

IntroToCTF - Forensics



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Introduction

- Oscar I, Cyber Soc Welfare
- Interned at CrowdStrike last summer doing incident response – investigating real world digital crimes using forensics.
- Half an hour talk on the basics and concepts of Forensics challenges and common tools used.
- Hour practical session for solving selected challenges (**easy and medium level**)
- **No disk forensics today (too long for todays session)**



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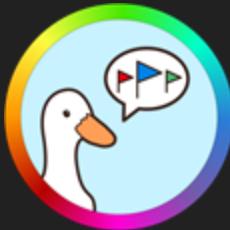
Forensics, what is

Concept

Forensics in its simplest form is the inspection of various pieces of digital evidence to find something interesting (the flag).

“Interesting” could be:

- *IP addresses*
- *A file*
- *Evidence that something happened on a system*



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How do we do forensics challenges?

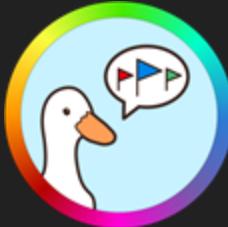
In a CTF scenario



Forensic CTF challenges are a bit like using a Swiss army knife.

You have a problem, and you must find the tool in your arsenal that best suits that problem.

Some tools you will use more than others, and sometimes you will encounter a problem that needs a new tool!



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Reminder

Hopefully, **most** of you have been able to download the tool list, we put out on the discord. If you need help with this , please ask **AFTER** the slides.

But if not please start getting these downloaded, they will all be used today:

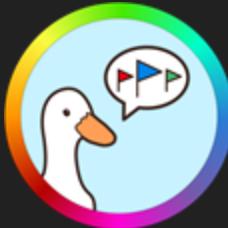
Volatility -

<https://github.com/volatilityfoundation/volatility.git>

^ Clone this repository with “git clone”

Wireshark – “*sudo apt install wireshark*”

A Linux VM is needed, if you have kali Linux Wireshark is already installed!



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CyberChef

- Tool made by GCHQ to translate and modify data to different encoding formats; people like to hide things by encoding data known as Obfuscation!

All the ways
we can
manipulate
data



The screenshot shows the CyberChef interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with various operations: To Base64, From Base64, To Hex, From Hex, To Hexdump, From Hexdump, URL Decode, Regular expression, and Entropy. A 'Favourites' section is also present. The main area is titled 'Recipe' and shows a 'From Base64' configuration. It includes an 'Alphabet' dropdown set to 'A-Za-z0-9+/=' and two checkboxes: 'Remove non-alphabet chars' (checked) and 'Strict mode'. The 'Input' field contains the string 'UXVpdGUgSGFuZHkgaNuJ3QgaX0/'. The 'Output' field shows the decoded string 'Quite Handy isn't it?'. The top of the window has a download link ('Download CyberChef'), a status message ('Last build: 2 months ago – Version 10 is here! Read about the new features here'), and standard browser controls.

Base-
64
enconde
d string

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Translated
output

Memory Forensics – The Basics

Memory Forensics utilizes a command line utility called volatility (v3), which enables us to parse and analyze samples of memory (RAM) from machines.

This can be very useful for analyzing a device suspected of doing something malicious as it tells us what was actively running in memory when the capture was taken.

```
(mackerlite@mack):[~]
$ git clone https://github.com/volatilityfoundation/volatility3.git
fatal: destination path 'volatility3' already exists and is not an empty directory.

(mackerlite@mack):[~]
$ cd volatility3

(mackerlite@mack):[~/volatility3]
$ python3 vol.py
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
usage: vol.py [-h] [-c CONFIG] [--parallelism [processes,threads,off]]
              [-e EXTEND] [-p PLUGIN_DIRS] [-s SYMBOL_DIRS] [-v] [-l LOG]
              [-o OUTPUT_DIR] [-q] [-f FILE] [--write-config]
              [--save-config SAVE_CONFIG] [--clear-cache]
              [--cache-path CACHE_PATH] [--offline | -u URL]
              [--filters FILTERS] [--hide-columns [HIDE_COLUMNS ...]]
              [-r RENDERER] [--single-location SINGLE_LOCATION]
              [--stackers [STACKERS ...]]
              [--single-swap-locations [SINGLE_SWAP_LOCATIONS ...]]
              PLUGIN ...
```



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Analyzing our image

```
(mackerlite@mack:[~/volatility3]
$ python3 vol.py -f "citadeldc01.mem" windows.info
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
Progress: 0.18          Reading file http://msdl.microsoft.com/downl...
Progress: 0.35mn ndb/6066913DReading file http://msdl.microsoft.com/downl...
Variable      Value
Kernel Base    0xf800cb804000
DTB           0x1a7000
Symbols file:///home/mackerlite/volatility3/volatility3/symbols/windows/ntkrn...
lmp.pdb/6066913DFBAD4EF6B754E136C12BECA3-1.json.xz
Is64Bit True
IsPAE False
layer_name     0 WindowsIntel32e
memory_layer   1 FileLayer
KdVersionBlock 0xf800cba9bd80
Major/Minor    15_9600
MachineType   34404
KeNumberProcessors 2
SystemTime     2020-09-19 04:39:59+00:00
NtSystemRoot   C:\Windows
NtProductType NTProductLanManNt
NtMajorVersion 6
NtMinorVersion 3
PE MajorOperatingSystemVersion 6
PE MinorOperatingSystemVersion 3
PE Machine     34404
PE TimeStamp    Sat Feb 22 08:08:18 2014
```



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Different versions of volatility use different plugin formats version 2 uses “imageinfo” instead.

Volatility works with specific profiles for different operating systems so we must first identify what OS we are dealing with! These can be .mem or .raw files.

Windows Intel 32 machine has been found and processed

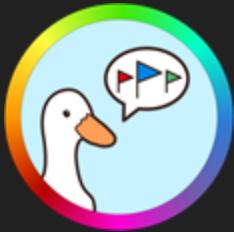
How to hunt in memory

See all running processes that were in memory at the time

```
L$ python3 vol.py -f "citadeldc01.mem" windows.pslist
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
Progress: 100.00          PDB scanning finished
PID      PPID     ImageFileName   Offset(V)    Threads Handles SessionId W
ow64    CreateTime       ExitTime      File output
1556      452     VGAAuthService.  0x1aaa200      2      -      0    False
2020-09-19 01:22:57.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
412      396     csrss.exe      0x52c1900     10      -      1    False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
324      316     csrss.exe      0x52c2080      8      -      0    False
2020-09-19 01:22:39.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
404      316     wininit.exe    0x52cc900      1      -      0    False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
204      4       smss.exe      0x5354900      2      -      N/A   False
2020-09-19 01:22:38.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
460      404     lsass.exe      0x5e0e080     31      -      0    False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
452      404     services.exe   0x5e11080      5      -      0    False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
492      396     winlogon.exe   0x5e2a080      4      -      1    False
2020-09-19 01:22:40.000000 UTC N/A Disabled
640      452     svchost.exe   0x5e84900      8      -      0    False
```

What commands are currently in use in memory (and what are their arguments)

```
L$ python3 vol.py -f "citadeldc01.mem" windows.cmdline
Volatility 3 Framework 2.27.0
Progress: 100.00          PDB scanning finished
PID      Process Args
4       System -
204     smss.exe      \SystemRoot\System32\smss.exe
324     csrss.exe      %SystemRoot%\system32\csrss.exe ObjectDirectory=\Windows SharedSection=1
024,20480,768 Windows=On SubSystemType=Windows ServerDll=basesrv,1 ServerDlL=winsrv:UserServerDl
lInitialization,3 ServerDll=sxssrv,4 ProfileControl=Off MaxRequestThreads=16
404     wininit.exe    wininit.exe
412     csrss.exe      %SystemRoot%\system32\csrss.exe ObjectDirectory=\Windows SharedSection=1
```



And more....

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Networking primer

- There is a LOT of noise in Wireshark captures so knowing what common network communications are is quite helpful to then find something interesting. All of these can be filtered for in Wireshark.

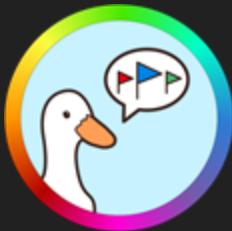
TCP/UDP – Primary networking protocols for communicating data on the internet in ‘packets’.

SYN/ACK/SYN-ACK – How two devices agree to communicate over TCP.

ARP – How devices find each other to talk.

DNS – Domain resolutions (think like a phonebook for the internet)

Port – Endpoint for a particular service on a device e.g. DNS runs on port 53. “`tcp.port==`” is a filter we can use, but what is a filter?



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Network forensics - Wireshark

Filters! Packet streams can be quite large...

Stream of packets during network capture (.pcap).

Information contained within the packet



No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
7	3.989939	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	66	49678 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=8 SACK_PERM
8	3.990088	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	66	49679 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=8 SACK_PERM
9	4.079853	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	TCP	66	80 → 49678 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
10	4.080025	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49678 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=262144 Len=0
11	4.080113	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	TCP	66	80 → 49679 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
12	4.080208	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49679 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=262144 Len=0
13	4.081075	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	HTTP	319	GET /a/e/ HTTP/1.1
14	4.181934	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	HTTP	1262	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
15	4.182058	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49678 → 80 [ACK] Seq=266 Ack=1209 Win=260936 Len=0
16	4.405454	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	HTTP	380	GET /icons/blank.gif HTTP/1.1
17	4.406208	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	HTTP	379	GET /icons/back.gif HTTP/1.1
18	4.407137	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	66	49680 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=8 SACK_PERM
19	4.497543	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	TCP	66	80 → 49680 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
20	4.497799	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49680 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=262144 Len=0
21	4.497979	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	HTTP	381	GET /icons/binary.gif HTTP/1.1
22	4.507582	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	HTTP	519	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
23	4.507607	172.245.26.145	10.0.0.147	HTTP	579	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
24	4.507883	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49678 → 80 [ACK] Seq=592 Ack=1665 Win=262144 Len=0
25	4.508099	10.0.0.147	172.245.26.145	TCP	60	49679 → 80 [ACK] Seq=326 Ack=526 Win=261616 Len=0

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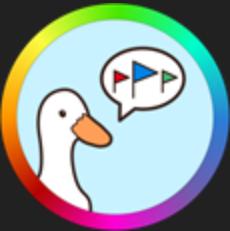
Decoding of hex to text

Wireshark – Useful filters to find things

smtp– Allows you to peek inside email communications that are not encrypted, see the messages that have been sent across a network.

ftp– See what files have been transferred between two locations. You can even extract passwords used to access FTP services!

icmp– Not all ICMP traffic is always useful, but it can reveal pings that a device can send to each other to check their statuses



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The screenshot shows a Wireshark capture of an SMTP session. The protocol column indicates SMTP for all frames. The message body 'This is the subject line' and 'This is the body' are highlighted with red boxes. The message body contains several line breaks and ends with 'Thanks'.

No.	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
...	192.168.0.50	192.168.0.6	SMTP	S: 220 mail.example.com ESMTP Postfix
...	192.168.0.6	192.168.0.50	SMTP	C: EHLO [192.168.0.6]
...	192.168.0.50	192.168.0.6	SMTP	S: 250 mail.example.com 250 PIPELINING 250 SIZE 10240000 250 VRFLY 250 -
...	192.168.0.6	192.168.0.50	SMTP	C: AUTH PLAIN
...	192.168.0.50	192.168.0.6	SMTP	S: 235 2.7.0 Authentication successful
...	192.168.0.6	192.168.0.50	SMTP	C: [MAIL FROM:< user1@example.com > BODY=8BITMIME SIZE=1480
...	192.168.0.50	192.168.0.6	SMTP	S: 250 2.1.0 Ok
...	192.168.0.6	192.168.0.50	SMTP	C: [RCPT TO:< user2@example.com >]
...	192.168.0.50	192.168.0.6	SMTP	S: 250 2.1.5 Ok
...	192.168.0.6	192.168.0.50	SMTP	C: DATA
...	192.168.0.50	192.168.0.6	SMTP	S: 354 End data with <CR><LF>.<CR><LF>
...	192.168.0.6	192.168.0.50	IMF	From: User1Lastname < user1@example.com >, subject: This is the subject line
...	192.168.0.50	192.168.0.6	SMTP	S: 250 2.0.0 Ok: queued as 4AD5A6084C
...	192.168.0.6	192.168.0.50	SMTP	C: QUIT
...	192.168.0.50	192.168.0.6	SMTP	S: 221 2.0.0 Bye

> Frame 1295: 1537 bytes on wire (12296 bits), 1537 bytes captured (12296 bits) on interface 0
> Ethernet II, Src: IntelPro_fd:65:fe (00:19:d1:f6:fe:a8) Dst: VMware_71:ce:a8 (00:0c:29:71:ce:a8)
> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.6, Dst: 192.168.0.50
> Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 63014 (63014), Dst Port: 25 (25), Seq: 164, Ack: 312, Len: 1483
> Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
> Internet Message Format
To: User2 < user2@example.com >, 1 item
> From: User1Lastname < user1@example.com >, 1 item
Subject: This is the subject line
Message-ID: <d338716-50e1-0a10-7566-906e2a45c4c@trojanbot.com>
Date: Tue, 12 Jul 2016 21:15:51 -0500
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; rv:45.0) Gecko/20100101\r\n Thunderbird/45.2.0
MIME-Version: 1.0
> Content-Type: multipart/alternative;\r\n boundary="-----98AC5FC2F46DD0803D898718F"
> MIME Multipart Media Encapsulation, Type: multipart/alternative, Boundary: "-----98AC5FC2F46DD0803D898718F"
[Type: multipart/alternative]
Preamble: 546869732069732061206d756c74692d70617274206d573...
First boundary: -----98AC5FC2F46DD0803D898718F\r\n
> Encapsulated multipart part: (text/plain)
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=utf-8\r\nContent-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit\r\n\r\n<Line-based text data: text/plain>
This is the body\r\n\r\n\r\n\r\n-- \r\n\r\nThanks,\r\n\r\n

Wireshark – Useful filters to find things

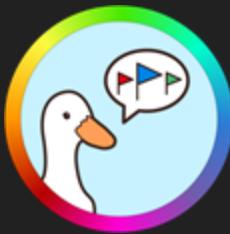
http– Allows you to observe what web traffic is occurring and what has been sent. ‘`http.request`’ and ‘`http.response`’ can help you filter it down more.

ip.addr==x.x.x.x– See all communications from a set IP you can specify as ‘`ip.dst=`’ or ‘`ip.src=`’ to specify what a specific IP has sent or received.

Chaining queries – You can combine filters together using ‘`&&`’, ‘`or`’ and ‘`||`’

“Traffic sent from IP 10.10.10.251 and that is **HTTP or DNS**.”

ip.src==10.10.10.251 && http or dns						
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
9	0.005922	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	HTTP	91	HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
15	0.018200	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	IPP	71	IPP Response (successful-ok)
27	0.024392	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	HTTP	91	HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
249	1.213731	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	IPP	267	IPP Response (successful-ok)
261	1.219943	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	HTTP	91	HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
267	1.229677	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	IPP	71	IPP Response (successful-ok)
272	1.234252	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	HTTP	91	HTTP/1.1 100 Continue
274	1.274613	10.10.10.251	10.10.10.49	IPP	333	IPP Response (successful-ok)



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Using Wireshark effectively

- Linking events together in Wireshark can be annoying, the **follow feature** enables you to track down related packets to build up conversations!

The screenshot shows a Wireshark interface with a list of network frames. A context menu is open over frame 9, which is highlighted in yellow. The menu items include:

- Mark/Unmark Selected
- Ignore/Unignore Selected
- Set/Unset Time Reference
- Time Shift...
- Packet Comments
- Edit Resolved Name
- Apply as Filter
- Prepare as Filter
- Conversation Filter
- Colorize Conversation
- SCTP
- Follow
- Copy
- Protocol Preferences
- Decode As...
- Show Packet in New Window

Frame details for frame 9:
Name: 9: 91 bytes on wire (728 bits)
Source: HewlettPacka_8
Destination: Intel PRO/100 MT
Protocol: Transmission Control Protocol, Version 4, Src Port: 1024, Dst Port: 80
HTTP/1.1 200 Continue

Selected frame details:
Source: 10.10.10.251
Destination: 10.10.10.49
Protocol: TCP
HTTP/1.1 200 Continue

Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony



Statistics tab is useful for telling you lots of things about the capture!



Ethernet	IPv4	IPv6	TCP	UDP					
Address A	Address B		Packets	Bytes	Stream ID	Packets A → B	Bytes A → B	Packets B → A	Bytes B → A
10.10.10.49	10.10.10.251		277	249 kB	0	174	240 kB	103	8 kB

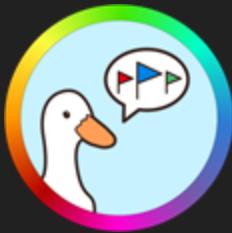


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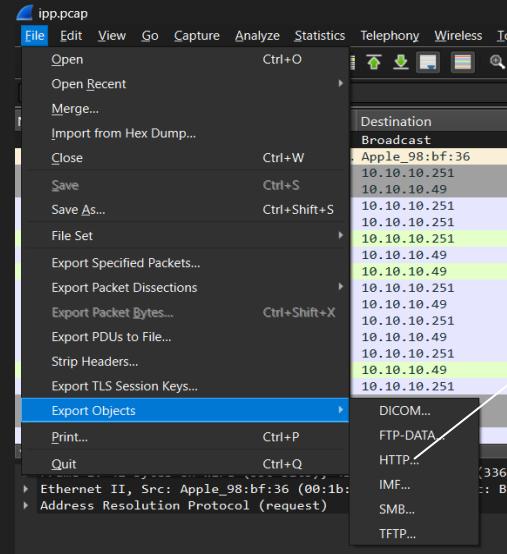
Going up-streams

- Wireshark also captures file traffic between protocols; you can grab files sent across the network download them to your device (provided they are not sent over an encrypted channel).

This helps especially if it's something malicious were looking for (hint hint)



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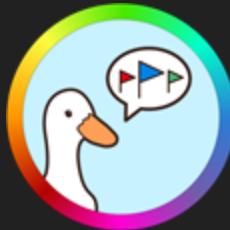
All the different types of traffic you can extract files from

Useful linux commands + tips

File – This command tells you information on what a file is and its attributes, helps you answer the question of “wtf is this”.

Grep – You can specify this command to search for something specific (or for a pattern using regex) and extract those values, good for log analysis.

Strings – Does a file have any lines of interest that can be pulled out?



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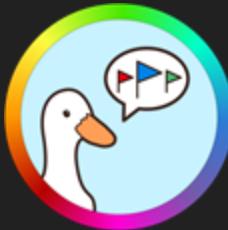
Questions?



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Disclaimer

- I've given you a lot of information today but its not fully complete otherwise solving the challenges would be pointless...
- Some challenges today may throw curveballs; they may cover stuff from the Ethical hacking demonstration at the start of the year.
- If don't understand something, ask or google is your friend!



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Your turn!

[**https://gym.lilypadd.com/challenges**](https://gym.lilypadd.com/challenges)

Challenges:

Funky Traffic Protocol

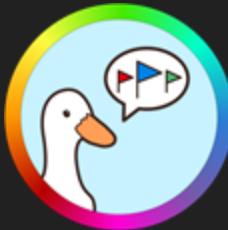
User Datagram Pilfering

POIP

Wait not MSFVenom?

Picture It

Export – <https://bit.ly/4owMwuh+>.



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