

#### The Major Root Causes

- In order to discover the root cause of the infection, we need to check several sources.
  - E-mails
  - Web (social engineering and drive by download, including watering hole attack)
  - Messengers (Skype, WhatsApp) and SNS Apps (Twitter, Facebook, ...)
  - Removable disks including USB thumb drive
- It is because, the root cause of many targeted attacks are in the paths. Especially, e-mails and web browser artifacts are the two major causes of attacks.

- What is E-mail Forensics?
  - It is a technique to investigate e-mails.
- Why E-mail Forensics?
  - We use this technique to find evidences of insider incidents in common (in eDiscovery).
  - Here, this is an incident involving malware. We investigate e-mails to specify when and how the user was infected with the malware.
  - Identifying infection routes is important for preventing recurrence.
    - However, we should try not to read the contents of e-mails as much as possible from the privacy point of view, unlike eDiscovery. Try to get just attachment files and links.

• We will need to perform analysis on either client side or server side.

• On typical Windows enterprise environments, Exchange Server, Exchange Online or Office 365 are used as mail servers, and Outlook is used as a client software.

#### Outlook

- The mailbox for each user is stored as one of these formats.
  - PST
  - OST
  - NST
- In common, in case of combining with Exchange / Office 365 and Outlook, the mailbox format on the client will be OST format (Exchange) or NST format (Office 365). If you export it from an Exchange server, the format will be PST.

#### Thunderbird

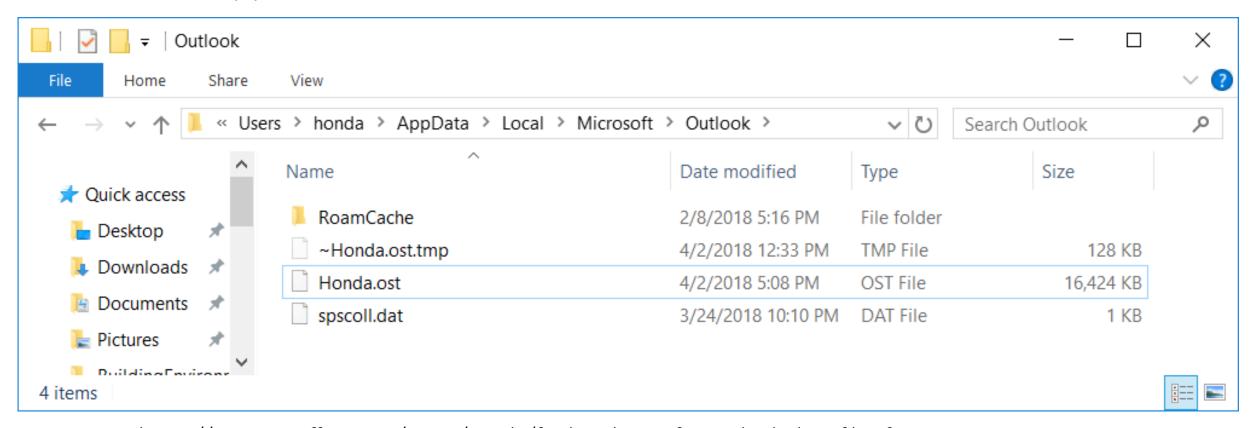
- Modified mboxrd format + SQLite
- Since a mailbox of Thunderbird is portable, we can refer to the existing mails by acquiring all the contents under the path below and deploying them on an analysis PC where Thunderbird is installed.
  - %AppData%\Thunderbird
  - %LocalAppData\Thunderbird

- Viewer/Parser
  - There are many commercial tools, but there are only a few free tools.
  - PST
    - libpff
    - SysTools PST to MBOX Converter (Demo version)
    - Kernel Outlook PST Viewer (Demo version)
  - OST
    - libpff
    - SysTools OST Viewer (Demo version)
    - Kernel OST Viewer (Demo version)
  - NST
    - Kernel NST Viewer (Demo version)

- libpff
  - Open Source Software.
  - We can extract email information including message header, message body and attachment files with pffexport command from PST and OST format by parsing them.
  - They are libraries and commands with command line interface.

- SYSTools OST Viewer
  - The demo version of this software is just a viewer for the OST format, and it does not have export feature of emails and attachments.
  - However, if you view an email with this software, the mail will be extracted and placed in the path below as ".eml" format.
    - %AppData%\CDTPL
      - Typical location of %AppData% is "C:\Users\<USERNAME>\AppData\Roaming".
    - You can acquire the mail header, body and attachment files if you copy the mail.

%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Outlook

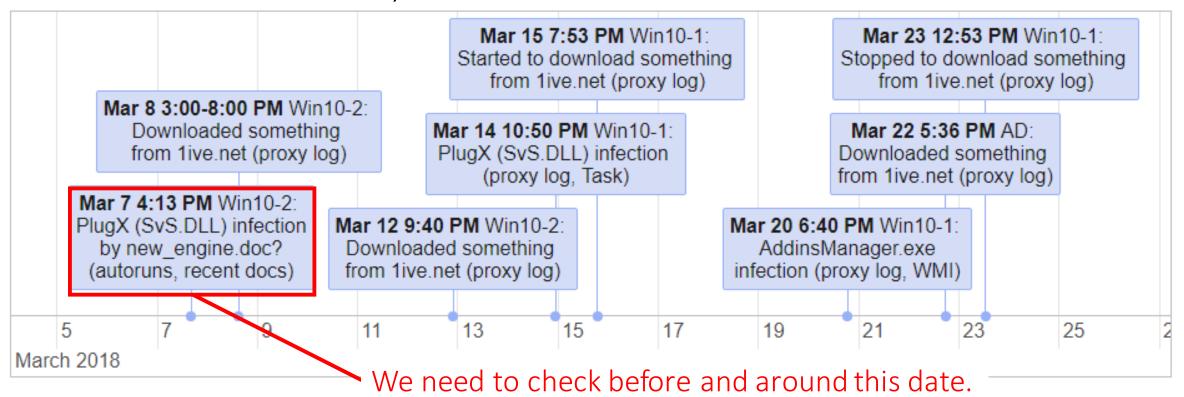


https://support.office.com/en-us/article/find-and-transfer-outlook-data-files-from-one-computer-to-another-0996ece3-57c6-49bc-977b-0d1892e2aacc?ui=en-US&rs=en-US&ad=US

# Lab 1 Outlook Forensics with libpff

#### Outlook Forensics with libpff (1)

• This is the analysis results so far. We found the infection date (on March 7 at 4:13 PM) on Client-Win10-2.



#### Outlook Forensics with libpff (2)

- Mount this image with Arsenal Image Mounter with "Write temporary" option.
  - E:\Artifacts\scenario1 E01\Client-Win10-2 honda.E01

#### Outlook Forensics with libpff (3)

- libpff (pffexport)
  - Run "cmd admin.exe" on the shortcut folder and execute this command.

```
pffexport -m all -t C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost -c windows-932
g:\Users\honda\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Outlook\Honda.ost
```

Note that you will need to change the drive letters corresponding to your environment. Enter this in a single line.

- -m : It specifies export mode. "all" could recover deleted data.
- -t: It is for specifying an export folder.
- -c : It is to specify a code page.
  - This OST file came from a Japanese environment, which uses a code page "CP932".
  - See the URL below to find code pages.

https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/dd317756(v=vs.85).aspx

#### Outlook Forensics with libpff (4)

- libpff (pffexport)
  - Open PowerShell, and find message numbers on March 7, 2018 with this command.

```
chcp 932 ; Select-String "^Date: .* 7 Mar 2018" ( Get-ChildItem
C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export -Recurse | Where-Object { $_.Name -match
"InternetHeaders.txt" } | Select-Object -ExpandProperty FullName ) | % {$_.ToString()}
```

Enter this in a single line.

```
Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート - メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ\Message00131\InternetHeaders.txt:19:Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2018 14:36:24 +0900 Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート - メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ\Message00132\InternetHeaders.txt:20:Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2018 14:41:29 +0900 (snip) Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート - メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ\Message00144\InternetHeaders.txt:9:Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2018 16:17:41 +0900
```

The message numbers in March 7, 2018 seem to be between 131 and 144.

#### Outlook Forensics with libpff (5)

- libpff (pffexport)
  - Next, find the attachment file names with this command.

```
Get-ChildItem C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export -Recurse | Select -ExpandProperty
FullName | Select-String "\\Message001[34]" | Select-String "\\Attachments\\" | %
{$_.ToString()}
```

Enter this in a single line.

```
C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート -
メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ\Message00137\Attachments\1_invoice-KT20180307.xlsx
C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート -
メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ\Message00139\Attachments\1_18-02-22-(tsaito).xls
C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート -
メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ\Message00140\Attachments\1_new_engine.doc
C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート -
メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ\Message00141\Attachments\1_invoice-KT20180307-2.xlsx
(snip)
Several attachment files were found.
```

#### Outlook Forensics with libpff (5)

- libpff (pffexport)
  - Save the file we are looking for to Desktop on your VM. We will use this later in "Exploit Analysis" section.

```
copy "C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート - メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ
\Message00140\Attachments\1_new_engine.doc" $env:USERPROFILE\Desktop\new_engine.doc
```

Enter this in a single line

#### Outlook Forensics with libpff (6)

- libpff (pffexport)
  - You can see headers if you see "InternetHeaders.txt".

```
受信トレイ\Message00140\InternetHeaders.txt"
                                                                 Enter this in a single line.
(snip)
                                         This domain name isn't yahoo. The third character
To: <honda@ninja-motors.net>
                                         isn't "h", but "p".
From: Meguro < neguro@yapoo.co.jp>
Subject: = ?UTF - 8 ? B ? 5 paw 5 Z 6 L 4 4 K o 4 4 O z 4 4 K 4 4 4 O z 4 4 G u 6 K m z 5 a C x ? =
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
       boundary="-----E4130898EA5DCBBDD32F0276"
Content-Language: en-US
Message-ID: <20180307070742.872EFC1B46@mail.ninja-motors.net>
Date: Wed, 7 Mar 2018 16:07:42 +0900
                                           The attacker sent this mail at this date.
(snip)
```

notepad "C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート - メールボックス\IPM SUBTREE\

#### Outlook Forensics with libpff (7)

- libpff (pffexport)
  - You can get the URLs in the mails by executing the following command if needed.

```
Select-String "http?s://" (Get-ChildItem C:\Users\taro\Desktop\Honda.ost.export -Recurse |
Select-Object -ExpandProperty FullName | Select-String "\\Message001[34][0-9]\\Message" ) | %
{$_.ToString()}
```

Enter this in a single line.

```
Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート - メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ
\Message00138\Message.html:572: <a href='http://www.twitter.com/" target="_blank"><img
src='https://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/color-twitter-48.png"
style="display:block;" class="" height="24" width="24"></a>
Desktop\Honda.ost.export\ルート - メールボックス\IPM_SUBTREE\受信トレイ
\Message00138\Message.html:604: <a href="http://www.facebook.com" target="_blank"><img
src='https://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block-v2/color-facebook-48.png"
style="display:block;" class="" height="24" width="24"></a>
(snip)
```

#### Outlook Forensics with libpff - Summary

- We got a suspicious mail.
  - The mail was sent at March 7, 2018 at 4:07 PM (JST).
  - The attachment file name is "new\_engine.doc".
- We found that the attachment file was opened, from the investigation we have done on "Open/Save documents" artifacts.

- Exchange EDB
  - The mailbox database is saved as the EDB format (Extensible Storage Engine (ESE) Database (EDB) File format), which is also used in the Active Directory database (NTDS.DIT) and web access history of IE/Edge.
  - Unfortunately, many EDB viewers cannot read EDB from Exchange.
    - Nirsoft ESEDB Viewer
      - Most of the columns are empty.
    - Libesedb
      - Unknown ID (type 12) cause parse error.

- Exchange EDB Parser/Viewer
  - SYSTools Exchange Recovery (Commercial / Free Demo)
  - Kernel Exchange EDB Viewer (Commercial / Free Demo)
  - Stellar Exchange EDB PST Converter (Commercial / Free Demo)
  - CodeTwo Backup For Exchange (Commercial)
  - Veeam Microsoft Exchange Recovery (Commercial)

Common Exchange EDB file paths

"%SystemDrive%" is typically "C:".

- 2010
  - %SystemDrive%\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V14\Mailbox\Mailbox Database << random number>>\mailbox database << random number>>.edb
  - %SystemDrive%\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V14\Mailbox\ Public Folder Database\Public Folder Database.edb
    - https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/hh441717.aspx
    - https://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/de-DE/b38ce59d-07eb-4ded-a2c5-328e2894393e/exchange-2010-log-dateien-versehentlich-gelscht?forum=exchange\_serverde
- 2013/2016
  - %SystemDrive%\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Mailbox\Mailbox\Database << random number>>\mailbox database << random number>>.edb
    - https://social.technet.microsoft.com/Forums/ie/en-US/ae7839bd-e67e-494d-8fab-b0f2d45fed63/file-on-mailbox-database?forum=exchangesvradmin

- Finding the EDB file
  - You can use the command below to get the EDB file path in recent OS and Exchange versions.

#### Get-MailboxDatabase -Status | Select-Object edbfilepath

https://blogs.technet.microsoft.com/heyscriptingguy/2012/12/10/powertip-find-the-path-to-exchange-mailbox-database/

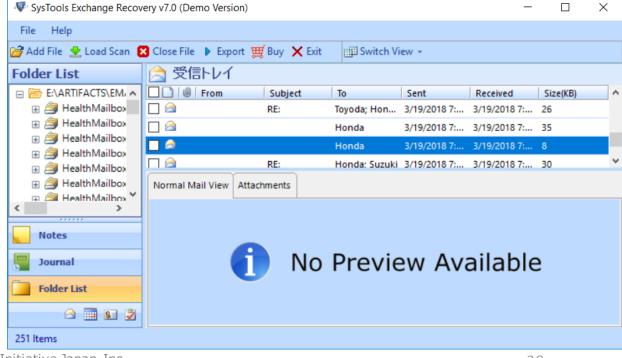
- SYSTools Exchange Recovery
  - You can filter with a period of dates for exporting e-mails.
    - Demo version of this software is for free. We can export up to 25 items per mail folder.
  - You can also get previewed mails under the directory below.
    - C:\Users\taro\AppData\Roaming\CDTPL\SysTools Exchange Recovery

- Mount the Exchange Server's disk Image below with Arsenal Image Mounter with "Write temporary" option.
  - E:\Artifacts\scenario1\_E01\Exchng-Win2016-disk1.E01

From now on, we assume this image is mounted with the drive letter "I".

 Open SYSTools Exchange Recovery on the shortcuts folder.



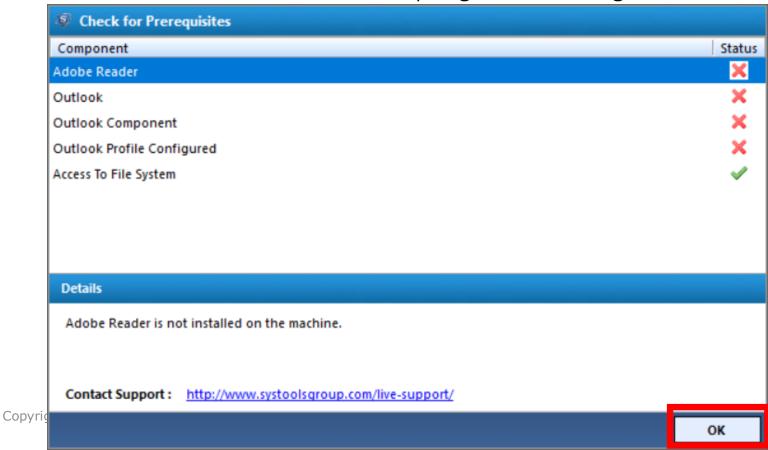


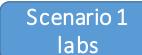
# Thanks for selecting SysTools Exchange Recovery. You are currently using the evaluation version of the product which has limited functionalities. If you would like to purchase the product then click BUY, if you have already purchased the product then click ACTIVATE to register the license or if you would like to continue the evaluation version then click CONTINUE DEMO... Buy Activate Continue Demo...

#### sics with SYSTools

Press "Continue Demo..." when you get this message.

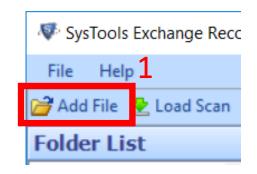
Click "OK" when you get this message.

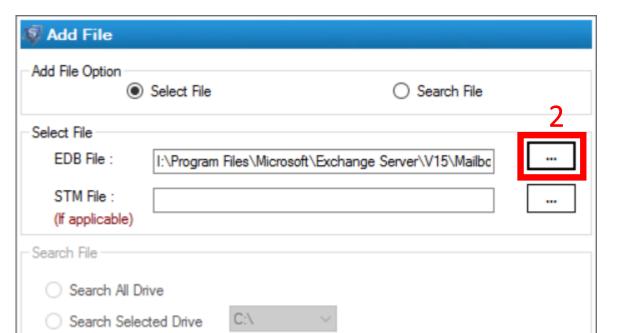




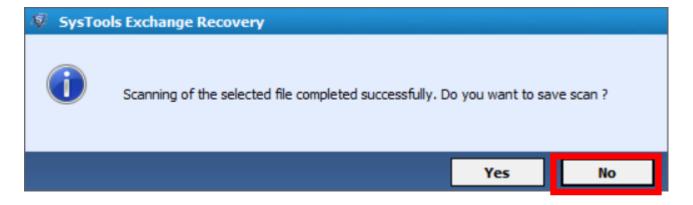
- Click "Add File" on the toolbar.
- Choose the EDB file below and press "Add" in "Add File" dialog.
  - I:\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Mailbox\Mailbox Database 1886701956\Mailbox Database 1886701956.edb

Note that you may need to change the drive letters corresponding to your environment.

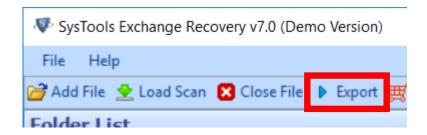




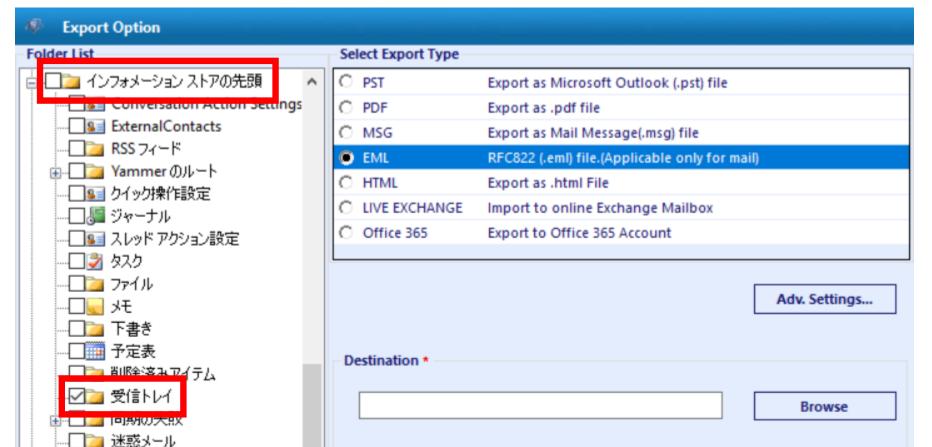
• Press "No" when the dialog below is shown.



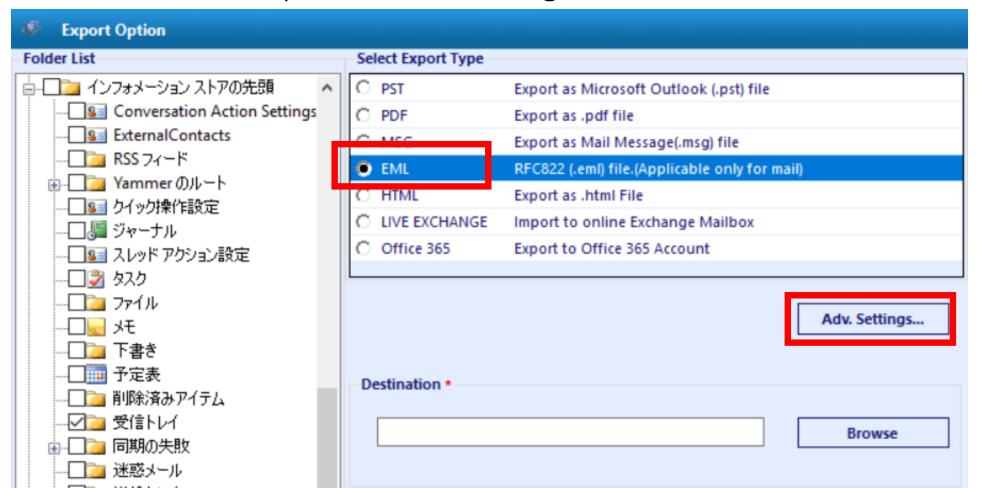
Click "Export".



• Honda -> Orphan -> インフォメーションストアの先頭 (Top of Information Store) -> 受信トレイ (inbox)



Select "EML" and press "Adv. Settings...".

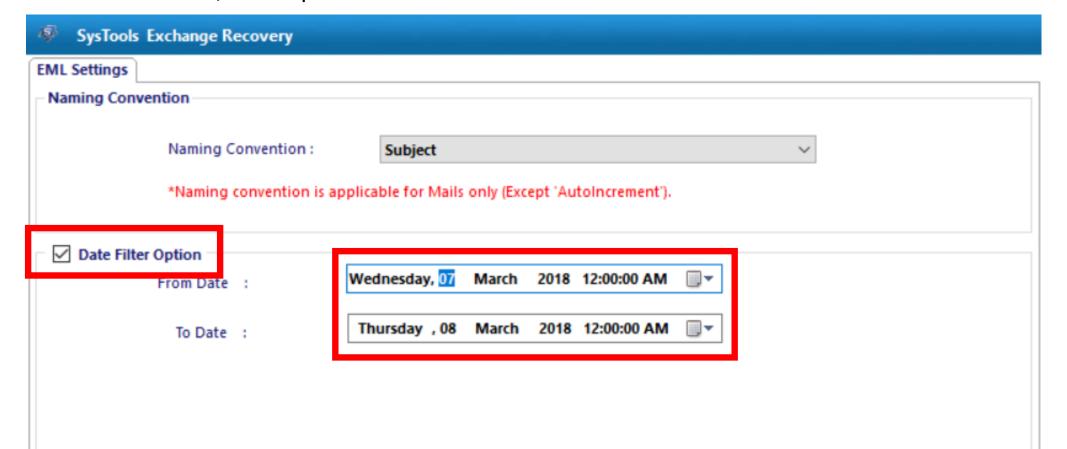




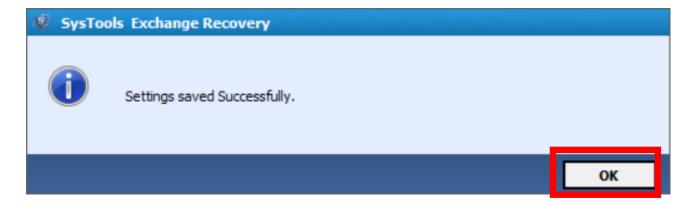
36

#### Exchange Server Forensics with SYSTools Exchange Recovery

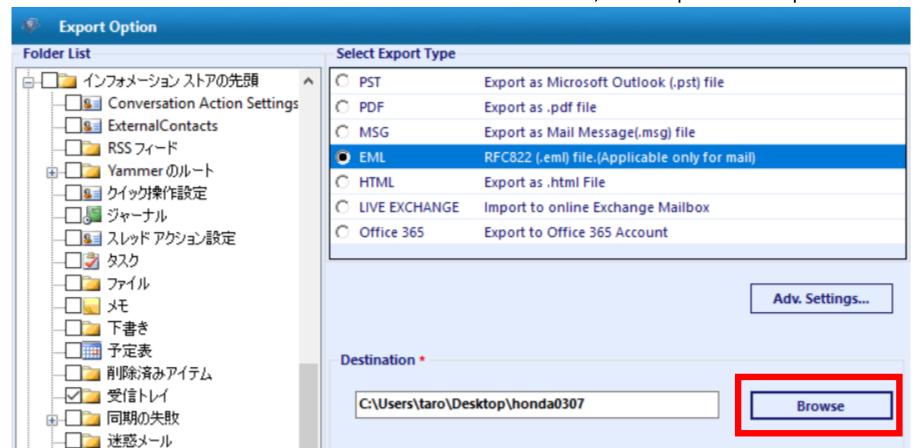
• Set from March 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM to March 08, 2018 at 12:00 AM as date filter, and press "Save".



- SYSTools Exchange Recovery
  - Press "OK" when you see the message.



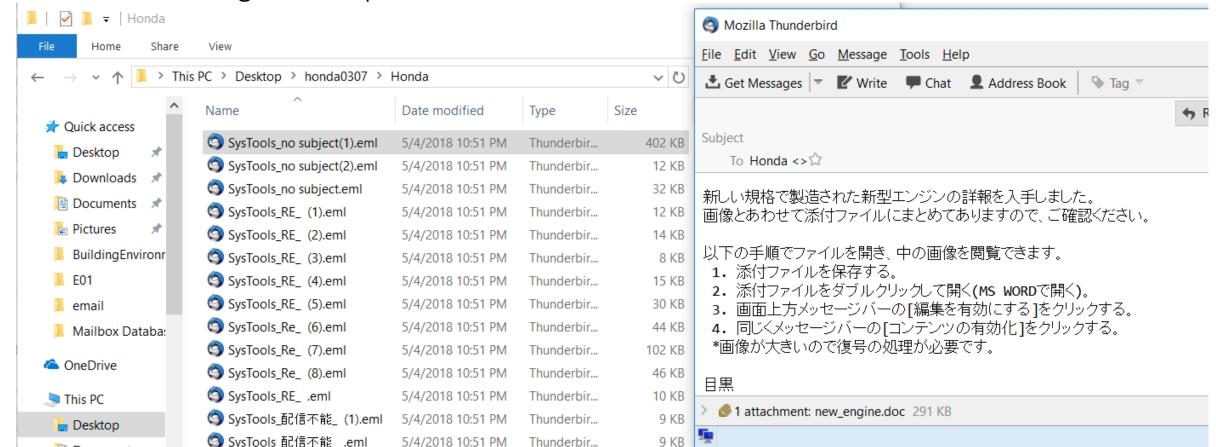
- SYSTools Exchange Recovery
  - Press "Browse" and choose a destination folder, then press "Export".



- SYSTools Exchange Recovery
  - Press "OK" when you find the message.



- SYSTools Exchange Recovery
  - You can get the exported emails.



### E-mail Forensics — Tips

## Exchange Server Forensics with Another Method

- You can acquire PST files from EDB on running Exchange Servers.
  - Exchange Management Shell (Exchange PowerShell) (+ ESEUtil).
    - New-MailboxExportRequest cmdlet
      - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/powershell/module/exchange/mailboxes/New-MailboxExportRequest?view=exchange-ps
      - https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/mt784720(v=exchg.160).aspx
      - https://social.technet.microsoft.com/wiki/contents/articles/29986.exchange-troubleshooting-recover-mailbox-from-edb-file-with-free-built-in-tools.aspx
      - https://www.codetwo.com/admins-blog/exchange-mailbox-backup-pst-pros-cons/
    - Tips for using New-MailboxExportRequest cmdlet
      - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/powershell/exchange/?view=exchange-ps
      - https://deangrant.wordpress.com/2013/10/04/the-term-new-mailboxexportrequest-is-not-recognized/
      - https://anandthearchitect.com/2012/10/16/exchange-2010-new-mailboxexportrequestaccess-tothe-path-is-denied/
  - EAC (Exchange Admin Center)
    - https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/mt784720(v=exchg.160).aspx

### Office 365 / Exchange Online Forensics

- To export Office 365 mailboxes to your local PC, see the URLs below.
  - Office 365 Admin Center + eDiscovery Export tool
    - https://www.codetwo.com/admins-blog/how-to-export-office-365-mailboxes-to-pst-using-ediscovery/
    - https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dn440164(v=exchg.160).aspx
  - Outlook
    - https://support.office.com/en-us/article/export-or-backup-email-contacts-and-calendar-to-an-outlook-pst-file-14252b52-3075-4e9b-be4e-ff9ef1068f91
  - Third Party Tools
    - SysTools Office 365 Backup & Restore Software (Commercial)
      - https://www.systoolsgroup.com/office365-backup/
    - bitrecover EML Converter Wizard (Commercial)
      - https://www.bitrecover.com/eml-converter/

### E-mail Forensics – Wrap up

### What We Learned in This Chapter

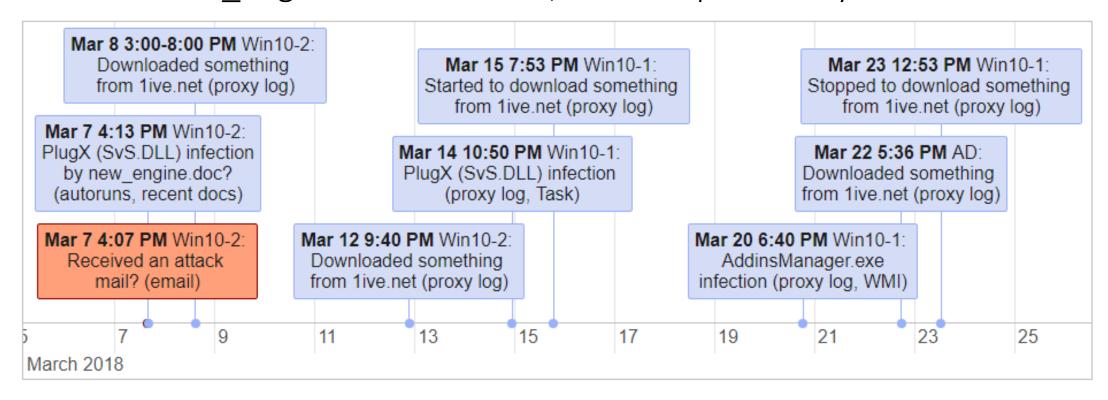
- Several tools can parse OST and PST files that are found on clients with Outlook.
- Exchange servers have mailboxes as an EDB file.
  - We can parse it in several ways.

#### Considerations on E-mail Forensics

- You should just extract attachment files and URLs around the infection dates.
- Do not read contents of mails from the privacy point of view.

## What We Learned in This Chapter – Scenario 1

• We got several suspicious e-mails and we have an evidence that the user seems to have opened them. We will need to analyze the file named "new\_engine.doc" in detail, in the exploit analysis section.



#### Tools

- PST
  - libpff
    - https://github.com/libyal/libpff
  - SysTools PST to MBOX Converter (Demo version)
    - https://www.systoolsgroup.com/outlook-to-mbox.html
  - Kernel Outlook PST Viewer (Demo version)
    - https://www.kerneldatarecovery.com/pst-viewer.html
- OST
  - libpff
    - https://github.com/libyal/libpff
  - SysTools OST Viewer (Demo version)
    - https://www.systoolsgroup.com/ost-viewer.html
  - Kernel OST Viewer (Demo version)
    - https://www.kerneldatarecovery.com/ost-viewer.html

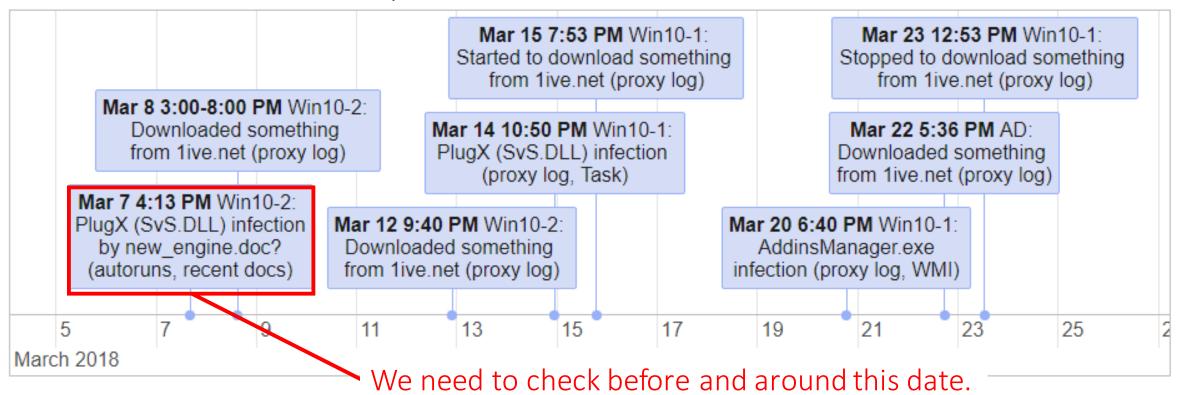
#### Tools

- Exchange EDB
  - SYSTools Exchange Recovery
    - https://www.systoolsgroup.com/exchange-recovery.html
  - Kernel EDB Viewer
    - https://www.kerneldatarecovery.com/edb-viewer.html
  - Veeam Microsoft Exchange Recovery
    - https://www.veeam.com/microsoft-exchange-recovery.html
  - Stellar Exchange EDB PST Converter
    - http://www.stellarservertools.com/exchange-edb-pst-converter.php
  - CodeTwo Backup For Exchange
    - http://www.codetwo.com/backup-for-exchange/

# Appendix 1: Extra Exercise 1 Outlook Forensics with SYSTools OST Viewer

# Outlook Forensics with SYSTools OST Viewer (1)

• This is the analysis results so far. We found the infection date (on March 7 at 4:13 PM) on Client-Win10-2.



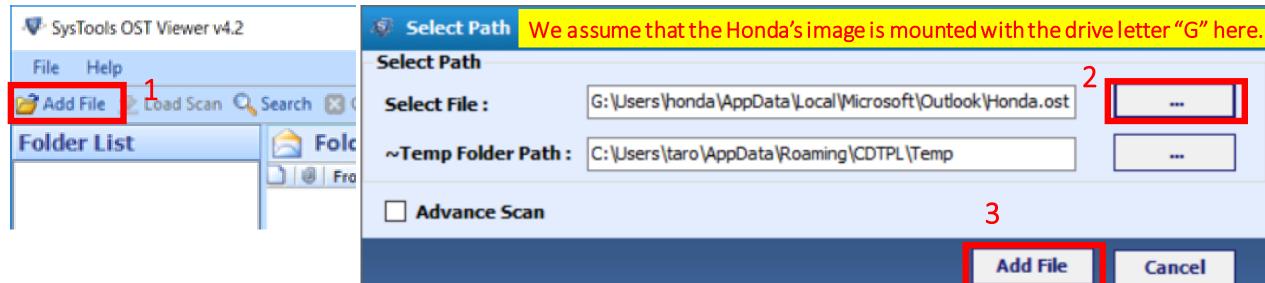
# Outlook Forensics with SYSTools OST Viewer (2)

- Mount this image with Arsenal Image Mounter with "Write temporary" option.
  - E:\Artifacts\scenario1\_E01\Client-Win10-2\_honda.E01
- Open "SysTools OST Viewer" on the shortcut folder.
- By the way, you can skip this exercise if you do not like GUI based investigation. We will perform the same exercise with a CUI based application.

# Outlook Forensics with SYSTools OST Viewer

- Click "Add File" on the toolbar
- Choose the OST file below and press "Add File" in "Select Path" dialog.
  - G:\Users\honda\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Outlook\Honda.ost

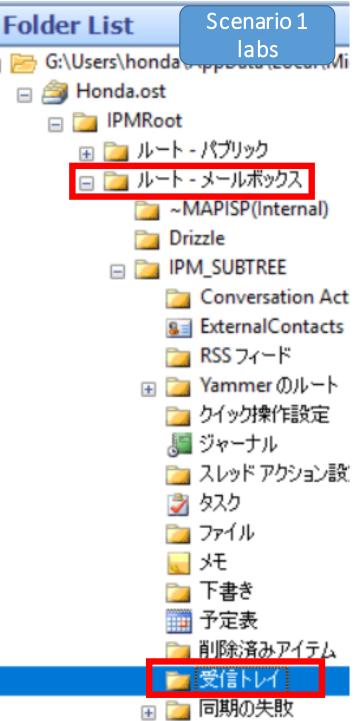
Note that you may need to change the drive letter corresponding to your environment.



Cancel

# Outlook Forensics with SYSTools OS (4)

- Follow the direction below to open inbox.
  - IPMRoot -> ルート メールボックス -> IPM\_SUBTREE -> 受信トレイ
    - ルート メールボックス : root mail box
    - 受信トレイ: Inbox
    - Sorry in Japanese...

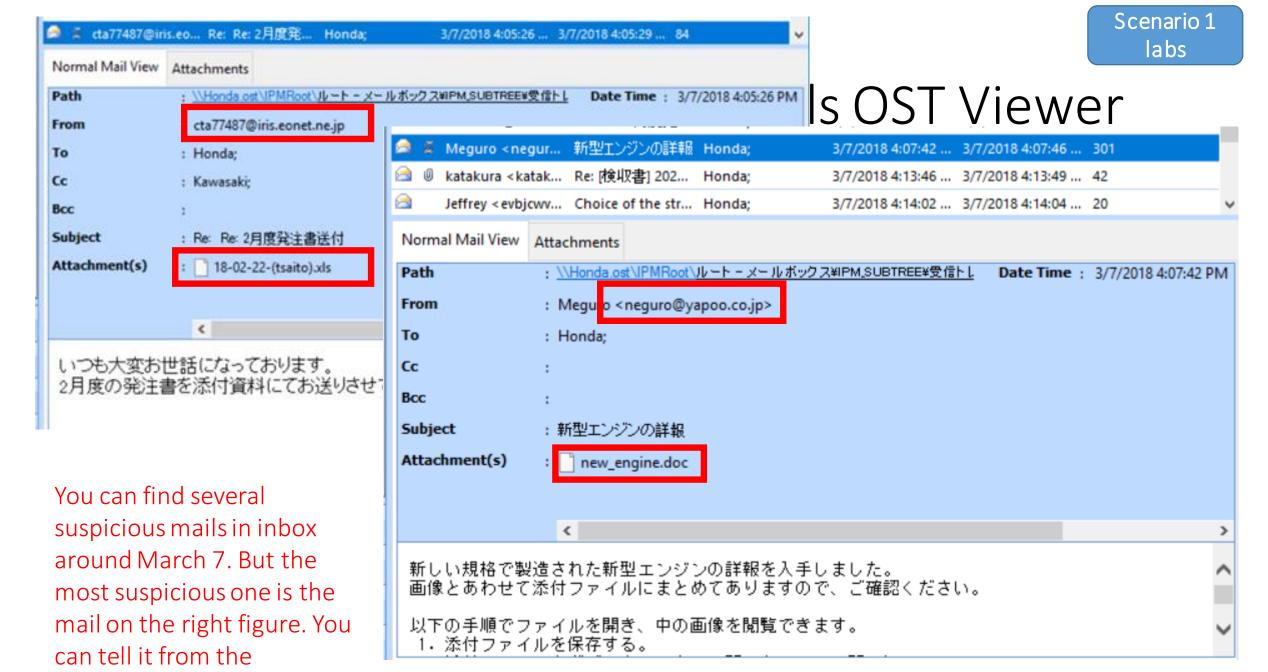


# Outlook Forensics with SYSTools OST Viewer (5)

- Let's Investigate E-mails around March 7, 2018 at 4:13 PM because we already know the infection date. We have also found a suspicious filename, which the user opened, named "new\_engine.doc".
  - Look for emails with attachments.
  - Or URLs within emails.

#### • Caution:

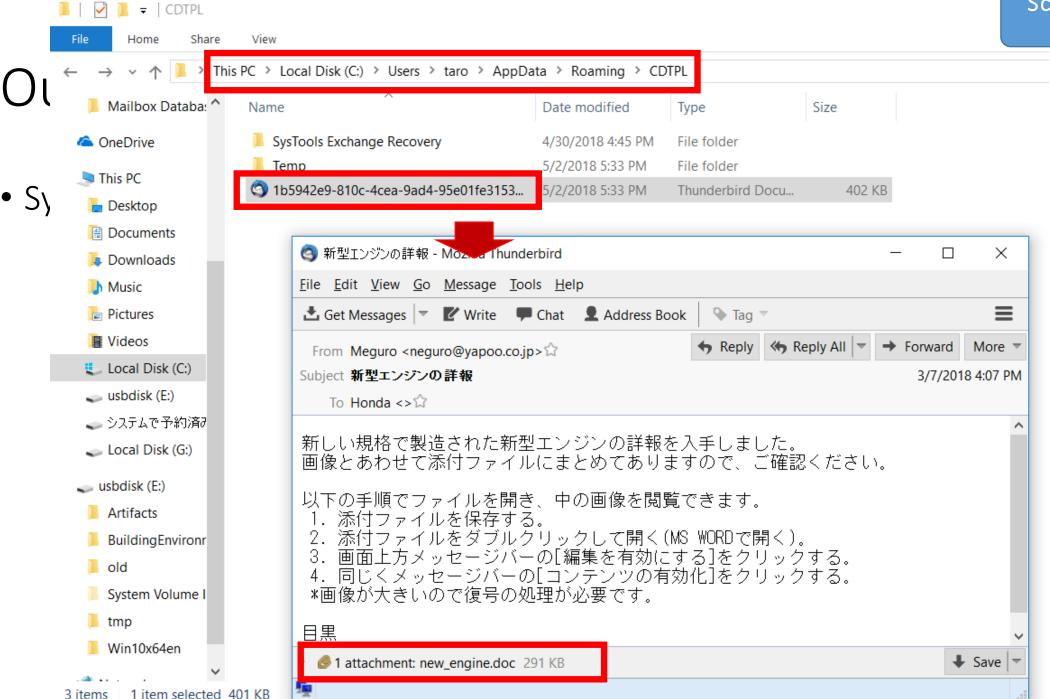
- In the mailbox we are seeing from now on, there are many SPAM mails and sexual topics included in them. Do not look at the mail texts.
- As a general theory, you should try not to see the texts while performing incident response from the privacy point of view.



attachment filename.

# Outlook Forensics with SYSTools OST Viewer (7)

- If you want to get this mail data, go to the folder below. You can get the mail you are seeing in eml format.
  - %AppData%\CDTPL
    - C:\Users\taro\AppData\Roaming\CDTPL
- Double-click the file, then you can see the message and get the attachment file with Thunderbird like the next page.
  - If you have multiple eml files, open all of them!

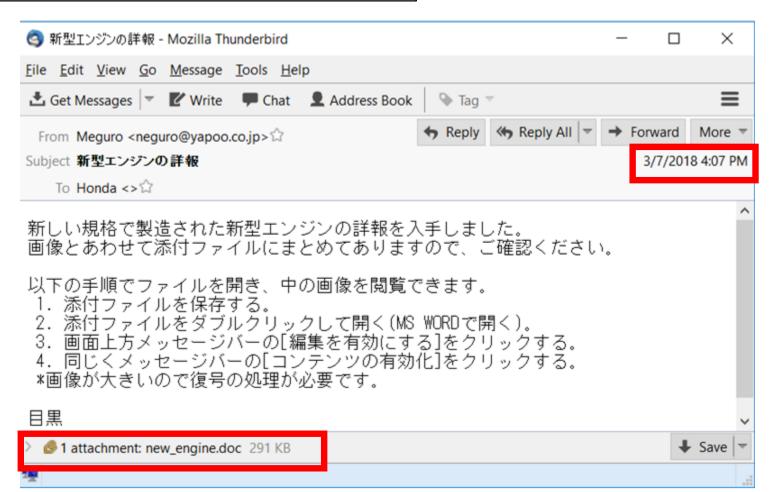


#### The result of the RecentDocs

Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\RecentDocs\.doc
LastWrite Time Wed Mar 7 07:12:38 2018 (UTC)
MRUListEx = 0
0 = new\_engine.doc

March 7, 16:12 2018 (JST)

As you saw in the previous chapter, this user opened a document with the same name, and the dates are very close!



# Outlook Forensics with SYSTools OST Viewer - Summary

- We got a suspicious mail.
  - The mail was sent at March 7, 2018 at 4:07 PM (JST).
  - The attachment file name is "new\_engine.doc".
- We found that the attachment file was opened, from the investigation we have done on "Open/Save documents" artifacts.
- Save it to Desktop of your VM.
  - We will need to check if the document is really malicious or not.
  - We will check this in the "Exploit analysis" section.