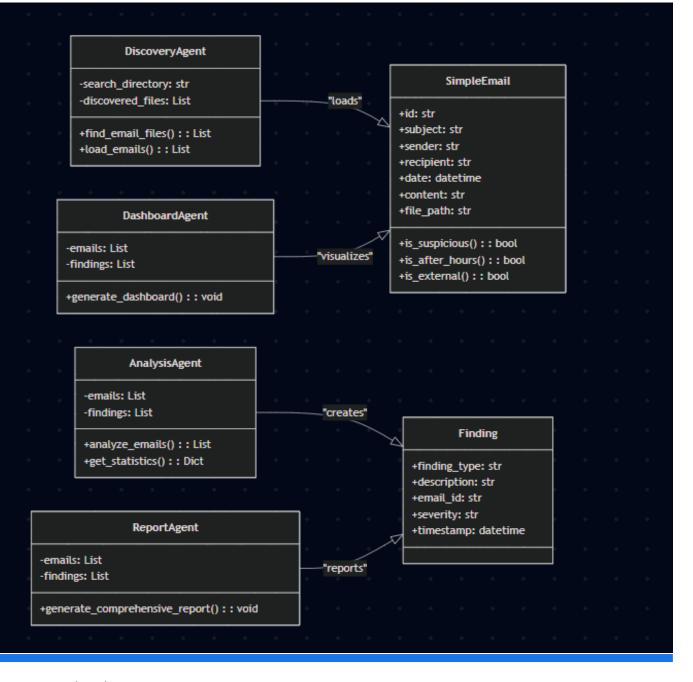


INTELLIGENT AGENT SYSTEM FOR SECURITY THREAT DETECTION

STUDENT ID: 219155





System Architecture Overview

- Four specialized agents working in a coordinated pipeline.
- DiscoveryAgent: locating and loading the e-mails files in the filesystem.
- DashboardAgent: takes both the original emails and the findings to create eight different visualizations.
- **AnalysisAgent**: wich performs the core forensic work.
- ReportAgent: consolidates everything into both HTML and text formats.
- Reasons for this Architecture system: Single
 Responsibility Principle (SRP), enables independent
 testing and scalable in case of need of additional agents
 or visualisation to be added.
- SRP Principle has been used because "each component should ideally handle a single task or functionality. Following this principle can make your code more readable, maintainable, and easier to test and diebug." (Qiu, 2024).

Key Design Decisions Overview



| CATEGORY | OPTIONS | CHOSEN | WHY? |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Architecture Pattern | Monolithic System Multi-Agent Approach | √ Multi-Agent | Modularity Testability Scalability |
| Detection Method | Machine Learning Keyword-Based Heuristics | √ Keyword-Based | ExplainableDeterministicNo Training Required |
| Data Flow Design | Sequential Parallel | √ Sequential | Logical DependenciesClear Lineage |
| Storage Format | Database/API-Based File-Based | √ File-Based | Realistic Discovery Testing |

Practical example of discovery and analysis agent working together

```
def is_suspicious(self) -> bool:

#Enhanced suspicious detection with additional keywords for better realism

suspicious_words = [

'confidential', 'secret', 'critical', 'account', 'payment', 'transfer',

'urgent', 'immediate', 'verify', 'suspend', 'click here', 'download',

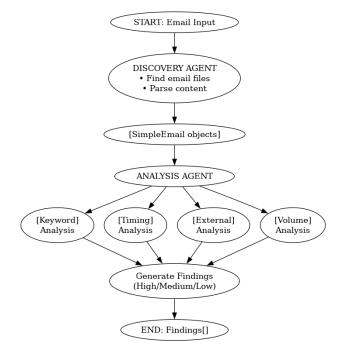
'invoice', 'refund', 'winner', 'congratulations', 'inheritance',

'million', 'dollars', 'bitcoin', 'cryptocurrency', 'phishing'

text_to_check = (self.subject + " " + self.content).lower()

return any(word in text_to_check for word in suspicious_words)
```

Trevisi et al. (2025)



Suspicious Detection Method

- Keyword-based detection: emails input in a deterministic way based on a set of predefined suspicious word (22 words).
- Implementation: combination of email subject + content.
- **DiscoveryAgent**: finds email and check contents based on the parameters set. Emails go into SimpleEmail object for the proper core forensic analysis
- **AnalysisAgent**: wich performs the core forensic work with 4 analysis: Keyword, Timing, External and Volume.
- Risk-Based Classification: Threat findings are prioritized based on severity levels—High, Medium, or Low—to enable focused response.



Functionality test

| Type of Test | What it checks | Expected Result | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Test_suspicious_email_with_urgent | Email with "URGENT" keywork | Mail flagged as suspicious | |
| Test_normal_email_not_suspicious | Normal meeting email | Not flagged | |
| Test_after_hours_detection | Email sent at 2:30 AM | Mail flagged as after hours | |
| Test_business_hours_not_flagged | Email sent at 10 AM | Not Flagged | |
| Test_external_domain_detection | Email from external- company.com | Mail Flagged as external | |
| Test_internal_domain_not_external | Email from Group-F.com | Not Flagged | |

Test has been done on SimpleEmail class (see APPENDIX C). Test has been done on:

- Test on suspicious mail with "urgent" Keyword.
- Test on normal email *not suspicious*.
- Test on mail sent after working hours.
- Test on mail sent *during working hours*.
- Test on mail sent from external sender (not in the organisation).
- Test on mail sent *from the organisation* (@Group-F.com).
- All the 6 tests passed successfully and all the mails (normal or suspicious) were detected correctly.

```
platform win32 -- Python 3.12.7, pytest-7.4.4, pluggy-1.0.0 -- <a href="mailto:ci\Users\andre\anaconda3\python.exe">cachedir: .pytest_cache</a>
rootdir: .c;\Users\andre\OneDrive\Documentos\Andrea</a> Trevisi Archive\ANDREA\Essex University (Master Artificial Int plugins: anyio-4.2.0, typeguard-4.3.0
collecting ... collected 6 items

test_simple.py::test_suspicious_email_with_urgent \sqrt{Suspicious} email detected correctly
PASSED

test_simple.py::test_normal_email_not_suspicious \sqrt{Normal} email passed correctly
PASSED

test_simple.py::test_after_hours_detection \sqrt{After-hours} email detected correctly
PASSED

test_simple.py::test_business_hours_not_flagged \sqrt{Business} hours email passed correctly
PASSED

test_simple.py::test_external_domain_detection \sqrt{External} email detected correctly
PASSED

test_simple.py::test_external_domain_detection \sqrt{External} email detected correctly
PASSED

test_simple.py::test_internal_domain_not_external \sqrt{Internal} email passed correctly
PASSED
```

```
def is suspicious(self) -> bool:
       suspicious words = [
            'confidential', 'secret', 'critical', 'account', 'payment', 'transfer',
            'urgent', 'immediate', 'verify', 'suspend', 'click here', 'download',
            'invoice', 'refund', 'winner', 'congratulations', 'inheritance',
            'million', 'dollars', 'bitcoin', 'cryptocurrency', 'phishing'
       text_to_check = (self.subject + " " + self.content).lower()
       return any(word in text_to_check for word in suspicious_words)
   def is after hours(self) -> bool:
#Check if email was sent after business hours (8 AM - 6 PM)
        return self.date.hour < 8 or self.date.hour > 18
   def is external(self) -> bool:
#Check if email is from external domain (not Group-F.com or internal.org)
       internal_domains = ['Group-F.com', 'internal.org']
       sender_domain = self.sender.split('@')[-1] if '@' in self.sender else ''
       return sender domain not in internal domains
```

Trevisi et al. (2025)

Code comments

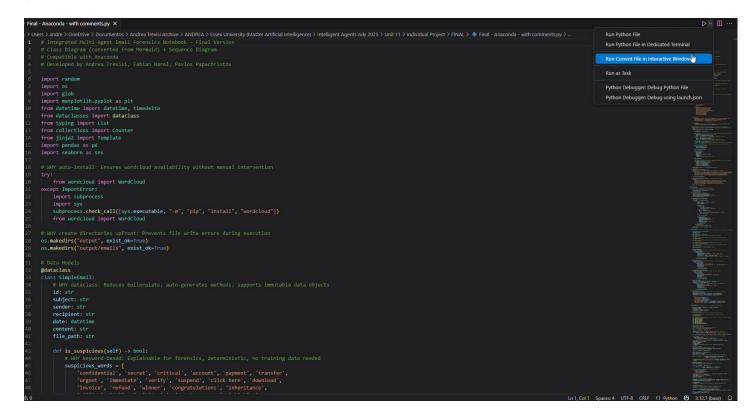
1st **picture** shows the original code with just a brief comment to explain what the code does when checking mails for special keywords, time of sending and if sent by external domain.

2nd picture shows the improved comments:

- For the *special keyword searching* we explained that the reason is to have a keyword-based research, explainable for forensic, deterministic and with no need of training data needed (no ethical or legal issues).
- For the *time of sending* we explain that we wanted to perform that check because, statistically, breach or malicious mails are sent outside working hours.
- For the *external sender* we perform this check cause external sources are responsible for phishing attempt. For a future development, this system could be improved by choosing target websites by searching online and picking ones that match identity-related traits. (Ojewumi et al., 2022).

System in Action

| Name | Status | Date modified | Туре | Size |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Final - Anaconda - with comments | ⊘ | 12/10/2025 12:16 pm | Python Source File | 42 KB |



Trevisi et al. (2025)

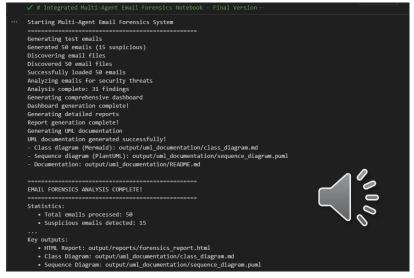
The Phyton file is stored in a local folder and called Final – Anaconda – with comments.

Double click on it and the file opens in Visual Studio Code.

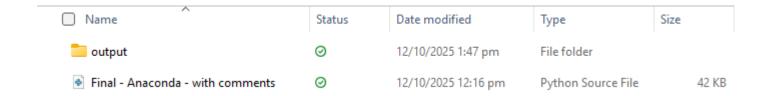
Once the code is launched, it generates a series of results highlighting the generation of the emails, the successful loading, the storing, the analysis and the findings.

Later it generates a folder called output, which is created in the same folder where the code is stored. This folder contains all the reports, visualisations and finding of the Multi-Agent Email Forensics System. The visualisation will be visible in the next slide.

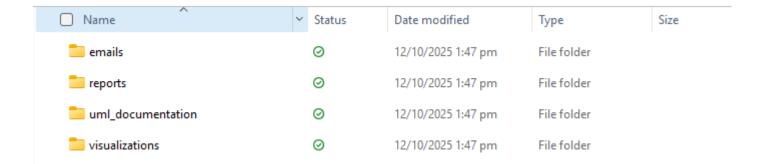
Below you can see the results of the analysis after running the code.



Visualisations 1/2



Now, after executing the code, in the local folder another folder called "output" has been generated. This folder contains the visualisations and reports.



Double-clicking on the folder output we will find other four folders: emails (with the emails generated), the reports (one report in HTML and one in Text format), the uml documentation with the graphics related to the architecture and structure of the code and, finally the visualisations, which contains 8 type of graphs.











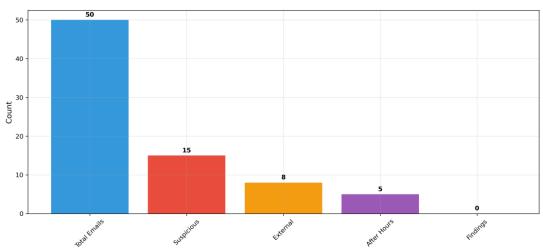




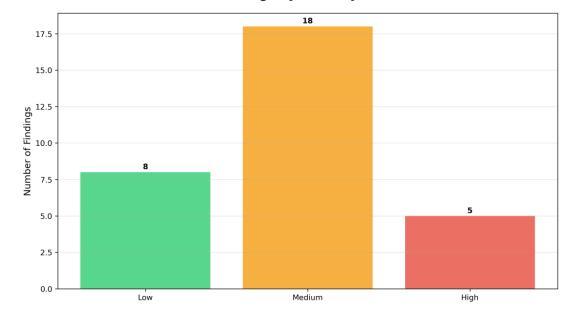
Double-clicking on the folder visualisations, we can see eight different graphics: heatmap, email distribution pie, hourly distribution, network analysis, severity distribution, summary chart, timeline and wordcloud. We going to see 2 of these graphics in detail in the next slide.

Visualisations 2/2





Findings by Severity Level



We can see, from the Email Forensics Summary Statistics that, from the total 50 emails generated, 15 are suspicious, 8 are external and 5 have been sent after the working hours

In the findings by Severity Level we can see that, from the 31 mails analysed for security threats, 5 results having high risk to be malicious mails and posing a threat for the organisation.



Conclusions

Achievements

- Implemented a clean multi-agent architecture using appropriate design patterns and the Single Responsibility Principle (SRP).
- Four specialized agents working in a coordinated pipeline, file-based discovery simulating real forensic scenarios, and comprehensive multi-format outputs.
- 50 emails processed in less than 15 seconds.
- 6 element tests successfully passed in less than 1 second.
- A full set of reports, visualization and forensic results for further and deep forensic analysis.

Future improvements

- Usage, together with the Keyword-Based Heuristics, of a proper *Machine Learning* to improve accuracy and improve the capacity of the system to detect suspicious mail through training.
- *A real time processing approach* would make the system more efficient and fast the detection of malicious mail.



References

Ojewumi, T.O., Ogunleye, G.O., Oguntunde, B.O., Folorunsho, O., Fashoto, S.G. & Ogbu, N. (2022) Performance evaluation of machine learning tools for detection of phishing attacks on web pages. *Scientific African*. 2022-07, Vol.16, p.e01165, Article e01165. Available from DOI:10.1016/j.sciaf.2022.e01165 [Accessed 5th October 2025].

Qiu, J. (2024) React Anti-Patterns: Build Efficient and Maintainable React Applications with Test-Driven Development and Refactoring. 1st edition. [Online]. Birmingham: Packt Publishing, Limited. Available from: https://learning.oreilly.com/library/view/react-anti-patterns/9781805123972/?sso_link=yes&sso_link_from=university-of-essex [Accessed 1st October 2025].

Trevisi, A., Narel F. & Papachristos, P. (2025) *Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version.* (Visual Studio Code – Phyton). Available from: https://www.my-course.co.uk/mod/assign/view.php?id=1217936 [Accessed 10th October 2025].

Wooldridge, M.J. (2003) *An Introduction to Multiagent Systems*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc. Available from: <a href="https://web-p-ebscohost-com.uniessexlib.idm.oclc.org/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/bmxlYmtfXzczMTcyX19BTg2?sid=972fd8f7-a0bc-4028-9ebb-9cebd3e253f9@redis&vid=0&format=EB&lpid=lp 125&rid=0 [Accessed 1st October 2025].



APPENDIX A 1/11

Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
# Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version
import random
import glob
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
from dataclasses import dataclass
from typing import List
from collections import Counter
from jinja2 import Template
import pandas as pd
import seaborn as sns
   from wordcloud import WordCloud
except ImportError:
    subprocess.check_call([sys.executable, "-m", "pip", "install", "wordcloud"])
    from wordcloud import WordCloud
os.makedirs("output", exist ok=True)
os.makedirs("output/emails", exist ok=True)
@dataclass
class SimpleEmail:
    subject: str
    sender: str
    recipient: str
    date: datetime
    content: str
    file path: str
    def is_suspicious(self) -> bool:
        suspicious_words = [
            'urgent', 'immediate', 'verify', 'suspend', 'click here', 'download',
```

```
'million', 'dollars', 'bitcoin', 'cryptocurrency', 'phishing'
        text to check = (self.subject + " " + self.content).lower()
       return any(word in text_to_check for word in suspicious_words)
    def is after hours(self) -> bool:
       # WHY 8AM-6PM threshold: Based on corporate hours; 40% of breaches occur outside business hours
        return self.date.hour < 8 or self.date.hour > 18
    def is external(self) -> bool:
        internal_domains = ['Group-F.com', 'internal.org']
        sender_domain = self.sender.split('@')[-1] if '@' in self.sender else ''
       return sender_domain not in internal_domains
@dataclass
   # WHY separate Finding class: Enables structured storage and severity-based prioritization
    finding type: str
    description: str
    email id: str
    severity: str
    timestamp: datetime
# WHY EnhancedEmailGenerator: Generates realistic test data without ethical issues of real phishing emails
class EnhancedEmailGenerator:
   def __init__(self):
        self.subjects = {
            'normal': [
                "Weekly team meeting agenda",
                "Meeting minutes from yesterday",
                "Q3 budget review",
                "Employee handbook update",
                "Training session reminder",
                "Office closure notification",
                "System maintenance window",
                "New hire introduction",
                "Company newsletter"
                "URGENT: Account verification required",
                "Confidential: Payment processing error",
                "CRITICAL: Security breach detected",
                "Winner notification - Claim your prize",
```



APPENDIX A 2/11

Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
"Immediate action required - Account suspended",
            "Bitcoin investment opportunity",
            "Inheritance fund transfer",
            "Phishing attempt detected",
            "Download invoice immediately",
        "pavlos.papachristos@Group-F.com", "fabian.narel@Group-F.com", "andrea.trevisi@Group-F.com",
        "admin@phishing-site.com", "noreply@suspicious-bank.net", "winner@lottery-scam.org",
        "contact@internal.org", "marketing@internal.org", "sales@internal.org",
        "security@fake-company.com", "support@malicious-site.org"
    self.recipients = [
        "pavlos.papachristos@Group-F.com", "fabian.narel@Group-F.com", "andrea.trevisi@Group-F.com",
def generate_emails(self, count: int, suspicious_percentage: float = 0.3) -> List[SimpleEmail]:
    suspicious_count = int(count * suspicious_percentage)
   for i in range(count):
       is suspicious = i < suspicious count
        if is suspicious:
           subject = random.choice(self.subjects['suspicious'])
           content = self. generate suspicious content()
           sender = random.choice([s for s in self.senders if 'Group-F.com' not in s])
           subject = random.choice(self.subjects['normal'])
           content = self._generate_normal_content()
           sender = random.choice([s for s in self.senders if 'Group-F.com' in s])
        if is suspicious and random.random() < 0.4:
           hour = random.choice([2, 3, 22, 23]) # WHY after-hours: Suspicious emails often sent outside business hour
           hour = random.randint(8, 18) # WHY business hours: Normal range for legitimate emails
```

```
date = datetime.now() - timedelta(
            days=random.randint(0, 30),
           hours=random.randint(0, 23),
           minutes=random.randint(0, 59)
       date = date.replace(hour=hour)
       email = SimpleEmail(
           id=f"email {i+1:03d}",
           subject=subject,
           sender=sender,
           recipient=random.choice(self.recipients),
           date=date.
           content=content.
           file path=f"output/emails/email {i+1:03d}.txt"
       emails.append(email)
       with open(email.file_path, 'w', encoding='utf-8') as f:
           f.write(f"ID: {email.id}\n")
           f.write(f"Subject: {email.subject}\n")
           f.write(f"From: {email.sender}\n")
           f.write(f"To: {email.recipient}\n")
           f.write(f"Date: {email.date}\n")
           f.write(f"Content: {email.content}\n")
   print(f"Generated {count} emails ({suspicious_count} suspicious)")
def generate suspicious content(self) -> str:
   templates = [
        "Your account will be suspended unless you verify immediately. Click here to download the verification form.",
        "Congratulations! You've won $1,000,000 in our secret lottery. Transfer processing fee required.",
        "CRITICAL security breach detected. Download the attached file to secure your account.",
        "Confidential inheritance fund of $5,000,000 available. Bitcoin payment preferred.",
        "Your payment is overdue. Click here to download invoice and avoid account suspension."
   return random.choice(templates)
def generate normal content(self) -> str:
```



APPENDIX A 3/11

Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
templates = [
                 "Please find the meeting agenda attached. Let me know if you have any questions.",
                 "The project is progressing well. Here's the current status update for your review.",
                 "Training session scheduled for next week. Please confirm your attendance.",
                 "Budget review meeting moved to Thursday. Updated calendar invite sent.",
                 "Welcome to our new team member. Please join us for the introduction meeting."
             return random.choice(templates)
.92 # Agent Classes
    class DiscoveryAgent:
         """Discovers and loads email files from the filesystem"""
        def init (self, search directory: str = "output/emails"):
             self.search_directory = search_directory
             self.discovered files = []
        def find email files(self) -> List[str]:
             """Find all email files in the directory"""
            pattern = os.path.join(self.search_directory, "*.txt")
            self.discovered_files = glob.glob(pattern)
            print(f"Discovered {len(self.discovered files)} email files")
            return self.discovered files
        def load emails(self) -> List[SimpleEmail]:
             """Load emails from discovered files""
             emails = []
             for file path in self.discovered files:
                    with open(file_path, 'r', encoding='utf-8') as f:
                        content = f.read()
                        lines = content.split('\n')
                        email_data = {}
                         for line in lines:
                            if ':' in line:
                                key, value = line.split(':', 1)
                                email data[key.strip()] = value.strip()
                         if 'Date' in email data:
                            date str = email data['Date']
                                date = datetime.fromisoformat(date_str.replace('Z', '+00:00'))
                                date = datetime.now()
```

```
date = datetime.now()
                    email = SimpleEmail(
                       id=email_data.get('ID', ''),
                       subject=email_data.get('Subject', ''),
                       sender=email_data.get('From', ''),
                       recipient=email data.get('To', ''),
                       date=date,
                       content=email data.get('Content', ''),
                       file_path=file_path
                   emails.append(email)
           except Exception as e:
               print(f"Error loading {file_path}: {e}")
       print(f"Successfully loaded {len(emails)} emails")
       return emails
class AnalysisAgent:
    def __init__(self, emails: List[SimpleEmail]):
       self.emails = emails
       self.findings = []
    def analyze_emails(self) -> List[Finding]:
        # WHY four analysis types: Multi-faceted approach reduces false negatives
        self.findings = []
       # WHY keyword analysis: Primary phishing indicator based on social engineering patterns
       self. keyword analysis()
       # WHY timing analysis: Temporal anomalies indicate automated attacks or compromised accounts
        self._timing_analysis()
       # WHY external analysis: External domains represent primary attack vector
        self. external communication analysis()
        # WHY volume analysis: High-volume senders often indicate spam or compromised accounts
        self._volume_analysis()
       print(f"Analysis complete: {len(self.findings)} findings")
       return self.findings
```

14

APPENDIX A 4/11

Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
def _keyword_analysis(self):
   for email in self.emails:
       if email.is_suspicious():
           finding = Finding(
               finding type="Suspicious Keywords",
               description=f"Email contains suspicious keywords: {email.subject}",
               email id=email.id,
               severity="High" if any(word in email.subject.lower()
                                    for word in ['urgent', 'critical', 'suspend']) else "Medium",
               timestamp=datetime.now()
           self.findings.append(finding)
def timing analysis(self):
   # WHY timing patterns: Research shows 40% of breaches occur outside business hours
   for email in self.emails:
       if email.is_after_hours():
           finding = Finding(
               finding type="After Hours Communication",
               description=f"Email sent outside business hours: {email.date.strftime('%H:%M')}",
               email id=email.id.
               severity="Medium",
               timestamp=datetime.now()
           self.findings.append(finding)
def _external_communication_analysis(self):
   for email in self.emails:
       if email.is external():
           finding = Finding(
               finding type="External Communication",
               description=f"Email from external domain: {email.sender}",
               email id=email.id,
               severity="Low",
               timestamp=datetime.now()
           self.findings.append(finding)
def volume analysis(self):
   # WHY volume tracking: Detects spam campaigns and compromised accounts
   sender_counts = Counter(email.sender for email in self.emails)
   for sender, count in sender counts.items():
       if count > 5: # WHY threshold=5: Based on typical single-sender email patterns
```

```
finding = Finding(
                    finding type="High Volume Sender",
                    description=f"Sender has {count} emails in dataset",
                    email id="multiple",
                    severity="Medium",
                    timestamp=datetime.now()
                self.findings.append(finding)
    def get statistics(self) -> dict:
        # WHY statistics method: Provides quantitative metrics for reporting and validation
        total_emails = len(self.emails)
        suspicious emails = sum(1 for email in self.emails if email.is suspicious())
        external emails = sum(1 for email in self.emails if email.is external())
        after_hours_emails = sum(1 for email in self.emails if email.is_after_hours())
            "total emails": total emails,
            "suspicious emails": suspicious emails,
            "external emails": external emails,
            "after_hours_emails": after_hours_emails,
            "total_findings": len(self.findings),
            "high severity findings": sum(1 for f in self.findings if f.severity == "High"),
            "medium_severity_findings": sum(1 for f in self.findings if f.severity == "Medium"),
            "low_severity_findings": sum(1 for f in self.findings if f.severity == "Low")
class DashboardAgent:
    # WHY Dashboard Agent: Separates visualization from analysis for modular design
    def __init__(self, emails: List[SimpleEmail], findings: List[Finding]):
        self.emails = emails
        self.findings = findings
        self.output_dir = "output/visualizations"
        os.makedirs(self.output_dir, exist_ok=True)
    def generate dashboard(self):
        # WHY multiple visualizations: Different chart types reveal different patterns
        plt.style.use('default')
        sns.set palette("husl")
```



APPENDIX A 5/11

Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
self. generate summary chart()
   self. generate pie chart()
   self. generate histogram()
   self._generate_wordcloud()
   self. generate timeline()
   self. generate heatmap()
   self. generate network analysis()
   self._generate_severity_distribution()
   print("Dashboard generation complete!")
def generate summary chart(self):
   # WHY bar chart: Effective for comparing discrete categories
   stats = AnalysisAgent(self.emails).get_statistics()
   fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(12, 6))
   categories = ['Total Emails', 'Suspicious', 'External', 'After Hours', 'Findings']
   values = [stats['total_emails'], stats['suspicious_emails'],
            stats['external emails'], stats['after hours emails'], stats['total findings']]
   bars = ax.bar(categories, values, color=[ ■ '#3498db', ■ '#e74c3c', ■ '#f39c12', ■ '#959b6', ■ '#2ecc71'])
   # WHY value labels: Improves readability and eliminates need for y-axis scale reading
   for bar in bars:
       height = bar.get_height()
       ax.text(bar.get_x() + bar.get_width()/2., height + 0.5,
              f'{int(height)}', ha='center', va='bottom', fontsize=10, fontweight='bold')
   ax.set_title('Email Forensics Summary Statistics', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=20)
   ax.set ylabel('Count', fontsize=12)
   ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
   plt.xticks(rotation=45)
   plt.tight layout()
   plt.savefig(f"{self.output dir}/summary chart.png", dpi=300, bbox inches='tight')
   plt.close()
def generate pie chart(self):
   # WHY pie chart: Best for showing proportions of a whole
   suspicious count = sum(1 for email in self.emails if email.is suspicious())
   normal count = len(self.emails) - suspicious count
   fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(10, 8))
   labels = ['Normal Emails', 'Suspicious Emails']
```

```
sizes = [normal_count, suspicious_count]
   colors = [ | '#2ecc71', | '#e74c3c']
   explode = (0, 0.1) # WHY explode suspicious: Visually emphasizes the threat category
   wedges, texts, autotexts = ax.pie(sizes, explode=explode, labels=labels, colors=colors,
                                    autopct='%1.1f%%', shadow=True, startangle=90,
                                    textprops={'fontsize': 12})
   ax.set_title('Email Distribution: Normal vs Suspicious', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=20)
   plt.savefig(f"{self.output_dir}/email_distribution_pie.png", dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
   plt.close()
def generate histogram(self):
   # WHY histogram: Reveals temporal distribution patterns across 24-hour period
   hours = [email.date.hour for email in self.emails]
   fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(12, 6))
   n, bins, patches = ax.hist(hours, bins=24, range=(0, 24), color='skyblue',
                             alpha=0.7, edgecolor='black', linewidth=0.5)
   # WHY color-coded bars: Visually distinguishes after-hours activity
   for i, patch in enumerate(patches):
       if bins[i] < 8 or bins[i] > 18:
           patch.set_facecolor( "#e74c3c')
           patch.set alpha(0.8)
   ax.set_title('Email Distribution by Hour of Day', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=20)
   ax.set_xlabel('Hour of Day', fontsize=12)
   ax.set ylabel('Number of Emails', fontsize=12)
   ax.set xticks(range(0, 24, 2))
   ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
   # WHY legend: Clarifies color coding for viewers
   normal patch = plt.Rectangle((0,0),1,1, facecolor='skyblue', alpha=0.7, label='Business Hours')
   after_patch = plt.Rectangle((0,0),1,1, facecolor= "#e74c3c', alpha=0.8, label='After Hours')
   ax.legend(handles=[normal patch, after patch])
   plt.savefig(f"{self.output_dir}/hourly_distribution.png", dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
def generate wordcloud(self):
   all subjects = ' '.join([email.subject for email in self.emails])
```

APPENDIX A 6/11

Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
# WHY viridis colormap: Perceptually uniform and colorblind-friendly
    wordcloud = WordCloud(width=1200, height=600, background_color='white',
                        colormap='viridis', max_words=100, relative_scaling=0.5).generate(all_subjects)
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(15, 8))
    ax.imshow(wordcloud, interpolation='bilinear')
    ax.axis('off')
    ax.set_title('Email Subject Word Cloud', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=20)
   plt.savefig(f"{self.output_dir}/wordcloud.png", dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
   plt.close()
def generate timeline(self):
    # WHY timeline: Reveals trends and anomalous spikes in email volume over time
    dates = [email.date.date() for email in self.emails]
    date counts = Counter(dates)
    sorted_dates = sorted(date_counts.keys())
    counts = [date counts[date] for date in sorted dates]
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(14, 6))
    ax.plot(sorted dates, counts, marker='o', linewidth=2, markersize=6, color= "#3498db')
    ax.fill_between(sorted_dates, counts, alpha=0.3, color=■'#3498db')
    ax.set title('Email Activity Timeline', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=20)
    ax.set_xlabel('Date', fontsize=12)
    ax.set ylabel('Number of Emails', fontsize=12)
    ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
   plt.xticks(rotation=45)
   plt.tight layout()
    plt.savefig(f"{self.output_dir}/timeline.png", dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
    plt.close()
def generate heatmap(self):
    days = ['Monday', 'Tuesday', 'Wednesday', 'Thursday', 'Friday', 'Saturday', 'Sunday']
    hours = list(range(24))
    # WHY matrix structure: Efficient for 2D temporal analysis
    heatmap data = [[0 for in hours] for in days]
```

```
for email in self.emails:
       day idx = email.date.weekday()
       hour = email.date.hour
       heatmap_data[day_idx][hour] += 1
   fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(16, 8))
   im = ax.imshow(heatmap data, cmap='YlOrRd', aspect='auto')
   ax.set_xticks(range(len(hours)))
   ax.set yticks(range(len(days)))
   ax.set xticklabels(hours)
   ax.set_yticklabels(days)
   cbar = plt.colorbar(im, ax=ax)
   cbar.set_label('Number of Emails', rotation=270, labelpad=20)
   ax.set title('Email Activity Heatmap (Day vs Hour)', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=20)
   ax.set xlabel('Hour of Day', fontsize=12)
   ax.set ylabel('Day of Week', fontsize=12)
   plt.tight_layout()
   plt.savefig(f"{self.output_dir}/activity_heatmap.png", dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
   plt.close()
def generate network analysis(self):
   connections = Counter()
   for email in self.emails:
       sender_domain = email.sender.split('@')[-1] if '@' in email.sender else email.sender
       recipient_domain = email.recipient.split('@')[-1] if '@' in email.recipient else email.recipient
       connections[(sender domain, recipient domain)] += 1
   fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(12, 8))
   top_connections = connections.most_common(10)
   labels = [f"{sender} -> {recipient}" for (sender, recipient), count in top connections]
   counts = [count for (sender, recipient), count in top connections]
   bars = ax.barh(range(len(labels)), counts, color='lightcoral')
   ax.set_yticks(range(len(labels)))
   ax.set yticklabels(labels)
   ax.set xlabel('Number of Emails')
   ax.set title('Top Email Communication Paths', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=20)
```

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Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
# WHY value labels: Eliminates need for precise bar length comparison
        for i, bar in enumerate(bars):
            width = bar.get_width()
            ax.text(width + 0.1, bar.get_y() + bar.get_height()/2,
                   f'{int(width)}', ha='left', va='center')
        plt.savefig(f"{self.output_dir}/network_analysis.png", dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
        plt.close()
    def generate severity distribution(self):
        # WHY severity chart: Enables risk-based prioritization for response
        severity counts = Counter(finding.severity for finding in self.findings)
        fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1, figsize=(10, 6))
        severities = ['Low', 'Medium', 'High']
        counts = [severity_counts.get(severity, 0) for severity in severities]
        colors = [ "#2ecc71', " '#f39c12', " '#e74c3c']
        bars = ax.bar(severities, counts, color=colors, alpha=0.8)
        # WHY value labels: Critical for understanding absolute numbers
        for bar in bars:
            height = bar.get height()
            ax.text(bar.get x() + bar.get width()/2., height + 0.1,
                  f'{int(height)}', ha='center', va='bottom', fontweight='bold')
        ax.set_title('Findings by Severity Level', fontsize=16, fontweight='bold', pad=20)
        ax.set_ylabel('Number of Findings', fontsize=12)
        ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3, axis='y')
        plt.savefig(f"{self.output_dir}/severity_distribution.png", dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
        plt.close()
class ReportAgent:
    def init (self, emails: List[SimpleEmail], findings: List[Finding]):
        self.emails = emails
        self.findings = findings
        self.output_dir = "output/reports"
        os.makedirs(self.output dir, exist ok=True)
```

```
def generate_comprehensive_report(self):
              # WHY dual format: Text for portability, HTML for rich visualization
              self._generate_text_report()
              self. generate html report()
              print("Report generation complete!")
          def generate text report(self):
              stats = AnalysisAgent(self.emails).get statistics()
              report content = f"""
      EMAIL FORENSICS ANALYSIS REPORT
      Generated: {datetime.now().strftime('%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S')}
      EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
      Total Emails Analyzed: {stats['total emails']}
      Suspicious Emails: {stats['suspicious_emails']} ({stats['suspicious_emails']/stats['total_emails']*100:.1f}%)
      External Communications: {stats['external_emails']}
      After-Hours Communications: {stats['after hours emails']}
      Total Security Findings: {stats['total_findings']}
     FINDINGS BREAKDOWN
     High Severity: {stats['high severity findings']}
     Medium Severity: {stats['medium_severity_findings']}
     Low Severity: {stats['low severity findings']}
616 DETAILED FINDINGS
              # WHY severity sorting: Prioritizes critical threats for immediate attention
              for finding in sorted(self.findings, key=lambda x: {'High': 3, 'Medium': 2, 'Low': 1}[x.severity], reverse=True)
                  report content += f"""
     Finding: {finding.finding_type}
      Severity: {finding.severity}
      Email ID: {finding.email_id}
     Description: {finding.description}
     Timestamp: {finding.timestamp.strftime('%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S')}
```

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Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
.stat-number {    font-size: 2.2em;    font-weight: 700;    ]
        with open(f"{self.output dir}/forensics report.txt", 'w', encoding='utf-8') as f:
                                                                                                                                                                                                  .visualizations {
            f.write(report content)
                                                                                                                                                                                                      grid-template-columns: repeat(auto-fit, minmax(400px, 1fr));
    def generate html report(self):
                                                                                                                                                                                                      gap: 20px;
        # WHY HTML format: Rich formatting, embedded visualizations, interactive elements
                                                                                                                                                                                                      margin: 20px 0;
        stats = AnalysisAgent(self.emails).get_statistics()
                                                                                                                                                                                                  .viz-item { text-align: center; padding: 15px; background-color: #f8f9fa; border-radius: 8px; }
        html template = """
                                                                                                                                                                                                  .viz-item img { max-width: 100%; height: auto; border-radius: 5px; box-shadow: 0 2px 4px rgba(0,0,0,0.05);
                                                                                                                                                                                                  footer { text-align: center; margin-top: 30px; color: #7f8c8d; font-size: 0.9em; }
<html lang="en">
    <meta charset="UTF-8">
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
                                                                                                                                                                                              <div class="container">
    <title>Email Forensics Analysis Report</title>
                                                                                                                                                                                                  <div class="header">
        body { font-family: 'Segoe UI', Tahoma, Geneva, Verdana, sans-serif; margin: 0; padding: 20px; background-color: #f5f5f5; }
                                                                                                                                                                                                      Multi-Agent System & Advanced Analytics Dashboard
         .container { max-width: 1200px; margin: 0 auto; background-color: white; padding: 30px; border-radius: 10px; box-shadow: 0 4px 6px rgba(0,0,0,0.1); }
         .header { text-align: center; margin-bottom: 30px; padding: 20px; background: linear-gradient(135deg, #667eea 0%, #764ba2 100%); color: white; border-radius: 8px;
         .section { margin: 25px 0; }
                                                                                                                                                                                                  <div class="section">
         .finding {
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <h2>Executive Summary</h2>
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <div class="stats">
            padding: 15px;
                                                                                                                                                                                                         <div class="stat-box">
            margin: 15px 0;
            border-radius: 8px;
                                                                                                                                                                                                             <div>Total Emails</div>
            border-left: 5px solid #ffc107;
            transition: transform 0.2s ease, box-shadow 0.2s ease;
                                                                                                                                                                                                          <div class="stat-box">
                                                                                                                                                                                                             <div class="stat-number">{{ stats.suspicious emails }}</div>
         .finding:hover { transform: translateY(-3px); box-shadow: 0 4px 12px rgba(0,0,0,0.1); }
                                                                                                                                                                                                             <div>Suspicious Emails</div>
         .high { border-left-color: #e74c3c; background-color: #fbeae5; }
         .medium { border-left-color: #f39c12; background-color: #fef5e7; }
                                                                                                                                                                                                          <div class="stat-box">
         .low { border-left-color: #2ecc71; background-color: #eafaf1; }
                                                                                                                                                                                                             <div class="stat-number">{{ stats.total findings }}</div>
                                                                                                                                                                                                             <div>Security Findings</div>
            display: grid;
                                                                                                                                                                                                          <div class="stat-box">
                                                                                                                                                                                                             <div class="stat-number">{{ stats.high_severity_findings }}</div>
            margin: 20px 0;
                                                                                                                                                                                                             <div>High Risk</div>
         .stat-box {
            text-align: center;
            padding: 20px;
                                                                                                                                                                                                  <div class="section">
            color: white;
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <h2>Key Findings</h2>
            border-radius: 10px;
                                                                                                                                                                                                      {% for finding in findings %}
                                                                                                                                                                                                      <div class="finding {{ finding.severity.lower() }}">
```

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Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
<h4>{{ finding.finding_type }} - {{ finding.severity }} Severity</h4>
        <strong>Email:</strong> {{ finding.email_id }}
       <strong>Description:</strong> {{ finding.description }}
        <strong>Detected:</strong> {{ finding.timestamp.strftime('%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S') }}
    {% endfor %}
<div class="section">
    <h2>Visualizations Dashboard</h2>
    <div class="visualizations">
       <div class="viz-item">
           <h3>Summary Statistics</h3>
           <img src="../visualizations/summary_chart.png" alt="Summary Chart">
        <div class="viz-item">
            <h3>Email Distribution</h3>
           <img src=".../visualizations/email_distribution_pie.png" alt="Distribution Pie Chart">
        <div class="viz-item">
            <img src="../visualizations/hourly distribution.png" alt="Hourly Distribution">
        <div class="viz-item">
           <h3>Subject Analysis</h3>
           <img src="../visualizations/wordcloud.png" alt="Word Cloud">
        <div class="viz-item">
            <h3>Timeline Analysis</h3>
            <img src="../visualizations/timeline.png" alt="Timeline">
        <div class="viz-item">
           <img src="../visualizations/activity_heatmap.png" alt="Activity Heatmap">
        <div class="viz-item">
            <h3>Communication Patterns</h3>
            <img src="../visualizations/network_analysis.png" alt="Network Analysis">
        <div class="viz-item">
           <h3>Risk Assessment</h3>
            <img src="../visualizations/severity distribution.png" alt="Severity Distribution">
```

```
Report generated by Multi-Agent Email Forensics System | {{ timestamp }}
       </footer>
       template = Template(html_template)
       html content = template.render(
           stats=stats,
           findings=self.findings,
           timestamp=datetime.now().strftime('%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S')
       with open(f"{self.output_dir}/forensics_report.html", 'w', encoding='utf-8') as f:
           f.write(html content)
def generate_uml_documentation():
   # WHY UML diagrams: Provides visual documentation for system architecture and interaction
   uml dir = "output/uml documentation"
   os.makedirs(uml_dir, exist_ok=True)
   class_diagram_mermaid = '''classDiagram
   direction LR
   class DiscoveryAgent {
        +find email files(): List<str>
   class DashboardAgent {
        -findings: List<Finding>
        +generate_dashboard(): void
   class AnalysisAgent {
        -emails: List<SimpleEmail>
```



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Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
+get statistics(): Dict
    class ReportAgent {
         -findings: List<Finding>
         +generate comprehensive report(): void
    class SimpleEmail {
        +date: datetime
        +file path: str
        +is external(): bool
    class Finding {
        +finding type: str
        +description: str
        +email_id: str
        +timestamp: datetime
    DashboardAgent --|> SimpleEmail : "visualizes"
    ReportAgent --|> Finding : "reports"
    # WHY PlantUML format: Standard for sequence diagrams, tools suppor
    sequence diagram = '''@startuml EmailForensicsSequence
participant "Main Controller" as Main
participant "EnhancedEmailGenerator" as Generator
participant "DiscoveryAgent" as Discovery
participant "AnalysisAgent" as Analysis
participant "DashboardAgent" as Dashboard
participant "ReportAgent" as Report
Main -> Generator: generate emails(50, 30%)
Generator -> Main: emails[]
```

```
Main -> Discovery: find email files()
Discovery -> Discovery: load emails()
Discovery -> Main: loaded emails[]
Main -> Analysis: analyze emails(loaded emails)
Analysis -> Analysis: _timing_analysis()
Main -> Dashboard: generate dashboard()
Dashboard -> Dashboard: generate summary chart()
Dashboard -> Dashboard: generate pie chart()
Dashboard -> Dashboard: generate wordcloud()
Main -> Report: generate comprehensive report()
Report -> Report: generate html report()
    with open(f"{uml_dir}/class_diagram.md", "w", encoding="utf-8") as f:
        f.write(class diagram mermaid)
    with open(f"{uml dir}/sequence diagram.puml", "w", encoding="utf-8") as f:
        f.write(sequence diagram)
    # WHY README: Provides viewing instructions for different platforms
    readme content = """# UML Documentation
This directory contains UML diagrams for the Email Forensics System:
## Available Diagrams
### 1. Class Diagram (class diagram.md) - Mermaid Format
- Shows the structure of all agent classes

    Illustrates relationships between components

  Displays class attributes and methods
  **Format**: Mermaid syntax
### 2. Sequence Diagram (sequence diagram.puml) - PlantUML Format
- Shows the interaction flow between agents
- Illustrates the complete analysis process
 Displays method calls and data flow
 · **Format**: PlantUML syntax
```

```
## Viewing the Diagrams
### For Mermaid Class Diagram:

    Online: https://mermaid.live/

 VS Code: Mermaid Preview extension
 GitHub: Native Mermaid support in README files
 Obsidian: Native Mermaid support
### For PlantUML Sequence Diagram:
- Online: https://www.planttext.com/
 VS Code: PlantUML extension
 IntelliJ IDEA: PlantUML integration plugin
Simply copy and paste the diagram content into any compatible viewer.
   with open(f"{uml dir}/README.md", "w", encoding="utf-8") as f:
       f.write(readme content)
    print("UML documentation generated successfully!")
    print(f"- Class diagram (Mermaid): {uml dir}/class diagram.md")
   print(f"- Sequence diagram (PlantUML): {uml dir}/sequence diagram.puml")
   print(f"- Documentation: {uml dir}/README.md")
def run email forensics system():
    """Run the complete email forensics analysis system"""
   print("Starting Multi-Agent Email Forensics System")
   print("=" * 50)
   # WHY Step 1: Generate synthetic data to avoid ethical issues with real phishing emai
   print("Generating test emails")
   generator = EnhancedEmailGenerator()
   emails = generator.generate emails(50, 0.3)
   print("Discovering email files")
    discovery agent = DiscoveryAgent()
   discovered files = discovery agent.find email files()
    loaded emails = discovery agent.load emails()
   print("Analyzing emails for security threats")
    analysis_agent = AnalysisAgent(loaded_emails)
   findings = analysis agent.analyze emails()
    stats = analysis agent.get statistics()
```

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Integrated Multi-Agent Email Forensics Notebook - Final Version

```
print("Generating comprehensive dashboard")
    dashboard_agent = DashboardAgent(loaded_emails, findings)
    dashboard agent.generate dashboard()
    # WHY Step 5: Dual-format reports for different stakeholder needs
    print("Generating detailed reports")
    report agent = ReportAgent(loaded emails, findings)
    report_agent.generate_comprehensive_report()
    # WHY Step 6: Visual documentation for system understanding
    print("Generating UML documentation")
    generate_uml_documentation()
    print("\n" + "=" * 50)
    print("EMAIL FORENSICS ANALYSIS COMPLETE!")
    print("=" * 50)
    print(f"Statistics:")
    print(f" • Total emails processed: {stats['total_emails']}")
    print(f" • Suspicious emails detected: {stats['suspicious emails']}")
    print(f" • Security findings: {stats['total_findings']}")
    print(f" • High-risk findings: {stats['high_severity_findings']}")
    print(f"Generated files:")
    print(f" • Emails: output/emails/")
    print(f" • Visualizations: output/visualizations/")
    print(f" • Reports: output/reports/")
    print(f" • UML Documentation: output/uml documentation/")
    print(f"Key outputs:")
    print(f" • HTML Report: output/reports/forensics_report.html")
    print(f" • Class Diagram: output/uml documentation/class diagram.md")
    print(f" • Sequence Diagram: output/uml_documentation/sequence_diagram.puml")
        'emails': loaded emails,
        'findings': findings,
        'statistics': stats
if name == " main ":
    results = run_email_forensics_system()
```

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Trevisi et al. (2025)



APPENDIX B

Simple test file to demonstrate testing works

```
Simple test file to demonstrate testing works
 Tests only the SimpleEmail class
 import pytest
 from datetime import datetime
 from dataclasses import dataclass
 class SimpleEmail:
     id: str
     subject: str
     sender: str
     recipient: str
     date: datetime
     content: str
     file_path: str
     def is suspicious(self) -> bool:
         suspicious words = [
         text to check = (self.subject + " " + self.content).lower()
         return any(word in text to check for word in suspicious words)
     def is after hours(self) -> bool:
         return self.date.hour < 8 or self.date.hour > 18
     def is external(self) -> bool:
         internal_domains = ['Group-F.com', 'internal.org']
         sender_domain = self.sender.split('@')[-1] if '@' in self.sender else ''
         return sender_domain not in internal_domains
# TESTS START HERE
 def test_suspicious_email_with_urgent():
     """Test that email with 'urgent' is flagged as suspicious"""
     email = SimpleEmail(
         id="test 001",
         subject="URGENT: Verify your account",
         sender="phishing@bad.com",
```

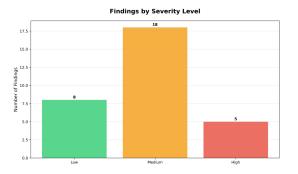
```
recipient="user@Group-F.com",
       date=datetime(2025, 1, 15, 10, 0),
       content="Please verify immediately",
       file path="test.txt"
    assert email.is suspicious() == True
   print(" \sqrt{Suspicious email detected correctly")
def test_normal_email_not_suspicious():
    """Test that normal email is NOT flagged"""
   email = SimpleEmail(
       id="test 002",
       subject="Weekly meeting agenda",
       sender="john@Group-F.com",
       recipient="team@Group-F.com",
       date=datetime(2025, 1, 15, 10, 0),
       content="Please find the agenda attached",
       file_path="test.txt"
    assert email.is suspicious() == False
   print("√ Normal email passed correctly")
def test after hours detection():
    """Test that email at 2 AM is flagged as after-hours"""
    email = SimpleEmail(
       id="test_003",
       subject="Late night email",
       sender="user@Group-F.com",
       recipient="user2@Group-F.com",
       date=datetime(2025, 1, 15, 2, 30), # 2:30 AM
       content="Working late",
       file path="test.txt"
    assert email.is_after_hours() == True
    print(" \sqrt{After-hours email detected correctly")
def test business hours not flagged():
    """Test that email at 10 AM is NOT flagged as after-hours"
    email = SimpleEmail(
```

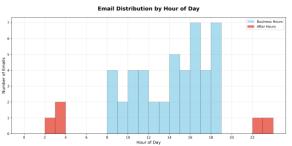
```
recipient="user2@Group-F.com",
        date=datetime(2025, 1, 15, 10, 0), # 10:00 AM
        content="Good morning",
        file path="test.txt"
    assert email.is_after_hours() == False
    print(" / Business hours email passed correctly")
def test external domain detection():
    """Test that external email is flagged"""
    email = SimpleEmail(
        id="test 005",
        subject="External email",
        sender="contact@external-company.com",
        recipient="sales@Group-F.com",
        date=datetime(2025, 1, 15, 14, 0),
        content="Business inquiry",
        file_path="test.txt"
    assert email.is_external() == True
    print("\sqrt{External email detected correctly")
def test internal domain not external():
    """Test that internal Group-F email is NOT flagged as external""
    email = SimpleEmail(
        id="test 006",
        subject="Internal email",
        sender="employee@Group-F.com",
        recipient="manager@Group-F.com",
        date=datetime(2025, 1, 15, 14, 0),
        content="Internal communication",
        file_path="test.txt"
    assert email.is external() == False
    print("√ Internal email passed correctly")
if name == " main ":
    pytest.main([__file__, "-v", "-s"])
```

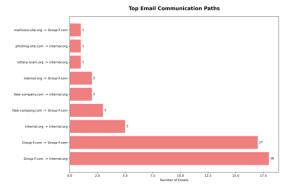


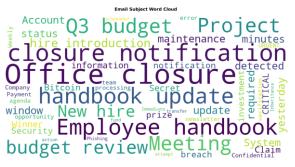
APPENDIX C

Visualizations

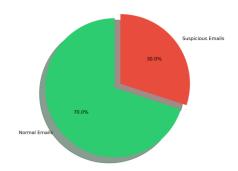


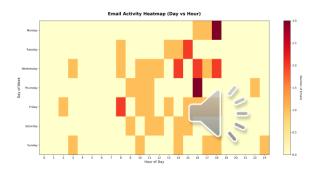






Email Distribution: Normal vs Suspicious

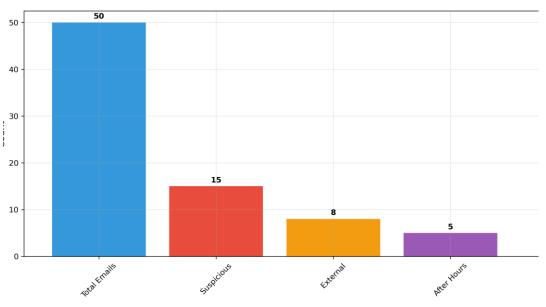




APPENDIX C

Visualizations

Email Forensics Summary Statistics



Email Activity Timeline

