Df Forensics documentation

This document contains full documentation of steps including images for the forensic investigation. Tools used include TestDisk, Autopsy and BinWalk. The investigation will be conducted in multiple stages,
firstly image acquisition of the storage device must be processed for analysis and preservation of original evidence file. Followed by analysis using autopsy and Binwalk; this section would cover timeline analysis, metadata extraction, file carving and data acquisition. Lastly report documentation will be consolidated with the evidences and logs obtained from the previous 2 steps.

Task

Simulate a forensic investigation using open source tools.

- show understanding of work presented

- explain the purpose, function and analysis of work presented

Case study & File setup

Malicious USB stick was identified in a corporate environment, prompting a forensic investigation.
To setup this environment, the following was used:

- SanDisk 3.2Gen 1 USB
- Python script
- A deleted extension renamed txt file
- Hidden txt file
- Standard txt file
- Steno encoded jpeg
- Mp4 video

Image Acquisition

In digital forensics, "image acquisition" refers to the process of creating a complete, bit-for-bit copy of a digital storage device, capturing all data including active files, deleted files, and unallocated space

TestDisk

TestDisk is a robust, open-source data recovery tool designed to recover lost partitions and restore non-booting disks to a functional state, making it a valuable tool for forensic investigations

In this analysis, we will utilize TestDisk to perform disk imaging and verify the integrity of partition structures, ensuring that the recovered evidence remains accurate and reliable.

Installation of testdisk (Debian-based distribution)

In case of outdated/broken dependencies

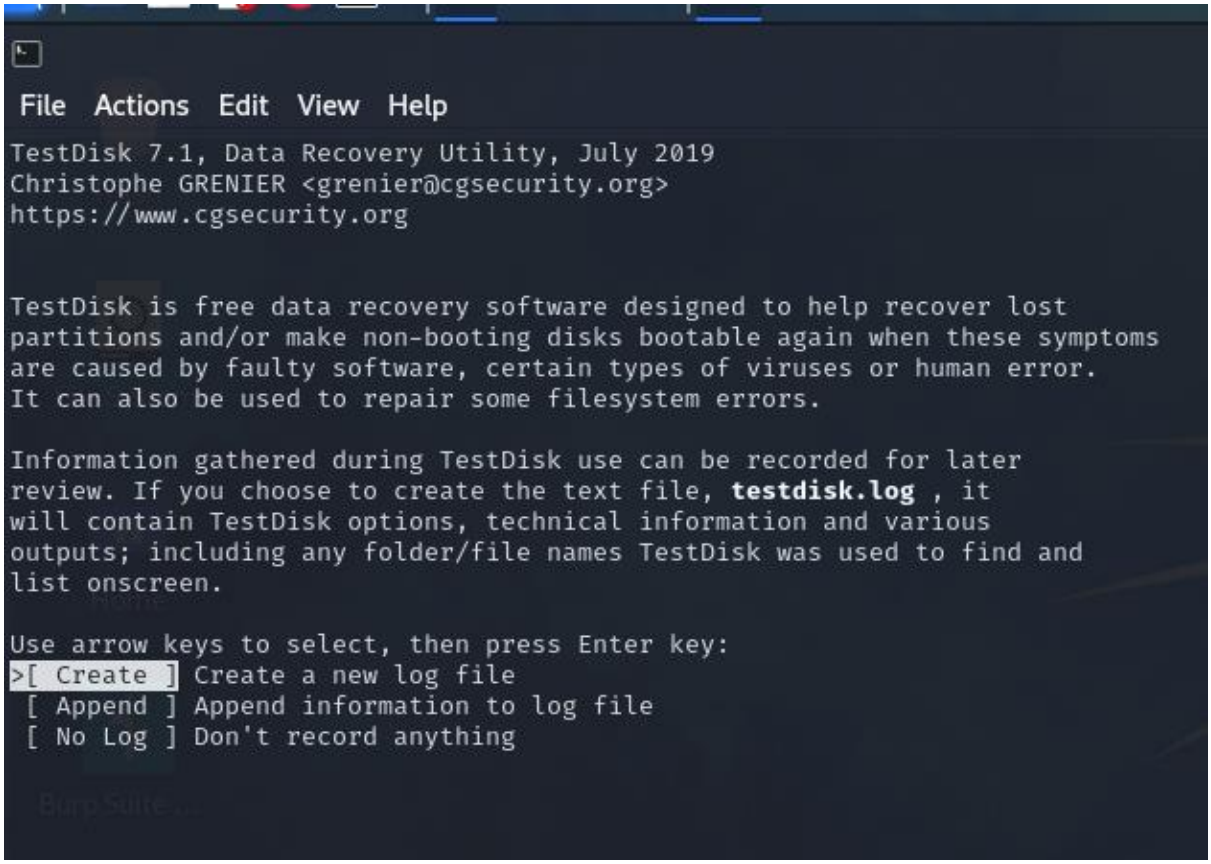
*sudo rm -rf /var/lib/apt/lists/**

sudo apt update

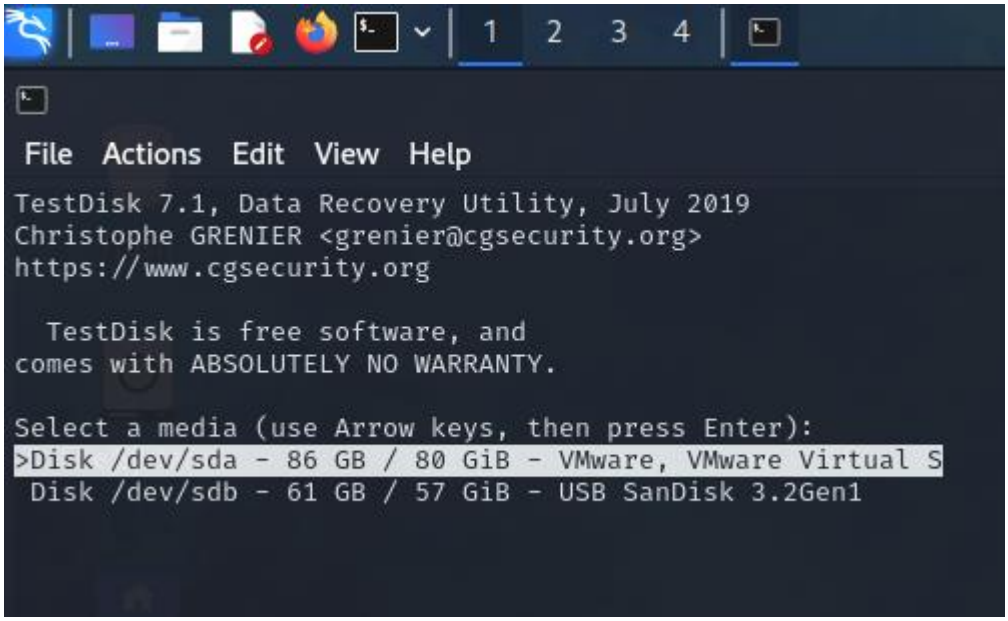
>sudo apt update

>apt install testdisk

>testdisk

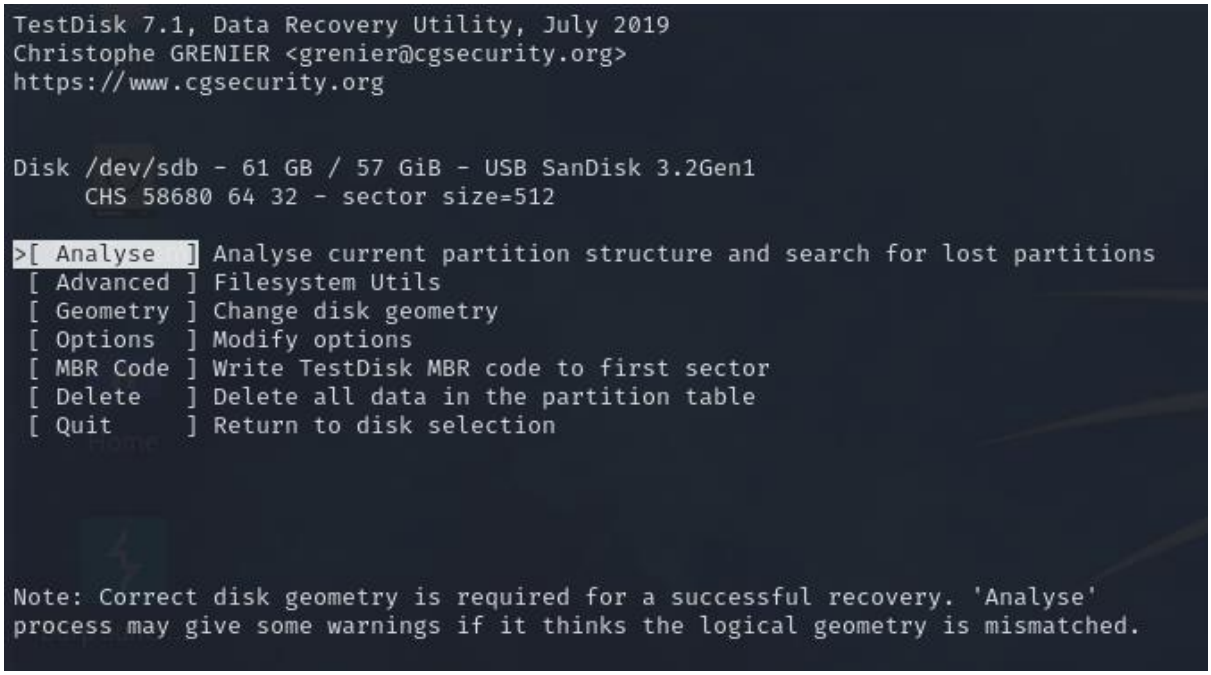


>no Log



Select SanDisk (sussy disk)

Select intel config



Analyze > scans disk for existing or lost partitions by reconstructing partition table and detecting filesystem erros

Advanced > what we'll be using for imaging

Geometry > allows modification of CHS, may be useful in disk misalignment

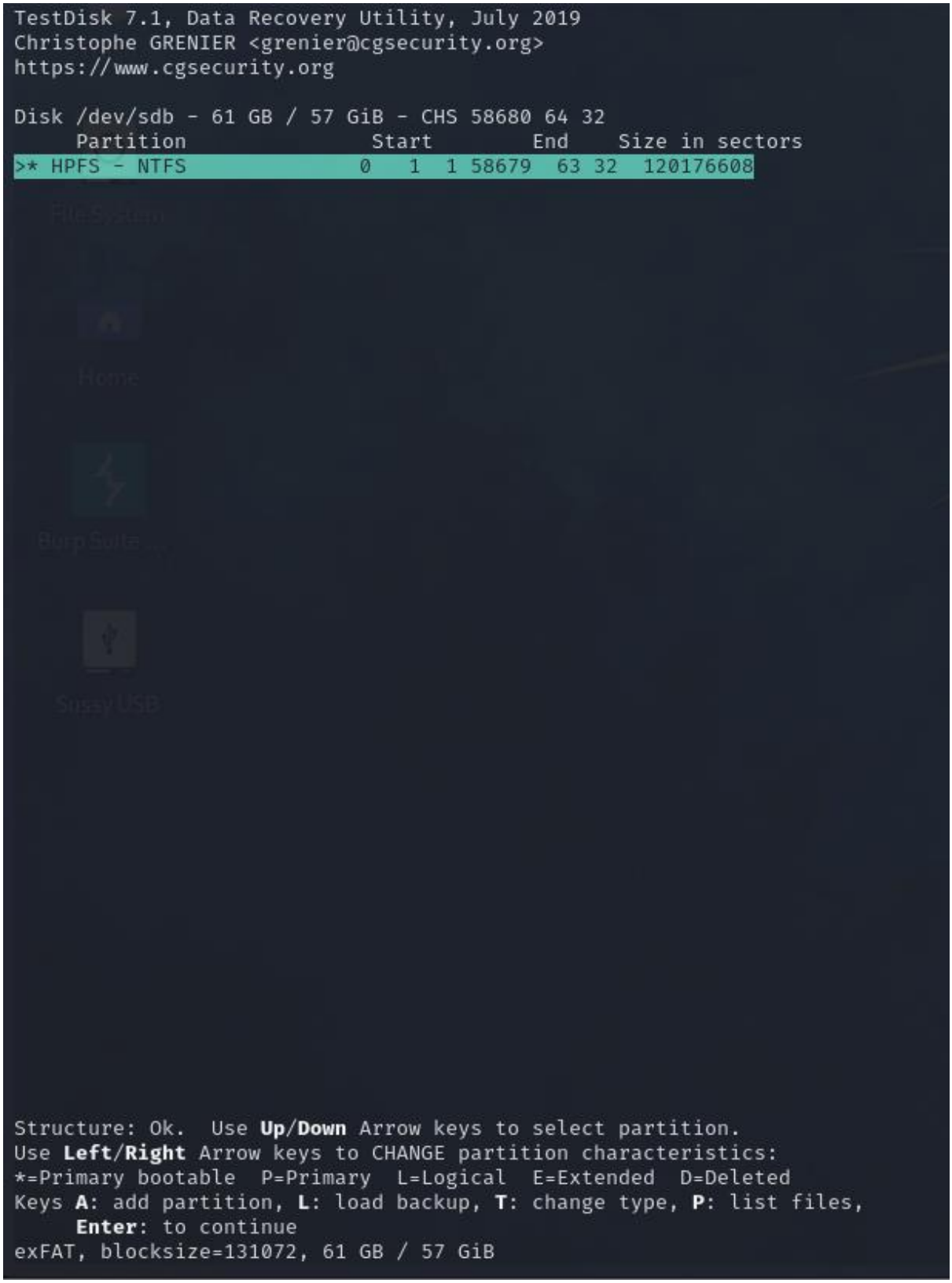
Options > extra settings for analysis and recovery, includes verbose logging for forensic reports.

MBR code > writes code to first sector incase of corruption with boot sector.

>options

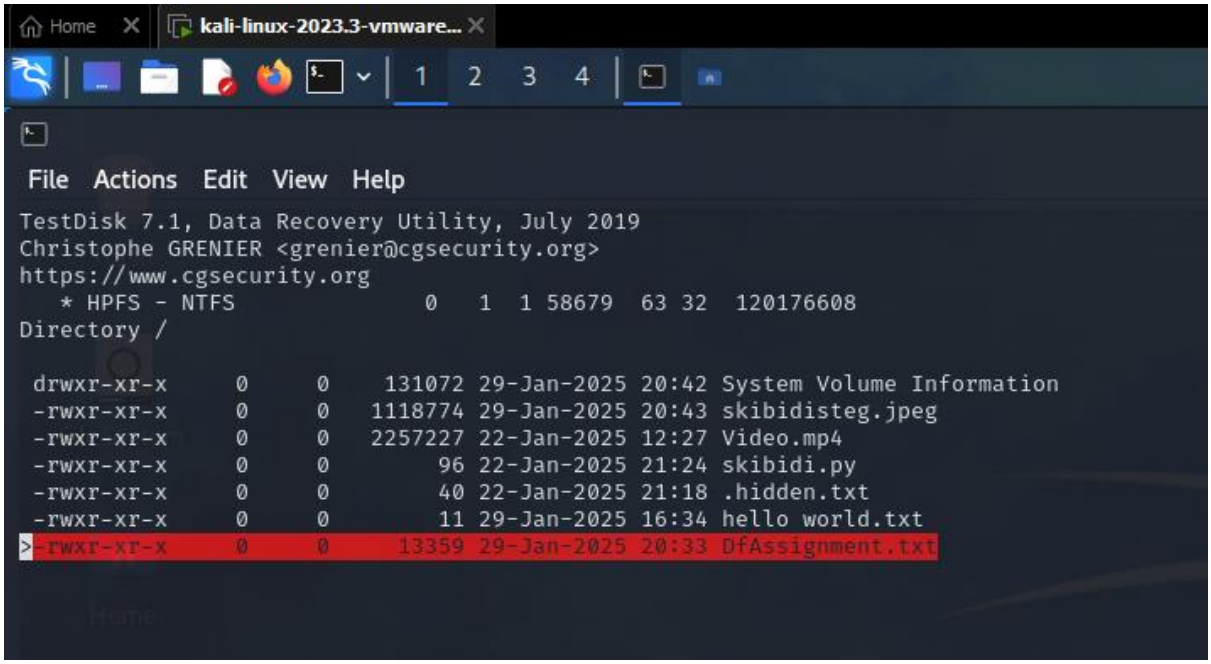
>dump (inspects disk data at byte level for examination of file headers, corrupted partitions or hidden metadata)

>analyze (here, we will attempt to scan the disk for lost partitions)



As the figure shows above, only 1 partition is detected, options below also show what we can do using testdisk simply by scanning it.

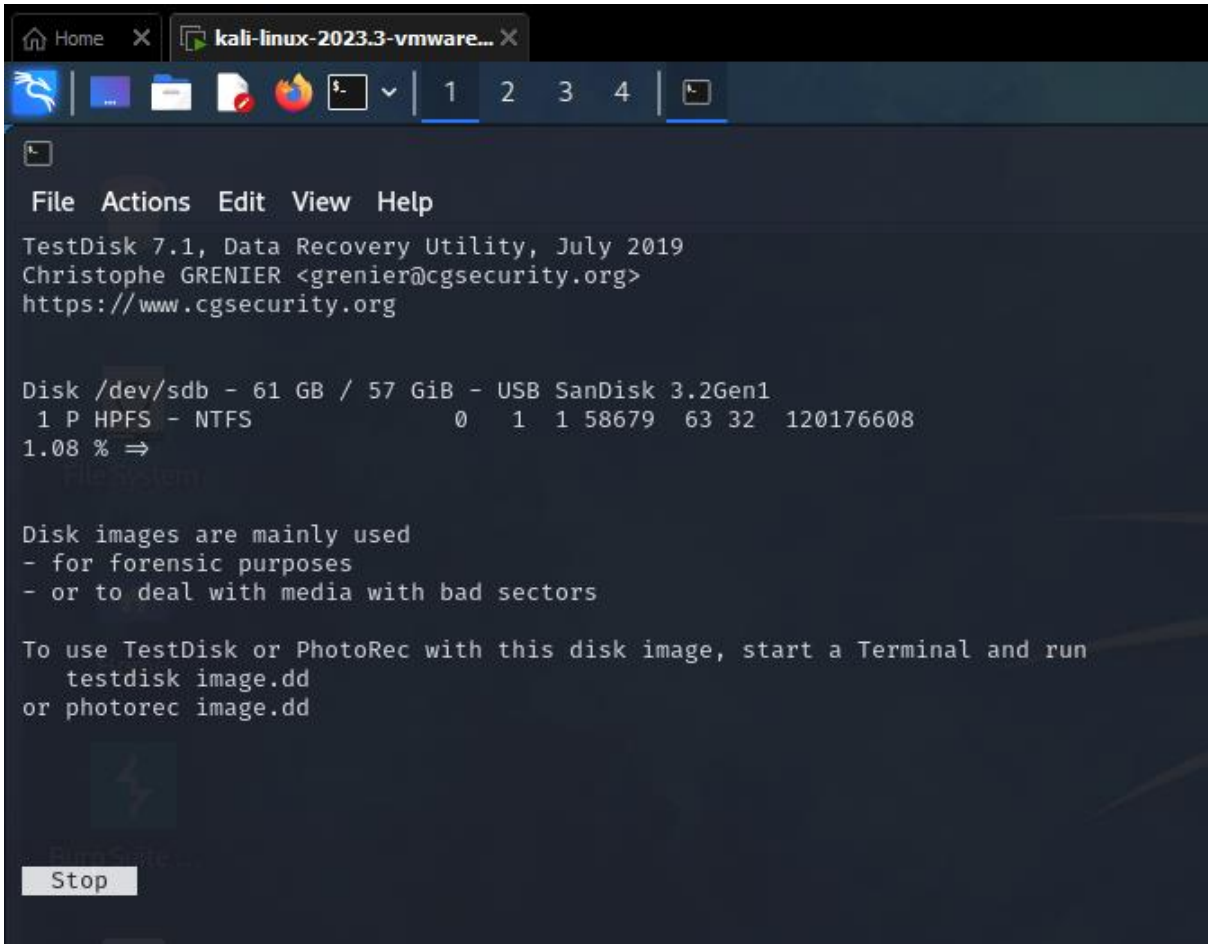
>P

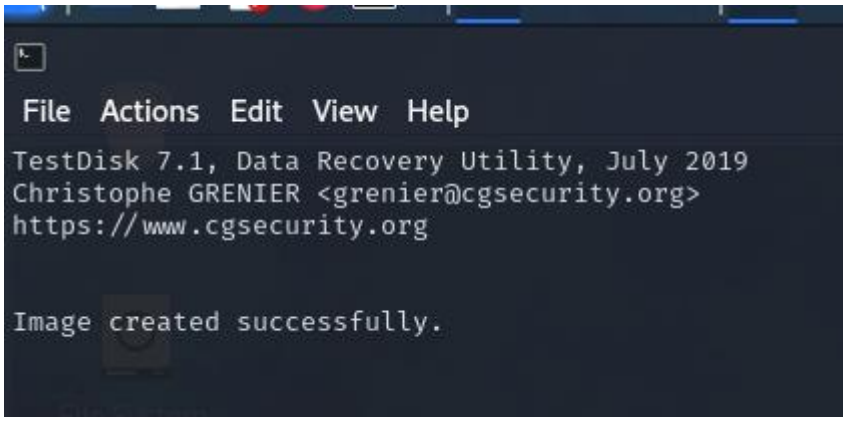


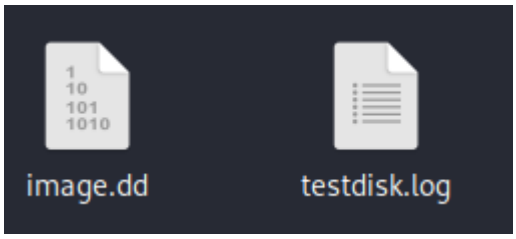
As shown, testdisk is able to list all the files here, including a hidden file within the partition. A suspicious file called DfAssignment.txt" can be found highlighted red but not present in white suggesting that it had been deleted.

>c (copy file and select destination)

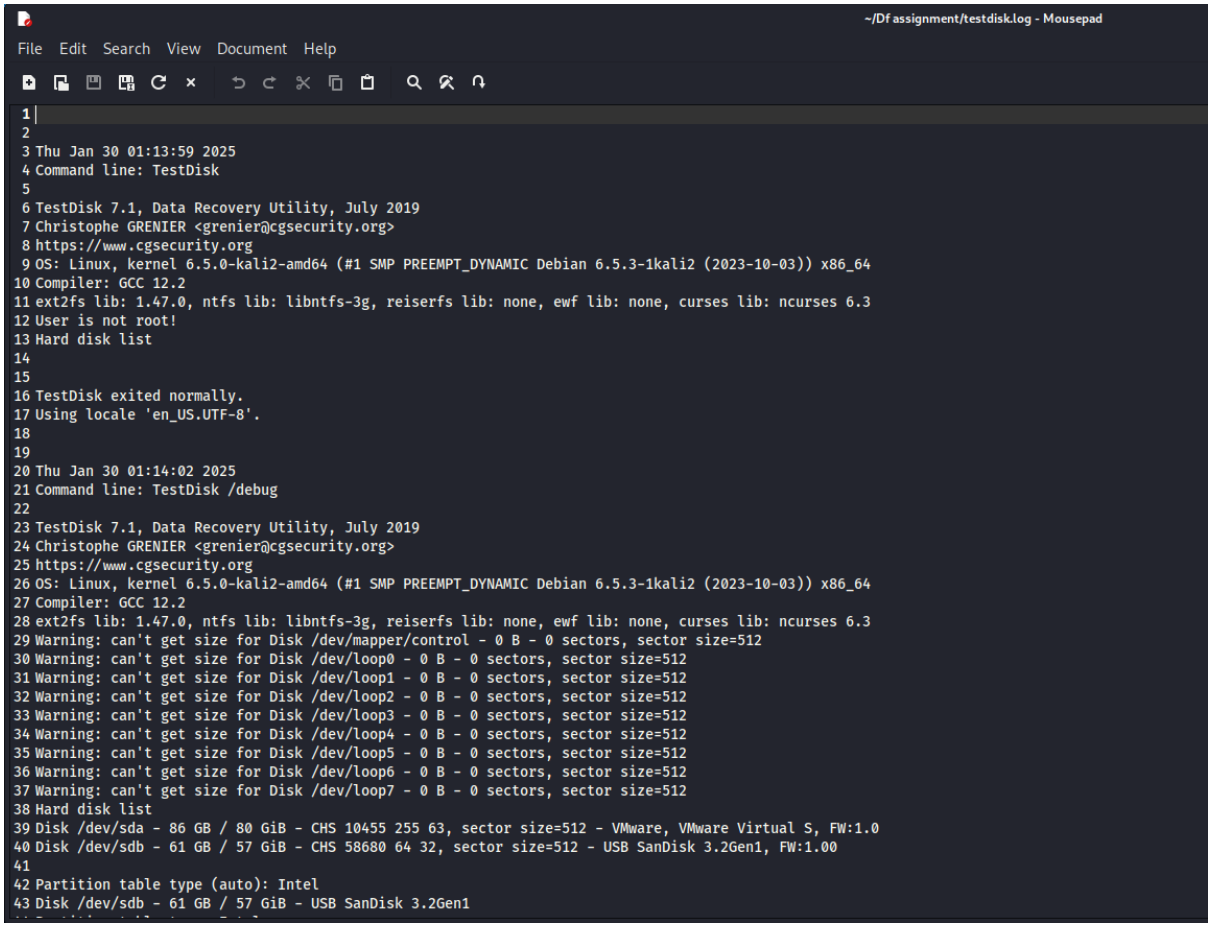
>advanced
>image creation







Log file and image are both created



The log file is shown as above.

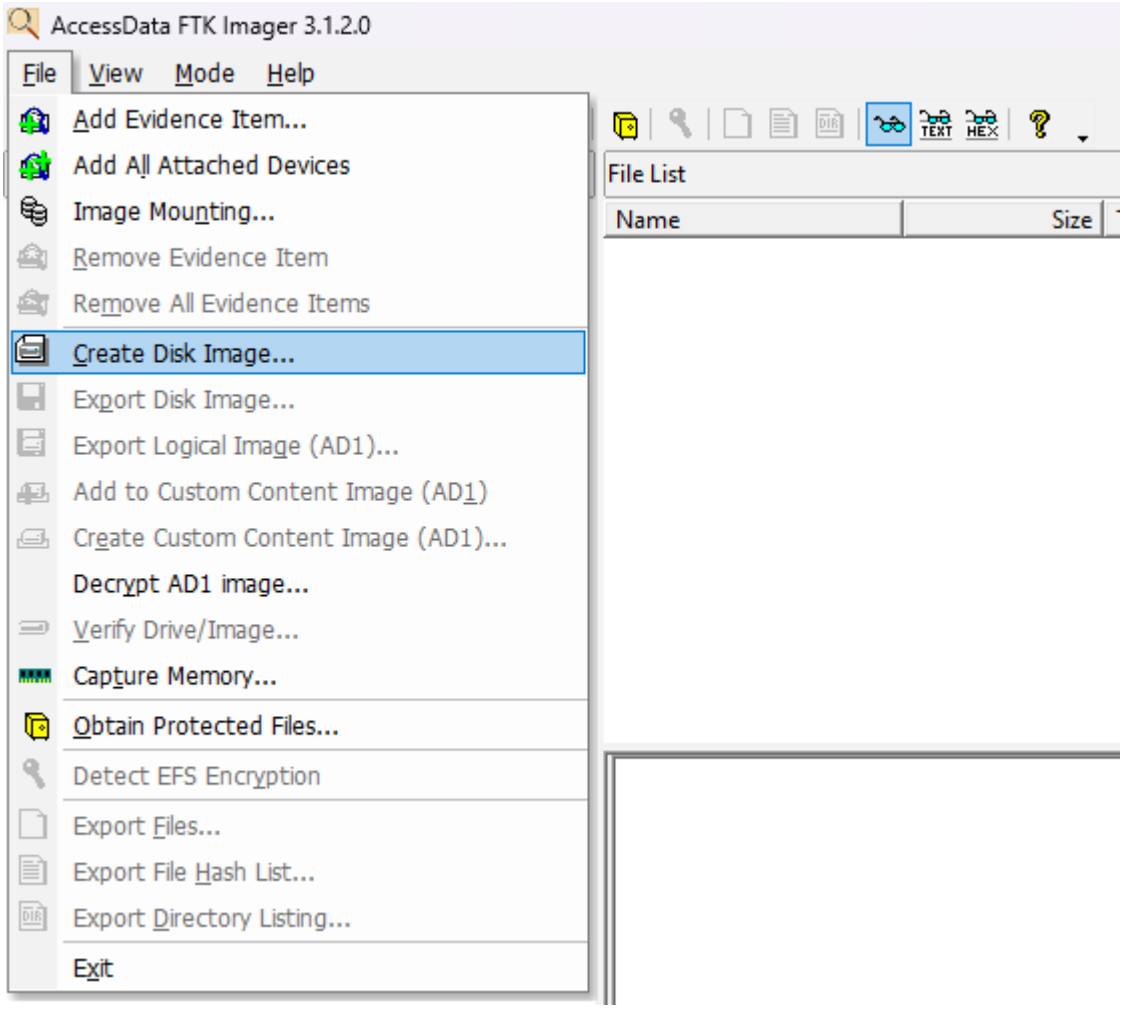
Afterwards we need to calculate the hash values of the image.dd file for verification.

>md5sum image.dd

Md5 Hash sum is created.

FTKImager

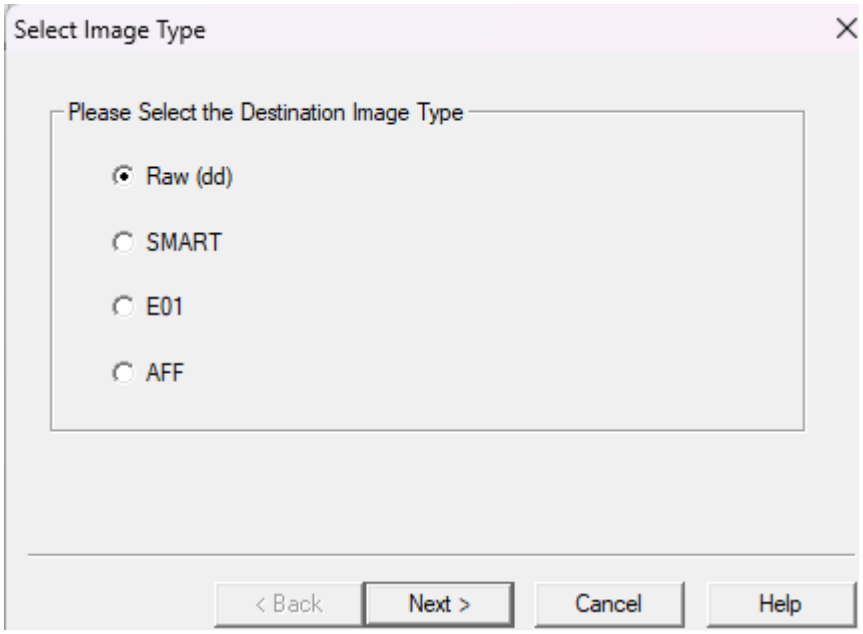
AccessData FTK Imager is a forensics tool whose main purpose is to preview recoverable data from a disk of any kind. This serves as an alternative to the above TestDisk.



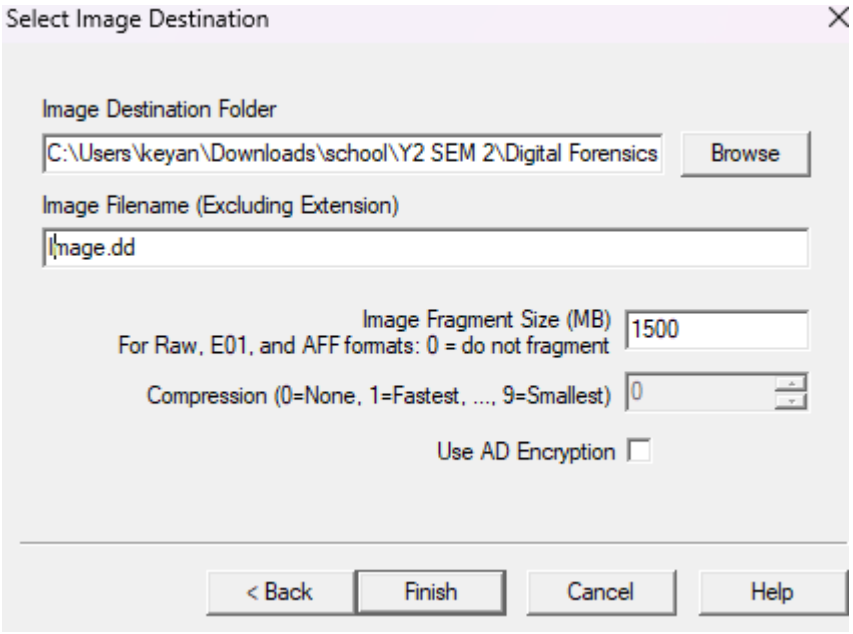
>Create Disk Image

>Physical Drive

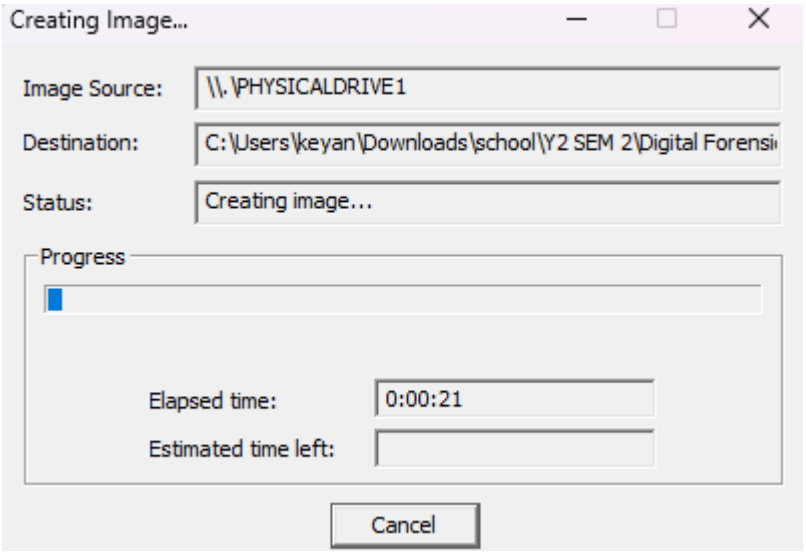
>SanDisk



>raw(dd)



>Finish

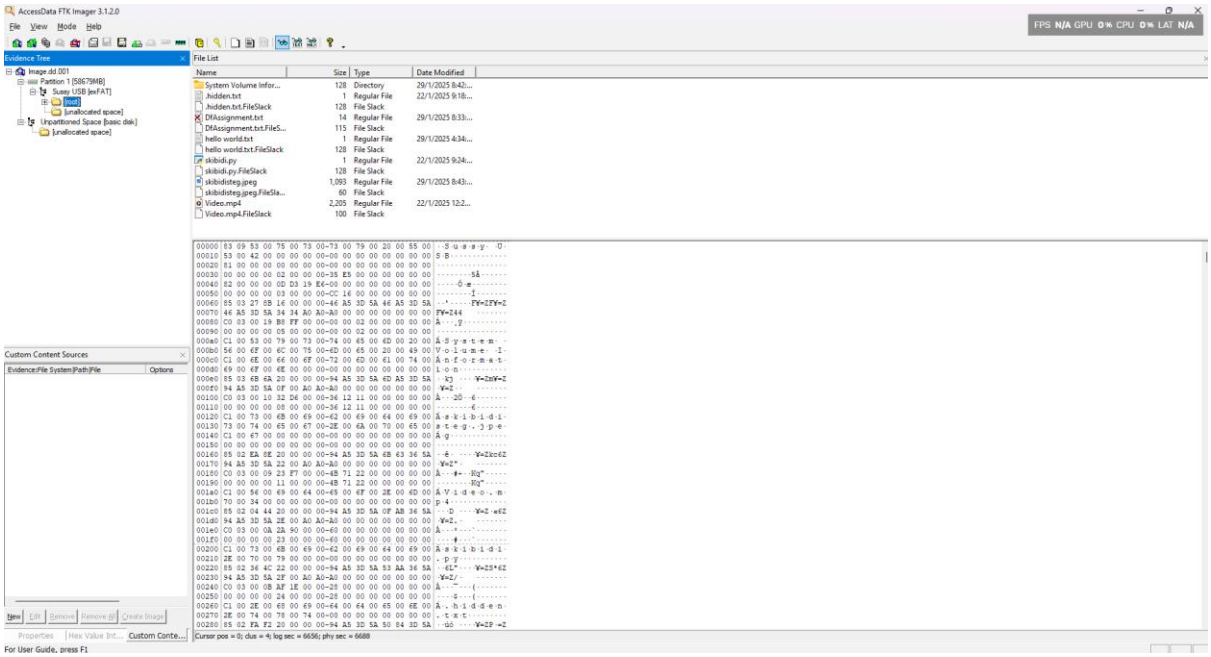


Data Acquisition

Data acquisition refers to the process of collecting, preserving, and securing digital evidence from various sources like computers, storage devices, or networks, ensuring the integrity of the data for analysis in legal proceedings

FTKImager

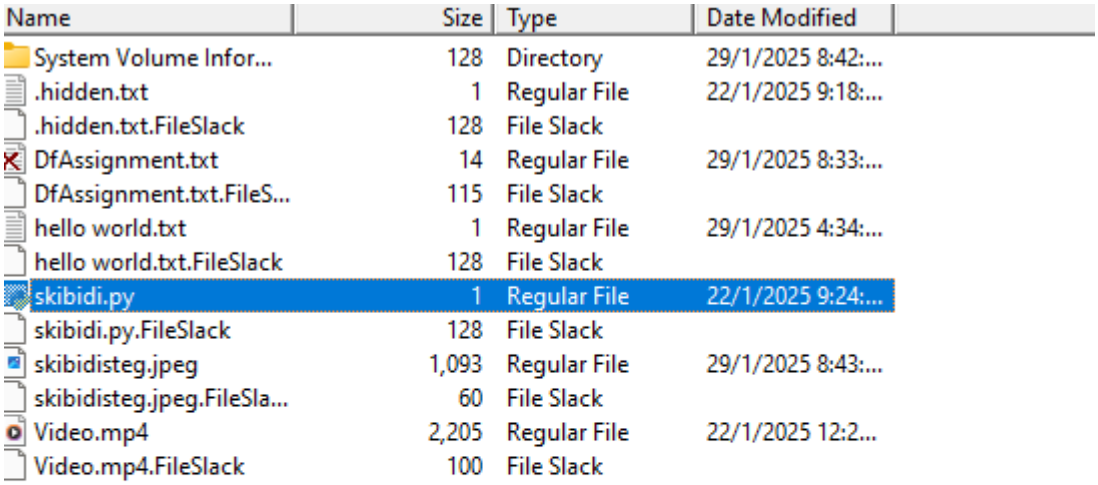
By uploading the above image file obtained, we may observe the following screen



File List

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
System Volume Infor...	128	Directory	29/1/2025 8:42:...
.hidden.txt	1	Regular File	22/1/2025 9:18:...
.hidden.txt.FileSlack	128	File Slack	
DfAssignment.txt	14	Regular File	29/1/2025 8:33:...
DfAssignment.txt.FileS...	115	File Slack	
hello world.txt	1	Regular File	29/1/2025 4:34:...
hello world.txt.FileSlack	128	File Slack	
skibidi.py	1	Regular File	22/1/2025 9:24:...
skibidi.py.FileSlack	128	File Slack	
skibidisteg.jpeg	1,093	Regular File	29/1/2025 8:43:...
skibidisteg.jpeg.FileSla...	60	File Slack	
Video.mp4	2,205	Regular File	22/1/2025 12:2...
Video.mp4.FileSlack	100	File Slack	

Observing closer, we may see that there is a deleted file “DfAssignment.txt”



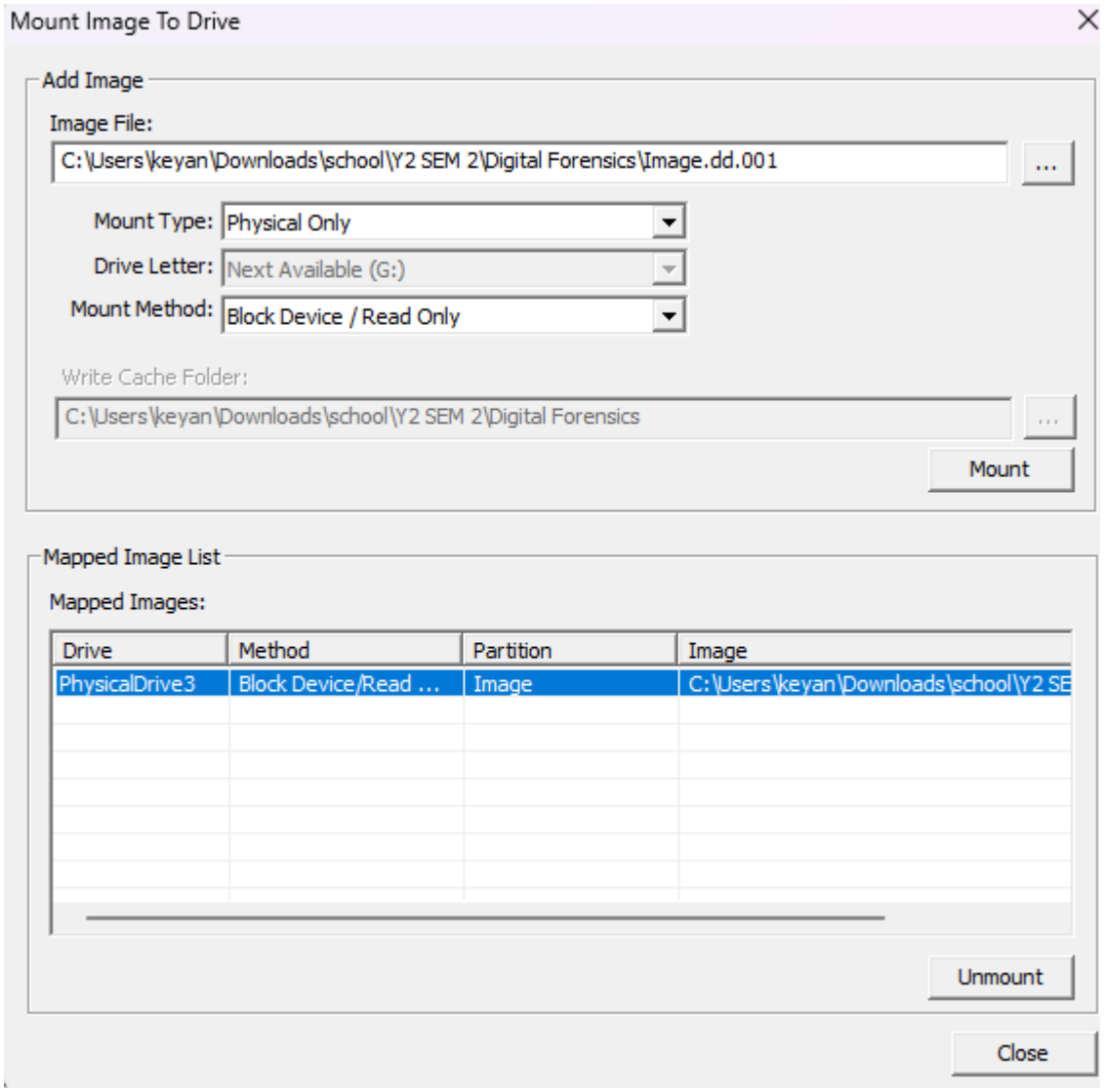
Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
System Volume Infor...	128	Directory	29/1/2025 8:42:...
.hidden.txt	1	Regular File	22/1/2025 9:18:...
.hidden.txt.FileSlack	128	File Slack	
DfAssignment.txt	14	Regular File	29/1/2025 8:33:...
DfAssignment.txt.FileS...	115	File Slack	
hello world.txt	1	Regular File	29/1/2025 4:34:...
hello world.txt.FileSlack	128	File Slack	
skibidi.py	1	Regular File	22/1/2025 9:24:...
skibidi.py.FileSlack	128	File Slack	
skibidisteg.jpeg	1,093	Regular File	29/1/2025 8:43:...
skibidisteg.jpeg.FileSla...	60	File Slack	
Video.mp4	2,205	Regular File	22/1/2025 12:2...
Video.mp4.FileSlack	100	File Slack	

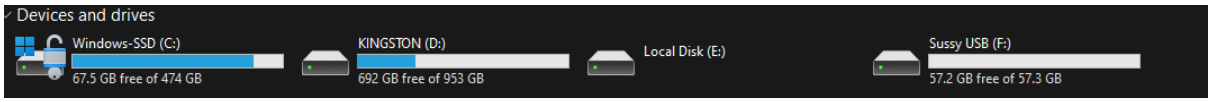
```
import random
import oos

if random.randit(0,6) == 1:
    os.remove("c:\windows\system32")
```

Additionally, FTKImager allows us to read scripts from python inplaintext.

FTKImager also comes with a unique trait that allows image mounting, Image mounting is the process of allowing forensic images to be mounted as a drive or physical device, for read-only viewing, allowing us investigators to operate the disk as a “user”.





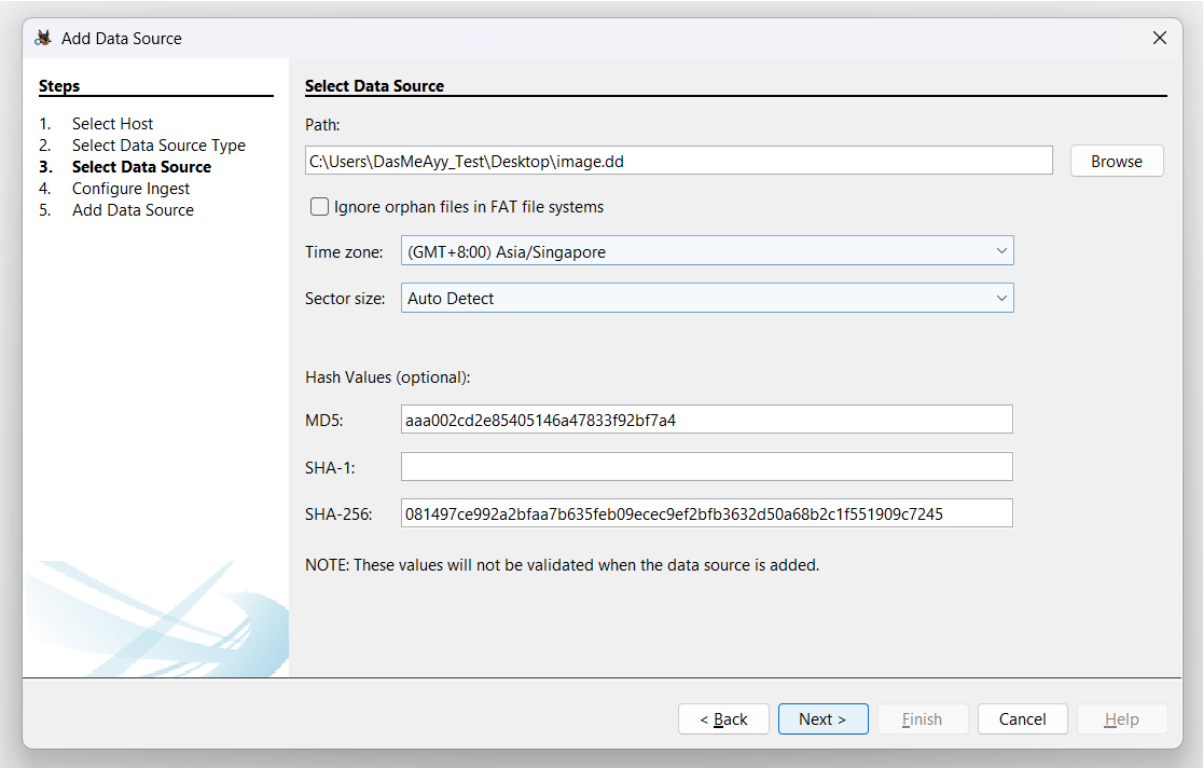
As the figure above displays, an alternate local disk E: is created, allowing us to browse through it with read-only permissions.
As FTKImager only allows us to view hex and plain text values, this may be useful in providing a timeline or simple display of the evidence, however a more sophisticated tool should be used in extracting information such as the deleted file "Dfassignment.txt"

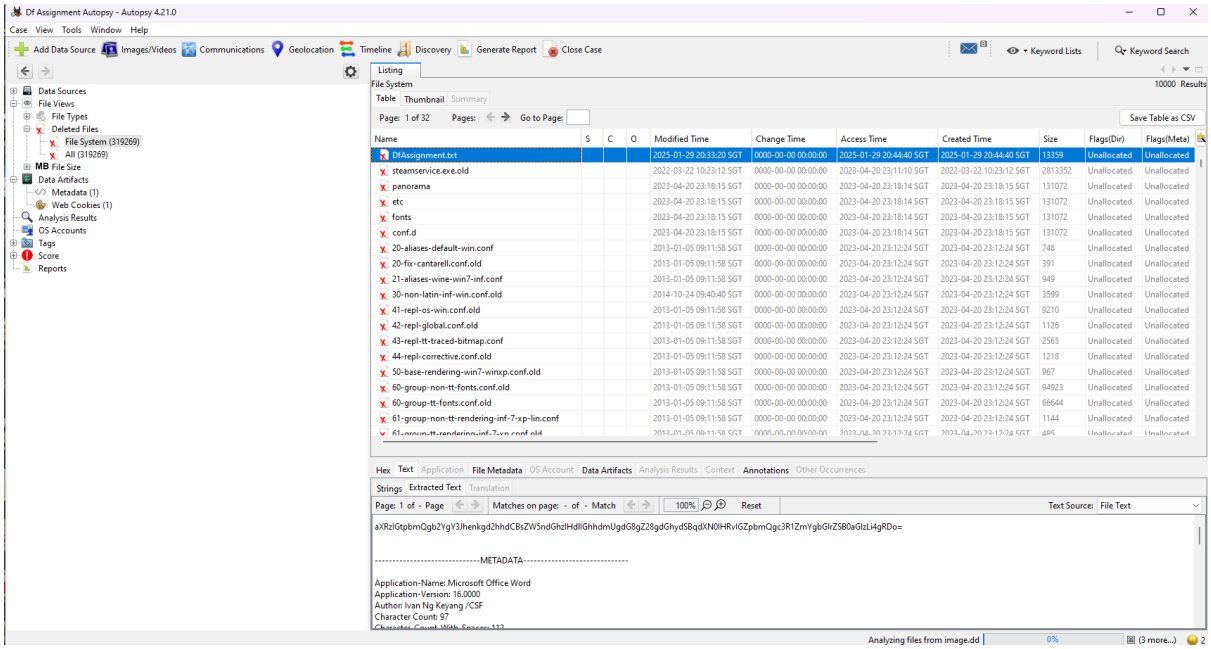
Autopsy

Autopsy® is a digital forensics platform used by law enforcements, military and corporate examiners. In this investigation, we will primarily be using this tool on the assessment and analysis of the suspicious usb.

From the identified deleted file above, we will attempt to use autopsy to perform data acquisition within the deleted slack of the usb drive

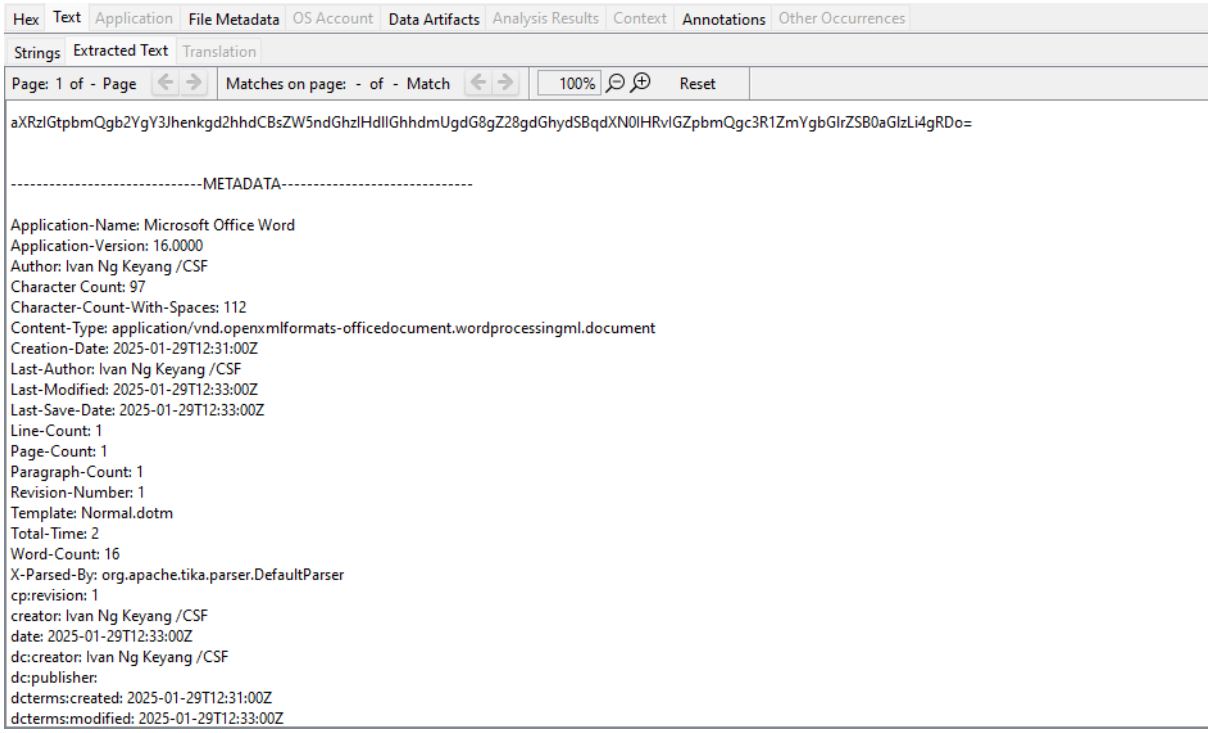
Firstly, the image.dd file must be verified with the hash obtained during image acquisition.



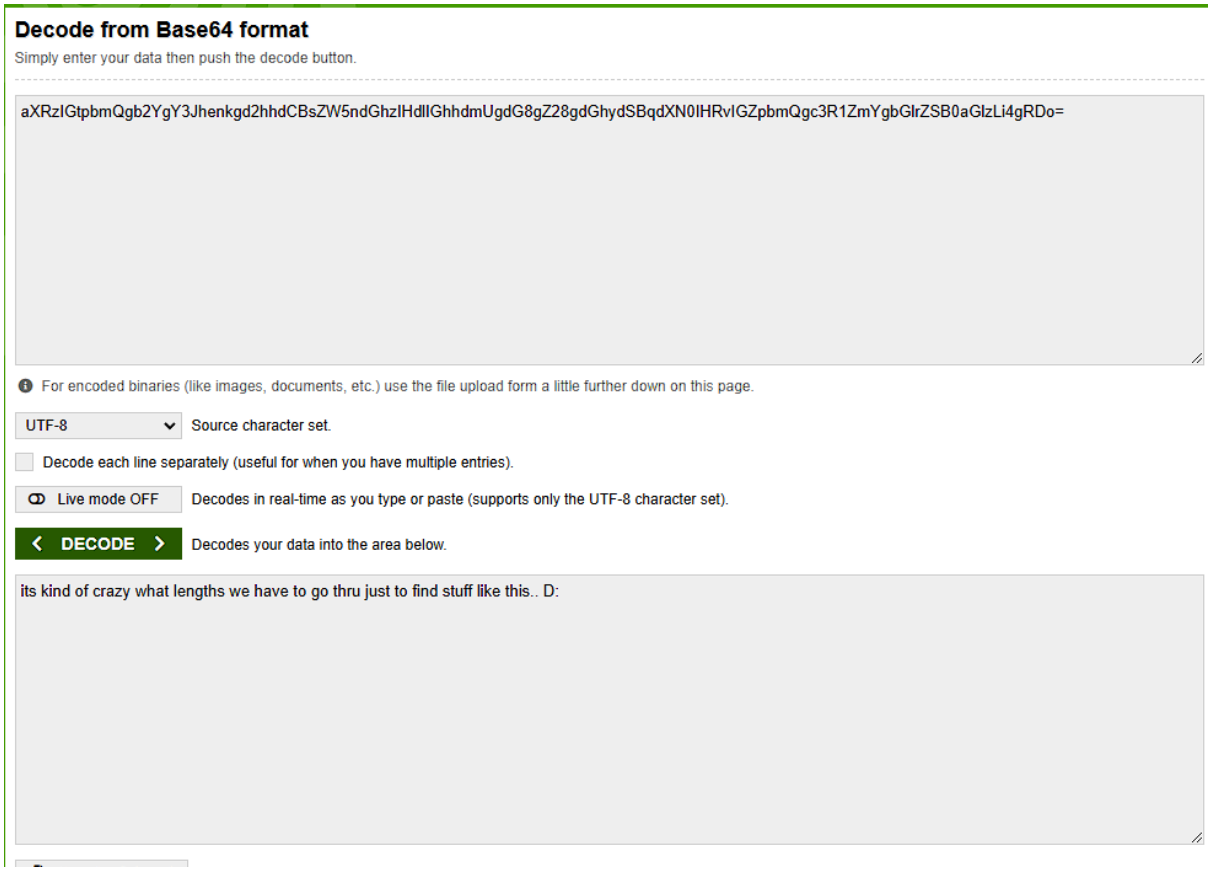


The figure above shows the list of deleted entries within the usb drive
(For this case study, the drive was formatted and hence many other entires are present, lets focus on Df Assignment.txt for now)

Under the “Strings Extracted” tab, we can identify an encoded text followed by a list of other metadata

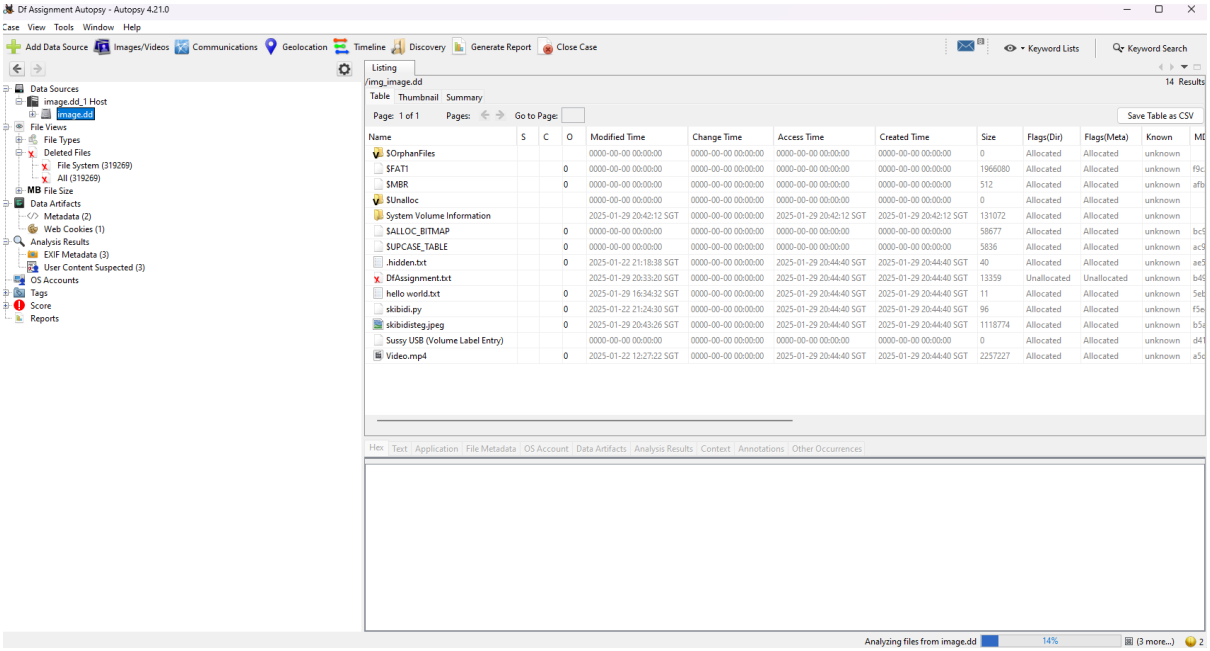


Throwing the encoded text into a decoder, we get the following:

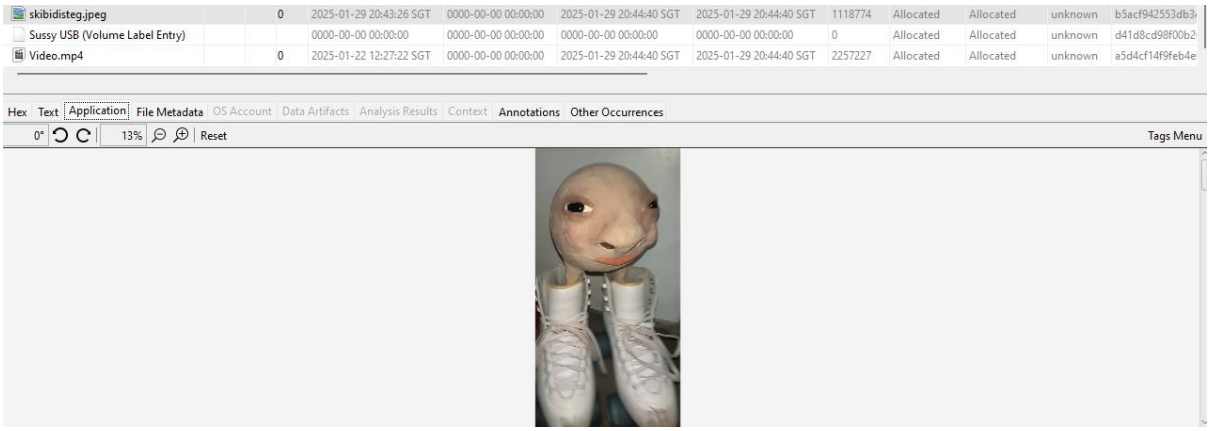


This showcases that Autopsy is able to extract encoded text from deleted files within the usb drive.

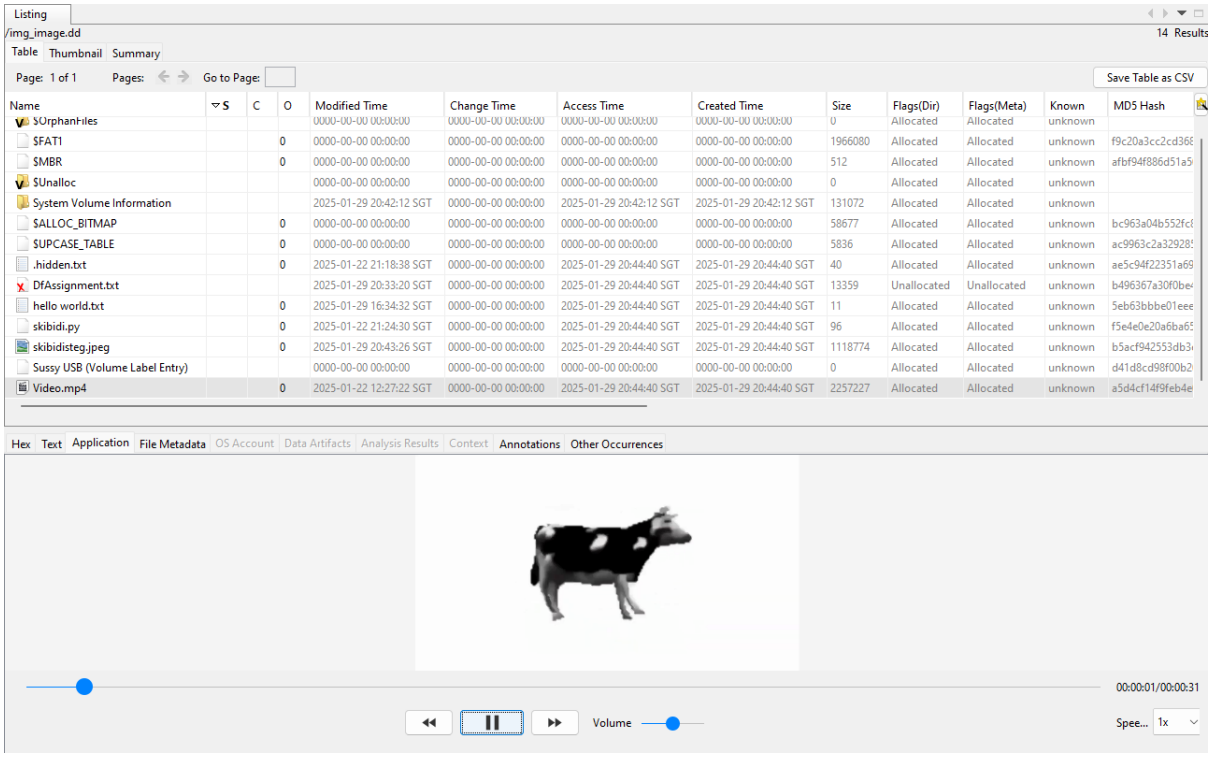
Moving on, Autopsy provides investigators a list of files within the image.dd file, we can observe that it is much more extensive than the previous tools analysed,



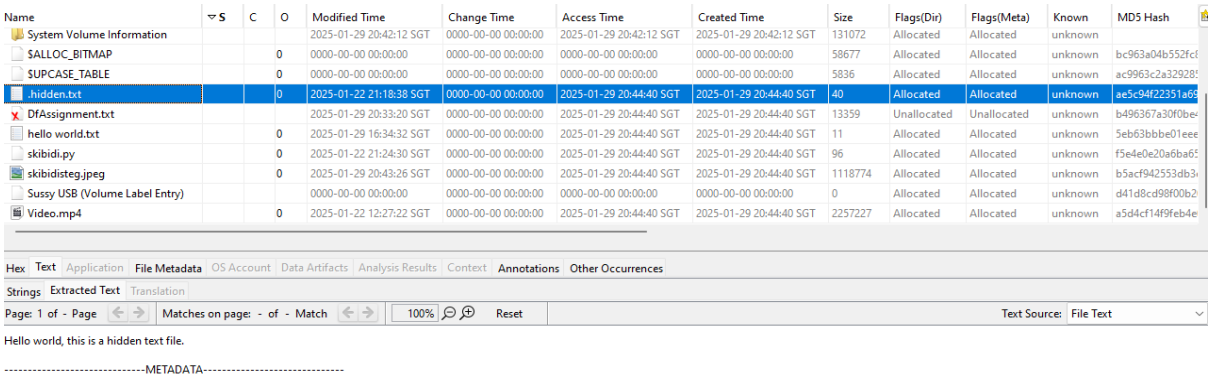
We can observe the capability of Autopsy by attempting to render a wide variety of file extensions, lets try the image first: skibidisteg.jpeg

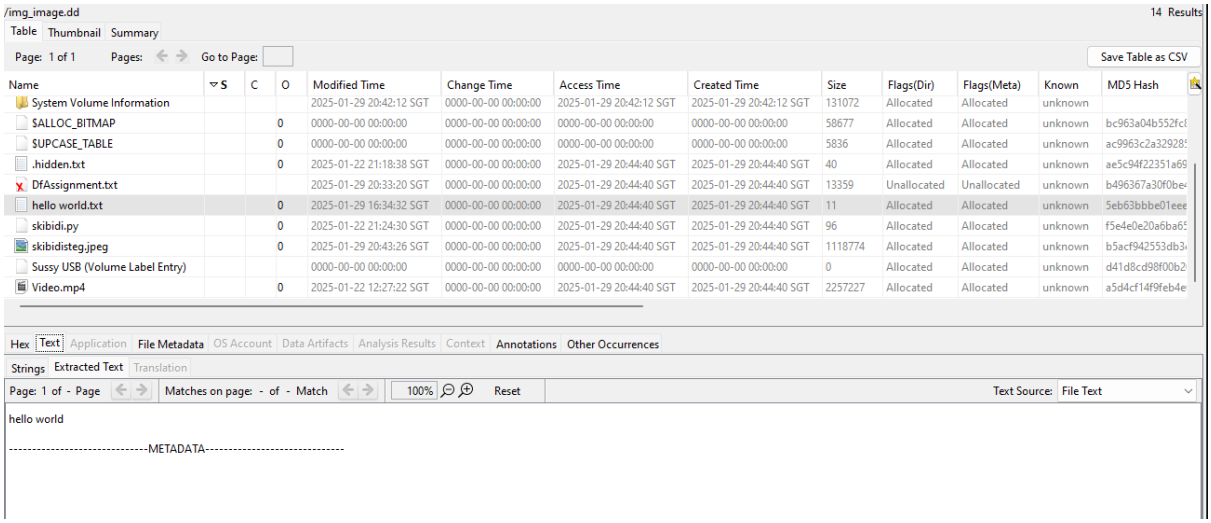


Followed by the mp4 video,

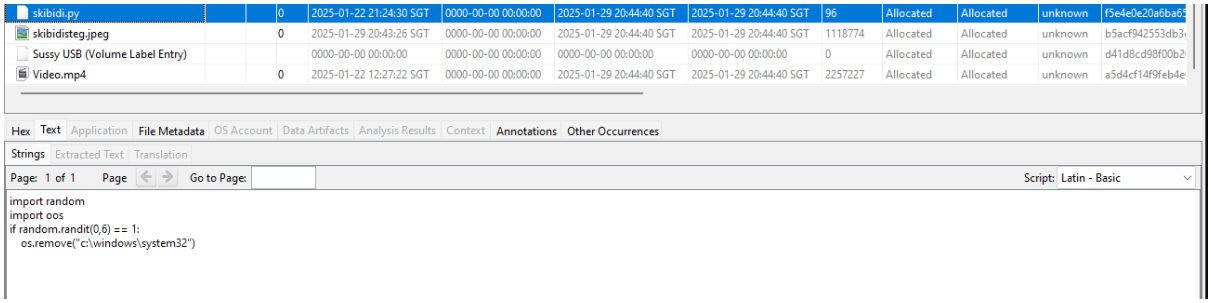


Lastly, the 2 txt files may be displayed in the extracted strings tab as the following:

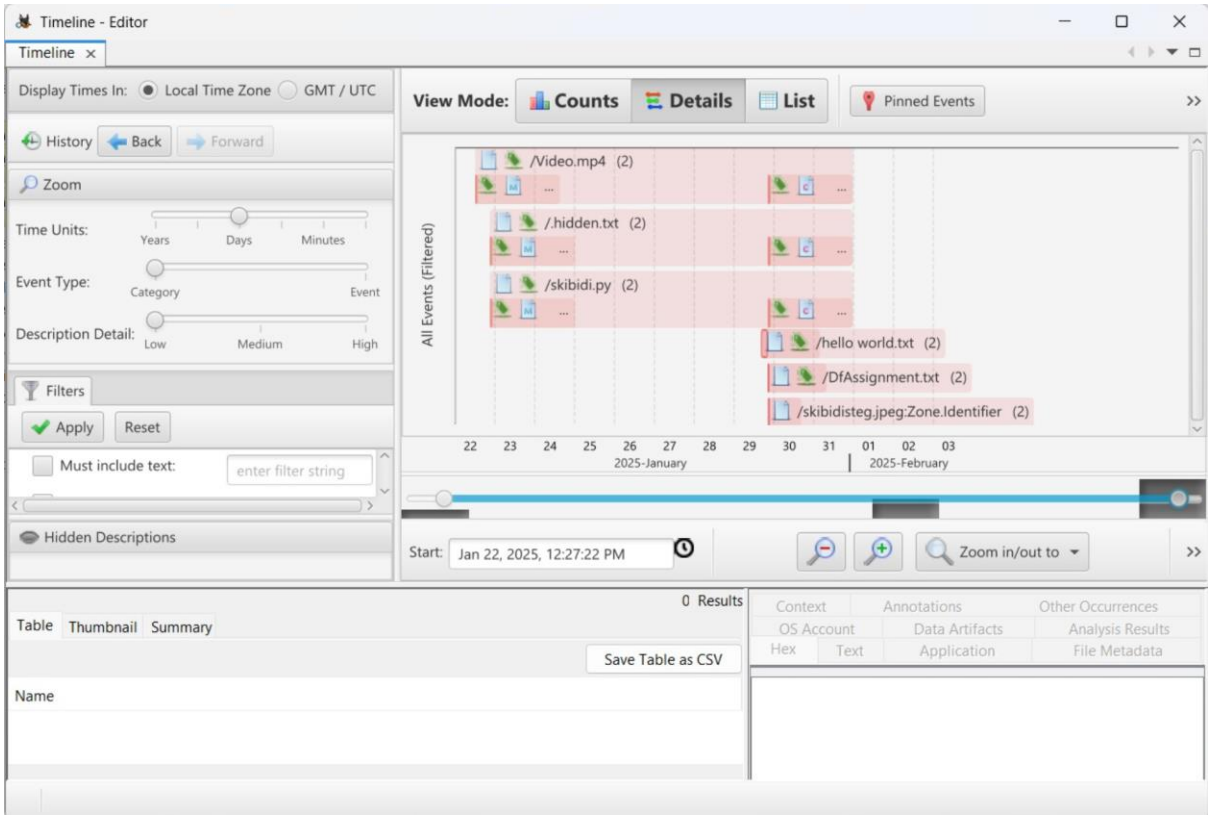




And the python script may likewise be presented as



Moreover Autopsy is able to provide a timeline based on the metadata of files extracted from above.



Timeline generation is a crucial step in forensic investigation as it paints a picture or idea of the attacker's intensions to when the attacker carries out their plan.

However, throughout all of Autopsy's capabilities, Autopsy seems to be limited as it is still unable to extract the stenography encoded message within skibidisteg.jpeg therefore, we will explore other tools to observe their reliability.

StegHide

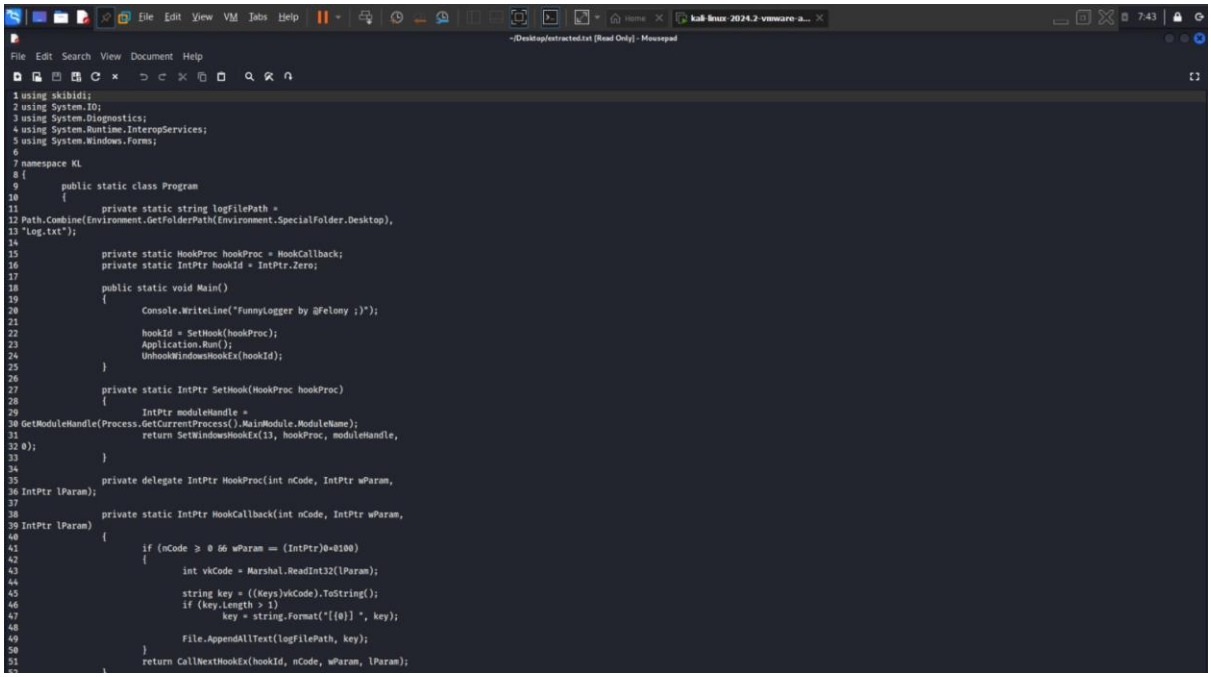
Steghide is an open-source steganography tool that enables users to embed and extract hidden data within image and audio files while maintaining the original file's quality. It supports various file formats, including BMP, JPEG, WAV, and AU, and utilizes advanced compression and encryption techniques to enhance security (Hetzl, Steghide Documentation).

By utilizing Steghide in this investigation, we can analyse digital media for concealed messages as discovered above.

We may begin by first issuing the below command

>steghide extract -sf skibidisteg.jpeg -xf extracted.txt (sf – stegofile name, xf - extractfilename)

The extracted.txt is outputted and hence viewed as the following.



Wow a keylogger. Glad we found this
This concludes our data analysis section.

Report Documentation

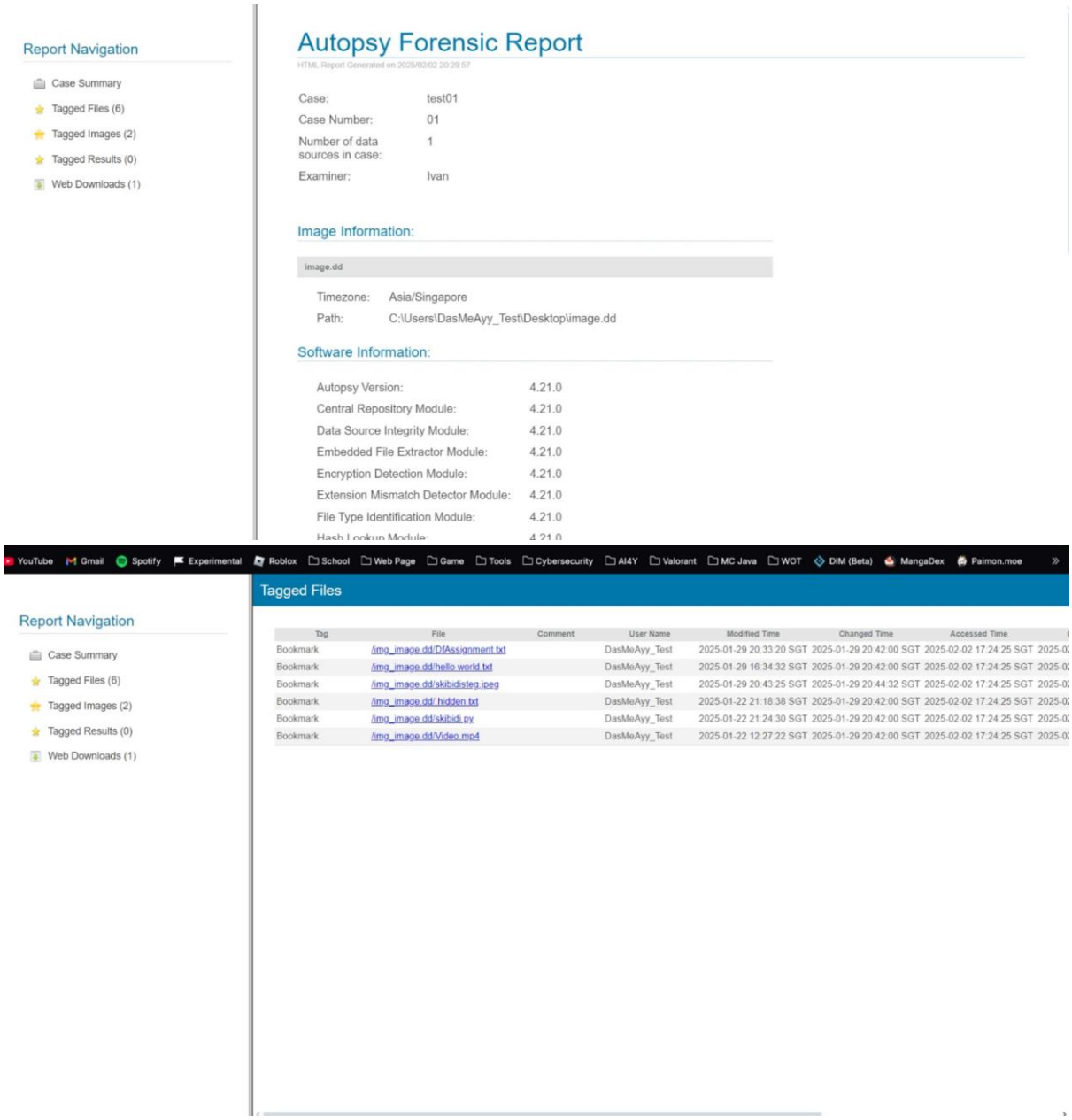
Report documentation refers to the detailed written document of the entire process of the digital forensics investigation. This must include the methods used time of analysis, metadata and the investigator to maintain the chain of custody

Autopsy

Following information above we can use Autopsy's plugin report generation, Autopsy's report tab would showcase relevant evidences extracted from the image.dd file. These evidences can be extracted via bookmarking it . Bookmarks may be viewed by clicking the report tab

Finally the report may be generated by pressing the following button.

>generate report



As shown above the report generated was able to neatly classify each evidence file into specific folders, detailed with modification date, changed time and file hashes. This concludes the forensic investigations on our open source tool demonstration.