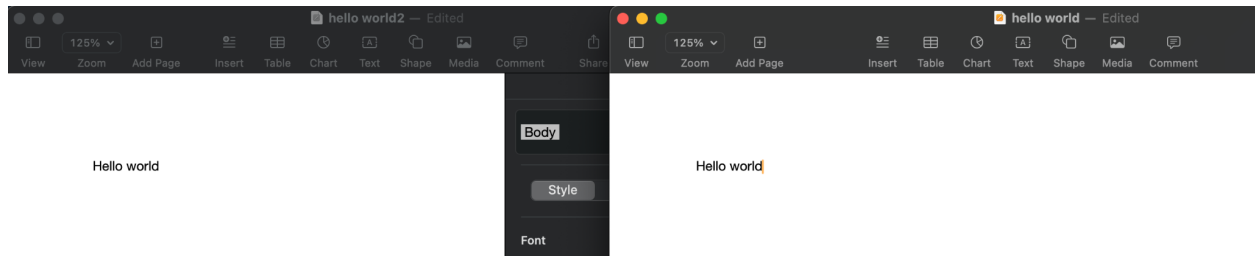


Hashing with Bash

Project description

This project required me to use Linux bash commands in a CLI environment in order to determine data integrity through hashing as it relates to the security triad---Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability. SHA-256 hashes were generated from two files in order to determine if the files had been tampered with.

File Comparison

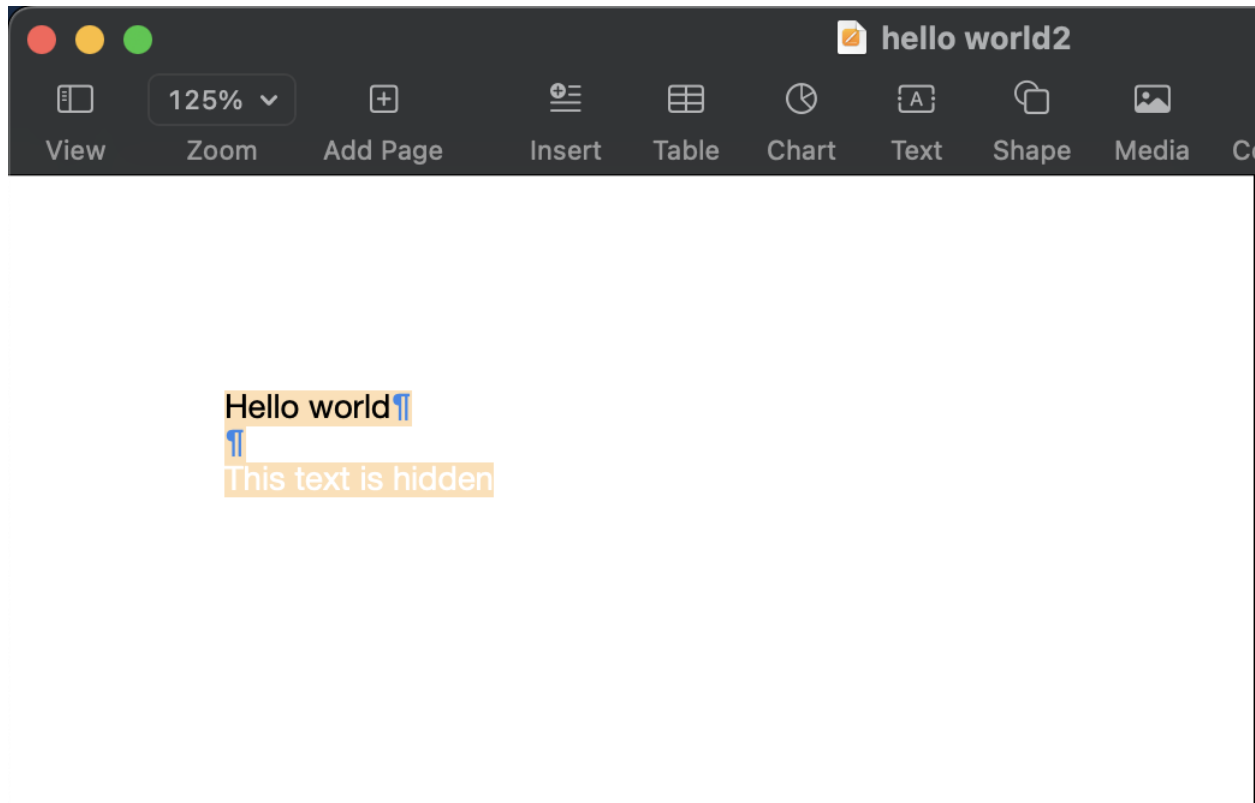


The two files are visually indistinguishable from one another. At first glance, a person could assume no data has been corrupted/deleted or manipulated in any way in the copied file (hello world2). However, let's inspect these two files deeper in the terminal.

Generating Hashes, Data Integrity, and Analysis

```
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % ls
$RECYCLE.BIN      desktop.ini      hello world2.pages
Thumbs.db         hello world.pages  temp folder
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % shasum -a 256 'hello world.pages'
4b3a7213265ca0cb6870ed94982a6759a9f5db742531b8d0e5654ef164833a79  hello world.pages
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % shasum -a 256 'hello world2.pages'
e4222d40be50d46a076bd605348727fcb4edf260d6a48a05cd16b7e3b0e77afb  hello world2.pages
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % shasum -a 256 'hello world.pages' >> file1hash
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % shasum -a 256 'hello world2.pages' >> file2hash
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % ls
$RECYCLE.BIN      desktop.ini      file2hash      hello world2.pages
Thumbs.db         file1hash       hello world.pages  temp folder
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % cmp file1hash file2hash
file1hash file2hash differ: char 1, line 1
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % cat file1hash
4b3a7213265ca0cb6870ed94982a6759a9f5db742531b8d0e5654ef164833a79  hello world.pages
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop % cat file2hash
e4222d40be50d46a076bd605348727fcb4edf260d6a48a05cd16b7e3b0e77afb  hello world2.pages
giovannimartinez@Giovannis-MacBook-Pro Desktop %
```

Using my knowledge of bash, I was able to inspect the two files on a deeper level than just visually. I used the **shasum** command in order to generate SHA256 hashes for both files and compare the hashes. If the copied file had maintained file integrity, both of the generated hashes should be identical. After generating the hashes, I use the simple **cat** command in order to reveal the file contents of the newly generated files (file1hash & file2hash) that contained the hashes. Although we can visually see they don't match, I nonetheless used the **cmp** command to compare the contents of the two files. From my gatherings, we can see that hello world2 did NOT maintain file integrity.



As we can see here. There did appear to be some corruption in the file.

Summary

As a security analyst, implementing effective security controls against diverse threats is crucial. Hashing plays a pivotal role in this context, utilizing hash functions—algorithms generating codes that can't be reversed—to uniquely identify file contents. These hash values act as distinct identifiers, allowing detection of file alterations. For instance, when a malicious program differs even slightly from an original, it generates a unique hash value, aiding security teams in pinpointing and addressing potential risks. While numerous tools exist to compare hashes in various scenarios, understanding how to manually compare hashes using Linux commands is essential for security analysts. This lab activity involved creating hash values for two files and utilizing Linux commands to manually inspect and discern the differences between them.

