUID.

The GUID is {44BBA840-CC51-11CF-AAFA-00AA00B6015C}

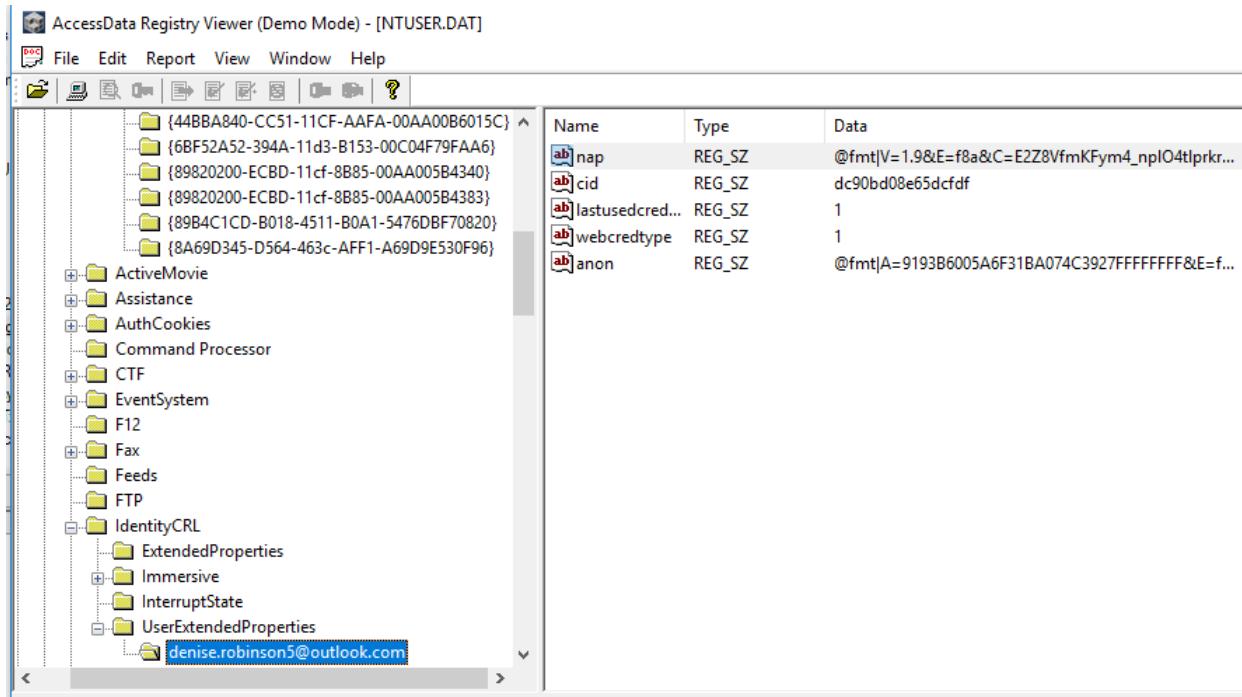


Figure 28/Email.

Denise's email account is denise.robinson5@outlook.com.

There was no information matched with jfriday because each user has a unique copy of their NTUSER.DAT file. To obtain information about jfriday we would have to export a different file associated with the account.

Image forensics

Analysis of image files

We will be using Autopsy to create a new case and browse to an image that we had earlier acquired using the FTK Imager tool. In this lab we selected the USBF image which did not have any picture files deleted but did have two picture that were captured and 3 that were downloaded. The figures below show the results category of the extracted picture files, and the metadata returned.

The screenshot shows the Autopsy 4.10.0 interface. The left sidebar contains a tree view of data sources, views, file types (including extensions like Images, Videos, Audio, Archives, Databases, Documents, Executable, and MIME type), deleted files, and MB file size. The main pane displays a table titled 'EXIF Metadata' with two entries:

Source File	S	C	O	Date Created	Device Model	Device Make	Data Source	Size	Path
DCP_1255.jpg				2007-09-20 23:20:50 EDT	KODAK DX3600 DIGITAL CAMERA	EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY	USBF-FTK.E01	271844	/img_USBF-FTK.E01/DCP_1255
20160425_142807(0).jpg				2016-04-25 14:28:07 EDT	SAMSUNG-SM-G935A	samsung	USBF-FTK.E01	2648568	/img_USBF-FTK.E01/20160425

Figure 29/Autopsy1.

The figure above returns vital information which is discussed below:

Date created- This shows the date and time the picture file was taken.

Device Model – This shows the device model used to capture the picture file.

Device make – This shows the device company brand.

Data source – shows the data source which was an image we had acquired earlier using the FTK Imager tool.

Size – This shows the file size in bytes.

Path – this shows the location path where the file was acquired from.

The screenshot shows the USB-FTK - Autopsy 4.10.0 software interface. The main window displays a table titled 'EXIF Metadata' with two rows of data. The columns are 'Device Model', 'Device Make', 'Data Source', 'Size', 'Path', 'Latitude', and 'Longitude'. The first row shows 'KODAK DX3600 DIGITAL CAMERA' as the device model, 'EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY' as the device make, 'USBF-FTK.E01' as the data source, a size of '271844', and a path of '/img_USB-FTK.E01/DCP_1255.jpg'. The second row shows 'SAMSUNG-SM-G935A' as the device model, 'samsung' as the device make, 'USBF-FTK.E01' as the data source, a size of '2648568', and a path of '/img_USB-FTK.E01/20160425_142807(0).jpg'. The last two columns, 'Latitude' and 'Longitude', show values '39.2480635' and '-76.71439669444445' respectively. The left sidebar contains a tree view of 'File Types' (By Extension, By MIME Type, Deleted Files, MB File Size), 'Results' (Extracted Content, Keyword Hits, Single Literal Keyw, Single Regular Exp, Email Addresses, Hashset Hits, E-Mail Messages, Interesting Items, Accounts), 'Tags', and 'Reports'.

Device Model	Device Make	Data Source	Size	Path	Latitude	Longitude
KODAK DX3600 DIGITAL CAMERA	EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY	USBF-FTK.E01	271844	/img_USB-FTK.E01/DCP_1255.jpg		
SAMSUNG-SM-G935A	samsung	USBF-FTK.E01	2648568	/img_USB-FTK.E01/20160425_142807(0).jpg	39.2480635	-76.71439669444445

The last two columns show the latitude and the longitude coordinates of the picture files.

After manually checking the metadata, we noticed some information that was not available in the autopsy tool above. The following figures show the additional information we discovered.

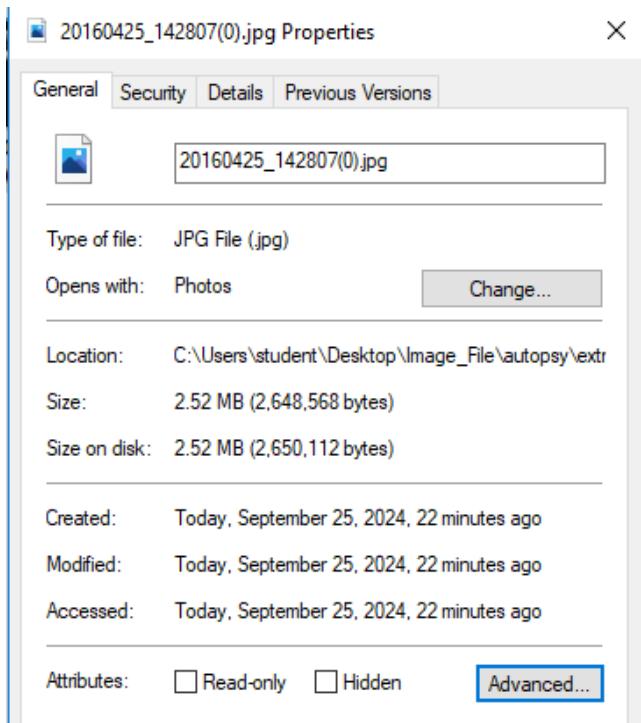


Figure 30/Details1.

The above figure shows additional information for the modification and accessed dates.

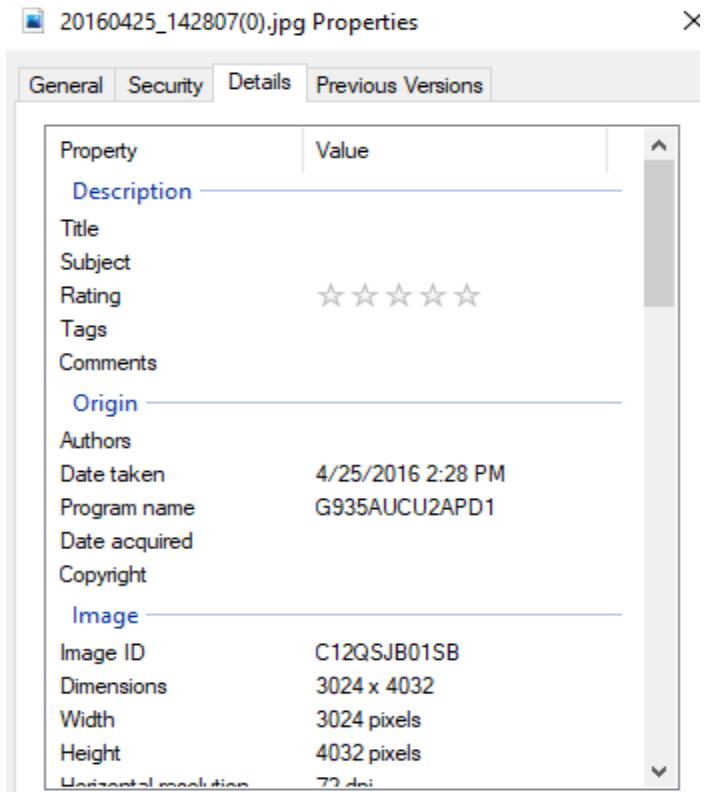


Figure 31/Details2.

The additional information given above under the image category was not available in the autopsy.

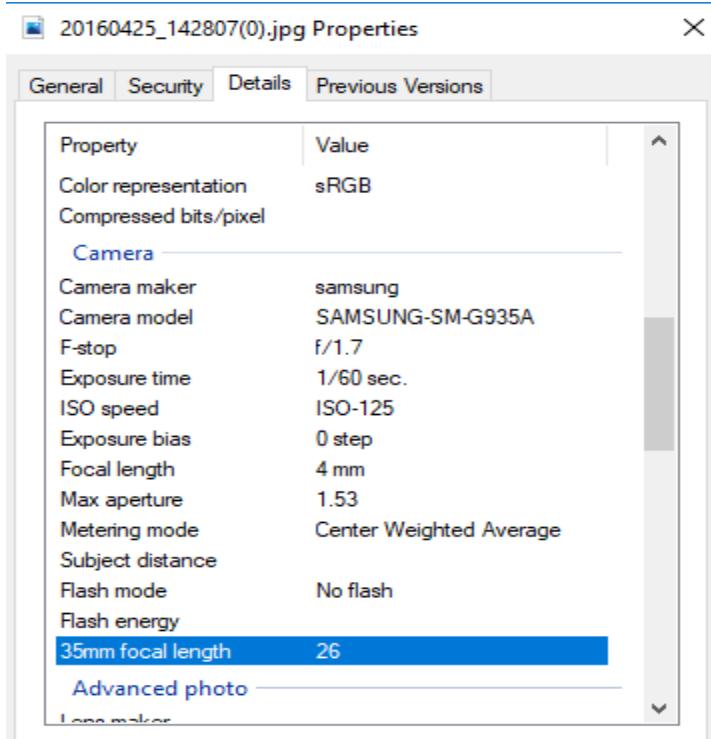


Figure 32/Details3.

The camera details above contain additional information such as the ISO speed exposure time, Focal length, Max aperture, and metering mode.

20160425_142807(0).jpg Properties	
General	Security
Details	Previous Versions
Property	Value
Latitude	39; 14; 53.02859999999054
Longitude	76; 42; 51.8280999999842...
Altitude	0
File	
Name	20160425_142807(0).jpg
Item type	JPG File
Folder path	C:\Users\student\Desktop...
Date created	9/25/2024 5:20 PM
Date modified	9/25/2024 5:20 PM
Size	2.52 MB
Attributes	A
Availability	
Offline status	
Shared with	
Owner	WINDOWS10\student
Computer	WINDOWS10 (this PC)

Figure 33/Details4.

The above figures were for one of the pictures that had location information returned, and we picked it as our picture file to focus on.

We uploaded the picture on <https://fotoforensics.com/> to check for any additional details of the location the file was captured. The figure below shows the approximate location of where the picture file was captured.

GPS Altitude	0 m Above Sea Level
GPS Date/Time	2016.04.25 18:28:06Z
GPS Latitude	39 deg 14' 53.03" N
GPS Longitude	76 deg 42' 51.83" W
GPS Position	39 deg 14' 53.03" N, 76 deg 42' 51.83" W
Image Size	4032x3024
Light Value	7.1
Megapixels	12.2
Scale Factor To 35 mm Equivalent	6.2
Circle Of Confusion	0.005 mm
Field Of View	69.4 deg
Focal Length	4.2 mm (35 mm equivalent: 26.0 mm)
Hyperfocal Distance	2.14 m

Approximate GPS Location

This information is interpreted from the GPS metadata. **Locations are approximate.** Although the coordinates appear precise, mobile devices typically have low accuracy.

Approximate Coordinates	39.248064,-76.714397
Approximate Location	Arbutus, MD, US
Approximate Range	Unspecified, assume +/- 3218 meters (2 miles)



Figure 34/Location.

I would do this if it were legal as it gives me precise information which could be vital in the investigation.

Glossary

Bookmarks – This is a digital pointer that a user can return to a selected file (Margaret, 2017).

Cache – This is a hardware or software that is used to store data temporarily (Ben, 2021).

Cookies – These are small text files that websites send to your device and are used to monitor and remember information about a user (Emily, 2019).

GUID – Stands for Globally unique identifier which is a unique alphanumeric string to identify hardware components (Tim, 2023).

Hard drive – This is an external or internal storage device in computer (Brian, 2023).

NTFS-Stands for New Technology File System which was introduced to cover the limitations of the File allocation system (Ben, 2021) .

Optical drives – This is defined as a device that reads and writes data onto a disc using a laser (Margaret, 2021).

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