Project 8 for CNIT 121: NTFS Data Runs (25 points)

Purpose

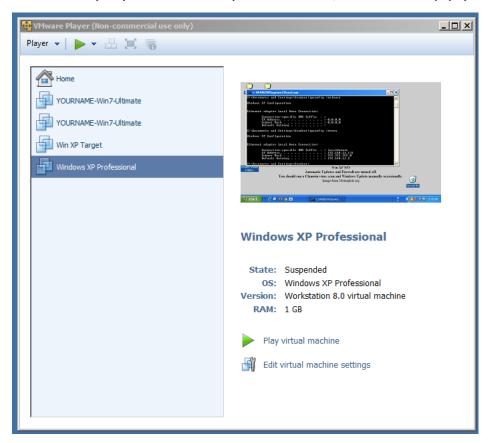
To examine and adjust NTFS directory structure directly at the binary level.

What You Need

- · A Windows machine, of any type. I wrote the instructions using VMware fusion, and the Windows Server 2008 guest you have used in previous projects.
- You could also do this project with a single physical machine and use a USB flash drive as the target drive.

Adding a Small Disk to the Virtual Machine

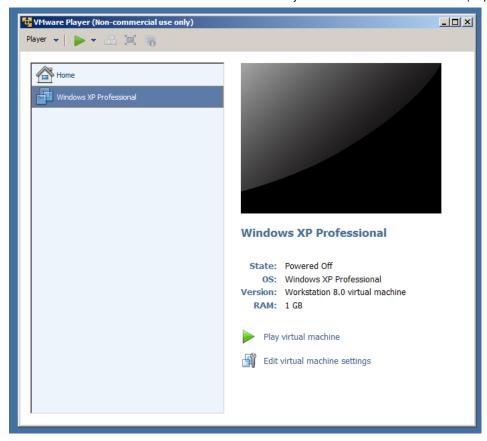
Launch VMware Player. If your virtual machine is "Suspended" as shown below, start it and shut it down properly.



If VMware Player closed, open it again.

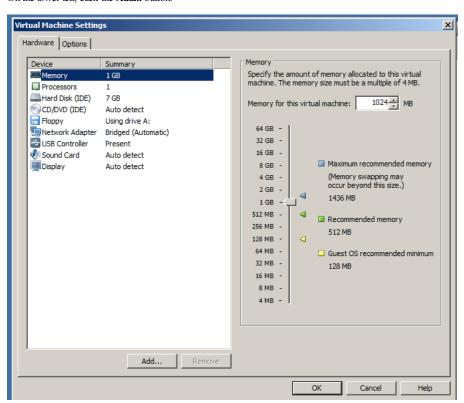
Your virtual machine should now be "Powered Off", as shown below.

On the lower right, click the "Edit virtual machine settings" link.



The "Virtual Machine Settings" opens, as shown below.

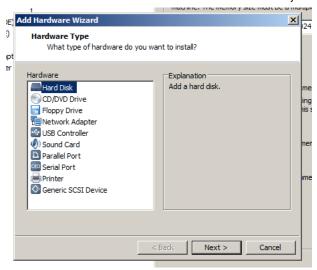
On the lower left, click the Add... button.



The "Add Hardware Wizard" opens, as shown below.

In the left pane, accept the default selection of "Hard Disk".

Click the Next button.



In the next box, accept the default selection of "Create a new virtual disk".

Click the Next button.

In the next screen, accept the default selection of "IDE (Recommended)".

Click the Next button.

In the "Specify Disk Capacity" screen, set the Maximum disk size to 0.1 GB, as shown below.

Click the Next button.



In the "Specify Disk File" screen, accept the default selection.

Click the Finish button.

In the "Virtual Machine Settings" screen, click the $\mathbf{O}\mathbf{K}$ button.

Click the "Play Virtual Machine" button.

Forensically Cleaning the Disk

Windows can now access the disk. But there is no reason to assume it is clean--disk space often contains latent data.

So we'll forensically clean it, writing 00 on every byte.

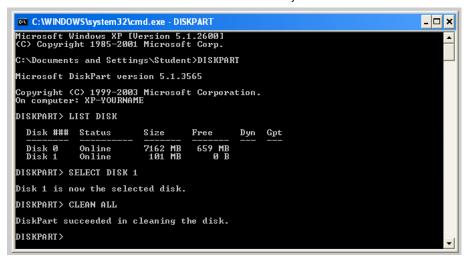
In your virtual machine, click Start, Run.

In the Run box, type CMD and press Enter to open a Command Prompt.

In the Command Prompt window, type these commands, pressing Enter after each one:

DISKPART

LIST DISK



Read the output to find the new 101 MB disk you want to clean--when I did it, it was Disk 1. You don't want to erase the wrong disk by accident!

In the Command Prompt window, excute these commands, specifying the correct disk in the first command:

SELECT DISK 1

CLEAN ALL

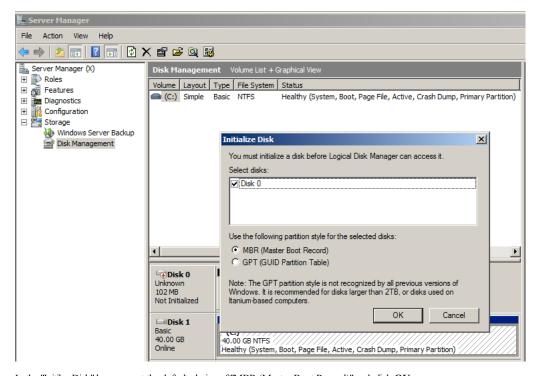
Initializing the New Disk

In your virtual machine, click Start.

Right-click "Computer" and click Manage.

In the left pane of Server Manager, expand Storage and click "Disk Management".

An "Initialize Disk" box opens, as shown below.

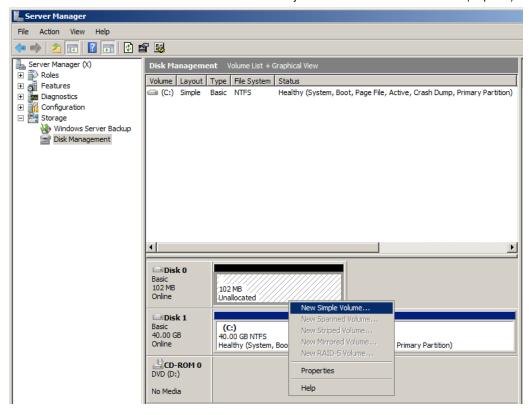


In the "Initilze Disk" box, accept the default choice of "MBR (Master Boot Record)" and click \mathbf{OK} .

Parititioning and Formatting the New Drive

In Disk Management, in the lower center, right-click the "Unallocated" space on your new hard disk.

In the context menu, click "New Simple Volume...", as shown below.



The "New Simple Volume Wizard" opens.

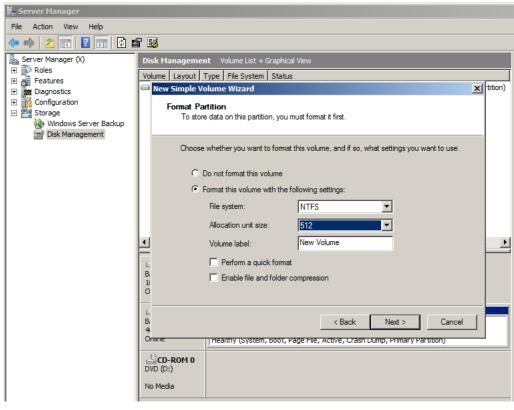
Click Next.

In the "Select Volume Size" screen, accept the default size and click Next.

In the "Assign Drive Letter or Path" screen, accept the default selection and click Next.

In the "Format Partition" screen, set the "Allocation unit size" to 512, as shown below, and click Next.

This size makes each cluster equal to a sector, which is how floppy disks work. It's inefficient for large disks, but OK for this small disk and it simplifies the project.

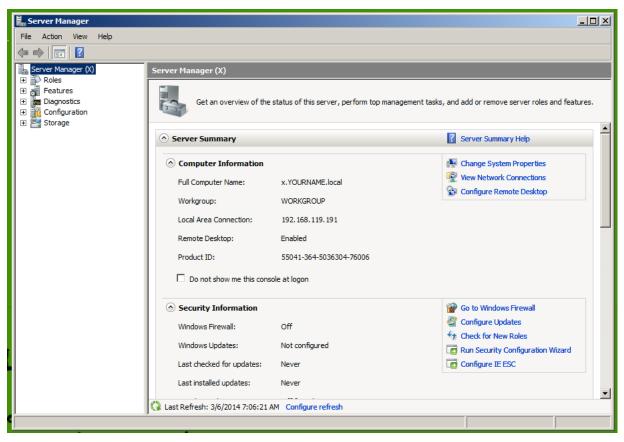


In the "Completing the New Simple Volume Wizard" screen, click Finish.

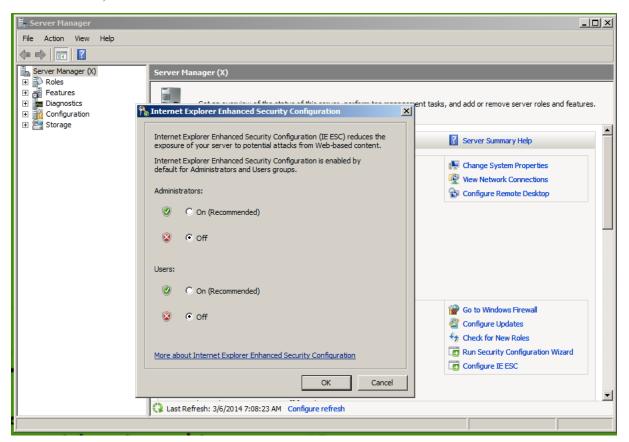
Turning Off Internet Explorer Enhanced Security Configuration

This is an annoyance that only happens on Server versions of windows. It's intended to deter people from surfing the Internet on a server.

In the lower right of Server Manager, in the "Security Information" section, click the "Configure IE ESC" link, as shown below.



Click both Off buttons, as shown below. Then click OK.



Downloading the Test Files

In your virtual machine, open Internet Explorer and open this page of instructions.

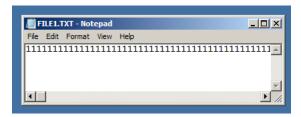
Right-click the FILE1.TXT link below and save the file on your desktop.

Repeat the process for FILE2.TXT.

FILE1.TXT FILE2.TXT

On your desktop, double-click FILE1.TXT to open it in Notepad.

As you can see, this file contains 1000 "1" characters on a single line.



Open FILE2.TXT to see what it contains--1000 "2" characters.

Close all Notepad windows.

Copying The Test Files to the New Partition

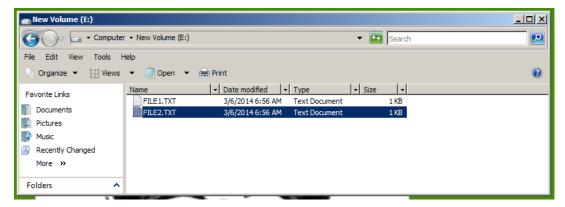
Click Start, "Computer".

Double-click the "New Volume" icon.

Drag the FILE1.TXT file from your desktop into the "New Volume" window and drop it there.

Drag the FILE2.TXT file from your desktop into the "New Volume" window and drop it there.

The two files should be visible on the new drive, as shown below.



Getting WinHex

Open a browser and go to

http://winhex.com

In the center of the page, click WinHex

In the left center portion of the window, click **Download**. Save the file on your desktop.

On your desktop, right-click the winhex.zip file and click "Extract All...".

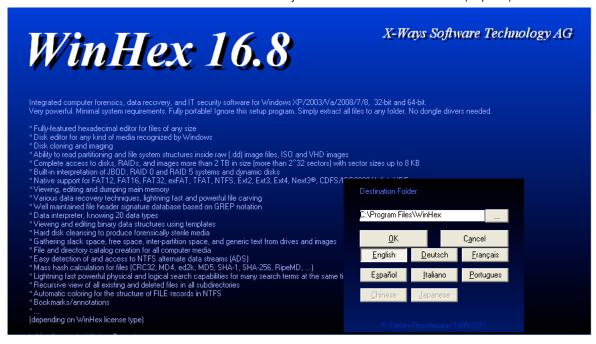
In the "Extract Compressed (zipped) Folders" box, click Extract.

A folder with several files opens. Double-click the setup.exe file.

If a pop-up box, asks whether you want to run the file, click ${\bf Run}$.

In the "WinHex 16.8" screen, in the lower right, as shown below, click the English button.

Then click the **OK** button.



A pop-up box, asks whether you want to "Install into C:\Program Files\Winhex". Click Yes.

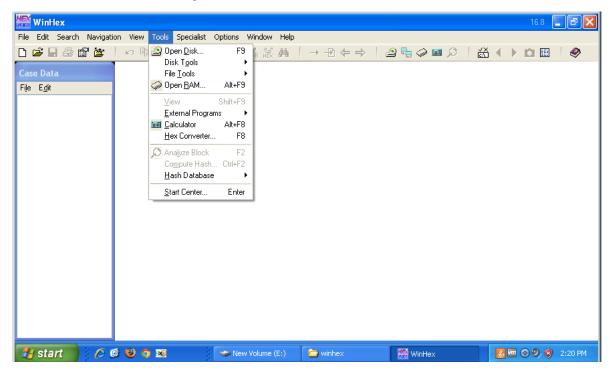
A pop-up box, asks whether you want to "Create program shortcut". Click Yes.

A pop-up box, asks whether you want to "Run program". Click Yes.

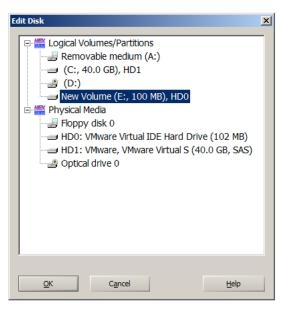
WinHex opens, as shown below.

Viewing the Data in WinHex

From the WinHex menu bar, click Tools, "Open Disk...".



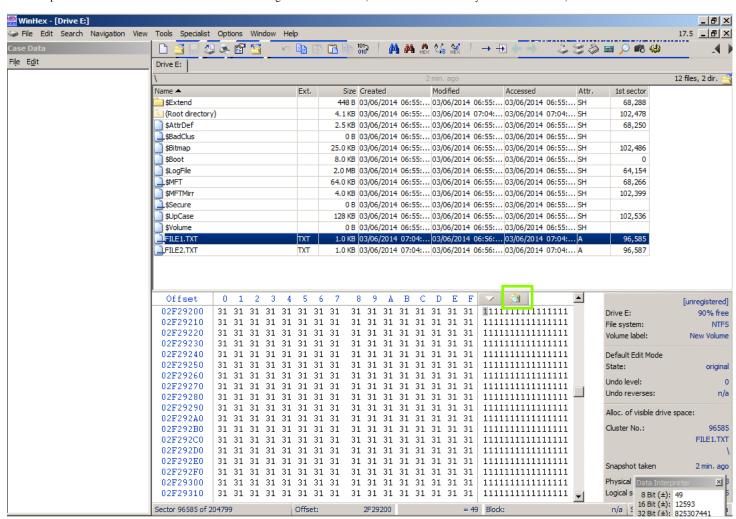
In the "Edit Disk" box, click "New Volume", as shown below, and then click the \mathbf{OK} button.



The Directory Browser pane appears in the upper center of the window.

In the Directory Browser, click FILE1.TXT.

The lower pane shows the raw hex data in the first cluster containing data for FILE1.TXT, as shown below. All the bytes are hexadecial 31, or the numeral "1".



In the figure above, in the center right, find the little icon marked with a green box. (It's a magnifying glass on a folder). This icon toggles the display of Directory Browser.

In your WinHex window, click that icon now.

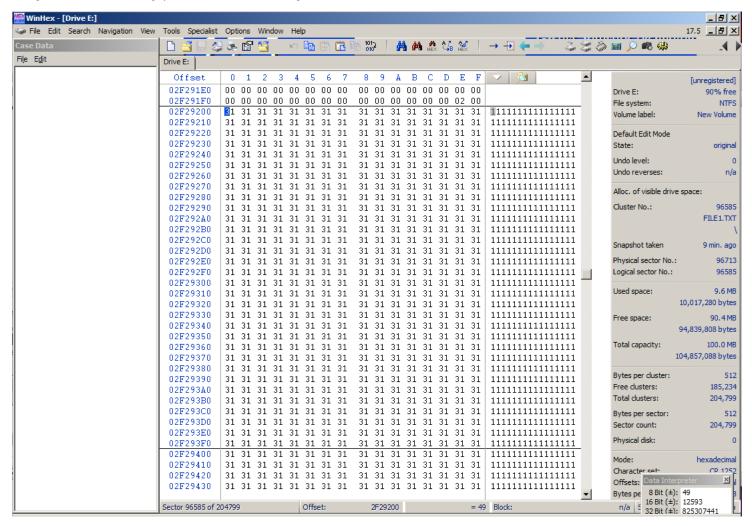
Directory Browser vanishes, so you can see more of the hex view, as shown below.

Scroll up a few rows in the hex view so you can see where the "1" characters start, as shown below.

Click the first "31" to put the cursor there.

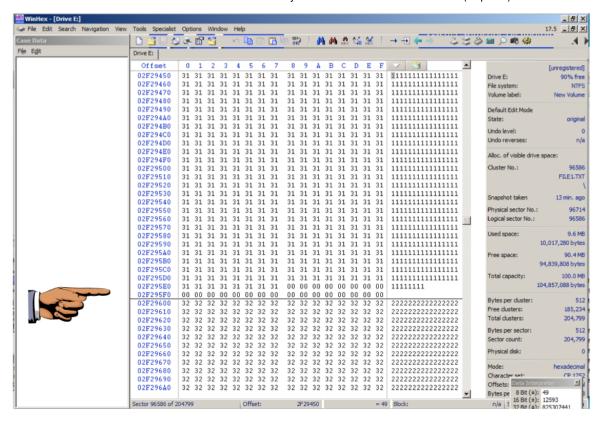
Just to the left you can see the hexadecimal address of that disk location--when I did it, the address was 02F29200.

The right side of WinHex shows a gray bar with further details, including the cluster number. When I did it, FILE1 started at cluster number 96585, as shown below.



Scroll down in the Hex view until you find the end of the "1" characters.

As shown below, they fill one sector completely, and nearly fill the next sector.



Saving a Screen Image

Make sure your screen shows a hex view showing the end of the "1" characters, some zero bytes, and the start of the "2" characters, as shown above.

Sometimes there is a large gap of zeroes between the two files--if that happens, perhaps you forgot to set the cluster size to 512 bytes on your volume.

If the cluster size is correct, and you still see a large gap, use two images to show both the 1s and 2s.

Press the PrintScrn key in the upper-right portion of the keyboard. That will copy the whole desktop to the clipboard.

YOU MUST SUBMIT A FULL-SCREEN IMAGE TO GET FULL CREDIT!

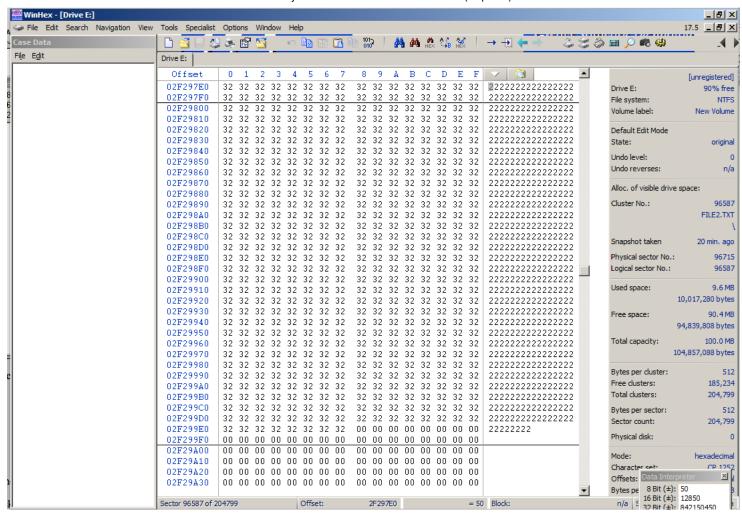
Open Paint and paste in the image.

Save the image with the filename "Your Name Proj 8a". Use your real name, not the literal text "Your Name".

Viewing FILE2.TXT in WinHex

Scroll down and see where the "2" characters end.

They should follow the same pattern, filling one sector completely, and nearly filling the next sector, as shown below.



Here's a summary of the data layout:

Sector	Contents		
96585	1s		
96586	1s and 0s		
96587	2s		
96588	2s and 0s		

In the upper right corner of the WinHex window there are two X buttons, as shown below.

Click the lower X button. This closes the "New Volume" drive.



Click the remaining X button. This closes WinHex.

Extending the FILE1.TXT File

In your virtual machine, click Start, "Computer".

Double-click the "New Volume" icon to open the volume.

Double-click the FILE1.TXT icon to open the file in Notepad.

Click in the Notepad Window.

Press Ctrl+A, Ctrl+C to copy the text.

Press Ctrl+V five times. This makes the file 5000 bytes long.

Save the file.

Viewing a Fragmented File in WinHex

In your virtual machine, click Start, "All Programs", WinHex.

If an "Open File -- Security Warning" box pops up, click Run.

From the WinHex menu bar, click Tools, "Open Disk...".

In the "Edit Disk" box, click "New Volume", and then click the **OK** button.

From the WinHex menu bar, click View, Show, "Directory Browser".

A box pops up saying that a snapshot is reused, as shown below. Directory Browser actually works from a copy of the data called a Snapshot, not from the original disk.

We just changed the disk, so an old snapshot won't be accurate.

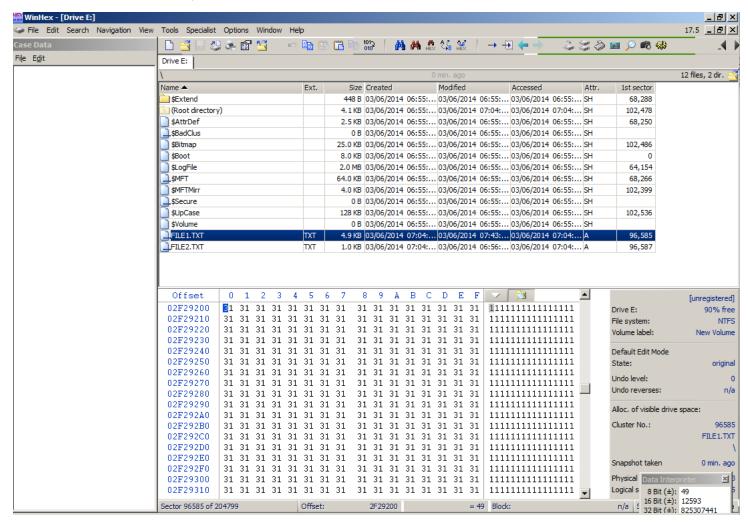
So click "Take a new one".



The Directory Browser pane appears in the upper center of the window.

In the Directory Browser, click FILE1.TXT.

Notice that FILE1 now has a size of 4.9 KB, as shown below.



Click the yellow icon to hide Directory Browser, as you did before.

Scroll down through the two sectors of "1" characters.

Scroll down through the two sectors of "2" characters.

There should be additional sectors of "1" characters below the "2" characters, as shown below.

Here's a summary of the data layout:

Sector	Contents	
96585	1s	
96586	1s and 0s	
96587	2s	
96588	2s and 0s	
96589	1s	
96590	1s	

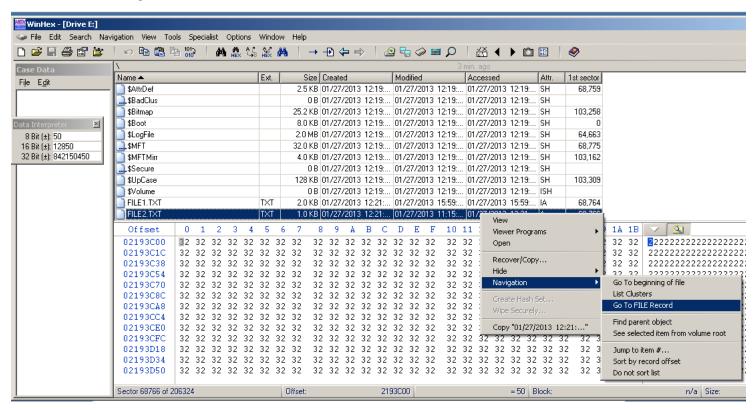
Viewing an MFT Record

Click the little yellow icon to show Directory Browser again.

Scroll to the bottom.

Right-click FILE2.TXT.

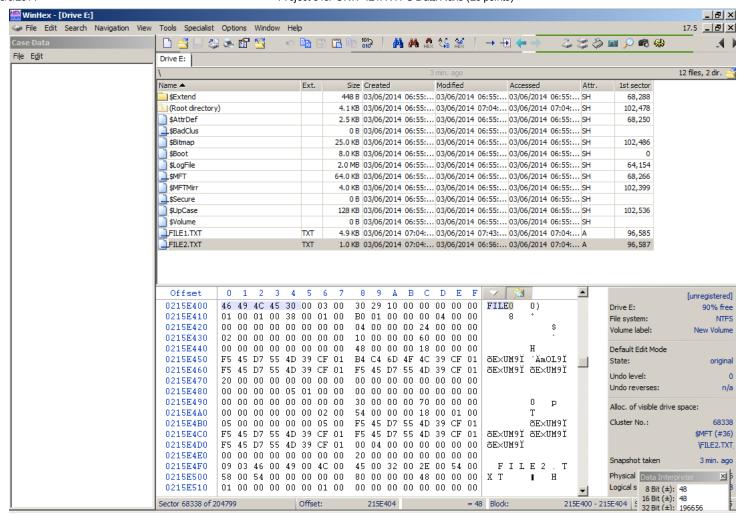
In the context menu, click Navigation, "Go To FILE Record", as shown below.



This is the Master File Table (MFT) record which contains information about FILE2.TXT.

Each MFT record begins with the ASCII text "FILEO".

Highlight that text, so your screen looks like the image below.



MFT Record Header

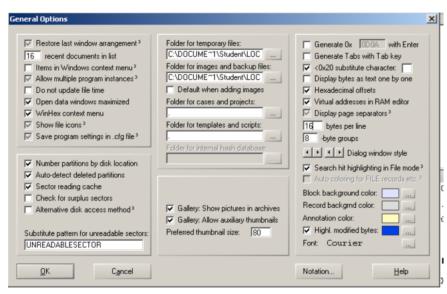
The MFT Record begins with a 56-byte header.

We need to count 56 bytes from this point. That will be a lot easier with only 16 bytes per row.

From the WinHex menu bar, click Options, General.

On the right side, in the center, verify that it is set to 16 in the "bytes per line" box, as shown below.

Click OK.



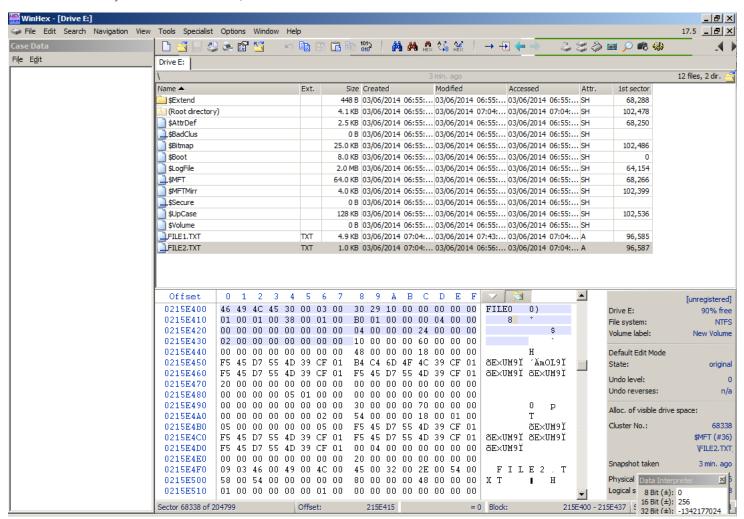
WinHex now has only 16 bytes per line, labelled 0 though F in the "Offset" line at the top of the display, as shown below.

Click on the first byte, with the value: 46.

Hold down the Shift key and press the down-arrow on the keyboard three times. This selects three lines of 16 bytes for a total of 48 bytes.

Now, holding down the Shift key, press the right-arrow key until you have selected bytes 0 through 7 in that row.

This selects the entire 56 bytes of the MFT record header, as shown below.



Standard Information (10 00 00 00)

The next secton is the "Standard Information" section.

Each section of the MFT begins with a four-byte identifier--in this case 10 00 00 00.

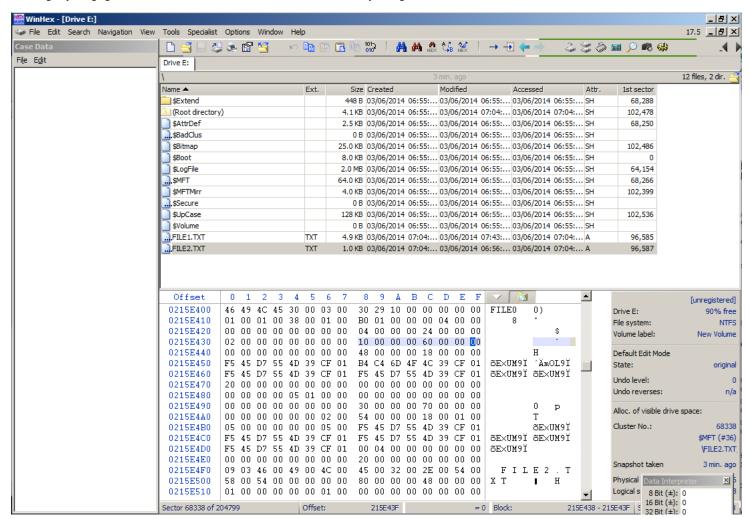
Here is a chart of the MFT attribute types, from $\underline{\text{http://grayscale-research.org/new/pdfs/NTFS\%20}} for \underline{\text{http://grayscale-research.org/new/pdfs/NTFS\%20}} for$

Figure 2.7 MFT Record Attribute Type Table

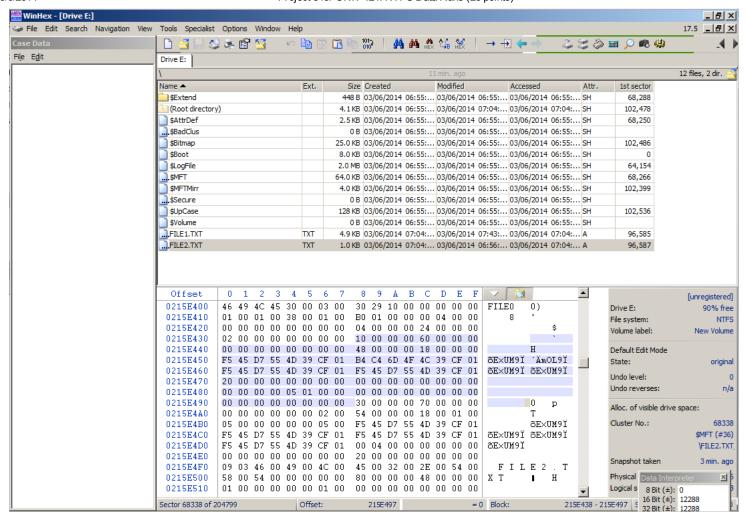
Attribute Name	Hexidecimal Value
Unused	0x00
Standard Information	0x10
File Name	0x30
Object ID	0x40
Security Descriptor	0x50
Volume Name	0x60
Volume Information	0x70
Data	0x80
Index Root	0x90
Index Allocation	0xa0
Bitmap	0xb0
Reparse Point	0xc0
EA Information	0xd0
EA	0xe0
Property Set	0xf0
Logged Utility Stream	0x100

The next four bytes indicate the length of the section, in hexadecimal, with the least significant byte first.

So the eight bytes highlighted below indicate that the Standard Information section is 60 bytes long.



Highlight the entire Standard Information section. It will be six entire rows of 16 bytes, as shown below.



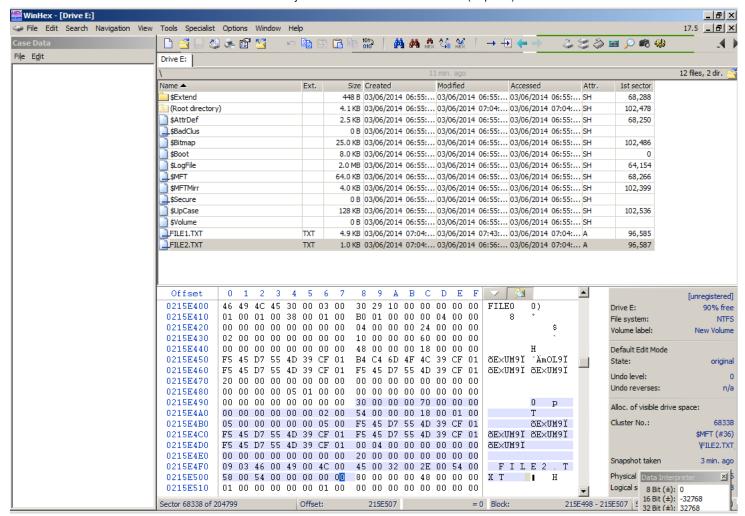
File Name section

The next section begins with 30 00 00 00 and is 70 bytes long, as shown below.

Highlight the section.

Notice the readable file name near the end of this section: FILE2.TXT.

It's in Unicode, so there's a 00 byte after each readable character.

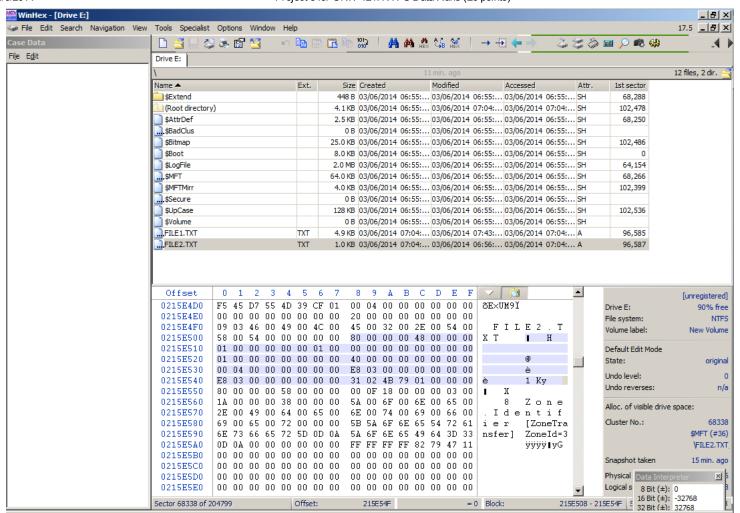


Data Section

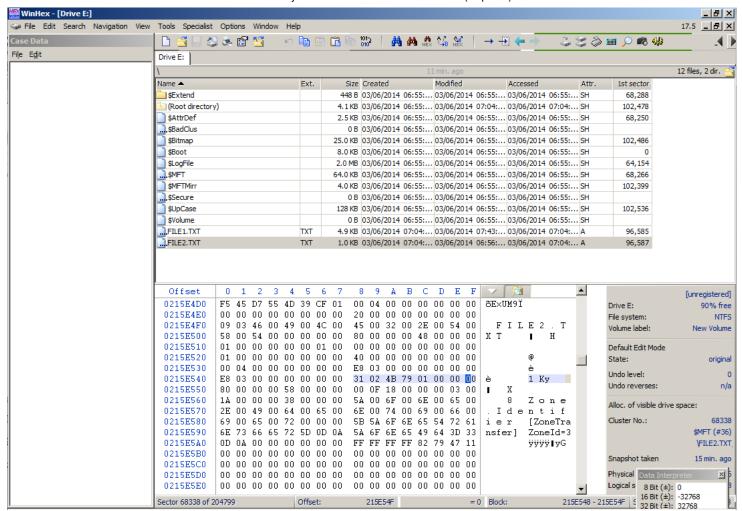
The next section begins with 80 00 00 00 and is 48 bytes long, as shown below.

This section indicates where the data is actually stored on the disk.

Highlight the section.



The last eight bytes of this section contain the "Data Run", as highlighted below.



In this case, the Data Run is

31 02 4B 79 01

The first byte should be read as two individual hexadecimal values:

- 3: the last 3 bytes contain the starting cluster number
- 1: The first 1 byte contains the length of this portion of the file, in clusters.

So there are 2 clusters in a row here, at cluster # 4B 79 01.

The cluster # bytes are in "Little Endian" notation, so they must be reversed in order, resulting in Cluster number 01 79 4B.

This means 1x65536 + 7x4096 + 9x256 + 4x16 + 11 = 96587.

Look in the Directory Browser pane in WinHex, and you can see on the right side that FILE2.TXT does indeed start at that cluster number.

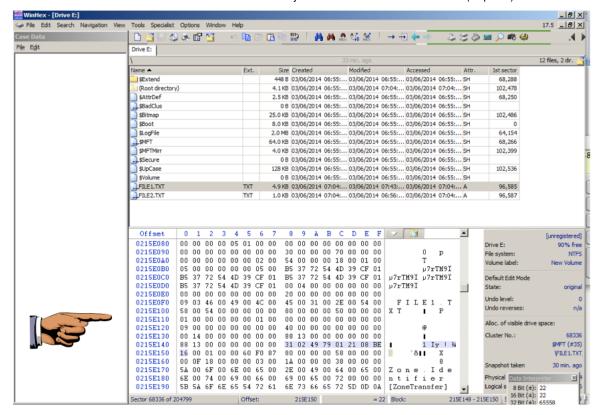
Data Run for FILE1.TXT

In the Directory Browser, right-click FILE1.TXT.

In the context menu, click Navigation, "Go To FILE Record".

Walk through the MFT record as you did before, to find the Data section and the File Run, which starts with 31, as shown below.

Highlight the Data Run, including eight bytes, as shown below.



Saving a Screen Image

Make sure your screen shows eight highlighted bytes, with the first byte 31.

Press the PrintScrn key in the upper-right portion of the keyboard. That will copy the whole desktop to the clipboard.

YOU MUST SUBMIT A FULL-SCREEN IMAGE TO GET FULL CREDIT!

Open Paint and paste in the image.

Save the image with the filename "Your Name Proj 8b". Use your real name, not the literal text "Your Name".

Turning in your Project

Email the image to me as an attachment to an e-mail message.

Send it to: cnit.121@gmail.com with a subject line of "Proj 8 From Your Name", replacing "Your Name" with your own first and last name.

Send a Cc to yourself.

Sources

http://www.epyxforensics.com/node/37

http://stam.blogs.com/8bits/2009/10/lab-ftk-imager-file-carving-using-the-mft-.html

http://grayscale-research.org/new/pdfs/NTFS%20forensics.pdf

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