

TRYHACKME ROOM = WINDOWS FORENSICS 1

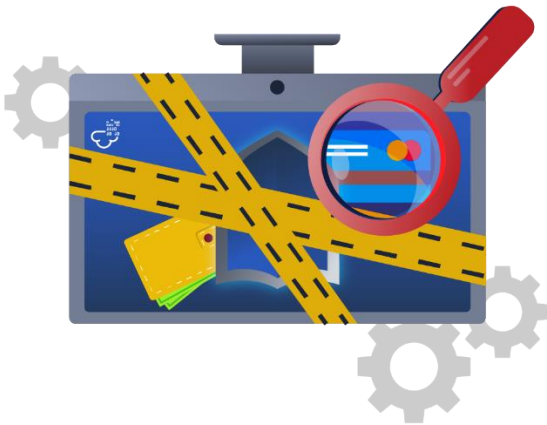
## Introduction:

This report presents the findings and analysis of the Windows Forensics 1 room from TryHackMe, which covers the fundamentals of Windows registry forensics. The Windows registry is a vital source of evidence for digital forensic investigators, containing critical information about the system and user activities.

<https://tryhackme.com/p/Damiano254>

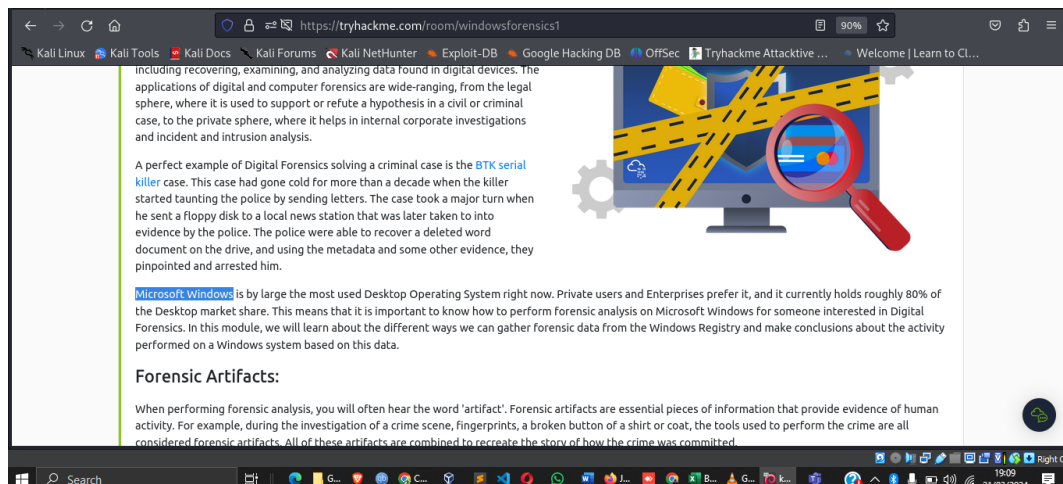
## Task 1: Introduction to Windows Forensics

- Microsoft Windows is the most widely used desktop operating system, making knowledge of Windows forensics essential for digital forensic investigations. Forensic artifacts in Windows systems are the residual evidence of human activity that can be used to recreate the actions performed on a system. Computer forensics deals with the examination of digital devices and their data for evidence in civil, criminal, or internal investigations.
- Forensic artifacts are the pieces of information that provide evidence of human activity.
- Windows forensics involves analysing the artifacts in the Windows operating system to gather evidence of activities performed on the system.



What is the most used Desktop Operating System right now?

- **Microsoft Windows**



## Task 2: Windows Registry and Forensics

- The Windows Registry is a collection of databases that stores configuration data for the Windows operating system.

- The registry consists of keys and values, where keys are the folders and values are the data stored in the keys.
- A registry hive is a single file that contains one or more keys, subkeys, and values.
- The Windows Registry Editor (regedit.exe) is a built-in Windows utility to view and edit the registry.

What is the short form for HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE?

- **HKLM**

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE	Contains configuration information particular to the computer (for any user). This key is sometimes abbreviated as <b>HKLM</b> .
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### Task 3: Accessing Registry Hives Offline

- When analysing a Windows system, forensic investigators often deal with disk images. To perform forensics on a Windows system using disk images, it is essential to know the location of the registry hives.

Path for the five main registry hives (DEFAULT, SAM, SECURITY, SOFTWARE, and SYSTEM):

- **C:\Windows\System32\Config**

If you are accessing a live system, you will be able to access the registry using regedit.exe, and you will be greeted with all of the standard root keys we learned about in the previous task. However, if you only have access to a disk image, you must know where the registry hives are located on the disk. The majority of these hives are located in the **C:\Windows\System32\Config** directory and are:

1. DEFAULT (mounted on **HKEY\_USERS\DEFAULT**)
2. SAM (mounted on **HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SAM**)
3. SECURITY (mounted on **HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Security**)
4. SOFTWARE (mounted on **HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software**)
5. SYSTEM (mounted on **HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System**)

Path for the AmCache hive:

- **C:\Windows\AppCompat\Programs\Amcache.hve**

### Task 4: Data Acquisition

- Data acquisition involves creating a copy of the system or the required data and performing analysis on that.
- KAPE, Autopsy, and FTK Imager are popular tools to acquire registry data.

Tool	Description
KAPE	A live data acquisition and analysis tool for Windows systems.
Autopsy	An open-source digital forensics platform for Windows, macOS, and Linux systems.
FTK Imager	A forensic imaging tool for Windows, macOS, and Linux systems.

### Task 5: Exploring Windows Registry

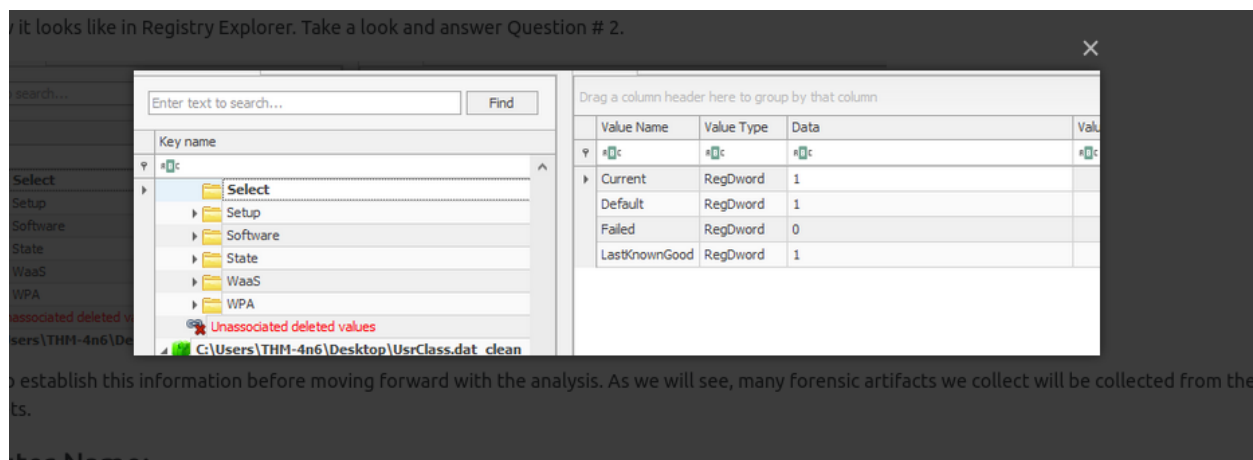
- Various tools can be used to view and analyze the Windows Registry.
- Registry Viewer, Registry Explorer, and RegRipper are popular tools to view and analyze the Windows Registry.

Tool	Description
Registry Viewer	A Windows registry viewer developed by Access Data.

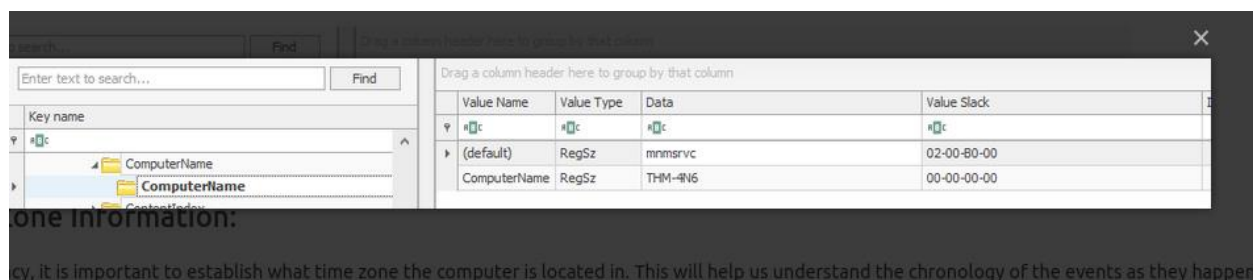
Tool	Description
Registry Explorer	A Windows registry viewer developed by Eric Zimmerman, which can load multiple hives and merge transaction logs.
RegRipper	A utility that takes a registry hive as input and outputs a report that extracts data from some of the forensically important keys and values.

### Task 6: System Information and System Accounts

- The SYSTEM hive contains the system's configuration data required for controlling system start-up.
  - The Select key (HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\Select) contains the most accurate system information.
  - The Computer Name can be found in the SYSTEM hive at HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\ComputerName\ComputerName.
- What is the Current Build Number of the machine whose data is being investigated?
    - 19044**
  - Which ControlSet contains the last known good configuration?
    - 1**



- What is the Computer Name of the computer?
  - THM-4n6**



- What is the value of the TimeZoneKeyName?
  - Pakistan Standard Time**

Here's how it looks in Registry Explorer. Take a look and answer Question # 4.

Time Zone Information is important because some data in the computer will have their timestamps in UTC/GMT and others in the local time zone. Knowledge of the local time zone helps in establishing a timeline when merging data from all the sources.

5. What is the DHCP IP address?

- **192.168.100.58**

Network Interfaces and Past Networks:

6. What is the RID of the Guest User account?

- **501**

Take a look at the below screenshot and answer Question # 6.

## Task 7: Usage or Knowledge of Files/Folders

- The Windows operating system maintains a list of recently opened files for each user.
- The SYSTEM hive contains the system's configuration data required for controlling system startup.
- Various registry keys are available to extract information about recently opened files and USB devices.

When was EZtools last accessed?

- **EZtools was last accessed on 2021-12-01 at 13:00:34.**

Extension	Value Name	Target Name	Link Name	Mru Position	Opened On	Extension Last Opened
RecentDocs	RecentDocs	EZtools	EZtools.Link	0	2021-12-01 13:06:34	
RecentDocs	RecentDocs	Settings	Settings.Link	1		2021-11-30 10:56:23
RecentDocs	RecentDocs	WallpaperSettings.xml	WallpaperSettings.Link	2		2021-11-30 10:56:21
RecentDocs	RecentDocs	System and Security	System and Security.Link	3		
RecentDocs	RecentDocs	System and Security	System.Link	4		
RecentDocs	RecentDocs	KAPE	KAPE.Link	5		
RecentDocs	RecentDocs	Get-KAPEUpdate.ps1	Get-KAPEUpdate.Link	6		2021-11-24 18:18:48
RecentDocs	RecentDocs	Changelog.txt	Changelog.Link	7		2021-11-24 18:18:48
Folder	Folder	Settings	Settings.Link	0	2021-11-30 10:56:23	
Folder	Folder	System and Security	System and Security.Link	1		
Folder	Folder	KAPE	KAPE.Link	2		
.xml	.xml	WallpaperSettings.xml	WallpaperSettings.Link	0	2021-11-30 10:56:21	
.txt	.txt	Changelog.txt	Changelog.Link	0	2021-11-24 18:18:48	
.ps1	.ps1	Get-KAPEUpdate.ps1	Get-KAPEUpdate.Link	0	2021-11-24 18:18:48	

When was My Computer last interacted with?

- **My computer was last interacted with on 2021-12-01 at 13:06:47.**

Value	Icon	Shell Type	MRU Posi...	Created On	Modified On	Accessed On	First Interacted	Last Interacted	Has Explored	Miscellaneous
My Computer	No im...	Root folder: GUID	0	2021-11-25 03:34:14	2021-11-25 03:34:14	2021-11-25 03:34:14		2021-12-01 13:06:47	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
KAPE	Directory	Root folder: GUID	1	2021-11-25 03:34:14	2021-11-25 03:34:14	2021-11-25 03:34:14		2021-11-24 18:20:02	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NTPS file system
Search Folder	Users property view	Users property view	3				2021-11-30 11:08:01		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Search Folder	Users property view	Users property view	4				2021-11-30 11:08:52		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Control Panel	Root folder: GUID	Root folder: GUID	5						<input type="checkbox"/>	
E:\	Users property view: Drive letter	Users property view: Drive letter	6				2021-11-24 18:20:02		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

What is the absolute path of the file opened using notepad.exe?

- **Absolute Path: C:\Program Files\Amazon\Ec2ConfigService\Settings**

Value Name	Mru Position	Executable	Absolute Path	Opened On
notepad.exe	0	notepad.exe	My Computer\Program Files\Amazon\Ec2ConfigService\Settings	2021-11-30 10:56:19

- **File Opened: Using notepad.exe**

Value Name	Mru Position	Executable	Absolute Path	Opened On
notepad.exe	0	notepad.exe	My Computer\Program Files\Amazon\Ec2ConfigService\Settings	2021-11-30 10:56:19

- **Access Time: 2021-11-30 at 10:56:19**

Value Name	Mru Position	Executable	Absolute Path	Opened On
notepad.exe	0	notepad.exe	My Computer\Program Files\Amazon\Ec2ConfigService\Settings	2021-11-30 10:56:19

**Task 8 Evidence of Execution**



1. User Assist: Tracks programs launched by users via Windows Explorer.
2. ShimCache: Stores data about all launched applications for OS compatibility.
3. AmCache: Similar to ShimCache, but with additional data like execution paths and SHA1 hashes.
4. BAM/DAM: Monitor background application activity, recording last run programs and execution times.

How many times was File Explorer launched?

- **File Explorer was launched 26 times.**

Program Name	Run Counter	Process Count	Process Time	Last Executed
File Explorer	26	0	0	2023-11-29 09:14:34
...	...	...	...	...

What is another name for ShimCache?

- **Another name for ShimCache is AppCompatCache.**

#### ShimCache:

ShimCache is a mechanism used to keep track of application compatibility with the OS and tracks all applications launched on the machine. Its main purpose in Windows is to ensure backward compatibility of applications. It is also called Application Compatibility Cache ([AppCompatCache](#)). It is located in the following location in the SYSTEM hive:

Which artifact also saves SHA1 hashes of the executed programs?

- **The artifact that also saves SHA1 hashes of executed programs is AmCache.**

#### AmCache:

The AmCache hive is an artifact related to ShimCache. This performs a similar function to ShimCache, and stores additional data related to program executions. This data includes execution path, installation, execution and deletion times, and SHA1 hashes of the executed programs. This hive is located in the file system at:

`C:\Windows\appcompat\Programs\Amcache.hve`

Information about the last executed programs can be found at the following location in the hive:

Which artifact saves the full path of executed programs?

- **BAM/DAM saves the full path of executed programs.**

Program Name	Execution Time
File Explorer	2023-11-29 09:14:34
...	...

## Task 9: External Devices/USB Device Forensics

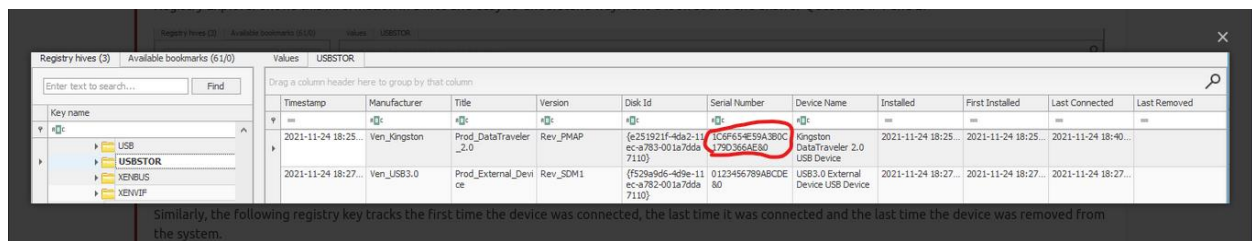
- Windows maintains various registry keys to extract information about connected devices.
- The USBSTOR key in the SYSTEM hive can be used to extract information about USB devices.

SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Enum\USBSTOR	Stores information about the USB devices plugged into a system. The key contains subkeys for each USB device, which can be used to identify unique devices.
SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Enum\USB	Stores information about the USB controllers on the system. The key contains subkeys for each USB

	controller, which can be used to identify the device and its settings.
SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows	Portable Devices\Devices Stores information about the external devices connected to the system. The key contains subkeys for each device, which can be used to identify the device and its properties.

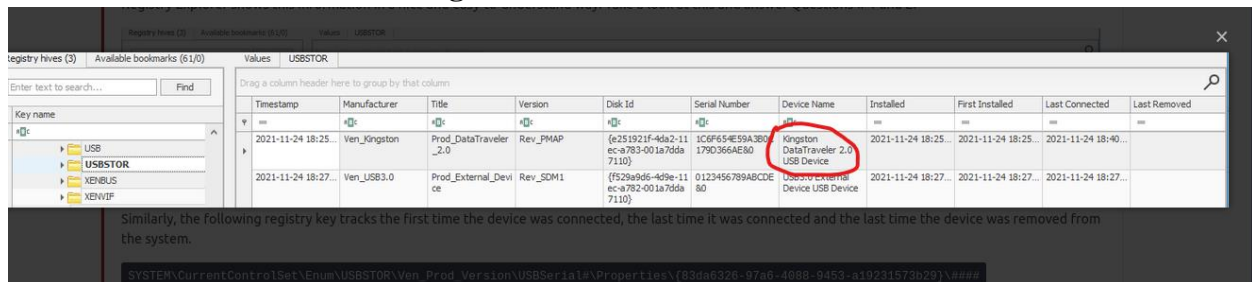
1. What is the serial number of the device from the manufacturer 'Kingston'?

- **Serial Number: 1C6f654E59A3B0C179D366AE&0**



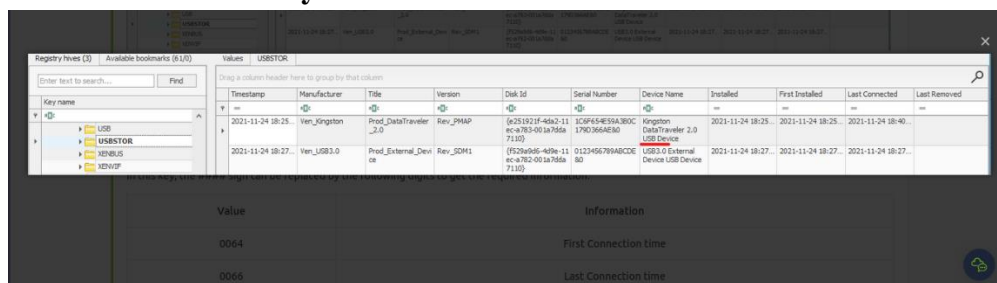
2. What is the name of this device?

- **Device Name: Kingston Data Traveler 2.0 USB Device**



3. What is the friendly name of the device from the manufacturer 'Kingston'?

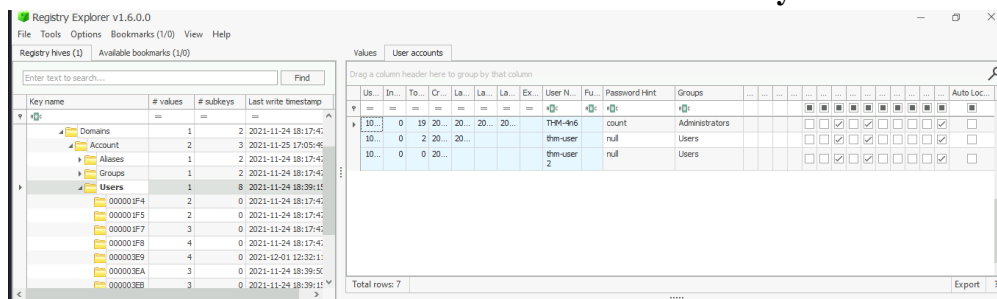
- **Friendly Name: USB**



## Task 10: Hands-on Challenge

1. How many user-created accounts are present on the system?

- **There are 3 user-created accounts on the system.**

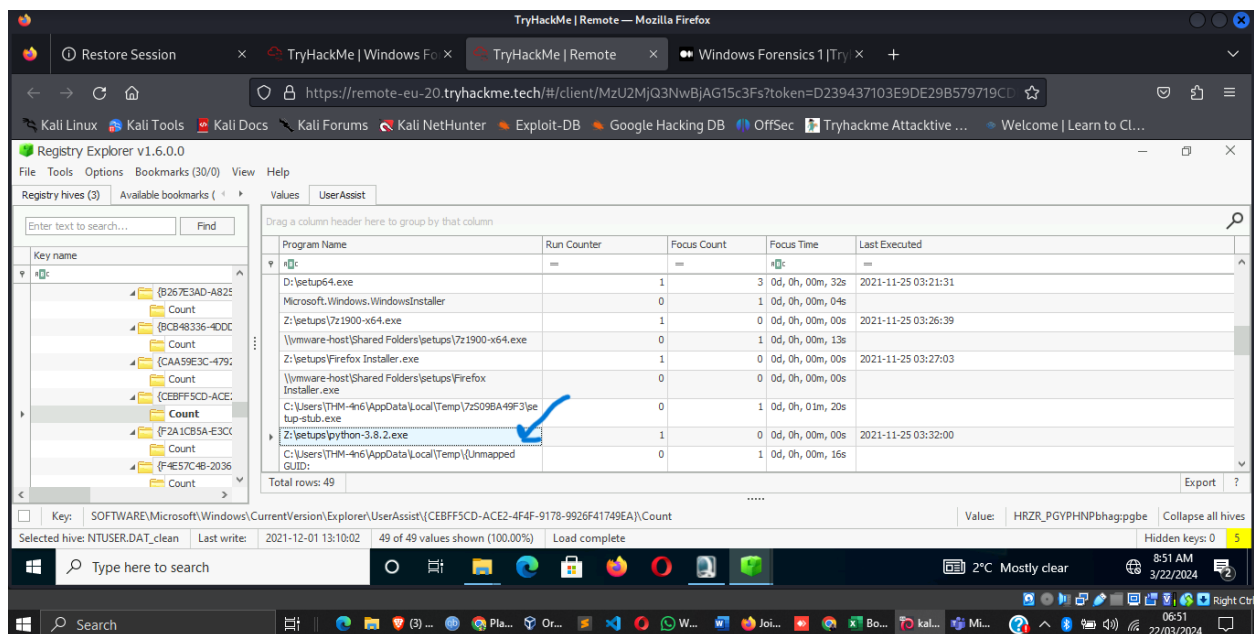


2. What is the username of the account that has never been logged in?

- **The username of the account that has never been logged in is 'thm-user2'.**

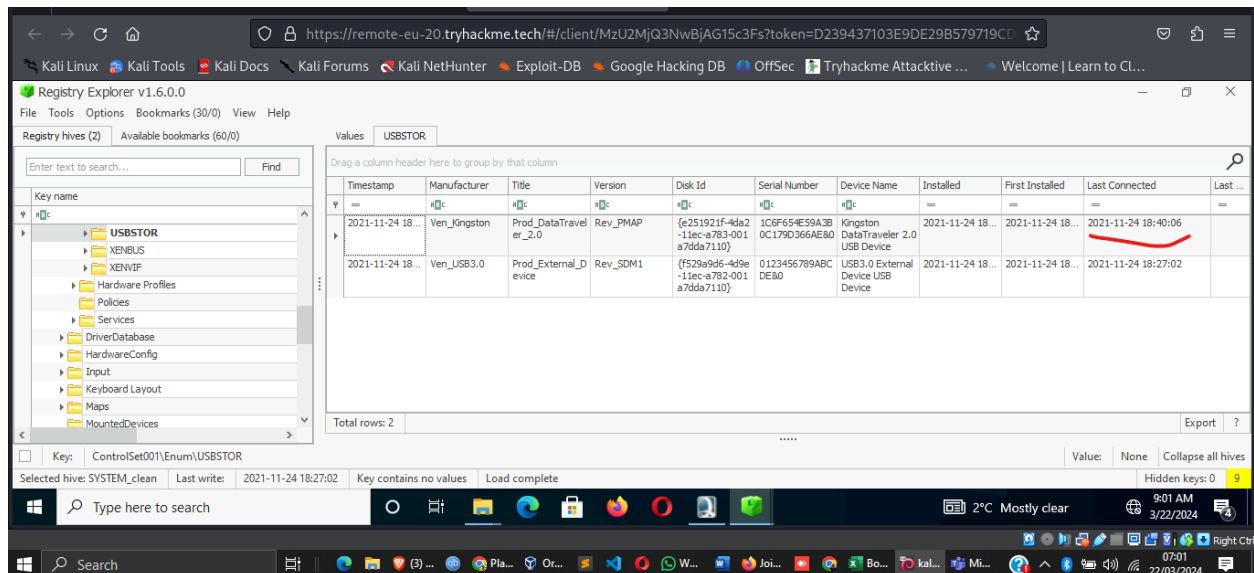


- **Complete Path: Z:\setups\python-3.8.2.exe**



6. When was the USB device with the friendly name 'USB' last connected?

- The USB device with the friendly name 'USB' was last connected on 2021-11-24 at 18:40:06.



## Conclusion:

In conclusion, understanding the Windows registry and its importance in forensic investigations is crucial for digital forensic experts. The Windows Forensics 1 room has provided an insightful examination of Windows registry forensics, covering the structure of the Windows registry, accessing registry hives offline, system and user account information, and registry analysis. By understanding the concepts discussed, investigators can extract valuable information from Windows-based systems to aid in their investigations.

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