The case of M57.biz

Investigating the case of corporate exfiltration

M57.biz is a hip web start-up developing a body art catalog.

Facts of the case:

- $3M in seed funding; now closing $10M round
- 2 founder/owners
- 10 employees hired first year

Current staff

- President: Alison Smith
- CFO: Jean
- Programmers: Bob, Carole, David, Emmy
- Marketing: Gina, Harris
- BizDev: Indy

M57.biz is a virtual corporation

Programmers:

- Work out of their houses
- Daily online chat session; Weekly in-person meetings office park

Marketing & BizDev:

- Work out of hotel rooms or Starbucks (mostly on the road)
- In-person meetings once every two weeks.

Most documents are exchanged by email.

The case: document exfiltration

A spreadsheet containing confidential information was posted as an attachment in the "technical support" forum of a competitor's website.

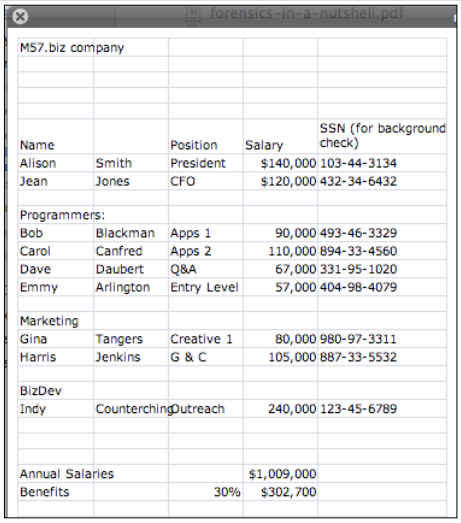
The spreadsheet came from CFO Jean's computer.

- You are given a copy of the spreadsheet, "m57plan.xlsx"

Questions to answer:

- How did the documents get on the competitor's website?

Here is the spreadsheet:



forensics-in-a-nutshell.pdf

M57.biz company				
Name		Position	Salary	SSN (for background check)
Alison	Smith	President	$140,000	103-44-3134
Jean	Jones	CFO	$120,000	432-34-6432
Programmers:				
Bob	Blackman	Apps 1	90,000	493-46-3329
Carol	Canfred	Apps 2	110,000	894-33-4560
Dave	Daubert	Q&A	67,000	331-95-1020
Emmy	Arlington	Entry Level	57,000	404-98-4079
Marketing				
Gina	Tangers	Creative 1	80,000	980-97-3311
Harris	Jenkins	G & C	105,000	887-33-5532
BizDev				
Indy	Counterching	Outreach	240,000	123-45-6789
Annual Salaries			$1,009,000	
Benefits		30%	$302,700	

Summaries of interviews.

Alison (President):

- *I don't know what Jean is talking about.*
- *I never asked Jean for the spreadsheet.*
- *I never received the spreadsheet by email.*

Jean (CFO):

- *Alison asked me to prepare the spreadsheet as part of new funding round.*
- *Alison asked me to send the spreadsheet to her by email.*
- *That's all I know.*

Electronic identities

Alison (President):

- alison@m57.biz ; password: "ab=8989

Jean (CFO):

- jean@m57.biz ; password: gick*1212

Your assignment

You have been given:

- A copy of Jean's computer's hard drive
- A copy of the spreadsheet

The client, one of the first-round funders, wants to know:

- When did Jean create this spreadsheet?
- How did it get from her computer to competitor's website?
- Who else from the company is involved?

Note: I have imaged Jean's computer for you:

- jeanm57.E01 (EnCase format)
- jeanm57.aff (AFF format)

Your assignment

Use Autopsy or FTK to examine the test image.

- It's big enough to be realistic, small enough so that the Analysis process will run in minutes.

You can also:

- Try to carve the test image.

Reference

Garfinkel, Farrell, Roussev and Dinolt, Bringing Science to Digital Forensics with Standardized Forensic Corpora, DFRWS 2009, Montreal, Canada
https://simson.net/clips/academic/2009.DFRWS.Corpora.pdf