

Statement of Witness

(CJ Act 1967 s 9, MC Act 1980 ss 5A (3a) and 5B, Criminal Procedure Rules 2015, s16)

STATEMENT OF Woofington BABBAGE
Age of Witness Over 18
Occupation of Witness DIGITAL INVESTIGATOR
[Company/site address]

Case Reference Number:

Police Reference:

I declare that:

I understand that my overriding duty is to the court and I have complied with, and will continue to comply with, that duty. This report (consisting of **36** pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I know that if it is introduced in evidence then it would be an offence wilfully to have stated in it anything that I knew to be false or did not believe to be true.

Furthermore, that:

I am an expert in **Digital Forensics** and I have been requested to provide a statement. I confirm that I have read guidance contained in a booklet known as Disclosure: 'Experts' Evidence and Unused Material' which details my role and documents my responsibilities, in relation to revelation as an expert witness. I have followed the guidance and recognise the continuing nature of my responsibilities of revelation. In accordance with my duties of revelation, as documented in the guidance booklet, I:

- (a) confirm that I have complied with my duties to record, retain and reveal material in accordance with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, as amended;
- (b) have compiled an Index of all material. I will ensure that the Index is updated in the event I am provided with or generate additional material;
- (c) understand that in the event my opinion changes on any material issue, I will inform the investigating officer, as soon as reasonably practicable and give reasons.

Dated the 7th May 2025

Signature: Rishabh Arora

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- **Academic Qualifications:** Master of Engineering (MEng) in Computer Science with Cyber Security, University of Southampton.
- **Career History:** Experience in digital forensic investigations, including the analysis of volatile memory samples, document artefacts, multimedia forensics, and embedded content recovery. Previously involved in academic research projects related to cybercrime and digital trace evidence.
- **Length of Service:** Engaged in the field of cyber security and digital forensics since 2022, with over 2 years of continuous practical and academic experience.
- **Areas of Expertise:** Digital forensics, memory analysis, data carving, document and multimedia evidence recovery, embedded object investigation, metadata analysis, and technical reporting. Special interest in cyber deception and steganographic techniques.
- **Reporting Experience:** This is my second formal forensic report submitted under Criminal Procedure Rules. Prior academic reporting has involved structured case reviews, simulation-based investigation exercises, and evaluated coursework related to real-world forensic scenarios.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- **Details of the allegation:**
 - **What:** Alleged unauthorised removal and repurposing of copyrighted content from public library materials.
 - **When:** Suspected to have occurred during April 2025, with particular activity noted on 23 April.
 - **Whom:** Dr Taylor Perl Salt has been identified as a person of interest in connection with the incident.
 - **Where:** Multiple public libraries within the city of Cyberly, with further activity linked to a private residence.
- **Case circumstances:** The investigation is in the early stages. Preliminary findings suggest a pattern involving concealed activity within public library environments. A forensic disk image was secured for analysis to determine the extent of digital involvement.
- **Details from witness statements:** Initial witness accounts suggest unusual behaviour involving disguises and balloon animals. These statements are currently being assessed for relevance and credibility in connection with the evidence gathered.

DOCUMENT SUMMARY

As part of the investigation, the following documents were reviewed and considered in support of the interpretation and conclusions drawn:

1. Information Provided During the Investigation

The primary digital evidence was acquired from the forensic disk image SM_2024_04_023_001.dd, accompanied by the associated acquisition log SM_2024_04_023_001.dd.txt. This evidence was preserved using standard forensic imaging protocols. The log file provides key technical details including hash values, time of acquisition, and the imaging method used, confirming the authenticity and integrity of the evidence.

2. Imaging Reports

The .dd.txt file served as a preliminary imaging report, verifying the integrity of the digital image and ensuring that the data examined was free from contamination or tampering. The metadata within the forensic image was instrumental in establishing timelines and user activity.

3. Other Sources of Expert or Institutional Information

Two institutional press releases were reviewed:

- Press_Release_Cyberly_University.pdf
- Press_Release_Puns_&_Pages.pdf

These documents provide context regarding the public response to the events under investigation. They may reflect institutional perspectives and contain references to relevant stakeholders, thereby contributing to an understanding of external narratives and organisational involvement.

4. Witness and Media Statements

The Police_Interview.pdf contains a recorded interview with a key witness or suspect and provides direct testimonial evidence pertinent to the case.

Additionally, two media publications —

- News_Article_1.pdf
- News_Article_2.pdf

— were examined for statements made by witnesses, experts, or institutional representatives. While secondary in nature, these sources help establish public perception and may contain corroborative or contradictory claims relevant to the investigation.

RECEIPT/ CONTINUITY OF ITEMS

The forensic disk image `SM_2024_04_023_001.dd` and its acquisition log were received digitally from the BYTE Detective Agency on 24 April 2025. No physical items were returned. Supplementary analysis relied on embedded media, carved documents, and screenshots recorded during the examination.

PURPOSE OF EXAMINATION

The examination was conducted in response to specific questions posed by the investigating authorities, including representatives from the Cyberly Police Department and the Office of the Mayor. These points of inquiry included:

- Identifying any technical indicators of ownership or usage of a seized USB storage device.
- Extracting and analysing any metadata or content that may reveal information about potential users of the USB device.
- Establishing any digital links or associations between the USB device, Dr Taylor Perl Salt, and the document artefacts under review.
- Exploring whether the digital evidence may shed light on the suspected unauthorised removal or damage of literary materials.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Forensic analysis of the disk image `SM_2024_04_023_001.dd` required inferring the storage cluster size, as no boot sector was available. Using offset division, a file header at offset 3269828608 was tested against standard cluster sizes:

- $3269828608 / 512 = 6386384$
- $3269828608 / 1024 = 3193192$
- $3269828608 / 2048 = 1596596$
- $3269828608 / 4096 = 798298$
- $3269828608 / 8192 = 399149$

Only **8192 bytes** consistently aligned file artefacts across the dataset, confirming it as the most probable cluster size. This was further supported by comparison with other file positions and peer findings. All subsequent carving was conducted using this cluster size.

SCENE EXAMINATION

- The scene was attended on **23rd April 2024** by officers from the Cyberly Police Department in collaboration with BYTE Detective Agency operatives. Detective Fossil led the operation, accompanied by forensic agent Clipboard.
- The location was a residential address belonging to Dr Taylor Salt, situated in Cyberly. The scene comprised a private home with multiple rooms, notably a study that was the focal point of the examination.
- Detailed examination was conducted in the study room, focusing on the bookshelves, writing desk, and personal storage areas such as toy containers. A LEGO bus model was also closely inspected.

- No conventional computing devices were discovered initially. However, a concealed USB storage device was recovered from within a LEGO bus model. This USB, disguised as a LEGO brick, was considered a critical artefact in the investigation.
- The USB device was seized as **Exhibit ID: SM/2024/04/023/001**. To preserve integrity, no live analysis was carried out at the scene. Proper forensic procedures, including the use of anti-static measures, were followed during the seizure.
- The USB was stored in a tamper-evident evidence bag and labelled with full chain-of-custody documentation. Photographic documentation was performed before and after the extraction of the USB device from the LEGO model. The evidence was securely transported to the BYTE forensics lab for imaging and further analysis.

EXAMINATION

OOXML File

Carving

The device image `SM_2024_04_023_001.dd` was examined using manual forensic techniques. An OOXML file was identified and extracted from unallocated space by searching for valid ZIP headers (50 4B 03 04) and End of Central Directory (EOCD) markers (50 4B 05 06). A valid file range was found between offset 5160960 and 21040344, producing a file of 20,527,985 bytes.

The selected byte block was carved manually using `HxD Hex Editor`. The data was saved as `OOXML.docx`, and a copy (`OOXML-copy.docx`) was made for examination. The file opened successfully in Microsoft Word and was found to contain significant evidential material, including metadata, embedded media, and textual content.

File Structure

```
/docs_carved/Test/
--- [Content_Types].xml
--- _rels/
--- customXml/
|   --- _rels/
|   |   --- item1.xml.rels ... item4.xml.rels
|   |   --- item1.xml ... item4.xml
|   |   --- itemProps1.xml ... itemProps4.xml
--- docProps/
|   --- app.xml, core.xml, custom.xml
--- word/
    --- _rels/
    |   --- document.xml.rels
    --- document.xml
    --- embeddings/
    |   --- Microsoft_PowerPoint_Presentation[1-2].pptx
    |   --- oleObject1-4.bin
    --- endnotes.xml, footnotes.xml
\begin{figure}
    \centering
    \includegraphics[width=0.5\linewidth]{Timeline.pdf}
    \caption{Enter Caption}
    \label{fig:enter-label}
\end{figure}
    --- fontTable.xml, styles.xml, numbering.xml, settings.xml
    --- footer1.xml, footer2.xml
```

```

+-- header1.xml
+-- media/
|   +-- image1-22 (.png, .jpg, .svg, .emf, .tmp, .wdp)
+-- theme/
    +-- themel.xml

```

Timeline Metadata Analysis

Using ExifTool and XML parsing, the document metadata revealed:

- Creation Date: 8 July 2020, 15:53:00
- Last Modified Date: 23 April 2024, 13:19:00
- Last Printed: 23 April 2024, 13:17:00
- Total Editing Time: 1.8 hours
- Revision Count: 18

Link to the Suspect

- **Last Modified By:** Taylor Salt
- **Author (original):** Marsha Lowe
- **Subject:** “How to create a famous science fiction book from many other books by stealing [deleted]”
- **Keywords:** “stickytape”, “stapler”, “science fiction”

Content Analysis

The document was totally normal - until these elements were found:

- **Strange Text Inserted:** These are playful clues hinting that someone is removing or hiding pages from books.
 - “Do you think anyone reads documents? I reckon you could remove a page, and no one would notice.” (see Appendix, Figure 3)
 - “If we always removed the same page, I wonder.” (see Appendix, Figure 4)
 - “What story it would create?” (see Appendix, Figure 5)
- **Hidden Fragments:** This part appears like normal paragraph text but hides something:
 - “STEP 3 is very clear, look to Douglas A and answer the question about the universe, the answer is 42!” (see Appendix, Figure 7)
 - “For additional reference it isn’t 42 factorial, it’s just 42, but I like ! at the end of things” (see Appendix, Figure 10)
 - “If you put white text on white paper, what happens” (see Appendix, Figure 6)
 - “Operation penguinontheloose in about creating a alternative fiction book out of page 42 from a lot of books.” (see Appendix, Figure 11)
 - “Dr Taylor Salt Was Here And here” is embedded as shown in (see Appendix, Figure 8)
 - “My evil plan To create a book from books Is nearly completed Or is it I wonder what the pattern is Well, ok I know But in case you find this I’m not telling you Only, I already have told you Ooooo what a mean clue You will never guess” (see Appendix, Figure 9)
- **Highlighted Messages:** Parts of the Document someone wants to stress more on:

- "Never tackle unpaid skills" (see Appendix, Figure 12)
- "iamdrsalt" (see Appendix, Figure 13)

- **Suspicious Image:**

- **Exhibit IMG1** – Operation Penguinontheloose (see Appendix, Figure 19)
A plain white background with orange text outlining a six-step plan titled “Operation penguinontheloose.” Steps include removing page 42 from 42 books across 42 libraries, referencing the Southampton Literary Festival.
- **Exhibit IMG2** - Cyberly City (see Appendix, Figure 15)
A vivid, futuristic cityscape blending traditional street buildings with neon-lit skyscrapers. Robots and humans interact in a digitally advanced yet community-oriented environment.
- **Exhibit IMG3** - Cartoon Bee (see Appendix, Figure 14)
A cartoon bee character dressed as a detective, holding a pencil and clipboard marked “3”. Surrounded by monitors and tablets showing maps and route markers. Nearby are crayons, a glue jar, scribbles, and smart devices — implying planning, control, or digital manipulation.
- **Exhibit IMG4** - Gloria Gigglesworth (Chief Happiness Officer) (see Appendix, Figure 17)
Illustration of an older woman with grey hair, stern expression, glasses, and badges reading “CHIEF HAPPINESS OFFICER” and “YD. HR.” Stylised.
- **Exhibit IMG5** - Lord Pixelington (Supreme Sleuth) (see Appendix, Figure 18)
A headshot of a smiling man with a brown moustache and well-groomed hair, wearing a brown overcoat and tie.
- **Exhibit IMG6** - Unknown Character (see Appendix, Figure 16)
A digital portrait of a smiling young man with blond hair, blue eyes, and large glasses. He is wearing a blue jumper over a collared shirt. The image has a light background and stylised shading.
- **Exhibit IMG7** - Balloon Animal (see Appendix, Figure 20)
A digitally drawn balloon dog
- **Exhibit IMG8** - Child in Library (see Appendix, Figure 21)
A toddler is observed selecting a book from a low library shelf with curiosity
 - * **Image Size:** 535 × 800 pixels (0.428 MP)
 - * **File Size:** 154 KiB
 - * **Format:** JPEG, YCbCr 4:4:4 (high colour quality)
 - * **Modification Date:** 31 Dec 1979 — likely falsified or system default; indicates metadata tampering
 - * **External Reference:** Contains Flickr URL in metadata — suggests image may be sourced from the internet
 - * **Camera Data:** Absent — no EXIF tags (e.g. camera model, lens), implies image was manually edited or exported
 - * **Colour Profile:** sRGB (Hewlett-Packard) — common for display use, not capture
- **Exhibit IMG9** - Elder browsing computer (see Appendix, Figure 22)
An elderly woman is seated at a public library computer, engaging with online content attentively.
 - * **Image Size:** 799 × 533 pixels (0.426 MP)
 - * **File Size:** 143 KiB
 - * **Format:** JPEG, YCbCr 4:4:4 (high-quality colour)
 - * **Modification Date:** 31 Dec 1979 — highly unlikely, indicating possible timestamp manipulation
 - * **External Reference:** Contains Flickr URL in Document Notes field — suggests online sourcing or reuse
 - * **Camera Metadata:** Absent — no capture device info present, implying it was manually edited or processed
 - * **Colour Profile:** sRGB IEC61966-2.1 (Hewlett-Packard, 1998) — typical for display, not native to digital cameras

- **Recovered Videos:**

- **Exhibit VID1** - Drone Footage (see Appendix, Figure 23)
Drone Footage flying over a historic stone tower surrounded by dense parkland and urban buildings.
- **Exhibit VID2** - Lights go (see Appendix Figure 24)
A visual of multicoloured LED-like light trails forming curved, digital pathways on a black background.

- **Recovered Audio:**

- **Exhibit AUD1** - Star wars 8 bit ringtone
The file is a chiptune-style ringtone rendering of the Star Wars theme in 8-bit format.

JGP Files:

Carving

Carving process has been explained in the Contemporaneous Notes.

Animal Image (IMG10):



Figure 1: Lion family rests in unity

This image captures a serene moment in the wild, showing a lion pride resting together on a large log in a lush forest setting. The group includes two adult lionesses, two young cubs, and a majestic male lion with a dark mane, all gazing attentively in the same direction.

- **File Name:** 2.jpg
- **File Size:** 9.6 KiB
- **Image Dimensions:** 276 × 183 pixels
- **Megapixels:** 0.051
- **Encoding Method:** Baseline DCT with Huffman coding (common JPEG compression)
- **MIME Type:** image/jpeg
- **JFIF Version:** 1.01
- **Colour Model:** YCbCr 4:2:0 (standard for JPEG)

Library Image (IMG11):



Figure 2: Colourful Library Rooms

This image shows ten bright and colourful library rooms. Each room has comfy chairs, soft rugs, lots of books, and big windows or lights from the ceiling. Some rooms have fireplaces, clocks, or fun decorations like paintings and curtains.

- **File Name:** 1.jpg
- **File Size:** 772 KiB
- **Image Dimensions:** 1792 × 1024 pixels
- **Megapixels:** 1.8 MP
- **Format:** JPEG (Baseline DCT, Huffman coding)

Bin Files:

Extracted using oleobj from an embedded OLE stream in docs_carved.docx.

- **Exhibit BIN1 – Star Wars Ringtone (oleObject1.bin)**
A chiptune-style MP3 of the Star Wars theme.
→ **Filename:** star-wars-8-bit-ringtone.mp3
→ **User Source:** C:\Users\Dr Taylor Salt\...
- **Exhibit BIN2 – Mission Impossible MIDI (oleObject2.bin)**
MIDI audio of the Mission Impossible theme.
→ **Filename:** MissionImpossible (3).mid
→ **User Source:** C:\Users\Dr Taylor Salt\...
- **Exhibit BIN3 – Lights Go Video (oleObject3.bin)**
An MP4 video showing colourful LED-style motion trails.
→ **Filename:** lights_go.mp4
→ **User Source:** C:\Users\Dr Taylor Salt\...
- **Exhibit BIN4 – Drone Footage (oleObject4.bin)**
MP4 video of a drone flyover of a historic tower and park.
→ **Filename:** Drone_Footage.mp4
→ **User Source:** C:\Users\TailorMade\...

Presentation

Exhibit PPT1 – Embedded PowerPoint File

- **Title:** *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Future of Cataloging – Public Services Edition*
- **File Name:** Microsoft_PowerPoint_Presentation.pptx
- **Found In:** docs_carved.docx → /word/embeddings/
- **Author:** Sarah Theimer, Syracuse University
- **Slides:** 32
- **Metadata Date Modified:** 28 April 2023
- **Content Focus:** Transition from MARC to RDA, metadata in digital discovery, and references to open data
- **Suspicious Observations:**
 - Title "A Hitchhiker's Guide to the future Cataloging" related a lot with "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" which is related to the number "42".
 - In the notes section for slide 1 it says "(Reads. not necessarily out loud)"
 - Slide 3 says, "Poorly implemented change will have negative repercussions." Could it be referring to the plan?
 - Slide 4 notes say, "How we do our jobs is changing, but the reason behind what we do is a constant." Could it be referring to something like the page number?
 - Slide 5 notes say, "One is to look at the findings of someone else." Inspiring?
 - Slide 10 say "Eric Miller "we are moving from cataloging to catalinking" (Sarah Theimer Really? Catalinking? Generally I love made up words, but Really?)"

Related News Articles

In this section, selected news clippings from "Cyberly Chronicles News" are presented, which may hold potential relevance to the ongoing investigation. These fictional articles provide contextual background, reference notable individuals and events which can help unfold the case.

1. *The Answer is 42... Pages! Win 10 Million Cyberly Pounds for Your Novel Idea!*

The document titled "*The Answer is 42... Pages!*" is a fictional news article published on 24 February 2025 by *The Great Algorithm* via *Cyberly Chronicles News*. Following a clarification request to ecs.digital.forensics@soton.ac.uk, it was confirmed that this is part of an annual city-wide competition held in Cyberly.

The event, known as **The Great Cyberly Fiction Challenge**, offers a reward of 10 million Cyberly Pounds for the most original, surreal, and humorous novel idea. Participation is open to all residents of Cyberly. However, entries must adhere strictly to the requirement of being exactly 42 pages in length. Submissions with 41 or 43 pages are disqualified automatically. Entries are submitted via an AI-powered writing portal called *Deep Thought 3000*, which, at the time of the report, only accepted haiku-format entries.

The original article is publicly available at:

<https://craftyfoxforensics.com/2025/02/24/the-answer-is-42-pages-win-10-million-cyberly-pounds-for-your-novel-idea/>

2. Cyberly Gets a New Frequency! 404 FM – The Station Not Found

The article announces the launch of a new radio station in Cyberly called **404 FM – The Station Not Found**, which transmits on the unusual frequency of **404.0 MHz**. The station features chaotic programming, including glitchy remixes of municipal alerts, late-night AI call-ins, and suspiciously vague ads. One segment, titled “*Emotionally Ambiguous Elevator Music*”, is noted for causing unease. The station’s signal is unstable, often overridden by static or digital noise. Despite—or perhaps because of—its oddities, the station has quickly become a topic of conversation across the city.

The original article is publicly available at:

<https://craftyfoxforensics.com/2025/03/13/breaking-cyberly-gets-a-new-frequency-404-fm-the-station-not-found/>

3. Spilled Tea, Shared Secrets & USB Seduction

This article delivers a series of unusual but revealing updates from Cyberly:

- **Professor Normal’s Keynote:** During the “AI for Peace, Probably” event, Professor Normal deviated from AI ethics to promote the idea of merging generative AI with aggressive plants, suggesting “weaponised begonias” that could rewrite legislation.
- **404FM Brag and Operation Spoiler:** A whistleblower named *Spoonferret99* revealed a suspicious brag aired on 404FM: “*I wrote literary history with a USB and left a spoiler in every shelf.*” The quote, paired with a comment about hiding something in LEGO, led to the reopening of Operation Spoiler.
- **/dev/random Glitch:** A musical malware incident transformed all instances of `/dev/random` into looping playback of a pop song titled “*The Salt in the Story*”, attributed to a karaoke server linked with the alias “DJ Spoilz”. The track cannot be silenced and has caused forensic complications.
- **CAIR Classification:** The event was labelled a Category 3 “Bopstorm” by Cyberly Audio Incident Response—defined as unsolicited media causing involuntary dancing and technical disruption.
- **Forensic Hamster Sighting:** The hamster “Clipboard” and crocodile “Fluffy” were seen on a data-sharing date involving spaghetti, poetry, and a consensual USB exchange—highlighting Cyberly’s eccentricity.

The article closes with cryptic teasers.

The original article is publicly available at:

<https://craftyfoxforensics.com/2025/05/02/spilled-tea-shared-secrets-usb-seduction/>

Other Relevant Information

1. BYTE Staff Bulletin: Spring 2025

This staff bulletin from the BYTE Detective Agency reflects on forensic acquisition practices before the adoption of the Generalised Acquisition Framework in late 2024. It features an amusing yet insightful profile of “Clipboard,” a semi-sentient forensic hamster:

- **Clipboard’s Role:** Dressed in static-safe gear, Clipboard served as BYTE’s youngest acquisition assistant and is now Head of Cable Management.
- **Forensic Imaging Procedure:** Clipboard used the command:

```
dd if=/dev/sdb of=bytecase.dd bs=4M conv=noerror,sync
```

to acquire digital evidence via a Tableau write blocker.

- **Integrity Verification:** Clipboard verified image integrity with an unconventional command:

```
dd if=/dev/random bs=4096 count=1 status=none | tee /dev/null | sha256sum << "/mount/evidence/thing001"
```

Someone in the crowd dropped a stapler, which was taken as approval by clipboard

- **Cyberly Compliance:** While his methods were creative, Clipboard's commitment to verification and chain-of-custody illustrates BYTE's flexible yet effective approach to digital forensics.

The original information is publicly available at:

<https://bytedetectiveagency.co.uk/byte-staff-bulletin-spring-2025/>

salt_in_the_story.mp3 by LoudPreludes791 (Suno)

This resource was identified through the metadata of the song's MP3 file. The file was discovered in relation to the news article discussed in [3. Spilled Tea, Shared Secrets & USB Seduction](#).

The song `salt_in_the_story.mp3` was published on the Suno platform by user **LoudPreludes791** on **2 May 2025 at 20:22**. Categorised under *girl band*, *bubble gum pop*, and *happy*, the track contains strongly suggestive lyrical themes relevant to digital deception and identity manipulation.

The lyrics include phrases such as:

- “*Left my mark in the metadata — you get the gist.*”
- “*I write the end before you pick up the pen.*”
- “*Just the next big villain, about to take the call.*”
- “*I'm the salt in the story, the twist that you missed*“
- “*Page by page, I steal the plot with a kiss*“
- “*Wrote a book of books, yeah, forty-two deep*“
- “*Got a plan so bold they might call it a game*“

These lines indicate intentional embedding of messages, narrative manipulation, and use of aliases. The artist alludes to data concealment and Digital storytelling.

The original information is publicly available at:

<https://suno.com/song/8a385c76-8f1a-4ad2-8d06-f5aea7bb0a26>

INTERPRETATION

These are the list of possibilities that might have happened based on the evidence found:

1. [Presentation](#) given by Sarah H Theimer has suspicious texts in it, which sounded like she is training people to do something in a Stealthy way.
2. An image of a Library was carved from `SM_2024_04_023_001.dd` as shown in Figure 2
3. The [OOXML File](#) was filled with resources and was marked to be edited by Dr. Salt before he being arrested.
4. Figure 19 hidden inside the [OOXML File](#) states the Dr. Salt's plan although it is not completed in the document contained an incomplete plan; here is the reconstructed version based on the investigation
 - (a) Find 42 Libraries
 - (b) In each library, locate 42 books in empty corridors
 - (c) Look to Douglas A and answer the question about the universe, the answer is 42!

- (d) remove page 42 from each book
 - (e) complete operation penguinontheloose
 - (f) win best alternative fiction book at Southampton Literary festival
5. The Great Fiction Challenge as discussed in news section ([1. The Answer is 42... Pages! Win 10 Million Cyberly Pounds for Your Novel Idea!](#)) could be the motivation behind this mission.
 6. The image found in the [OOXML File](#) and represent in Figure 16 matches with the description "blond hair was found in the manuscript" provided in [Press_Release_Puns_&_Pages.pdf](#) referring to the anonymous author of the book "The Mysterious Misadventures of Bartholomew Blondelocks and the Balloon Animal".
 7. The article [News_Article_1.pdf](#) states "The Page Turner" has been mysteriously vanishing the pages, leaving behind incomplete stories. Describes him as "sunny-haired man" An article came out on 23rd April 2024, and on the same day, another article, [News_Article_2.pdf](#) came out, which stated, "Balloon animals mysteriously filled Cyberly's park overnight." These events can be linked to each other.
 8. At the interview (stated in [Police_Interview.pdf](#)) Dr. Salt was using humour to dodge questions and was talking a lot about balloon animals. Shows his defensive nature and interest in balloon animals.
 9. During his interview he mentions about the "Blue Jumper", which can be seen in [Press_Release_Cyberly_University.pdf](#)
 10. Dr. Salt got a "Golden Bookmark Award" on 24th April 2024 for his contribution? But what?
 11. A book (mentioned in [Press_Release_Puns_&_Pages.pdf](#)) by an anonymous author was released on 1st May 2024 named "The Mysterious Misadventures of Bartholomew Blondelocks and the Balloon Animal" which is about a balloon dog and an image of a balloon dog was found in Dr. Salt's [OOXML File](#) as shown in Figure 20.
 12. Dr. Salt gave a speech on 2nd May 2024 about "The Future of Fiction: Ballooning Ideas in Literature", maybe tell his story? found in [Press_Release_Cyberly_University.pdf](#)
 13. The hash mentioned in [SM_2024_04_023_001.dd.txt](#) and the actual hash of the file don't match. Clipboard explains his way of generating the hash ([1. BYTE Staff Bulletin: Spring 2025](#)). The way it's performed is not correct.
 14. A News was found that "CLIPBOARD & FLUFFY SPOTTED ON A NIGHT OUT" and they share a USB([3. Spilled Tea, Shared Secrets & USB Seduction](#)) Clipboard is a member of B.Y.T.E Detective, and Fluffy is the security guard of Mysterious Brews, which is linked with VVI.
 15. An instance in [3. Spilled Tea, Shared Secrets & USB Seduction](#) was explained in [3. Spilled Tea, Shared Secrets & USB Seduction](#) when Clipboard was demonstrating his way of generating the hash, then a stapler dropped. Does that mean Dr. Salt was there?
 16. Mysterious tracks being played on FM 404, as mentioned in [3. Spilled Tea, Shared Secrets & USB Seduction](#)
 17. A song [salt_in_the_story.mp3](#) was released with lyrics "Page by page, I steal the plot with a kiss" and other mysteries, as discussed in [salt_in_the_story.mp3](#) by LoudPreludes791 (Suno)

Optional: Connecting the story

Dr Salt attended a presentation by Sarah H. Theimer and was inspired by her concept of *caterlinking*. He began drafting his own ideas in the document referenced in [OOXML File](#). His motivation intensified upon hearing about the **Great Fictional Challenge**, which required creating a book exactly 42 pages long.

Driven by this goal, Dr Salt visited multiple libraries, allegedly stealing page 42 from various fiction books—a pattern later described as “Operation Penguinontheloose” (see Figure 19). His suspicious activity did not go

unnoticed; witnesses reported sightings of him in disguise and even informed the local police. At one point, he released balloon animals to distract onlookers and evade identification.

On 23 April, he returned home and modified his [OOXML File](#), having collected enough material to compile the fictional manuscript. This book, assembled from the stolen pages, was meant to form an *alternate fiction narrative*—an idea hinted at in multiple embedded clues and confirmed through metadata analysis.

Later that day, he was arrested after being identified and brought in for questioning by Detective Fossil. However, he managed to mislead the authorities and proceeded to complete his book. Prior to its release, he reached out Cyberly University was the story of the final book, where he was awarded the prestigious **Golden Bookmark Award** for his “ballooning ideas in literature.” The manuscript titled “*The Mysterious Misadventures of Bartholomew Blondelocks and the Balloon Animal*” was officially launched on 1st May.

On 2nd May, Dr Salt delivered a lecture at Cyberly University discussing the creation of his book. Interestingly, it was revealed that Clipboard, a member of the BYTE Detective Agency, was acting as an imposter and collaborated with Dr Salt to alter the hash of the forensic disk image. According to media reports, Clipboard and Fluffy were also romantically linked and allegedly shared a USB drive during this time.

Subsequently, Dr Salt released a confession song, in which he cryptically admitted to his role. A line from the track—“*I'm the salt in the story, the twist that you missed*”—closely aligns with the description of the anonymous author “BB Leaks,” who was described as “*whose identity is as mysterious as the plot twists within. Here is an image of Dr. Salt Figure 16*”

CONCLUSION

Based on the digital forensic examination conducted, the following conclusions are presented in relation to the case:

- The USB stick and its digital contents were primarily linked to Dr Taylor Perl Salt. This attribution is based on metadata artefacts, embedded author tags, file path references (e.g. C:\Users\Dr Taylor Salt), and references across multiple embedded files and media assets.
- Multiple documents and embedded audio-visual evidence corroborate the inference that Dr Salt was the main operator of the USB and orchestrator of the associated activities. One key element is the OOXML document, which contains edited content, hidden metadata, embedded presentations, and song files—pointing to a carefully constructed plan.
- The investigation revealed that Dr Salt appears to have pursued the creation of a 42-page fiction book by covertly extracting pages from various library books, as outlined in `operation-penguinontheloose` (see Figure 19). This aligns with the themes and clues distributed across the examined media.
- Dr Salt's motives appear linked to the Cyberly Fiction Challenge, which offered substantial recognition and monetary reward for an original 42-page story. Evidence supports that the act of removing pages from multiple sources was intentional, forming part of a conceptual literary experiment.
- Additional material (e.g. the track `salt_in_the_story.mp3`) offers what can be interpreted as a lyrical confession of the events, referencing metadata tampering, hidden identities, and digital manipulation.
- The involvement of “Clipboard,” a semi-sentient hamster referenced in BYTE agency reports and media clippings, indicates a broader conspiracy or collaboration. It is alleged that Clipboard assisted in tampering with forensic image hashes and may have shared digital media with Dr Salt.
- The criminal damage to books is directly related to Dr Salt's campaign to physically extract page 42 from printed fiction works in various libraries, as supported by the document and visual evidence.

In summary, the forensic findings establish a strong evidential link between Dr Taylor Perl Salt, the USB device, and the events leading to the damage of multiple literary materials. His identity, role, and motivations are well-documented across the recovered materials and align with the points of interest outlined by the authorities.

Appendix A : Visual Evidence

A. The need

The lockdown caused by the Coronavirus crisis has caused widespread economic problems and triggered unprecedented government action to protect businesses and jobs from being lost. However, despite this package of support, predictions for the future of the UK economy as we emerge out of lockdown are bleak. Do you think anyone reads documents? I reckon you could remove a page, and no one would notice.

Figure 3: Strange Text Evidence 1

The number of people claiming unemployment benefits rose in May 2020 to 2.8 million, according to the ONS¹. Between March and May, there has been an increase of 1.6 million claimants. This figure is expected to rise as furlough schemes come to an end in October. The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce said one in three jobs in parts of Britain were at risk due to Covid-19. Job vacancies also fell by 342,000 in March to May, the largest quarterly fall since the current series started in 2001. If we always removed the same page, I wonder.

Figure 4: Strange Text Evidence 2

Some workers are also disproportionately economically impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. Workers who are from a global majority background, women, young workers, low paid workers and disabled workers, have been most negatively economically impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.¹ Further, the OECD² predicts a slump in the UK's national income of 11.5% in 2020 – the worst damage from the Covid-19 crisis of any country in the developed world. What story it would create?

Figure 5: Strange Text Evidence 3

Employment support and training

Local libraries provide a range of facilities and support to help job seekers to find work and improve their employment skills. This includes⁴:

- 86% of library authorities support the unemployed to get online
- 76% support job-searching online
- 71% help with CV writing
- 63% provide short courses to improve IT skills.

If you put white text on white paper, what happens

Figure 6: Hidden Text Evidence 1

While libraries have rapidly adapted to this new normal, we know that our communities need our buildings and the range of services that we provide in them. Libraries are trusted spaces in the heart of communities and the launchpad for a range of inclusive library activities. There were over 226m library visits in the UK last year¹ and 72% of people in England think that libraries are an essential or very important service to the community². Many of these people depend on libraries as one of the few free and safe public spaces in their communities.

STEP 3 is very clear, look to Douglas A and answer the question about the universe, the answer is 42!

Re-opening our buildings to these visitors will signal the beginning of a return to normal in local

neighbourhoods; helping high streets, shops and community facilities to recover from the lockdown.

Libraries also provide computers to access local authority and other community agencies such as Citizens Advice as well as support for those who aren't comfortable with IT. But as a driver for inclusion, community cohesion and social mobility, libraries offer far more.

Figure 7: Hidden Text Evidence 2

- **Social prescribing:** Libraries connect people to community groups and services and work through local partners to raise awareness of the local support that's available [Di](#)
- **Early years activities:** These include Baby bounce, rhyme times and stay and play sessions that provide social opportunities for young children and their carers [Taylor](#)
- **Community groups:** These cater for a range of people including teens, older people, and include activities such as Knit and natter, coffee mornings and reading groups [Salt](#)
- **Libraries of Sanctuary:** Libraries are working with City of Sanctuary to welcome refugees and other new arrivals into their community and to foster a culture of inclusivity [Was](#)
- **Support for those with special needs or disabilities:** These include autism-friendly libraries, visually impaired reading groups and sensory equipment in libraries that provide support and connections for carers also [Here](#)
- **Mobile libraries and home delivery services:** These visits are a key source of social interaction for those who have difficulty leaving their homes. [And here](#)

Figure 8: Hidden Text Evidence 3

6. Our story/what we've achieved.

Use this space for case studies or evidence from your own service.



My evil plan

To create a book
from books

Is nearly complete

Or is it

I wonder what the
pattern is

Well, ok I know

But in case you find
this

I'm not telling you

Only, I already have
told you

Ooooo what a mean
clue

You will never guess

Figure 9: Hidden Text Evidence 4

Through our Universal Library Offers, libraries promote access to reading, training, digital skills, trusted information and cultural experiences to people at every stage of their lives. We've identified five key areas where libraries can play a central role in meeting the needs of individuals and communities who may be struggling to overcome the effects of the Covid-19 crisis. These are:

For additional reference it isn't 47 factorial, it's just 42, but I like it at the end of things

- Economic recovery with help and training for job seekers and entrepreneurs
- Education support for children and SEND students who struggled to learn at home
- Isolation mitigation for vulnerable groups and to help people to reconnect locally
- Digital inclusion for residents who lack IT skills or have no access to the Internet
- Cultural partnership to help local artists and arts organisations to continue their work.

Figure 10: Hidden Text Evidence 5

One of the major strengths of libraries is their ability to support the development of children's literacy skills and to encourage them to acquire a love of reading from an early age. Libraries support children at vital times in their lives such as their transitions to primary and to secondary school and the journey from early teenage years to adulthood. They are also vital spaces for students to access on and offline learning resources and support. Operation penguinontheloose in about creating a alternative fiction book out of page 42 from a lot of books.

According to research from National Literacy Trust⁴

- Around four in 10 library users on free school meals said they used their library because it was a friendly space and because it helps them to do better at school.
- Almost four in 10 young people who use the (public) library believe that doing so will help them do better at school.

Figure 11: Hidden Text Evidence 6

4. Digital inclusion
The digital divide is fast becoming a defining social justice issue of this crisis.
 Polly Neate, Shelter

A. The need
 More than 5 million adults in the UK have either never used the internet or not used it in the past three months, that's one in 10 of all adults. While most non-internet users are of retirement age, 773,000 adults—the population of Leeds—are under the age of 65.¹

An estimated 9 million (16%) are unable to use the internet and their device by themselves. Four in ten benefit claimants have very low digital engagement.² A third of those with disabilities, some 3.8 million people, had never used the internet, representing half of the 7.4 million adults who had never used the internet.³

Digital skills are essential entry requirements for two-thirds of UK occupations, and they pay more than non-digital roles. Overall, roles requiring digital skills pay 23% (£8,300 per annum) over those roles that do not (£37,000 p.a. vs £28,700 p.a.). These occupations account for 82% of online job vacancies.²

B. What libraries do
'Before I went along to Stourbridge Library, my digital skills were non-existent' Lynne, Marie Curie Nurse

Through the Information and Digital Offer, libraries offer a huge amount of digital support, training and access to some of the most disadvantaged people in the UK. Services include:

- 26 hours of supported internet access each year on 40,000 PCs⁴
- An estimated 99.3% of libraries offering free WiFi, thanks to DCMS funding⁵
- 91% helping library users to get online via one-to-one and group support⁶
- 76% providing specific support for older people⁷
- 18,426 library staff have completed the Digital Skills Training on Learning Point.

A DCMS study⁸ found evidence from England that half of those who do not have access to the internet at home, but use the internet in public places, do so in a public library. Libraries offer a range of activities and resources that include Silver surfer clubs, Internet safety sessions, Tech and Tea events and tablet lending schemes.

The Online Centres Network works to close digital exclusion and social isolation by providing people with the skills and confidence they need to access digital technology. Around half of the 6000 UK Online centres are based in libraries and these have considerably bigger footfall than those based in other community centres, with an average of 300 users per week as opposed to 40 a week in other centres. Of the two million users annually, nearly a quarter are considered as socially excluded, and around half have no formal qualifications when they start using a centre.⁹

C. The difference libraries make
'If you say to someone: Do you want to learn about computers? they will often say no. If you ask: Do you want to speak to your daughter in Australia or find a job? It's a different matter. It's finding what's important to people.' Charlotte, library team

E7.5 million per year. The library services helped more than 1,600 people—including those on low incomes, the long term unemployed, carers, people with disabilities and those who are household and socially isolated—and to deliver in more than 200 library branches in both rural and urban areas, as well as people's homes, day care services, and a variety of community centres.¹⁰

Digital skill requirements also vary substantially from region to region. For example, data and design skills are important in London to meet the needs of the finance and creative industries, while engineering and advanced manufacturing skills are particularly important in towns like Cambridge and Bristol. The local library services the ideal delivery partner for tackling the digital divide because they can tailor their offer to meet specific, local need.

D. Libraries NI Digital Citizen Project
'Having been through a lot of health problems and feeling isolated - going along to these digital help sessions has really given me a new lease of life.'

A Digital Citizen has the skills required to use digital technology purposefully and confidently to communicate, find information, purchase goods/services, problem solve and create. In September 2018, with funding from the Department for Communities, Libraries NI launched a project to help people develop and learn the skills needed to become a Digital Citizen.

In Northern Ireland 13% of the population have never used the Internet while a third of the population aged 16–65 years have limited or no digital skills.¹¹ The Digital Citizen project demonstrated that libraries are uniquely positioned between communities and government to help adults improve their safe use of online services.

The project targeted adults in rural areas, areas of significant deprivation, adults with disabilities and retired and older people. Six trainers provided learning opportunities in libraries and outreach locations across Northern Ireland. This team delivered free tailored training programmes as well as group and one-to-one support sessions.

This approach allowed sessions to be delivered, ordered and structured in a way that met the needs of the community and offered a link to their local library where further learning opportunities and resources are always available. A key success was the way trainers established relationships with groups and communities. Between October 2018 and March 2020, over 1400 sessions were delivered in libraries and outreach locations. The project reached 1,000 people who took part in the project:

- 76% of Go On participants were aware of how to be safe online after the sessions
- 55% of eClinic participants said the sessions improved their confidence using their devices for online information gathering (e.g. Google search)
- 57% said they have been online more since completing the Go On sessions.

E. References

¹Figuring the UK's digital divide, ONS, March 2019
²Opening up the UK: Connected Data Index 2020
³No Longer Left Behind: The demand for Digital Skills, DCMS, June 2019
⁴Public Libraries: The case for support, CLIP, The Big Issue, October 2018
⁵Evidence review of the economic contribution of libraries (H44), ACE, June 2014
⁶How to build a digital inclusion strategy, DCMS, CFE for MJA, 2010
⁷Library Digital Inclusion Fund Action Research Project Final Report, Good Things Foundation, July 2016

Figure 12: Highlighted Text Evidence 1

Kent Libraries have a strong agenda for combatting social isolation within their communities and are well placed to bring people together in the 99 libraries across the county. They host numerous community groups which are mostly volunteer led, including Talk Time coffee and chat sessions in 79 of their libraries. During the last year there have been a total of 4,282 Talk Time meetings, with 34,655 attendances to these sessions alone.

Outcomes gathered from these groups have shown that they are helping people with mental health

Figure 13: Highlighted Text Evidence 2



Figure 14: bee



Figure 15: Cyberly City



Figure 16
Dr. Salt



Figure 17: Gloria Gigglesworth



Figure 18: Lord Pixelington

operation penguinontheloose

- 1) Find 42 Libraries
- 2) In each library, locate 42 books in empty corridors
- 4) remove page 42 from each book
- 5) complete operation penguinontheloose
- 6) win best alternative fiction book at Southampton Literary festival

Figure 19: Operation Penguinontheloose

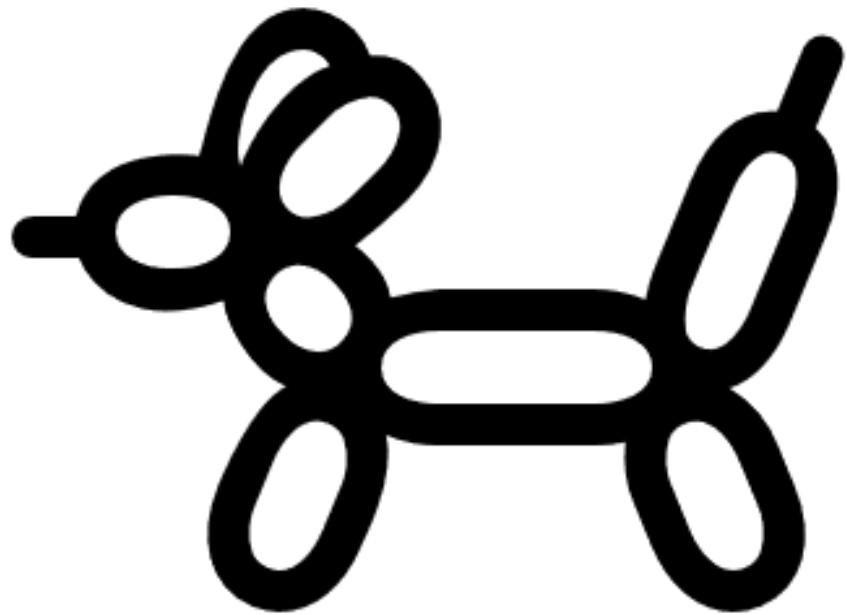


Figure 20: Balloon Dog



Figure 21: Child in Library



Figure 22: Elderly Browsing Computer



Figure 23: Screenshot of Drone-Footage.mp4



Figure 24: Screenshot of lights-go.mp4

Appendix B: Contemporaneous Notes

CASE NOTES

Case Ref: SM/1/2024

Examiner: Sherlock Holmes

Case name:

Operation Spoiler

Case summary:

investigation into Dr. Taylor Perl Salt's alleged involvement in the unauthorised removal of pages from library books to compile a fabricated manuscript. The suspect's activities were uncovered through analysis of metadata from a forensic disk image and related multimedia evidence including audio, video, and document files.

Other references:

Exhibit DOC1 - OOXML file: "How to write a book from other books"

Witness: Detective Fossil

Contact information:

Woofington BABBAGE, Digital Investigator, BYTE Detective Agency

Detective Fossil, Operation Spoiler, Cyberly Police Department

CASE NOTES

Case Ref: SM/1/2024

Examiner: Sherlock Holmes

Date/time	Notes	Comments
2025-04-25 10:21	Opened forensic disk image SM_2024_04_023_001.dd using HxD Hex Editor.	Start of Task 1 part b: Recovery of JPEG files from unallocated space.
10:23	Performed hex value search for JPEG SOI (Start of Image) header " FF D8 ". Identified valid file header at offset 0x482000 .	
10:26	Located JPEG EOI (End of Image) at offset 0x484644 .	
10:28	Selected block from 0x482000 to 0x484644 . Copied the data and made a separate file named orig_image1.jpg .	
10:20	Created duplicate of carved file as image1_copy.jpg . Opened copy using standard image viewer. Image rendered without corruption. The retrieved image is as follows.	Original file remained unopened to preserve forensic integrity.

CASE NOTES

Case Ref: SM/1/2024

Examiner: Sherlock Holmes

Date/time	Notes	Comments
		
10:40	Continued hex search for additional JPEG SOI headers. Identified another valid header at offset 0xC2E5A000 .	
10:43	Located EOI marker " FF D9 " at offset 0xC2F1AF42.	
10:46	Selected block from 0xC2E5A000 to 0xC2F1AF42 , copied, and saved as orig_image2.jpg .	
10:48	Created duplicate of carved file as image2_copy.jpg . Opened copy in image viewer to verify rendering. Image retrieved successfully as shown below.	Again, original remained untouched.

CASE NOTES

Case Ref: SM/1/2024

Examiner: Sherlock Holmes

Date/time	Notes	Comments
		
2025-04-25 11:12	Continued data recovery activity under Task 1 part c. Searched disk image SM_2024_04_023_001.dd in HxD for ZIP file signature 50 4B 03 04 .	Looking for an OOXML (Office Open XML) formatted document.
11:14	Identified valid ZIP file header at offset 0x4EC000 . Confirmed presence of OOXML content via the decoded text field showing [Content_Types].xml .	
11:27	After multiple attempts, located ZIP archive footer via presence of EOCD marker and final ZIP cluster at offset 0xC8B1098 .	

CASE NOTES

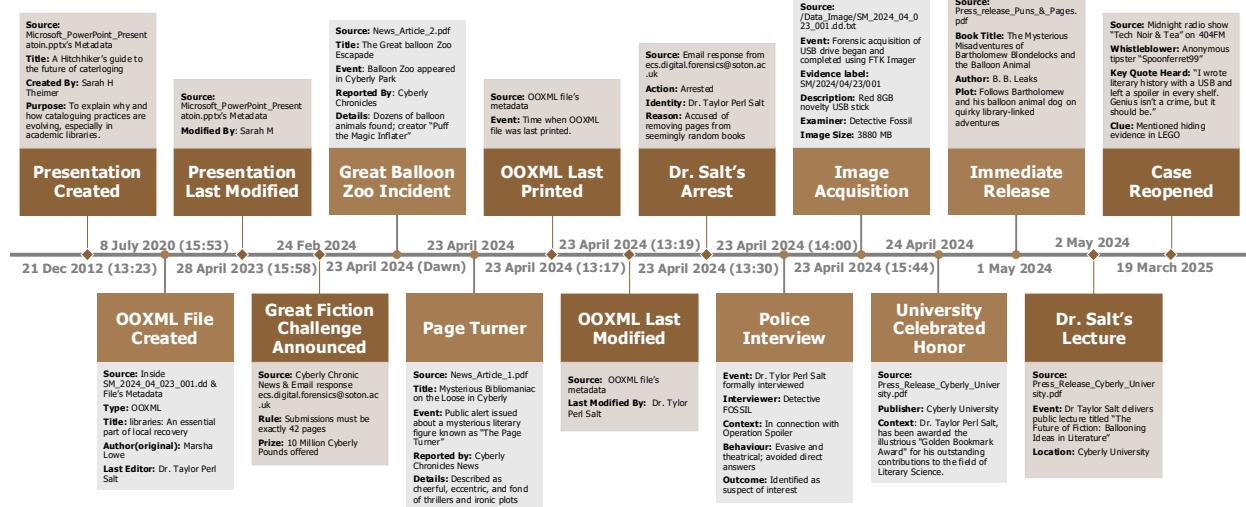
Case Ref: SM/1/2024

Examiner: Sherlock Holmes

Date/time	Notes	Comments
11:30	Created a carved file from offsets 0x4EC000 to 0xC8B1098 using "Select Block" function in HxD. Saved original carved file as orig_OOXML.zip .	
11:33	Made a copy of the carved file and renamed it to OOXML_copy.docx for inspection.	
11:35	Opened OOXML_copy.docx in Microsoft Word. The file opened without error.	Document contained embedded images located in the word/media directory
11:40	Original file orig_OOXML.zip remains untouched and preserved as digital evidence.	

Appendix C: Timeline

Evidence Timeline Diagram



Appendix D: Evidence Relationship Diagram

