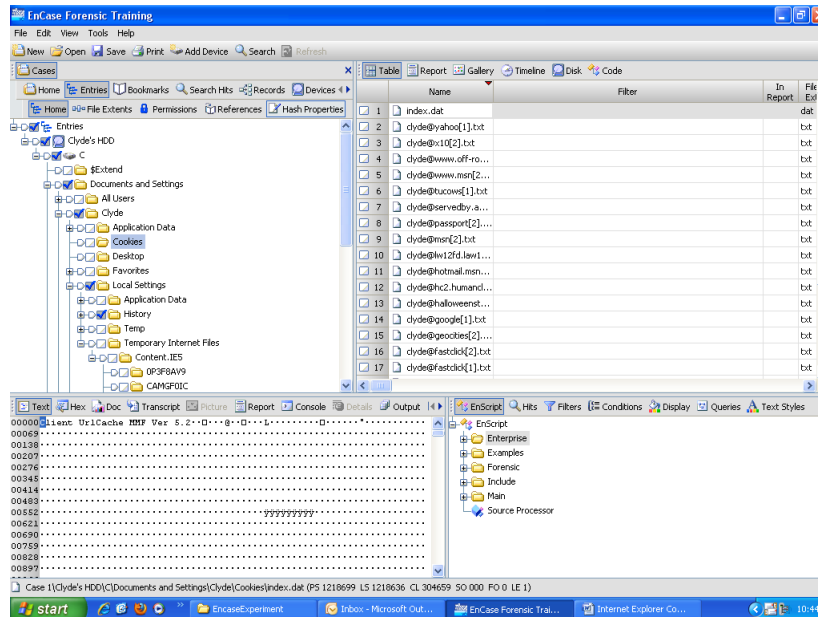


Internet Explorer Cookies: understanding index.dat (III)

Cookies are individual text files that can contain up to six individual values. Web sites use cookies to track visitors. The cookies are located in the following folder

C:\Documents and Setting\[username]\Cookies

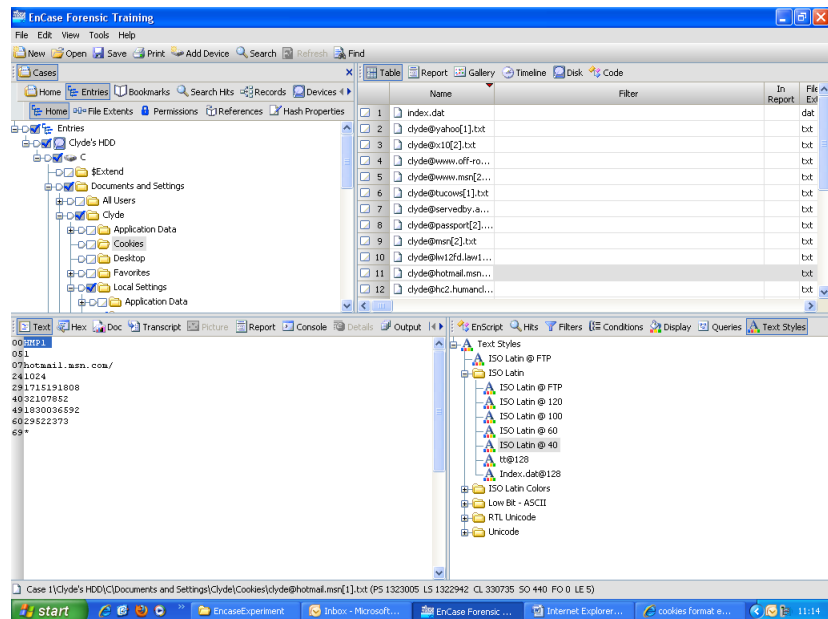
1. Cookies location



2. Cookies's Attributes

2.1 Cookies have 6 parameters including: name, value expiration date, path, domain, secure. Among of them, name and value are mandatory.

- **Name and value:** you can just simply pairing them together sets the name of a cookie and its value: name (SITESERVER) & Value (ID=a52a7d93f43abe84472d36df59134a00). The value of cookie can be null.
- **Expiration Date:** the lifetime of the cookie. If not set, then means the end of the session
- **Path:** defines a subset of directories in a domain for which the cookie is valid. Pages outside of that path can not read or use the cookie.
- **Domain:** the domain parameter such as: yahoo.txt. If domain is not set, then it defaults to the full domain of the document creating the cookie.
- **Secure:** the secure parameter indicates a cookie will be used only for a secure server condition such as SSL. In most cases, it is set as FALSE



3. Cookie's data structure

- Each cookie contains one or more record
- Nine fields in each record (including terminating field)
- Each field ends in hex 0A (linefeed)
- Each records ends in hex 2A 0A

Name	value	DOMAIN	type	Expired date/time	Modified date/time	end
HMP1	1	hotmail.msn.com /	1024	1715191808/32107852	1830036592 /29522373	*

4. Index.dat

In the cookies folder, there is an index.dat file as well (you have already learned that index.dat files in history folders and cache folders are very different. The index.dat file is to keep track of the cookies files within the folder.

4.1 Data structure

File header

File offset	Length	Description
0	28bytes	File header (ends in hex 00)
28	4 bytes	Filesize of Index.dat
32	4 bytes	Pointer to file offset of hash table

Hash table

Length	Description
4 bytes	Header
4 bytes	Length of hash table value *128
4 bytes	Pointer to file offset of next hash table
4 bytes	Hash table number

The beginning of the hash table will look like

File offset	Data (bytes)	Description
-------------	--------------	-------------

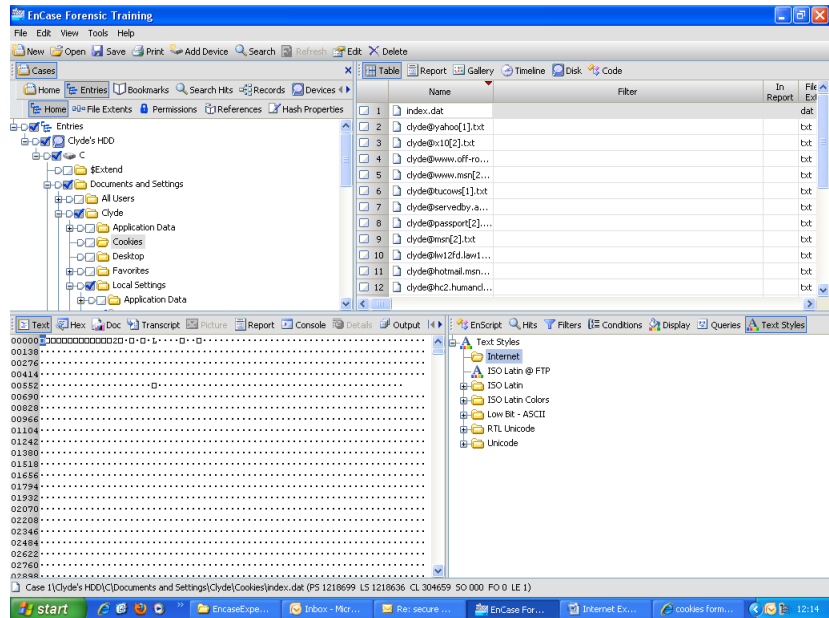
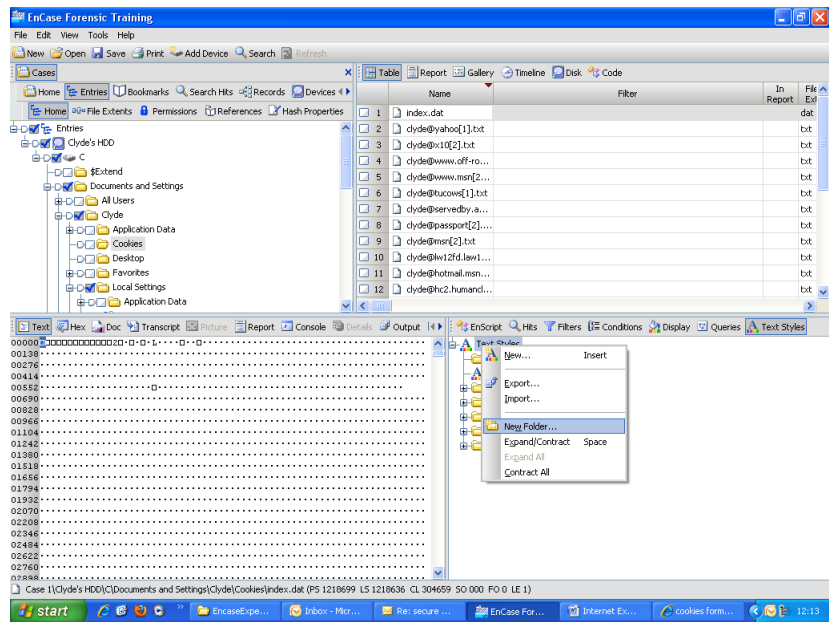
16400	3	3
16408	3	3
16416	Bb121380	26624
16424	3	3
16432	70c03ac0	31232
16440	3	3
16448	1	26624
16456	C5982dc0	23296
16464	73b53080	28416
16472	0252b300	27648
16480	3	3
16488	1	26624
16696	0	0

The first cookie record begins at the file offset 20480. Here is the record structure of the cache index.dat file.

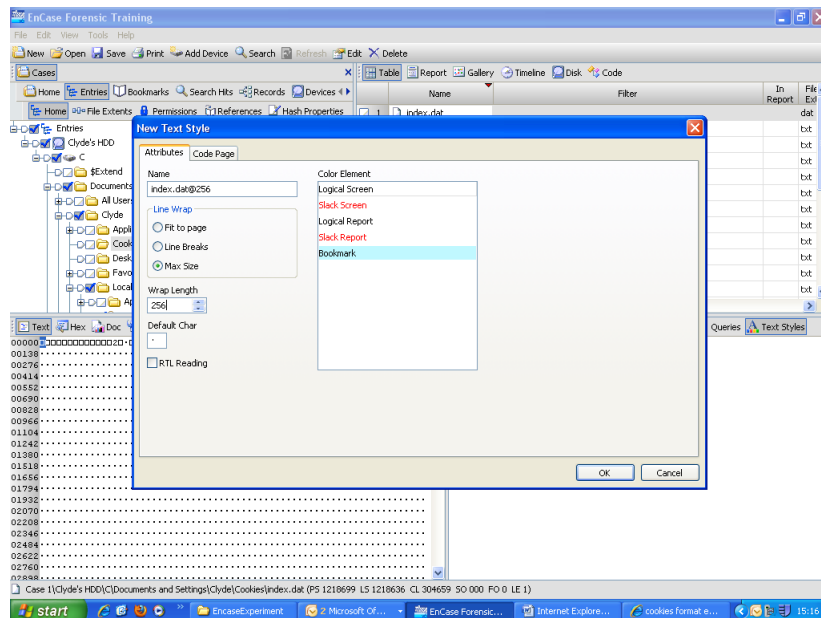
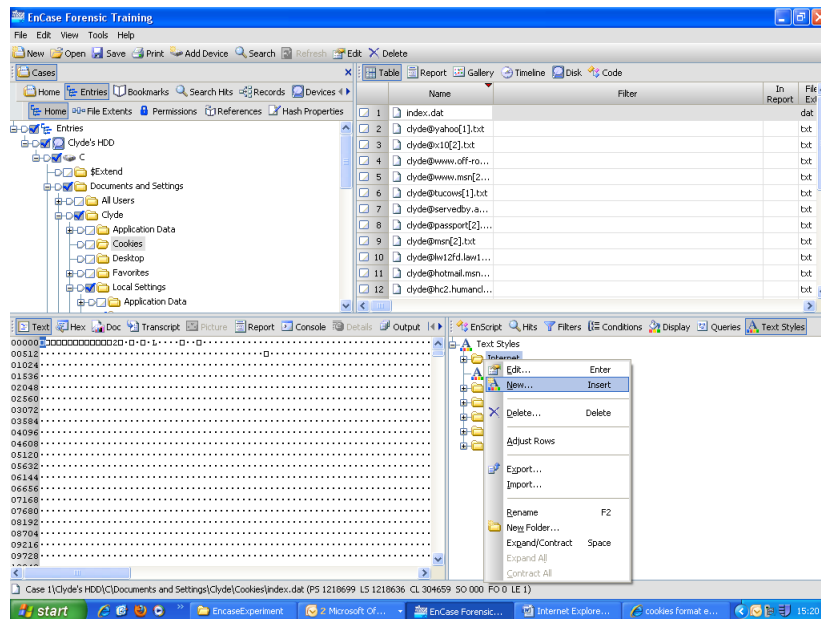
Record offset	Length	Description
0	4 bytes	Type (URL)
4	4 bytes	Record size (value x 128 bytes)
8	8 bytes	Cookie modified: filetime format (GMT)
16	8 bytes	Cookie file last accessed time –Filetime format (GMT)
24	4 bytes	Cookies expiration date: DosDATE Time Format (GMT)
32	1 byte	Cookie file size
60	4 bytes	Record offset o cookie filename
80	4 bytes	Cookie file last accessed time-DosDATE Time Format (GMT)
84	4 bytes	Hit counter
92	4 bytes	Cookie file created time-DosDateTime format (GMT)
104	variable	Cookie:[username]@[website URL]. Ends in hex 00
variable	variable	Cookie filename, Ends in hex 00

5. Creating a new folder in text styles

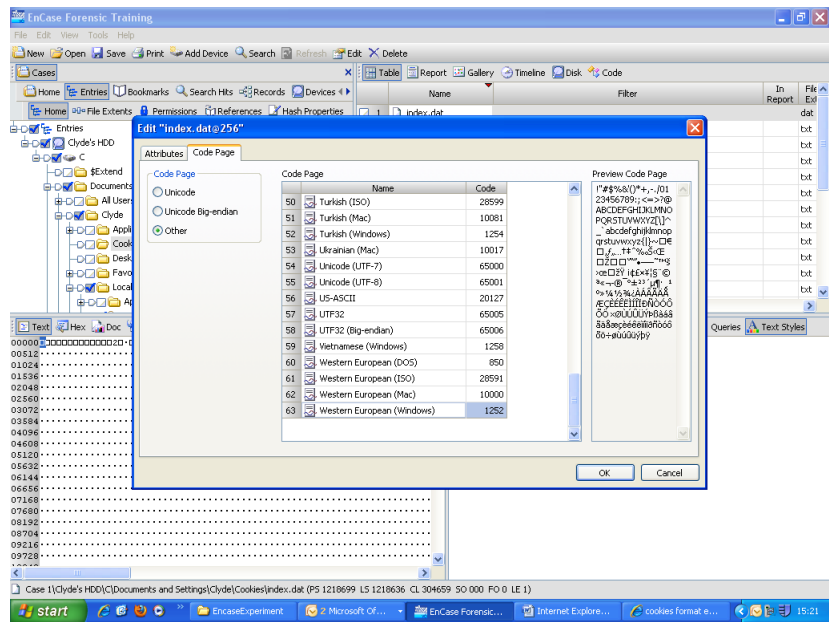
5.1 Go to View->Text Styles, then right click to create a new folder called 'Internet'



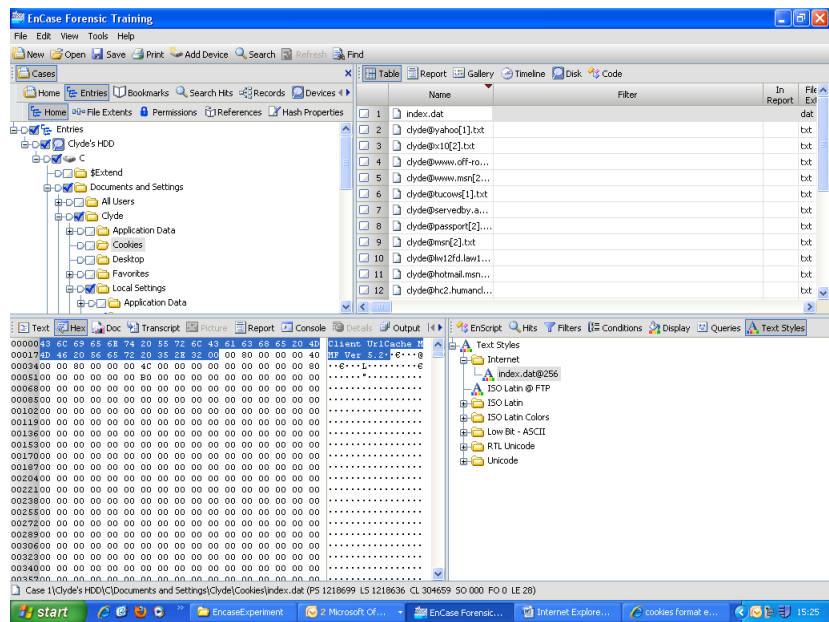
5.2 Creating a new text style



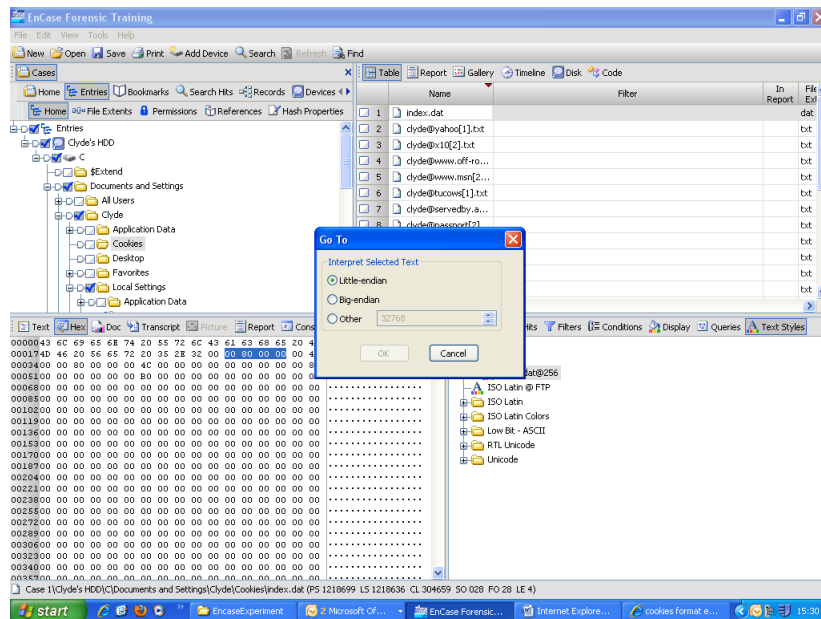
Then on the code page tab, set the code page to other and then highlight Western European (windows) and click 'ok'



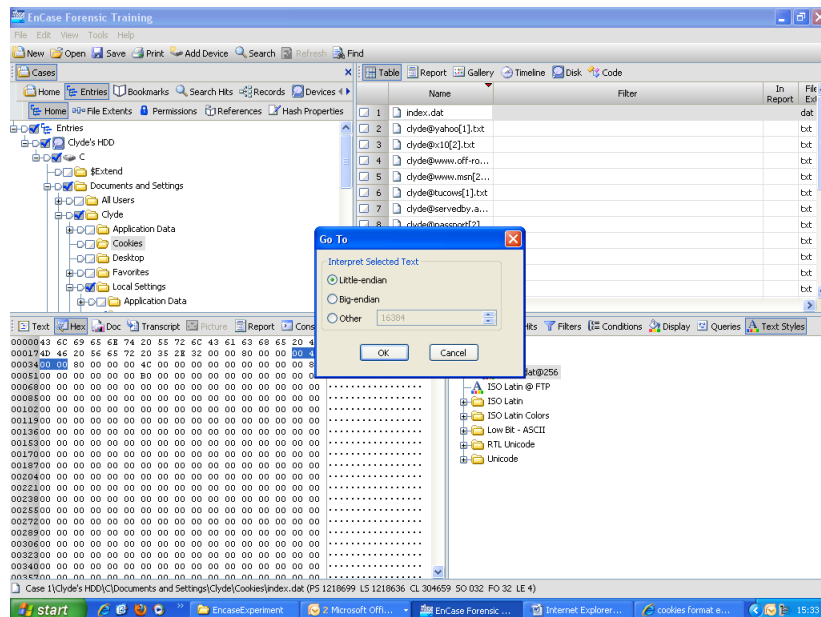
6. Index.dat file header



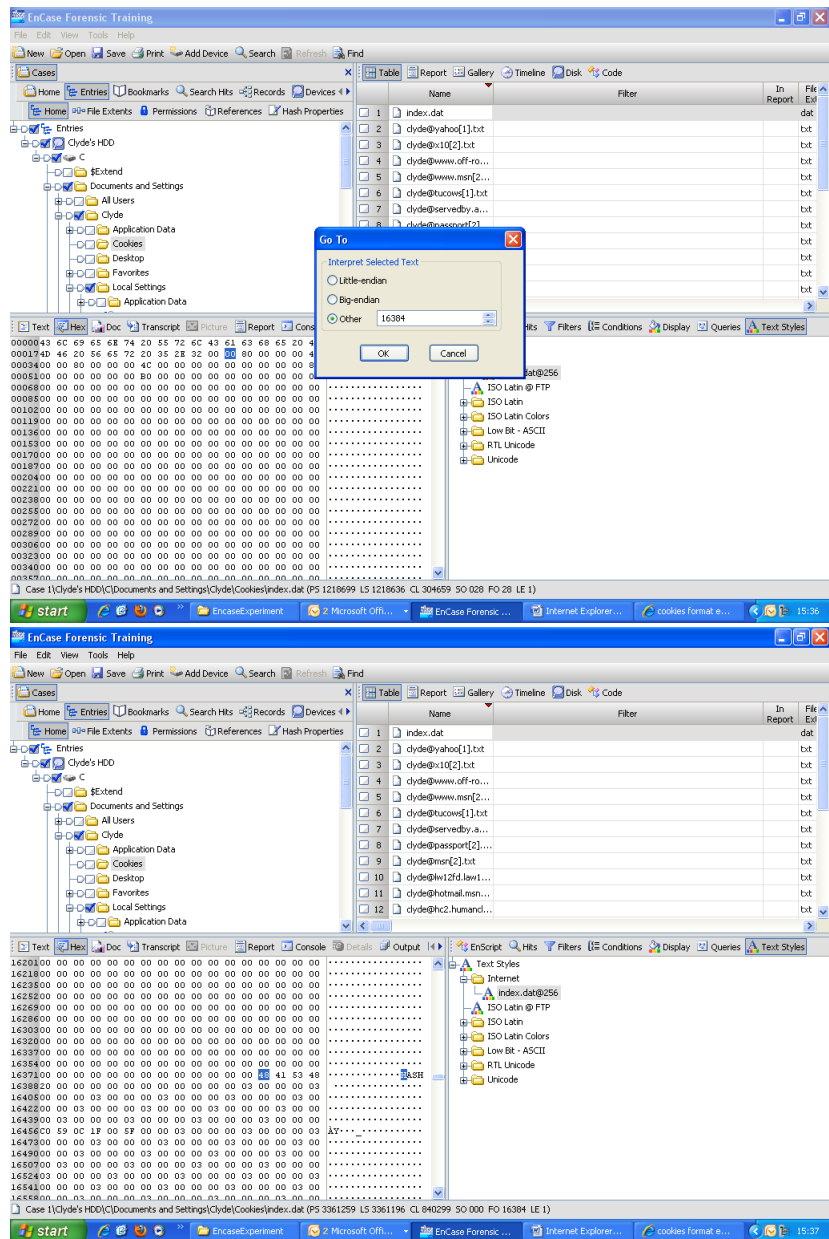
6.1 Filesize: the netx field is the file size of the index.dat file, which is 4 bytes in length



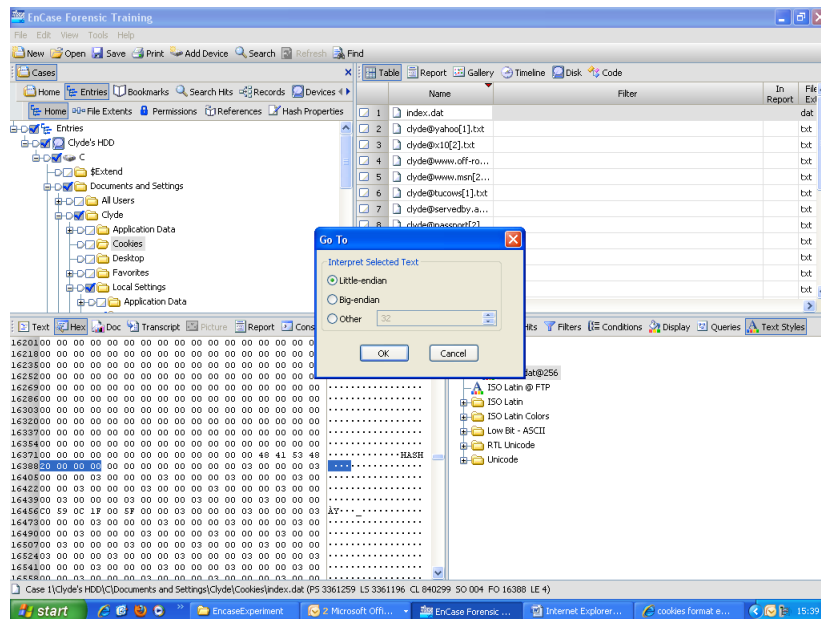
6.2. pointer to hash, the next field that is 4 bytes in length



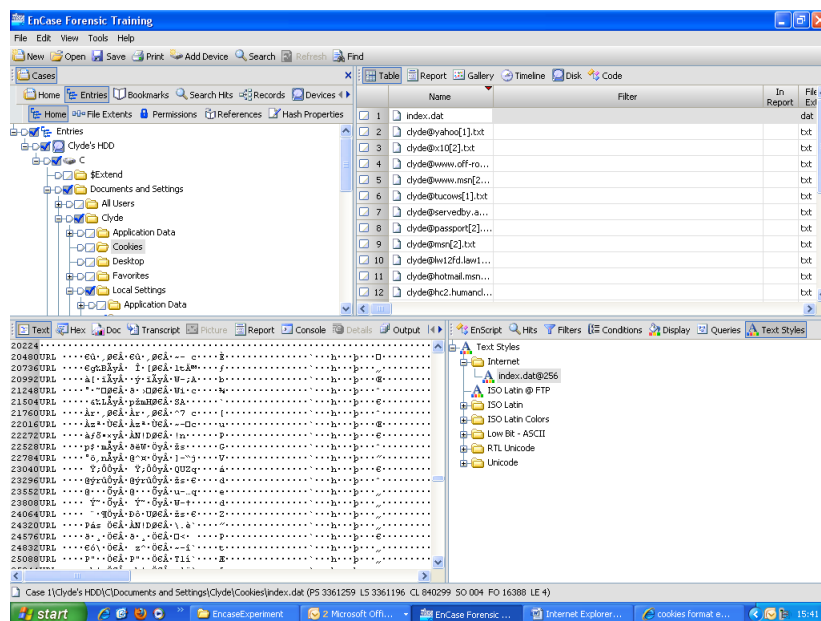
6.3 Beginning of the hash table (fileoffset 16384)



6.4. Hash table size is 4 bytes in length after hash header

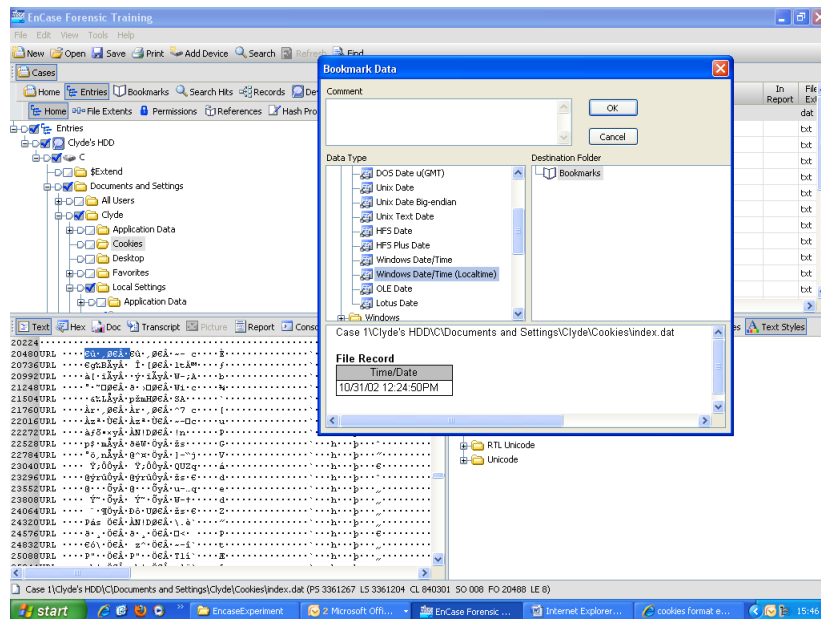


7. Index.dat records

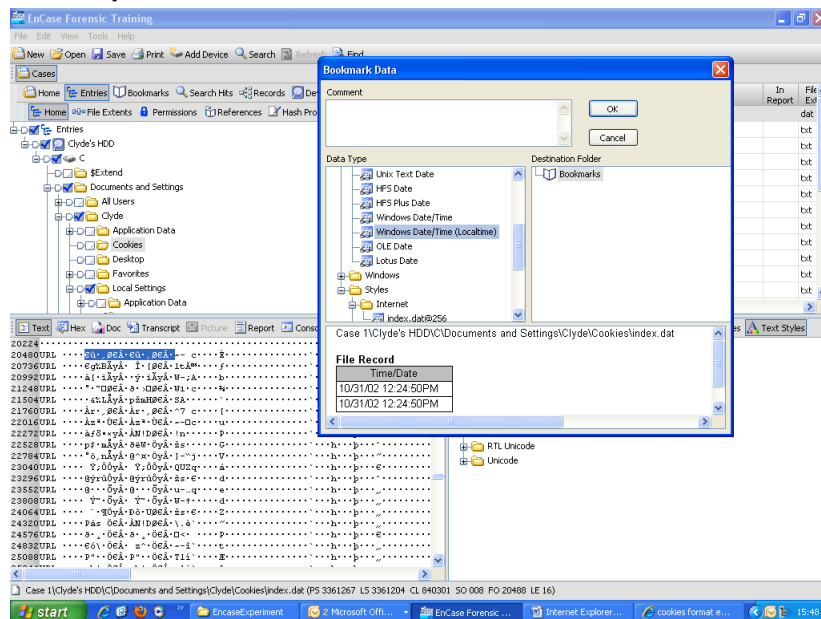


8. Decoding the windows date/time within the record

To decode cookie modified date/time field within the record, highlight the first 8 bytes of the record. The next byte begins that field.

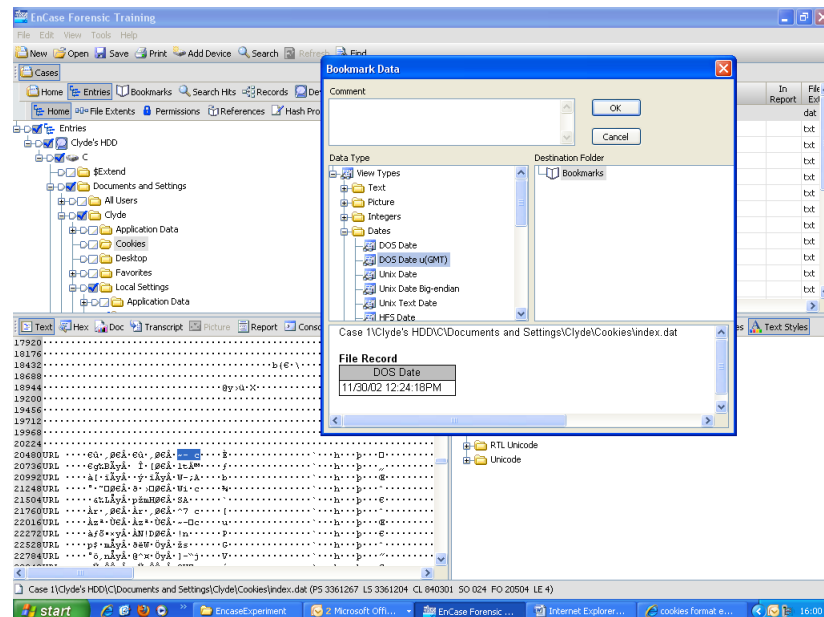


Or highlight for 16 bytes to decode cookie modified and last accessed date/time



9. Decoding expiration time

9.1. The 4 bytes following the two windows date/time stamps is the cookie expiration date/time. This value is stored in DosDate Time format, which is almost like DOS time and is set to GMT as well.

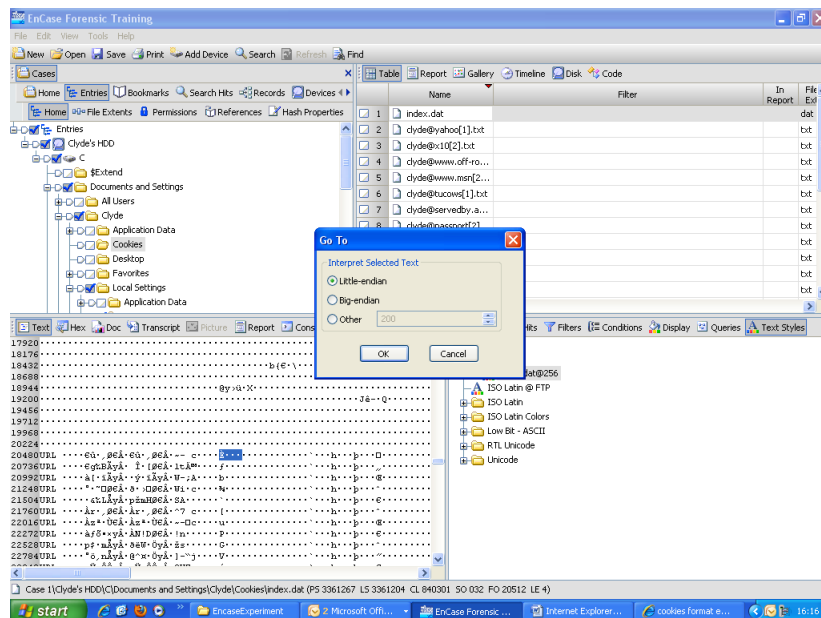


10. Decoding the remaining data within the record

10.1 Filesize of a cookie

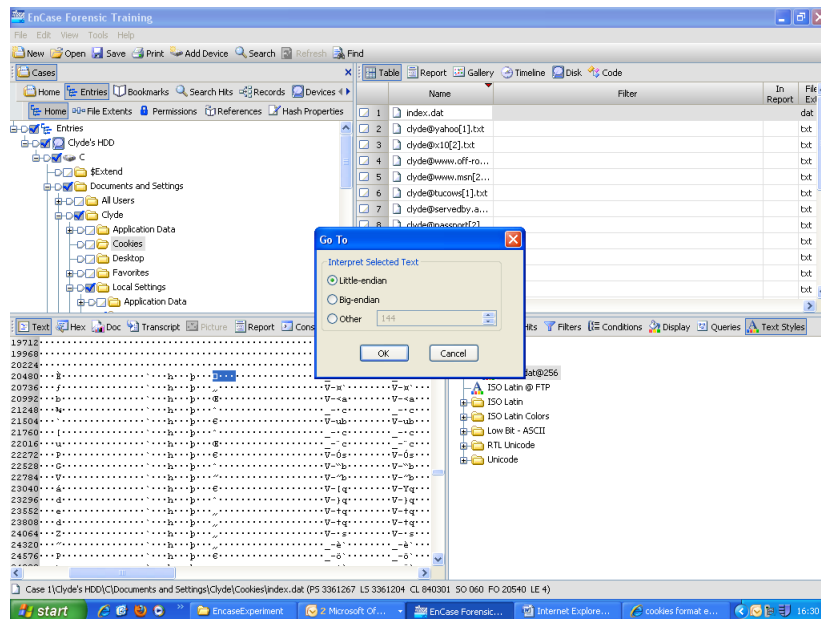
Starting at the beginning of the record, sweep 32 bytes to arrive at record offset 32.

Highlight for a length of 4 bytes to determine the filesize of the cookie file. The value is hex c8 00 00 00, which is 200 bytes



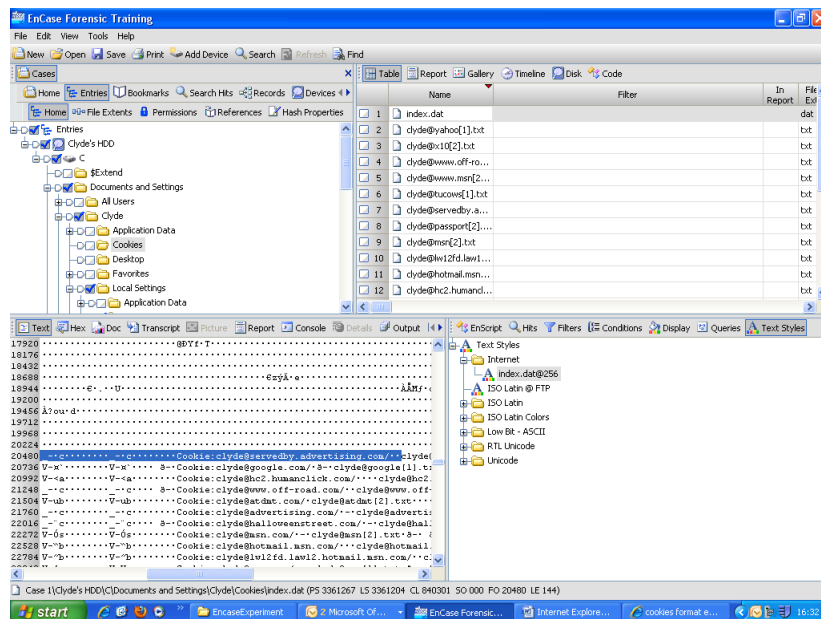
10.2 Filename pointer

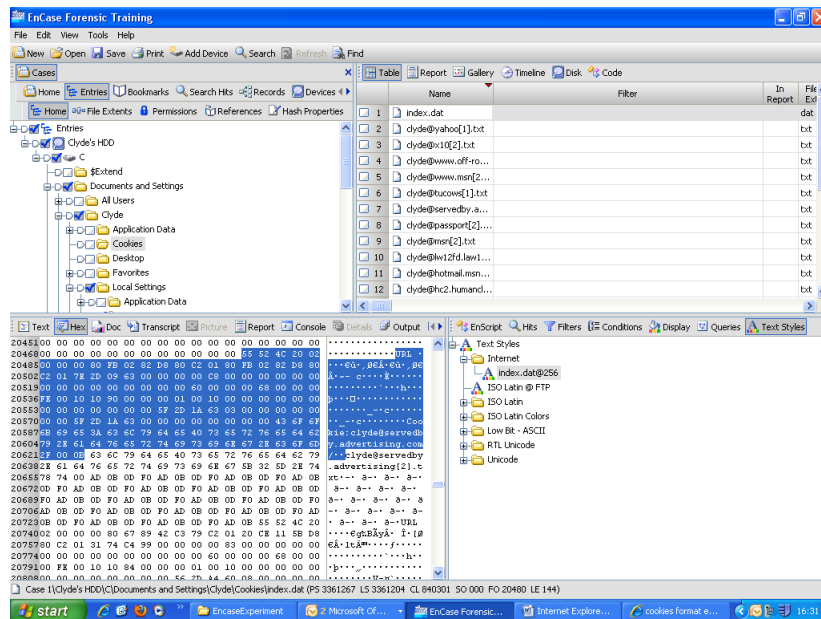
A record offset 60 for a length of 4 bytes, you will find a pointer for the record offset for the cookie filename and this decoded as 144



10.3 Filename of cookies

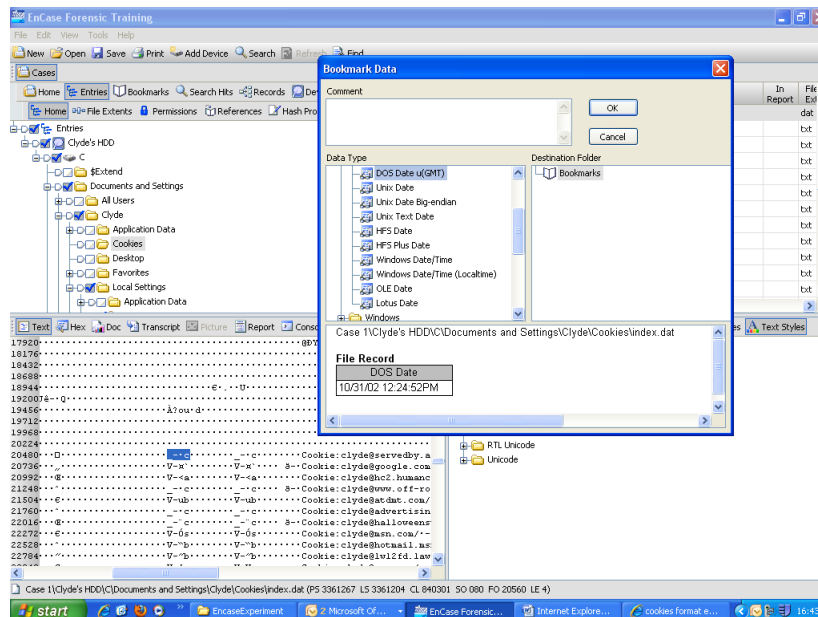
You can start from the beginning of the record and sweep for 144 and the next byte will be the start of the filename





10.4 Cookie file last accessed time

To find cookie file last accessed time, at record offset 80 for a length of 4 bytes, you will find another DosDateTime field, called last accessed time.



10.5 Cookie file created time

At record offset 92 for a length 4 bytes and you will find the cookie file created time

