

SIT282 Computer Crime and Digital Forensics
ASSIGNMENT 2



Digital Forensic Investigation #2
Written and completed by Connor Gent - 219501701

Table of Contents

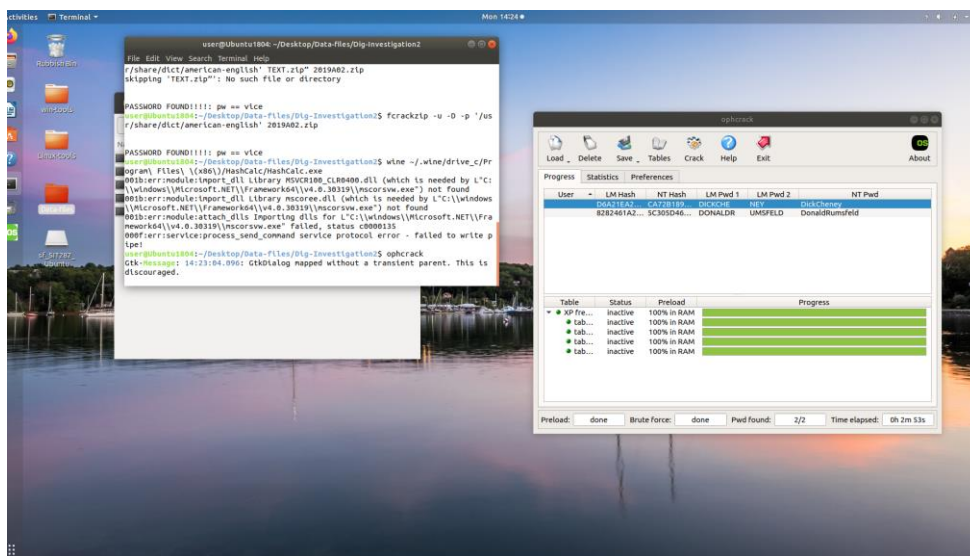
DIGITAL FORENSIC PROCEDURE	2
1.1 How I downloaded the File	2
1.2 NTML Hashes	3
1.3 Process to open File	3
1.4 Contents of Encrypted File	4
1.5 Tools used During Investigation.....	4
1.6 Steps Undertaken.....	5
DIGITAL FORENSIC REPORT	15
2.1 Recommendations	16
2.2 Summary of Investigation	16
2.3 Evidence Discovered	17
2.4 Relation to The Case.....	17
2.5 Suggestions Made	17
2.6 Single Evidence Form	18

DIGITAL FORENSIC PROCEDURE

1. How I downloaded the file, precautions taken, and how I ensured its integrity.

File Download Procedure	In order to download the executable files that have been provided to us by Sandra I used an FTP program. I could have also used a Web-browser (Firefox on VM) but that contains more risks. Once Downloaded I calculated the hash value using md5sum syntax to compare it with the given value in the case “9ec1c8f62429182349f3979c39aed8fb”
Precautions Applied	Precautions used included making a copy of the executable code, whilst also changing the permission of the file meaning I could only access and view the file just minimizing the chances of the file being altered and manipulated by unauthorised individuals.
Method used to ensure Integrity	I copied the executable file and locked the original file. A duplicate was made immediately after the download to have a backup copy and to minimize other risks. CHMOD 400 was used on the original file to protect the file against accidental overwrite. I also checked to see if there were any viruses or other malicious codes were within the file. This was done as it was a binary file. These steps/methods helped ensure integrity.

2. Describe how you decrypt two given NTLM hash values by using OphCrack, including screen shots.



(Figure 0.1)

I used the program OphCrack to obtain the passwords for the two hash values, the steps required to decrypt/Crack the two given NTML hash values were:

- Clicked the “load” button then selected “Single Hash” from the list that dropped down.
- I then typed in the NTML hashes separately in the load single hash box:

- D6A21EA26063C42FC9876E4B0C51BC82:CA72B189F412A384D96B785A08176773
 - 8282461A2BDAF626E6067B973FDDC643:5C305D4616C7571D5DDC6EEA5BA5C395
- Once both NTML hash values were typed I clicked the ‘crack’ button from the main menu
 - I waited a few minutes as I wanted to fully load the rainbow tables in the memory. By waiting I was able to see the recovered passwords of these two NTML hash values.

NTML hash values were:


D6A21EA26063C42FC9876E4B0C51BC82:CA72B189F412A384D96B785A0817677

- Corresponded to alphabetical phrase: DickCheney (Password Acquired)

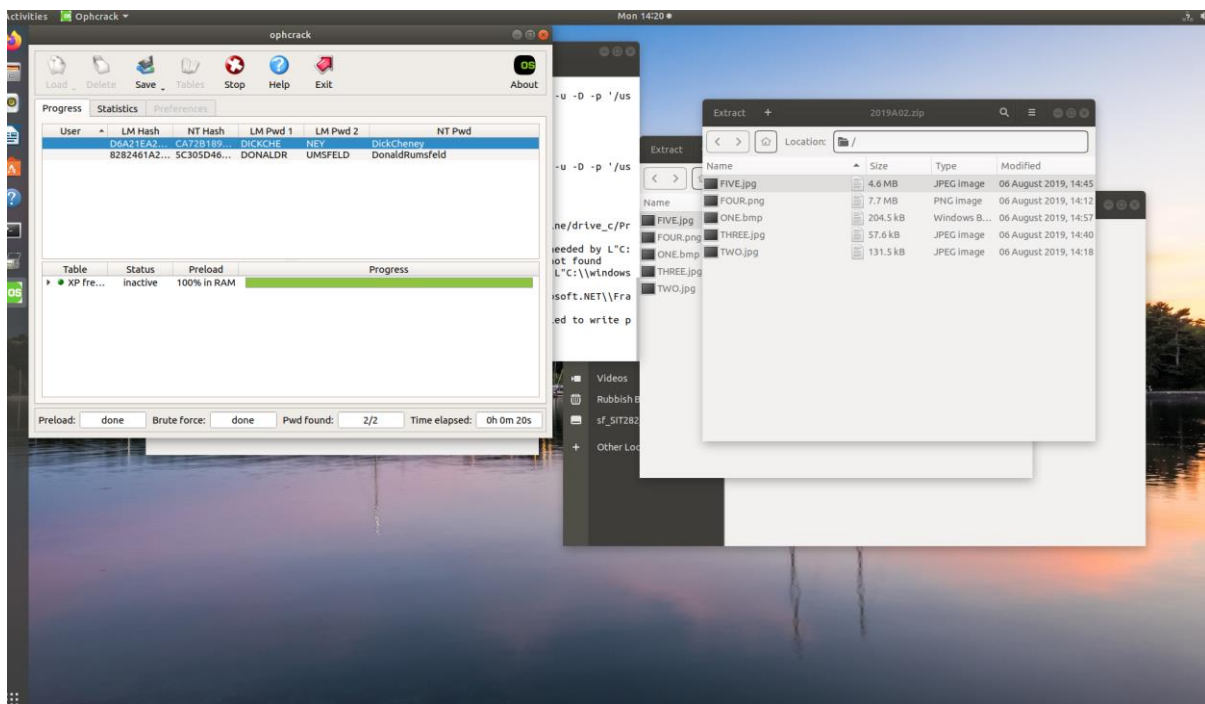
8282461A2BDAF626E6067B973FDDC643:5C305D4616C7571D5DDC6EEA5BA5C395

- Corresponded to Alphabetical phrase: DonaldRumsfield (Password Acquired)

3. Describe the process that you apply to open the downloaded file. Describe whether there is a relationship between this process and the information obtained in Step 2.

Steps performed to open the file were:	1. During the investigation, I found that a password protected the ZIP file. To gain access to the file I used fcrackzip tool to recover the encryption password. The NTML passwords led to the information contained in the zip file, so using a dictionary to attack the password was needed to understand where these passwords are required.
	2. The command I used was fcrackzip -u -D -p '/usr/share/dict/american-english' 2019A02.zip (Screenshot can be seen below).
	3. After typing this command, a password was found – vice. The password had to be in the dictionary as the fcrackzip was able to crack the password in quick succession. The information obtained in step 2 did not have a direct relation to the process of opening the ZIP file.
	<div>  <p>4. PASSWORD FOUND!!!!: pw == vice (Figure 0.2)</p> </div>

4. Describe the actual content of the encrypted file that you identified in Step 3. If there are multiple files, list their file names, types and MD5 hash values. Describe the visual contents in each file.



(Figure 0.3)

Content description	<p>The encrypted file contained five images that varied in image types (BMP, JPG, PNG) and image size. The images within the file were encrypted with a password. The password ‘vice’ was required to access these images. They were last modified on August 6th of 2019. American politicians and a picture of army soldiers made up the images (Presumably US army troops in a war-torn country) and were all visible once these images were unlocked. The politician images featured Donald Rumsfeld, and Dick Cheney. It’s clear there is more to the images as passwords found in step 2 were these individuals first and last names.</p>
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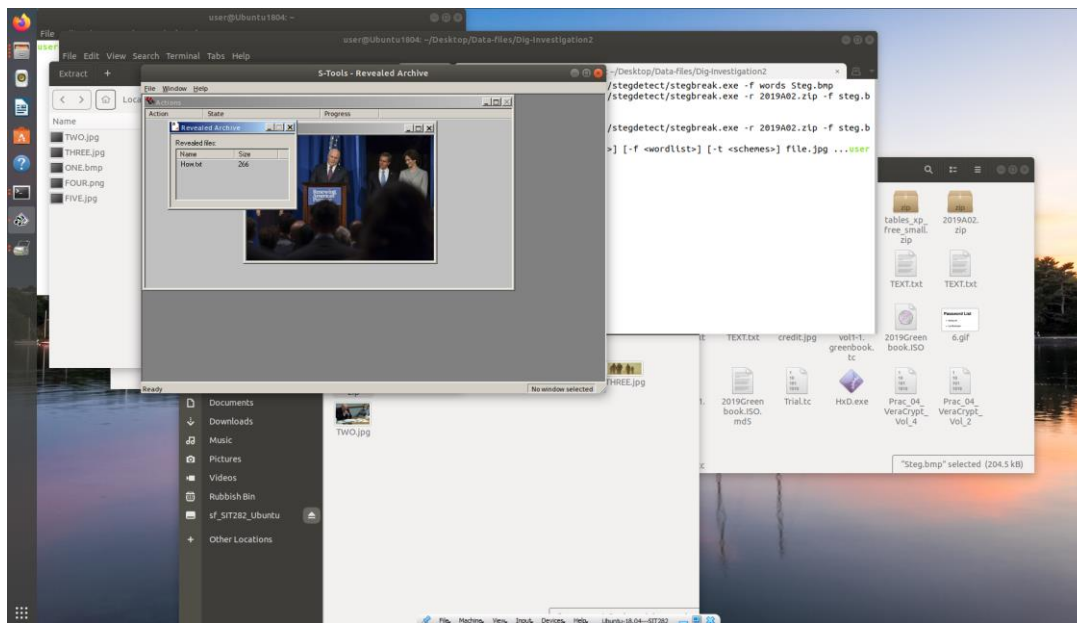
File Name	File Type	MD5 Hash Value
ONE.bmp	Bitmap image	85a37e5db9bfd515de3d81e1e008aeb8
Two.jpg	JPEG Image	Ea2d39cc9bba7d2d803c97d44660f3ba
THREE.jpg	JPEG Image	E57ccee729362cf6749fc49f830faca5
FOUR.png	PNG image	9daf259b5250fe57e76a6ab79b1aead
FIVE.jpg	JPEG image	B1fdbbcf337d6098436831ea660ac03a

5. What tools will you now use to proceed your investigation and why?

Tool	Reason
Stegbreak	JPG can contain hidden information; I suspect hidden data in the JPEG files. Therefore I will use Stegbreak to locate and find the hidden data in the JPEG images.
Jpseek	Jpseek will be used to determine whether there are hidden contents concealed in other files found in the zip file.
S-Tools	S-tools are a GUI-based stegography tool. I will be using this tool in the

	investigation as it allows me to reveal contents in a graphic file
<i>HxD</i>	HxD is often used in digital investigation as it enables an investigator the opportunity to open any file to inspect the contents within. HxD can also be used to display and edit the memory used by running processes. Some of the main features of HxD include Data inspection, searching and replacing several data types, and calculating checksums and hashes.
<i>Ophcrack</i>	Ophcrack is a program that cracks windows log-in passwords by using LM hashes through rainbow tables. I will be using this tool to crack the NTML sent by Sandra.
<i>Cryptool</i>	Cryptool provides a bundle of Cryptgraphic tools. I will implement the decryption of Caesar Cipher which replaces each letter of the alphabet with a letter placed down or up according to the key given.

6. Describe how your investigation proceeded at this point, including screen shots. Steps undertaken during this investigation:

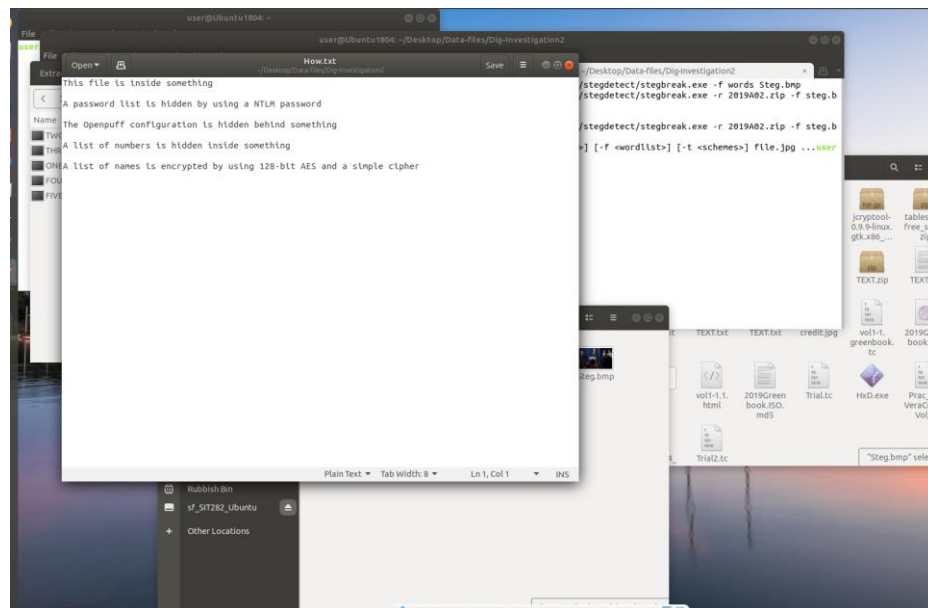


(Figure 0.4)

1: I used S-tools as I suspected there were hidden contents within these images. S-tools can reveal contents, I used the command **wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/jphide\ and \Stegbreak/S-tool/S-Tools.exe** to open the tool. S-tools only uses BMP, GIF, and WAV file types, so I dragged the existing BMP image file into the ZIP file, 'ONE.bmp'. I saved the image as Steg.bmp. Closing the opened file in the S-tools was done after saving

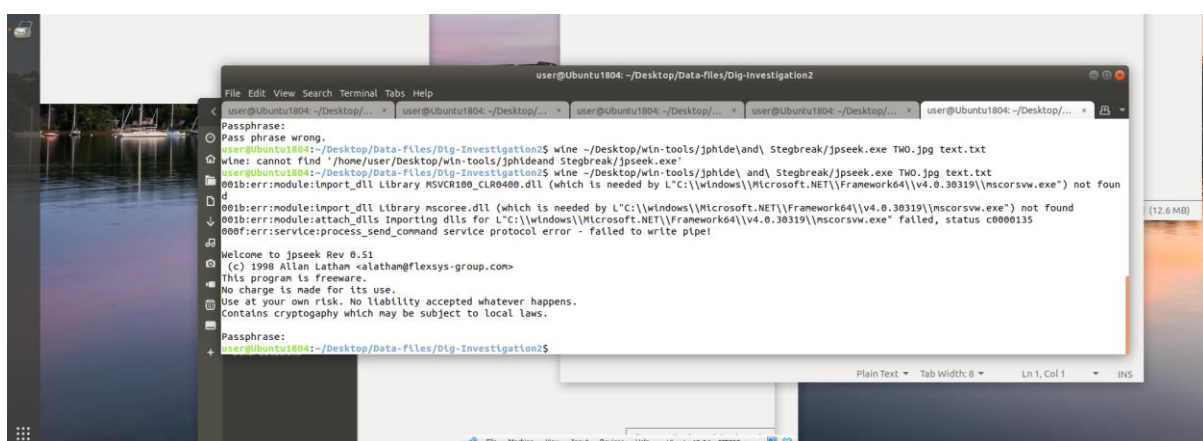
2: I then reopened the Steg.bmp file and right clicked the picture in S-tools selecting Reveal. I used the password DickCheney to recover the hidden TXT file. How.txt was saved in the ONE.bmp file, revealed with the password mentioned above.

3: Figure 0.5 shows the containments of the How.txt file, I immediately realised it was clues to find more hidden files, it helped me identify what steps I need to conduct in this forensic investigation.



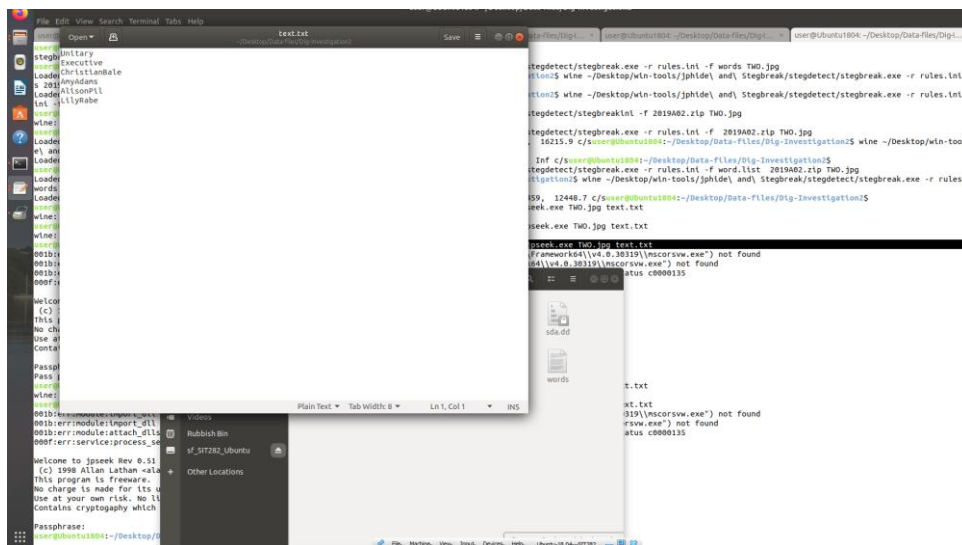
(Figure 0.5)

4: Using the list in figure 0.5 I had the belief the tips were given in photo order. For the 2nd image file, I needed to use ‘jpseek’ to uncover the hidden password list. The command I used was “**wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/jphide\ and\ Stegbreak/jpseek.exe TWO.jpg text.txt**”. I was asked in the terminal for a password using the 2nd password found in step 2 (DonaldRumsfield).



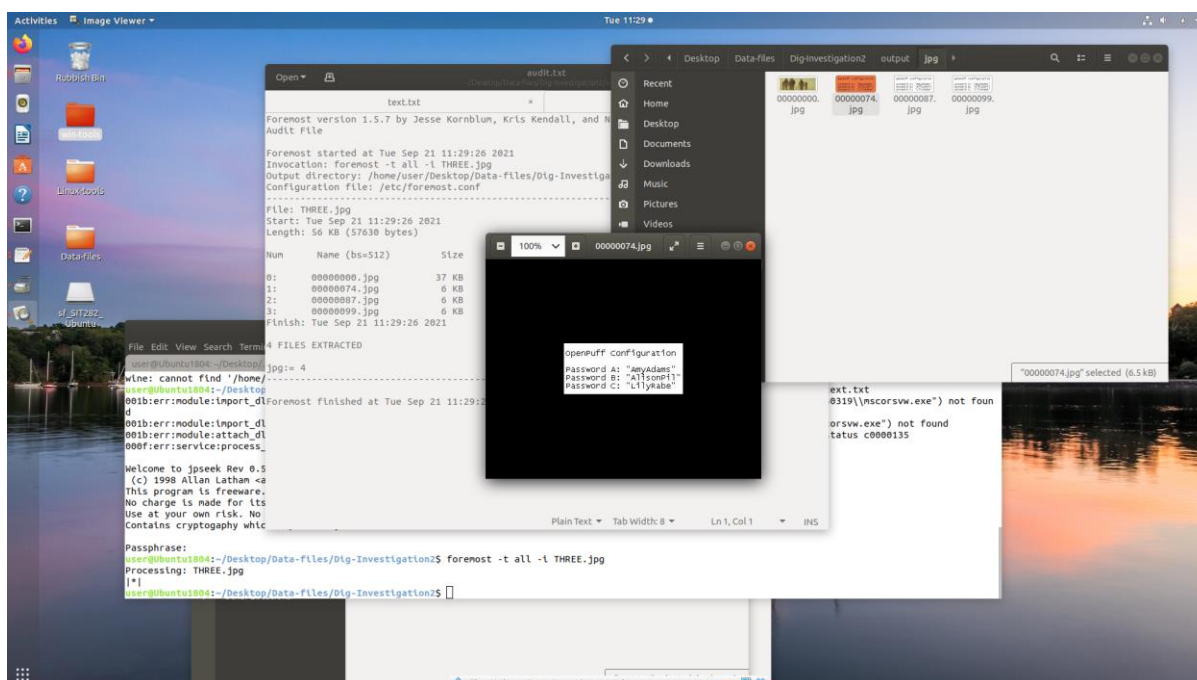
(Figure 0.6)

5: After entering the password correctly, a new TXT was revealed, 'text.TXT', which contained a list of names that I assumed was the list of passwords (Seen in figure 0.7) hidden by the NTML password. This gave a clear indication I was on the right track. These passwords found were handy later on in my investigation.



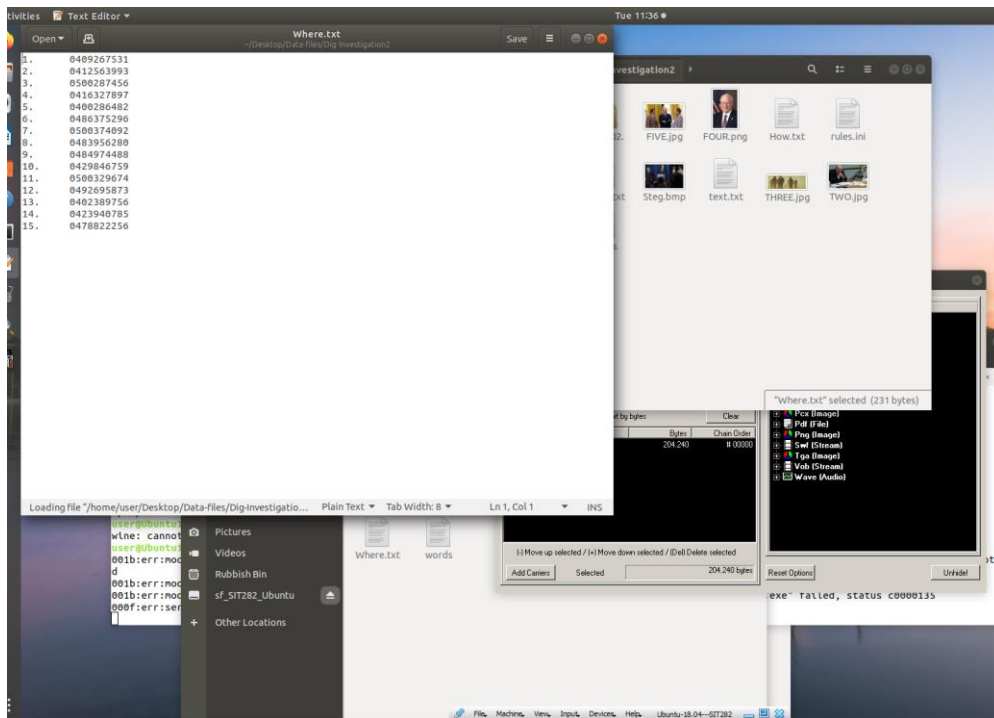
(Figure 0.7)

6: I realised that I needed to obtain 3 sets of passwords to use OpenPuff's data unhide feature, which was needed to complete the next step of the investigation. I decided to use foremost, which recovers and reconstructs files. The command **foremost -t all -i THREE.jpg** was used. A new JPG image was revealed containing three passwords required for the OpenPuff Configuration. I could now progress with the investigation once these passwords were found. The steps undertaken can be seen in figure 0.8



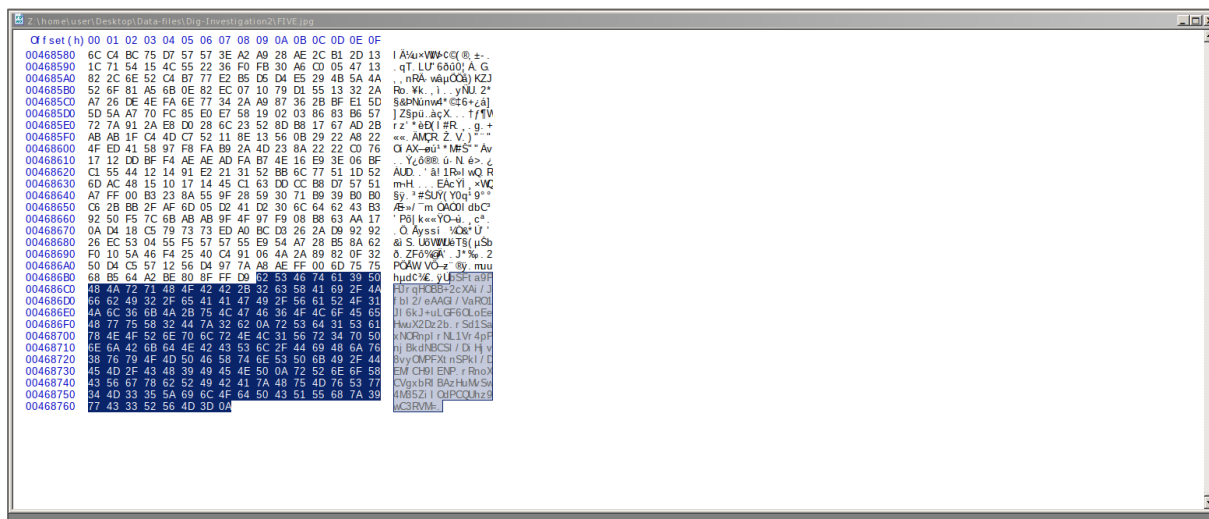
(Figure 0.8)

7: After finding these passwords, I open OpenPuff through the command **wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/OpenPuff/OpenPuff.exe** and selected the unhide option part of the user interface (figure 0.9 shows the user interface). Typed in the passwords seen in figure 0.8 and then utilized the OpenPuff configuration.

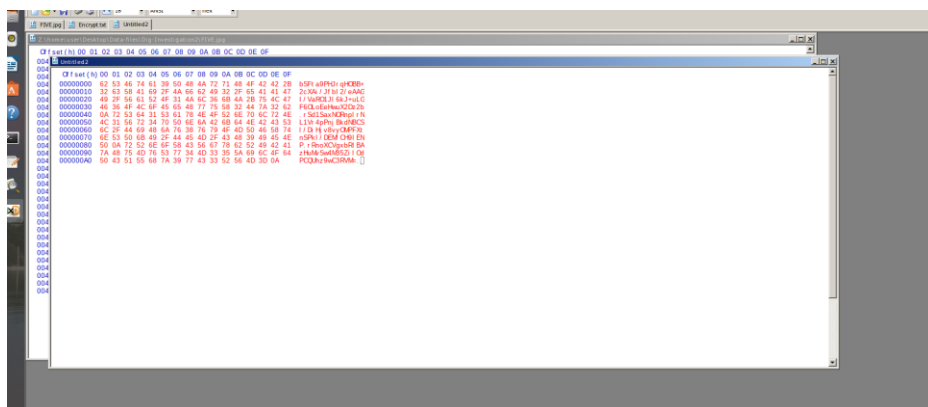


(Figure 1.1)

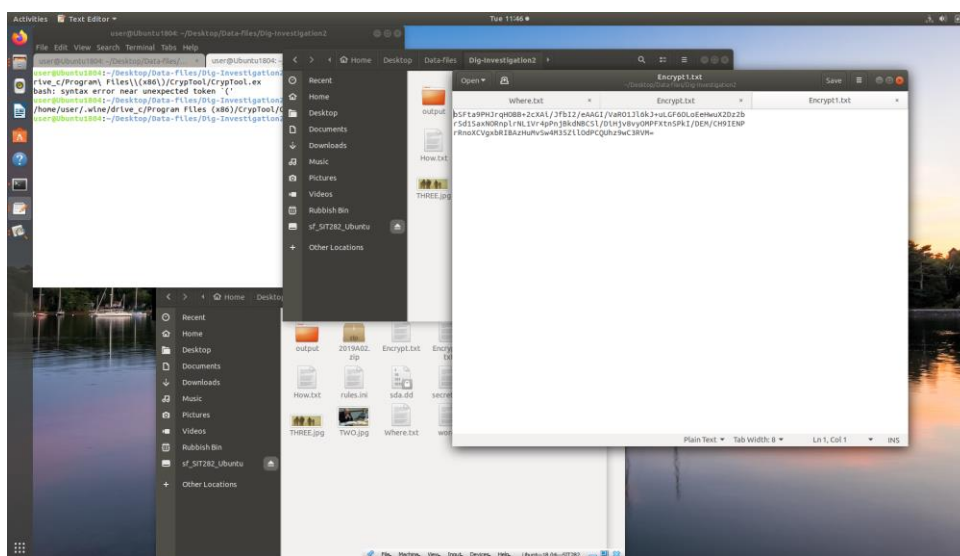
10: After retrieving the phone numbers seen in figure 1.1, the next task was finding the list of names in the last image file. I had to use Cryptool in conjunction with HxD programs to get the final results as data manipulation was required. I opened HxD using the code **wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/HxD.exe**, then opened FIVE.jpg in HxD to inspect the file closely. After inspecting, I found hidden contents in FIVE.jpg after its trailer. I copied this chunk of data and stored it on a new HxD page. Then saving the file as 'Encrypt.txt', I made a duplicate copy to lower the risk.



(figure 1.2)

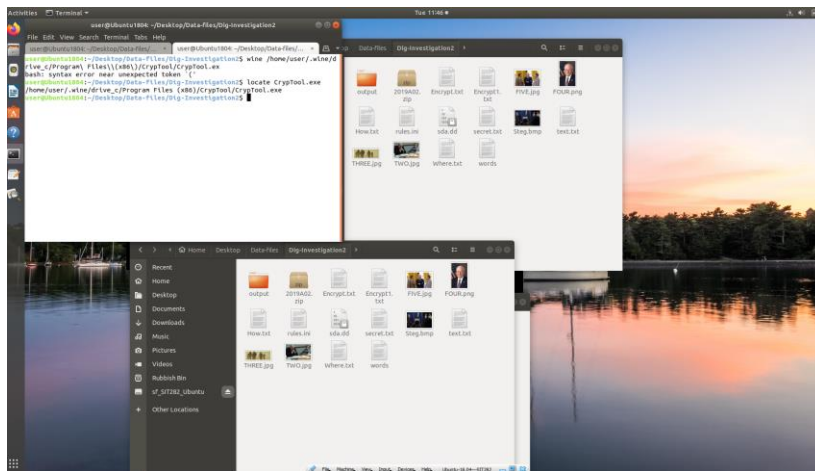


(Figure 1.3)



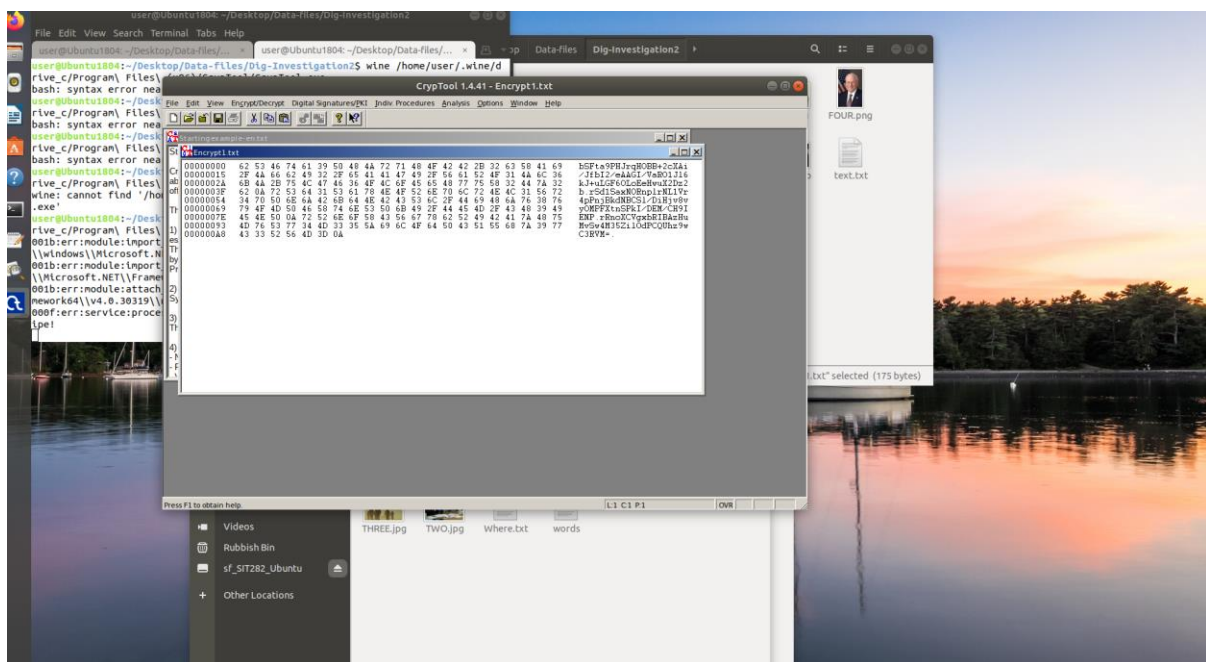
(Figure 1.4 – Contents of Encrypt.TXT)

11: As the last instruction said, this file was encrypted using a simple cipher, I decided to use Cryptool to decrypt Encrypt.txt. I chose Cryptool as it is a program that can encrypt and decrypt messages using Caesar encryption. I first located Cryptool in the terminal with the command 'locate Cryptool.exe'. Opening Cryptool with the command `wine /home/user/.wine/drive_c/Program\ Files\ (x86)/Cryptool/Cryptool.exe`

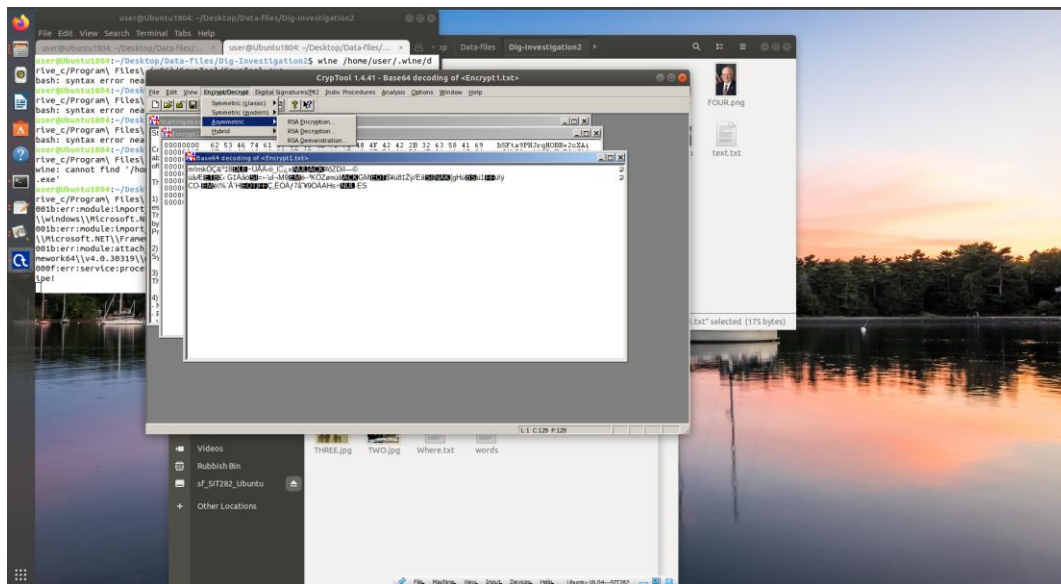


(Figure 1.5)

12: I opened the Encrypt1.txt file in Cryptool, choosing Base 64 Decoding of the file which was an option available in Cryptool.

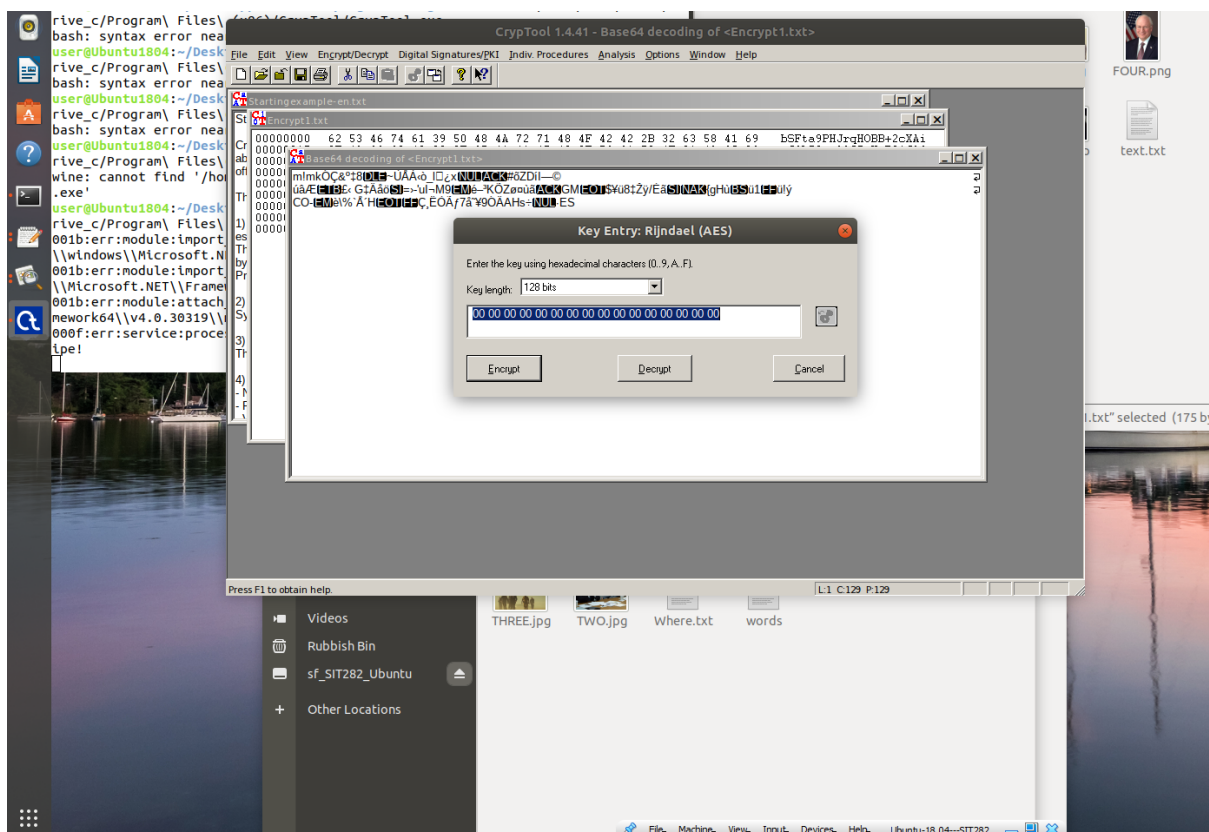


(Figure 1.6)



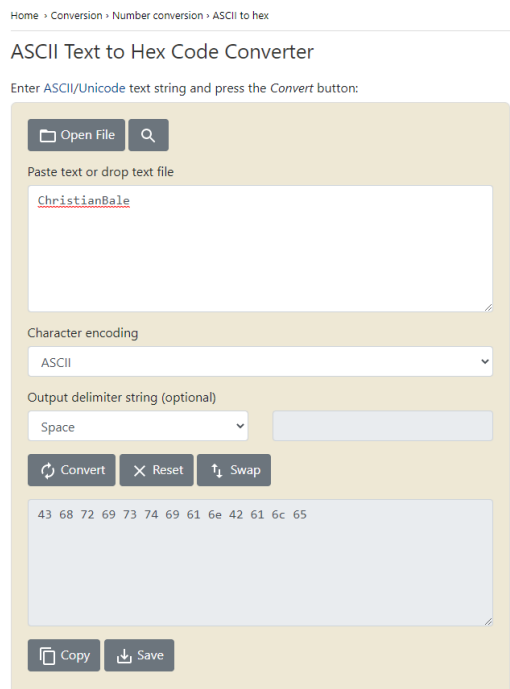
(Figure 1.7)

13: From there, it was selecting Asymmetric Decryption > AES(CBC). I chose AES as its one of the most robust and widely used ciphers. Next, the user interface box appeared asking for a password. It had to be a 128-bit password in Hex values. Referring to Figure 0.7, this was a list of passwords that had yet to be used during this investigation. However, they were text values. Therefore, conversion to hex values was required to proceed with the investigation.



(Figure 1.8)

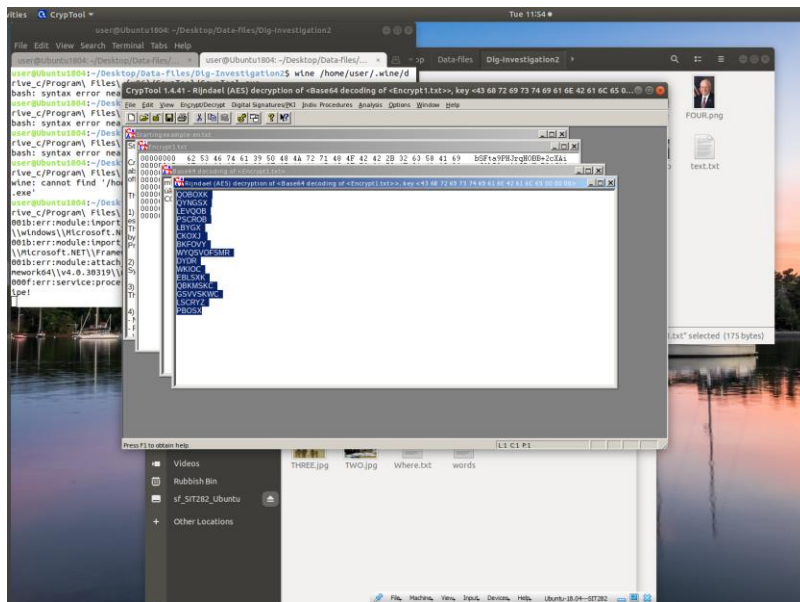
14: I used an online converter and tried every password in the list discovered earlier until I found the correct key values that allowed me to progress with the investigation. This converter changed plain text to Hex code which was required in order to continue with Cryptool.



The screenshot shows a web interface for an "ASCII Text to Hex Code Converter". At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Conversion > Number conversion > ASCII to hex". Below this, the title "ASCII Text to Hex Code Converter" is displayed. A instruction says "Enter ASCII/Unicode text string and press the Convert button:". The main input area has a text box containing "ChristianBale" and a "Paste text or drop text file" label. Below the text box is a "Character encoding" dropdown menu set to "ASCII". There is also an "Output delimiter string (optional)" dropdown set to "Space". At the bottom of the input section are three buttons: "Convert", "Reset", and "Swap". The output section shows the converted hex code: "43 68 72 69 73 74 69 61 6e 42 61 6c 65". At the very bottom are "Copy" and "Save" buttons.

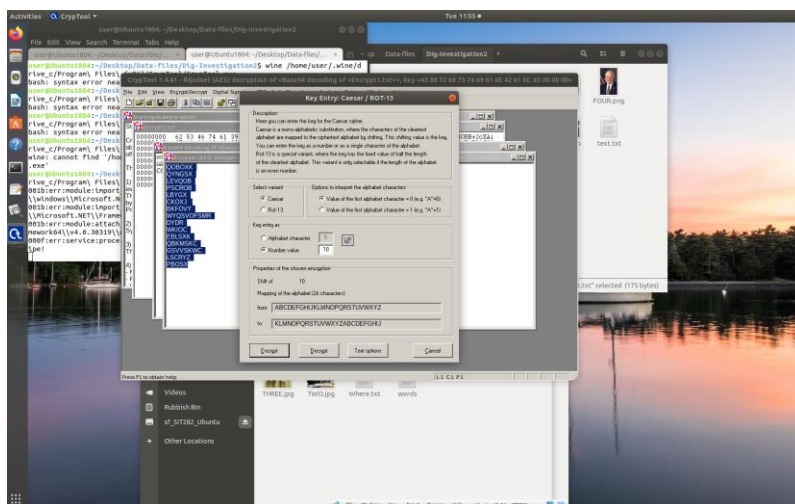
(Figure 1.9)

15: Once I entered these as they were the encryption key values, the decryption began once entered. The decryption showed a new list with text values all scrambled. I knew I wasn't finished yet as I had to convert these with Caesar Cipher (Substitution) decryption. This means each letter of the text in the file will be replaced by a letter some fixed number of positions down the alphabet.

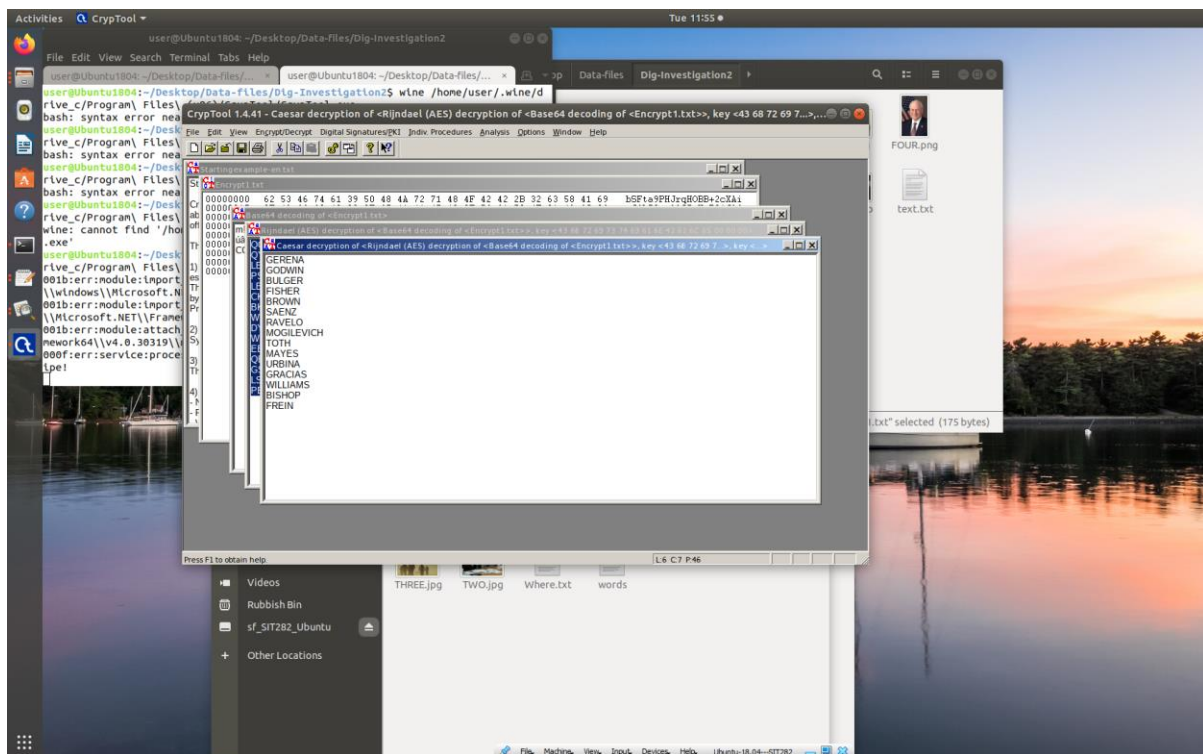


(Figure 2.0)

16: When the User interface options appeared, I selected Caesar cipher as the variant, changed the numeric value to 10. Caesar Cipher involves replacing each letter of the alphabet with a letter placed down or up according to the key given. The images below show the options I chose, I then selected decrypt and a new list of names appeared in the correct order. The names appear to be of suspects linked to the case so I saved the file and made a duplicate copy, then changing the permissions of the original file in order to preserve and mitigate risks.



(Figure 2.1)



(Figure 2.2)

17: This was the final piece of evidence found in this forensics investigation. Figure 2.2 showcases the last evidence found.

DIGITAL FORENSIC REPORT

7. Write a two page report for Sandra listing your findings and recommendations. Make appropriate suggestions on how a further investigation should proceed. Construct and complete a single-item evidence form as part of your report.

Recommendations:

I would recommend going back and analysing the phone numbers found during the investigation at the lab. Access the last cell locations accessed by the mobile device. Gain a subpoena to collect history related to the mobile phones. When analysing the evidence, I have gathered please install write-blocking software to prevent any changes to the data. With the mobile phone numbers, you would be able to find analyse the call logs of these numbers. Analysing the call logs will enable you to obtain billing information from their respected mobile service provider, whilst also being able to see their time and date information from the call records. This will give you a time stamp which will help in providing more detailed evidence to the case. Background checks on the names discovered should be done in the lab. Background checks through the police database, and social media will provide more details on the individuals whilst also giving a clear indication of whether these individuals set off any red flags. As we have the names you could potentially obtain warrants, subpoenas to search these individuals' properties and bring them in for questioning. Analysis of the drugs should also be done in the lab to give a clear picture on what types of drugs we are dealing with in this investigation.

As we found out the suspect uses encryption, a more detailed search at the site should be done, the search should look for information relating to authors of the encryption program, passphrases, personal information (e.g., Family name, pet name etc..) about the subject as their may be more files on the computer that need passphrases to be unlocked. Autopsy should be used on other files found on the laptop in the lab. Analysing the search history on the suspects computer (Internet explorer is installed on the device). Use internet tools to identify users and internet connections. Tools such as Whois, traceroute, NSLookup and a ping search, and Netstat can all be conducted on the suspects computer which may provide more evidence in this case. The other CDs discovered also need to be thoroughly investigated as their may be more encrypted files as the subject used steganography throughout the zip file I had to analyse. I recommend decrypting other zip files found as data may have been concealed within the contents of those files.

Summary of investigation:

- The investigation was conducted using Linux (Ubuntu) which allowed me to utilise software/programs already installed on there.

- I used Zipattack to obtain the password to the locked zip file sent to me by Sandra. Fcrackzip is what I used in the terminal; it's designed to recover the encryption passwords to unlock the contents within the zip file.
- Utilized OphCrack to analyse the NTLM hashes provided by Sandra. Analysing these led me to discover more passwords associated with files we are investigating.
- S-tools were used to crack image files and gain more evidence. I used S-tools on the 1st image file. S-tools allowed me to reveal the contents in the image file.
- I used Jpseek to reveal the hidden contents in the 2nd image file. The password required was DonaldRumsfield which was discovered through OphCrack.
- Foremost tools were utilised to find the hidden contents within image file 3. Foremost can recover lost files based on headers, footers and can work on image files. This gave me the OpenPuff configuration passwords for the next step.
- OpenPuff program was used to acquire the evidence hiding in image number 4, OpenPuff enabled me to unhide the hidden file as I new the three secret keys.
- Data manipulation through HxD was conducted for image number 5. Data manipulation enabled a file to be reconstructed. This reconstructed file was then able to be analysed in Cryptool.
- Conversion of plain text to ASCII keys was needed to decrypt the file in Cryptool
- Cryptool was needed to decrypt the text of the reconstructed file, this meant using substitution ciphers being able to decrypt the file via Casear led me to the discover of names that are presumed to be suspects in the case.

Evidence Recovered:

The evidence recovered consisted of names of potential suspects that are linked to the drug crimes this police department is investigation. Names in conjunction with phone numbers were recovered through a throughout/deep forensic investigation. These findings are crucial to the case and will assist in gaining more evidence to make a stronger case in the coming days. The phone numbers and Names discovered can be analysed further in the lab. Links can be established through the names and phone numbers discovered in this forensic investigation. Based off the concealing of information and encryption of files it provides evidence that the subject has knowledge on steganography, cipher encryption, and how to use Linux tools to conceal files within other files. The lab needs to consider this when investigating more evidence

Relation to the case:

The names and phone numbers discovered I believe are related to the case. It creates a link to the people that hurriedly packaged loose powders when police investigated. They may have been employed by a drug king pin, by having these names we can bring them in for questioning to find more intel on the whole operation. By having the names and number concealed in other files it indicates these individuals are linked to the drug manufacturing location which was discovered by police in May.

Suggestions:

I suggest analysing all the evidence in the lab, locate the individuals whose names were on the list found in the investigation. Once located then tap their phones, get a search warrant to

search their homes/workplace. Bring the individuals in for questioning once there is more evidence that ties them into this case. Any evidence found run a deep forensics analysis back at the lab. Deep background checks on the names found should be done. The subject has shown they use encryption and software tools to conceal files, investigators need to be wary.

Evidence Form (Figure 1-11 of the text)

SIT282 Computer Crime and Forensic Lab Single Evidence Form			
Case No:	001	Unit Number:	001
Investigator:	Connor Cameron Gent		
Nature of Case:	Potential drug trafficking case. Location of case has been identified as a drug manufacturing warehouse.		
Location where evidence was obtained:	Warehouse (Roma St, Brisbane)		
Item # ID	Description of evidence	Vendor Name	Model No/Serial No.
	Laptop and four CD's found at the crime scene. The fourth CD contained a suspicious ZIP file.	Not Specified	Not Specified.
Evidence Recovered by:	Police Officer Moti	Date & Time:	10 th May 2019, 3AM
Evidence Placed in Locker:	Police Office Moti	Date & Time	10 th May 2019, 3:30 Am
Evidence Processed by	Description of Evidence	Date & Time	
	CD and Disks found at scene	10 th May, 2019	
	Powder found on table	10 th May, 2019	
	Laptop Found	10 th May, 2019	
		Page __ of __ <	

Host Machine Information

Processor Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-1165G7 @ 2.80GHz 2.80 GHz
 Installed RAM 8.00 GB (7.65 GB usable)
 Device ID 5FBF6555-A506-4FD1-AAE5-7990690C0D8C
 Product ID 00325-96744-43641-AAOEM
 System type 64-bit operating system, x64-based processor
 Pen and touch No pen or touch input is available for this display

Virtual Machine Information:

Product: VMware Workstation 15 pro
 Hard Disk: 50GB

Memory: 2GB
Version: 15.0.4 build-1299004
Virutal Machine Operation System

References:

TABLES, R. 2018. *ASCII Text to Hex Code Converter* [Online]. Available:
<https://www.rapidtables.com/convert/number/ascii-to-hex.html> [Accessed 2021].