

Forensic Investigation: Autopsy Forensic Browser in Linux

August 13, 2020 By Raj Chandel

Introduction

Autopsy® is a digital forensics platform and graphical interface to The Sleuth Kit® and other digital forensics **tools**. It is an open-source tool for digital forensics which was developed by Basis Technology. This tool is free to use and is very efficient in nature investigation of hard drives. It also consists of features like multi-user cases, timeline analysis, keyword search, email analysis, registry analysis, EXIF analysis, detection of malicious files, etc

- Investigator can analyse Windows and UNIX storage disks and file systems like NTFS, FAT, UFS1/2, Ext2/3 using Autopsy.
- Autopsy is used by law enforcement, military, and corporate examiners to conduct investigations on a victim's or a criminal's PC.
- One can also use it to recover photos from one's camera's memory card.


Autopsy Forensic Browser is a built-in application in Kali Linux operating system, so let's power on the Kali in a Virtual Machine.

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Creating A New Case

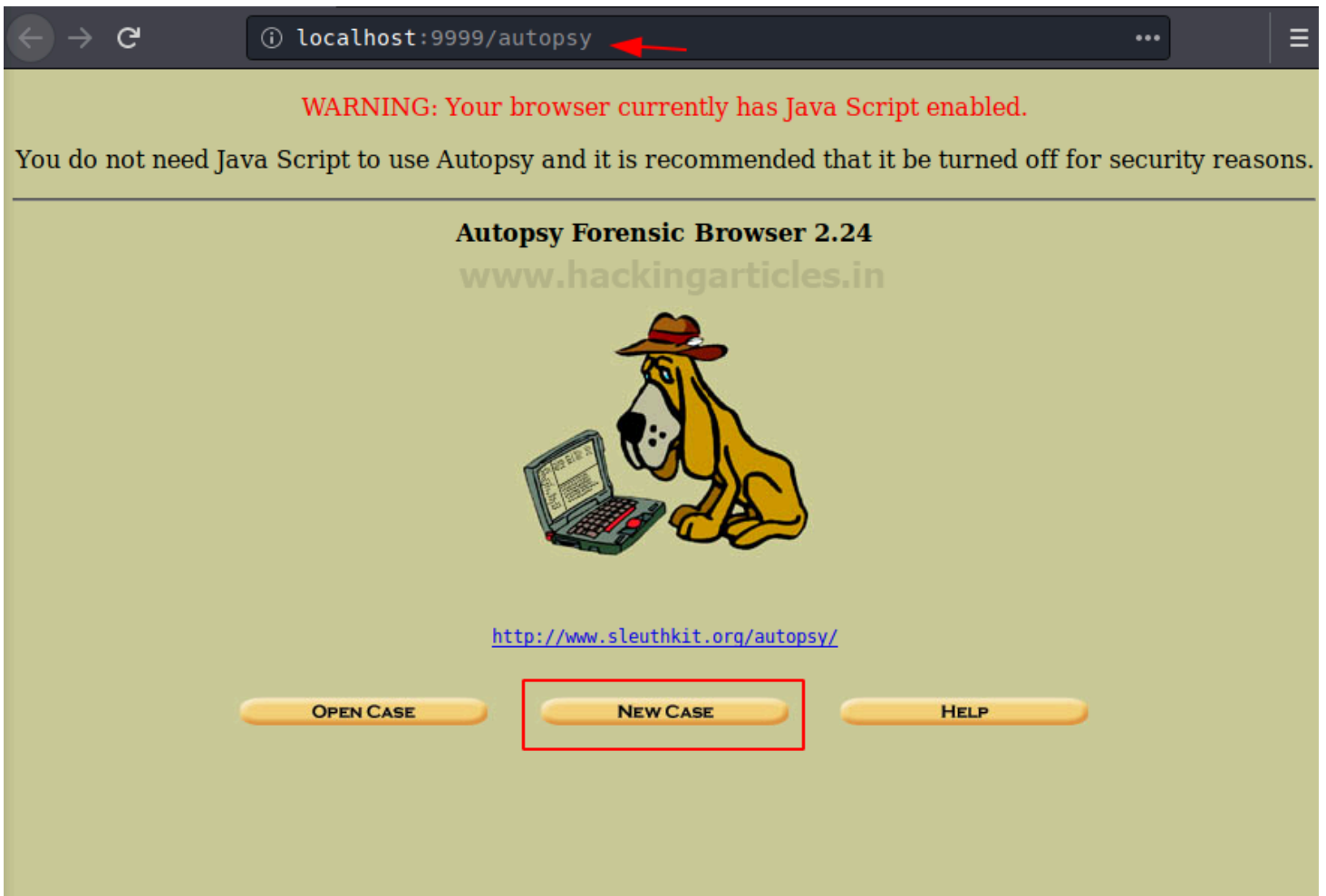
Open a new terminal and type 'Autopsy' and open ***http://localhost:9999/autopsy*** in your browser where you will be redirected to the home page of Autopsy Forensic Browser. It will run on our local web server using the port 9999.

```
root@Jeenali:~# autopsy   
  
Autopsy Forensic Browser  
http://www.sleuthkit.org/autopsy/  
ver 2.24  
  
Evidence Locker: /var/lib/autopsy  
Start Time: Wed Aug 12 20:37:30 2020  
Remote Host: localhost  
Local Port: 9999  
  
Open an HTML browser on the remote host and paste this URL in it:  
http://localhost:9999/autopsy  
  
Keep this process running and use <ctrl-c> to exit
```

Now you will see three options on the home page.

- Open Case
- New Case
- Help

For the investigation, you need to create a new case and click on 'New case'. In doing this it will add a new case folder to the system and allow you to begin adding evidence to the case.



Now you will be directed to a new page, where it will require case details. You can Name the case and mention the description. You can also mention the names of multiple investigators working the case. After filling in these details, now you can select 'New case'

← → ↻ localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=0&view=1

CREATE A NEW CASE

1. Case Name: The name of this investigation. It can contain only letters, numbers, and symbols.

Case1

2. Description: An optional, one line description of this case.

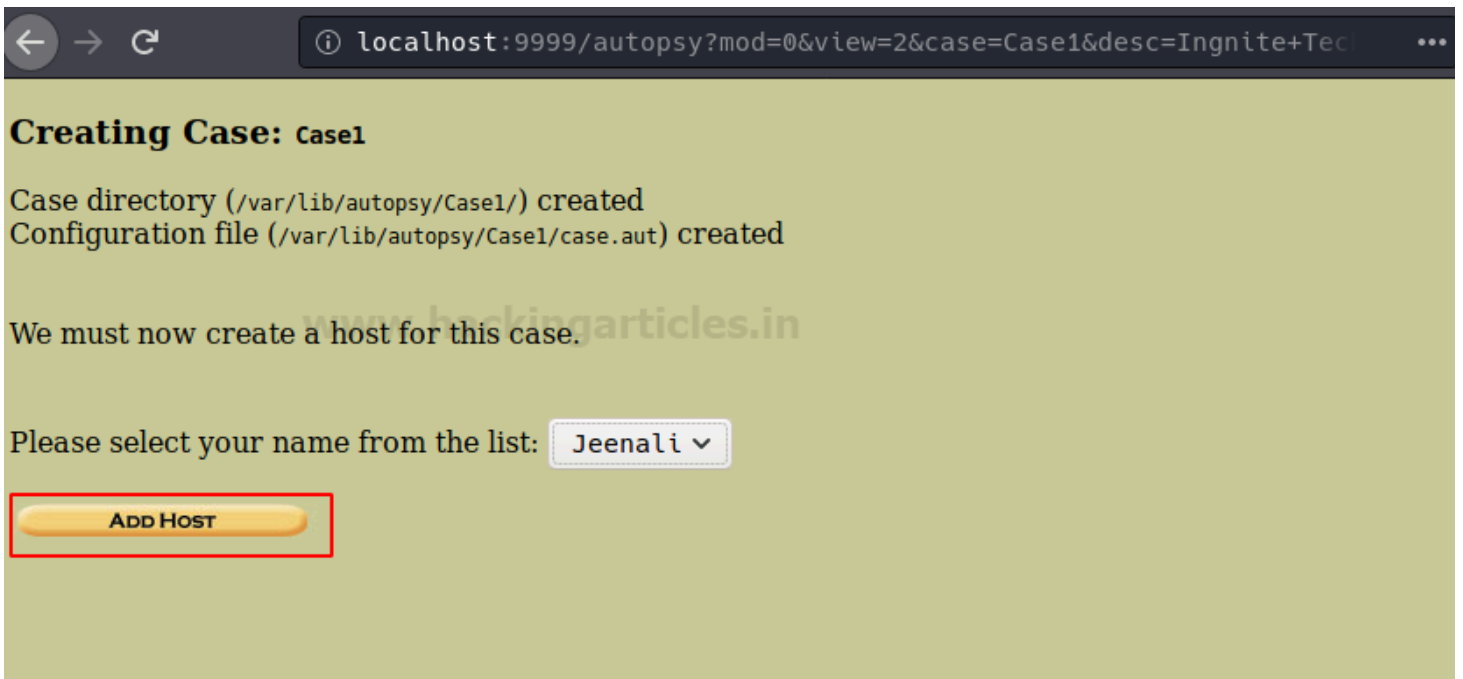
Ignite Technologies

3. Investigator Names: The optional names (with no spaces) of the investigators for this case.

a.	Jeenali	b.	Raj
c.		d.	
e.		f.	
g.		h.	
i.		j.	

NEW CASE **CANCEL** **HELP**

The new case will be stored in i.e. /var/lib/autopsy/case1/, and the configuration file will be stored in /var/lib/autopsy/case01/case.aut. Now , create the host for investigation and click on 'Add Host'.



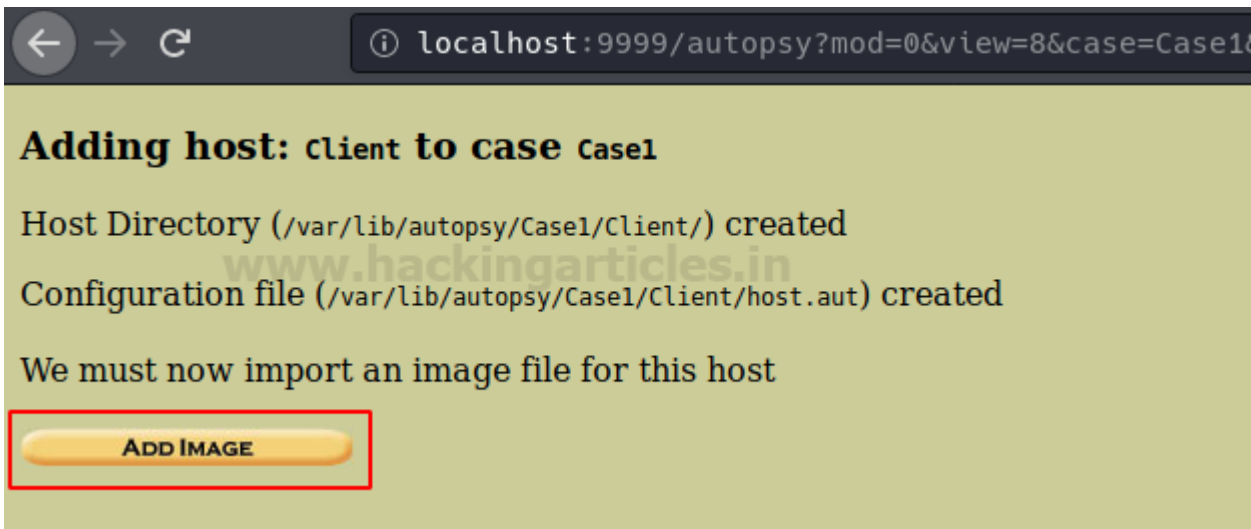
Once you add host, put the name of the computer you are investigating and describe the investigation. You can also mention the time zone or you can also leave it blank which will select the default setting, time skew adjustments may be set if there is a difference in time and you can add the new host. Click on 'Add Host'.

localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=0&view=7&case=Jeenali&inv=Jeenali

ADD A NEW HOST

- Host Name:** The name of the computer being investigated. It can contain only letters, numbers, and symbols.
- Description:** An optional one-line description or note about this computer.
- Time zone:** An optional timezone value (i.e. EST5EDT). If not given, it defaults to the local setting. A list of time zones can be found in the help files.
- Timeskew Adjustment:** An optional value to describe how many seconds this computer's clock was out of sync. For example, if the computer was 10 seconds fast, then enter -10 to compensate.
- Path of Alert Hash Database:** An optional hash database of known bad files.
- Path of Ignore Hash Database:** An optional hash database of known good files.

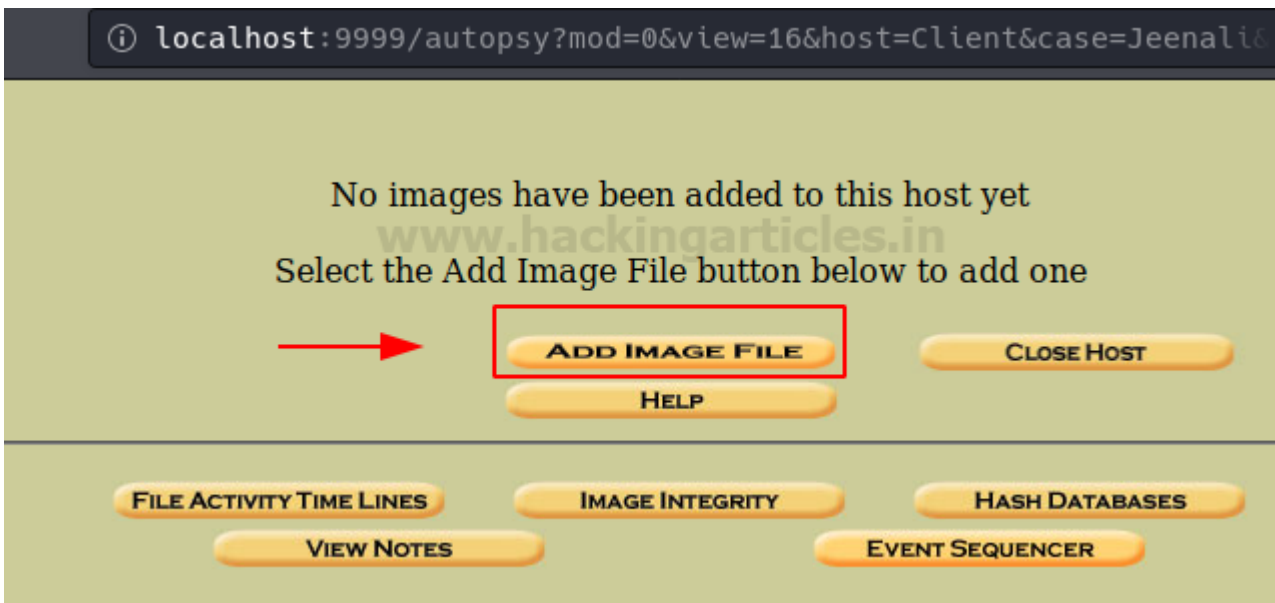
The path to the evidence directory will be displayed and now you can proceed to add an image for investigation.



Adding Image File

It is a golden rule of Digital forensics, that one should never work on the original evidence and hence an image of the original evidence should be created. An image can be created various methods and tools as well as in various formats.

Once the image is acquired, the 'Add Image File' option will allow you to import the image file in order to analyse



Mention the path to the image file and select the file type. Also, choose the import method of your choice and click on 'Next'.

← → ↻ localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=0&view=13&host=Client&case=Case1&inv ...

Case: Case1
Host: Client

ADD A NEW IMAGE

1. Location
Enter the full path (starting with /) to the image file.
If the image is split (either raw or EnCase), then enter '*' for the extension.

→ /home/jeenali/Desktop/image2*

2. Type
Please select if this image file is for a disk or a single partition.

→ ☒ Disk ☐ Partition

3. Import Method
To analyze the image file, it must be located in the evidence locker. It can be imported from its current location using a symbolic link, by copying it, or by moving it. Note that if a system failure occurs during the move, then the image could become corrupt.

☐ Symlink ☒ Copy → ☐ Move

NEXT

CANCEL **HELP**

You can now confirm the Image file being added to the evidence locker and click on 'Next'.

← → ↻ localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=0&view=14&host=Client&case=Case1&inv ...

Split Image Confirmation

The following images will be added to the case.
If this is not the correct order, then you should change the naming convention.
Press the Next button at the bottom of the page if this is correct.

→ 0 /home/jeenali/Desktop/image2.e01

NEXT **CANCEL**

Image file details will appear and the details of the file systems, the number of partitions and the mount points will be displayed and then you can click on 'Add' to proceed.

localhost:9999/autopsy?case=Case1&host=Client&inv=Jeenali&mod=0

Image File Details

Local Name: "/home/jeenali/Desktop/image2.e01"

File System Details

Analysis of the image file shows the following partitions:

Partition 1 (Type: Basic data partition)

Add to case? ☒

Sector Range: 2048 to 1085439

Mount Point: File System Type:

Partition 2 (Type: EFI system partition)

Add to case? ☒

Sector Range: 1085440 to 1288191

Mount Point: File System Type:

Partition 3 (Type: Microsoft reserved partition)

Add to case? ☒

Sector Range: 1288192 to 1320959

Mount Point: File System Type:

Partition 4 (Type: Basic data partition)

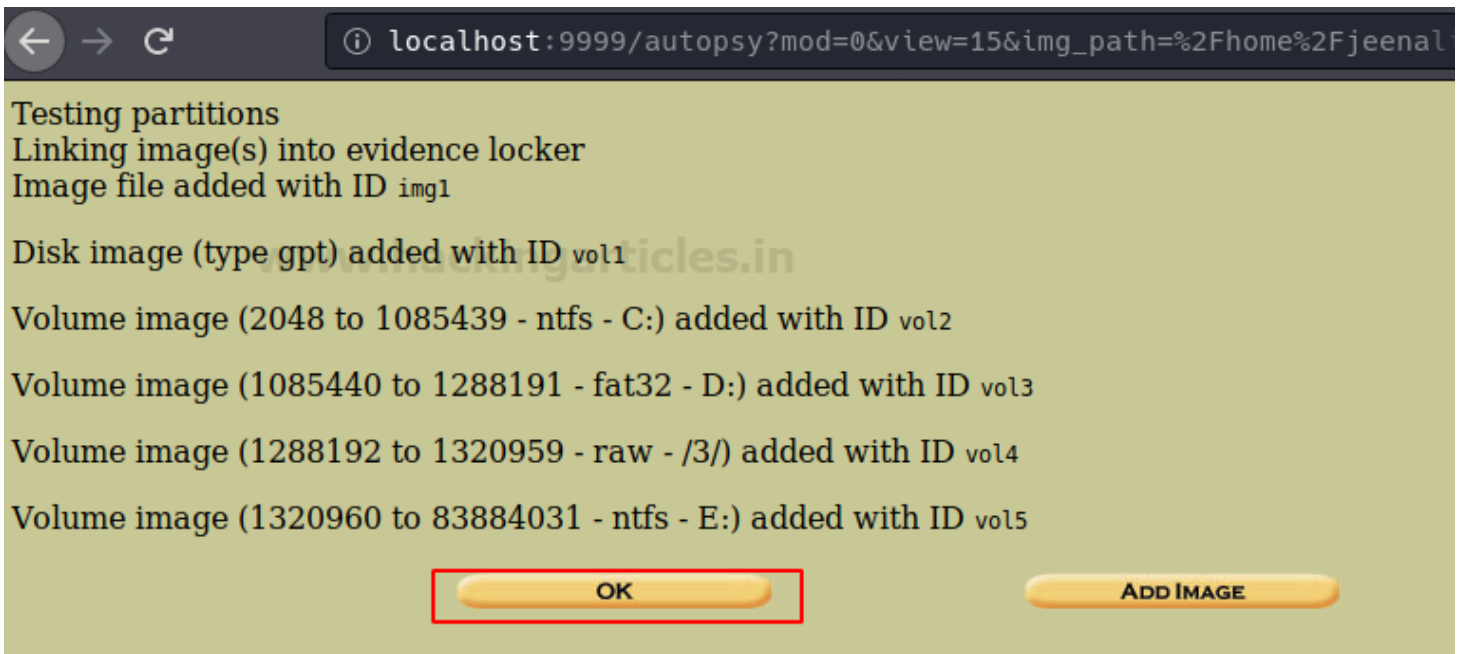
Add to case? ☒

Sector Range: 1320960 to 83884031

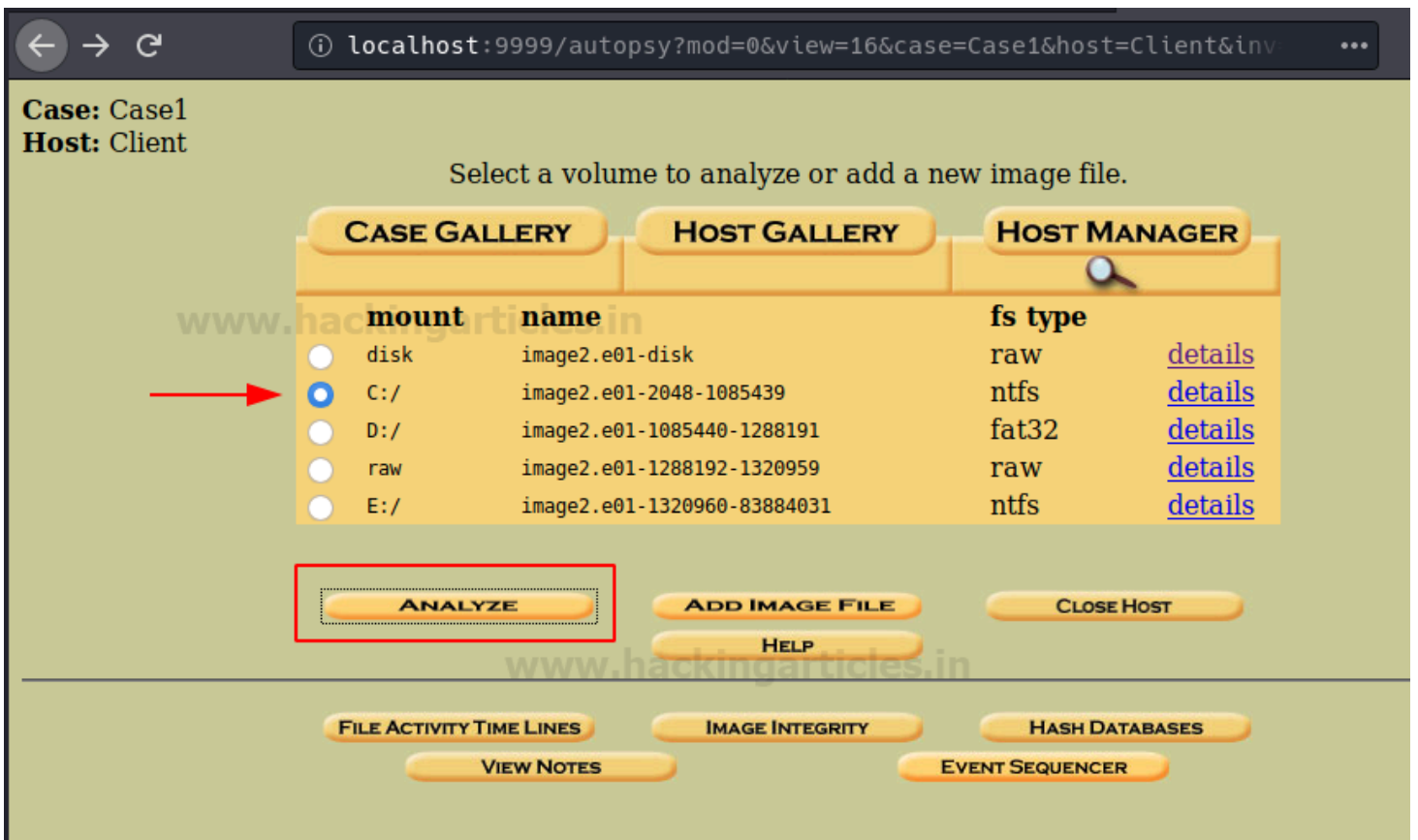
Mount Point: File System Type:

ADD **CANCEL** **HELP**

Now the Autopsy will test the partitions and links them to the evidence locker, then click on 'Ok' to proceed.

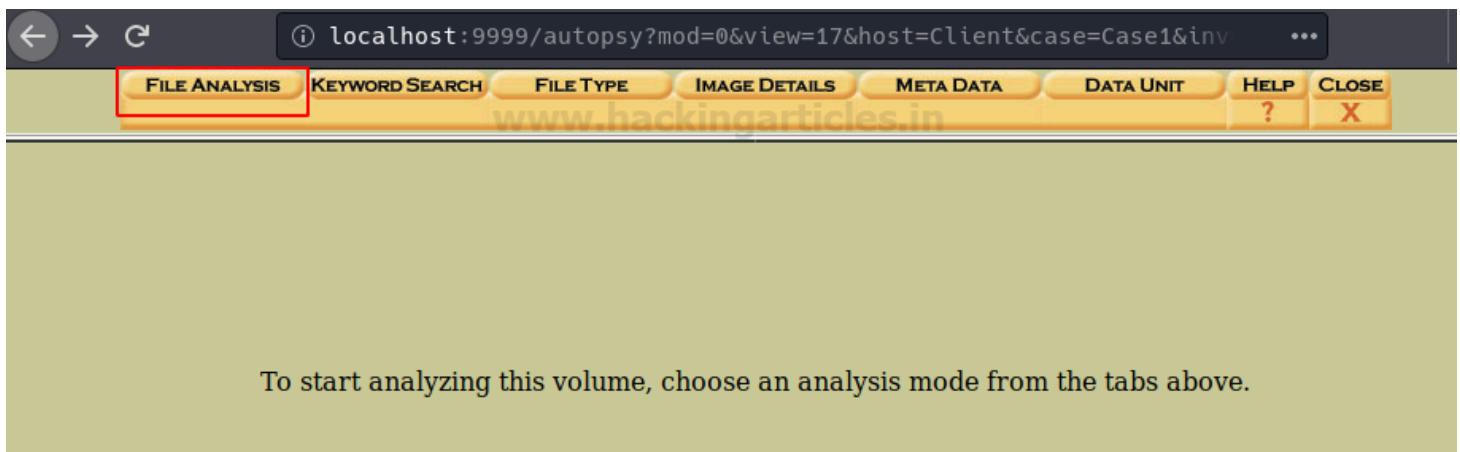


Now select the volume to be analyzed and click on 'Analyze'.

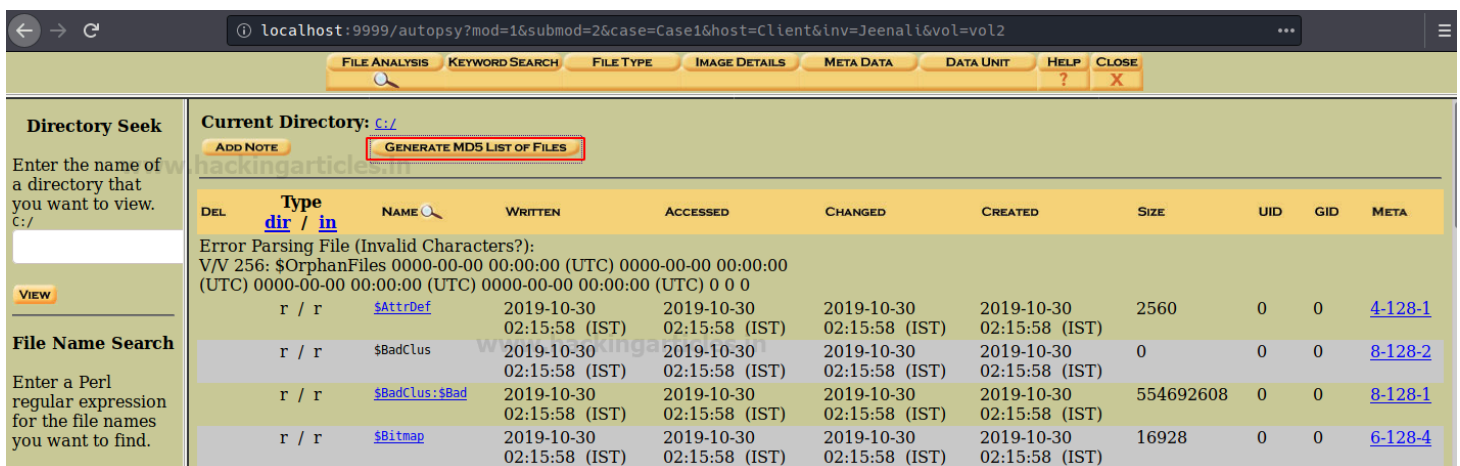


File Analysis-File Browser Mode and Metadata Analysis

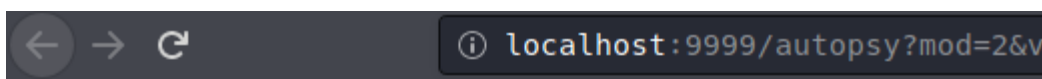
Now, it will ask you to choose the mode of analysis that you want to conduct and here we are conducting an analysis of the file, therefore click on 'File Analysis'.



Now files will appear, which will give you the list of files and directories that are inside in this volume. From here you can analyze the content of the required image file and conduct the type of investigation you prefer. You can first generate an MD5 hash list of all the files present in this volume to maintain the integrity of the files, hence click on 'Generate MD5 List of Files'.



Now you can see the MD5 values of the files in volume C of the image file.



MD5 Values for files in C:/ (image2.e01-2048-1085439)

```

ad617ac3906958de35eacc3d90d31043 - $AttrDef
d41d8cd98f00b204e9800998ecf8427e - $BadClus
d41d8cd98f00b204e9800998ecf8427e - $BadClus:$Bad
9e573661e664f9fe17e9994f68cfce6f - $Bitmap
56be2ed9e3d8fa13c8601b4b4005c048 - $Boot
f0a15b15a16edf984bfb1688f12bbc27 - $LogFile
d79a6bdb2341ab892664648e1406cedd - $MFT
0f2e6acdcecd0a34d50956a6be74747 - $MFTMirr
db406c8849fb549bb219c7ac88cfa74f - $Secure:$SDS
29c8d340eedb44039c942149ee9fea72 - $Secure:$SDH
0ef04368ef411190e098df2d950ff15a - $Secure:$SII
7ff498a44e45e77374cc7c962b1b92f2 - $UpCase
dd81a6db3b14245dc2e5ae4d3bf40140 - $UpCase:$Info
d41d8cd98f00b204e9800998ecf8427e - $Volume
  
```

The file browsing mode consists of details of the directories that are shown below. The details include the time and date of the last time the directories were Written, Accessed, Changed and the time it was created with its size and also about its metadata. All the details are displayed in this, so in order to view the metadata, click on the ‘Meta’ option of Log file that you want to view.

DEL	Type	NAME	WRITTEN	ACCESSED	CHANGED	CREATED	SIZE	UID	GID	META
	dir / in									
	Error Parsing File (Invalid Characters?): V/V 256: \$OrphanFiles 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 0 0 0									
	r / r	\$AttrDef	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2560	0	0	4-128-1
	r / r	\$BadClus	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	0	0	0	8-128-2
	r / r	\$BadClus:\$Bad	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	554692608	0	0	8-128-1
	r / r	\$Bitmap	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	16928	0	0	6-128-4
	r / r	\$Boot	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	8192	48	0	7-128-1
	d / d	\$Extend/	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	552	0	0	11-144-4
→	r / r	\$LogFile	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	4374528	0	0	2-128-1
	r / r	\$MFT	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	262144	0	0	0-128-6
	r / r	\$MFTMirr	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	4096	0	0	1-128-1
	r / r	\$Secure:\$SDH	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	56	0	0	9-144-11
	r / r	\$Secure:\$SDS	2019-10-30	2019-10-30	2019-10-30	2019-10-30	263604	0	0	9-128-8

Here you can see the metadata information about the directory. In order to see more details, click on the first cluster ‘44067’ in order to view its header information to find any relevant information to the case.

FILE ANALYSIS
KEYWORD SEARCH
FILE TYPE
IMAGE DETAILS
META DATA
DATA UNIT
HELP
CLOSE

MFT Entry Number:

2-128-1

VIEW

ALLOCATION LIST

Accessed: 2019-10-30 02:15:58.098799200 (IST)

\$FILE_NAME Attribute Values:
Flags: Hidden, System
Name: \$LogFile
Parent MFT Entry: 5 Sequence: 5
Allocated Size: 4374528 Actual Size: 4374528
Created: 2019-10-30 02:15:58.098799200 (IST)
File Modified: 2019-10-30 02:15:58.098799200 (IST)
MFT Modified: 2019-10-30 02:15:58.098799200 (IST)
Accessed: 2019-10-30 02:15:58.098799200 (IST)

Attributes:

\$STANDARD_INFORMATION (16-0) Name: N/A Resident size: 72
\$FILE_NAME (48-2) Name: N/A Resident size: 82
\$DATA (128-1) Name: N/A Non-Resident size: 4374528 init_size: 4374528

44067 44068 44069 44070 44071 44072 44073 44074
44075 44076 44077 44078 44079 44080 44081 44082
44083 44084 44085 44086 44087 44088 44089 44090
44091 44092 44093 44094 44095 44096 44097 44098
44099 44100 44101 44102 44103 44104 44105 44106
44107 44108 44109 44110 44111 44112 44113 44114
44115 44116 44117 44118 44119 44120 44121 44122
44123 44124 44125 44126 44127 44128 44129 44130
44131 44132 44133 44134 44135 44136 44137 44138
44139 44140 44141 44142 44143 44144 44145 44146
44147 44148 44149 44150 44151 44152 44153 44154
44155 44156 44157 44158 44159 44160 44161 44162
44163 44164 44165 44166 44167 44168 44169 44170
44171 44172 44173 44174 44175 44176 44177 44178
44179 44180 44181 44182 44183 44184 44185 44186
44187 44188 44189 44190 44191 44192 44193 44194
44195 44196 44197 44198 44199 44200 44201 44202

Here you can see the information about the header of the cluster.

FILE ANALYSIS KEYWORD SEARCH FILE TYPE IMAGE DETAILS META DATA DATA UNIT HELP CLOSE

Cluster Number: 44067

Status: Allocated

[Find Meta Data Address](#)

ASCII Contents of Cluster 44067 in image2.e01-2048-1085439

RSTR.0.....9N

.....@...B....p...0.@..I.....N.....9N

.....N.T.F.S.....

Number of Clusters: 1

Cluster Size: 4096

Address Type: Regular (dd)

Then in order to view the file types of the directories, then click on 'File Type'

← → ↻ localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=1&submod=2&case=Case1&host ...

FILE ANALYSIS KEYWORD SEARCH FILE TYPE IMAGE DETAILS META DATA DATA UNIT HELP CLOSE

Directory Seek

Enter the name of a directory that you want to view.

C:/

VIEW

File Name Search

Enter a Perl regular expression

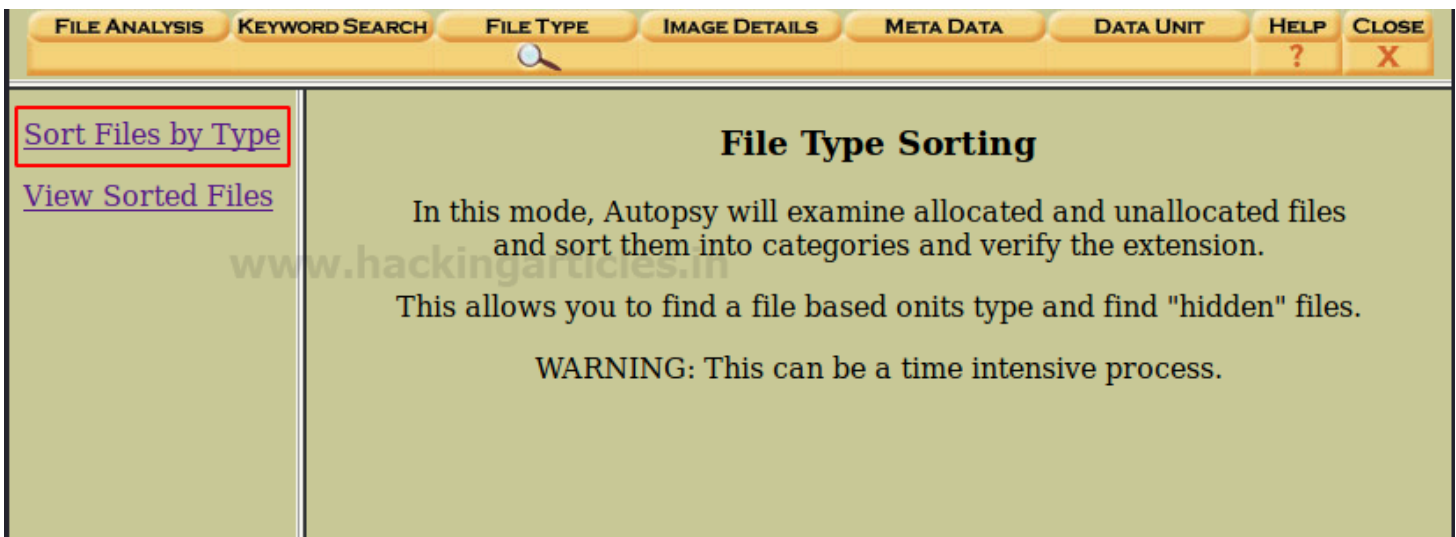
Current Directory: C:/

ADD NOTE **GENERATE MD5 LIST OF FILES**

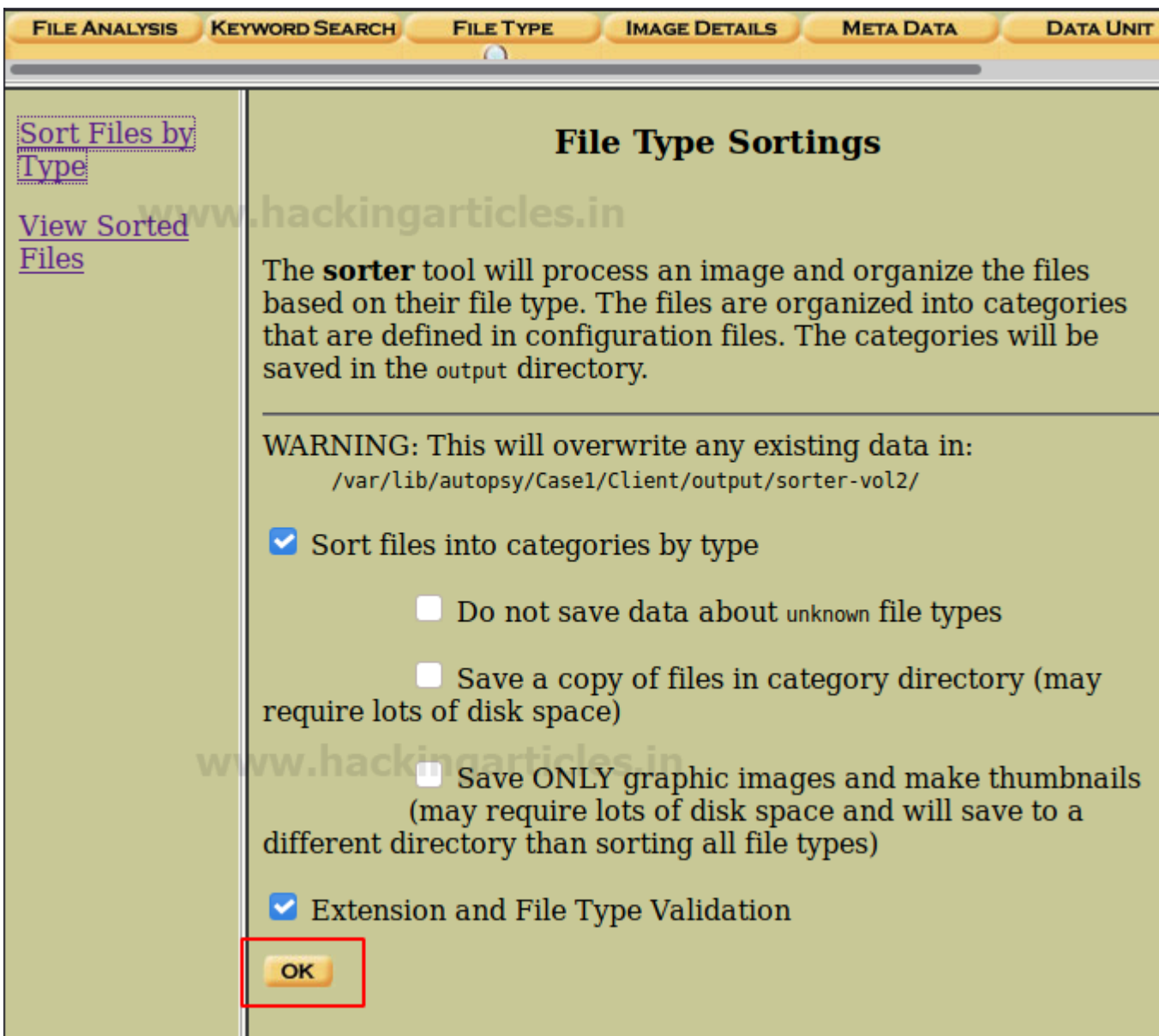
DEL	Type	NAME	WRITTEN	ACCESSED	CHANGED
	dir / in				
	Error Parsing File (Invalid Characters?):				
	V/V 256: \$OrphanFiles 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 0 0 0				
	r / r	\$AttrDef	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)
	r / r	\$BadClus	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)	2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)
	r / r	\$BadClus:\$Bad	2019-10-30	2019-10-30	2019-10-30

File Type

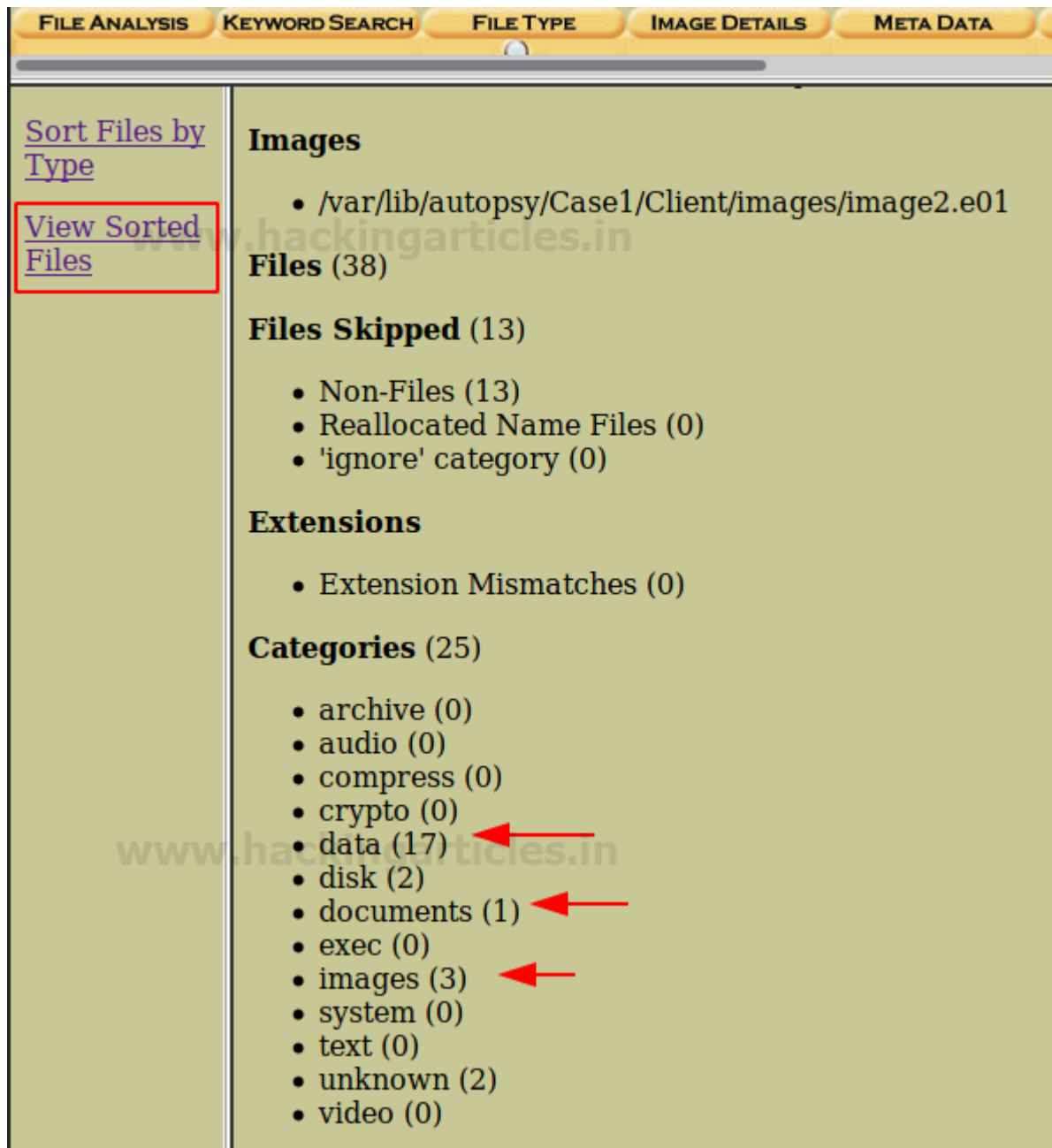
Here you will be able to sort the files based on the different types of files in the volume. By using this feature, you can examine allocated, unallocated as well as hidden files. To sort the file, click on 'Sort Files by Type'.



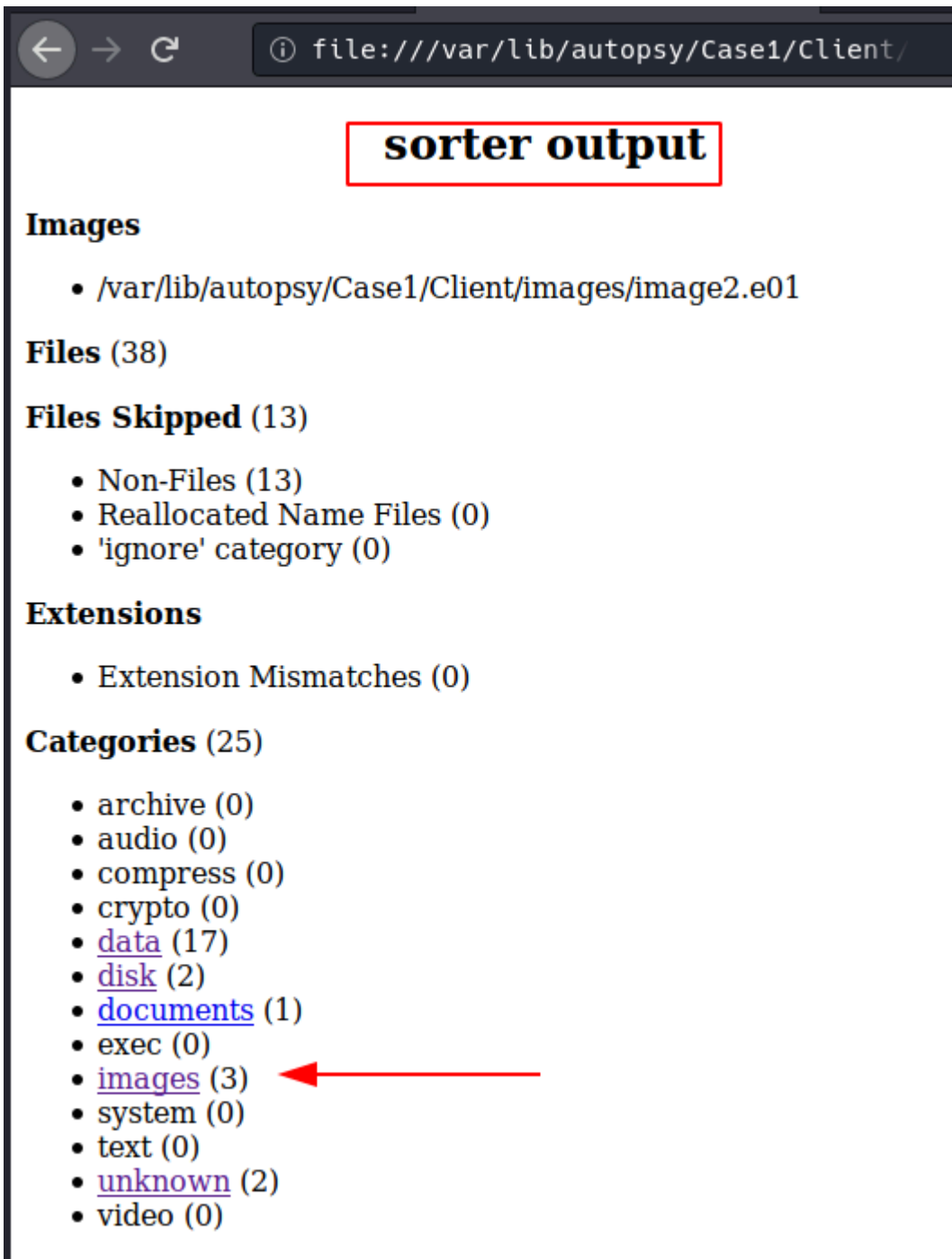
Click on 'Sort files into categories by type' which is selected by default and then click 'OK' to start sorting the files.



The categories of the file types will be displayed. Now to view the sorted files, click on ‘View sorted files’ and you will be displayed the list of sorted files.



The output folder locations will vary depending on the information specified by the user when first creating the case, but can usually be found at /var/lib/autopsy/Case1/Client/output/sorter-vol2/index.html. Once the index.html file has been opened, click on the images to view its contents.



Now you can see Images categories and further investigate the files depending on the case requirement.

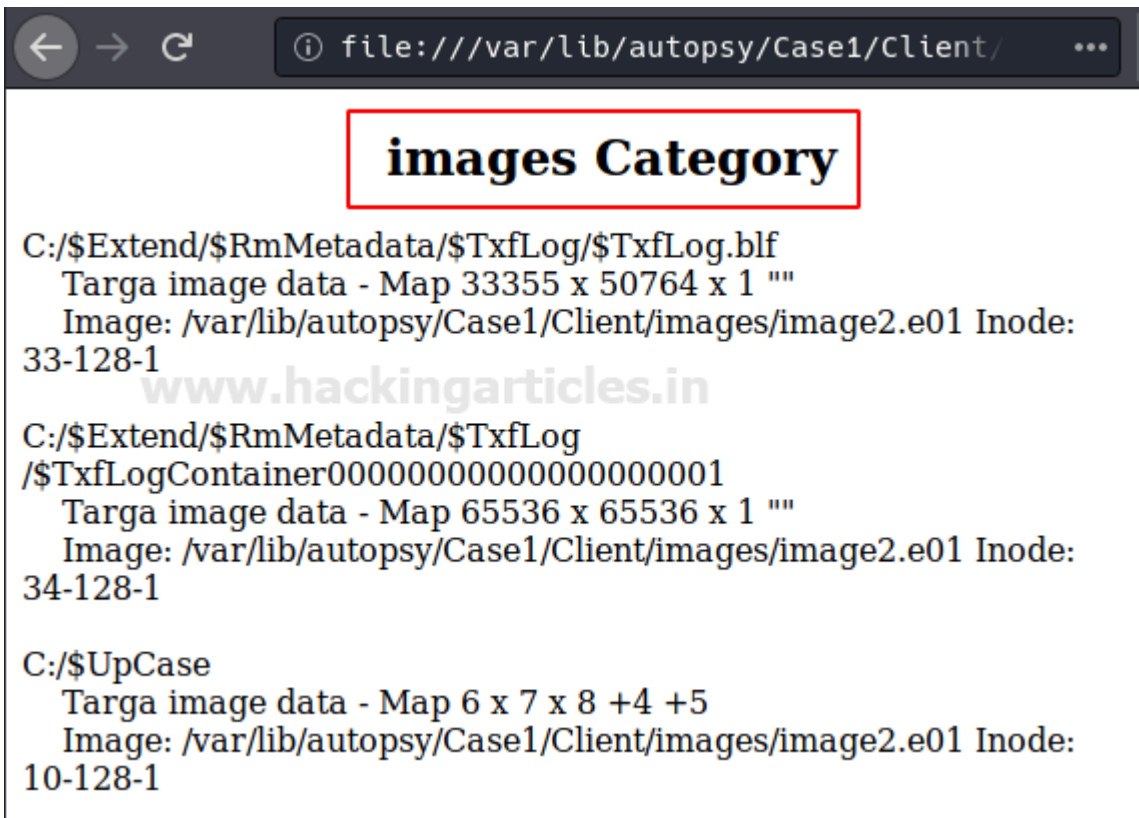
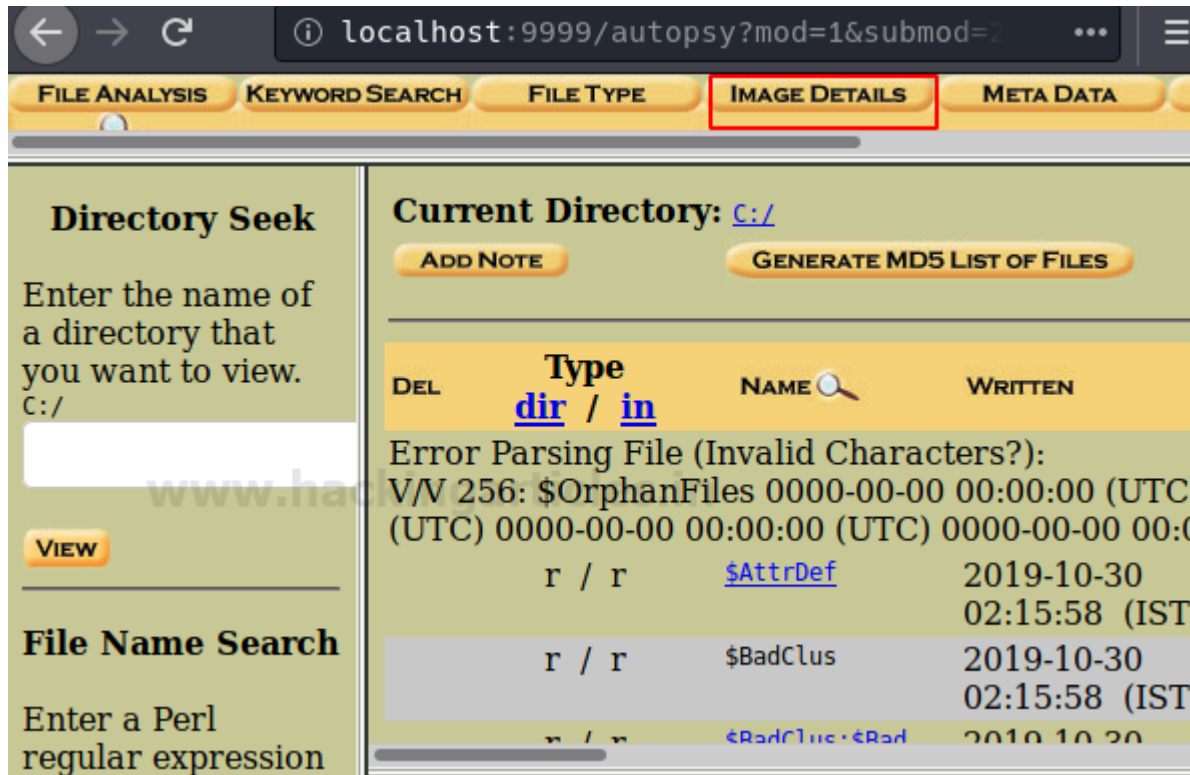


Image Details

Now click on the Image details options to view the important details about this image file



Here in this option of file analysis, you can see file system information, the first cluster of MFT, cluster size etc.

localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=1&submod=7&

FILE ANALYSIS KEYWORD SEARCH FILE TYPE IMAGE DETAILS META DATA

General File System Details

FILE SYSTEM INFORMATION

File System Type: NTFS
Volume Serial Number: 9EA6DE0BA6DDE435
OEM Name: NTFS
Volume Name: Recovery
Version: Windows XP

METADATA INFORMATION

First Cluster of MFT: 45141
First Cluster of MFT Mirror: 2
Size of MFT Entries: 1024 bytes
Size of Index Records: 4096 bytes
Range: 0 - 256
Root Directory: 5

CONTENT INFORMATION

Sector Size: 512
Cluster Size: 4096
Total Cluster Range: 0 - 135422
Total Sector Range: 0 - 1083390

\$AttrDef Attribute Values:
\$STANDARD_INFORMATION (16) Size: 48-72 Flags: Resident
\$ATTRIBUTE_LIST (32) Size: No Limit Flags: Non-resident
\$FILE_NAME (48) Size: 68-578 Flags: Resident, Index
\$OBJECT_ID (64) Size: 0-256 Flags: Resident
\$SECURITY_DESCRIPTOR (80) Size: No Limit Flags: Non-resident

Keyword Search

To ease the search of a file or document you can make use of the keyword search option to make your investigation time-efficient. Click on 'Keyword Search' to proceed.

localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=1&submod=2&c

FILE ANALYSIS **KEYWORD SEARCH** FILE TYPE IMAGE DETAILS META DATA DA

Directory Seek

Enter the name of a directory that you want to view.
C:/

VIEW

File Name Search

Enter a Perl regular expression for the file names you want to find.

Current Directory: C:/

ADD NOTE **GENERATE MD5 LIST OF FILES**

DEL	Type	NAME	WRITTEN
	dir / in		
Error Parsing File (Invalid Characters?): V/V 256: \$OrphanFiles 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 00 (UTC) 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC) 0000-00-00 00:00:00 (UTC)			
r / r	\$AttrDef		2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)
r / r	\$BadClus		2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)
r / r	\$BadClus:\$Bad		2019-10-30 02:15:58 (IST)
r / r	\$Ritman		2019-10-30

You can input the keyword or any relevant string to proceed with the investigation and click on search.

localhost:9999/autopsy?mod=1&submod=4&c

FILE ANALYSIS **KEYWORD SEARCH** FILE TYPE IMAGE DETAILS META DATA

Keyword Search of Allocated and Unallocated Space

Enter the keyword string or expression to search for:

→ Jeenali

☒ ASCII ☒ Unicode

☐ Case Insensitive ☐ grep Regular Expression

SEARCH

EXTRACT STRINGS **EXTRACT UNALLOCATED**

[Regular Expression Cheat Sheet](#)

NOTE: The keyword search runs `grep` on the image. A list of what will and what will not be found is available [here](#).

Conclusion

Hence, you as a Digital Forensics Investigator can make use of these different options of tools in the Autopsy in Kali Linux. This collection of tools creates quite a powerful forensic analysis platform.