Spotlight is a MAC OS image forensics challenge where you can evaluate your DFIR skills against an OS you usually encounter in today's case investigations as a security blue team member.

What version of macOS is running on this image?

I asked the ChatGPT where can I find the version and he told me to navigate to the path "macOS Catalina [volume_4]\root\System\Library\CoreServices\SystemVersion.plist"

Then I opened the file with Notepad++ and saw the version

Answer: 10.15

 $Task\ 2: \\ What "competitive advantage" did\ Hansel\ lie\ about\ in\ the\ file\ Another \textit{Example.jpg?}\ (two\ words)$

I checked the image inside "macOS Catalina - Data [volume_0]\root\Users\Shared" and saw that there is an iPhone picture



 $Then \ I \ saw \ another \ file \ "secret" \ and \ I \ opened \ it \ and \ saw \ something \ with \ "flip \ phone" \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ and \ saw \ something \ with \ "flip \ phone" \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ and \ saw \ something \ with \ "flip \ phone" \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ and \ saw \ something \ with \ "flip \ phone" \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ and \ saw \ something \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ and \ saw \ something \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ saw \ something \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ saw \ something \ which \ saw \ something \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ saw \ something \ which \ saw \ something \ which \ is \ a \ lie \ saw \ something \ which \ saw \ something \ saw \ something \ saw \ something \ which \ saw \ something \ saw \ sowething \ saw \ sowethin$

!Our newest phone will have helicopter blades and six cameras and <"flip phone"> technology!

Answer: flip phone

Task 3: How many bookmarks are registered in safari?

I checked the "macOS Catalina - Data [volume_0]\root\\Jsers\\nansel.apricot\\Librar\\Safari" and found a file Bookmarks.plist, I used strings on this file and saw several of websites and then I count them.

```
i- >_
CONDOMA-GEAF-4882-801A-88082C1D0EF5
https://www.google.com/?cllent-safari&channel=mac_bm
google
BD E
FUNDED - BNB7-4102-8008-6C3424E1DE8A
ttps://www.wikipedia.org/
FVWikipedia
FYWIRIPEDIA
IK L_
E94031ED-C26E-4F6E-A240-FFC93A7EFFF5
ttps://www.facebook.com/
MXFacebook
maracebook
PR 5_
D6E4766A-5185-4549-935D-02259E58D28C
https://twitter.com/
TWTwitter
'MTMILTER'
WY Z
4FAZBD44-E62E-48D5-98C8-FFD97EDF6F38
ttps://www.linkedin.com/
[KLinkedIn
   ' a_
7CA701A-896D-4655-A50C-87EB3E91CBCD
tos://www.weather.com/
```

- https://www.apple.com/ (Apple)
 https://www.apple.com/ (Apple)
 https://www.icloud.com/ (ICloud)
 https://www.walthec.com/ (Ithe Weather Channel)
 https://www.weathec.com/ (Ithe Weather Channel)
 https://www.weathec.com/ (Icloud)
 https://www.velan.com/ (Icloud)

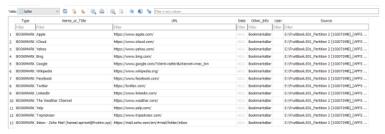
There is also another way to parse the Bookmarks.plist with the tool "mac_apt_artifact_only.exe" with the command:

 $\label{lem:convex} $$ "C-Users \mathbb{B}_{p} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{$

rvisinble (start only exe -t Safari -i "E:\FruitBook.E81_Partition 2 [182873M8]_[APFS Container] (5_5) [APFS]\macOS Catalina - Data [volume_8]\root\Users\hansel.apricot\Library\Safari\Bookmarks.plist" -o C:\Users\Bubble\Desktop\New NWO-Started macOS Artifact Parsing Tool - Artifact Only mode, version 1.7.5.dev (28248511) NRO-Dates and times are in UTC unless the specific artifact being parsed saves it as local time! INFO INFO-Running plugin SAFARI INFO SAFARI-INFO-Module Started as standalone 70. - On-finished in time = 00:00:00 FO-Finished in time = 00:00:00 FO-Review the Log file and report any ERRORs or EXCEPTIONS to the developers.

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Log.20240919-120847.txt	9/19/2024 5:08 AM	Text Document	1 KB
mac_apt.db	9/19/2024 5:08 AM	Data Base File	8 KB
Safari.tsv	9/19/2024 5:08 AM	TSV File	6 KB

Then we can open the db file with SQL DB Browser



Task 4: What's the content of the note titled "Passwords"?

 $I checked the hint for which path I should look for and I went to "root \Users \hansel.apricot \Library \Group Containers \group.com.apple.notes" and the file containing the notes is NoteStore.sqlite$

I opened the file with DB Browser for SQLite and checked the tables until I found something with

I didn't find anything else besides this so I assumed the answer is Passwords

ZSNIPPET	ZTHUMBNAILATTACHMENTIDENTIFIER	ZTITLE1	ZACCOUNTNAMEFORACCOUNTLISTSORTING
Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter
NULL	NULL	New Note	NULL
NULL	NULL	NULL	3_On My Mac
NULL	NULL	NULL	3_On My Mac
NULL	NULL	NULL	3_On My Mac
Find way of getting more money	NULL	Pay bills	NULL
Get 2nd job no to much	NULL	Ideas for work	NULL
	NULL	Passwords	NULL
That's a good amount of money they're offering.	NULL	555-0123	NULL

Answer: Passwords

Task 5: Provide the MAC address of the ethernet adapter for this machine

I checked the var\log and noticed a pcap file, I opened it with Notepad and saw a MAC address

CDI	S.custom		3/1/2020 10:40	AM	CUSTON	/I File	11	Œ
🛅 dail	y.out		4/19/2020 4:53	PM	Wiresha	rk capture	41	Œ
Netwo	rk int	erface status	:					
Name		Mtu Network	Address		Ipkts	Ierrs	Opkts Oc	errs Coll
100	16384	<link#1></link#1>		1072		1072	. 0	0
100	16384	127	localhost	1072	-	1072	-	-
100	16384	localhost	::1	1072	-	1072	-	-
100	16384	fe80::1%100	fe80:1::1	1072	-	1072	-	-
gif0*	1280	<link#2></link#2>		0			0	0
stf0*	1280	<link#3></link#3>		0			0	0
en0	1500	<link#4></link#4>	00:0c:29:c4:65:77	372733		73025	0	0
en0	1500	fe80::8c8:8	fe80:4::8c8:87c2:	372733	-	73025	-	-
en0	1500	184.171.151/	2 stu-181-151-171	372733	-	73025	-	-
utun0	1380	<link#5></link#5>		0		. 2	0	0
utun0	1380	fe80::8375:	fe80:5::8375:3ebe	0	-	. 2	-	-
utunl	2000	<link#6></link#6>		0			0	0
utunl	2000	fe80::feea:	fe80:6::feea:9530	0			-	-

Answer: 00:0c:29:c4:65:77

Task 6:

Name the data URL of the guarantined item.

I asked the ChatGPT where is the path to see the guarantine items

~/Library/Preferences/com.apple.LaunchServices.QuarantineEventsV2 file. It records information about files that were downloaded from the internet or transferred via AirDrop, among other sources.

So I searched on all the folder for preferences and found the folder under root\Users\sneaky\Library\Preferences\com.apple.LaunchServices.QuarantineEventsV2

I tried to parse it with mac_apt but the file output was 0kb so I used strings on it and found the URL

```
:\Users\Bubble\Desktop
strings "E:\FruitBook.E89 Partition 2 [182871MB]_[APFS Container] (5_5) [APFS]\macOS Catalina - Data [volume_8]\roc
Users\tnask\ullibrary\Preferences\com.apple.LaunchServices.QuarantineEventsV2*
.4
.indexiSQuarantineTimeStampIndexiSQuarantineEvent
.IndexiSQuarantineTimeStampIndexiSQuarantineEvent ( LSQuarantineTimeStamp )
AlmdexiSQuarantineFeventindexiSQuarantineEvent
.IndexiSQuarantineEventindexiSQuarantineEvent
.IndexiSQuarantineEventindexiSQuarantineEvent
.IndexiSQuarantineEventindexiOquarantineEvent
.IndexiSQuarantineEventindexiOquarantineEvent
.IndexiSQuarantineEventSQuarantineEvent
.IndexiSQuarantineEvent
.IndexiSQuaran
```

Answer: https://futureboy.us/stegano/encode.pl

What app did the user "sneaky" try to install via a .dmg file? (one word)

E:\FruitBook.E01_Partition 2 [102071MB]_(AFFS Container] (5_5) [AFFS]\macOS Catalina - Data [volume_0]\root\Users\sneaky\.zsh_history (2 hits)
Line 1: hdiutil sount silentey=0.4:lb-snowleepard.dmg
Line 1: hdiutil jeets silentey=0.4:lb-snowleepard.dmg

What was the file 'Examplesteg.ipg' renamed to?

Naser*\Bubble\Desktop

mac_apt_artifact_only.exe -t FSEVENTS -i "E\\FruitBook.E01_Partition 2 [102071MB]_[APFS Container] (5_5) [APFS]\macOS Catalina - Data [volume_0]\root\.fseventsd" -o C:\Users\Bubble\Desktop\FSEventsOutput

muture that has a C.Users\Bubble\Desktop\FSEventsOutput

muture that the second of the secon NH-O:-NHO-Finished in time - 00:00:05 NHO-Review the Log file and report any ERRORs or EXCEPTIONS to the developers

LogID	EventFlagsHex	EventType	Event/ lags	Filepath	File_ID	Log_Unknown	SourceModDate +1
Fiter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Fiber	Riber
00000000000951CD8	01000184	Folder	InodeMetaMod FolderCreated PermissionChange	Users/sneeky/Downloads	12885032683	NULL	2020-04-20 02:04:02.50519
000000000009518C0	00800100	File	Created InodeMetaMod RenamedOrMoved PermissionChange	Users/sneaky/Downloads/.BC.T_yoVsRe	12885032684	MARI	2020-04-20 02:04:02.50519
0000000000951CDE	0080010C	File	InodeMetaMod RenamedOrMoved PermissionChange	Users/sneeky/Downloads/.localized	12885032684	NULL	2020-04-20 02:04:02.50519
0000000000096977D	00800208	File	RenamedOrMoved XAttrModified	Users/sneaky/Downloads/silenteye-0.4.1b-snowleopard.dmg	12885040641	MULL	2020-04-20 02:39:45.02493
00000000000968A06	01000286	Folder	Removed InodeMetaMod FolderCreated XAttrModified	Users/sneaky/Downloads/silenteye-0.4.1b-snowleoperd.dmg.download	12885040639	NULL	2020-04-20 02:39:45.02493
00000000009689ED	A0000800	File	Removed RenamedOrMoved	Users/sneaky/Downloads/silenteye-0.4.1b-snowleopard.dmg.download/Info.plist	12885040643	NULL	2020-04-20 02:39:45.02493
000000000009689F0	00800219	File	Created RenamedOrMoved Modified XAttrModified	Users/sneaky/Downloads/silenteye-0.4.1b-snowleopard.dmg.download/silenteye-0.4.1b-snowleopard.dmg	12885040641	AUEL	2020-04-20 02:39:45.02493
000000000096803E	01000282	Folder	Removed FolderCreated XAttrModified	Users/sneaky/Downloads/steghide-0.5.1-win32.zip.download	12885040515	NULL	2020-04-20 02:39:45.02493
0000000000096E806	00800055	File	Created InodeMetaMod Modified FinderInfoMod	Users/sneaky/Downloads/.DS_Store	12885042140	NULL	2020-04-20 02:53:25.28882
000000000096E78F	00800008	File	RenamedOrMoved	Users/sneaky/Downloads/silenteye-0.4.1b-snowleopard.dmg	12885040641	NULL	2020-04-20 02:53:25.28882
0000000000097A074	00800014	File	InodeNetaMod Modified	Users/sneaky/Downloads/.DS_Store	12885042140	NULL	2020-04-20 03:19:45.13522
0000000000976AA9	00800008	File	RenamedOrMoved	Users/sneaky/Downloads/Example.jpg	12885043806	NULL	2020-04-20 03:19:45.13522
0000000000976761	00800208	File	RenamedOrMoved XAttrModified	Users/sneaky/Downloads/Examplesteg.jpg	12885043806	NULL	2020-04-20 03:19:45.13522
0000000000976359	01000286	Folder	Removed InodeMetaMod FolderCreated XAttrModified	Users/sneaky/Downloads/Examplesteg.jpg.download	12885043803	NULL	2020-04-20 03:19:45.13522
0000000000976355	00800219	File	Created RenamedOrMoved Modified XAttrModified	Users/sneeky/Downloads/Examplesteg.jpg.download/Examplesteg.jpg	12885043806	NULL	2020-04-20 03:19:45.13522
00000000000976352	A0000800	File	Removed RenzmedOrMoved	Users/sneaky/bownloads/Examplesteg.jpg.download/Info.plist	12885043808	NULL	2020-04-20 03:19:45.13522
0000000000976AD0	00800008	File	RenamedOrMoved	Users/sneeky/Downloads/GoodExample.jpg	12885043806	NULL	2020-04-20 03:19:45.13522

Then I searched for the user sneaky Downloads and filtered by timestamp and I saw the Examplesteg.jpg is in the same time with GoodExample.jpg

Answer: GoodExample.jpg

Task 9: How much time was spent on mail.zoho.com on 4/20/2020?

I asked ChatGPT where can I see this information and he said it should be "\root\private\var \folders" inside the file "RMAdminStore-Local.sqlite"

I used mac apt to parse the data

C:\Waers\Bubble\Desktop

A mac_apt_artifact_only_see -t SCREENTIME -i C:\Users\Bubble\Desktop\Store\BMAdminStore-Local.sqlite -o C:\Users\Bubble\Desktop\Screentime

OUTput path was : C:\Users\Bubble\Desktop\Screentime

RAIN-INFO-Started macOS Artifact Parsing Tool - Artifact Only mode, version 1.7.5.dev (20240511)

RAIN-INFO-Dess and times are in UTC unless the specific artifact being parsed saves it as local time!

RAIN-INFO-MANI-INFO-Bunning plugin SCREENTIME

RAIN-INFO-MANI-INFO-HOdule Started as standslone

RAIN-SCREENTIME-INFO-Hodule Started as standslone

RAIN-SCREENTIME-INFO-Processing file C:\Users\Bubble\Desktop\Store\RMAdminStore-Local.sqlite

Then I opened it with DB Browser and searched for mail.zoho.com I saw 2 events in $4/20\,so$ I calculate both times

Application	Total_Time	Start_Date	End_Date
Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter
mail.zoho.com	00:01:07	2020-04-12 17:00:00	2020-04-12 18:00:00
mail.zoho.com	00:00:31	2020-04-12 18:00:00	2020-04-12 18:21:46
mail.zoho.com	00:04:34	2020-04-20 01:00:00	2020-04-20 01:50:21
mail zobo com	00:16:24	2020-04-20 02:00:00	2020-04-20 02:26:22

Answer: 20:58

Task 10: What's hansel.apricot's password hint? (two words)

Lasked the ChatGPT what is the location for it

3. Property List Files:

macOS often stores password hints in _plist_files. A possible location for password hints could be /var/db/dslocal/nodes/Default/users/hansel.apricot.plist .

You can extract and open these files using plut11 or a tool like mac_apt.

daemon.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KB
hansel.apricot.plist	4/19/2020 6:50 PM	PLIST File	775 KB

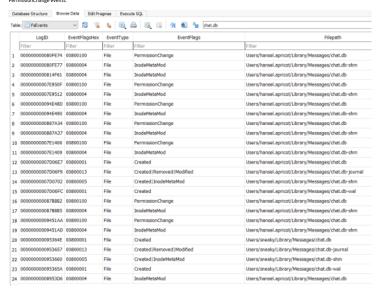
I tried to use the mac_apt on the file but I didn't find a plugin that worked so I used strings and analyzed it until I found the answer

DOB
**Mansel Apricot
**Family Opinion
**Thansel apricot
**Chansel apricot
**pilist00
**RP-RFCS954-4096-SHAS12-P0KDF2_
**ALTED.SHAS12-D0KDF2
**Chantel Chantel Committee Committe

Answer: Family Opinion

Task 11: The main file that stores Hansel's iMessages had a few permissions changes. How many times did the permissions change?

I checked the fsevents output from task 8 and searched for chat.db and then I counted all the PermissionChange events.



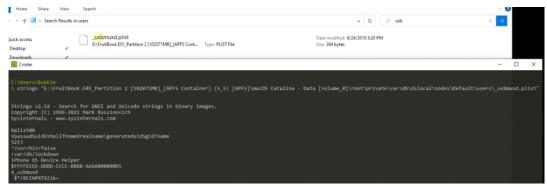
Answer: 7

The main file that stores Hansel's iMessages had a few permissions changes. How many times did the permissions change?

I asked ChatGPT about this task and he told me about usbmuxd which is "The usbmuxd service (USB multiplexing daemon) manages connections to iOS devices.

Each user in macOS typically has a User ID (UID), and it looks like the user associated with mobile device updates in this case has the hostname or user prefix stu. To find the UID of the user responsible for connecting mobile devices, you would need to match this stu-user with their UID. You can do this by searching the user database, likely found in: /etc/passed Or within user account metadata in /var/db/dslocal/nodes/Default/users/

Inside the users folder I searched for the usbmuxd and found a file and I used strings on it



Then I assumed the UID is 213

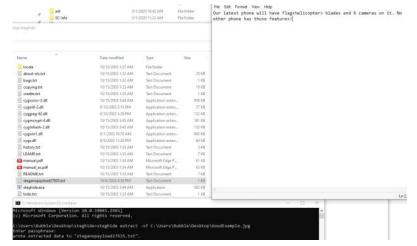
Answer: 213

Task 13: Find the flag in the GoodExample.jpg image. It's hidden with better tools.

I asked the ChatGPT what tool can help me with this and he told me to use Steghide and then to use

steehide extract -sf "filename.xxx"

When I used the command, I asked to enter a password and because I didn't had it I just pressed enter and a txt file was created "steanopayload 27635.txt" when I opened the file I saw <helicopterand I assumed this is the flag



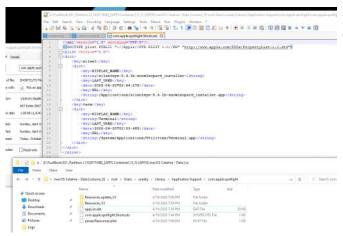
Answer: helicopter

Task 14: What was exactly typed in the Spotlight search bar on 4/20/2020 02:09:48

I asked ChatGPT where can I find the answer for this task



I navigated to the user sneaky and then I opened the file com.apple.spotlight.Shortcuts with Notepad++ and found the flag



Answer: term

Task 15: What is hansel.apricot's Open Directory user UUID?

I asked ChatGPT where can I find the answer for this task

Inside the directory I found hansel.apricot file

	Name.	Date modified	Type	Size
		B/24/2019-3:20 PW	PUBLINE	1 KE
#		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
je.		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
1		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
.0	netstatistics.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1-KB
	networkd.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
Svr) (Z:)	nsurlsessiond.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	_nsurlstoraged.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	_ondemand.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	postgres.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	qtss.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1.KE
		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 K2
		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	_screensaver.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PL/ST File	1 KE
		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1.63
	securityagent.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLISTFile	1 K3
	_softwareupdate.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1.63
	_spotlight.plist	9/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 K3
(E)	sshd.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 K3
Pertition 2 I10	syn.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	taskgated.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
Svr) (Z:)	_teamsserver.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
(E:)	timed.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
artition 2 (1020	1 timezone.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	1 tokend.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
		8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	_unknown.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	update sharing plist	B/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	usbmuxd.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	uucp.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	warmd.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	_webauthserver.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 KE
	windowserver.plist	B/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File.	1 KE
	www.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1 K3
	www.proxy.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLISTFile	110
	xserverdocs.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1.0
	daemon.plist	8/24/2019 3:20 PM	PLIST File	1.10
	hansel.apricot.plist	4/19/2020 6:50 PM	PLISTFILE	775 KE

I used strings on the file and found the flag

```
giRCc:SMA1.60A5A0FBAFBC350DASF6FEC9E32BC291E1CBE64hamsel.apricotor
rel
leg
gi*
k81
gircc:SHA1.60A5A0FBAF3C358DASF6FEC9E332BC291E1CBE64hamsel.apricot
DS5691
F*hamsel.apricot
DS5691
F*hamsel.apricot
SS58B04259-4FS8-4FDE-BC67-C26S9BABA564
1R20
N*hamsel.apricot
N*hamsel.apricot
```

Answer: \$5BB00259-4F58-4FDE-BC67-C2659BA0A5A4