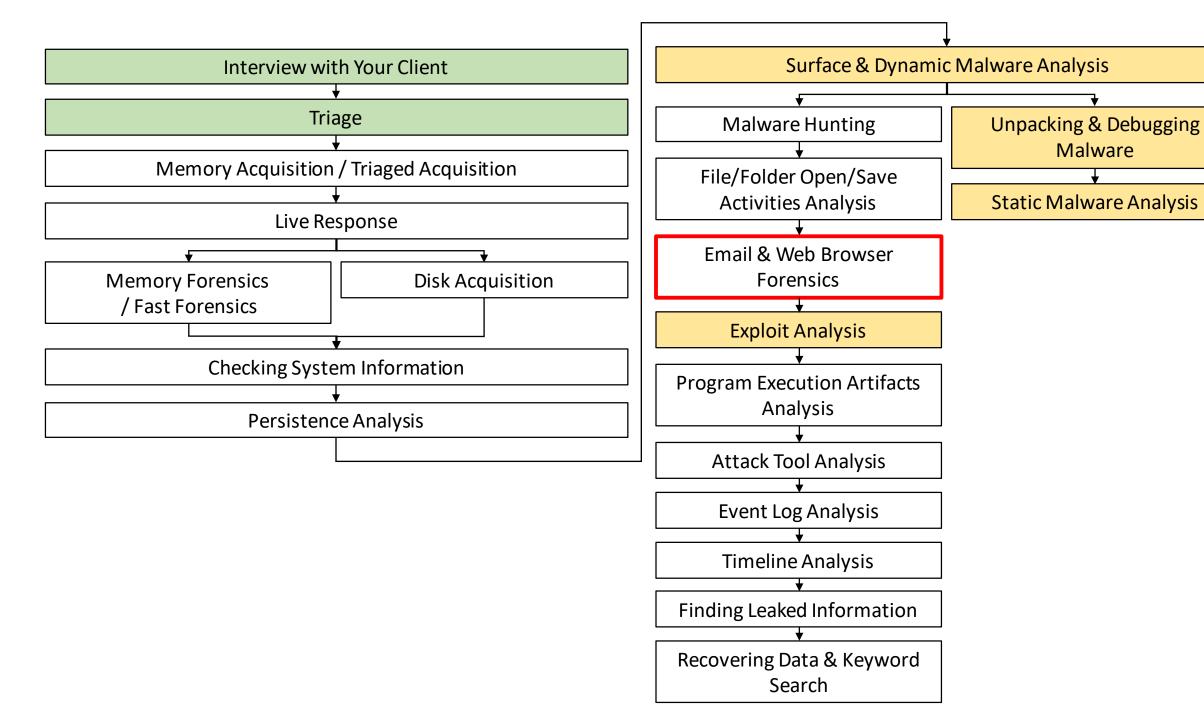
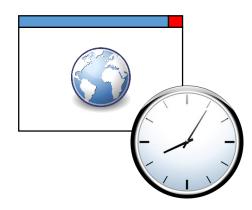
Web Browser Forensics



Web Browser Forensics

- When you browse the Internet using the major web browsers, usually they will remain some sort of histories onto the user's profile.
- Histories might provide idea about what the attacker has watched during the attack.
 - Don't forget that the histories could be cleared.



Topics Covered in This Section

Artifacts

- Histories
- Cache
- Cookies

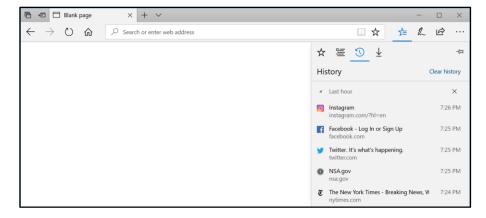
Web Browsers

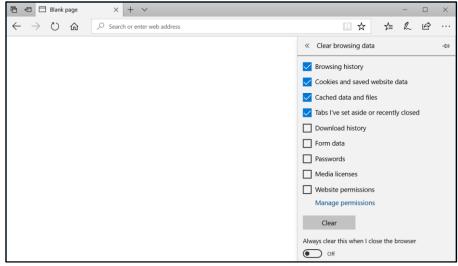
- Microsoft Internet Explorer / Edge
- Mozilla Firefox
- Google Chrome

Histories

Histories

- When a browser opens a webpage, the visited URLs are recorded to the web browser.
- These histories remain until:
 - The expiration period is reached, or
 - It was cleared by the user.
- Since many applications use Web Browser as their frameworks, some web browser histories that are not a part of web browsing could be found.
 - For example, sometimes histories from the Windows Explorer could be found in the Internet Explorer histories.





History Locations

- Location, format, and contents of browser histories differ for each browser.
 - Internet Explorer (10 or 11) / Edge:
 <u>%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\WebCache\WebCacheV01.dat</u>
 - %LocalAppData% is the environment variable for "\Users\<username>\AppData\Local".
 - Firefox:
 "moz_places" table (SQLite3 format) of
 %AppData%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\<Profile ID>\places.sqlite
 - Chrome:
 It is in SQLite3 format, and kept in "visits" and "urls" tables of
 %Appdata%\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\History

Exercise: Observation of Histories

Observation of Histories

- Browser history files are in certain format (not a plain text).
 - Using tools is much easier than reading them with binary editors.
- One of the example tools: BrowsingHistoryView by Nirsoft
 - Available for free at: https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/browsing_history_view.html

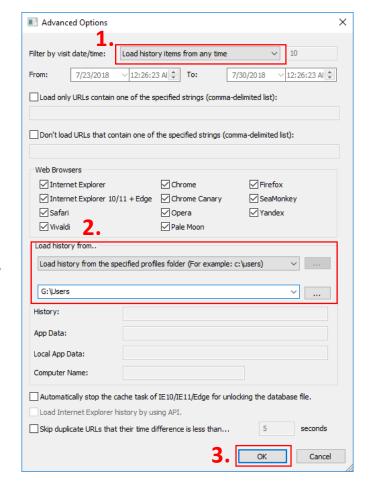


Mounting E01 Image

- For this exercise, we will be using <u>Client-Win10-2_honda.E01</u> image.
 - Mount it with "Write temporary" option enabled.
- Execute "BrowsingHistoryView.exe" as administrator from tools folder.
 - Desktop > Shortcuts > 05_RootCauseAnalysis > 0504_InvestigatingWebBrowserActivities > tools > BrowsingHistoryView.exe
 - Right click the shortcut and select "Run as administrator".

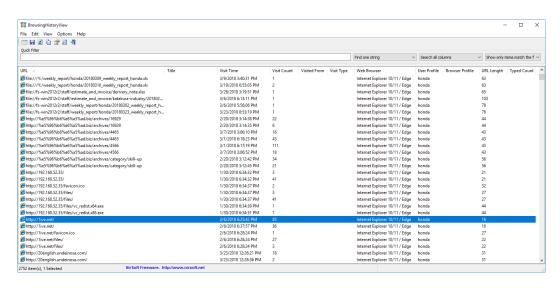
Opening BrowsingHistoryView

- When you open the application, "Advanced Options" dialog is shown.
 - 1. Select "Load history items from any time" in "Filter by visit date/time" field.
 - You can specify the date/time if you know when the incident happened.
 - 2. Select "Load history from the specified profiles folder", and enter "G:\Users" for "Load history from" section.
 - 3. Press OK when ready.



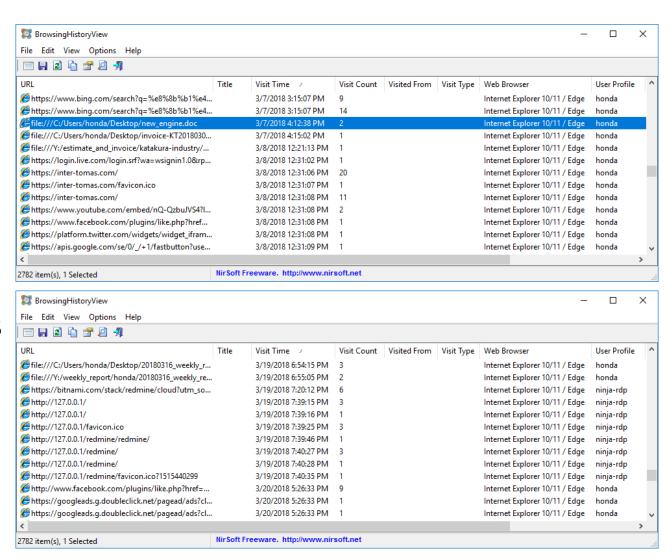
List of Histories

- You should be able to see the list of web browser histories.
 - If the list is empty, check that:
 - You've configured the Advanced Options as instructed. It can be reconfigured from "Options" menu.
 - You've executed the application as administrator.
- You can sort by clicking the title row.
 - Sort by <u>Visit Time</u> to see them as a timeline.
- You can filter the contents.
 Select "Use Quick Filter" under "View" menu.



What You Can Find

- URLs that starts with "file:///" are files on the local disk or on the network shares.
 - On March 7, 2018 at 4:12PM, user honda has opened a file new_engine.doc on the user's Desktop.
- You should be able to see histories from users <u>honda</u> and <u>ninja-rdp</u>.
 - In this network, ninja-rdp is a special account. These special accounts are indicators that should be watched carefully.



Announcement

- When you browse through the application, you will find accesses to "1ive.net" and "out1ook.net" on February 6, 2018.
- The incident took place in March, and these events have nothing to do with the scenario.
 - They were recorded during our preparation process.

Cookies

Cookies

- Cookies can be considered as a source of web browsing history records
 - Each cookie has the following records that can help us indicating the web sites visited and building a timeline:
 - Domain of the web sites
 - Timestamp of web site access, and creation/modification timestamp of the cookie
 - Other cookie contents, which might have additional information

Cookie Locations

- Location, format, and contents of cookies differ for each browser.
 - Internet Explorer (10 or 11 on Windows 8 or later) / Edge (on Windows 10 up to 1703): %LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\INetCookies
 - Individual text file for each cookie
 - Edge (on Windows 10 1709 or later):
 <u>%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\WebCache\WebCacheV01.dat</u>
 - Same file as History, in ESE database format.
 - Firefox:
 - %AppData%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\<Profile ID>\cookies.sqlite
 - Single file in SQLite3 format
 - Chrome:
 - %LocalAppData%\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\Cookies
 - Single file in SQLite3 format

Parsing Cookies

- Each browser has a method to show the cookie contents.
- To view cookie contents outside of the web browsers, the tools may be used.
 - "tools" folder on your Analysis Machine has the following tools from Nirsoft:
 - ChromeCookiesView
 - FlashCookiesView
 - IECookiesView
 - MozillaCookiesView

Cache

Cache

- Cache is another contents that may contain the web browser access histories.
- Even when the history records were cleared, there may be some chance of cache files remaining on the disk.

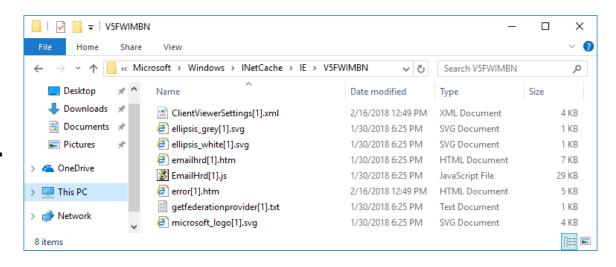
Cache Locations

- Location, format and management form of cache differs for each browser.
 - Internet Explorer (10 or 11) / Edge:
 - %LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\WebCache\WebCacheV01.dat
 - It is in ESE database format.
 - Firefox:
 - %LocalAppData%\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\<Profile Name>\CacheX
 - The last character "X" is a number such as "2".
 - Although their file names are in Firefox internal IDs, they are files that were downloaded from the websites.
 - Chrome:
 - %LocalAppData%\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\Cache
 - Although they are named "f_" + numbers, they are files that were downloaded from the websites.

Exercise: Observation of Cache

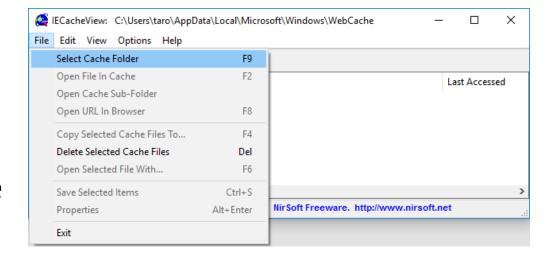
Observation of Cache

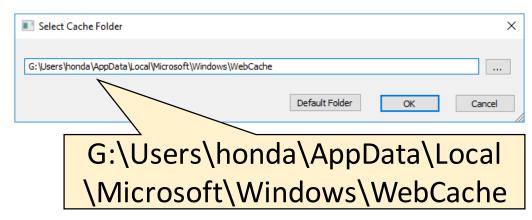
- Cache files are in different format for each browser.
- For Internet Explorer/Edge, cache files are actually the original files.
 - It is possible to directly open them on the Windows Explorer and see their contents.
 - On the other hand, the files are not organized by URLs, so it is difficult to figure out the right file for each URL.
- We will use a tool to observe them.



Opening IECacheView

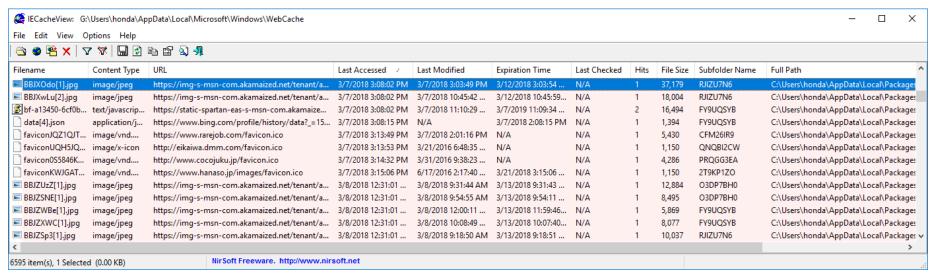
- From the "tools" folder, launch "IECacheView.exe" as administrator.
 - It is another tool by NirSoft that shows Internet Explorer/Edge cache contents.
- Once opened, navigate to "Select Cache Folder" under "File" menu.
- Specify path to the honda's cache folder.
 - Change the preceding "C" to "G"
 - Change "taro" to "honda"
 - Press OK when ready.





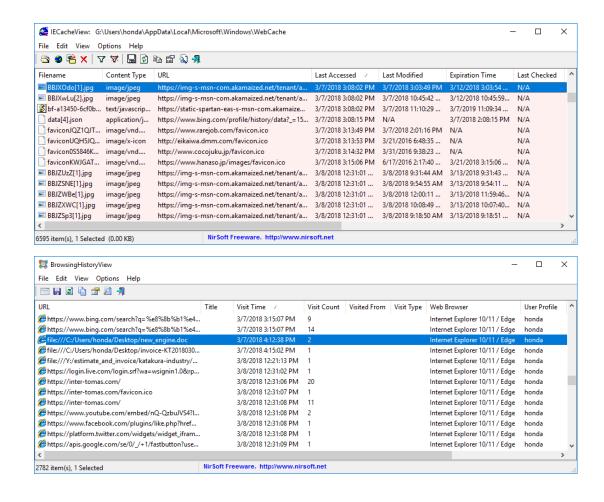
Looking into Cache

- You should be able to see the list of cache files.
 - All files are considered as "Missing" since the drive is mounted as **G**, not C.
 - If you modify the path to drive **G** and open the path, the files do exist.
- Sort by "Last Accessed" column to explore it as a timeline.
- You can search the list by pressing "Find" button on the toolbar, or selecting it from "Edit" menu.



What You Can Find

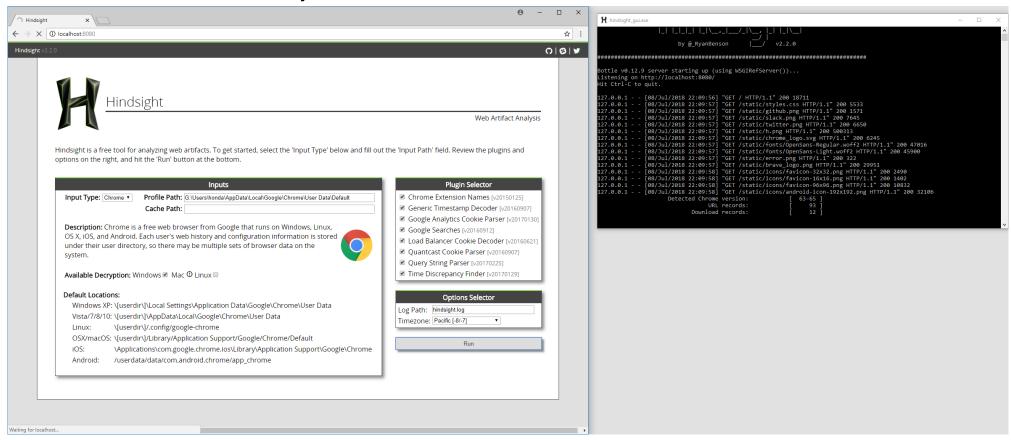
- When we explored the browser histories, we were able to see the access to <u>new_engine.doc</u>.
- We <u>cannot</u> find the access to new_engine.doc in the browser cache.
 - Since the file was a local file, it appeared in the history, but it was not cached.
- Cache may not be perfect for finding access histories, but still useful when:
 - Histories were removed
 - Files are remaining in the history store.



Quick Overview of Some Other Tools

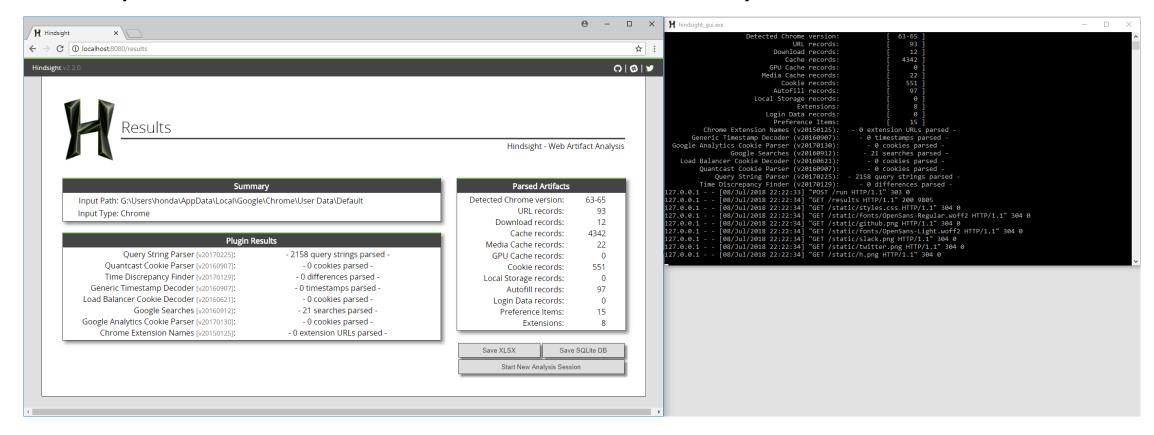
Hindsight (1/2)

A tool aimed to analyze Chrome and Brave browsers.



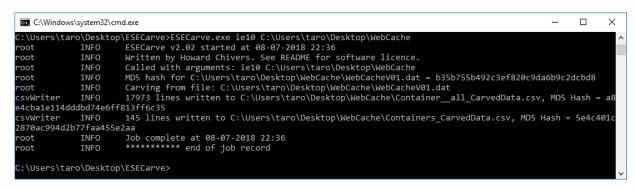
Hindsight (2/2)

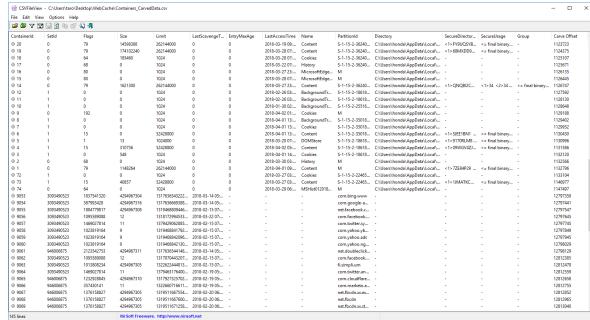
Outputs and details are shown after the analysis is done.



ESECarve

- ESE is a database format used to store histories.
 - It is also used in Windows Search.
 - Copy the artifacts to other work folder; the tool will output the results to the same path as the inputs.
- Contents of the ESE database may be carved in some cases.
- The tool is <u>not</u> publicly available.
 - We are introducing this for your information.





Summary

Summary

- Histories might provide idea about what the attacker has watched during the attack.
- Since many applications use Web Browser as their frameworks, some web browser histories that are not a part of web browsing could be found.
 - For example, sometimes histories from the Windows Explorer could be found in the Internet Explorer histories.
- Don't forget that the histories could be cleared.
 - Sometimes carving may become necessary.