

## Module 3: Alternate data streams

### Objectives

- Append hidden data to a file using alternate data streams
- Reveal the hidden data by analyzing the file MFT

### Task

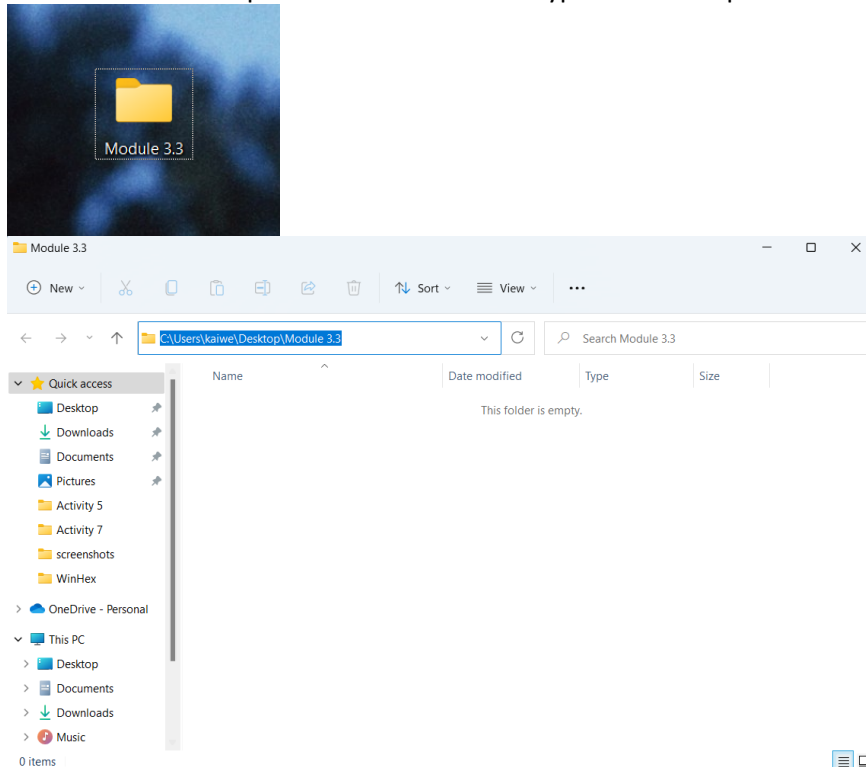
#### Task 1. Software Preparation

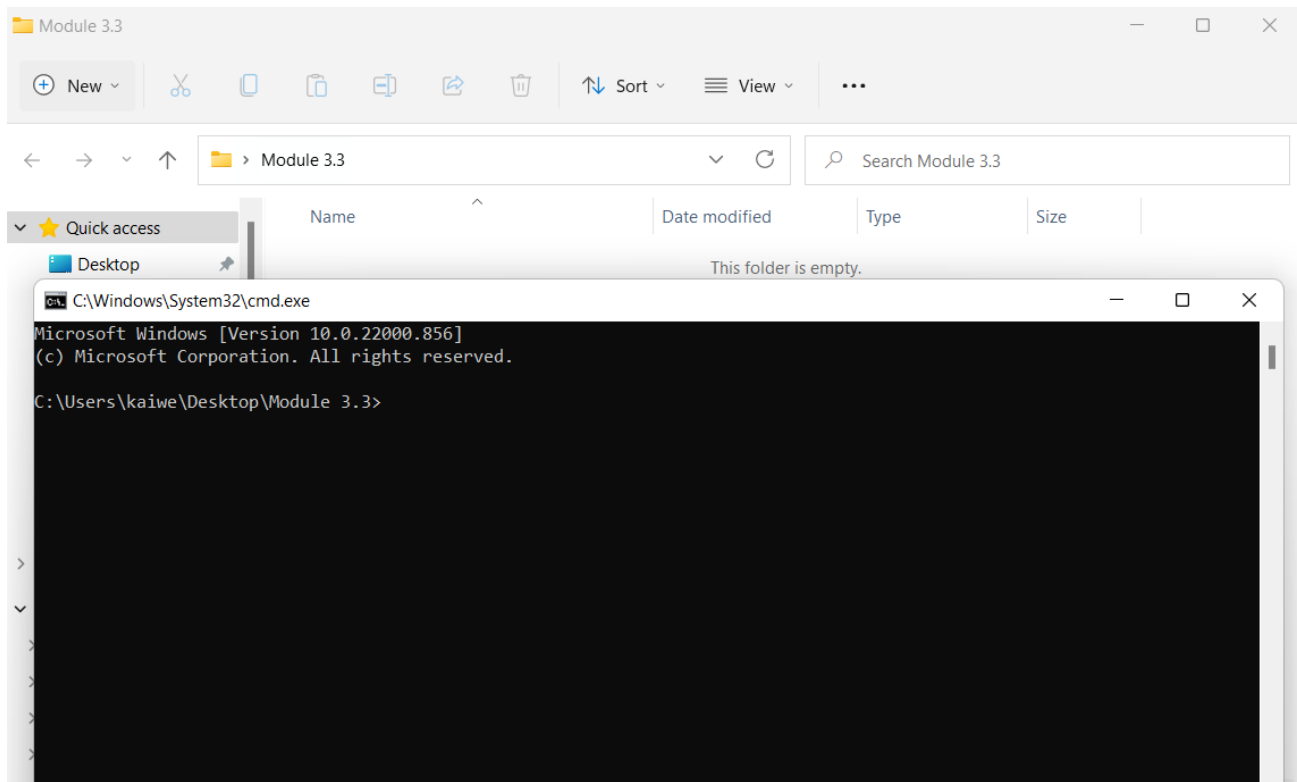
1. Download the WinHex. The download link is: <http://www.winhex.com/winhex/hex-editor.html>



#### Task 2. Append hidden data to a file using alternate data stream

2. Create a folder. Open the folder and then type "cmd" to open cmd command prompt in Windows.





3. Create a file called file.txt in Module 3.3 folder and store the message “This is a file created for Module 3.3.”.

The command for creating a file and storing the message is: ***echo This is a file created for Module 3.3. > file.txt***

```
C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.856]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\kaiwe\Desktop\Module 3.3>echo This is a file created for Module 3.3. > file.txt
C:\Users\kaiwe\Desktop\Module 3.3>
```

4. Append a short-hidden message to the file.txt using alternate data stream.

Command: ***echo This is a secret message. > file.txt:stream1***

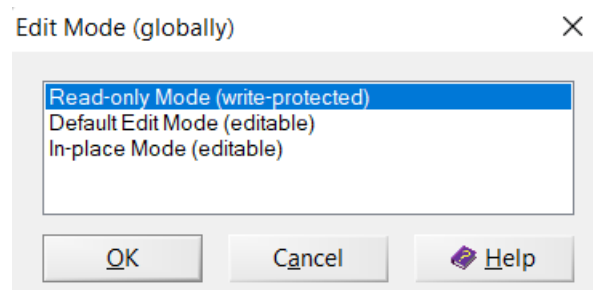
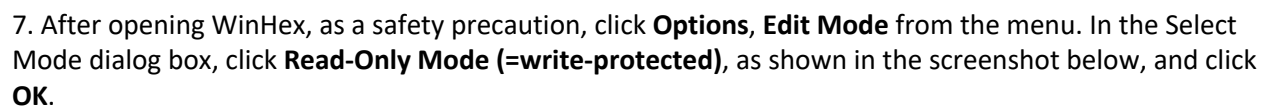
```
C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22000.856]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\kaiwe\Desktop\Module 3.3>echo This is a file created for Module 3.3. > file.txt
C:\Users\kaiwe\Desktop\Module 3.3>echo This is a secret message. > file.txt:stream1
C:\Users\kaiwe\Desktop\Module 3.3>
```

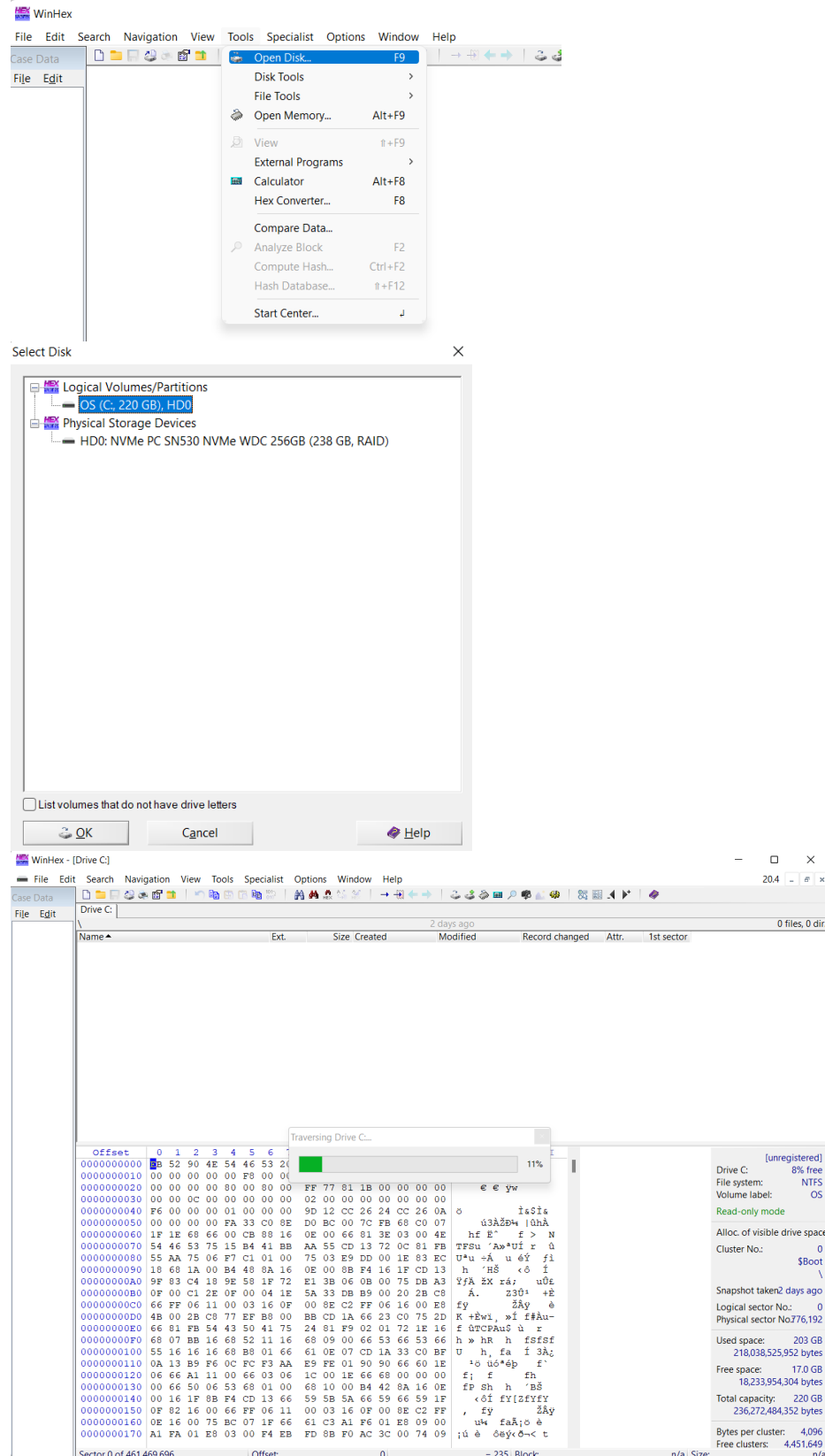
(Please note: The content of the message can be changed but please make sure the size of the message is larger than 512 bytes).

[illegible]

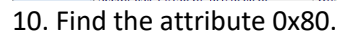
6. Right click on WinHex and choose **“Run as an Administrator”** to start WinHex. If you see an evaluation warning message, click on **OK**.



8. Click **Tools, Open Disk** from the menu. In the View Disk dialog box, click the drive where the file.txt is stored, and then click **OK**. If you're prompted to take a new snapshot, click **Take a new one**.



(Note: You need to analyze the MFT within the Drive. If you double click on the file and open another tab for this file in WinHex, it only shows the content of the file, but doesn't show the MFT information.



Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	V	ANSI	ASCII
0789247000	46	49	4C	45	30	00	03	00	19	56	11	E7	04	00	00	00	FILE0	V	ç
0789247010	08	09	01	00	38	00	01	00	20	02	00	00	00	04	00	00	8		
0789247020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	0A	00	00	00	B8	EB	03	00			è
0789247030	08	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	00	60	00	00	00			,
0789247040	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	48	00	00	00	18	00	00	00		H	
0789247050	90	DA	43	27	DF	B4	D8	01	C9	8A	CA	42	E3	B4	D8	01	ÚC'À'Ø	ÊŠÊBÀ'Ø	
0789247060	C9	8A	CA	42	E3	B4	D8	01	23	9C	E2	42	E3	B4	D8	01	ÊŠÊBÀ'Ø	#œàBÀ'Ø	
0789247070	20	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00			
0789247080	00	00	00	00	8C	18	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		G	
0789247090	18	DD	B6	63	01	00	00	00	30	00	00	00	70	00	00	00	ÝŸc	0	p
07892470A0	00	00	00	00	00	02	00	00	52	00	00	00	18	00	01	00		R	
07892470B0	B9	E9	00	00	00	00	12	00	90	DA	43	27	DF	B4	D8	01	íé	ÚC'À'Ø	ÚC'À'Ø
07892470C0	90	DA	43	27	DF	B4	D8	01	90	DA	43	27	DF	B4	D8	01	ÚC'À'Ø	ÚC'À'Ø	
07892470D0	90	DA	43	27	DF	B4	D8	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ÚC'À'Ø		
07892470E0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	20	00	00	00	00	00	00	00			
07892470F0	08	00	66	00	69	00	6C	00	65	00	2E	00	74	00	78	00		f i l e . t x	
0789247100	74	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	40	00	00	00	28	00	00	00	t	@	(
0789247110	00	00	00	00	00	04	00	00	10	00	00	00	18	00	00	00			
0789247120	53	49	66	AB	83	1F	ED	11	B7	83	CC	6B	1E	59	B3	6A		Sifæf i .fîk Y* j	
0789247130	80	00	00	00	48	00	00	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	03	00	€	H	
0789247140	29	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	54	68	69	73	20	69	73	20	)	This is	
0789247150	61	20	66	69	6C	65	20	63	72	65	61	74	65	64	20	66	a	file created f	
0789247160	6F	72	20	4D	6F	64	75	6C	65	20	33	2E	33	2E	20	0D	or	Module 3.3.	
0789247170	0A	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	80	00	00	00	48	00	00	00		€	H
0789247180	00	07	18	00	00	00	05	00	1C	00	00	00	28	00	00	00		(	
0789247190	73	00	74	00	72	00	65	00	61	00	6D	00	31	00	00	00	s t r e a m 1		
07892471A0	54	68	69	73	20	69	73	20	61	20	73								

After the first attribute 0x80, there is another attribute 0x80. Since in NTFS, an alternate data stream becomes an additional file attribute, the second attribute 0x80 contains the information of the hidden data stream1. And as shown in the screenshot below, there is another attribute 0x80 and this attribute 0x80 stores stream1, which is the first secret message that we stored in previous steps.

And at offset 0x08, the resident flag is 0x00, therefore, the content of hidden data stream is shown on the right column. "This is a secret message."

0789247130	80 00 00 00 48 00 00 00	00 00 18 00 00 00 03 00	€ H
0789247140	29 00 00 00 18 00 00 00	54 68 69 73 20 69 73 20	) This is
0789247150	61 20 66 69 6C 65 20 63	72 65 61 74 65 64 20 66	a file created f
0789247160	6F 72 20 4D 6F 64 75 6C	65 20 33 2E 33 2E 20 0D	or Module 3.3.
0789247170	0A 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	80 00 00 00 48 00 00 00	€ H
0789247180	00 07 18 00 00 00 05 00	1C 00 00 00 28 00 00 00	(
0789247190	73 00 74 00 72 00 65 00	61 00 6D 00 31 00 00 00	s t r e a m 1
07892471A0	54 68 69 73 20 69 73 20	61 20 73 65 63 72 65 74	This is a secret
07892471B0	20 6D 65 73 73 61 67 65	2E 20 0D 0A 00 00 00 00	message.
07892471C0	80 00 00 00 58 00 00 00	01 07 40 00 00 00 09 00	€ X @
07892471D0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
07892471E0	50 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	00 10 00 00 00 00 00 00	P
07892471F0	BF 03 00 00 00 00 00 00	BF 03 00 00 00 00 08 00	¿ ¿
0789247200	73 00 74 00 72 00 65 00	61 00 6D 00 32 00 00 00	s t r e a m 2
0789247210	41 01 D8 4A 99 00 00 00	FF FF FF FF 82 79 47 11	A ØJ™ ÿÿÿÿ,yG

After the second attribute 0x80, there is another attribute 0x80. The third attribute 0x80 stored the second hidden data stream that we stored. And as shown below, since the size of the second secret message is too large, and at the offset 0x08, the resident flag is 0x01, which means the content of the message cannot be viewed directly. Therefore, we need to find the data run and find the place that stored the message.

07892471B0	20 6D 65 73 73 61 67 65	2E 20 0D 0A 00 00 00 00	message.
07892471C0	80 00 00 00 58 00 00 00	01 07 40 00 00 00 09 00	€ X @
07892471D0	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
07892471E0	50 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	00 10 00 00 00 00 00 00	P
07892471F0	BF 03 00 00 00 00 00 00	BF 03 00 00 00 00 08 00	¿ ¿
0789247200	73 00 74 00 72 00 65 00	61 00 6D 00 32 00 00 00	s t r e a m 2
0789247210	41 01 D8 4A 99 00 00 00	FF FF FF FF 82 79 47 11	A ØJ™ ÿÿÿÿ,yG
0789247220	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
0789247230	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	
0789247240	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	

#### 11. Find the second hidden message.

As shown in the previous screenshot, the start offset for the third attribute 0x80 is 0x07892471C0. At the offset 0x40, is the start of the data run. From offset 0x0789247200 to 0x078924720F, is the name of the offset. And we can read the data stream name according to the right column.

07892471F0	BF 03 00 00 00 00 00 00	BF 03 00 00 00 00 08 00	¿ ¿
0789247200	73 00 74 00 72 00 65 00	61 00 6D 00 32 00 00 00	s t r e a m 2
0789247210	41 01 D8 4A 99 00 00 00	FF FF FF FF 82 79 47 11	A ØJ™ ÿÿÿÿ,yG

Offset 0x0789247210 to 0x0789247217 contains the information of the offset. Offset 0x0789247210 is 41, and '1' is the bytes needed to store the number of clusters assigned to this data run. And '4' is the bytes needed to store the LCN address value. Therefore, the offset 0x078924711 is the number of clusters assigned to this data run which is '01'. And the starting LCN address is 'D8 4A 99 00'. Since we are using a hexadecimal editor viewing the MFT record, the data is displayed in little-endian format, after changing 'D8 4A 99 00' to big-endian, the LCN address for this data run is '00 99 4A D8'. And if you go to offset 0x00994AD8, the second secret message is stored there. As shown in the screenshot below.



Drive C:

Users\kaiwe\Desktop\Module 3.3

5 hours ago

Name	Ext.	Size	Created	Modified	Record changed	Attr.	1st sector
.. = Desktop		4.1 KB	10/05/2021 19:38...	08/20/2022 14:41...	08/20/2022 14:41...	IR	36,901,408
.. = Module 3.3		152 B	08/20/2022 14:41...	08/20/2022 14:52...	08/20/2022 14:52...	I	6,411,122
file.txt	txt	41 B	08/20/2022 14:52...	08/20/2022 15:21...	08/20/2022 15:21...	IA	63,214,136

file.txt

Explore

View

Viewer Programs

Open

Recover/Copy...

Copy "file.txt"

Navigation

Exclude

Find duplicates in list...

Wipe Securely...

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5
0789247000	46	49	4C	45	30	00 0
0789247010	09	00	01	00	38	00 0
0789247020	00	00	00	00	00	00 0
0789247030	08	00	00	00	00	00 0
0789247040	00	00	00	00	00	00 0
0789247050	90	DA	43	27	DF	B4 D
0789247060	C9	8A	CA	42	E3	B4 D
0789247070	20	00	00	00	00	00 0
0789247080	00	00	00	00	8C	18 0
0789247090	18	DD	B6	63	01	00 0
07892470A0	00	00	00	00	00	00 0
07892470B0	B9	E9	00	00	00	12 0
07892470C0	90	DA	43	27	DF	B4 D8 01
07892470D0	90	DA	43	27	DF	B4 D8 01
07892470E0	00	00	00	00	00	00 00 00
07892470F0	08	00	66	00	69	00 6C 00
0789247100	74	00	00	00	00	00 00 00
0789247110	00	00	00	00	00	04 00 00
0789247120	53	49	66	AB	83	1F ED 11
0789247130	80	00	00	00	48	00 00 00
0789247140	29	00	00	00	18	00 00 00
0789247150	61	20	66	69	6C	65 20 63
0789247160	6F	72	20	4D	6F	64 75 6C
0789247170	0A	00	00	00	00	00 00 00
0789247180	00	07	18	00	00	05 00 00
0789247190	73	00	74	00	72	00 65 00
07892471A0	54	68	69	73	20	69 73 20
07892471B0	20	6D	65	73	73	61 67 65
07892471C0	80	00	00	00	58	00 00 00
07892471D0	00	00	00	00	00	00 00 00
07892471E0	50	00	00	00	00	00 00 00
07892471F0	BF	03	00	00	00	00 00 00
0789247200	73	00	74	00	72	00 65 00
0789247210	41	01	DB	4A	99	00 00 00
0789247220	00	00	00	00	00	00 00 00
0789247230	00	00	00	00	00	00 00 00

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stream 2

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Drive C: \Users\kaiwe\Desktop\Module 3.3\file.txt 5 hours ago

Name	Ext.	Size	Created	Modified	Record changed	Attr.	1st sector
..	3	152 B	08/20/2022 14:41:...	08/20/2022 14:52:...	08/20/2022 14:52:...	I	6,411,122
file.txt	txt	41 B	08/20/2022 14:52:...	08/20/2022 15:21:...	08/20/2022 15:21:...	IA	63,214,136
stream1		28 B				(ADS)	63,214,136
stream2		0.9 KB				(ADS)	80,369,344

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	V	ANSI	ASCII
0789247180	00	07	18	00	00	00	05	00	1C	00	00	00	28	00	00	00			
0789247190	73	00	74	00	72	00	65	00	61	00	6D	00	31	00	00	00		(	
07892471A0	54	68	69	73	20	69	73	20	61	20	73	65	63	72	65	74		s t r e a m 1	
07892471B0	20	6D	65	73	73	61	67	65	2E	20	0D	0A	00	00	00	00		This is a secret	
07892471C0	80	00	00	00	58	00	00	00	01	07	40	00	00	00	09	00		message.	
07892471D0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00		e x @	
07892471E0	50	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	00	00	00	00		p	
07892471F0	BF	03	00	00	00	00	00	00	BF	03	00	00	00	00	08	00		z	
0789247200	73	00	74	00	72	00	65	00	61	00	6D	00	32	00	00	00		s t r e a m 2	
0789247210	41	01	D8	4A	99	00	00	00	FF	FF	FF	FF	82	79	47	11		A 0J™ yyyY,yG	
0789247220	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00			

Drive C: \Users\kaiwe\Desktop\Module 3.3\file.txt 5 hours ago

Name	Ext.	Size	Created	Modified	Record changed	Attr.	1st sector
..	3	152 B	08/20/2022 14:41:...	08/20/2022 14:52:...	08/20/2022 14:52:...	I	6,411,122
file.txt	txt	41 B	08/20/2022 14:52:...	08/20/2022 15:21:...	08/20/2022 15:21:...	IA	63,214,136
stream1		28 B				(ADS)	63,214,136
stream2		0.9 KB				(ADS)	80,369,344

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	V	ANSI	ASCII
0994AD8000	54	68	69	73	20	69	73	20	61	20	6C	6F	6E	67	20	73		This is a long s	
0994AD8010	65	63	72	65	74	20	6D	65	73	73	61	67	65	2E	20	54		ecret message. T	
0994AD8020	68	69	73	20	69	73	20	61	20	6C	6F	6E	67	20	73	65		his is a long se	
0994AD8030	63	72	65	74	20	6D	65	73	73	61	67	65	2E	20	74	74		cret message. tt	
0994AD8040	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74		tttttttttttttttt	
0994AD8050	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74		tttttttttttttttt	
0994AD8060	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74		tttttttttttttttt	
0994AD8070	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74		tttttttttttttttt	
0994AD8080	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74		tttttttttttttttt	
0994AD8090	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74		tttttttttttttttt	
0994AD80A0	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74		tttttttttttttttt	
0994AD80B0	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74		tttttttttttttttt	

### Questions:

1. How many hidden messages do we append to the file.txt using alternate data stream?
2. How many attribute 0x80 do you find using WinHex?
3. How do you know the first short hidden message is not in the third attribute 0x80?
4. What is the LCN address of the second data run? Please use a screenshot to prove your answer.
5. What is a faster way to help you find the hidden data runs?