Morning Session:

Introduction to Forensics and Web Browser Forensics

Cyber Taster - Digital Forensics 14/05/2019 – 10:00-12:00



Learning Outcomes

- Morning:
- Gain a high level understanding of what Digital Forensics entails
- Develop an understanding of Web Browser Forensics

- Afternoon:
- Develop an understanding of Image and EXIF metadata forensics



Structure of Session

- Morning Session: 10:00-12:00
 - Presentation: 45 minutes
 - Introduction to Forensics
 - Web Browser Forensics
 - Workshop: 70 minutes
 - Browser Forensics

All resources for today can be found at:

https://github.com/smck1/taste_of_cyber

- Afternoon Session: 13:00-15:00
 - Presentation: 45 minutes
 - Image and EXIF Forensics
 - Workshop: 70 minutes
 - Image and EXIF Forensics



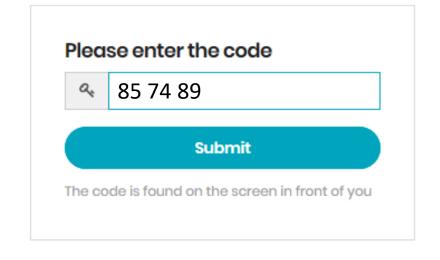
Questions

Submit a question

Go to: menti.com

• Code: 85 74 89









Digital Forensics -Introduction



Definitions: Digital Forensics

- There is no single standard definition
- "The process by which information is extracted from data storage media (e.g. devices, systems associated with computing, ...), rendered into a useable form, processed and interpreted for the purpose of obtaining intelligence for use in investigations, or evidence for use in criminal proceedings." (UK Forensic Science Regulator, quoted in Digital Forensics and Crime Parliament UK.

http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0520/POST-PN-0520.pdf)



Investigation Process

NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) 2006 - SP 800-86

Collection

Examination

Analysis

Reporting



Investigation Process

Collection

- Identify, label, record, acquire data from relevant sources
- e.g. devices, networks, cloud storage
- Preserve integrity
- In a timely manner

Examination

- Use Combination of automated and manual methods
- Assess and extract data of interest for the specific situation
- Preserve integrity



Investigation Process

Analysis

- Derive useful information to answer the original questions
- Use well documented methods and techniques
- Makes use of the evidence in context

Reporting

- Report the results of the analysis
- Style must be suitable for intended audience
- May include actions, tool selection, suggested additional work, recommendations for improvements to policies, tools etc



Goals and constraints when handling evidence

- Find and make available information of value
- Preserve evidence integrity and show it to be preserved
 - Do not alter evidence
 - Use only tools that guarantee this
 - Chain of custody
- Methodology must be secure, controlled, repeatable, auditable
- Rules set e.g. by ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers)



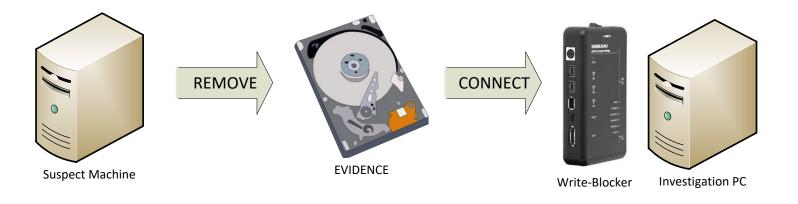
Some Challenges

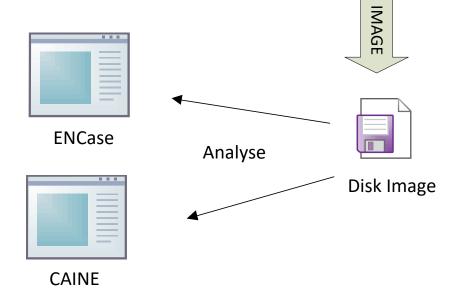
- Size, number & type of storage devices growing rapidly
 - Multi-device analysis, Embedded flash devices / SSDs
 - Cloud storage / cloud computing
- Difficult to associate with a real person
- Volatility, ease of evidence tampering / anti-forensics
- Knowledge & skills of digital forensic analysts; capability of tools
- Low technical literacy of public & judiciary poor understanding of evidence/ reports
- Pervasive Encryption, RAM-only Malware
- Privacy laws Legal Challenges decreasing the scope of forensic investigations



Acquisition methods: Traditional

- Remove the hard disk
 - Image elsewhere
 - Plug into investigation system as an external disk







Write Blockers

- Monitor the commands given to the Hard Disk
- Do not allow data to be written
- Do not allow the disk to be mounted with write-access
 - Read-commands only
- Hardware and Software
 - Hardware used & trusted more
 - Both equally expensive



Reports and Courts

Forensic reports

- Contain very detailed documentation of the findings
- What, where, when, how
- Statement of facts with expert analysis of how the evidence came to be the way it is.

Expert Testimony

- Often called to court to give evidence directly to the jury
- "Expert Witness" in a professional capacity
- Measures statements focusing on facts and expertise, not opinion or accusation of guilt/innocence

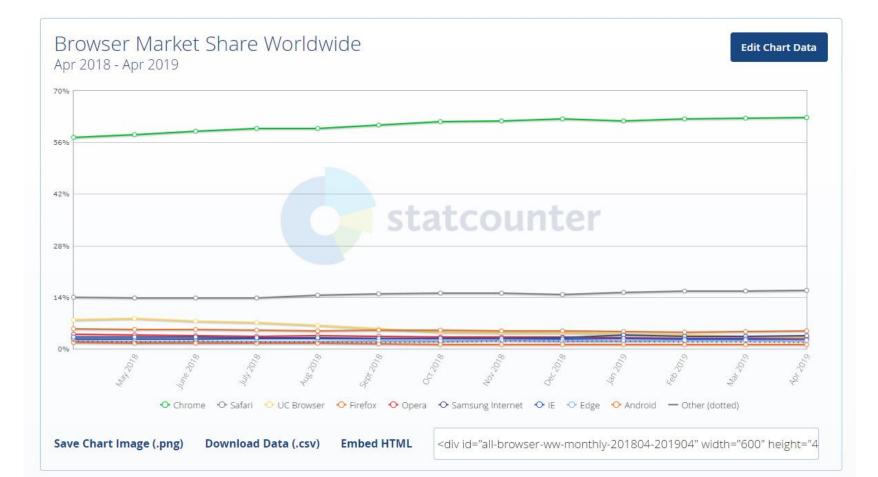


Browser Forensics



Desktop Browser Market Share (April 2019)









What does your browser know about you?

How is this information stored?



Web Browsing History

- Web browsers normally keep a record of accessed websites
- Primary purpose:
 - to allow a user to return to commonly accessed websites.
- Forensic use:
 - discover the user's activity on the internet.
- How to avoid it?
 - Use private browsing / delete your browsing history



What is stored?

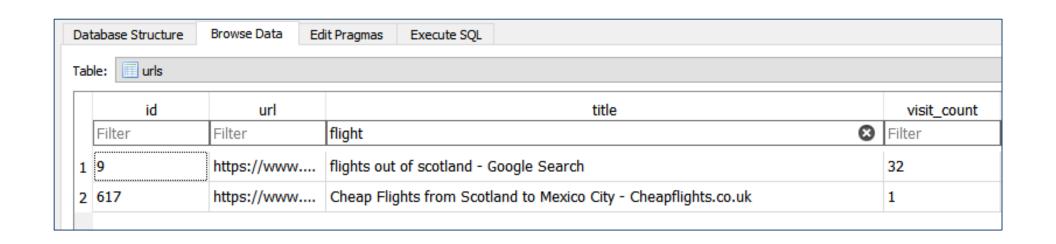
- files used in displaying web pages (cache)
- pages visited (history)
- Information filled in, e.g. logins/bank cards (form history)
- automatic identification / authentication (cookies, credentials)

- Able to see a record of recently visited pages (history)
- No sign in again at sites that require it, or to specify preferences again (cookies and credentials). Also cookies are used by the visited site and other sites to track web browsing, which is a privacy discussion on its own.



Why Look at Browsers Evidence?

- Show evidence of premeditated crimes (searching for weapons, locations, how-to articles)
- Direct evidence of crimes (websites, videos)





Internet Cache

 Internet Browsers keep a cache of viewed pages and other resources accessed on the internet.

Primary purpose:

 when the page is accessed again, the browser can retrieve stored page code and embedded files (such as graphics) from the hard drive rather than the server - speeds up access and saves bandwidth - page loads faster

Forensic use:

 recover information about what a user was accessing on the internet.



Cookies

- A cookie is a small piece of text that the browser can store on behalf of the web server.
- Primary purpose:
 - Allows session information to be recorded between visits to a website. (e.g. keep shopping basket contents)
- Forensic use:
 - understand how the user may have interacted with a website.
- Beware: some cookies may be spurious! (third-party cookies)
 - Useful resource: http://cookiepedia.co.uk/.



How browsers store info?

- most browsers use SQLite database files
- different files, tables and locations



Browser	Storage Format				
Firefox (since v.3)	SQLite, json				
Chrome	SQLite, SNSS, json				
Safari	SQLite				
Browser (Android Webkit)	SQLite				



What is SQLite

http://www.sqlite.org/about.html

- A very "light" open source DBMS (Database Management System)
 - embedded SQL database engine
 - no separate server process; reads and writes directly to ordinary files
 - Very compact requires little space / RAM
 - Popular for mobile devices
 - Popular as an application file format
 - Used "behind the scenes" of many apps.



Firefox - SQLite files & locations

- places.sqlite is the main DB for browsing history
- Location in Windows:
 C:\Users\<user>\AppData\Roaming\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\<random characters>.default
- see http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Mozilla Firefox





Firefox (v.51, Fe) main files same for v.57 Feb 2018

addons.json	13/02/2017 09:53	JSON File	1 KB
AlternateServices.txt	13/02/2017 10:13	Text Document	0 KB
blocklist.xml	13/02/2017 09:55	XML Document	241 KB
cert8.db	13/02/2017 10:13	Data Base File	160 KB
compatibility.ini	13/02/2017 10:02	Configuration sett	1 KB
containers.json	13/02/2017 10:02	JSON File	1 KB
content-prefs.sqlite	20/03/2016 23:10	SQLITE File	224 KB
cookies.sqlite	13/02/2017 10:13	SQLITE File	512 KB
extensions.ini	13/02/2017 10:02	Configuration sett	1 KB
extensions.json	13/02/2017 10:02	JSON File	7 KB
formhistory.sqlite	13/02/2017 10:02	SQLITE File	192 KB
key3.db	13/02/2017 10:13	Data Base File	16 KB
logins.json	13/02/2017 10:12	JSON File	1 KB
mimeTypes.rdf	12/10/2016 14:17	RDF File	5 KB
parent.lock	13/02/2017 10:02	LOCK File	0 KB
permissions.sqlite	13/02/2017 10:02	SQLITE File	128 KB
places.sqlite	13/02/2017 10:12	SQLITE File	10,240 KB
places.sqlite-shm	13/02/2017 10:02	SQLITE-SHM File	32 KB
places.sqlite-wal	13/02/2017 10:12	SQLITE-WAL File	609 KB
pluginreg.dat	13/02/2017 09:49	DAT File	7 KB
prefs.js	13/02/2017 10:13	JavaScript File	14 KB
revocations.txt	13/02/2017 09:55	Text Document	20 KB
search.json	31/05/2016 23:59	JSON File	118 KB
search.json.mozlz4	13/02/2017 10:02	MOZLZ4 File	25 KB
secmod.db	29/09/2015 15:47	Data Base File	16 KB
sessionCheckpoints.json	13/02/2017 10:13	JSON File	1 KB
sessionstore.js	13/02/2017 10:13	JavaScript File	7 KB
SiteSecurityServiceState.txt	13/02/2017 10:13	Text Document	2 KB
storage.sqlite	13/02/2017 10:02	SQLITE File	1 KB
times.json	29/09/2015 10:46	JSON File	1 KB
webappsstore.sqlite	13/02/2017 10:13	SQLITE File	576 KB
xulstore.json	13/02/2017 10:13	JSON File	1 KB



places.sqlite example (moz_places table)

TABLE m	oz_places Searc <u>h</u> Show	All					<u>A</u>	dd	u <u>p</u> licate <u></u>	<u>E</u> dit <u>Del</u> et
id	url	title	rev_host	visit_count	hidden	typed	favicon_id	frecency	last_visit_date	guid
1	http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/c		moc.allizom.w	0	0	0		137		IEBF71z-ZB32
2	http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/		moc.allizom.w	0	0	0	1	137		n8nFTE7xjnJr
3	http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/c		moc.allizom.w	0	0	0	2	137		NXW9eWC2N
4	http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/c		moc.allizom.w	0	0	0	3	137		J_Uaq29I-vWd
5	http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/about/		moc.allizom.w	0	0	0	4	137		i7Sb_KbFLwTH
6	place:sort=8&maxResults=10			0	1	0		0		yyGGe_jP1ide
7	place:folder=BOOKMARKS_MENU&fold			0	1	0		0		Foxui6HsO2Ib
8	place:type=6&sort=14&maxResults=10			0	1	0		0		LpSKSgX2Y6Vp
9	http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/1		moc.allizom.w	1	1	0		98	1360942570796	E7rHXv43TX1z
10	http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/15		gro.allizom.w	1	1	0		98	1360942571109	idBjUQPSsE0W
11	http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/u	Mozilla Firefox Web Browser — Check for Upd	gro.allizom.w	1	0	0	5	-1	1360942571265	AP4qeM6Vr3NX
12	http://www.google.co.uk/	Google	ku.oc.elgoog	12	0	0	6	1170	1361281593	_sArCpdOpYJ6
13	http://www.google.co.uk/#hl=en&tbo=	mp3tag - Google Search	ku.oc.elgoog	1	0	0	6	98	1360942586281	htteAe-eIRWS
14	http://www.mp3tag.de/en/	Mp3tag - the universal Tag Editor (ID3v2, MP4,	ed.gat3pm.ww	1	0	0	7	98	1360942587734	0S_WDpYNbyl3
15	http://www.mp3tag.de/en/download.ht	Mp3tag - Download	ed.gat3pm.ww	1	0	0	7	98	1360942590656	Elg2p0hV5txd
16	http://download.mp3tag.de/mp3tagv25		ed.gat3pm.da	1	1	0		98	1360942592437	Yu7QBBGJ4uuK
17	http://download.mp3tag.de/current/mp	mp3tagv254setup.exe	ed.gat3pm.da	0	0	0		0	1360942592828	EMKMa1mTp
18	http://www.google.co.uk/#hl=en&tbo=	axcrpty - Google Search	ku.oc.elgoog	1	0	0	6	98	1360942598656	afUi9jOntj1Q
19	http://www.axantum.com/axcrypt/	Axantum Software AB AxCrypt File Encrypti	moc.mutnaxa	1	0	0	8	98	1360942600156	PYsRaRXX9Be9
20	http://www.axantum.com/axcrypt/Dow	Axantum Software AB AxCrypt Download	moc.mutnaxa	1	0	0	8	98	1360942601937	MFJWJf6STWdB
21	http://www.axantum.com/Download/Ax	AxCrypt-1.7.2976.0-Setup.exe	moc.mutnaxa	0	0	0		0	1360942603656	nhuorc_cm7x9
22	http://www.google.co.uk/#hl=en&suge	vlc - Google Search	ku.oc.elaooa	1	0	0	6	98	1360942692125	aYzgl 94eflkA

Chrome SQLite files

- Google Chrome stores the browser history in SQLite databases like Firefox, however, the structure of the databases is different.
- History file serves a similar function to places.sqlite in Firefox.

- Windows 10/7 location: C:\Users\<user>\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default
- see http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Google Chrome

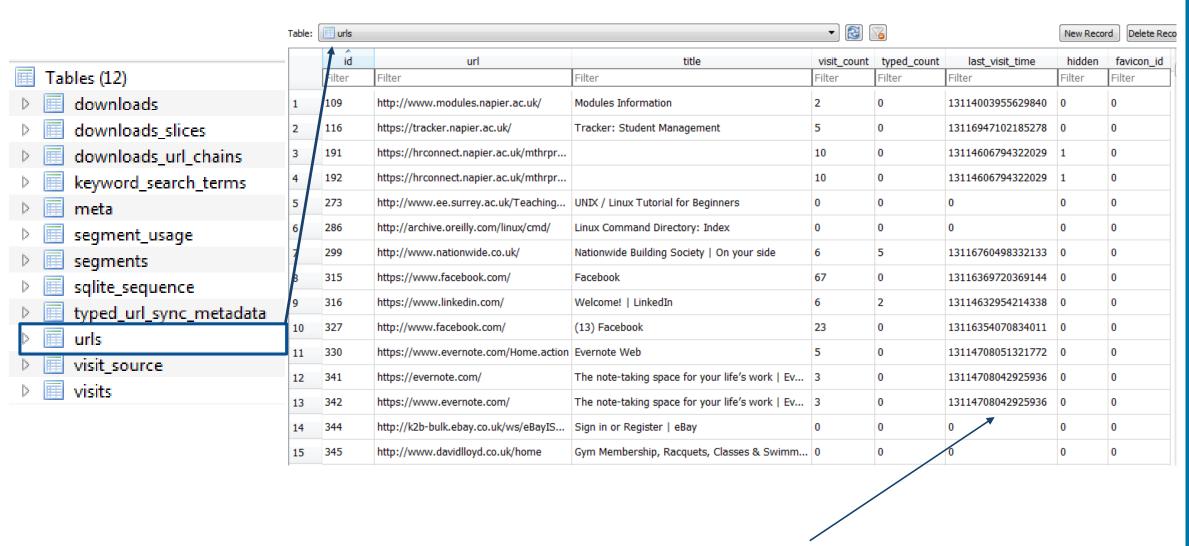


(v.64, Mar 2018)

Application Cache Login Data Affiliation Database blob_storage Login Data-journal Affiliation Database-journal Cache data_reduction_proxy_leveldb Network Action Predictor Bookmarks databases Network Action Predictor-journal Download Service Bookmarks.bak Network Persistent State Extension Rules Cookies Extension State Origin Bound Certs Extensions Cookies-journal Origin Bound Certs-journal Feature Engagement Tracker Current Session File System Preferences GCM Store Current Tabs previews_opt_out.db GPUCache Custom Dictionary.txt IndexedDB previews opt out.db-journal JumpListIconsMostVisited Custom Dictionary.txt.backup QuotaManager JumpListIconsRecentClosed QuotaManager-journal Local App Settings DownloadMetadata Local Extension Settings Secure Preferences Extension Cookies Local Storage Shortcuts Managed Extension Settings Extension Cookies-journal Media Cache Shortcuts-journal Favicons Pepper Data Top Sites Platform Notifications Favicons-journal Service Worker Top Sites-journal Google Profile.ico Session Storage Translate Ranker Model Storage History TransportSecurity Sync Data Sync Extension Settings History-journal Visited Links Thumbnails Last Session Web Data VideoDecodeStats Web Applications Web Data-journal Last Tabs



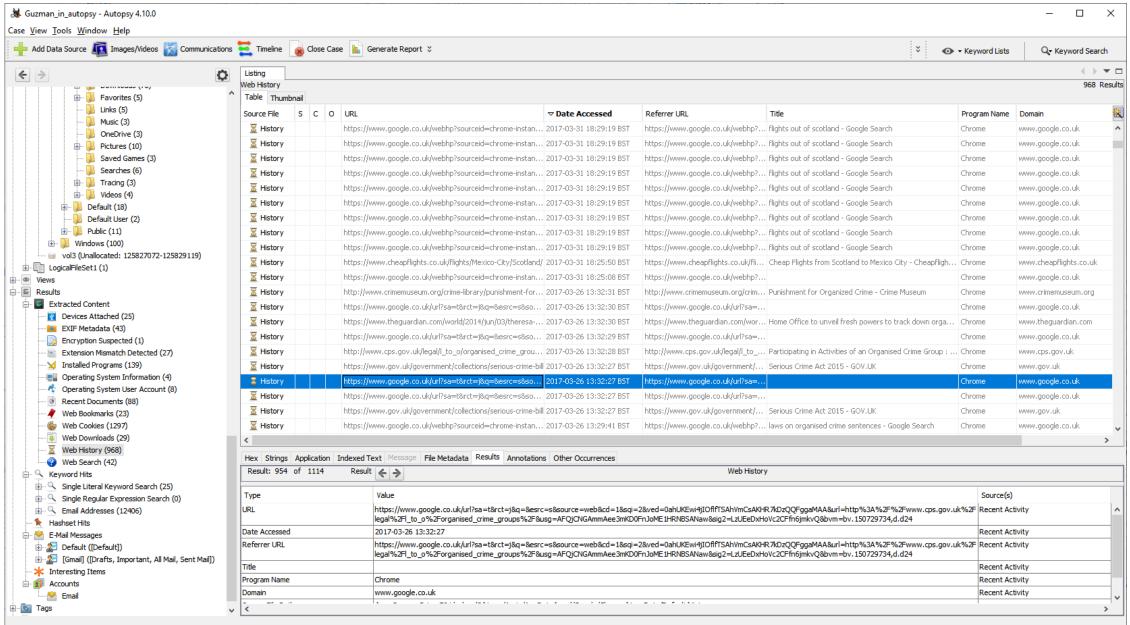
History example (urls table)



Forensic Tool View



Chrome History in Autopsy (Forensics Tool)





Private Browsing



How private browsing works

When you browse privately, other people who use the device won't see your activity.

Chrome doesn't save your browsing history or information entered in forms. Cookies and site data are remembered while you're browsing, but deleted when you close Incognito mode.

You can switch between Incognito windows and regular Chrome windows. You'll only browse in private when you're using an Incognito window.

Your activity might still be visible

Incognito mode stops Chrome from saving your browsing activity. But your activity might still be visible to:

Your activity might still be visible to:

- · Websites you visit, including the ads and resources used on those sites
- · Your employer, school, or whoever runs the network you're using
- · Your internet service provider

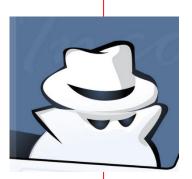
For more information about what's saved, visit the Chrome Privacy Policy .

Downloads and bookmarks are saved

Chrome won't remember the files you download while browsing in private. But, they're still saved to your Downloads folder, even after you exit Incognito. You and anyone who uses your device can see and open the files.

All bookmarks you create are saved to Chrome.

For more information about what's saved in Incognito mode, visit the Chrome Privacy Policy .





So how "good" are the different browsers' private modes?

Montasari and Peltola (2015) compared Chrome v26,
 Firefox v20, IE 9, Safari v5 – looking at "local attacker" security.

	Artefacts found in Hard Drive				Found in RAM (while browser running)			
activity	Chrome	Firefox	IE	Safari	Chrome	Firefox	IE	Safari
Visited URL www.youtube.com	None	46	74	63	1,180	204	504	4,038
Visited URL www.google.com	None	22	322	21	1,611	210	1,053	2,142
Visited URL www.facbook.com	None	7	259	47	1,764	396	5,757	7,077
Visited URL www.amazon.co.uk	None	3	514	19	1,719	760	3,292	11,744
Search term "Jessie ware"	None	None	191	22	412	412	488	1,416
Search term "Pirate Bay Proxy"	None	1	161	46	906	330	2,697	1,281
Search term "Ubuntu"	None	3	182	25	197	164	330	665
Search term "Casio F-91W"	None	None	151	10	268	216	780	8,253
Search term "Doppelganger:"	None	None	13	4	2,586	2,232	264	12,552
Downloaded profile picture	None	1	2	1	None	None	None	3

Tables 8 & 9 combined from Montasari & Peltola



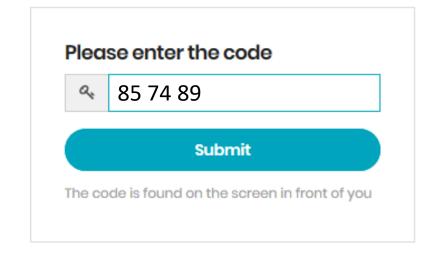
Questions

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Go to: menti.com

• Code: 85 74 89







Appendix

Reading and references



References - web

All browsers

http://kb.digital-detective.net/display/BF/Browser+Forensics+and+Analysis

Firefox

- http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Mozilla Firefox updated fairly recently
- Firefox Forensics and SQLite Tables for Computer Forensics Analysis
 http://resources.infosecinstitute.com/firefox-and-sqlite-forensics/ (from 2011, now out of date in places)

Chrome

- http://www.forensicswiki.org/wiki/Google Chrome
- https://digital-forensics.sans.org/blog/2010/01/21/google-chrome-forensics/ (from 2010!)
- https://www.academia.edu/16383095/Forensic Investigation of User s Web Activity on Google Chrome using Open-source Forensic Tools
- SSNS files (session, tabs) http://www.cclgroupltd.com/chrome-session-and-tabs-files-and-the-puzzle-of-the-pickle/



More about SQLite

- Homepage: http://www.sqlite.org/sqlite.html
- Detailed Documentation:
 http://www.sqlite.org/docs.html
- Tutorial:

http://www.tutorialspoint.com/sqlite/sqlite_overview.htm

Workshop Resources

https://github.com/smck1/taste_of_cyber

