

# File Types and File Carving

***File Carving aka Data Carving or Salvaging***

## **References:**

Carrier, Chapter 8

Nelson, Chapter 8

# Multimedia Files

# Introduction

Much of the work of cyber forensics involves being able to do the following from a forensic image of a mass storage device:

*View documents*

*View pictures, diagrams, tables and videos*

*Listen to audio files*

*Know when and where the above were created or recorded*

*Separate and extract the above from the forensic image*

All of the above are files that can usually be opened by various applications – but not always

# Nelson & File Carving

In Chapter 8, Nelson et al discuss file carving in the context of recovering graphics files

*While this is an important part of file carving and fixing corrupted files, it limits carving's applicability*

*I'll discuss this more during tonight's lecture*

# File Types

What is a *File Type*?

# File Type

## *Possible Definition*

What's a **File Type**?

Suggested definition

*A **File Type** is a file name extension that*

Identifies what a file **is** and

Relates the file to one or more software applications that can use, create or otherwise deal with it

*Examples*

MS Word files, older MSWord files, Excel spreadsheet files, JPEG image files, AVI video files, open database files...

# How Do We and Computers Identify File Types

How do forensic analysts identify the type of a file?

*Makes one think a bit*

How to operating systems identify the type of a file?

*This might be easier to answer in some cases*

How does MS Windows do it?

*By making the name of the file include the ID of its type*

*This is accomplished by using file type **extensions***

# Some Microsoft Official File Type Extensions

Text Files	Data Files	Audio Files
.DOC Microsoft Word Document (Legacy)	.CSV Comma-Separated Values File	.AIF Audio Interchange File Format
.DOCX Microsoft Word Document	.DAT Data File	.IFF Interchange File Format
.LOG Log File	.GED GEDCOM Genealogy Data File	.M3U Media Playlist File
.MSG Outlook Message Item File	.KEY Apple Keynote Presentation	.M4A MPEG-4 Audio File
.ODT OpenDocument Text Document	.KEYCHAIN Mac OS X Keychain File	.MID MIDI File
.PAGES Apple Pages Document	.PPT Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation (Legacy)	.MP3 MP3 Audio File
.RTF Rich Text Format File	.PPTX Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation	.MPA MPEG-2 Audio File
.TEX LaTeX Source Document	.SDF Standard Data File	.WAV WAVE Audio File
.TXT Plain Text File	.TAR Consolidated Unix File Archive	.WMA Windows Media Audio File
.WPD WordPerfect Document	.TAX2016 TurboTax 2016 Tax Return	
.WPS Microsoft Works Word Processor Document	.TAX2020 TurboTax 2020 Tax Return	
	.VCF vCard File	
	.XML XML File	

  

Database Files
.ACCDB Access 2007 Database File
.DB Database File
.DBF Database File
.MDB Microsoft Access Database
.PDB Program Database
.SQL Structured Query Language Data File

This is only a small sample of a more complete list  
Such a list is at  
*<https://fileinfo.com/filetypes/common>*



# More Questions

Supposed you change a file extensions to something different or eliminate it completely. What then?

In Linux there are often no file type extensions

*How do we ID a file type if we're using Linux?*

*How does Linux ID a file type?*

In earlier versions of Unix and Linux, the user had to open an App and have the App open the file

Some of today's Linux distributions examine the contents of the file itself to try to determine what application to use

# One More Question

How do we, as forensic examiners, **correctly** determine a file type?

*Suppose in a Windows system, the name extension has been changed or removed*

Use file type ***signatures***

*Also, other artifacts if needed*

# File Type Signatures

Almost all file types have ***signatures*** that can be used to identify the type of the file

*Signatures are located in the first few bytes of a file*

*Supplementary signature-related information is often located at the end of the file and/or within the file*

# File Carving

Sometimes referred to as  
***Data Carving or Salvaging***

# Introduction

Much of the work of cyber forensics involves being able to do the following from a forensic image of a mass storage device:

*Read documents*

*View pictures, diagrams, tables and videos*

*Listen to audio from conversations*

*Know when and where the above were created or recorded*

*Separate and extract the above from the forensic image*

All the above are files that can usually be opened by various applications – but not always

# The Problem

But what if you are interested in accessing a file that is:

*Deleted*

*Partially overwritten*

*Type of file changed in the file system?*

*Don't have or know the file system*

I.e., it comes to you unstructured, like a bunch of bits.

There is no file system metadata

What might you have to do?

*Resort to File Carving*

# Some Definitions

## **File Carving** or just **Carving**

*Extracting data from the image of a storage device without the assistance of the file system that originally contained the file*

*Identifying and recovering files without the use of metadata that sometimes identifies the file*

*Recovery of files from a digital storage device, especially files that are unrecoverable by conventional means*

*Reconstructing computer files from file fragments in the absence of file system metadata*

# File System Metadata

What is the nature of the metadata that file systems separately keep about a file?

*File names*

*In Windows, the file name extension that the OS uses to associate a file with an application*

*File cluster locations and file size*

*File cluster fragments*

*Time and data information*

Where is such metadata kept in FAT, NTFS and EXT file systems?

*FAT: File System **Directory** and **FAT***

*NTFS: MFT*

*EXT: Inode tables, Inode Bitmap and Directory contents*



# Apps and Their Files

In order to be opened by an application

*A file must have a known file format*

*The format is expected by the application*

*Each format must have*

Known bit strings in known file locations (offsets)

Applications won't open a file if the expected strings

*Don't exist*

*Aren't where they're supposed to be*

Applications usually look at the file headers

If apps also create files, these files conform to the format

# How File Carvers Work

Obtain or create a database of headers and footers  
(strings of bits at predictable offsets) for many known  
file types

*Old, new and uncommon*

Using the DB, search an image for occurrences of the  
headers and footers

*These occurrences might identify the beginning and end of  
files in the drive image*

Retrieve (carve) the files from raw drive images

*Regardless of the type of file system in the drive image*

The next slides show some known header examples

# Searching for a JPEG File

The image displays two screenshots of a hex editor window, likely used for forensic analysis. The top screenshot shows a search for the JPEG signature 'FF D8 FF'. The bottom screenshot shows the results of the search, highlighting the found signature at offset 2ADA.

**Top Screenshot:**

- File: Evidence.docx
- Search: 16, ANSI, hex
- Offset(h): 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F
- Hex Data: 9B 87 B8 6C D8 E1 AD 42 EA 36 8F 65 BA 12 A5 40 ># ,10á.B°6.e°.W@
- Hex Data: 1F 38 73 8A 9E 36 D4 96 26 A8 EB 90 72 77 3F 62 .8s5Z6Ö-ä"ë.rw?b
- Hex Data: 61 84 5A EF 68 8F A9 CD 56 75 2C 58 31 A7 19 6A a,,Zih.©ÍVu,X1\$.j
- Hex Data: F4 17 00 00 00 FF FF 03 00 50 4B 03 04 0A 00 00 ó....ÿÿ..PK.....
- Hex Data: 00 00 00 00 00 21 00 21 DB 3D C9 DF 15 00 00 DF .....!..!Û=ÉB...B
- Hex Data: 15 00 00 16 00 00 00 77 6F 72 64 2F 6D 65 64 69 .....word/medi
- Hex Data: 61 2F 69 6D 61 67 65 31 2E 6A 70 65 67 FF D8 FF a/image1.jpegÿÿÿÿ
- Hex Data: E0 00 10 4A 46 49 46 00 01 01 00 00 01 00 01 00 ..JFIF.....
- Hex Data: 00 FF DB 00 84 00 09 06 06 14 10 11 10 14 13 12 .ÿÿÿ.....
- Hex Data: 15 12 10 12 14 14 16 14 14 12 14 16 17 12 15 15 .....
- Hex Data: 14 14 18 18 14 15 15 14 19 1C 26 1E 17 1C 23 19 .....&...#.
- Hex Data: 12 12 1F 2F 20 23 27 29 2C 2C 2C 17 1F 3
- Hex Data: 2A 35 26 2B 2C 29 01 09 0A 0A 0E 0C 0E 1
- Hex Data: 1A 2C 24 1F 24 2C 2C 2C 2C 2C 2C 35 35 2
- Offset: 14FD, Block: 14FD-1500, Length: 4

**Bottom Screenshot:**

- File: Evidence.docx
- Search: 16, ANSI, hex
- Offset(h): 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F
- Hex Data: 2F 7C 83 64 05 AD 6B FE 23 6B EF D2 75 D8 83 37 /|fd..kp#ki0u0f7
- Hex Data: 2A B4 FB 11 D6 B7 C9 3F E6 7A 8E C4 27 3A AD E8 \*'û.ö.É?æzZÄ':.è
- Hex Data: 00 96 58 83 05 79 3B 13 44 6E F5 0F AA 8F CA 6D .-Xf.y;.Dnö.\*.Êm
- Hex Data: E1 FB 2F 07 4F C1 9B FC C4 9F A6 D2 5A 20 1E 34 áû/+oÁ>uÄÿ;öZ .4
- Hex Data: 70 68 9F 0A 2A F9 28 13 DA 22 00 88 88 02 22 20 phÿ."ù(.Û"..."
- Hex Data: 08 88 80 22 22 00 88 88 02 22 20 08 88 80 22 22 ."e""..." "e""
- Hex Data: 00 88 88 02 22 20 08 88 80 22 22 00 88 88 02 22 "... "e""..."
- Hex Data: 20 08 88 80 22 22 00 88 88 07 FF D8 50 4B 03 04 ."e""..."ÿÿPK..
- Hex Data: 14 00 06 00 08 00 00 21 00 96 B5 AD E2 96 06 .....!..-u.ä-
- Hex Data: 00 00 50 1B 00 00 15 00 00 00 77 6F 72 64 2F 74 ..P.....word/t
- Hex Data: 68 65 6D 65 2F 74 68 65 6D 65 31 2E 78 6D 6C EC heme/theme1.xmlì
- Hex Data: 59 4F 6F DB 36 14 BF 0F D8 77 20 74 6F 63 27 76 YOoÜ6.g.0w toc'v
- Hex Data: 1A 07 75 8A D8 B1 9B 2D 4D 1B C4 6E 87 1E 69 89 ..uS0±>-M.Än+.ik
- Hex Data: 96 D8 50 A2 40 D2 49 7D 1B DA E3 80 01 C3 BA 61 -0P.@0I).ú&E.Ä°a
- Hex Data: 87 15 D8 6D 87 61 5B 15 D8 85 5B 34 D8 33 6C + 0m+at 0w0at.1
- Offset: 2ADA, Block: 2ADA-2ADB, Length: 2

# AVI Header & File Length

RIFF Signature				File Size				AVI Signature				C	D	E	F	0123456789ABCDEF
52	49	46	46	88	96	E5	0A	41	56	49	20	4C	49	53	54	RIFF-â.AVI LIST
32	01	00	00	68	64	72	6C	61	76	69	68	38	00	00	00	2...hdrlavih8...
EC	A2	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	10	01	00	00	îç.....
F8	7D	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ø).....
70	02	00	00	60	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	p...`.....
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	4C	49	53	54	74	00	00	00	.....LISTt...
73	74	72	6C	73	74	72	68	38	00	00	00	76	69	64	73	strlstrh8...vids
58	56	49	44	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	XVID.....



# WAV Header & File Length

## RIFF Signature File Size WAV Signature

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
52	49	46	46	14	46	B8	01	57	41	56	45	66	6D	74	20	RIFF	.	F	.	WAVE	fmt										
10	00	00	00	01	00	02	00	44	AC	00	00	10	B1	02	00	.....	D	~	....	±	..										
04	00	10	00	64	61	74	61	F0	45	B8	01	00	00	00	00	....	data	0E	.	.....											
FE	FF	FF	FF	00	00	FE	FF	FE	FF	00	00	00	00	FE	FF	p	y	y	y	..	p	y	p	y	....	p	y				
FC	FF	00	00	03	00	FD	FF	F8	FF	01	00	09	00	FA	FF	u	y	....	y	y	ø	y	....	ú	y						
F0	FF	06	00	16	00	F4	FF	DC	FF	0F	00	35	00	E6	FF	ø	y	....	ø	y	Û	y	..	5	.	æ	y				
9B	FF	2C	00	1F	01	7B	FF	DF	06	D7	FC	03	06	35	FD	>	y	,	...	{	y	ß	.	x	ü	..	5	y			
7A	06	06	FD	2F	06	2C	FD	50	06	1F	FD	41	06	29	FD	z	..	ý	/	.	,	y	P	..	ý	A	)	y			

# What Have These Searches Found?

```

000CC B2 20 49 44 33 03 00 00 00 | i² ID3 . . . .
01001 76 50 54 49 54 32 00 80 07 | ·vPTIT2 ·€·
02000 18 BF 00 EC BD C0 C1 F6 54 | ··¿·i·ÁÁöT
03052 43 06 4B 00 60 01 78 31 32 | RC·K·`·x12
04054 41 4C 0A 42 00 30 0A 00 0C | TAL B·0 ··
05057 61 6E 6E 00 61 20 42 65 2B | Wann·a Be+
06050 52 49 02 56 00 3C 27 00 00 | PRI·V·<'··
07057 4D 2F 00 4D 65 64 69 61 43 | WM/·MediaC
0806C 61 00 73 73 50 72 69 6D 61 | la·ssPrima
09072 00 79 49 44 00 BC 7D 60 D1 | r·yID·¼}·Ñ
10000 23 E3 E2 4B 86 A1 48 A4 50 | ·#ââK†;HâP
1102A 28 44 1E 04 60 29 0C 60 53 | *(D··`)·`S

```

**MP3**

*There are other possible MP3 headers*

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
00000000	25	50	44	46	2D	31	2E	33	0A	25	C4	E5	F2	E5	EB	A7	%PDF-1.3 %Ääòäë\$
00000016	F3	A0	D0	C4	C6	0A	36	20	30	20	6F	62	6A	0A	3C	3C	ó ðÄÆ 6 0 obj <<
00000032	20	2F	4C	65	6E	67	74	68	20	37	20	30	20	52	20	2F	/Length 7 0 R /
00000048	46	69	6C	74	65	72	20	2F	46	6C	61	74	65	44	65	63	Filter /FlateDec
00000064	6F	64	65	20	3E	3E	0A	73	74	72	65	61	6D	0A	78	01	ode >> stream x
00000080	85	58	5D	8F	D4	46	10	7C	9F	5F	31	7C	EC	B1	06	D6	...X] ÔF  ÿ_1 i± ö
00000096	F8	DB	5E	08	90	70	5C	12	2E	09	09	D2	4A	79	08	79	øÛ^ p\ . ÒJy y
00000112	3A	25	0F	91	48	44	F8	FF	52	AA	A6	CA	1F	73	1C	17	:% 'HDøÿRª;Ê s
00000128	9D	B4	7B	9E	E9	E9	AE	AE	AE	6E	7B	FD	31	BE	8B	1F	'{žééööön{ý1¼«
00000144	63	85	BF	A1	6E	E2	78	6C	E2	BF	7F	C4	5F	E3	DF	F1	c...¿;nâxlâ¿ Ä_äBñ
00000160	C9	F9	A7	3A	5E	7D	E2	56	59	37	C7	AE	C6	77	DB	0F	Éù\$:^}âVY7Ç@EwÛ

**PDF**

# How About This Search?

```
0000 89 50 4E 47 0D 0A 1A 0A 00 00 00 0D 49 48 44 52 .PNG.....IHDR
0010 00 00 04 94 00 00 00 01-08 06 00 00 00 9A 70 E8 .....N.....pè
0020 89 00 00 00 01 73 52 47-42 00 AE CE 1C E9 00 00 .....sRGB·@Î·é·
0030 00 04 67 41 4D 41 00 00-B1 8F 0B FC 61 05 00 00 ··gAMA··±··üa··
0040 00 09 70 48 59 73 00 00-0E C3 00 00 0E C3 01 C7 ··pHYs··Ã··Ã·Ç
0050 6F A8 64 00 00 32 A2 49-44 41 54 78 5E ED DD C9 o"d··2·IDATx^íÝÉ
0060 92 64 DB 51 EE 71 8D E8-FB 46 F4 3D A2 EF 8C 11 ·dÛQîq·èûFô=·i··
0070 18 43 60 C6 1C 78 01 26-0C EE BD BA 08 24 CA 0C ·C`E·x·&·î¼°·$Ê·
0080 1E 02 10 7D CF 80 09 03-06 4C B1 1A 31 84 17 E0 ···}Ï····L±·1··à
0090 05 30 EC 22 09 9D 23 9D-A6 4E C5 AD 9D DA 9E 78 ·0i"··#·!NÅ-·Ú·x
00a0 7E E5 EE CB D7 6E 32 23-B3 FE 61 F6 B3 0C F7 CF ~âîË×n2#³paö³·÷Ï
00b0 07 8A C8 A8 23 20 CB 2D-30 7C F8 32 F1 F8 F0 05 v·È··#·Ï·0·à?ñαà·
```

*PNG*: Portable Network Graphics



# What Are These?

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
00000000	50	4B	03	04	14	00	06	00	08	00	00	00	21	00	DF	A4	PK
00000016	D2	6C	5A	01	00	00	20	05	00	00	13	00	08	02	5B	43	! 3
00000032	6F	6E	74	65	6E	74	5F	54	79	70	65	73	5D	2E	78	6D	[C
00000048	6C	20	A2	04	02	28	A0	00	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ontent_Types].xm
00000064	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	1 6 (
00000080	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000096	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000112	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000128	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	

  

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
00000000	50	4B	03	04	14	00	06	00	08	00	00	00	21	00	41	37	PK
00000016	82	CF	6E	01	00	00	04	05	00	00	13	00	08	02	5B	43	! A7
00000032	6F	6E	74	65	6E	74	5F	54	79	70	65	73	5D	2E	78	6D	[C
00000048	6C	20	A2	04	02	28	A0	00	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ontent_Types].xm
00000064	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	1 6 (
00000080	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000096	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000112	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000128	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	

  

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
00000000	50	4B	03	04	14	00	06	00	08	00	00	00	21	00	A5	60	PK
00000016	96	4C	B2	01	00	00	C8	0C	00	00	13	00	08	02	5B	43	! ¥`
00000032	6F	6E	74	65	6E	74	5F	54	79	70	65	73	5D	2E	78	6D	[C
00000048	6C	20	A2	04	02	28	A0	00	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ontent_Types].xm
00000064	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	1 6 (
00000080	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000096	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000112	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
00000128	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	

MS Word  
(.docx)

0x504b0304140006...

MS Excel  
(.xlsx)

0x504b0304140006...

MS Powerpoint  
(.pptx)

0x504b0304140006...



# Other Headers

BMP file:      **BM. \**      or      **0x424D2E5C**  
                 **BM**      or      **0x424D**

GIF file:      **GIF**      or      **0x474946**

There are many other known file headers

# Some Other Carving Capabilities

File carving can be done if the file system metadata is unavailable

Importantly, file carving can often be done even if:

*File parts have been overwritten or changed*

*The file is fragmented*

But the above probably requires some manual intervention

# Carving is Great!

File Carving is great. Right?

*Just turn a file carver loose on a drive image.*

*Go to lunch.*

*When you return, a nice report is ready for you.*

Comments?

# Issues

You are given an apparently intact 1TB drive from a computer that was mostly destroyed

*You image the drive and find that it was from an NTFS file system. **How?***

*But the MFT and its backup are corrupted*

*So you have to carve*

Cool! You need to do some shopping during lunch anyway

# Issues

But in order to carve while you're at lunch, the files need to be contiguous

*Otherwise you've got work to do*

And carving may require searching the entire 1 TB drive image multiple times

*Make it a loooooonnnnggg lunch*

*Maybe even a weekend or holiday*

# More Signature Examples

[illegible][illegible]

# More Signature Examples

00000000	FF D8 FF E0 00 10 4A 46 49 46 00 01 01 01 00 60	yøÿà JFIF
00000016	00 60 00 00 FF DB 00 43 00 01 01 01 01 01 01 01	ÿÛ C
00000032	01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01	
00000048	01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01	
00000064	01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01	
00000080	01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 FF DB 00 43 01 01 01	ÿÛ C
00000096	01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01	
00000112	01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01	
00000128	01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01	

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
00000000	41	20	57	6F	72	64	20	74	6F	20	48	75	73	62	61	6E	A Word to Husban
00000016	64	73	0D	0A	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	ds -----
00000032	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	2D	0D	0A	54	6F	20	6B	65	65	70	20	----- To keep
00000048	79	6F	75	72	20	6D	61	72	72	69	61	67	65	20	62	72	your marriage br
00000064	69	6D	6D	69	6E	67	0D	0A	57	69	74	68	20	6C	6F	76	imming With lov
00000080	65	20	69	6E	20	74	68	65	20	6C	6F	76	69	6E	67	20	e in the loving
00000096	63	75	70	2C	0D	0A	57	68	65	6E	65	76	65	72	20	79	cup, Whenever y
00000112	6F	75	92	72	65	20	77	72	6F	6E	67	2C	20	61	64	6D	ou're wrong, adm
00000128	69	74	20	69	74	3B	0D	0A	57	68	65	6E	65	76	65	72	it it; Whenever



# More Signature Examples

00000000	44 46 54 20 49 6D 61 67 65 00 00 00 0A 00 00 00	DFT Image
00000016	43 32 50 72 6F 6A 30 31 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	C2Proj01
00000032	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
00000048	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 4A 6F 65	Joe
00000064	20 46 72 69 64 61 79 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	Friday
00000080	00 00 00 00 00 00 45 6E 64 20 6F 66 20 43 68 61 70	End of Chap
00000096	74 65 72 20 32 20 70 72 6F 6A 65 63 74 20 65 78	ter 2 project ex
00000112	65 72 63 69 73 65 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	ercise
00000128	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	



# List of File Signatures

Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_file\\_signatures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_file_signatures)

*Not complete, but it does have most of the more common file signatures*

Filesignatures.net

<https://www.filesignatures.net/>

*Give pretty comprehensive list of signatures*

*Can input signature and get file type(s)*

*Can input file type and get signature(s)*

# Data Carving

## *What Does it Do*

Searches for signatures in unknown data units that correspond to the beginning and end of known file types

Often is used on unallocated data units in order to recover files that do not have metadata structures pointing to them

Used to recover files based on their headers, footers, and internal data structures

# A File Carver

One of the most well-known file carvers is ***Scalpel***

*Developed for Linux*

*Ported to Windows*

Contains a database of file signatures

*Headers, footers, and other info that can be used to ID a file type*

# Other Carving Tools

## *Linux*

***foremost*** : Heavy duty carving based upon signatures

*Analyzes entire file system (raw or image)*

*Signatures contain*

Known header info

Max. file size

Header case sensitivity

Known footer info

Usual file name extensions

# Other Carving Tools

## *TSK Application Category*

***file*** : Can identify the structure on many unknown files

*Based upon a self-contained database of signature values*

*Sort of a lightweight carving tool*

***lazarus*** : Processes an entire file system image, executing ***file*** on each sector

*Contiguous sectors having the same signature values are grouped*

*Lists each sector or group and its signature value*

# Other Carving Tools

## *Platform-independent*

### Autopsy

*Most of the file carving capability comes from the PhotoRec Carver ingest module*

It does much more than carve graphics images

It can be customized to add new file signatures

*List of files scanned by default*

1cd	caf	dwg	gp2	max	pdb	rw2	vfb
3dm	cam	dxg	gp5	mb	pdf	rx2	vib
7z	catdrawing	e01	gpg	mcd	pds	sav	vmdk
a	cdt	eCryptfs	gpx	mdb	pf	save	vmg
ab	che	edb	gsm	mdf	pxf	ses	wallet
abr	chm	elf	gz	mfa	plist	sgcta	wdp
acb	class	emf	hdf	mfg	plr	shn	wee
acddb	comicdoc	ess	hdr	mft	plt	sib	wim
ace	cow	evt	hds	mid	png	sit	win
ado	cp_	evtx	hfs	mig	prn	skd	wks
afdesign	cpi	exe	hm	mk5	prc	skp	wld
ahn	crw	exs	hr9	mkv	prd	snag	wmf
aif	csn	ext	http	mlv	pri	snz	wnk
all	ctg	fat	ibd	mobi	ps	sp3	woff
als	ckw	fbf	icc	mov	psb	spaseimage	wpb
amd	d2s	fbk	icns	mov/mdat	psd	spe	wpd
amr	dad	fcf	ico	mp3	psf	spf	wtv
apa	dar	fcs	idx	mpg	psp	sqlite	wv
ape	dat	fdb	ifo	mpl	pst	sqm	x3f
apple	DB	fds	imb	mrw	ptb	steuer2014	x3i
ari	db	fh10	indd	msa	ptf	stl	x4a
arj	dbf	fh5	info	mus	pyc	studio	xar
asf	dbn	fit	iso	mxr	pzf	swf	xcf
asl	dcm	fits	it	MYI	pzh	tar	xfi
asm	ddf	flac	itu	myo	qbb	tax	xfx
atd	dex	flp	jks	nd2	qdf	tg	xm
au	diskimage	flv	jpg	nds	qkt	tib	xml
axp	djv	fm	jsonlz4	nes	qxd	tif	xpt
axx	dmp	fob	kdb	njx	r3d	TiVo	xsv
bac	doc	fos	kdbx	nk2	ra	torrent	xv
bdm	dpx	fp5	key	nsf	raf	tph	xz
bim	drw	fp7	ldf	oci	rar	tpl	z2d
bin	ds2	freeway	lit	ogg	raw	ts	zcode
binvox	DS_Store	frm	lnk	one	rdc	ttf	zip
bkf	dsc	fs	logic	orf	reg	tx?	zpr
blend	dss	fwd	lso	paf	res	txt	
bmp	dst	gam	luks	pap	rpf	tz	
bpg	dta	gct	lzo	par2	riff	v2i	
bvr	dump	gho	lzh	pcap	rlv	vault	
bz2	dv	gi	lzo	pcb	rm	vdi	
c4d	dvi	gif	m2ts	pct	rns	vdj	
cab	dvr	gm*	mat	pcx	rpm	veg	

# File Carving Lab

We will examine the unallocated region of a disk image with four different file carving tools and compare the results:

*Kali Linux*

foremost\*

scalpel

magicrescue

*Windows 10*

Autopsy

\* Needs to be installed first

# File Carving Lab

## Prerequisite Activities:

*Copy over disk image to your Documents directory*

Image location:

`R:\Share\Labs\File\File Carving Lab`

File name:

`L0_Graphic.dd`

*Install foremost on Kali Linux*



# File Carving in Kali Linux

*foremost*

*scalpel*

*magicrescue*

# File Carving

## *foremost*

Log onto Kali Linux through VMWorkstation Pro:

*Username: kali*

*Password: kali*

Open a terminal window

Try to run foremost by typing in “foremost”

It will prompt you with the correct command to install

Follow the directions to install foremost

# File Carving

## *foremost*

Once foremost is installed, we need to update the configuration file so that it will carve the files we want

*Configuration file location:*

/etc

*Configuration file name:*

foremost.conf

Specifically, we'll need to comment out the lines in the file that correspond to the files we want foremost to find

We're looking for graphics file types:

*jpg, png, bmp, gif, tif, pcx*

Here are a few command lines for reference:

*Editing the configuration file:*

`sudo mousepad foremost.conf`

*Running foremost:*

`foremost -v -i ./L0_Graphic.dd -o ./foremost_recov`

Follow the activities in class to complete this lab

# File Carving

## *scalpel*

We need to update the scalpel configuration file so that it will carve the files we want

*Configuration file location:*

`/etc/scalpel`

*Configuration file name:*

`scalpel.conf`

Specifically, we'll need to comment out the lines in the file that correspond to the files we want foremost to find

We're looking for graphics file types:

*jpg, png, bmp, gif, tif, pcx*

Here are a few command lines for reference:

*Editing the configuration file:*

`sudo mousepad scalpel.conf`

*Running scalpel:*

`scalpel -b -v -o ./scalpel_recov L0_graphic.dd`

Follow the activities in class to complete this lab

# File Carving

*magicrescue*

magicrescue uses recipes that provide instructions for carving different file types

*The recipes are located in the following directory:*

*/usr/share/magicrescue/recipes*

We'll use the following recipes:

*jpg-jfif, jpeg-exif, png, canon-cr2, gimp-xcf*

Here are a few command lines for reference:

*Running magicrescue:*

```
magicrescue -r jpeg-jfif -r jpeg-exif -r png -r canon-cr2 -r  
nikon-raw -d ./magicrescue_recov L0_Graptic.dd
```

Follow the activities in class to complete this lab

# Autopsy for File Carving

# File Carving

## *Autopsy*

On your Windows 10 desktop:

*Open Autopsy*

*Start a new case*

*Select the L0\_Graphics.dd file*

Type: Unallocated Space Image File

*Select only the following ingest file:*

Photorec Carving

*Find out what deleted files are found*

Follow the direction in class for detailed instructions