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Objectives:

- Use HashCalc to determine the hash values of the files.
- Use HxD Hex Editor to change a single byte in a file.
- Use Hashcalc Re-hash the files.
- Use HxD Hex Editor to examine the end of each file and determine the difference.

1. Open / Install Access Data's FTK Imager 3
2. Select File > Add Evidence Item > Select Image File > Browse to *Vader_Home_Computer.001* image and add it.
3. Navigate to the *C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\Secret pics* folder.
4. Export the "Secret Pics" folder to your local hard drive.
5. On your computer, examine the three pictures inside the Secret pics folder. Using Windows, right click on the three provided pictures and record the size of each file.

me & the guys1.jpg size: 252 KB

me & the guys2.jpg size: 252 KB

me & the guys3.jpg size: 252 KB

6. Open each image and describe the contents.

me & the guys1.jpg Description: 7 Characters from Star Wars

me & the guys2.jpg Description: 7 Characters from Star Wars

me & the guys3.jpg Description: 7 Characters from Star Wars

7. Are the pictures all identical? Yes, identical but not 100% the same. Especially for me & the guys2.jpg, it has a different hash calculation result. It means, it had something embedded in it.

8. Install Hashcalc.exe.

9. Use Hashcalc to calculate the hashes of all 3 files. Record the Md5 Hash value for each file.

me & the guys1.jpg Md5 Hash: d4fcd76163e62c26de6324339d5ec874

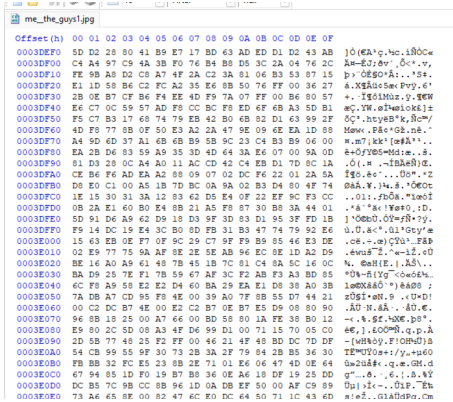
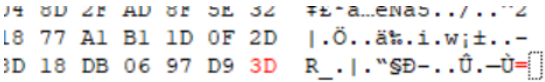
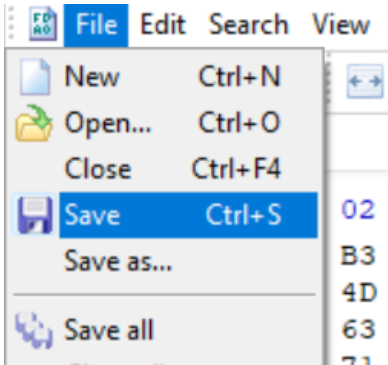
me & the guys2.jpg Md5 Hash: ee3b991ab3e70476cd122a235b09c7ee

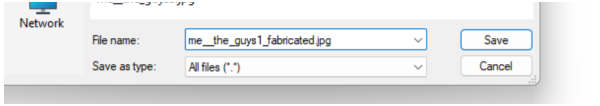
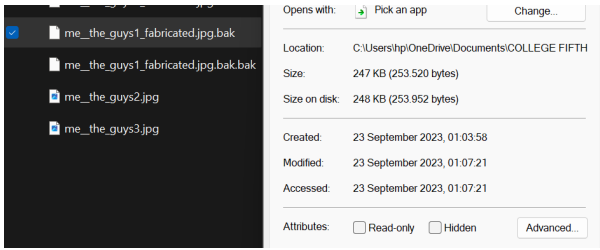
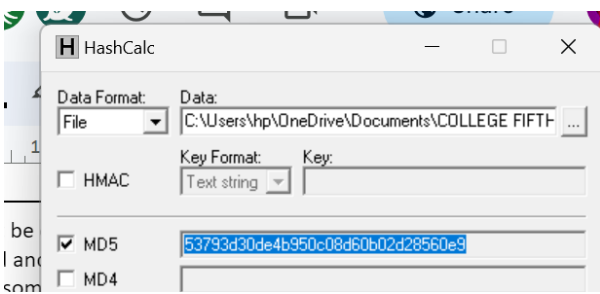
me & the guys3.jpg Md5 Hash: d4fcd76163e62c26de6324339d5ec874

10. Install the HxD Hex Editor on your computer and open it.

11. In HxD, select “open” under the file menu. Open one of 2 duplicate files. You know they are duplicate because they have an identical hash.
12. Go to the bottom of the file and change the last byte by selecting it and typing any character.
13. Select “Save as” under “File” and save this picture under a different name.

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 <p>The screenshot shows the HxD hex editor with the file 'me_the_guys1.jpg' open. The hex data is visible, starting with '00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F'.</p>	<p>Open the first file, since the first (me & the guys1.jpg) is one of the identical hash.</p>
 <p>The screenshot shows the HxD hex editor with the second file. Two bytes in the hex data have been changed, highlighted in red: '3D' and '3D'.</p>	<p>Change two of the bytes into the D9 3D.</p>
 <p>The screenshot shows the File menu in HxD with 'Save as...' selected. The menu options are: New (Ctrl+N), Open... (Ctrl+O), Close (Ctrl+F4), Save (Ctrl+S), Save as..., and Save all.</p>	<p>Save As and rename the file into me_the_guys1_fabricated.jpg and delete some to reduce the original size</p>

	
	<p>As we can see, the jpg file can't be displayed as a jpg file anymore. It is fabricated and converted into bak file. Which means the sum of bytes had been modified.</p>
	<p>Calculate the Md5 Hash with HashCalc</p>

14. Use Windows to record the file size and hash calc for the md5 hash of the new file.

New File: me__the_guys1_fabricated.jpg.bak

Description: The file cant be shown as jpg anymore.
It is fabricated by modified bytes and converted to
.bak file.

Size: 247 KB

Md5 Hash: 53793d30de4b950c08d60b02d28560e9

15. Based on the results of this test, what are your thoughts on the reliability of Md5 as a “digital fingerprint”?

MD5 is a widely known cryptographic hash function used to create digital fingerprints. However, it is now considered unreliable due to its vulnerability to collisions and preimage vulnerability, as well as its high speed, which makes it easier for attackers to compromise. Therefore, security experts and organizations have switched to more secure hash functions such as SHA-256 and and SHA-3 for cryptographic purposes, as these options are more suitable against attacks.MD5 is no longer recommended for digital fingerprinting or other security-critical tasks and has been replaced by more secure alternatives.

16. Use HxD to examine the last few bytes of each of the files provided and record anything that might be of suspicion.

- image me&the guys 1 and me&the guys 3

The screenshot shows a Windows File Explorer window with the address bar displaying 'C:\Users\user\Documents'. The main pane shows a folder named 'me & the guys 1'. The right pane shows the properties of the selected file 'me & the guys 1.jpg'. The properties are as follows:

File name	me & the guys 1.jpg
Type of file	JPEG image
Size	1.0 MB
Dimensions	1000 x 1000 pixels
Resolution	96 x 96 DPI
Color space	RGB
Compression	Baseline
Created	10/10/2019 10:10:10 AM
Modified	10/10/2019 10:10:10 AM
Location	C:\Users\user\Documents

- image me&the guys 2

The screenshot shows a Windows File Explorer window with the address bar displaying 'C:\Users\user\Downloads'. The file 'me & the guys 2' is selected. The 'Data' tab is active, showing the raw data of the image. The data is displayed in two columns: hexadecimal and ASCII. The ASCII column shows the text 'me & the guys 2' followed by a large block of garbage characters. The file is located in the 'C:\Users\user\Downloads' directory.

17. Based on your answer to the previous question, do you think it may be possible for criminals to effectively hide information within a jpeg file? Why?

Yes it is possible, because you can embed something to file such a jpeg without anyone noticing it. Development of cryptographics is very possible for someone to commit a crime with that method. The reason why jpeg is one of the tools they use, because jpeg has a relatively large file size compared to plain text or the others. Moreover criminals can encrypt the data they want to hide, so it adds another layer of security.