

OPERATION NARCOS

DIGITAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION OF STEVE KOWHAI

Version 1.0

Shishir Saxena Hope Posesione

22/11/2024

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Introduction

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- Overview of forensic examination scope and purpose
- Key investigation focus area, User activity, including OS, partition details, email forensic, web searches, recycle bin, unallocated space analysis, registry evaluation, and RAM artifacts
- Importance of Timestamps and maintaining a Chain of Custody

Scope

Evidence Acquisition for Steve Kowhai's Computer

Images were acquired from Steve's drive and memory using a software write blocker to prevent modification

Chain of Custody Maintenance

Ensure the chain of custody was preserved in the required format To uphold evidence reliability during audits



Data integrity Verification

Digital hash values
verified at the scene
confirmed evidence
remained intact and
unaltered throughout the
analysis

Chain of Custody History

ase Name: Operation Narcos

ate/Time Acquired: 14/10/2024 12.00 pm

vestigators: Shishir Saxena (SS) and Hope Posesione (HP)

Artifacts: Disk Image Narcos-1.00-021 | Narcos_Mem-1.001 -003

.ocation of seizure: 666 Rewera Avenue, Petone Wellington

Ν	Time	Date	Description	Investigator	Purpose
1	12.00 PM	14/10/2024	Operation Narcos (Steve) case was allocated	S.S and H. P	To acquire digital extraction assignment for court report
2	12:36 PM	14/10/2024	Digital extraction was initiated, and disk images were copied	S. S	Preparing evidence for analysis
3	10:20 PM	14/10/2024	loaded into FTK Imager.	Н. Р	Ensuring evidence integrity and security
4		15/10/2024	Autopsy Tool	S. S	Collect preliminary evidence
5	10:00 AM	16/10/2024	Live RAM extracted using Bulk Extractor	S. S	Extracting evidence
6	12:00 PM	17/10/2024	Image file loaded in Registry Explorer	S. S	Viewing Registry Explorer
7	2:00 PM	17/10/2024	Web Search, history, keywords search analyzed findings	S. S and H. P	Analysed information related to the case.
8	8.:00AM	18/10/2024	OS and Partitioned analyzed findings	Н. Р	Analysed user access and activity history
9	12:00 PM	18/10/2024	Web Downloads analysed findings	H. P	Review download files evidence
10	4:00 PM	18/10/2024	Unallocated files, recycle bin files analyzed.		Analyzed images and deleted files
11	12:00 PM	26/10/2024	Email findings analyzed	S. S	Analysed email messages
12	9:00 PM	26/10/2024	Image Steganography Captured	S. S	Revealed hidden messages
13	10:00 AM	, ,	Discord Chat analysed	H. P	Analysed Discord conversation
14	4:00 PM	21/11/2024	Findings	Н. Р	Report Summary Audit
15	1:00 PM	22/11/2024	Summary Report QA	S.S	Finalizing Report Summary



"Whoa! Mr. Lewis! We don't know what that thing is or where it came from, but after what happened to the dog last week, we advise people not to touch it."

Timeline and Findings

- Timeline Analysis Investigated User Recent activity revealing significant timestamps and user action.
 Opened documents and travel plans (e.g. flight details) indicated coordination with John in Brisbane
- Registry View and OS Analysis Identified user login credential (Steve Kowhai) and computer name (SK-Desktop). Recent file timestamp linked to smuggling operation evidence.
- Communication Log Examination Uncovered communication involving Discord and Prontonmail. Found emails, chat logs, and files pointing to drug trafficking activities.
- Web searches and downloads
- Unallocated and Recovered Files Recovered deleted files from the Recycle

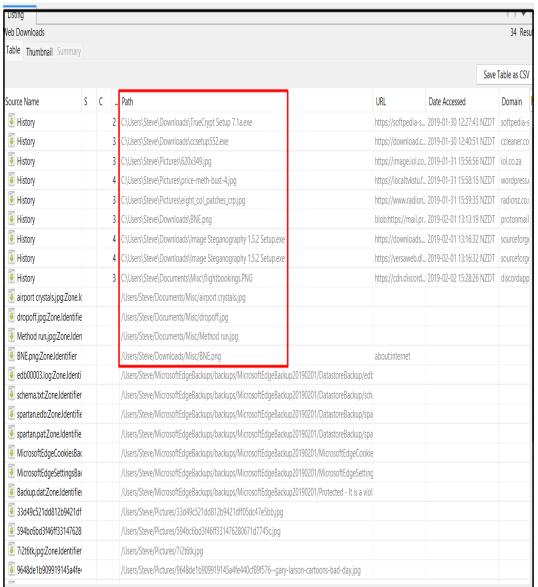
Drug paraphernalia	2019-01-31 15:57:30 NZDT
Crystal meth	2019-01-31 15:56:24 NZDT
Gangs NZ drugs	2019-01-31 15:59:32 NZDT
Best places to trade drugs	2019-02-02 14:01:34 NZDT
Cutting drugs	2019-01-28 22:58:52 NZDT
Cutting agents for ice	2019-01-28 23:02:00 NZDT
How to launder money	2019 -01- 28 23:03:51NZDT
Drug routes in Wellington	2019-01-29 01:01:58 NZDT
International drugs routes	2019-01-29 01:04:16 NZDT



"I've got it, too, Omar ... a strange feelin like we've just been going in circles."

Findings

- Desktop computer SK-Desktop has a user Steve Kowhai who was searching for the Scope of selling drugs (refer S012) and Global meth flow and countries shared in the world (refer S010 and S011)
- User Crayfish1980 on domain protonmail belongs to user Steve (refer to S045 and S046)
- An encrypted email conversation between Crayfish1980 and heresjohnny1 (refer S050) suggests that they were in talk about methamphetamine.
- User Steve obtained an encrypted file BNE.png image from John's protonmail, which contained meth packets in a suitcase
- He also shared Flight bookings from Brisbane to Wellington and back (refer to S026 for site and S027 for confirmed booking)
- They were due to meet at Eastbourne Library and an alternate place, 666 Rewera Avenue, if they missed each other. (as shown below in the transcript)



Discord Chat Interception

John	Timestamp	Steve	Timestamp
"New supplier, eh? Definitely Interested! Can I get 10 keys of it delivered to Wellington"	2019-01-28 02.38.38.174 NZDT	"Yeah, yeah probably wiser, good one. In fact, I have already put a document together in anticipation of chatting with you. I'll send it through now. It contains some information regarding how I see this working out. Let me know what you think once you have read it S.O"}	
"Good Thinking, I already know how. Heard of steganography?"	2019-01-30 02:56:12.835 NDZT	"A way of hiding one image within another. There's a simple application called 'Image Steganography'."	2019-01-30 02:56:12.35NZDT
"Ya. I just told you about the tool: face_palm: Received it. Will check to see if it works and confirm soon."	2019-02-01 13:11:39 NZDT	"Good. Meet at the Eastbourne library and if we miss each other come to 666 Rewera Avenue, Petone."	2019-01-31 02:10:36.655NZDT

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7 APPENDIX FOR ARTEFACTS

System from	Date and Time Obtained				ge Evid			Item	Exhibit No.
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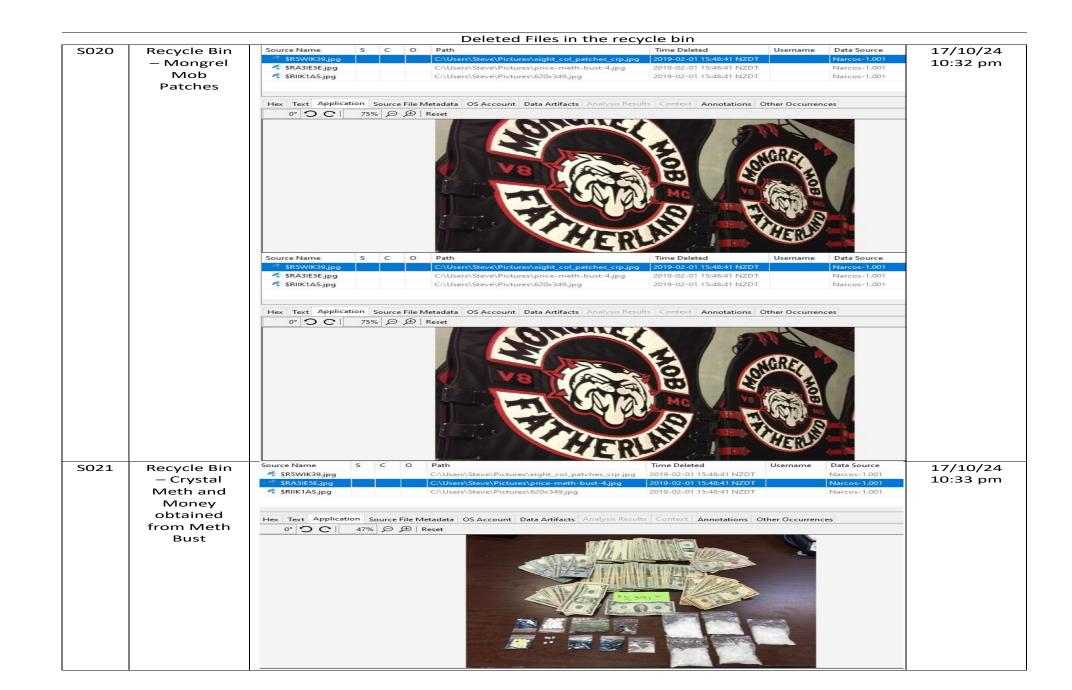
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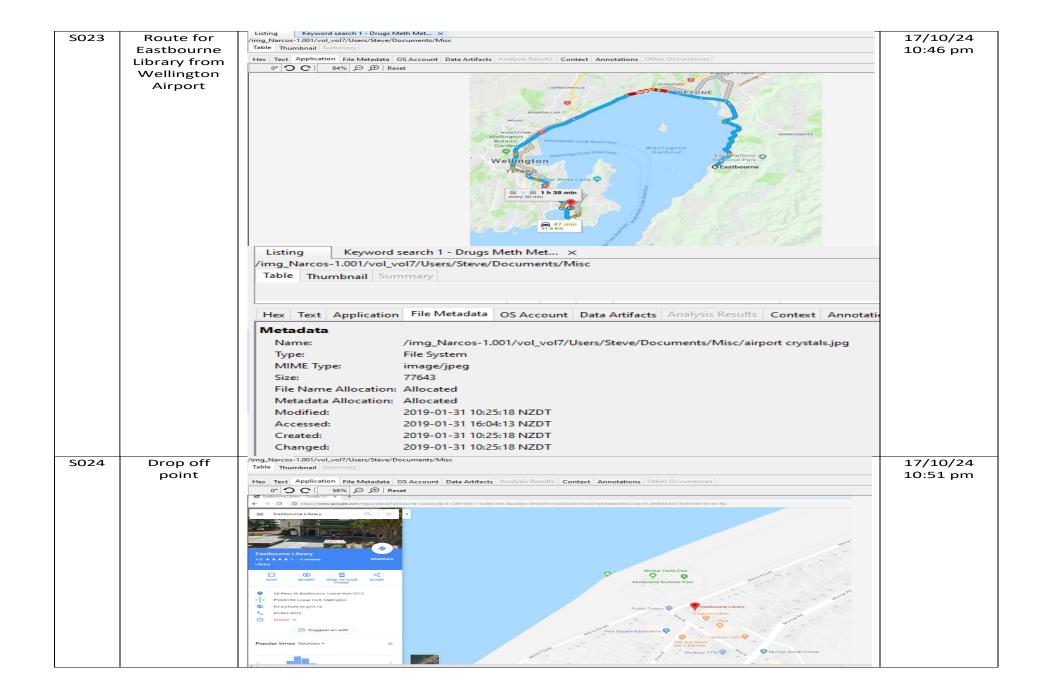
Searches performed and Sites Visited by Steve

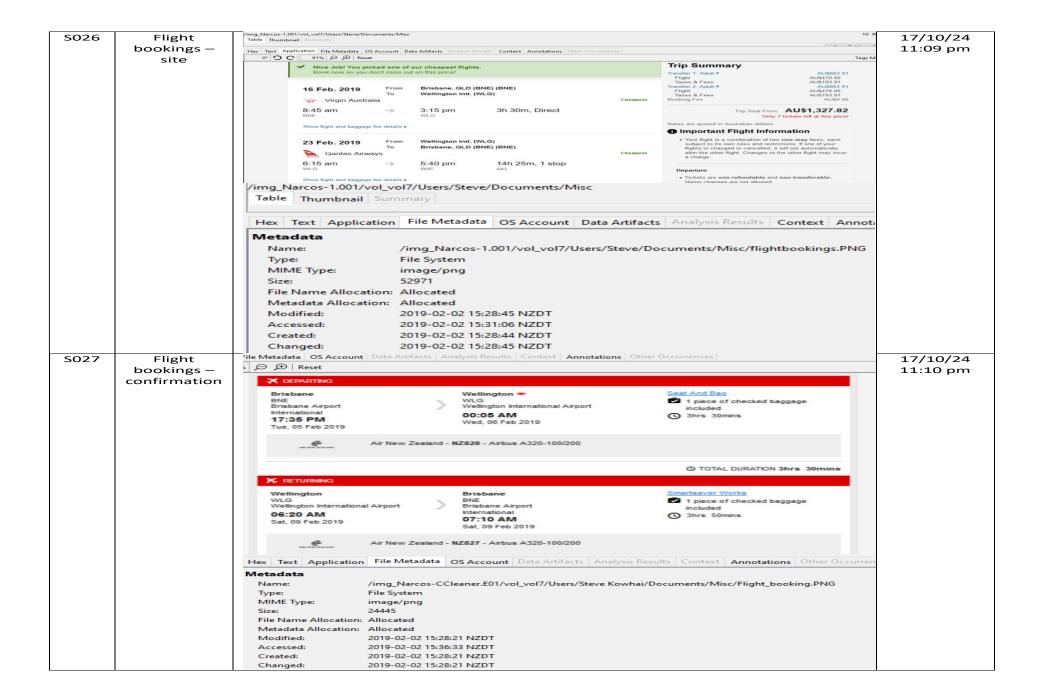
S008	Search For	Strings Extracted Te			17/10/24
	methamphe tamine,	Page: 1 of 1 Page	Matches on page: 1 of 1 Match	th ← → 100% ⊖ ⊕	8:30 pm
	Crystal meth	Date Accessed : 2019- Referrer URL : https://	/www.drugfreeworld.org/drugfacts/crystali nphetamine? What is Crystal Meth? How is igle Chrome	meth.html	
		# History	C:\Users\Steve\Pictures\price-«meth«-bust-4.jpgPath meth	2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT	
		♠ \$RA3IE5E.ipq	C:\Users\Steve\Pictures\price-«meth«-bust-4.jpgTime meth	2019-01-31 15:58:22 NZDT 2019-01-31 16:04:13 NZDT	
		* History	com/search?q=crystal+«meth«&oq=crystal+«meth« meth	2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT	
		History	What is Crystal «Meth»? How is «Meth» Used? - Drug meth	2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT	
		<			
			OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Ot	her Occurrences	
		Strings Extracted Text Translation			
		Page: 1 of 1 Page 🥌 🔿 Matche	es on page: 1 of 2 Match 🤄 🔿 100% 🗩 🗩 Reset	Text Source: Search Results	
		Path : C:\Users\Steve\Pictures\price- <mark>me</mark> Path ID : 598057 URL : https://localtvkstu.files.wordpress Date Accessed : 2019-01-31 15:58:15 NZI Domain : wordpress.com Username : Default Program Name : Google Chrome	.com/2015/04/price-meth-bust-4.jpg?quality=85&strip=all		

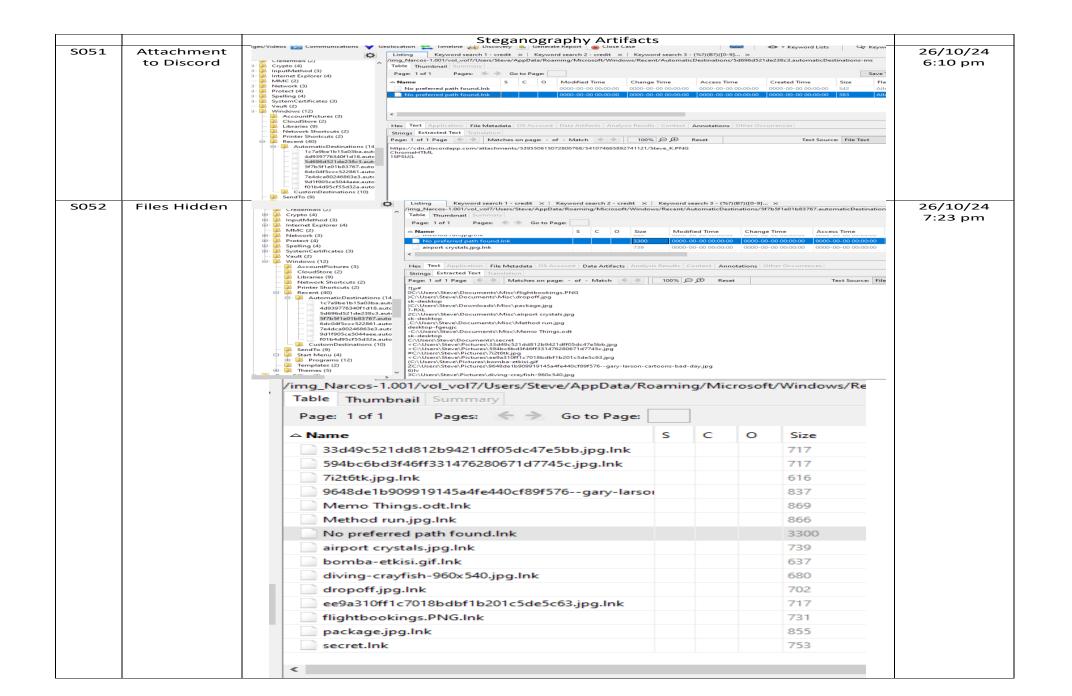
S009	Search for the Drug trade.	Strings Extracted Text Trans Page: 1 of 1 Page	*trade*-ddrugs-&coq best*-place*-to-t media-apps-for-buyingdrugs-Date Ac com/search?q= gangs+nz*-ddrugs-&cot com/search?q= gangs+nz*-ddrugs-&cot com/search?q= gangs+nz*-ddrugs-&cot com/search?q= gangs+nz*-ddrugs-&sot o google.com/search?q= cutting*-ddrugs- com/search?q= gangs+nz*-ddrugs-&sot -used-to-buy-and-sellddrugs-Date Mo Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis R lation Matches on page 1 of 5 Match **Josephina Sellddrugs	2019-02-02 201	15/28/48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15/28/48 NZDT 5/28/48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15/28/48 NZDT 4/05/27 NZDT 4/05/27 NZDT 2019-02-02 15/28/48 NZDT 4/05/27	2019-02-05 2019-02-05 2019-02-05 2019-02-05 2019-02-05 2019-02-05 2019-02-05 2019-02-05
S010	Methamphe tamine flows as perceived by recipient countries.	Oceania Methamphetamir Oceania	File System image/png 234526 ion: Allocated	Posterio Cartosal Windered Cartosal Posterio Cart	Results Context Annotational/Documents/Misc/routes-	
S011	Global meth flows	Application File Metadata C 91% P F	OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Result	Western Europe and Central Selection Southeastern Western West	Southers America Cocania	17/10/24 8:58 pm

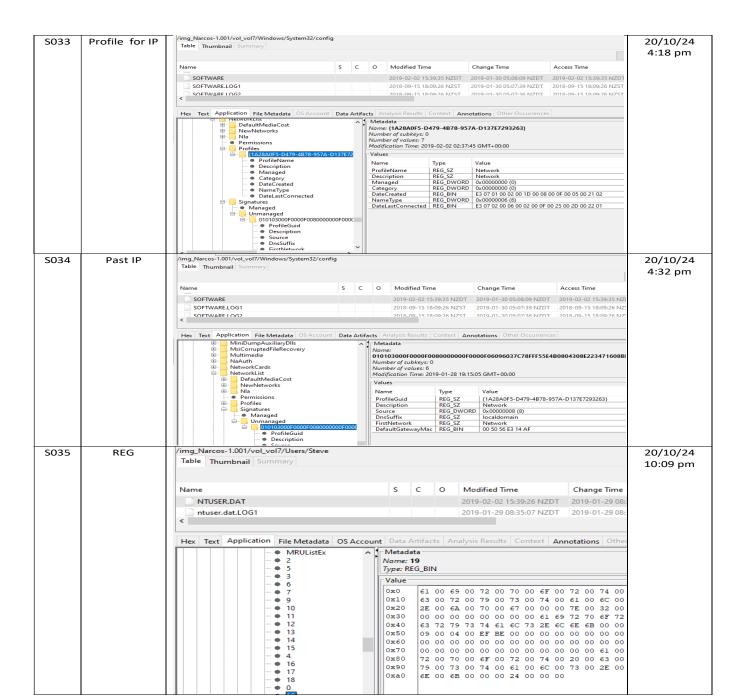
S009	Search for	Source Name S C O Keyword Preview Keyword Modified Time Access Time Change II # History +trade+«drugs«&oq=best+places+to+trade+«drugs« drugs 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-06	17/10/24
	the Drug	*History media-apps-for-buying-«drugs-Date Accessed : 2019 drugs 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02	8:38 pm
	_	# History com/search?q=gangs+nz+«drugs«&source=Inms&tb drugs 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02 15:28:48 NZDT 2019-02-02	6.36 p
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		<	
		Hex Text Application File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other Occurrences Strings Extracted Text Translation	
		Page: 1 of 1 Page Amage	
		URL: https://www.google.com/search?q=best+places+to+trade+drugs&oq=best+places+to+trade+drugs&aqs=chrome69i57.5131j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8 Date Accessed: 2019-02-02 14:01:34 NZDT	
		Date Accessed: 2019-02-02 14:01:34 NZDT Referrer URL: https://www.google.com/search?q=best+places+to+trade+drugs&oq=best+places+to+trade+drugs&aqs=chrome69i57.5131j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8 Title: best places to trade drugs - Google Search Program Name: Google Chrome Domain: google.com Username: Default	
S010	Methamphe	0° ○ C 73%	17/10/24
	tamine flows	Methamphetamine flows as perceived by recipient countries, 2011-2013	8:55 pm
	as perceived		
	by recipient		
		Eastern	
	countries.	North Western Central	
		and Central	
		East Asia Asia Rarope Western East Asia Asia	
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		Methamphotamine flows	
		0 1,000 £3,000 km	
		Hex Text Application File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations O	
		Hex Text Application The Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Arialysis Results Context Annotations O	
		Metadata	
		Name: /img_Narcos-CCleaner.E01/vol_vol7/Users/Steve Kowhai/Documents/Misc/routes-1.png	
		Type: File System	
		MIME Type: image/png	
		Size: 234526	
		File Name Allocation: Allocated	
		Metadata Allocation: Allocated	
		Modified: 2019-01-29 14:07:21 NZDT	
		Accessed: 2019-01-31 10:20:09 NZDT	
		Created: 2019-01-29 14:07:20 NZDT	
		Changed: 2019-01-29 14:07:27 NZDT	
S011	Global meth	Application File Metadata OS Account Data Artifacts Analysis Results Context Annotations Other Occurrences	17/10/24
3011) C 91%	
	flows		8:58 pm
		Global Methamphetamine flows (Chrystal Meth)	
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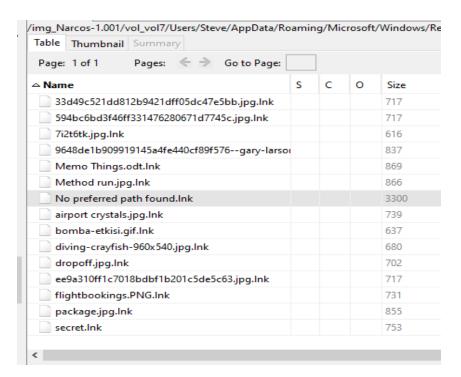












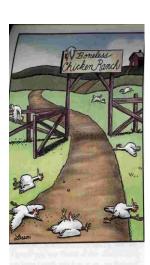


"No, really, Mom—who do you like best?"

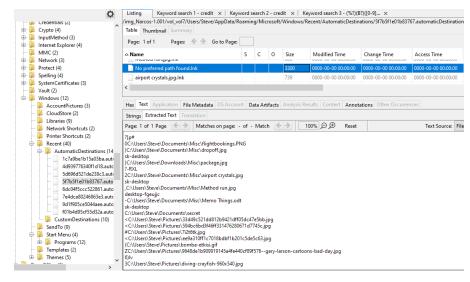


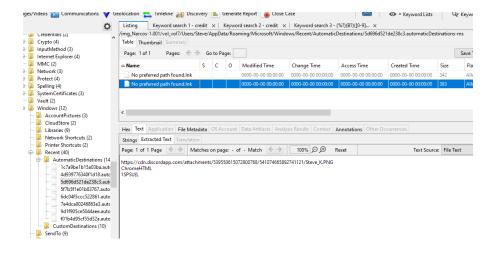


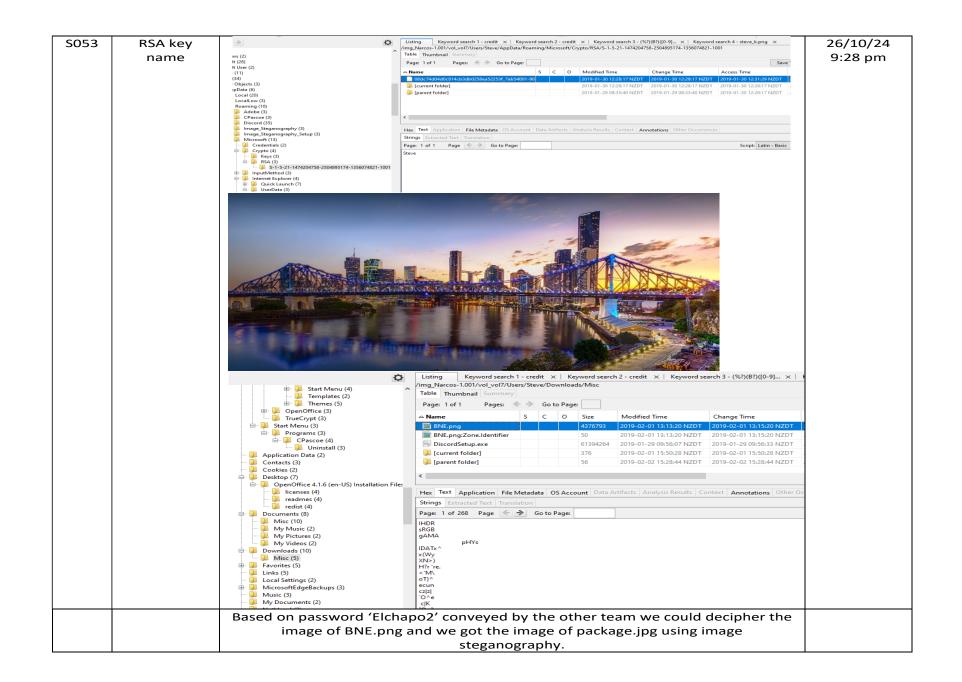
"Wonderful! Just wonderful! ... So much for instilling them with a sense of awe."

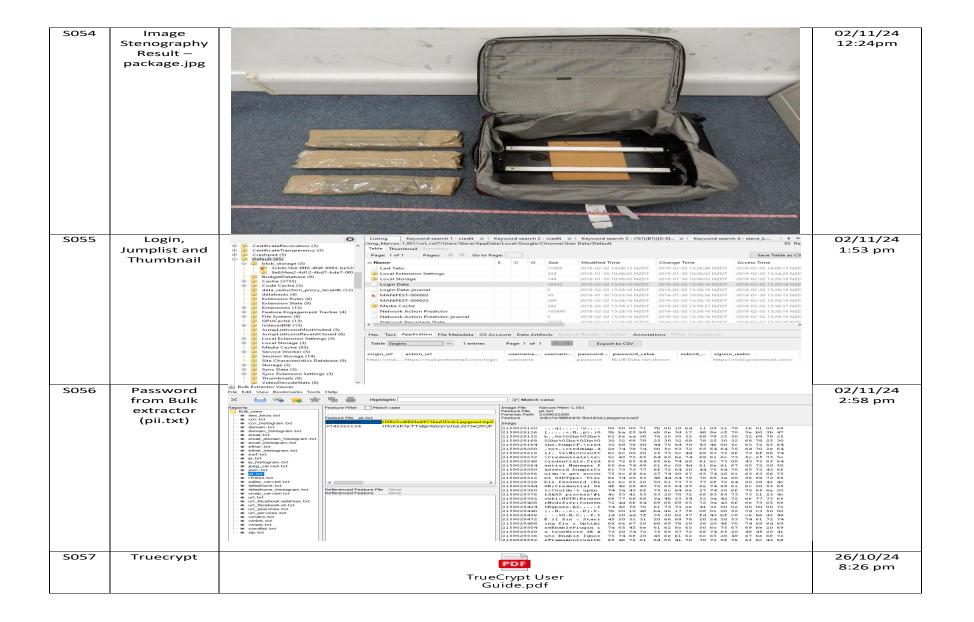


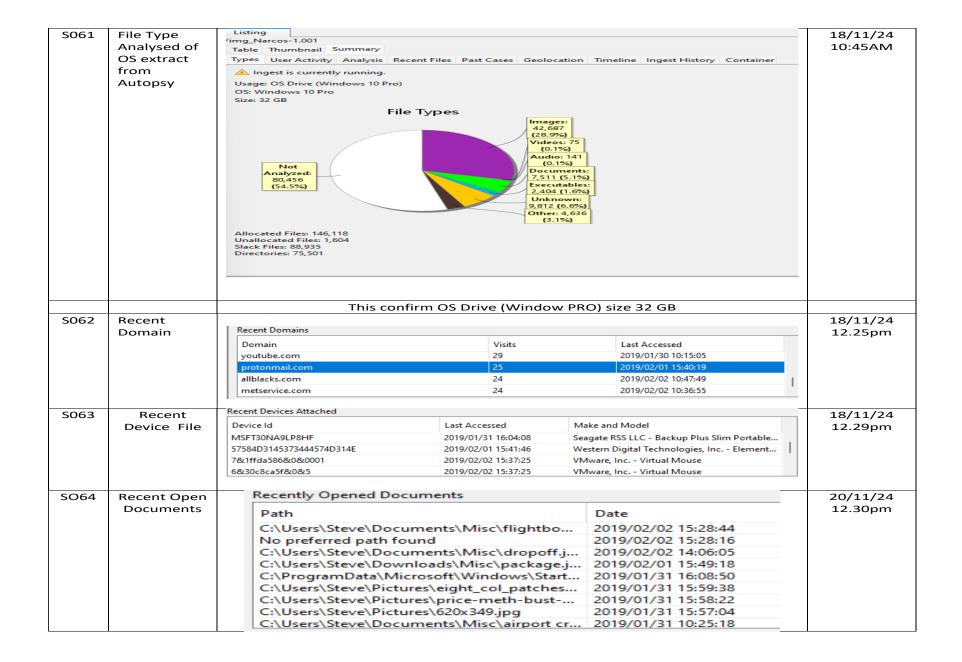












6. CONCLUSION

The user with login, Steve, was logged on to a desktop named SK-desktop, and he searched about the drug trade, the price of methamphetamine, and the gangs of New Zealand. Besides, he downloaded pictures of meth busts, meth packets, and the logo for the 'Mongrel Mob' with the intention of trading drugs. He was in contact with another user named heresjohnny1 on Discord and Protonmail for delivery of the drugs. They finalized to start with 1gm of meth and take further if it goes through and shared flight details on Discord. They were due to meet at 'Eastbourne Library' and another place if they miss. He also had a plan ready to escape, as found in one of the photos.

User Steve had downloaded the Protonmail and image steganography for safe and encrypted messaging. He also downloaded a picture that had a hidden photo of a suitcase with meth in packets sent by John.

This can safely be concluded with the above facts that user Steve used the computer SK-Desktop to search and finalize the trade of meth with John and delivery to be done at Eastbourne library.