

Digital Forensics Investigative Report

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## **Introduction:**

### **Summary of Case:**

The accused, Jim Cloudy, is currently under investigation following the discovery of documents suggesting plans for a politically motivated violent act. Digital copies of the suspect's RAM dump and hard disk image were recovered after his brother, Paul Cloudy, alerted authorities to concerning material stored in multiple cloud accounts belonging to the accused. The forensic analysis is expected to support the suspicion that Jim had developed and preserved plans for a "Lone Wolf" style attack.

Subject to investigation, but if found guilty, the digital evidence recovered may convict the suspect of multiple criminal offenses. These may include but are not limited to; (1) attempted domestic terrorism, (2) possession & dissemination of materials related to a planned violent or terror act, and (3) destruction of evidence (Virginia Law, 2024, 18.2-46.4).

### **Statement of Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to identify and analyse all suspicious digital artifacts from the suspect's devices to determine the presence of incriminating or exonerating evidence. The findings aim to assist other investigators and legal professionals in assessing whether the suspect was actively planning or preparing to commit a criminal offense(s).

### **Statement of Scope:**

This document covers the forensic examination of a RAM and hard disk image provided by law enforcement supposedly belonging to the suspect. The scope of analysis includes user activity, recovered files, internet history, cloud storage, system logs, and evidence of planning or intent. Emphasis is placed on identifying signs of premeditated action and any supporting digital documentation.

The limitations of this investigation include:

- The original physical device was not on hand.
- Memory acquisition was not conducted live, limiting my analysis of volatile data to the provided RAM dump.
- Cloud storage accounts and any deleted files such as the various Google Doc Chats were not directly accessed; analysis is based on cached or recovered data.

- The investigation does not consider the psychological, social, or physical behaviour/state of the accused. **ONLY** digital evidence used to build a profile and timeline.
  - Legal interpretation is outside the scope of this report; opinions and findings are presented for evidentiary purposes **ONLY**.

## Forensic Examination:

## Tools:

<b>Software:</b>	<b>Hardware:</b>
Autopsy (v4.22.2)	Apple Silicon M2 - MacOS: Sonoma 14.6.1 *
Volatility (v3.0)	CIS Lab Computers *

\*MacOS used for the writing of this report only, forensics analysis conducted on CIS computers.

## Evidence:

All evidence analysed was provided by the teaching team on Blackboard.

	Item	Description	Type
1	Hard Disk	In "Analysis"	H
2	Memory	In "Analysis"	RAM

Additional evidence of two other notable devices that had interacted with his computer was found, but no more information was able to be recovered.

Hex	Text	Application	Source File Metadata	OS Account	Data Artifacts	Analysis Results	Context	Annotations	Other Occurrences
Result: 5 of 38	Result	◀ ▶							
Type	Value								
Device Model	SDCZ80 Flash Drive								
Device ID	AA010603160707470215								
Source File Path	/img_LoneWolf.E01/vol_vol7/Windows/System32/config/SYSTEM								
Last Update	2023-07-18 14:23:45								

## Analysis:

### Brief description of evidence items:

#### Original Device:

Laptop, Dell, Model Latitude E6430 ATG, Service Tag: DB2MN22. Evidence Property/Custody Document (EPCD) Item 3 Document Number 001-18.

#### Hard Disk:

Samsung SSD 850 PRO 512GB, Serial Number: S250NSAG505708H

#### Memory:

Windows 10 x64

## Process Breakdown:

The forensic process began by analysing the provided memory dump using Volatility Workbench. Plugins such as pslist, psscan, and netscan was used to identify suspicious process behaviour and any evidence of remote access. Following this, the hard disk image was examined in Autopsy. The investigation involved reviewing web and search history, which revealed firearm-related content, escape planning, and encrypted communications. The most critical evidence was found on the suspect's desktop, where documents such as the "Cloudy Manifesto" and "Planning" were located. Although all areas of the drive were accessed and meticulously analysed, the majority of relevant artifacts were discovered within the high activity locations mentioned.

## Memory Dump Examination:

The memory dump from Jim's laptop was analysed using Volatility Workbench. The process listings (pslist, psscan) showed multiple instances of cmd.exe and powershell.exe, which may not be suspicious on their own, but both of which are commonly used for scripting and exploitation (Nappy, 2025). Some processes had unusual extremely short lifespans, suggesting possible automation.

The most notable findings came from the netscan search, which showed that both cmd.exe and powershell.exe had open or recently closed network connections. This is generally abnormal and potentially indicates remote access. Additionally, an unfamiliar execution, TempApp.exe, also appeared with network activity, further suggesting suspicious behaviour.

Due to limitations in the analysis the exact purpose of these activities and availability of malware is unclear. However, the combination of command line tools communicating over the network and unexplained executables strongly indicates malicious activity. This investigation will shift focus onto the evidence found on the suspects hard drive, as that should reveal more than the small snapshot of the RAM dump. Screenshots of the results found based on the commands used are found in the appendix for clarity.

## Autopsy Investigation:

The forensic analysis conducted focused on identifying digital artifacts indicating intent to commit the crimes accused of. Tagged evidence was grouped by theme to establish both motive and potential action. The following subsections detail each category of findings in hopes of building a timeline of events. Not every piece of evidence tagged has been mentioned/figured in efforts of conciseness. However, the Autopsy report includes everything found used to formulate my conclusions. The supplementary figures should be seen as evidence of acquisition.

### 1. Mentions of Guns

A significant amount of search activity volume related to firearms was found. Web search history revealed the suspect had searched for gun laws in multiple states including firearm restrictions (Figure 4). YouTube search/viewing history included videos from various gun advocating channels and firearm reviews (Figure 7). He frequently searched for local gun stores (Figure 3). The most notable searches were those for automatic weapons (Figure 5). These digital artifacts suggest a strong and repeated interest in acquiring and understanding weapons (Figure 2 & 7) which is notable when put in context alongside other materials discovered.

Hex	Text	Application	Source File Metadata	OS Account	Data Artifacts	Analysis Results	Context	Annotations	Other Occurrences
Result: 2318	of	2534	Result	←	→				
<b>Web Search</b>									
Term: shooting range near me									
Time: 2018-03-28 02:09:53 BST									
Domain: google.com									
Program Name: Google Chrome									

Figure 1: Search of a nearby shooting range

Hex Text Application Source File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other Occurrences

Result: 2321 of 2534 Result ← →

**Web Search**

Term: just how easy is it to buy an illegal gun  
Time: 2018-03-29 05:37:29 BST  
Domain: google.com  
Program Name: Google Chrome

Figure 2: Looking up how easy it is to buy an illegal gun

Hex Text Application Source File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other Occurrences

Result: 2423 of 2534 Result ← →

**Web Search**

Term: Northern Virginia Gun Works  
Time: 2018-03-31 18:53:40 BST  
Domain: google.com  
Program Name: Google Chrome

Figure 3: Accessed an Online Gun Store

Hex Text Application Source File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other Occurrences

Result: 2326 of 2534 Result ← →

**Web Search**

Term: Is there a map of gun free zones  
Time: 2018-03-30 00:13:25 BST  
Domain: google.com  
Program Name: Google Chrome

Figure 4: Looking up locations of "gun free zones"

Hex Text Application Source File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other Occurrences

Result: 2405 of 2534 Result ← →

**Web Search**

Term: submachine guns  
Time: 2018-03-31 05:42:08 BST  
Domain: google.com  
Program Name: Google Chrome

Figure 5: One of many Automatic Weapon Search

Hex Text Application Source File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other Occurrences

Result: 146 of 2534 Result ← →

**Visit Details**

Title: best tactical rifle - YouTube  
Username: Default  
Date Accessed: 2018-03-28 01:53:01 BST  
Domain: youtube.com

Figure 6: One of Many Searches for Rifles

The screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a tab bar at the top: Hex, Text, Application, Source File Metadata, OS Account, Data Artifacts, Analysis Results, Context, and Annotations. The 'Analysis Results' tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says 'Result: 104 of 2534' and 'Result' with left and right arrows. A section titled 'Visit Details' displays the following information:

- Title: Dual Wielding Challenge vs Army Sniper - YouTube
- Username: Default
- Date Accessed: 2018-03-28 01:08:12 BST
- Domain: youtube.com

Figure 7: YouTube Gun Related Content

## 2. Possible Burner Phone

The suspect performed repeated web searches for Nokia dual sim phones including review videos (not pictured) and Amazon product listings (Figure 8). This behaviour is particularly suspicious given that the case takes place in 2018, and the model of the phone that he was viewing on Amazon was “Factory Unlocked”, meaning that the phone, and in turn, the user, is not tied to a specific mobile carrier and can effectively be used with any SIM card worldwide. The phone would have been 5 years old at the time of the case, and even more outdated in terms of its technology. It is worth noting that Dual-SIM phones are often used in covert communication, suggesting possible intent to avoid detection.

The screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a tab bar at the top: Hex, Text, Application, Source File Metadata, OS Account, Data Artifacts, Analysis Results, Context, Annotations, Other Occurrences, and Web History. The 'Analysis Results' tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says 'Result: 512 of 2534' and 'Result' with left and right arrows. A section titled 'Visit Details' displays the following information:

- Title: Amazon.com: Nokia 3310 3G Factory Unlocked Phone (AT&T/T-Mobile) - 32GB - 2.4" - Warm Red and Cricket Wireless BYOD Prepaid SIM Card: Electronics
- Username: Default
- Date Accessed: 2018-03-30 22:20:37 BST
- Domain: amazon.com
- URL: https://www.amazon.com/Nokia-Factory-Unlocked-Phone-T-Mobile/dp/B078H1457C/ref=sr\_1\_4?is=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1522444673&sr=1-4&keywords=nokia+3310+dual+sim
- Referrer URL: https://www.amazon.com/Nokia-Factory-Unlocked-Phone-T-Mobile/dp/B078H1457C/ref=sr\_1\_4?is=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1522444673&sr=1-4&keywords=nokia+3310+dual+sim
- Program Name: Google Chrome

A 'Source' section below lists:

- Host: LoneWolf.E01\_1 Host
- Data Source: LoneWolf.E01
- File: /img\_LoneWolf.E01/vol\_vol7/Users/jcloudy/AppData/Local/Google/Chrome/User Data/Default/History

Figure 8: Amazon Search for a Factory Unlocked Dual-Sim Phone

## 3. Interest in UK Law and Crime Rates

Various articles were accessed that examined the relationship between gun control legislation and crime rates in the UK (Figure 9 as reference, exact search tagged on autopsy report). The suspect appeared to be researching whether stricter gun laws result in fewer crimes and was especially focused on sources that argued otherwise (Figure 10). This may reflect an effort to build justification for the views he expressed in the discovered manifesto.

The screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a toolbar at the top containing 'Hex', 'Text', 'Application', 'Source File Metadata', 'OS Account', 'Data Artifacts', 'Analysis Results' (which is selected), 'Context', 'Annotations', and 'Other Occurrences'. Below the toolbar, it says 'Result: 1740 of 2534' and has 'Result' with left and right arrows. A section titled 'Visit Details' displays the following information:

- Title: uk wants to ban knives - Google Search
- Username: Default
- Date Accessed: 2018-04-05 06:50:27 BST
- Domain: google.com

Figure 9: One of Many UK Crime/Knife/Gun Related Searches

The screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a toolbar at the top containing 'Hex', 'Text', 'Application', 'File Metadata', 'OS Account', 'Data Artifacts', 'Analysis Results' (selected), 'Context', 'Annotations', and 'Other Occurrences'. Below the toolbar, it says 'Result: 1 of 2' and has 'Result' with left and right arrows. A table titled 'Type' and 'Value' shows the following data:

Associated Artifact	-9223372036854775686
Source File Path	/img_LoneWolf.E01/vol_voi7/Users/jcloudy/Desktop/UKknifeBan.pdf
Artifact ID	-9223372036854775685

Figure 10: One of Many UK Crime/Knife/Gun Related Searches

#### 4. Extreme Right-Wing and Gun Rights Advocacy

**Web history and social media posts/searches revealed frequent visits to content associated with far-right ideology and gun rights extremism, including Facebook and Twitter searches mentioning “Molon Labe”, which is Greek for “come and take them”. It is a slogan used to “express defiance and is frequently employed by gun-rights advocates in the US.” (Dictionary.com, n.d.) (Figures 11-14). These visits were routine, suggesting alignment or affiliation with communities that often promote anti-government rhetoric.**

The screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a toolbar at the top containing 'Hex', 'Text', 'Application', 'Source File Metadata', 'OS Account', 'Data Artifacts', 'Analysis Results' (selected), 'Context', 'Annotations', and 'Other Occurrences'. Below the toolbar, it says 'Result: 1824 of 2534' and has 'Result' with left and right arrows. A section titled 'Visit Details' displays the following information:

- Title: 'You can't fight the government? It's time to debunk this popular anti-gun talking point | TheBlaze'
- Username: Default
- Date Accessed: 2018-04-06 04:43:14 BST
- Domain: theblaze.com

Figure 11: Anti-gov related search

The screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a toolbar at the top containing 'Hex', 'Text', 'Application', 'Source File Metadata', 'OS Account', 'Data Artifacts', 'Analysis Results' (selected), 'Context', 'Annotations', and 'Other Occurrences'. Below the toolbar, it says 'Result: 193 of 2534' and has 'Result' with left and right arrows. A section titled 'Visit Details' displays the following information:

- Title: (\*) #MolonLabe hashtag on Twitter
- Username: Default
- Date Accessed: 2018-03-29 05:22:41 BST
- Domain: twitter.com

Figure 12: Molon Labe Search

The screenshot shows a NetworkMiner interface with the 'Data Artifacts' tab selected. The results list shows 'Result: 468 of 2534'. Below the results, the 'Visit Details' section displays the following information:

Title:	Breitbart News Network
Username:	Default
Date Accessed:	2018-04-06 04:41:09 BST
Domain:	breitbart.com

Figure 13: Far-Right News Network

The screenshot shows a NetworkMiner interface with the 'Data Artifacts' tab selected. The results list shows 'Result: 1016 of 2534'. Below the results, the 'Visit Details' section displays the following information:

Title:	Presentation: How to Improve Your Gun Argument   Fairfax Democrats
Username:	Default
Date Accessed:	2018-04-03 07:19:30 BST
Domain:	fairfaxdemocrats.org

Figure 14

## 5. Manifesto

A Google Document containing Jim's manifesto was recovered in its entirety. Several images embedded within it were retrieved (pictured and analysed below).

Figure 15 depicts a poster that flips the famous slogan defending gun ownership “from my cold dead hands”, seemingly mocking and opposing it. The cowboy seems to represent old school gun culture and how it may be seen as “cool”.

Figure 16 shows a group of possible activists comparing gun control movements are similar to those who supported Hitler, Castro, and Zhedong. This is evident propaganda, using fear from past historical figures and events to discredit gun control efforts. It attempts to illicit distrust in gun control activism by linking it to authoritarian regimes.

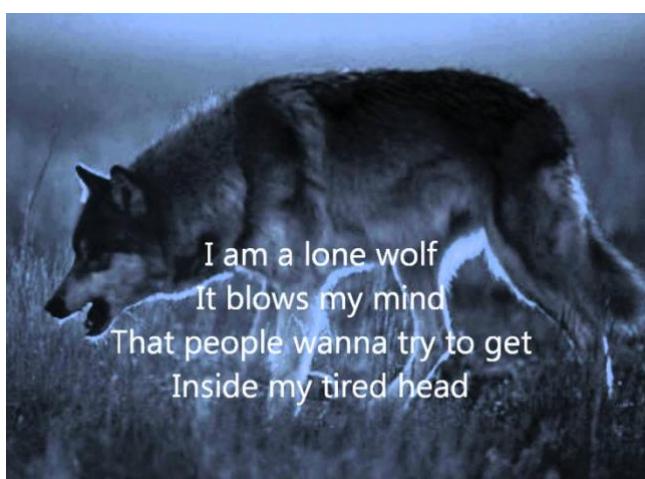
Figures 17 and 18 could be described as “memes”, poking fun of sensitive topics through humour. Figure 18 promotes the idea of rugged individualism and emotional isolation as a good thing, both often associated with those who reject societal rules or feel misunderstood. (Webster, n.d.). The “lone wolf” mindset is also often romanticized in extremist or anti-authority narratives. Figure 17 shows a ‘satirical’ take on former democratic senator Dianne Feinstein’s ‘logic’. It is meant to undermine gun control arguments by presenting them as naive. It also frames disarming as unrealistic and mocks democratic political figures.

The text within the document titled “*The Cloudy Manifesto*” serves as clear ideological justification for a premeditated attack, specifically in the context of anti-government and anti-gun control extremism once again. The language throughout indicates a high level of radicalization, social isolation, and a willingness to act on extremist beliefs. Jim explicitly

states that collateral damage is acceptable, reinforcing the mindset that prioritizes ideology over tangible human life. The manifesto expresses deep anti-government sentiment, portraying state institutions as oppressive and untrustworthy. References to figures like Clive Bundy and the Snake River Ranchers, known for armed standoffs with authorities, are used to support the claim that disarming the people leads to the government overreaching their ground. It also includes a heated critique of gun control laws, arguing that legislation is ineffective at stopping crime and only serves to disempower law abiding citizens. Jim compares gun laws to other laws that are frequently broken, such as drugs and speeding, in an attempt to dismiss the laws effectiveness. Most alarmingly, the manifesto escalates into an explicit call for attack: he announces his intention to break the law and carry out an attack to “prove” that gun-free zones are ineffective. The document ends with disturbing imagery of mass casualties, “you will soon see when the blood has been shed and the defenceless bodies stacked high...” positioning the author as a “lone wolf” and so called “revolutionary” intended on making history through violence. He uploaded this document, along with others, on cloud storage services such as Dropbox to “preserve his work”, as he says in the manifesto (Figure 15).

1	.tmp.download (9)							
2	8537797.download (2)							
3	Cubs' Anthony Rizzo Praises Parkland Kids, Says 'It's too Easy							
4	Larry King, Time to Repeat the 'Poorly Written' Second Amended							
5	AIRPORT INFORMATION.docx (1)							
6	AMEN.pdf (1)							
7	LeftUseSoycotts.pdf (4)							
8	Operation 2nd Hand Smoke.pptx (8)							
9	SelfDefenseMurder.pdf (7)							
10	The Cloudy Manifesto.docx (7)							
11	UKKnifeBan.pdf (29)							
12	Documents (7)							
13	Custom Office Templates (2)							
14	My Music (2)							
15	My Pictures (2)							
16	My Videos (2)							
17	Downloads (59)							
18	Dropbox (63)							
19	Favorites (5)							
20	Google Drive (7)							
21	.tmp.download (2)							
22	Operation 2nd Hand Smoke.pptx (8)							
23	The Cloudy Manifesto.docx (7)							
24	intelGraphicsProfiles (5)							
25	Links (7)							
26	Local Settings (2)							
27	MicrosoftEdgeBackups (3)							
28	Music (3)							
29	My Documents (2)							
30	NetHood (2)							
31	OneDrive (27)							
32	HoldMyTidePod.jpg.com.dropbox.attrs	0	2018-04-05 03:13:52 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	28	Allocated
33	Huckleberry.png	0	2018-04-05 03:13:53 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	306471	Allocated
34	Huckleberry.png.com.dropbox.attributes	0	2018-04-05 03:13:53 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	83	Allocated
35	Huckleberry.png.com.dropbox.attrs	0	2018-04-05 03:13:53 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	28	Allocated
36	Larry King, Time to Repeat the 'Poorly Written' Sec'	0	2018-04-05 03:13:55 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	28930	Allocated
37	Larry King, Time to Repeat the 'Poorly Written' Sec'	0	2018-04-05 03:13:55 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	83	Allocated
38	Larry King, Time to Repeat the 'Poorly Written' Sec'	0	2018-04-05 03:13:55 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	83	Allocated
39	Larry King, Time to Repeat the 'Poorly Written' Sec'	0	2018-04-05 03:13:55 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	28	Allocated
40	Larry King, Time to Repeat the 'Poorly Written' Sec'	0	2018-04-05 03:13:55 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	107830	Allocated
41	MyTiredHead.jpg	0	2018-04-05 03:13:56 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	83	Allocated
42	MyTiredHead.jpg.com.dropbox.attributes	0	2018-04-05 03:13:56 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	28	Allocated
43	MyTiredHead.jpg.com.dropbox.attrs	0	2018-04-05 03:13:56 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	440996	Allocated
44	Operation 2nd Hand Smoke.pptx	0	2018-04-06 11:27 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:19 BST	2018-04-06 03:20 BST	2018-04-06 13:32:30 BST	83	Allocated
45	Operation 2nd Hand Smoke.pptx.com.dropbox.att	0	2018-04-06 11:27 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:19 BST	2018-04-06 03:20 BST	2018-04-06 13:32:30 BST	83	Allocated
46	Planning.docx	0	2018-04-05 14:03 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	14060	Allocated
47	Planning.docx.com.dropbox.attributes	0	2018-04-05 14:03 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	83	Allocated
48	Planning.docx.com.dropbox.att	0	2018-04-05 14:03 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	28	Allocated
49	RedGuns.jpg	0	2018-04-05 14:04 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	122915	Allocated
50	RedGuns.jpg.com.dropbox.attributes	0	2018-04-05 14:04 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	83	Allocated
51	RedGuns.jpg.com.dropbox.att	0	2018-04-05 14:04 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	28	Allocated
52	Sheep.jpg	0	2018-04-05 14:06 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	11073	Allocated
53	Sheep.jpg.com.dropbox.attributes	0	2018-04-05 14:06 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	83	Allocated
54	Sheep.jpg.com.dropbox.att	0	2018-04-05 14:06 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:28 BST	2018-04-06 13:35:25 BST	28	Allocated
55	The Cloudy Manifesto.docx	0	2018-04-02 02:35:27 BST	2018-04-02 02:43:42 BST	2018-04-02 02:36:45 BST	2018-04-02 02:36:45 BST	161313	Allocated
56	The Cloudy Manifesto.docx.com.dropbox.att	0	2018-04-02 02:35:27 BST	2018-04-02 02:43:42 BST	2018-04-02 02:36:45 BST	2018-04-02 02:36:45 BST	83	Allocated

*Figure 15: Manifesto was found in Dropbox (accessible on “desktop”, not pictured)*



*Figure 17: Lone Wolf Meme*



*Figure 16: Gun Control + Historical Regime*

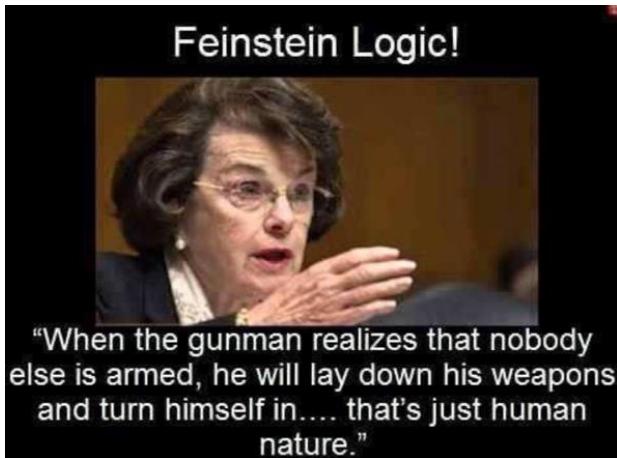


Figure 18: Feinstein “Logic” Meme



Figure 19: Cold Dead Hands Mock and Cowboy

DV6

## 6. Evidence of a Planned Attack Followed by Fleeing / Re-location:

The suspect used Google Maps to examine the Cascades Library, which so happens to be at the exact location of an anti-gun rally (Figure 31) that Jim had previously mentioned in his planning PowerPoint document (Not on this document but found on the Autopsy report). He also has various web searches preluding to anti-gun rallies in his area. Various searches related to police response times in different areas were retrieved (Figure 27).

The suspects web searches and access history indicate that he was planning on relocating to Indonesia. There are multiple instances of him searching for countries that have nonextradition treaties with the U.S. One of the many articles relating to fleeing the country he accessed was titled “The Best Countries for Your Escape Plan”. Upon further research, Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries frequent these lists (Asean, 1979). He also searched for property listings (Figure 33), airport routes from the location of his supposed planned attack in Virginia to Bali (Figures 24 & 26), and how to move money undetected (Figure 22). Evidence of confirmation of ticket bookings from the U.S to Bali and back were also found, suggesting he intended to leave and later return (Figure 30).

This screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a navigation bar at the top containing links for Hex, Text, Application, Source File Metadata, OS Account, Data Artifacts, Analysis Results, Context, Annotations, and Other Occurrences. The 'Analysis Results' tab is currently selected. Below the navigation bar, a message indicates 'Result: 675 of 2534'. A 'Result' button with left and right arrows is positioned next to the message. The main content area is titled 'Visit Details' and displays the following information:  
Title: File:United States extradition treaties countries.PNG - Wikipedia  
Username: Default  
Date Accessed: 2018-03-31 20:39:54 BST  
Domain: wikipedia.org

Figure 20: Extradition Search

This screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a navigation bar at the top containing links for Hex, Text, Application, Source File Metadata, OS Account, Data Artifacts, Analysis Results, and Context. The 'Analysis Results' tab is currently selected. Below the navigation bar, a message indicates 'Result: 669 of 2534'. A 'Result' button with left and right arrows is positioned next to the message. The main content area is titled 'Visit Details' and displays the following information:  
Title: The Best Countries for Your Escape Plan | International Man  
Username: Default  
Date Accessed: 2018-03-31 20:34:56 BST  
Domain: internationalman.com

Figure 21: Blatant Escape Plan Search

This screenshot shows a digital forensic interface with a navigation bar at the top containing links for Hex, Text, Application, Source File Metadata, OS Account, Data Artifacts, Analysis Results, Context, Annotations, and Other. The 'Analysis Results' tab is currently selected. Below the navigation bar, a message indicates 'Result: 1759 of 2534'. A 'Result' button with left and right arrows is positioned next to the message. The main content area is titled 'Visit Details' and displays the following information:  
Title: can i tape cash to myself and walk through tsa - Google Search  
Username: Default  
Date Accessed: 2018-04-05 07:03:58 BST  
Domain: google.com

Figure 22: Smuggling Cash Query

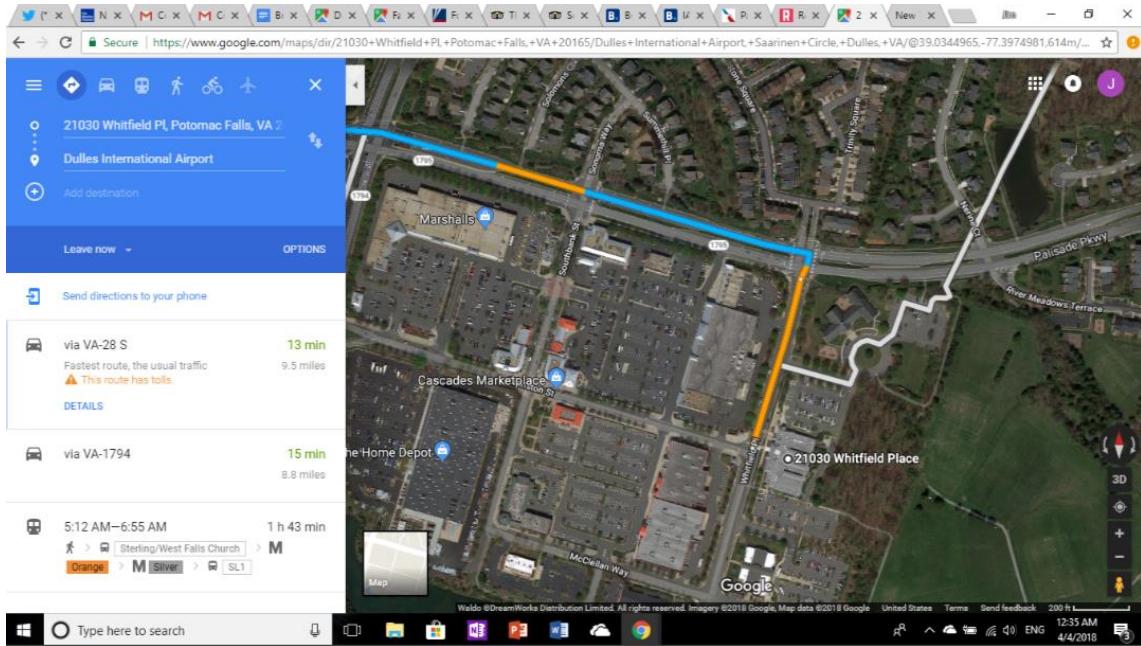


Figure 24: Google Maps from the Library to Dulles Airport

Visit Details
Title: Will the police come to your house if you search for something illegal online but don't go to any website and exit the tabs quickly? - Quora
Username: Default
Date Accessed: 2018-03-31 21:03:45 BST
Domain: quora.com

Figure 25: One of Many Pre-Offense Risk-Aware Searches

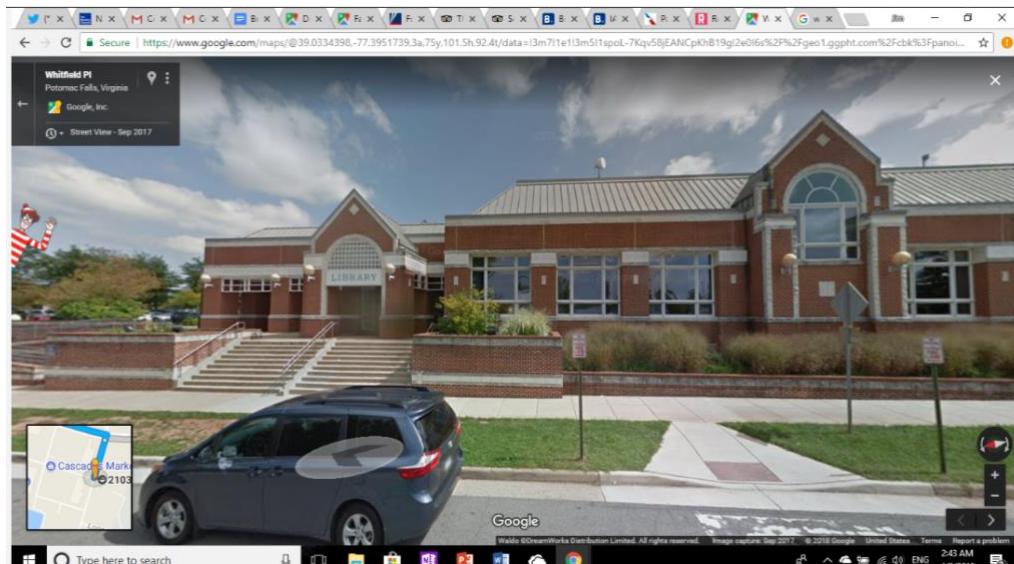


Figure 26: A Street-View Image of the Library

Hex Text Application Source File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other

Result: 324 of 2534 Result ← →

**Visit Details**

Title: The 10 States with the worst emergency response times | WQAD.com  
Username: Default  
Date Accessed: 2018-03-30 00:21:51 BST  
Domain: wqad.com



Figure 27: Emergency Response Time Search

**Visit Details**

Title: reston virginia democratic party building - Google Search  
Username: Default  
Date Accessed: 2018-04-02 02:51:01 BST  
Domain: google.com

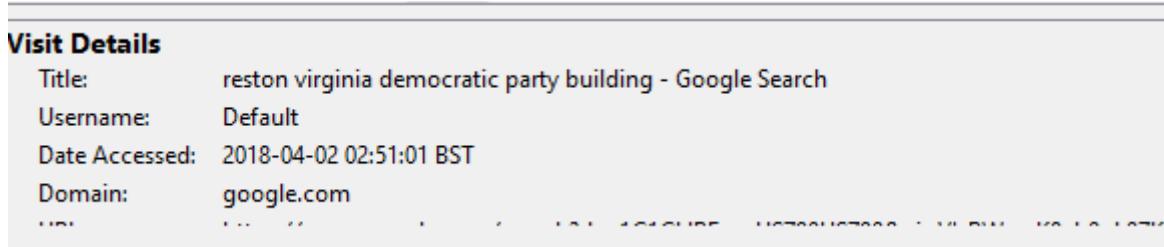


Figure 28: Possible Alternate Target

Domain: resistancecalendar.org at 2018-04-04 06:00 /img\_LoneWolf.E01/vol.vol//Users/jcloudy/AppData/... rally/protest Web History student  
Domain: resistancecalendar.org at 2018-04-04 06:00 /img\_LoneWolf.E01/vol.vol7/Users/jcloudy/AppData/... he searched for this in the middle of planning his esca... Web History student  
Domain: twitter.com at 2018-04-04 06:30:02 BST /img\_LoneWolf.E01/vol.vol7/Users/jcloudy/AppData/... Web History student

Hex Text Application Source File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other Occurrences

Result: 1319 of 2534 Result ← →

**Visit Details**

Username: Default  
Date Accessed: 2018-04-04 06:00:15 BST  
Domain: resistancecalendar.org  
URL: https://www.resistancecalendar.org/event/5abb92d4f161857049f8acb8

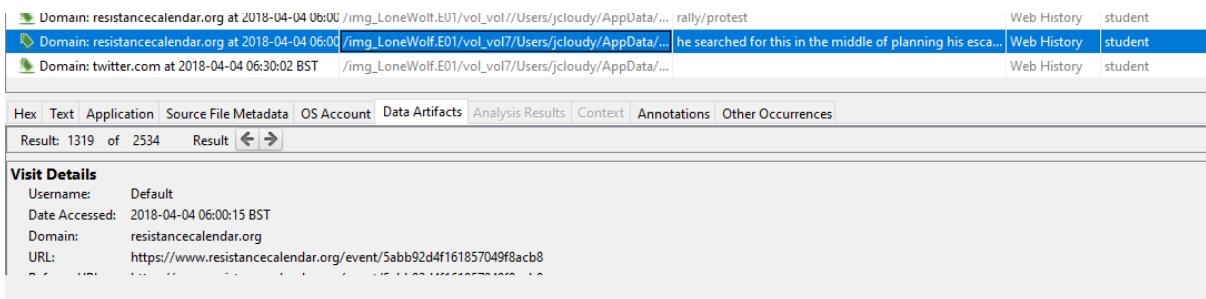


Figure 29: A calendar used to organize protests related to political activism

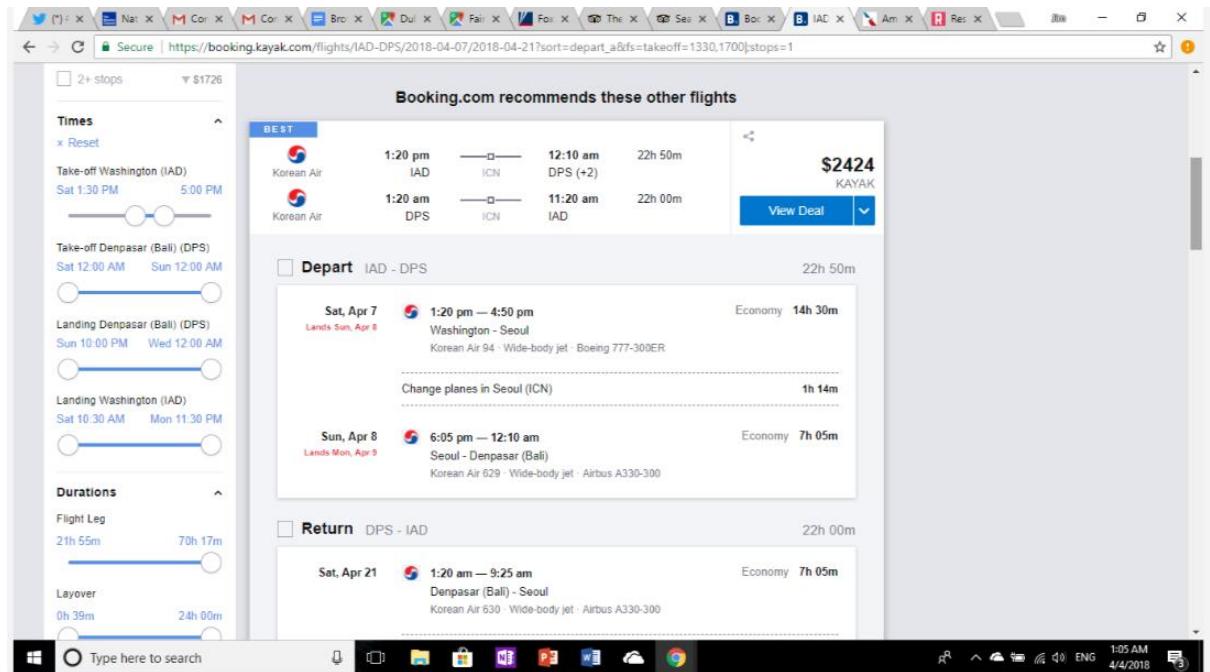


Figure 30: Booking.com ticket booking page

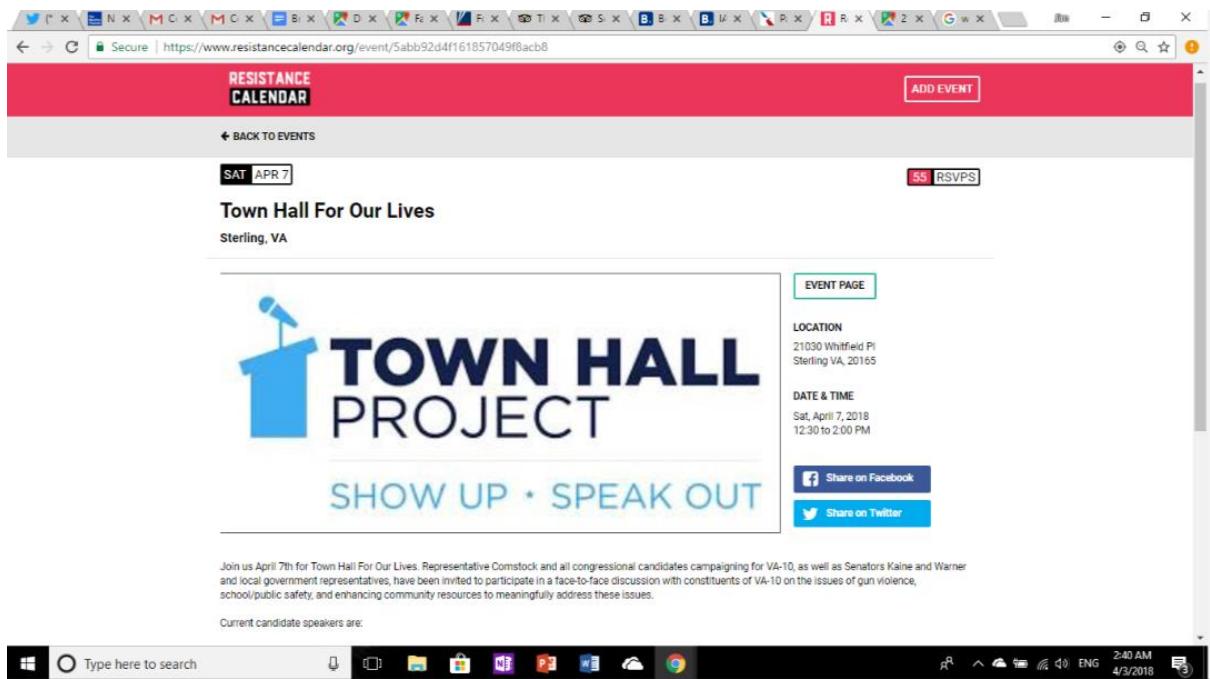


Figure 31: The Main Point of Attack based on Manifesto

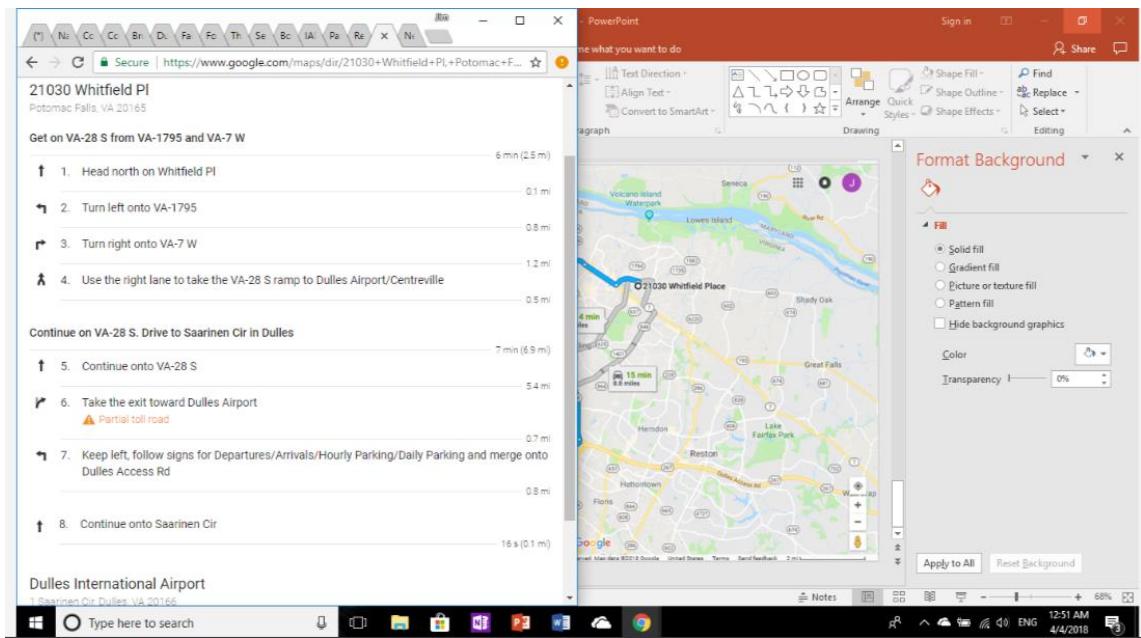


Figure 32: Another similar Google Maps search

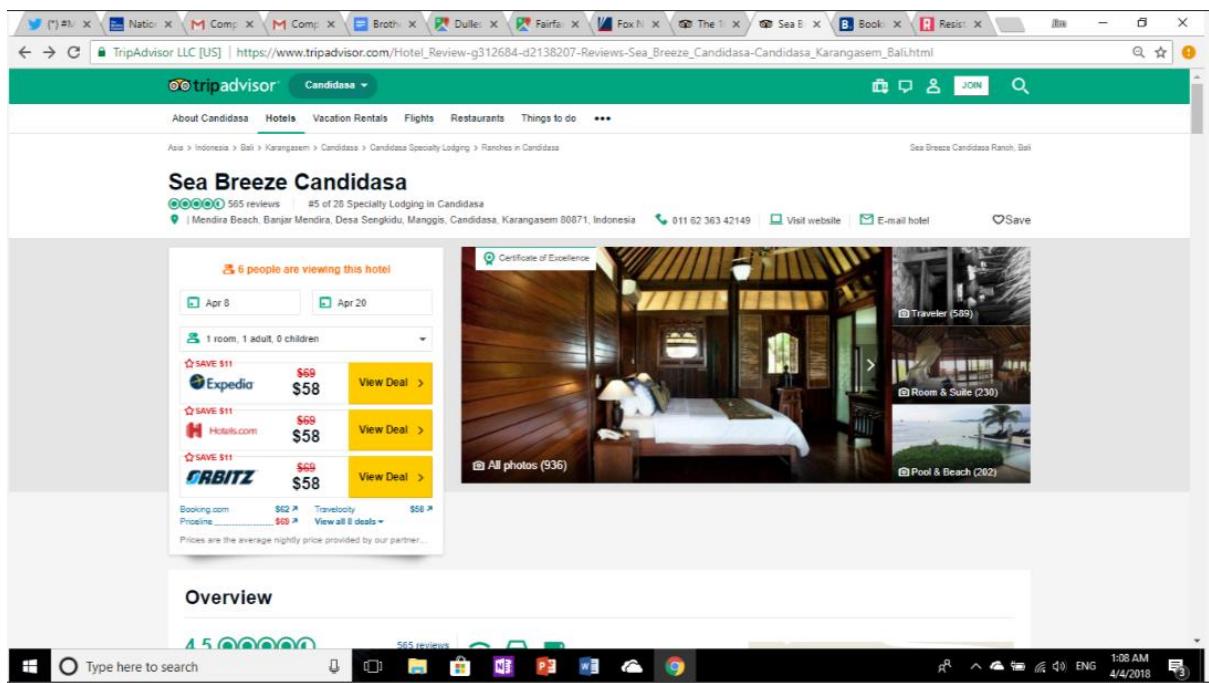


Figure 33: Property Search in Indonesia

## 7. Use of Google Docs as Possible Covert Chat

Search history revealed the search “how to use Google Documents as chat” (Figure 35). Shortly after, his Google Document history was found with over 700 back and forth conversations between the suspect and his brother (Figure 34). There were various instances where he would communicate on the Google Doc in the middle of him allegedly planning and researching his attack and escape. The unusual choice of medium and the timings raise suspicions of an attempt to communicate secretly or off-record. However, due to the deletion of this document(s), no text or useful information was able to be retrieved.

Hex	Text	Application	Source File Metadata	OS Account	Data Artifacts	Analysis Results	Context	Annotations	Other Occurrences
Result: 789 of 2534	Result	◀ ▶							Web History
<b>Visit Details</b>									
Title: Brother Chat - Google Docs									
Username: Default									
Date Accessed: 2018-04-06 13:26:22 BST									
Domain: google.com									
URL: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GOv7MwOXm-7VkoY4kE3Q5bMDB5lWA0tB57a3u2hqA/edit									
Referer URL: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GOv7MwOXm-7VkoY4kE3Q5bMDB5lWA0tB57a3u2hqA/edit									
Program Name: Google Chrome									
<b>Source</b>									
Host: LoneWolf.E01_1 Host									
Data Source: LoneWolf.E01									
File: /img_LoneWolf.E01/vol_volt7/Users/jcloudy/AppData/Local/Google/Chrome/User Data/Default/History									

Figure 34: One of over 700 back and forth activity found on "brother chat" docs

Hex	Text	Application	Source File Metadata	OS Account	Data Artifacts	Analysis Results	Context	Annotations	Other Occurrences
Result: 459 of 2534	Result	◀ ▶							Web History
<b>Visit Details</b>									
Title: how to use google docs as chat - Google Search									
Username: Default									
Date Accessed: 2018-03-30 04:35:31 BST									
Domain: google.com									
URL: https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+use+google+docs+as+chat&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS790US790&oq=how+to+use+google+docs+as+chat&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.9046j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8									
Referer URL: https://www.google.com/search?q=how+to+use+google+docs+as+chat&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS790US790&oq=how+to+use+google+docs+as+chat&aqs=chrome..69i57j0.9046j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8									
Program Name: Google Chrome									
<b>Source</b>									
Host: LoneWolf.E01_1 Host									
Data Source: LoneWolf.E01									
File: /img_LoneWolf.E01/vol_volt7/Users/jcloudy/AppData/Local/Google/Chrome/User Data/Default/History									

Figure 35: Previous Research on Google Docs as Chat

## **Findings:**

The analysis uncovered hundreds of artifacts indicating premeditated criminal intent. The memory dump revealed abnormal command-line activity (cmd.exe, powershell.exe) with active or recently closed network connections. A suspicious executable (tempapp.exe) was also active in memory. Nothing from these findings seemingly holds water, so it seemed best to focus on the cold-hard evidence found on the suspect's drive.

Autopsy revealed extensive search history related to firearms, gun-free zones, and anti-gun control arguments. A strong focus on circumventing law enforcement and evading capture was found through searches on dual SIM Nokia phones. Odd for someone seemingly tech-savvy (e.g. uses cloud storage) to be using an outdated phone.

Additionally, research about extradition laws that countries have with the states is not something an innocent person should have interest in. Finally, curiosity on how easy it is to smuggle money draws the profile of someone running away from consequences.

The most incriminating pieces of content were the "Cloudy Manifesto", and the "Planning" PowerPoint that had screenshots embedded that proved not just intention, but the accused actively conducting his plan, as detailed previously. The Manifesto promoted violent anti-government rhetoric, supported lone wolf style attacks, and referenced the suspect's plans and intended targets. Embedded imagery reflected extremist propaganda, further building the image of a man that has had enough.

Furthermore, over 700 interactions with a Google Document titled "brother chat" were found, suggesting covert communication.

Several figures and screenshots support these findings throughout the document and appendix.

Together, these artifacts form a digital narrative that supports a strong case for premeditation, motive, and intended action.

## **Conclusions:**

The entirety of the evidence gathered from the digital forensic investigation into the accused Jim Cloudy's device leaves little doubt that he was engaging in deliberate, ideologically motivated planning for a lone wolf style terrorist attack. Both memory and disk analysis unearthed a disturbing volume of material that points to premeditation, extremist ideology, and active preparation. This behaviour does not paint a picture of a casual or coincidental digital footprint, this was part of a pattern of behaviour that is deliberate, consistent, and necessitating a federal investigation.

The findings from the memory dump alone, while speculative, raised red flags. The presence of multiple processes with network activity suggests the use of scripting or command line operations for either covert communication or system manipulation. This is far from normal user behaviour and may indicate the presence of malware, or other forms of unauthorized remote interaction. The detection of an unfamiliar executable,

`tempapp.exe`, running alongside all mentioned, strengthens a hypothesis of a custom-built payload of some sorts being created. Although further analysis was limited, the context in which these processes occurred cannot be ignored.

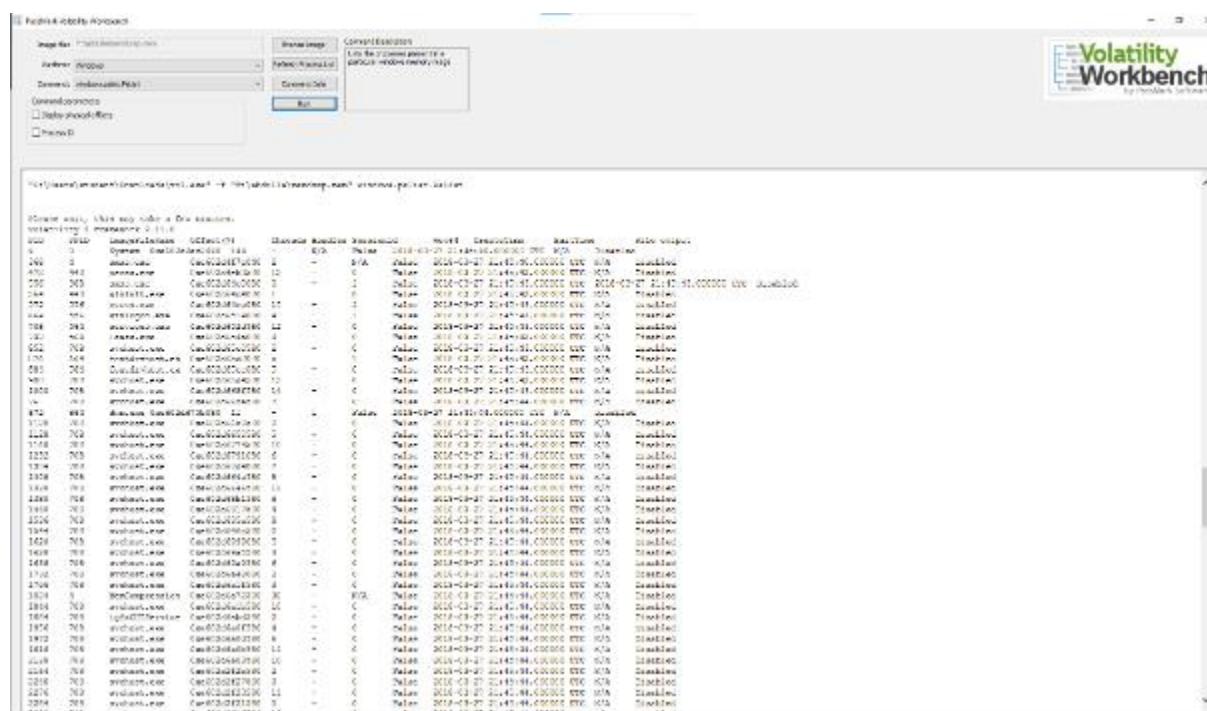
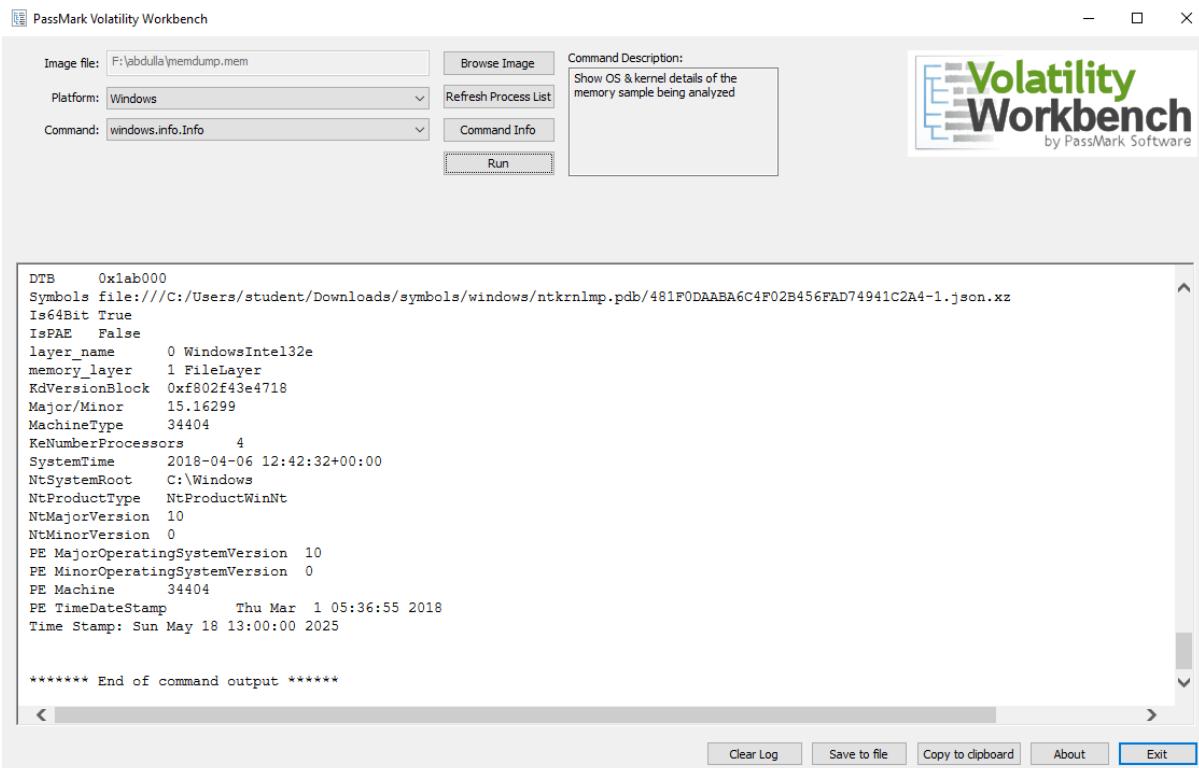
More definitively, the hard disk Autopsy analysis revealed a plethora of evidence tying the suspect's digital behaviour directly to radical and unlawful intent. Search history spanning topics such as automatic firearms, which are very rarely if ever used as a method of "self-defence", smuggling, and evasion from law enforcement, to note a few, paint the picture of a person exploring how to prepare for and escape from a criminal act. Notably, the suspect's interest in burner phones and extradition treaties between countries and the United States is not behaviour expected from a "normal" individual. These actions instead reflect the mindset of someone planning a high-risk operation and anticipating real legal consequences, the very definition of premeditation.

The most revealing pieces of digital evidence were found on the desktop: the "Cloudy Manifesto" and the "Planning" PPT. The manifesto was not a harmless rant or poorly thought out document that the accused would wish was hidden from view; it was a coherent and structured expression of anti-government ideology, advocating for armed resistance and glorifying lone wolf violence, plastered in as many cloud drives, he could get his hands on in order to preserve his "work". It framed the suspect as he frames himself; a revolutionary that is willing to sacrifice others for a cause he considered greater than himself. When considered alongside the embedded propaganda imagery, this document shifts from ideological expression into intent. The "Planning" PowerPoint further solidified this, visually documenting tactical considerations and potential strategies to execute his attack.

The discovery of over 700 interactions with a Google Document titled "brother chat", along with evidence suggesting it was used for covert communications, indicates that Jim Cloudy may not have been acting entirely alone. While no conclusive evidence of collaboration was found, this artifact points to active engagement with at least one confidant, raising further concern about broader implications or accomplices. It is worth noting, it was his brother that contacted the authorities after "discovering" his documents.

In conclusion, the evidence paints a clear, cohesive narrative. Jim Cloudy was not merely exploring radical content or engaging in provocative speech for pleasure, he was preparing to act. From the digital investigation and personal justification to practical planning and communication, the data confirms both motive and capability. This investigation not only demonstrates that the suspect posed a real threat, but also highlights the crucial role of digital forensics in pre-emptively identifying and stopping acts of mass violence.

## Appendix:



Volatility Workbench

File | Help | About | Plugins | Tools | View | Options | Preferences | New | Open | Save | Print | Exit

Image File: C:\Windows\Miner\miner.exe

Source Image: Miner Process (2)

Environment Description: See the previous process in a 30TB99 volatility memory dump

General search terms:

Only show results

Precise

Table showing memory dump analysis results:

Volatility Workbench

File | Help | About | Plugins | Tools | View | Options | Preferences | New | Open | Save | Print | Exit

Image File: C:\Windows\Miner\miner.exe

Source Image: Miner Process (2)

Environment Description: See the previous process in a 30TB99 volatility memory dump

General search terms:

Only show results

Precise

Table showing memory dump analysis results:















## References:

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