

# Topic 3 Acquisition, examination and analysis of evidence in computers and networks Part 4

1

# Learning Outcome

After successfully completing this lecture, you will be able to

- Examine and analyse computer files, web browsing history and event logs
- Perform events and timeline analysis

# Road Map

- Events and Time Analysis
- Operating Systems Artifacts Analysis – Windows
  - Case-related data files and metadata
  - User activities/behaviors event logs
  - System configurations and logs
  - Application configurations and usage
  - Web browsing history

# Digital Forensics Process

- Collection
  - Collection of media/devices at the scene
  - Identification and Preservation
  - Transportation
  - Data Acquisition and Duplication
- Examination
  - Extraction and searching of data
- Analysis
  - Event and Timeline analysis
- Reporting
  - Reporting and documentation

# Event Analysis – Example

- Login/logout events in the auth.log file in an Linux computer

```
9 Jun 17:26:02 ubuntu successfully ssh login
from remote computer 192.168.112.132
```

```
9 Jun 18:10:02 ubuntu successfully ssh logout
from remote computer 192.168.112.132
```

# Timeline Analysis – Files and Folders

- Analysis of **MAC** times of files/folders
  - **Modified Time**
  - **Accessed Time**
  - **Creation Time/Birth Time**
- How to get these times? From the computer systems?

# Timeline Analysis - Standard

- Singapore Standard Time (UTC+8:00:00) is the time reference used in the Singapore courts
- Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is the primary time standard by which the world regulates clocks and time.
- UTC is one of several closely related successors to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). For most purposes, UTC is synonymous with GMT, but GMT is no longer precisely defined by the scientific community.



# Limitation of Computer System Date/Time

- FAT files system
  - Date range 1980-01-01 to 2099-12-31 in local time
  - **Resolution**
    - 2 seconds for last modified time
    - 1 day for access date (read access)
    - 10 ms for creation time
  - Why? FAT uses only 2 bytes to store time and **2 bytes to store date information** whereas **NTFS uses 8 bytes** for date/time with 100ns resolution

|      |                     |   |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 0x16 | Time of last change | 2 |
| 0x18 | Date of last change | 2 |



# Limitation of Computer System Date/Time

## ➤ NTFS

- Date/time information stored in 64-bits (8 bytes)
- Date range 1 January 1601 – 28 May 60056, in UTC
- Resolution – 100ns for modified, accessed and creation times (times are 64-bit numbers counting 100-nanosecond intervals, ten million per second, since 1 January 1601)
- Additional timestamp on MFT modification time for changes in file attributes

10

Why some files have a creation date/time later than that the modified date/time?

# Windows Time Rules

\$ \$ T D I N F O

## File Rename

Modified – No Change

Access – No Change

Creation – No Change

Metadata – Change

## Local File Move

Modified – No Change

Access – No Change

Creation – No Change

Metadata – Change

## Volume File Move

Modified – No Change

Access – Change

Creation – No Change

Metadata – Changed

## File Copy

Modified – No Change

Access – Change

Creation – Change

Metadata – Change

## File Access

Modified – No Change

Access – Change  
No Change on Win7/8

Creation – No Change

Metadata – No Change

## File Modify

Modified – Change

Access – No Change

Creation – No Change

Metadata – Change

## File Creation

Modified – Change

Access – Change

Creation – Change

Metadata – Change


## File Deletion

Modified – No Change

Access – No Change

Creation – No Change

Metadata – No Change

| Name ^  | Date modified     | Date accessed    | Date created     |
|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  test.txt | 1/8/2016 11:47 AM | 1/8/2016 2:08 PM | 1/8/2016 2:08 PM |

Why the Date Created time is later than the Date modified time? What happened to this file "test.txt"?

Why some files have a creation date/time later than that the modified date/time?

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## File Copy

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Creation – Change

Metadata – Change

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Modified – No Change

Access – Change  
No Change on Win7/8

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Metadata – No Change

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Access – No Change

Creation – No Change

Metadata – Change

## File Creation

Modified – Change

Access – Change

Creation – Change

Metadata – Change


## File Deletion

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|  test.txt | 1/8/2016 11:47 AM | 1/8/2016 2:08 PM | 1/8/2016 2:08 PM |

Why the Date Created time is later than the Date modified time? What happened to this file "test.txt"?

# Timeline Analysis - Steps

1. Synchronize your watch to Singapore Standard time
2. Record the differences of the time between the Singapore Standard Time and the system time of the computers under investigation
3. Create image files of the memory and hard disk drives of the computers under investigation
4. Import the image files to a forensic tool
5. Sort files by MAC time
6. Recover the activities in the system during the incident from event logs
7. Re-construct the sequence of events occurred from the activities and MAC times of the files of interest

# Log2timeline

a tool designed to extract timestamps from various files found on a typical computer system(s) and aggregate them. ... writing one-off scripts to automate repetitive tasks in computer forensic analysis or equivalent.

Record the differences of the time between the Singapore Standard Time and the system time of the computers under investigation

```
log2timeline.py --parsers "win7" /cases/timeline/myhost.dump image.dd
log2timeline.py --parsers "win7,-winreg" /cases/timeline/myhost.dump image.dd
log2timeline.py --parsers "winreg,winevt,winevtx" /cases/timeline/myhost.dump image.dd
```

```
psort.py /cases/timeline/myhost.dump "date > '2012-10-10 12:00:00' and date < '2012-10-10 23:55:14' and
```



# Event Timeline from Log2timeline

| date      | time     | MACB    | sourcetype     | type             | short  |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------------|------------------|--|
|           | 39649    | 0.06115 | MACB Email PST | Email Read       | Message 114: Attachment m57biz.xls Opened  |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:27:40  | MACB    | XP Prefetch    | Last run         | EXCEL.EXE-1C75F8D6.pf: EXCEL.EXE was executed  |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:27:40  | .AC.    | NTFS \$MFT     | \$SI [.AC.] time | C:/Program Files/Microsoft Office/Office/EXCEL.EXE                                     |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:27:40  | .AC.    | UserAssist key | Time of Launch   | UEME_RUNPATH:C:/PROGRA~1/MICROS~2/Office/EXCEL.EXE                                     |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:03  | ..CB    | Shortcut LNK   | Created          | C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Desktop/m57biz.xls                                      |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:043 | MACB    | NTFS \$MFT     | \$SI [MACB] time | C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Application Data/Microsoft/Office/Recent/Desktop.LNK    |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:03  | MACB    | FileExts key   | Extension Change | File extension .xls opened by EXCEL.EXE  |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:03  | MACB    | NTFS \$MFT     | \$SI [MACB] time | C:/windows/system32/winsvchost.exe   |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:03  |         | SOFTWARE key   | Last Written     | SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run  |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:27:40  |         | Memory Process | Process Started  | winsvchost.exe 1556 1032   0x02476768  |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:27:40  |         | Memory Socket  | Socket Opened    | 4 134.182.111.82:443 Protocol: 6 (TCP) 0x8162de98                                      |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:27:40  |         | XP Prefetch    | Last run         | WINSVCHOST.EXE-1C75F8D6.pf: EXCEL.EXE was executed                                     |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:03  | ..CB    | Shortcut LNK   | Created          | C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Desktop/m57biz.xls                                      |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:03  | .A..    | Shortcut LNK   | Access           | C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Desktop/m57biz.xls                                      |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:04  | MAC.    | NTFS \$MFT     | \$SI [MAC.] time | C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Application Data/Microsoft/Office/Recent/m57biz.LNK     |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:04  | ..C.    | NTFS \$MFT     | \$SI [..C.] time | C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Local Settings/History/History.IE5/MSHist01200807202008 |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:04  | ..C.    | NTFS \$MFT     | \$SI [..C.] time | C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Local Settings/History/History.IE5/MSHist01200807202008 |
| 7/20/2008 | 1:28:04  | MACB    | RecentDocs key | File opened      | Recently opened file of extension: .xls - value: m57biz.xls                            |

Source: <http://computer-forensics.sans.org/blog/2012/01/25/digital-forensic-sifting-colored-super-timeline-template-for-log2timeline-output-files>

# Operating Systems Artifacts Analysis

- Evidence found at an operating system
  - Case-related data files
    - Timestamps, status, location
  - User activities/behaviors
    - Login/logout events, personal profile
  - System configurations and logs
  - Application configurations and usage
  - OS-specific artifacts



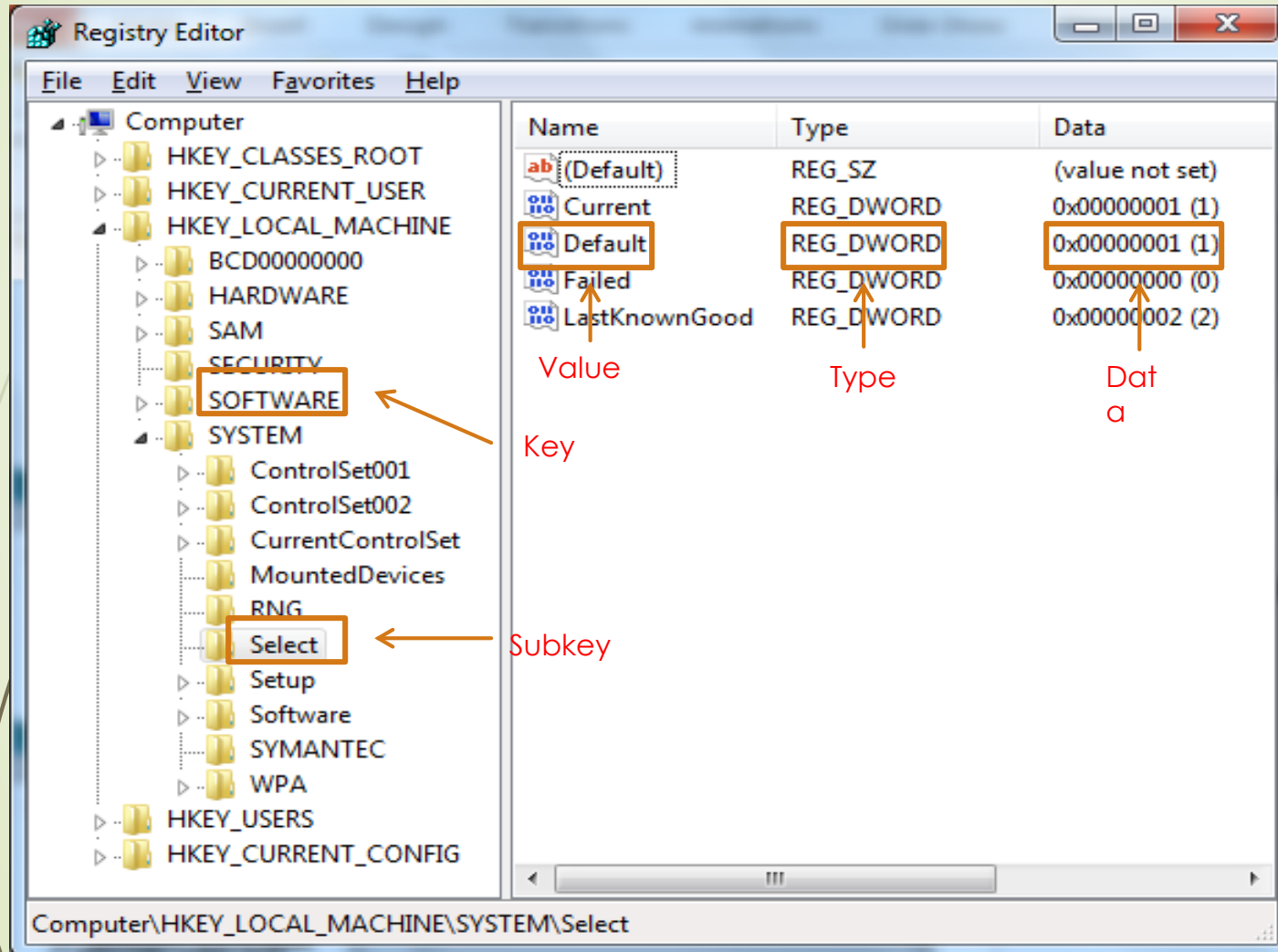
# Windows Artifacts

- Windows
  - Registry (NTUSER, SAM, SOFTWARE, HARDWARE, SECURITY)
  - Event Logs (Application, System, Security, Custom...)
  - User profile folders (Recently accessed files, downloads...)
  - Jump list (Recently/frequently used files by the applications)
  - Prefetch (Executed programmes)
  - Recycle bin (Deleted files)
  - Thumbnails (Images)
  - Office document metadata
  - Browser (Internet activities: history, cache, cookies, downloads, bookmarks...)

# Windows Registry

- A binary and hierarchal database for
  - User information (currently logged on)
  - System information (currently detected)
- Stored in registry files
  - Application information
  - Specific user preferences
  - System hardware settings
- Replaced the INI files of Windows 3.1
- Registry can be viewed and edited using Registry Editor (regedit.exe) or many 3<sup>rd</sup>-party tools, e.g. RegRipper

# Windows Registry

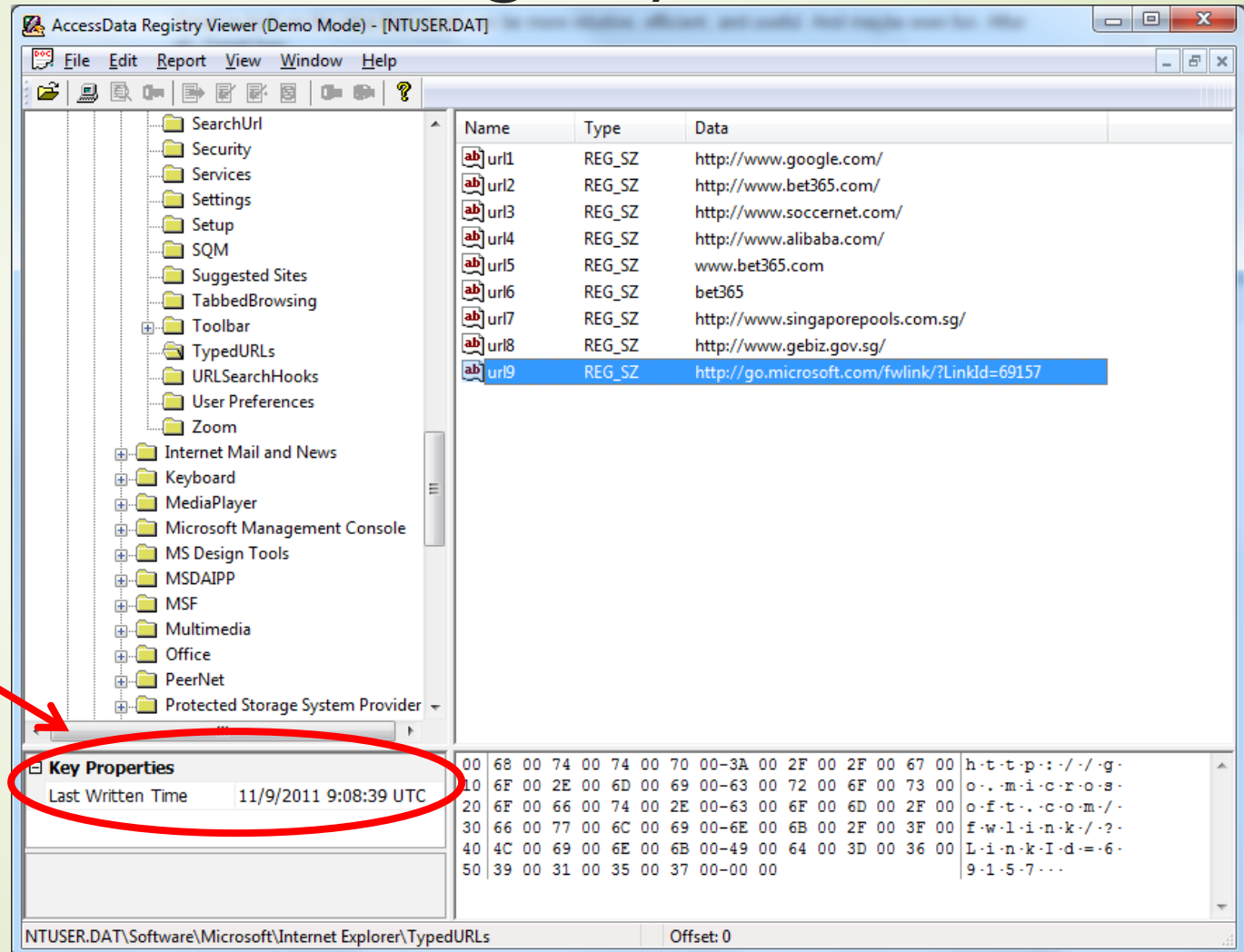


19

# Windows Registry

Registry hive opened using Windows Registry viewer

- Each key has a "Last Written Time"
- It's update when a value is added or updated in the key



AccessData Registry Viewer (Demo Mode) - [NTUSER.DAT]

File Edit Report View Window Help

| Name | Type   | Data   |
|------|--------|--|
| url1 | REG_SZ | http://www.google.com/                       |
| url2 | REG_SZ | http://www.bet365.com/                       |
| url3 | REG_SZ | http://www.soccernet.com/                    |
| url4 | REG_SZ | http://www.alibaba.com/                      |
| url5 | REG_SZ | www.bet365.com                               |
| url6 | REG_SZ | bet365                                       |
| url7 | REG_SZ | http://www.singaporepools.com.sg/            |
| url8 | REG_SZ | http://www.gebiz.gov.sg/                     |
| url9 | REG_SZ | http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=69157 |

**Key Properties**

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Last Written Time | 11/9/2011 9:08:39 UTC |
|-------------------|-----------------------|

NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\TypedURLs Offset: 0

# Windows Registry

- Different names in different Windows systems
  - Windows 3.11
    - In C:\WINDOWS directory, reg.dat and system.dat
    - C:\windows\profiles\<username>\user.dat
  - Windows 95, 98 and Me
    - In %WINDIR%, SYSTEM.DAT and USER.DAT
  - Windows NT onwards
    - %SYSTEM\_ROOT%\System32\Config\
    - %USER\_HOME%\ntuser.dat e.g. C:\users\student\ntuser.dat

# For System Information

- The four registry files are kept in Windows\System32\Config folder
  - SAM
  - SYSTEM
  - SECURITY
  - SOFTWARE
- RegldleBackup scheduled task runs every 10 days to back up these registry hives at %WinDir%\System32\Config\RegBack.
  - But it does not back up the user hives
  - May be useful in the case data are cleared in the current hives

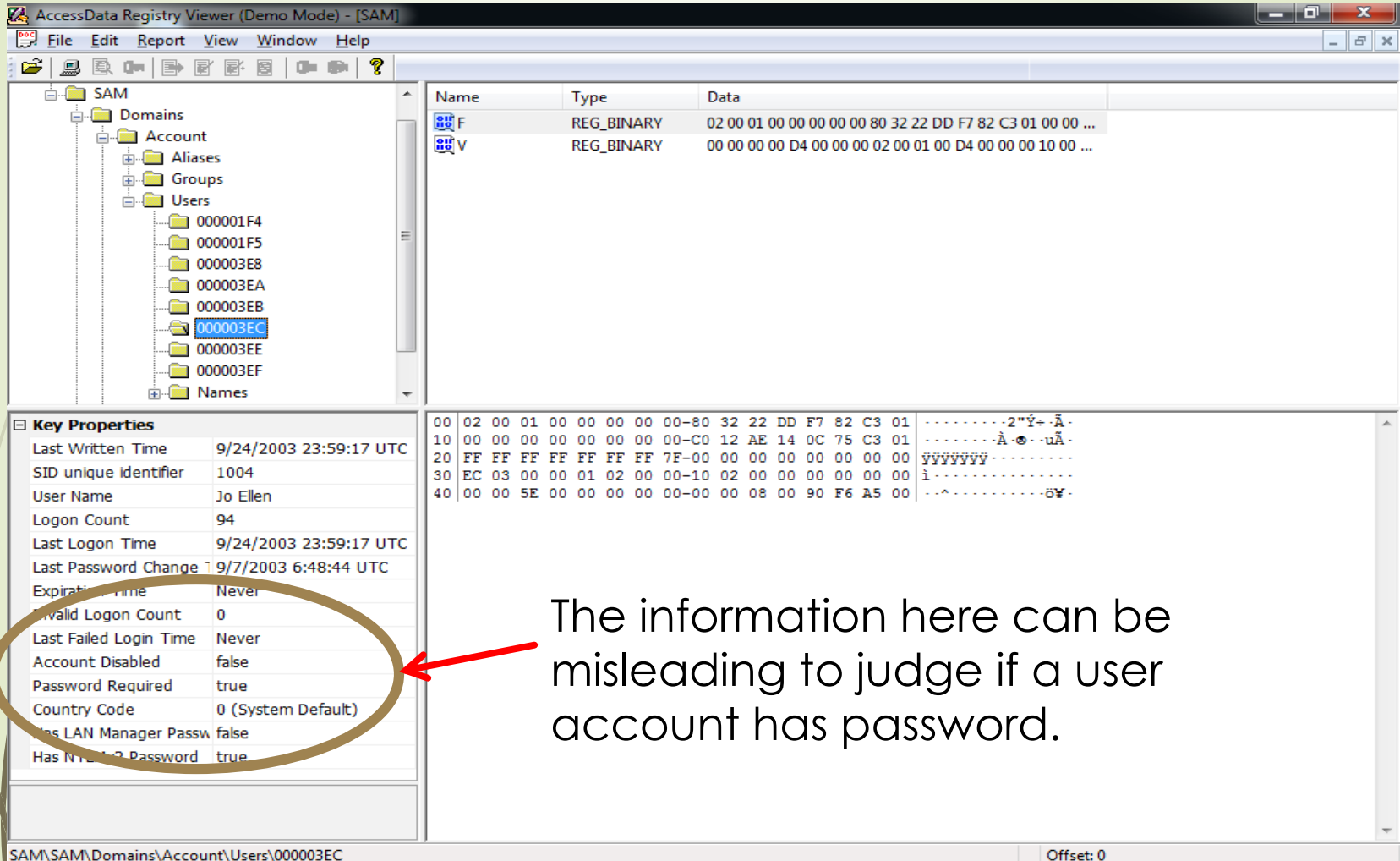


# SAM

- Registry Hive HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SAM
- The SAM Hive stores account information for users and groups on the system
  - Usernames
  - Security Identifier (SID)
  - User Login Information
  - Group Information



# SAM



AccessData Registry Viewer (Demo Mode) - [SAM]

File Edit Report View Window Help

SAM

- Domains
  - Account
    - Aliases
    - Groups
    - Users
      - 000001F4
      - 000001F5
      - 000003E8
      - 000003EA
      - 000003EB
      - 000003EC**
      - 000003EE
      - 000003EF
      - Names

| Name | Type       | Data  |
|------|------------|---|
| F    | REG_BINARY | 02 00 01 00 00 00 00 80 32 22 DD F7 82 C3 01 00 00 ...    |
| V    | REG_BINARY | 00 00 00 00 D4 00 00 00 02 00 01 00 D4 00 00 00 10 00 ... |

**Key Properties**

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Last Written Time        | 9/24/2003 23:59:17 UTC |
| SID unique identifier    | 1004                   |
| User Name                | Jo Ellen               |
| Logon Count              | 94                     |
| Last Logon Time          | 9/24/2003 23:59:17 UTC |
| Last Password Change     | 9/7/2003 6:48:44 UTC   |
| Expiration Time          | Never                  |
| Invalid Logon Count      | 0                      |
| Last Failed Login Time   | Never                  |
| Account Disabled         | false                  |
| Password Required        | true                   |
| Country Code             | 0 (System Default)     |
| Has LAN Manager Password | false                  |
| Has NTLM2 Password       | true                   |

SAM\SAM\Domains\Account\Users\000003EC

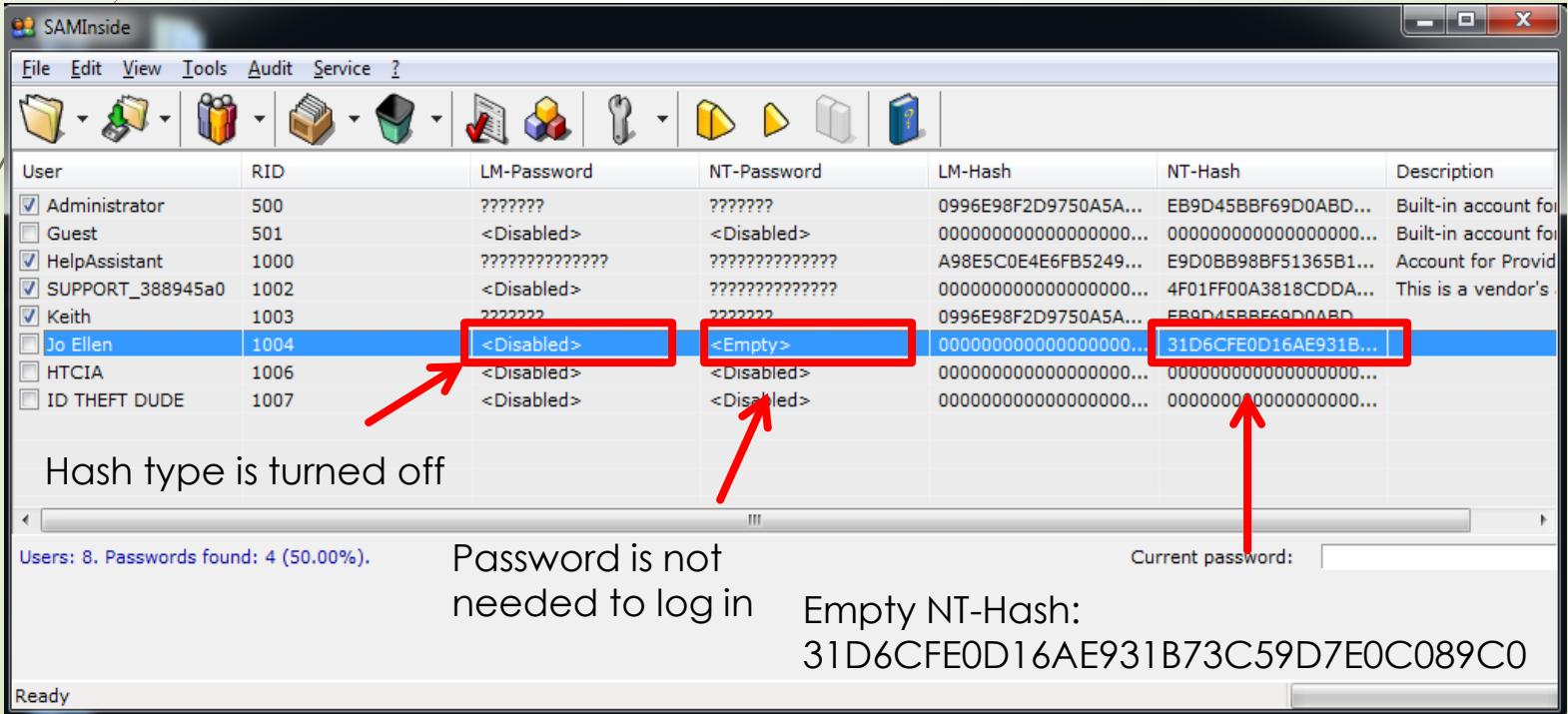
Offset: 0

The information here can be misleading to judge if a user account has password.

# SAM

- The only way to be sure is to grab the actual hashed password.

- Tool: SAMInside



Hash type is turned off

Users: 8. Passwords found: 4 (50.00%).

Current password:

Ready

| User   | RID  | LM-Password     | NT-Password     | LM-Hash              | NT-Hash              | Description          |
|--|------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrator    | 500  | ???????         | ???????         | 0996E98F2D9750A5A... | EB9D45BBF69D0ABD...  | Built-in account for |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guest                       | 501  | <Disabled>      | <Disabled>      | 0000000000000000...  | 0000000000000000...  | Built-in account for |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HelpAssistant    | 1000 | ??????????????? | ??????????????? | A98E5C0E4E6FB5249... | E9D0BB98BF51365B1... | Account for Provid   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT_388945a0 | 1002 | <Disabled>      | ??????????????? | 0000000000000000...  | 4F01FF00A3818CDDA... | This is a vendor's   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith            | 1003 | ???????         | ???????         | 0996E98F2D9750A5A... | EB9D45BBF69D0ABD...  |                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jo Ellen                    | 1004 | <Disabled>      | <Empty>         | 0000000000000000...  | 31D6CFE0D16AE931B... |                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HTCIA                       | 1006 | <Disabled>      | <Disabled>      | 0000000000000000...  | 0000000000000000...  |                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ID THEFT DUDE               | 1007 | <Disabled>      | <Disabled>      | 0000000000000000...  | 0000000000000000...  |                      |

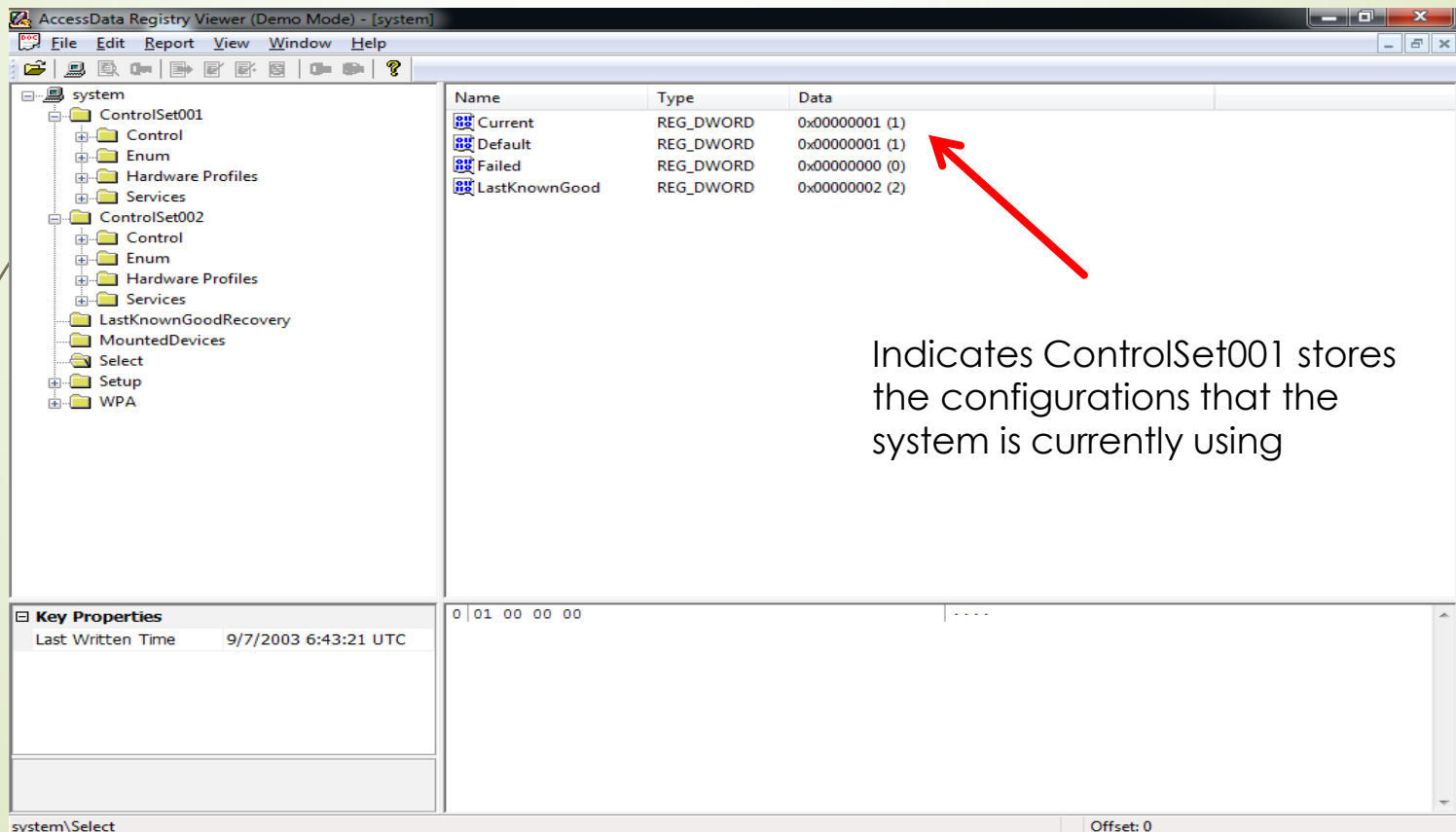
Password is not needed to log in      Empty NT-Hash:  
 31D6CFE0D16AE931B73C59D7E0C089C0

# SYSTEM

- Registry Hive HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM
- The SYSTEM Hive contains Windows system settings such as
  - The system name
    - SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\ComputerName\ComputerName
  - Time zone information
    - SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\TimeZoneInformation
    - Critical in event correlation: UTC vs local time
  - Last access time on/off
    - SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\FileSystem
      - NtfsDisableLastAccessUpdate
    - Controls if Windows will update the last access time of files. Turn off at Windows Vista and onwards, probably due to performance concern.
  - Network interface
    - SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Service\Tcpip\Parameters\Interfaces
    - Rich network-based information
- Device drivers information and many more

# SYSTEM

➤ Which control set to use?



# SYSTEM

- Identifying the current control set
  - ControlSet001 is typically the control set that the computer just loaded to use. It's usually the most up-to-date version of the control set.
  - ControlSet002 is the "Last Known Good" version, which is considered good when the previous boot occurred.
  - More control sets imply that the system crashes often and it may be due to existence of malwares.

# SOFTWARE

- Registry Hive HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE
- The SOFTWARE Hive contains
  - OS information
    - SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion
  - Current Version Settings
    - Evidence of the present of blaster worm is an entry "windows auto update"="msblast.exe" in the registry key:  
SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run so that the worm runs when you start Windows
  - All installed programs
    - Settings of each program
    - Paths to application files and directories
    - Software licensing
    - Expiration information

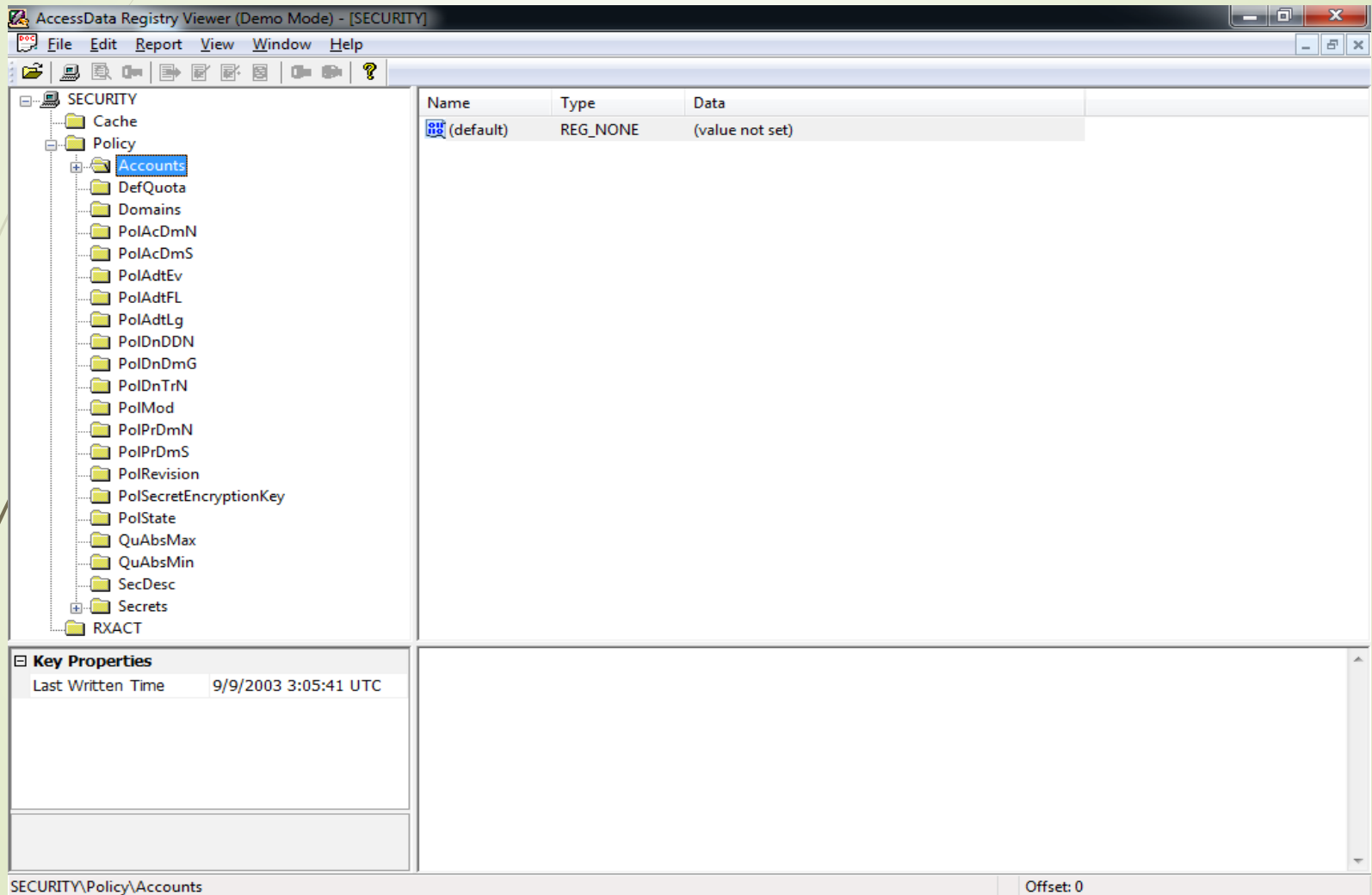


# SECURITY

- Registry Hive HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SECURITY
- The SECURITY Hive contains the following security settings
  - User and group policies
    - Examples of policies include whether a particular user is allowed to
      - reboot the computer,
      - load device drivers,
      - backup files,
      - access the system remotely.



# SECURITY



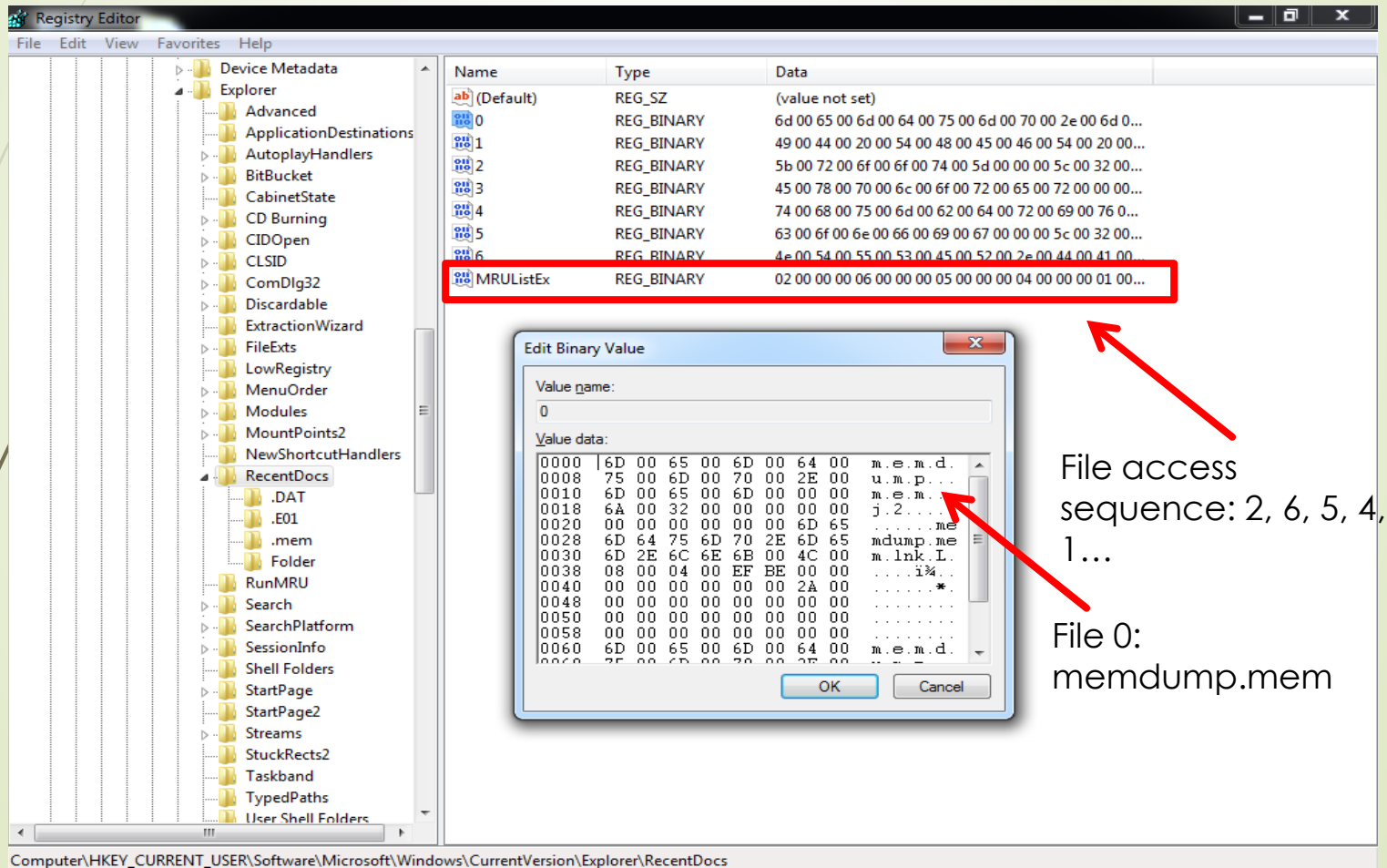
# For User Information

- NTUSER.DAT
  - Data are populated to HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER
  - Additional hive UsrClass.dat to aid in virtualised registry root for User Account Control (UAC)
    - At %UserProfile%\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\
    - Plugged into NTUSER.DAT/Software/Classes when displayed at Registry Editor

# NTUSER.DAT

- File opening or creation
  - NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\RecentDocs
  - MRUList tells the order the file access
    - 1<sup>st</sup> in the list: file opened/created most recently
    - Last in the list: file that was opened/created the furthest back in time

# NTUSER.DAT



# NTUSER.DAT

- Programme Execution
  - NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\RunMRU
  - GUI applications executed from Start -> Run
  - Does NOT record commands ran at command line, e.g. dir
- Internet Surfing History
  - NTUSER.DAT\Software\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\TypedURL
  - The contents typed at IE address bar

# Event Logs

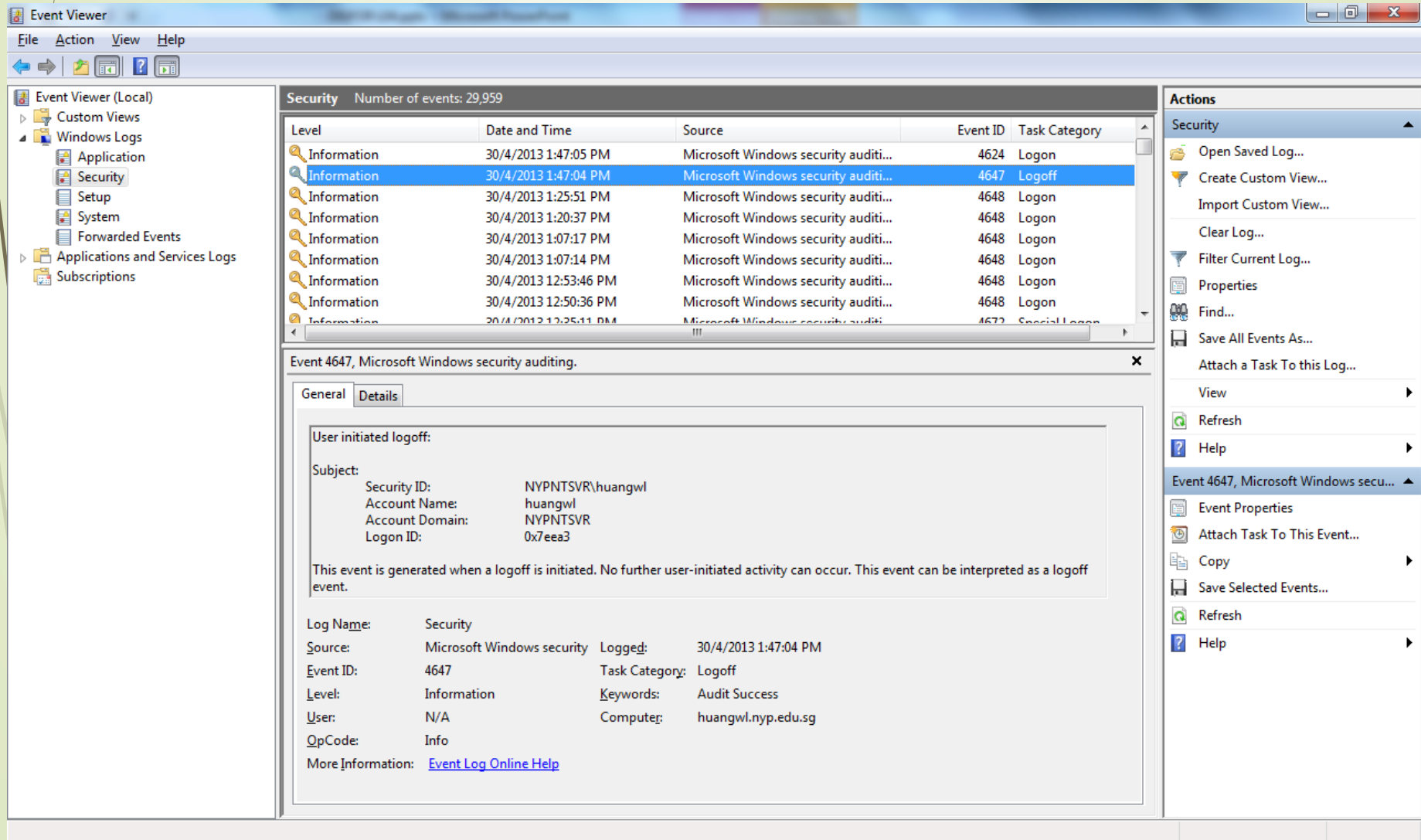
- Types of event logs
  - Application
    - Software events unrelated to Operating System
    - Logged by application or programs
    - e.g. SQL Server fails to access a database
  - Security
    - Access control and security setting information based on audit and group policy
    - Security events like logon attempts as well as folder access
  - System
    - Events related to Windows services, system components, drivers, resources etc
    - Logged by Windows system components, e.g. loading a driver, system rebooted
  - Custom
    - Custom application logs
    - e.g. DNS server logs record DNS queries, responses and other DNS activities



# Event Logs

- Where to find the event log file?
  - Windows NT/2000/XP/Server 2003
    - %SYSTEM ROOT%\System32\config
    - SecEvent.evt, AppEvent.evt, SysEvent.evt
  - Windows Vista/7/8/Server 2008
    - %SYSTEM ROOT%\System32\winevt\logs
    - Security.evtx, Application.evtx, System.evtx, etc
  - These default locations can be changed at Windows Registry
  - Event IDs changed at Windows Vista and later
    - Old Event ID + 4096 = New Event ID, should work for most cases

# Event Logs



The screenshot displays the Windows Event Viewer application. The left pane shows the 'Event Viewer (Local)' tree with 'Security' selected under 'Windows Logs'. The main pane shows a list of security events. Event 4647, 'User initiated logoff', is selected. The right pane shows the 'Actions' menu with options like 'Open Saved Log...', 'Create Custom View...', 'Clear Log...', 'Filter Current Log...', 'Properties', 'Find...', 'Save All Events As...', 'Attach a Task To this Log...', 'View', 'Refresh', and 'Help'. The bottom pane shows the details for Event 4647, including the 'General' tab with a description of the event and the 'Details' tab with a list of event properties.

| Level       | Date and Time         | Source                                 | Event ID | Task Category |
|-------------|-----------------------|--|----------|---------------|
| Information | 30/4/2013 1:47:05 PM  | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4624     | Logon         |
| Information | 30/4/2013 1:47:04 PM  | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4647     | Logoff        |
| Information | 30/4/2013 1:25:51 PM  | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4648     | Logon         |
| Information | 30/4/2013 1:20:37 PM  | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4648     | Logon         |
| Information | 30/4/2013 1:07:17 PM  | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4648     | Logon         |
| Information | 30/4/2013 1:07:14 PM  | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4648     | Logon         |
| Information | 30/4/2013 12:53:46 PM | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4648     | Logon         |
| Information | 30/4/2013 12:50:36 PM | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4648     | Logon         |
| Information | 30/4/2013 12:25:11 PM | Microsoft Windows security auditing... | 4672     | Special Logon |

**Event 4647, Microsoft Windows security auditing.**

**General** | Details

User initiated logoff:

Subject:

Security ID: NYPNTSVR\huangwl  
Account Name: huangwl  
Account Domain: NYPNTSVR  
Logon ID: 0x7eea3

This event is generated when a logoff is initiated. No further user-initiated activity can occur. This event can be interpreted as a logoff event.

Log Name: Security

Source: Microsoft Windows security | Logged: 30/4/2013 1:47:04 PM

Event ID: 4647 | Task Category: Logoff

Level: Information | Keywords: Audit Success

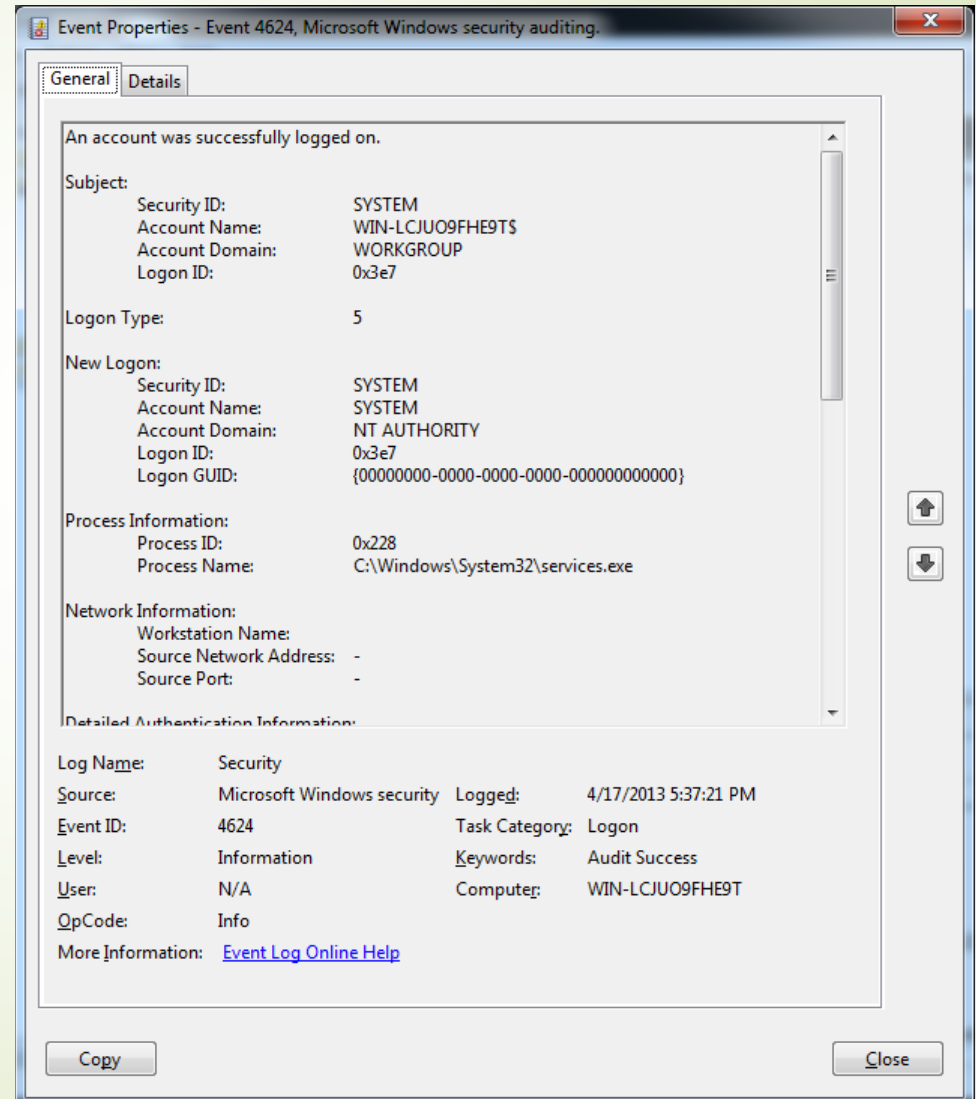
User: N/A | Computer: huangwl.nyp.edu.sg

OpCode: Info

More Information: [Event Log Online Help](#)

# Event Logs

## ➤ Event Viewer



# Event Codes

- Forensic Usage
  - **Track account usage**
    - **Successful Logon: 528/4624, 540/4636**
    - **Failed Logon: 529/4625**
    - **Successful Logoff: 4634**
  - Analyze file and folder access
    - Object accessed: 560/4656
    - Object deleted: 564/4660
    - Permission exercised on object (read, write...): 567/4663
  - Malware execution
    - New process created: 592/4688
  - Suspicious services
    - Service crashed unexpectedly: 7034
    - Service sent a start/stop control: 7035
    - Service started or stopped: 7036
    - Start type c hanged: 7040

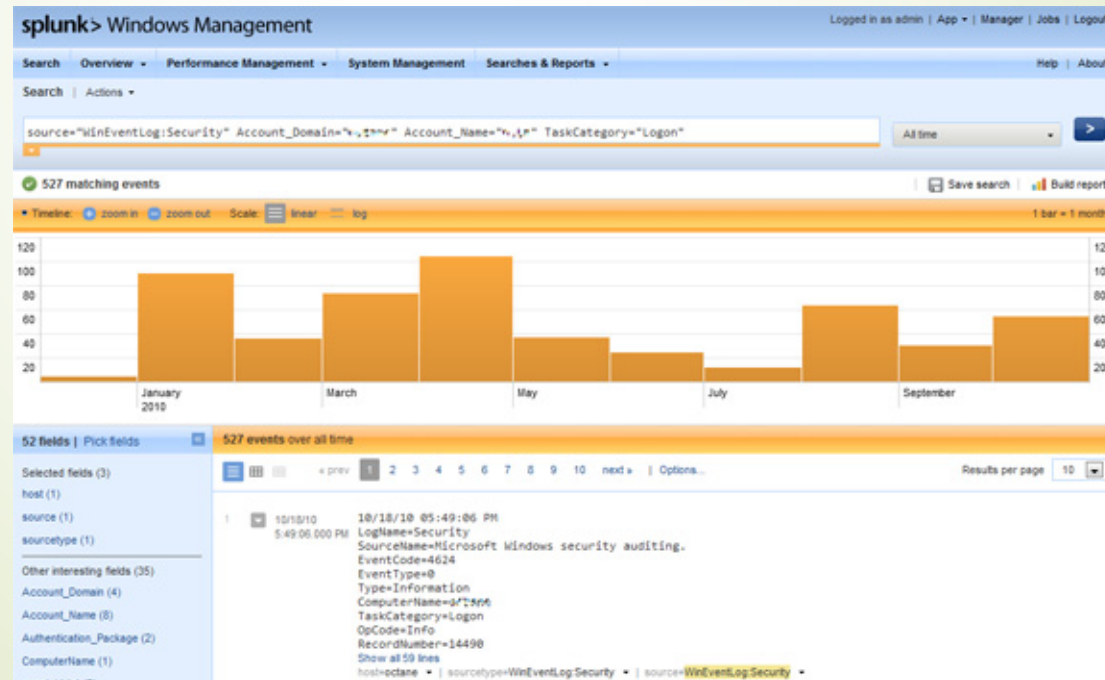
# Event Codes

- Forensic Usage (cont)
  - Application installation
    - Installation completed: 1033
    - Application removal completed: 1034
    - Installation completed successfully: 11707
    - Installation operation failed: 11708
    - Application removal completed successfully: 11724
  - Event log clearing
    - Event ID 517
  - Unauthorised hardware devices (Vista and later)
    - Plug and play driver install attempted: 20001
  - Geolocation information (Vista and later)
    - Wireless network association started: 11000
    - Successful connection to wireless network: 8001
    - Failed connection to wireless network: 8002

# Machine Log Analysis Tool

## ► Splunk

- It supports the monitoring of Windows event log channels. It can monitor event log channels and files stored on the local machine, as well as collect logs from remote machines.



Source: <http://www.digitalthreat.net/2010/10/splunk-log-storage-search-and-reporting/>



# Metadata

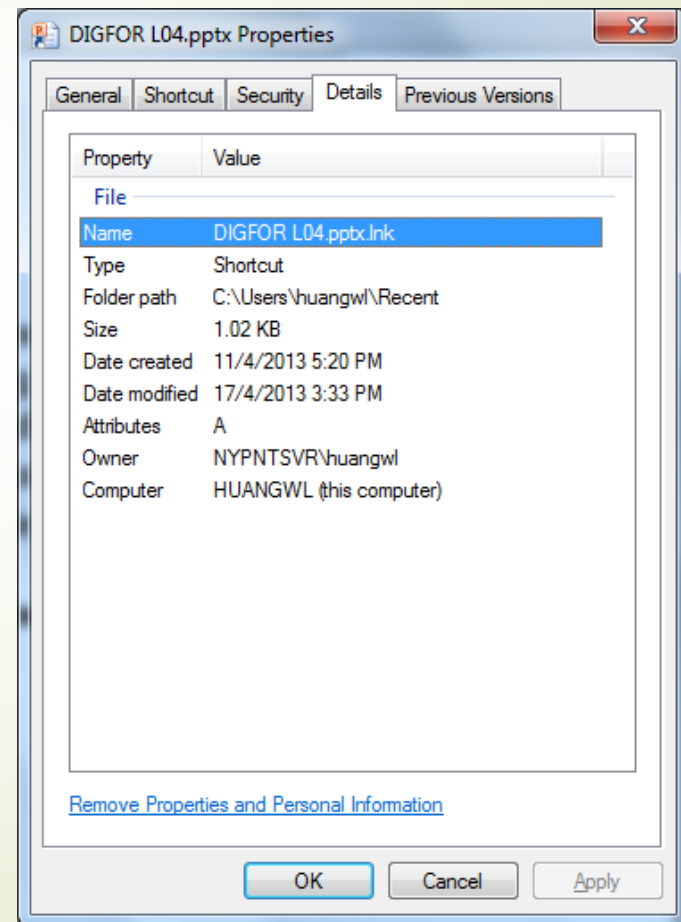
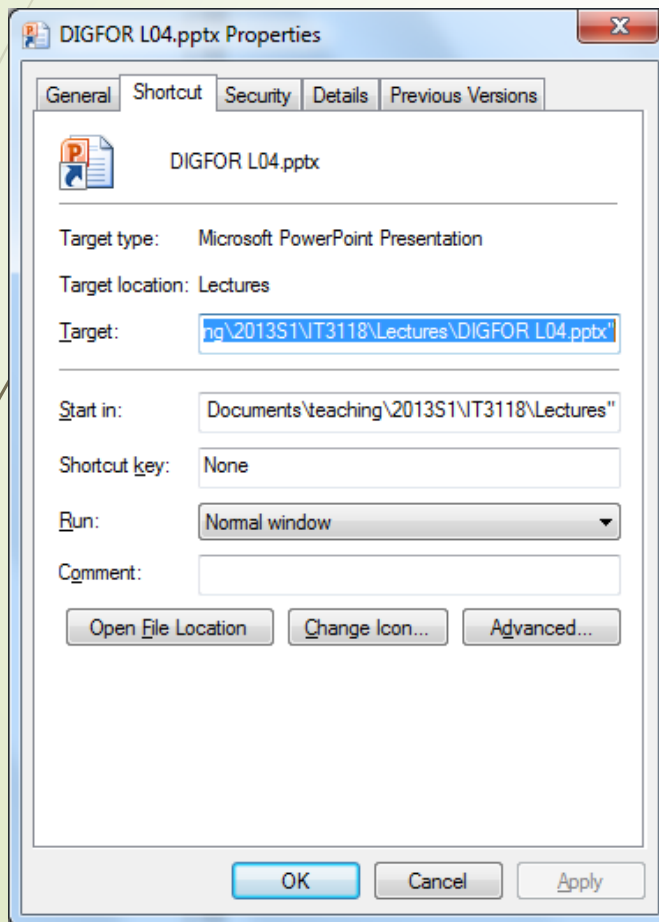
- Metadata contains file information that is not the actual data in the file.
- Metadata includes
  - Who created the file
  - Who modified the file
  - What the information in the file is about
- Common File Metadata
  - Shortcut files (.lnk)
  - Office documents
  - Picture/Media files
    - EXIF data
- Analysis tools: FTK, EXIFTool

# Metadata

- Shortcut Files
  - Created when local and remote files are opened
  - Location: %USER\_HOME%\Recent
    - Windows XP
      - \Documents and Settings\<username>\Recent
    - Vista and onwards
      - Drive:\Users\<user>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Recent
- What it keeps
  - MAC times of the shortcut file
  - Path to the source file
  - Volume information (e.g. drive letter, network share)

# Metadata

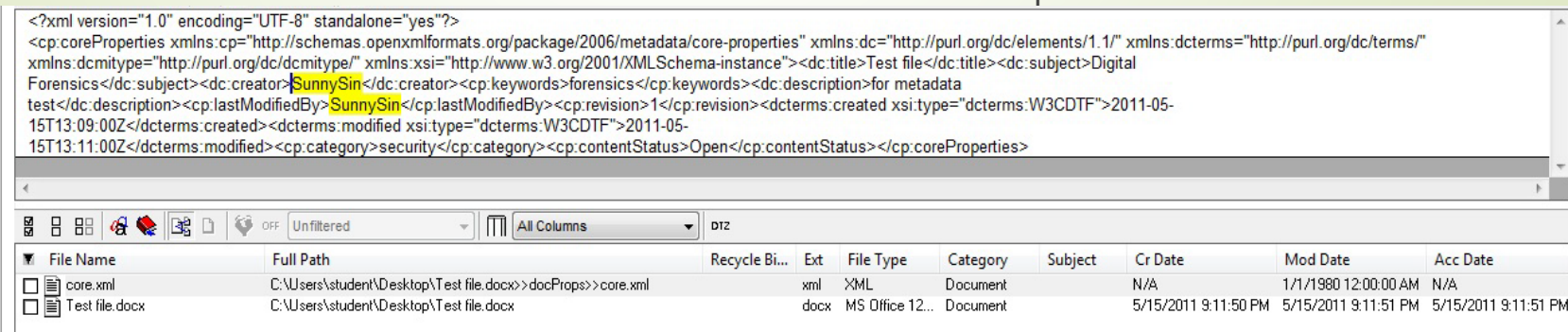
## ➤ Shortcut Files



# Metadata

## Office Documents

- Some metadata is updated by the users. Other metadata is created by the office applications and the Windows operating system
- Metadata contain evidence on
  - Authoring history
  - Hidden Text and Comments
  - Files Properties/File Summaries
  - Document Revisions and Versions
  - Location of the where the file was saved
  - The NetBIOS name of the computer



The screenshot shows a Windows Explorer window with the XML metadata of a file named 'Test file.docx' displayed in the right pane. The XML content is as follows:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<cp:coreProperties xmlns:cp="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/package/2006/metadata/core-properties" xmlns:dc="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/" xmlns:dcterms="http://purl.org/dc/terms/"
xmlns:dcmitype="http://purl.org/dc/dcmitype/" xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"><dc:title>Test file</dc:title><dc:subject>Digital
Forensics</dc:subject><dc:creator>SunnySin</dc:creator><cp:keywords>forensics</cp:keywords><dc:description>for metadata
test</dc:description><cp:lastModifiedBy>SunnySin</cp:lastModifiedBy><cp:revision>1</cp:revision><dcterms:created xsi:type="dcterms:W3CDTF">2011-05-
15T13:09:00Z</dcterms:created><dcterms:modified xsi:type="dcterms:W3CDTF">2011-05-
15T13:11:00Z</dcterms:modified><cp:category>security</cp:category><cp:contentStatus>Open</cp:contentStatus></cp:coreProperties>
```

Below the XML content, a table displays the file's properties:

| File Name      | Full Path  | Recycle Bi... | Ext  | File Type       | Category | Subject | Cr Date              | Mod Date             | Acc Date             |
|----------------|--|---------------|------|-----------------|----------|---------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| core.xml       | C:\Users\student\Desktop\Test file.docx>>docProps>core.xml |               | xml  | XML             | Document |         | N/A                  | 1/1/1980 12:00:00 AM | N/A                  |
| Test file.docx | C:\Users\student\Desktop\Test file.docx                    |               | docx | MS Office 12... | Document |         | 5/15/2011 9:11:50 PM | 5/15/2011 9:11:51 PM | 5/15/2011 9:11:51 PM |

# Metadata

- Metadata has been used in several high-profile cases to prove or disprove claims made.
  - Hutton Inquiry: In 2003, the British government announced an inquiry following the death of scientist David Kelly. Kelly allegedly had been exaggerated and added to the report after its original creation.
  - Through examination of the document's metadata, it was proved that several people has altered the document and that the information in question could have been added on a later date by another author.

# Metadata

- Exchangeable image file standard (EXIF)
  - Standard used by digital camera (including smartphones), scanners and other system handling image and sound files recorded by digital cameras
  - Metadata tags include
    - Date and time information
    - Camera settings, e.g. camera model and make, shutter speed, ISO speed etc
    - Thumbnail for previewing
    - Descriptions
    - Copyright information
    - Geolocation!!!



48

# Exiftool Output

```

E:\exiftool(-k).exe
ExifTool Version Number      : 9.32
File Name                    : IT3543-P11-EU03.JPG
Directory                    : I:/IT3543/Evidence
File Size                    : 1279 kB
File Modification Date/Time   : 2011:07:14 19:05:34+08:00
File Access Date/Time        : 2013:07:01 00:00:00+08:00
File Creation Date/Time      : 2013:07:01 09:33:01+08:00
File Permissions              : rw-rw-rw-
File Type                    : JPEG
MIME Type                    : image/jpeg
Exif Byte Order               : Big-endian (Motorola, MM)
Make                         : Apple
Camera Model Name             : iPhone 3GS
Orientation                   : Rotate 270 CW
X Resolution                  : 72
Y Resolution                  : 72
Resolution Unit               : inches
Software                     : 4.3.3
Modify Date                   : 2011:07:14 18:12:59
Y Cb Cr Positioning          : Centered
Exposure Time                 : 1/120
F Number                     : 2.8
Exposure Program              : Program AE
ISO                           : 125
Exif Version                  : 0221
Date/Time Original            : 2011:07:14 18:12:59
Create Date                   : 2011:07:14 18:12:59
Components Configuration     : Y, Cb, Cr, -
Shutter Speed Value           : 1/120
Aperture Value                : 2.8
Metering Mode                 : Average
Flash                        : No flash function
Focal Length                  : 3.9 mm
Subject Area                  : 1023 767 614 614
Flashpix Version              : 0100
Color Space                   : sRGB
Exif Image Width              : 2048
Exif Image Height             : 1536
Sensing Method                : One-chip color area
Exposure Mode                 : Auto
White Balance                 : Auto
Scene Capture Type            : Standard
Sharpness                     : Soft
GPS Latitude Ref              : North
GPS Longitude Ref             : East
GPS Altitude Ref              : Below Sea Level
GPS Time Stamp                : 11:49:27
GPS Img Direction Ref         : True North
GPS Img Direction              : 294.8882979
Compression                   : JPEG (old-style)
Thumbnail Offset              : 884
Thumbnail Length              : 10870
Image Width                   : 2048
Image Height                   : 1536
Encoding Process               : Baseline DCT, Huffman coding
Bits Per Sample                : 8
Color Components               : 3
Y Cb Cr Sub Sampling          : YCbCr4:2:0 (2 2)
Aperture                      : 2.8
GPS Altitude                  : 0 m Above Sea Level
GPS Latitude                   : 1 deg 22' 45.00" N
GPS Longitude                  : 103 deg 50' 58.20" E
GPS Position                   : 1 deg 22' 45.00" N, 103 deg 50' 58.20" E
Image Size                    : 2048x1536
Shutter Speed                  : 1/120
Thumbnail Image                : <Binary data 10870 bytes, use -b option to ext
ract>
Focal Length                   : 3.9 mm
Light Value                   : 9.6
-- press any key --
  
```

```

E:\exiftool(-k).exe
ExifTool Version Number      : 9.32
File Name                    : Wildlife.vmv
Directory                    : C:/Users/Public/Videos/Sample Videos
File Size                    : 25 MB
File Modification Date/Time   : 2009:07:14 13:32:31+08:00
File Access Date/Time        : 2009:07:14 13:32:31+08:00
File Creation Date/Time      : 2009:07:14 13:32:38+08:00
File Permissions              : rw-rw-rw-
File Type                    : VMV
MIME Type                    : video/x-ms-vmv
Title                        : Wildlife in HD
Copyright                    : © 2008 Microsoft Corporation
Description                   : Footage: Small World Productions, Inc; Tourism
                             : New Zealand ! Producer: Gary F.
                             : Spradling ! Music: Steve Ball
File ID                       : EA76F9DF-171A-4C17-BCAB-6BD400BCE4B0
File Length                   : 26246026
Creation Date                 : 2008:08:25 21:11:16Z
Data Packets                  : 3280
Play Duration                 : 0:00:38
Send Duration                  : 0:00:36
Preset                        : 8000
Flags                         : 2
Min Packet Size               : 8000
Max Packet Size               : 8000
Max Bitrate                   : 6.18 Mbps
Is VBR                        : False
Audio Codec Name              : Windows Media Audio 9.2
Audio Codec Description       : 192 kbps, 44 kHz, stereo (A/U) 1-pass CBR
Video Codec Name              : Windows Media Video 9 Advanced Profile
Video Codec Description       : 
Audio Codec ID                : Windows Media Audio V2 U7 U8 U9 / DivX audio (
VMA) / Alex AC3 Audio
Audio Channels                 : 2
Audio Sample Rate             : 44100
Stream Type                   : Video
Error Correction Type         : No Error Correction
Time Offset                   : 0 s
Stream Number                  : 2
Image Width                   : 1280
Image Height                   : 720
Image Size                    : 1280x720
-- press any key --
  
```

EXIF Audio File Metadata

EXIF JPEG File Metadata

# Browser Forensic - IE

- URL Cache Containers
  - Data files used by various components of IE, Explorer, and Search
  - Used for
    - Temporary Internet Files
    - Browsing History
    - Cookies
    - HTTP response objects and redirects
    - RSS feeds
    - InPrivate browsing and more
  - It contains
    - A directory
    - An Index file (index.dat)
    - Files for cached data (may be in sub-directories)
  - Can be examined using free "Pasco"

Common browser artifacts



50

# Browser Forensic - IE

## Browsing History

- \Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Miscrosoft\Windows\History\History.IE5
- Subdirectories are name MSHist01<start date><end date> for records within different date range

```
C:\Users\huangwl\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\History\History.IE5>dir /a
Volume in drive C is System
Volume Serial Number is D2C3-ACF3
```

```
Directory of C:\Users\huangwl\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\History\History.IE5
```

```
03/05/2013  10:02 AM    <DIR>
03/05/2013  10:02 AM    <DIR>
12/11/2012  03:20 PM    <DIR>
03/05/2013  11:28 AM    <DIR>
15/04/2013  09:33 AM    <DIR>
22/04/2013  09:31 AM    <DIR>
29/04/2013  01:08 PM    <DIR>
29/04/2013  01:08 PM    <DIR>
30/04/2013  12:33 PM    <DIR>
02/05/2013  09:20 AM    <DIR>
03/05/2013  10:02 AM    <DIR>
```

```
2 File(s)          557,123 bytes
9 Dir(s)  75,918,503,936 bytes free
```

History File: index.dat

| TYPE        | URL   | MODIFIED TIME            | ACCESS TIME              | FILENAME | DIRECTORY | HTTP HEADERS |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| URL Visited | student@file:///C:/Users/student/Desktop/thumbdrive.E01                                 | Fri Apr 19 07:10:41 2013 | Fri Apr 19 07:10:41 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@file:///C:/Users/student/Desktop/ID420THEFT4201.E01                             | Fri Apr 19 06:34:26 2013 | Fri Apr 19 06:34:26 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@file:///E:/[root]/NTUSER.DAT  | Fri Apr 19 08:06:37 2013 | Fri Apr 19 08:06:37 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@http://www.bing.com/search?format=rss&q=river+safari&form=MSNH826mkt=en-sg&rf=0 | Tue Mar 26 03:39:17 2013 | Tue Mar 26 03:39:17 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkID=121792                                   | Tue Mar 26 03:38:46 2013 | Tue Mar 26 03:38:46 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@file:///C:/Users/student/Desktop/memdump.mem                                    | Mon Apr 15 10:11:07 2013 | Mon Apr 15 10:11:07 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=69157                                    | Tue Mar 26 03:38:36 2013 | Tue Mar 26 03:38:36 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@http://xin.msn.com/?rd=1&uoc=SG&doc=SG&opt=0&ocid=iehp                          | Tue Mar 26 03:39:17 2013 | Tue Mar 26 03:39:17 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@http://www.bing.com/search?q=river+safari&form=MSNH826mkt=en-sg&rf=0            | Tue Mar 26 03:39:17 2013 | Tue Mar 26 03:39:17 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/internet-explorer/products/ie-8/welcome      | Tue Mar 26 03:38:52 2013 | Tue Mar 26 03:38:52 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL Visited | student@http://www.msn.com/?ocid=iehp   | Tue Mar 26 03:38:35 2013 | Tue Mar 26 03:38:35 2013 |          | URL       |              |
| URL B       |   | Tue Mar 26 03:38:35 2013 | Tue Mar 26 03:38:35 2013 |          |           |              |

Parse index.dat  
using Pasco

The history includes  
file access  
information too

# Browser Forensic - IE

- Temporary Internet Files
  - Cache of recently viewed web pages
  - \Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5
  - Subdirectories are named randomly

```
C:\Users\huangwl\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5>dir /a
Volume in drive C is System
Volume Serial Number is D2C3-ACF3
```

```
Directory of C:\Users\huangwl\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5
```

```
06/02/2013  05:34 PM    <DIR>          .
06/02/2013  05:34 PM    <DIR>          ..
05/03/2013  09:17 AM    <DIR>          02FF00L1
19/12/2011  11:27 AM    <DIR>          3SA380IF
25/07/2011  02:21 PM    <DIR>          497RTXGM
14/10/2011  06:00 PM    <DIR>          65M20A5C
16/05/2012  10:06 AM    <DIR>          6KSJ1V32
25/07/2011  02:21 PM    <DIR>          8S0SUKZ8
03/05/2013  10:21 AM    <DIR>          AV0G33ZK
16/11/2010  09:08 AM    <DIR>          67 desktop.ini
10/01/2011  03:49 PM    <DIR>          G57KRXTH
03/05/2013  10:15 AM    <DIR>          HKZ2BC89
03/05/2013  10:15 AM    <DIR>          I0SAFMJJ
03/05/2013  11:28 AM    <DIR>          344,064 index.dat
17/10/2011  04:10 PM    <DIR>          L352ISU8
03/05/2013  10:15 AM    <DIR>          MNQEI1PC
01/08/2011  02:29 PM    <DIR>          R8HZ0CTF
10/01/2011  03:49 PM    <DIR>          VLR0SUP
01/08/2011  02:29 PM    <DIR>          W92I12LA
24/05/2011  03:00 PM    <DIR>          VJS66LXR

                2 File(s)          344,131 bytes
                18 Dir(s)  75,917,074,432 bytes free
```

Why don't we visit the website directly based on the surfing history?

```
C:\Users\huangwl\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\AV0G33ZK>dir /a
Volume in drive C is System
Volume Serial Number is D2C3-ACF3
```

```
Directory of C:\Users\huangwl\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\AV0G33ZK
```

```
03/05/2013  10:21 AM    <DIR>          .
03/05/2013  10:21 AM    <DIR>          ..
12/04/2013  12:09 PM    <DIR>          642 CallStaffSS0[1].htm
18/04/2013  06:40 PM    <DIR>          642 CallStaffSS0[2].htm
03/05/2013  10:15 AM    <DIR>          42,035 FormChek[1].js
03/05/2013  10:15 AM    <DIR>          1,251 generic[1].js
18/04/2013  06:14 PM    <DIR>          277 loginCtrl[1].htm
03/05/2013  10:14 AM    <DIR>          4,706 login_ctrl[1].htm
03/04/2013  02:39 PM    <DIR>          1,067 nypis_login_enc_portal_ctrl[1].htm
02/04/2013  06:22 PM    <DIR>          634 spellcheck-entry[1].htm
02/04/2013  06:23 PM    <DIR>          634 spellcheck-entry[2].htm
03/05/2013  10:04 AM    <DIR>          133,842 xml[1].xml

                10 File(s)        185,730 bytes
                2 Dir(s)  75,917,139,968 bytes free
```

# Browser Forensic - IE

## ➤ Automatic Crash Recovery

- Records information on the current and previous browsing sessions
- Normal:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Recovery\Active
- Admin:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Recovery\High\Active

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 08/05/2013 04:17 PM | 8,704 RecoveryStore.{BE9FE1E3-B784-11E2-8B02-463500000031}.dat |
| 08/05/2013 01:56 PM | 5,120 {05FA9F02-B7A3-11E2-8B02-463500000031}.dat               |
| 08/05/2013 10:35 AM | 4,608 {0D704EC8-B785-11E2-8B02-463500000031}.dat               |

Session file, references  
tab files for the session

Tab file, state of the tab

# Browser Forensic - IE

## ■ Downloads

- Most files at  
   \Users\<username>\Downloads
- Some exception, e.g. picture files are  
   downloaded to  
   \Users\<username>\Pictures



# InPrivate Browsing at IE

- New feature since IE8
- Designed primarily for accessing the web from a shared computer
  - What is not stored?
    - History, form data, password, address bar, search autocomplete, search queries
  - What are still recorded but will be deleted upon closing the browser?
    - Cookies used as “session” cookies
    - Temporary internet files

What if the browser crashes when user is using InPrivate browsing mode?

# InPrivate Browsing at IE

- Investigation approaches
  - Local DNS cache

```

pinkphantom.com
-----
Record Name . . . . . : pinkphantom.com
Record Type . . . . . : 1
Time To Live . . . . . : 5189
Data Length . . . . . : 4
Section . . . . . : Answer
A (Host) Record . . . : 69.163.46.3
  
```

- Temp data at index.dat
  - Before the browser is closed, or restarted in the case of crashing

# Summary

- Events and Time Analysis
- Operating Systems Artifacts Analysis – Windows
  - Case-related data files and metadata
  - User activities/behaviors event logs
  - System configurations and logs
  - Application configurations and usage
  - Web browsing history

# References

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