Scenario

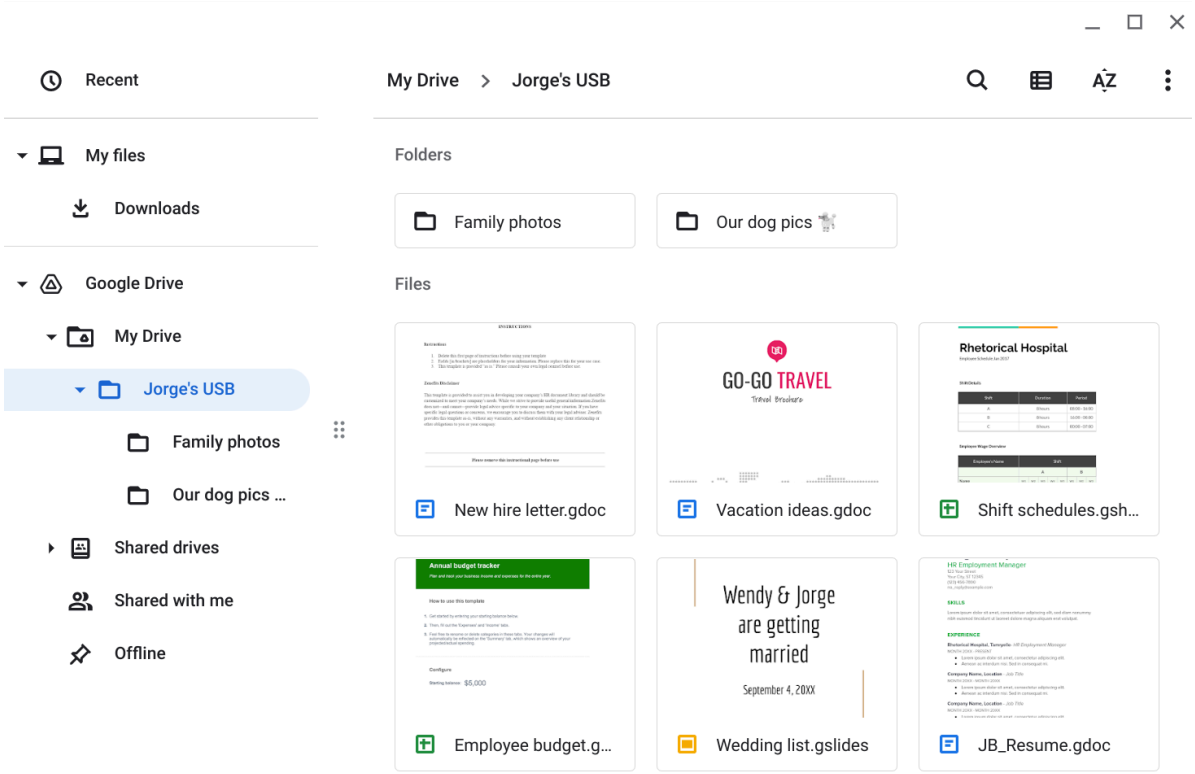
You are part of the security team at Rhetorical Hospital and arrive at work one morning. On the ground of the parking lot, you find a USB stick with the hospital's logo printed on it. There's no one else around who might have dropped it, so you decide to pick it up out of curiosity.

You bring the USB drive back to your office where the team has virtualization software installed on a workstation. Virtualization software can be used for this very purpose because it's one of the only ways to safely investigate an unfamiliar USB stick. The software works by running a simulated instance of the computer on the same workstation. This simulation isn't connected to other files or networks, so the USB drive can't affect other systems if it happens to be infected with malicious software.

Steps

Step 2: inspect the contents of the USB stick

You create a virtual environment and plug the USB drive into the workstation. The contents of the device appear to belong to Jorge Bailey, the human resource manager at Rhetorical Hospital.



Jorge's drive contains a mix of personal and work-related files. For example, it contains folders that appear to store family and pet photos. There is also a new hire letter and an employee shift schedule.

Review the types of information that Jorge has stored on this device. Then, in the **Contents** row of the activity template, **write 2-3 sentences** (40-60 words) about the type of information that's stored on the USB drive.

***Note**: USB drives often contain an assortment of personally identifiable information (PII). Attackers can easily use this sensitive information to target the data owner or others around them.*

Step 3: Apply an attacker mindset to the contents of the USB drive
The flash drive appears to contain a mixture of personal and work-related files. Consider how an attacker might use this information if they obtained it. Also, consider whether this whole event was staged.

For example, an attacker could have placed these files on the USB drive as a distraction. They might have targeted Jorge or someone he knows, hoping they would find the device and plug it into their workstation. In doing so, the attacker could establish a backdoor into the company's systems while the unsuspecting target browsed through the files.

In the **Attacker mindset** row of the activity template, write **2-3 sentences** (40-60 words) about how this information could be used against Jorge or the hospital.

***Pro tip**: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides some security tips on using caution with USB drives, including keeping personal and business drives separate.*

Step 4: Analyze the risk of finding a parking lot USB
You have not opened any of the files on the device, which is best practice.

Attackers sometimes conduct USB baiting attacks to deliver malicious code that they've crafted.

However, this USB drive was still a security risk even though it did not contain malicious code. It could have easily been found by an attacker who might have used its contents to plan a variety of attacks.

Consider some of the risks associated with USB baiting attacks:

- *What types of malicious software could be hidden on these devices? What could have happened if the device were infected and discovered by another employee?*
- *What sensitive information could a threat actor find on a device like this?*
- *How might that information be used against an individual or an organization?*

*In the **Risk analysis** row of the activity template, write **3 or 4 sentences** (60-80 words) describing any technical, operational, or managerial controls that could mitigate USB baiting attacks.*