CSC153: Activity 5: Use Winhex to Examine NTFS Disks

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Objectives

- Become familiar with the WinHex forensics tool.
- Use WinHex to become familiar with different file types.
- Use WinHex to explore and become familiar with the MFT, including headers and attributes.

Part 1: Explore different file types

First we use Microsoft Word to create a new document named `Mywordnew.doc`, containing text `This is a test`. Then we open WinHex, navigate to the directory where our `.doc` file was saved, and open it. Lastly, we copy the file hexadecimal header `D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1` to a new text document.

Hexadecimal header for `.doc` file.

```
Offset      0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7   8  9  A  B  C  D  E  F

00000000   D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ÐÏ.à¡±.á........
```

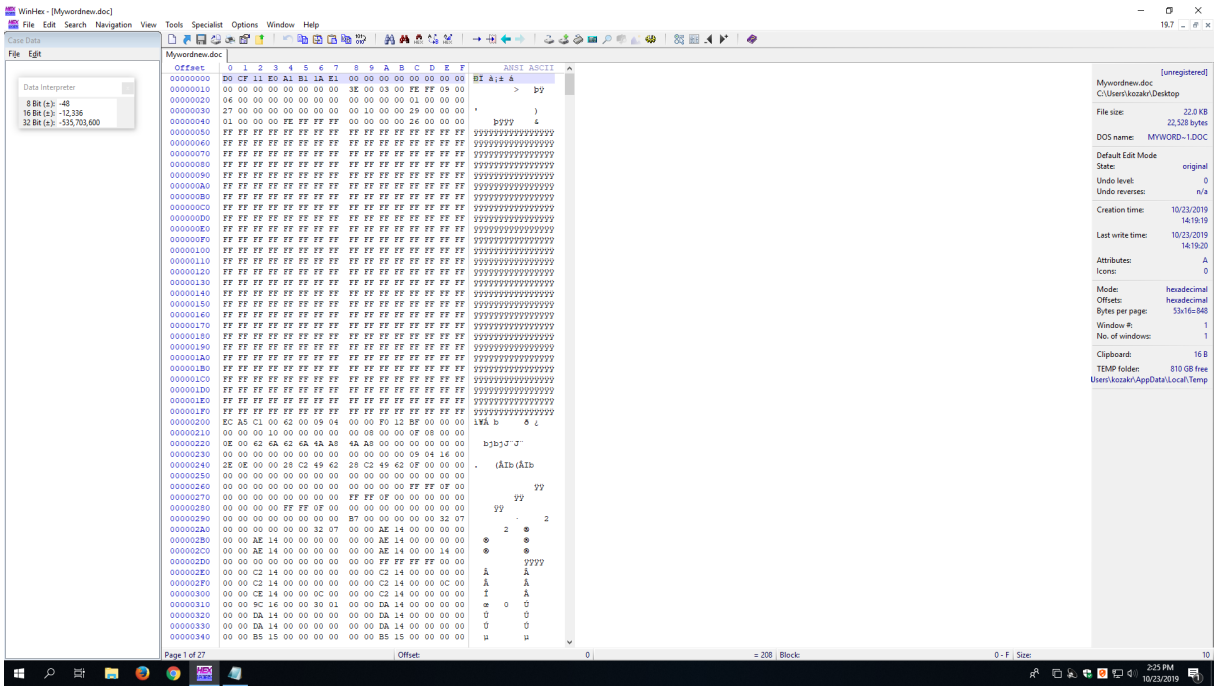


Figure 1: Header for Word 97-2003 Document `.doc`.

These steps are repeated for the following file types, `.xls`, `.docx`, `.xlsx`, `.jpg`, and `.png`.

Screenshots and text for each file type can be found listed below.

Hexadecimal header for `.xls` file type.

```
1  Offset      0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7   8  9  A  B  C  D  E  F
2
3  00000000   D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1  00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ÐÏ.à¡±.á........
```

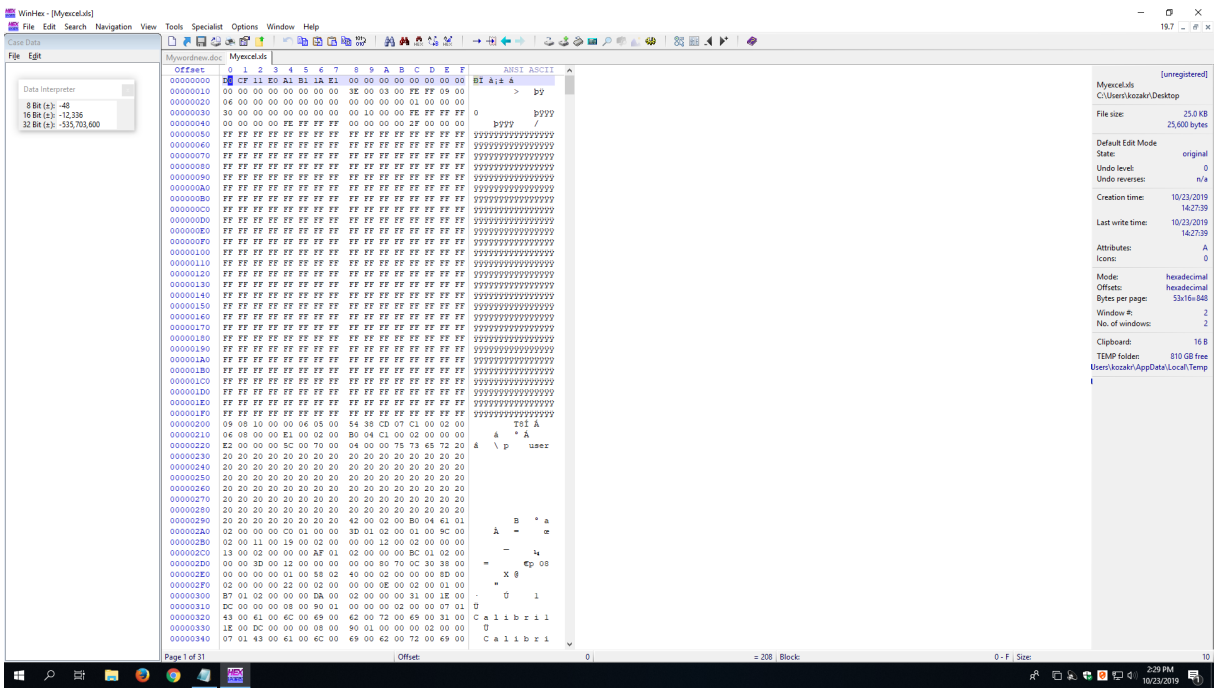


Figure 2: Header for Excel 97-2003 Workbook `.xls`.

Hexadecimal header for `.docx` file type.

```
1  Offset      0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7   8  9  A  B  C  D  E  F
2
3  00000000   50 4B 03 04 14 00 06 00  08 00 00 00 21 00 DF A4  PK..........!.ß¤
```

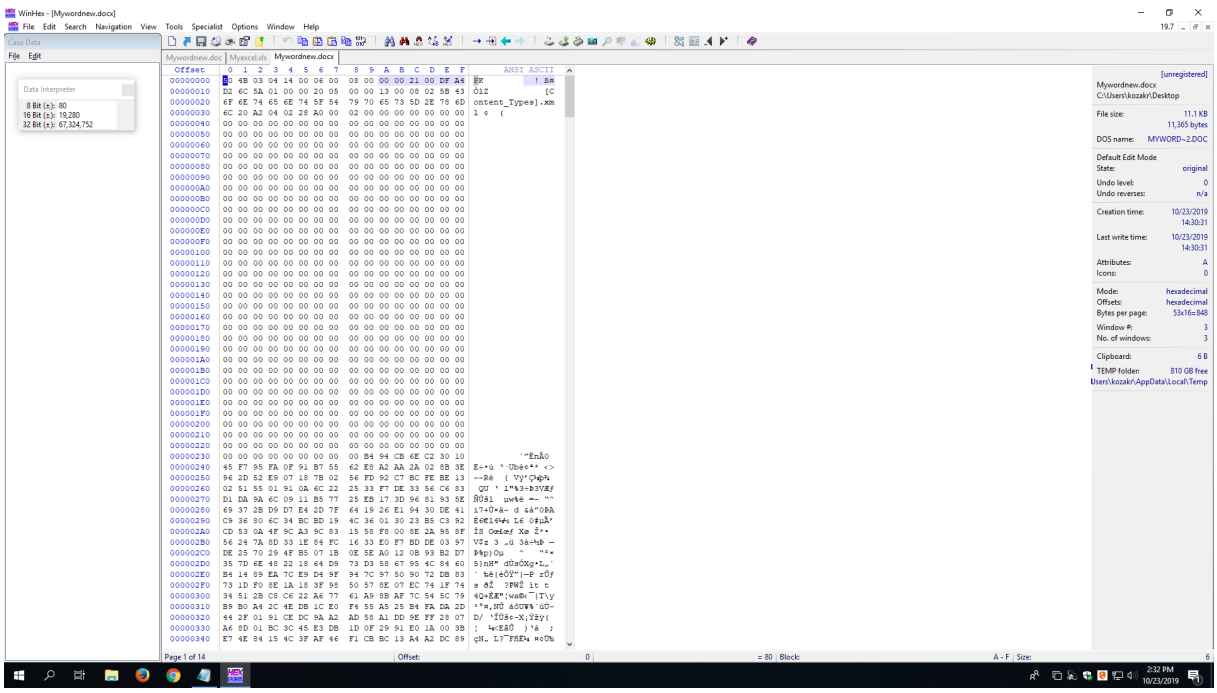


Figure 3: Header for Word 2007 Document `.docx`.

Hexadecimal header for `.xlsx` file type.

```
Offset      0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7   8  9  A  B  C  D  E  F

00000000   50 4B 03 04 14 00 06 00  08 00 00 00 21 00 62 EE   PK
             ! b
```

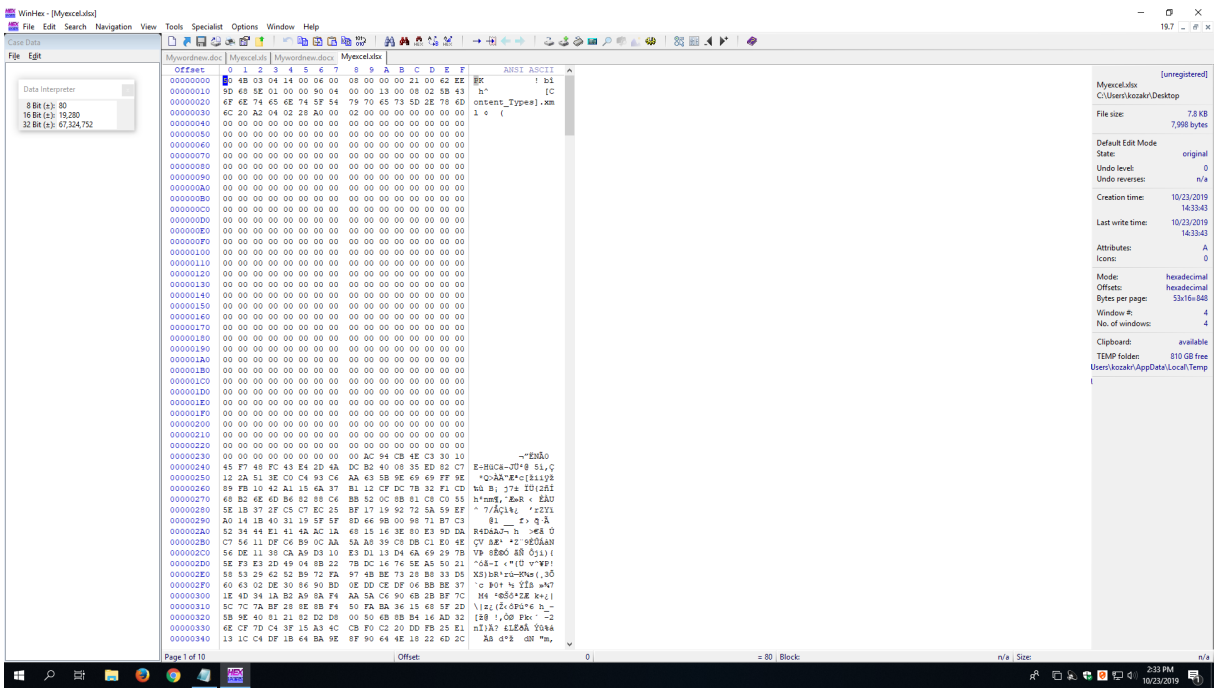


Figure 4: Header for Excel 2007 Workbook `.xlsx`.

Hexadecimal header for `.jpg` file type.

```
Offset      0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7   8  9  A  B  C  D  E  F

00000000   FF D8 FF E0 00 10 4A 46  49 46 00 01 01 01 00 60 ÿØÿà  JFIF      `
```

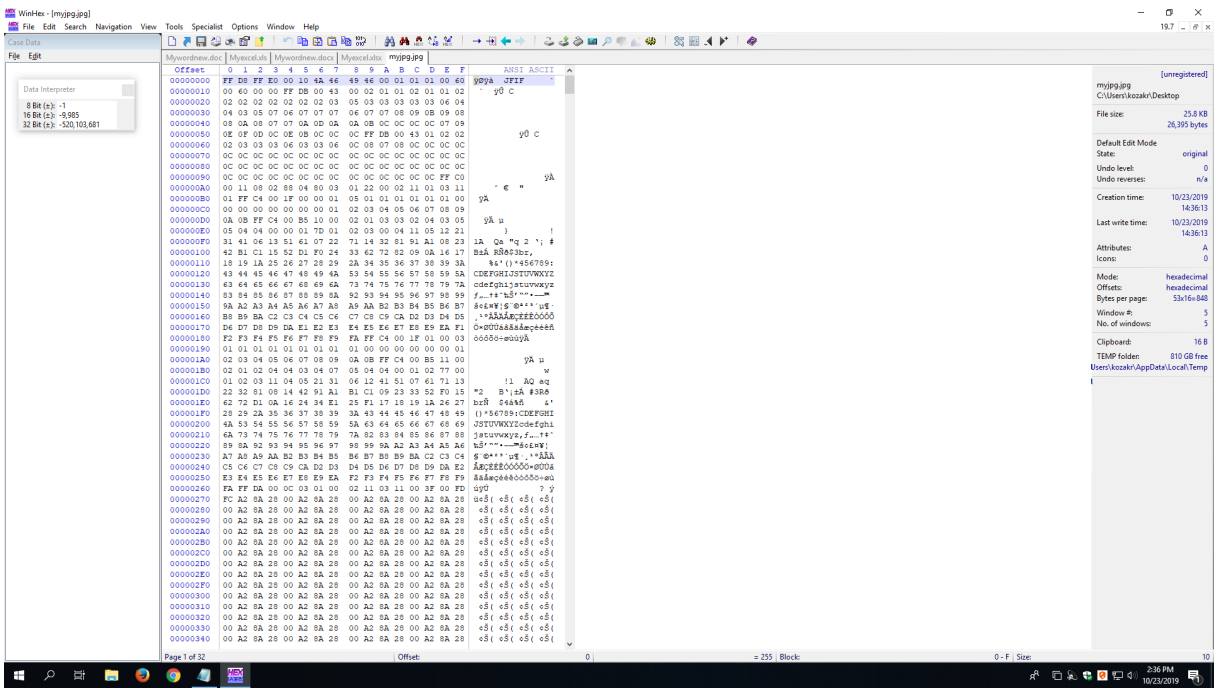


Figure 5: Header for `.jpg`.

Hexadecimal header for `.png` file type.

```
Offset      0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7   8  9  A  B  C  D  E  F

00000000   89 50 4E 47 0D 0A 1A 0A  00 00 00 0D 49 48 44 52 ‰PNG
           IHDR
```

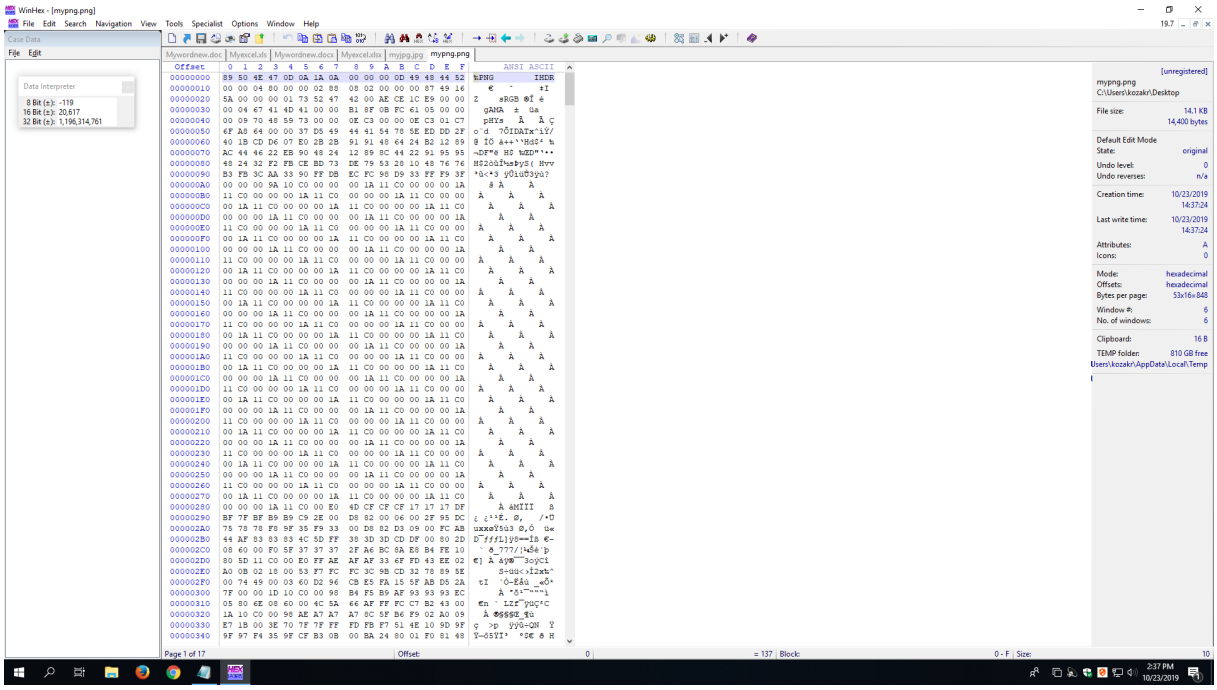


Figure 6: Header for `.png`.

Observations: As you can see, hexadecimal headers for `.doc` and `.xls` files match one another. Additionally, `.docx` and `.xlsx` also match one another. It seems the Microsoft Office Suite versions produce files with the same hex header, version 97-2003 match one another, and version 2007+ match one another. It doesn't appear that spreadsheet files differ from word documents, which is surprising. It's all about the version.

Part 2: Explore MFT.

The second part of this activity requires we create a file named `lab1part2.txt`, containing the following,

```
A countryman between two layers is like a fish between two cats.
A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you
    may never get over.
An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.
Drive thy business or it will drive there.
```

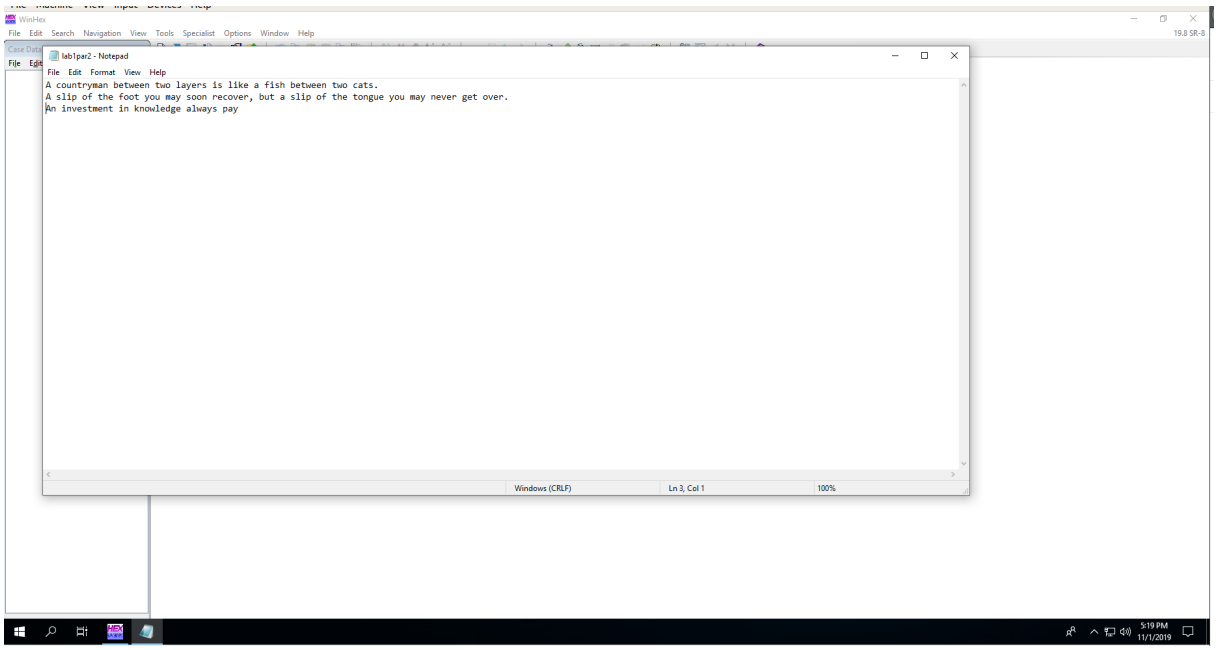


Figure 7: Creating `lab1part2.txt` file.

We then open WinHex as an administrator, and navigate `Options->Edit Mode` to select `Read-Only Mode`.

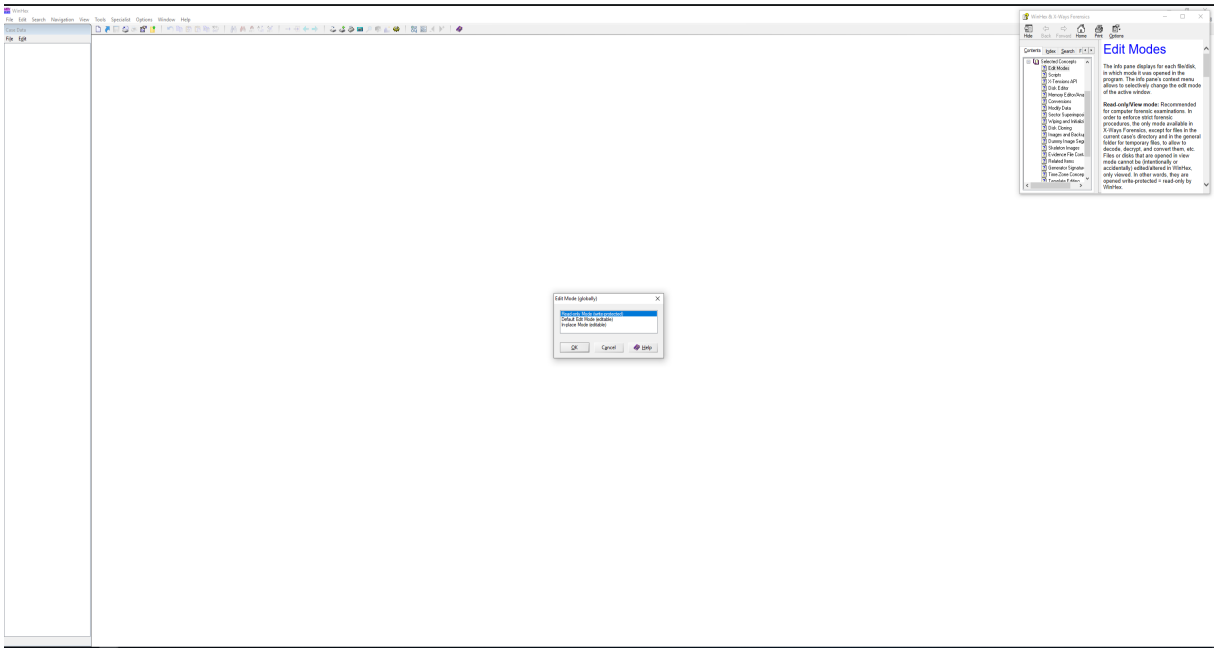


Figure 8: Set WinHex to Read-Only Mode.

After this we select a disk to open via `Tools->Open Disk`, and choose the `C:` drive. This is the drive on which we saved `lap1part2.txt`.

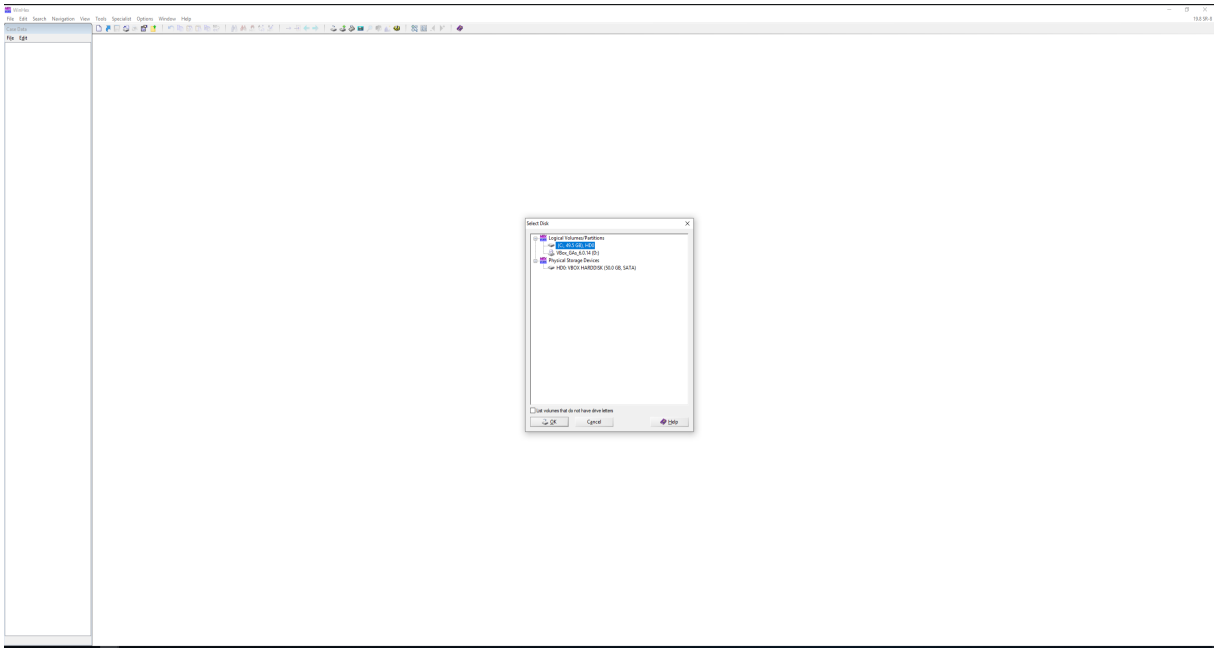


Figure 9: Choosing the `C:` drive as our disk to open.

The data interpreter must be set to `Win32 FILETIME (64 bit)`, via the `Options->Data Interpreter` section of the menu.

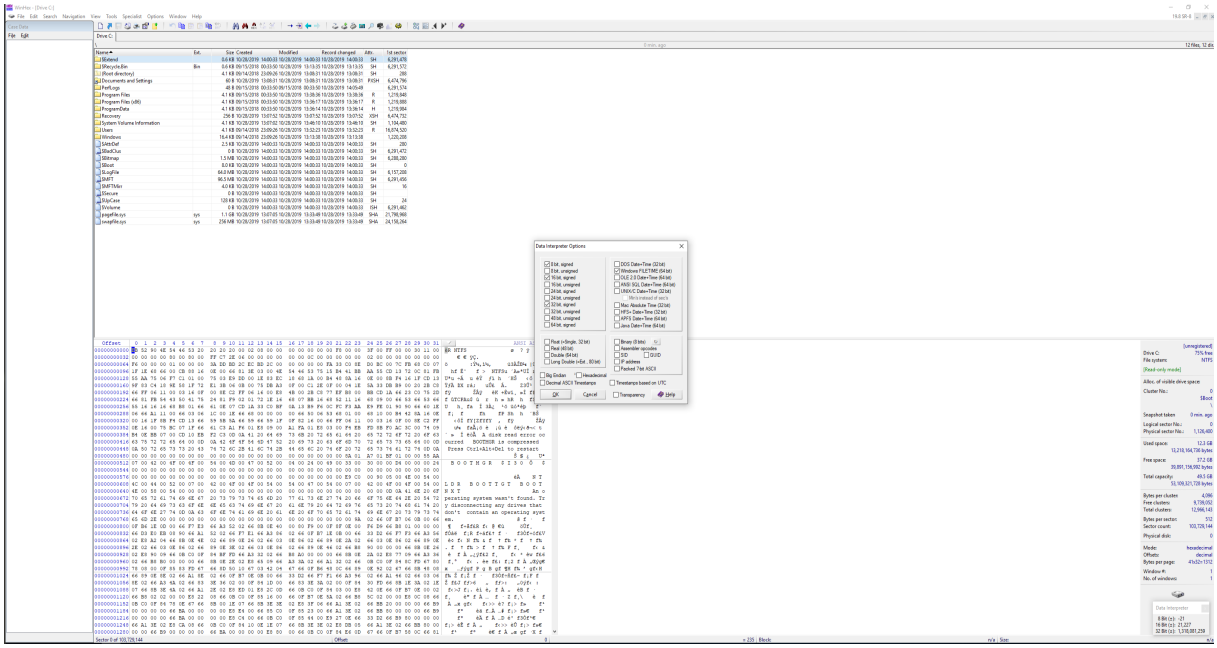
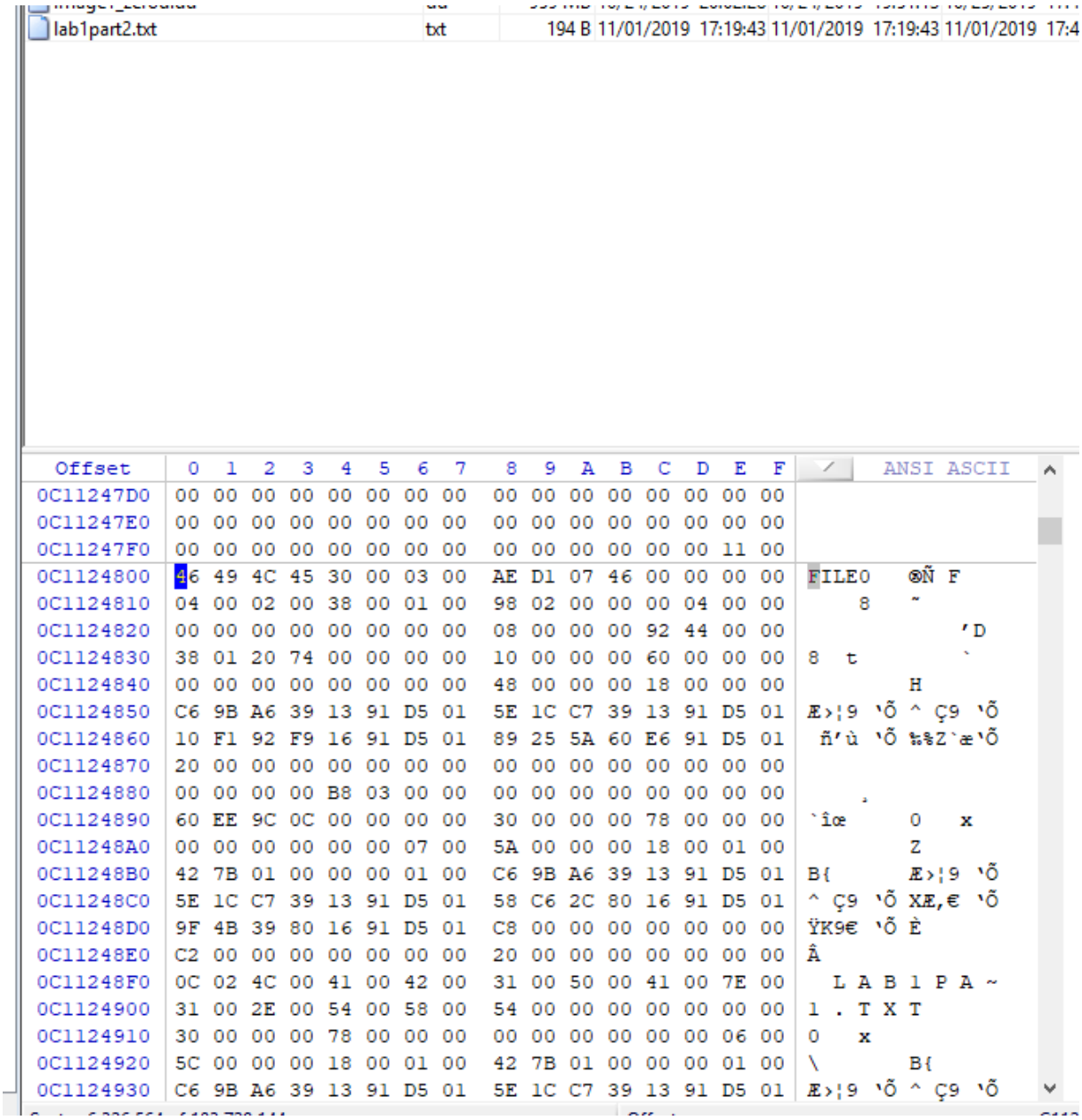


Figure 10: Set Data Interpreter to `Win32 FILETIME (64 bit)`.

At this point we open up `lab1part2.txt`, and click at the beginning of the record.



lab1part2.txt txt 194 B 11/01/2019 17:19:43 11/01/2019 17:19:43 11/01/2019 17:4

Offset	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F	ANSI ASCII
0C11247D0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0C11247E0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0C11247F0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	11	00	
0C1124800	46	49	4C	45	30	00	03	00	AE	D1	07	46	00	00	00	00	FILE0 ®Ñ F
0C1124810	04	00	02	00	38	00	01	00	98	02	00	00	00	04	00	00	8 ˜
0C1124820	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	08	00	00	00	92	44	00	00	'D
0C1124830	38	01	20	74	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	00	60	00	00	00	8 t `
0C1124840	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	48	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	H
0C1124850	C6	9B	A6	39	13	91	D5	01	5E	1C	C7	39	13	91	D5	01	Æ›¦9 ‘Õ ^ Ç9 ‘Õ
0C1124860	10	F1	92	F9	16	91	D5	01	89	25	5A	60	E6	91	D5	01	ñ'ù ‘Õ %%Z`æ‘Õ
0C1124870	20	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	
0C1124880	00	00	00	00	B8	03	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	¸
0C1124890	60	EE	9C	0C	00	00	00	00	30	00	00	00	78	00	00	00	`îœ 0 x
0C11248A0	00	00	00	00	00	00	07	00	5A	00	00	00	18	00	01	00	Z
0C11248B0	42	7B	01	00	00	00	01	00	C6	9B	A6	39	13	91	D5	01	B{ Æ›¦9 ‘Õ
0C11248C0	5E	1C	C7	39	13	91	D5	01	58	C6	2C	80	16	91	D5	01	^ Ç9 ‘Õ XÆ,€ ‘Õ
0C11248D0	9F	4B	39	80	16	91	D5	01	C8	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ŸK9€ ‘Õ È
0C11248E0	C2	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	20	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	Â
0C11248F0	0C	02	4C	00	41	00	42	00	31	00	50	00	41	00	7E	00	L A B 1 P A ~
0C1124900	31	00	2E	00	54	00	58	00	54	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	1 . T X T
0C1124910	30	00	00	00	78	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	06	00	0 x
0C1124920	5C	00	00	00	18	00	01	00	42	7B	01	00	00	00	01	00	\ B{
0C1124930	C6	9B	A6	39	13	91	D5	01	5E	1C	C7	39	13	91	D5	01	Æ›¦9 ‘Õ ^ Ç9 ‘Õ

Figure 11: Beginning of the record for `lab1part2.txt`.

In order to find the start of the `0x10` attribute, we click the beginning of the MFT record and drag until the offset counter is `0x38`.

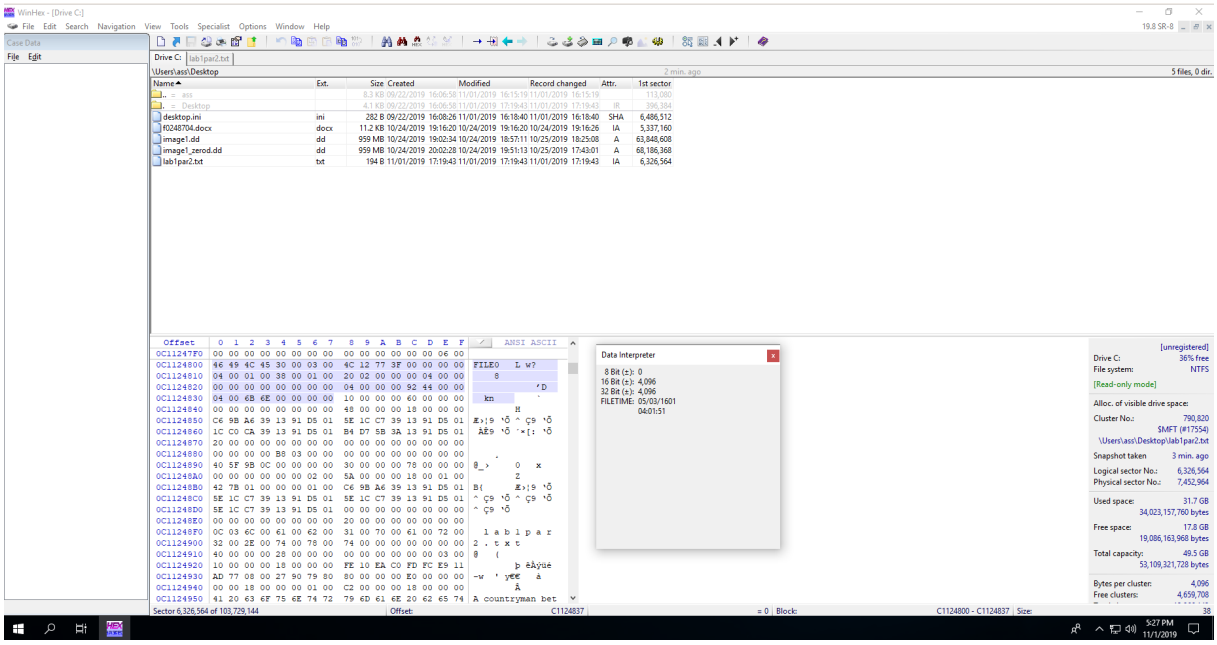


Figure 12: The start of attribute `0x10` at offset `0x38`.

The file's created date and time can be found at offset `0x10` to `0x1F` from the beginning of attribute `0x10`.

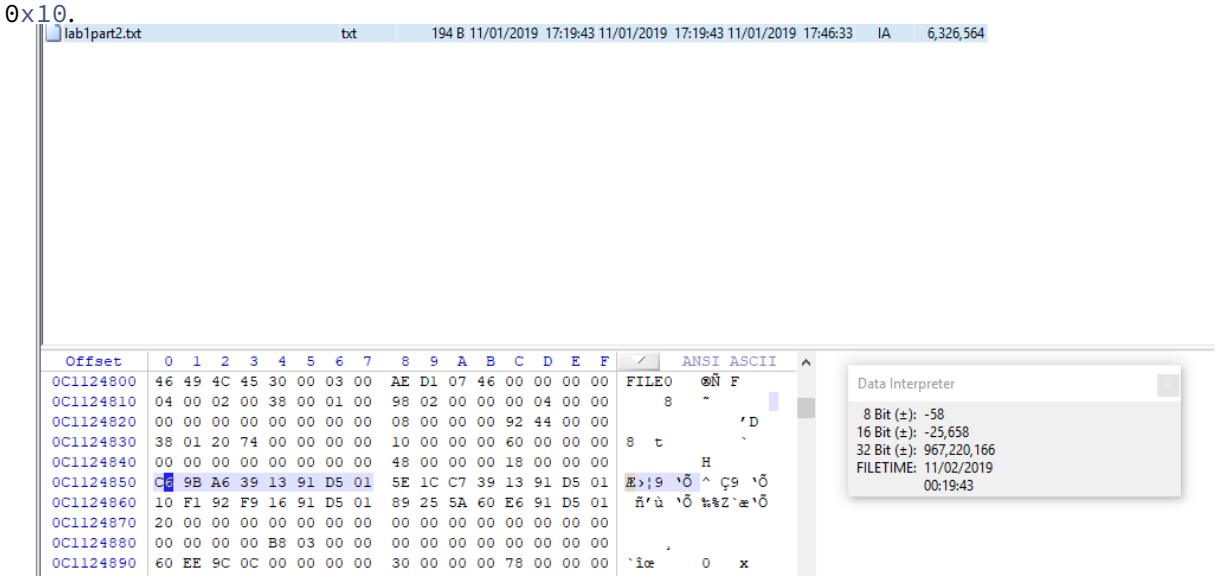


Figure 13: File created date and time.

Now, we repeat the steps in Figure 13 to answer the questions found below.

Questions

1. According to the data interpreter, what is the file create date and time for the file `lab1part.txt`?

    - The file created date and time is `11/02/2019 00:19:43` according to the data interpreter.

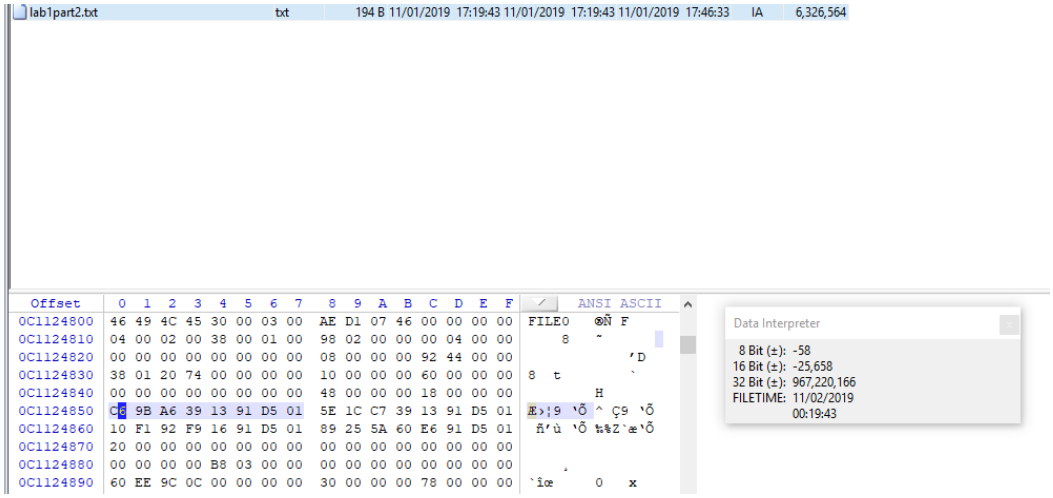


Figure 14: Data Interpreter's file created date and time.

2. Using File Explorer and go to the folder where the `lab1part2.txt` located, right click on the arrow near "Size" or "Name", and select the "Date created". Now the "Date created" time is also displayed.

    - The File Explorer's file created date and time is `11/01/2019 at 5:19PM`.

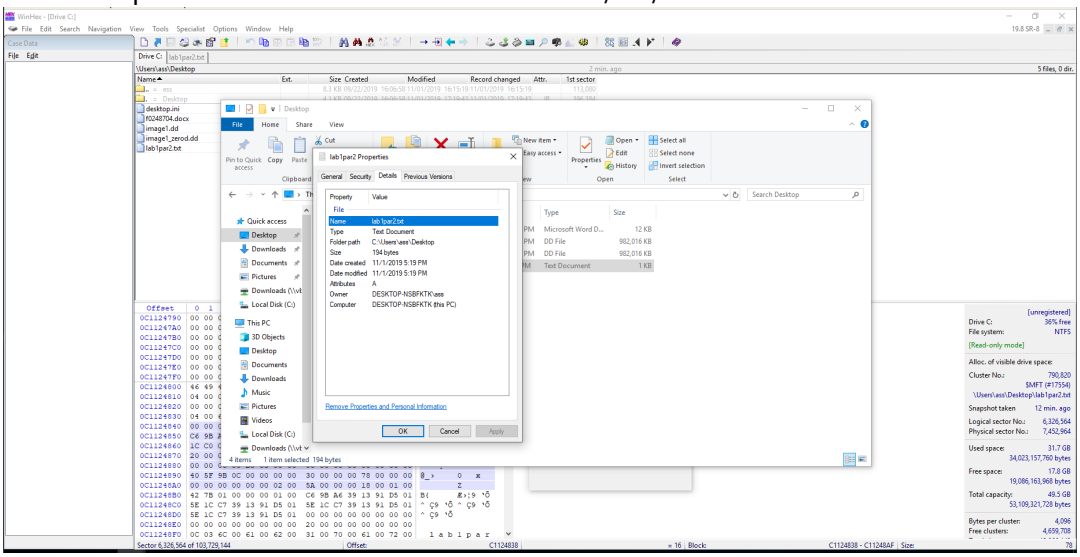


Figure 15: File Explorer's created date and time.

3. Compare this time and the time you got from data interpreter. Are they the same? If not, why?

   - The time for the Data Interpreter is ahead of what the File Explorer says. When we go to `Options->Data Interpreter` and check the `Timestamps based on UTC` box, the dates actually do match. The reason they did not match previously is because the File Explorer was basing it off UTC, and the Data Interpreter was not. See below the screenshots on correcting this.

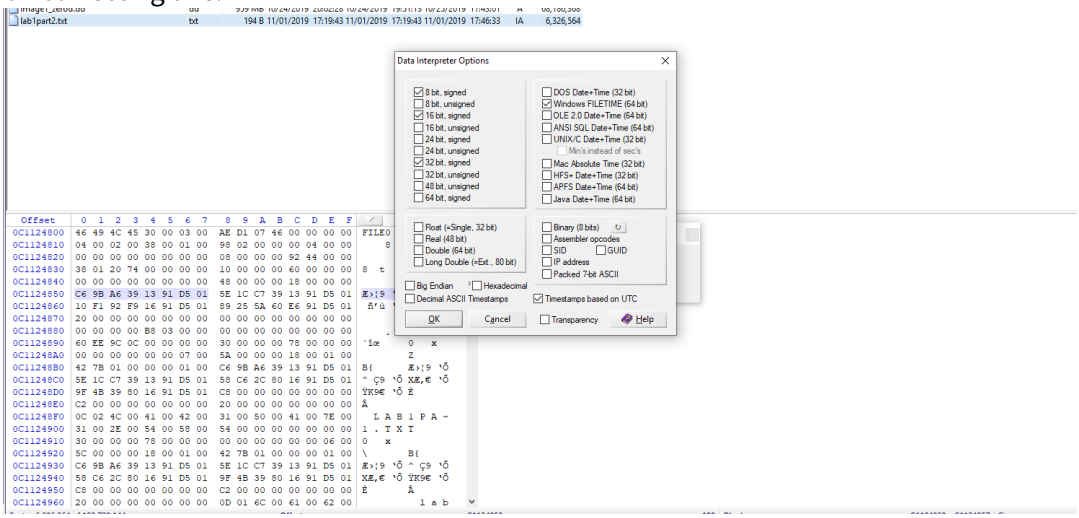


Figure 16: Selecting `Timestamps based on UTC` for Data Interpreter.

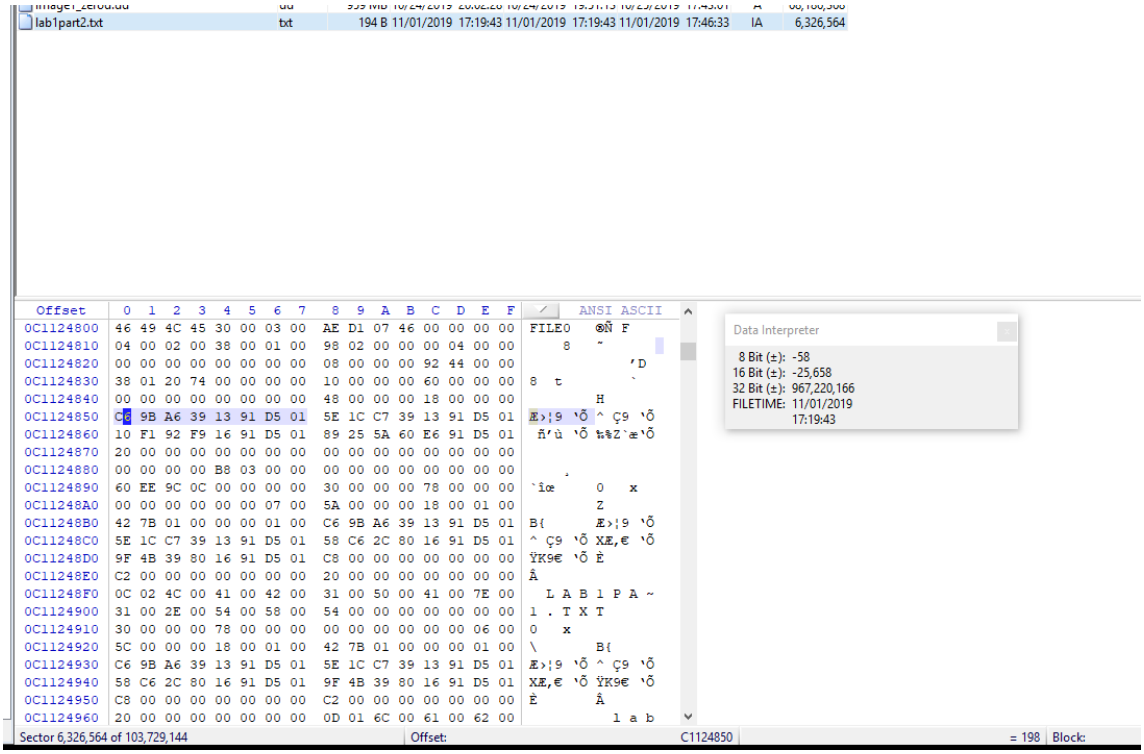


Figure 17: Now the file created date and times both match at 5:19PM November 1st 2019.

4. What is the size of the MFT record?

    - The size of the MTF record is, in big endian, is `00 00 04 00`. We can find that at offset `0x1C` to `0x1F` from `0x00`.

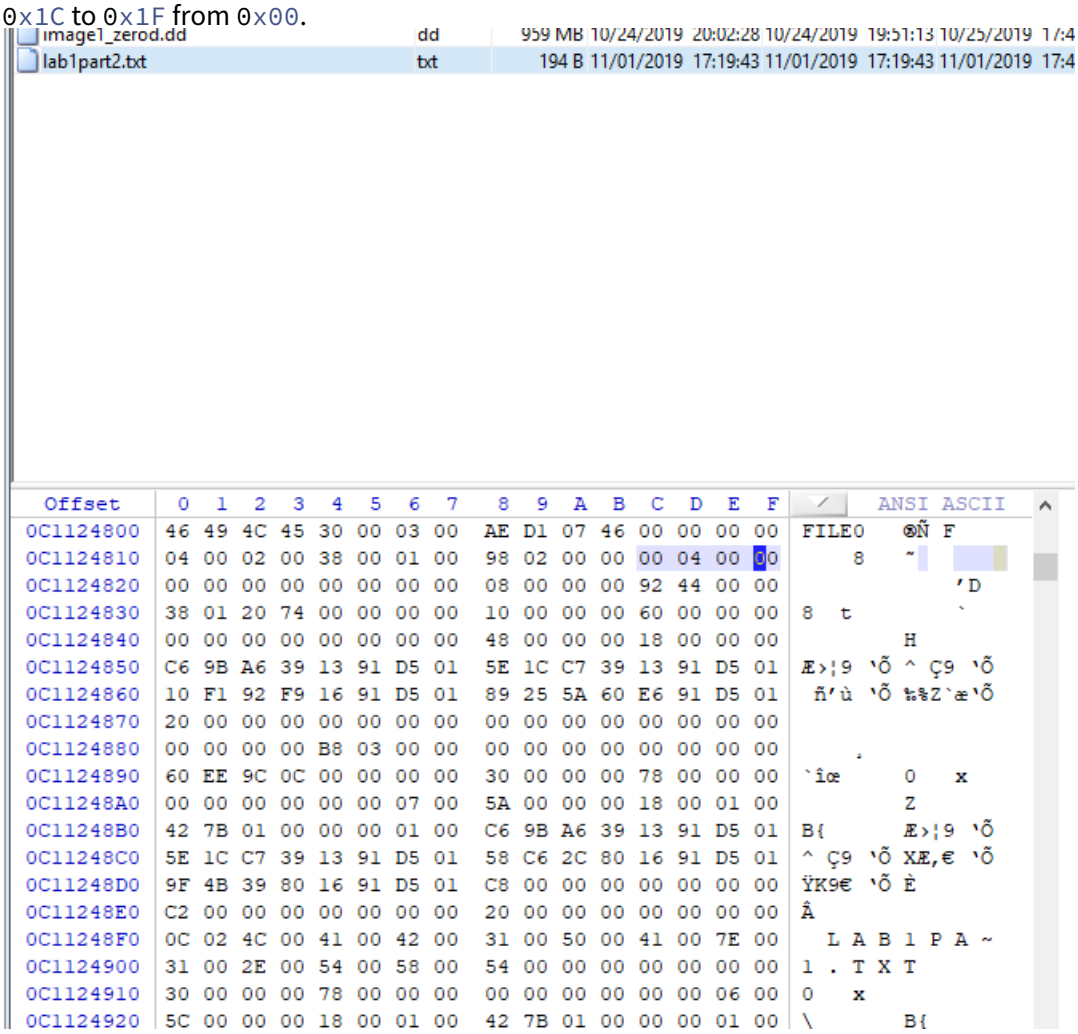


Figure 18: The size of the MFT record.

5. What is the length of the header for the MFT record?

    - The header length for the MFT record is `0x38`. This can be found at offset `0x14` from `0x00`.

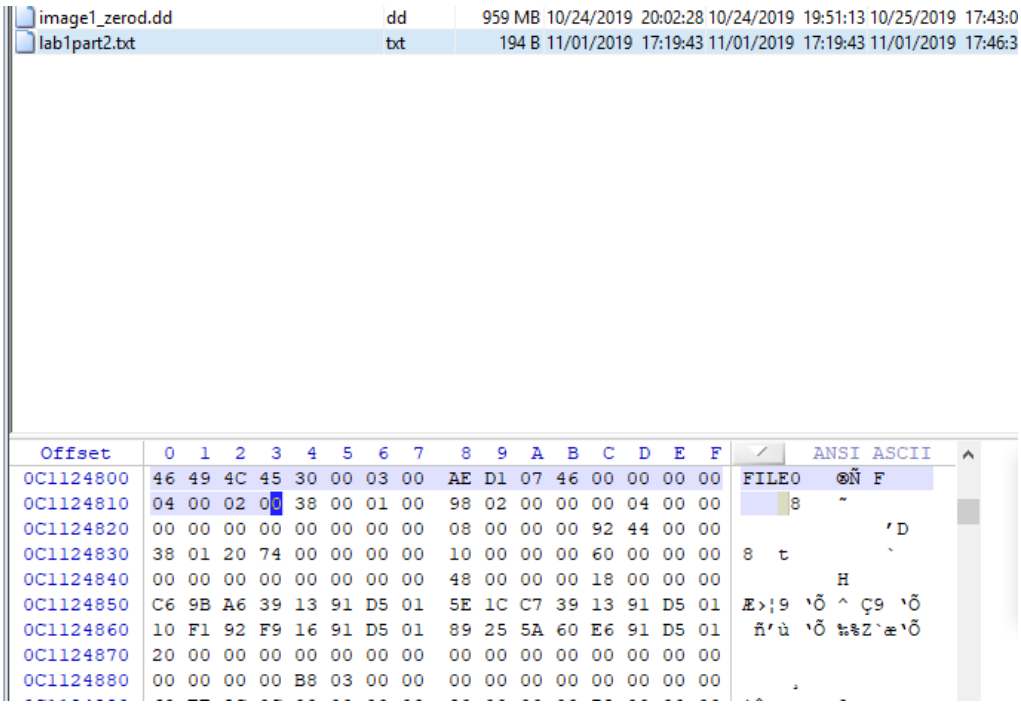


Figure 19: The length of the MFT record's header is `0x38`.

6. What is the file's last modified date and time? Take a screenshot with data interpreter to prove your answer.

   - The file's last modified date and time are `11/01/2019 17:19:43`. We can find that information at offset `0x20` to `0x27` from `0x10`. It should be noted that this is with the box for `Timestamps based on UTC` selected.

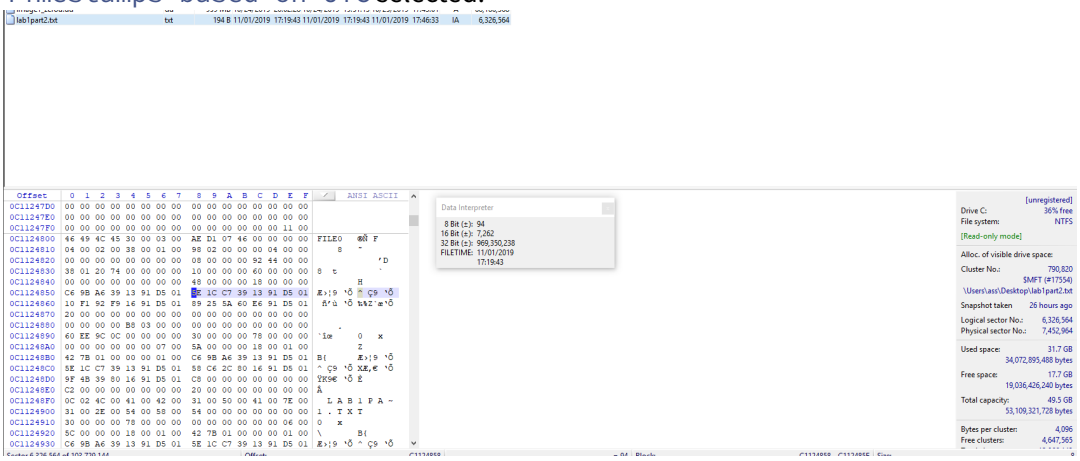


Figure 20: File last modified date, based on UTC.

7. What is the file name? In which attribute and at what position can you find it?

   - As we've learned from lecture 5's handout, if the file name is longer than eight characters

there are two attributes `0x30`. Since our file name is longer than 8 characters we fall into this case. That means we have a short file name, and a long file name.

- Short file names are found at offset `0x5A` from the first `0x30` attribute. Our short file name is `LAB1PA~1.TXT`.

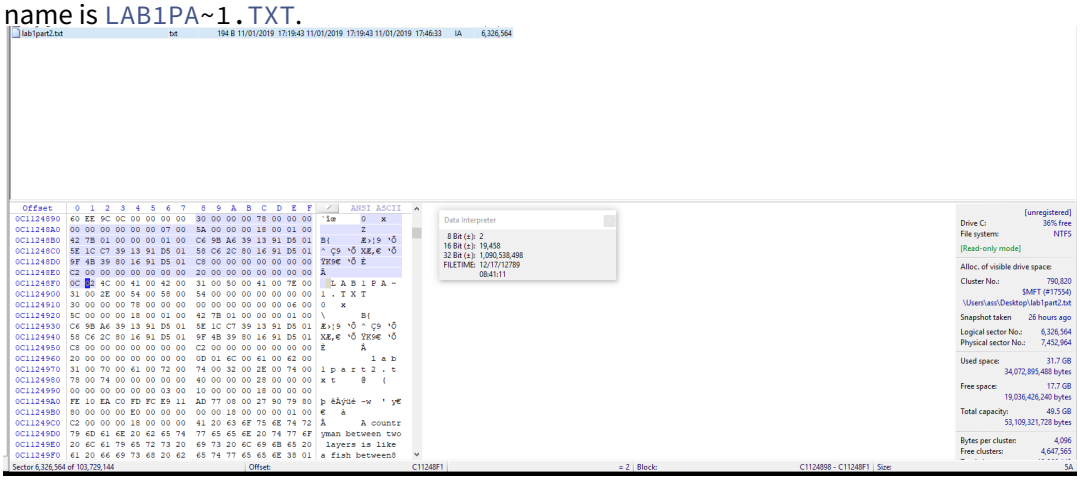


Figure 21: The short file name at `0x5A` from the first `0x30` attribute.

- Long file names are found at offset `0x5A` from the second `0x30` attribute. Our short file name is `lab1part2.txt`.

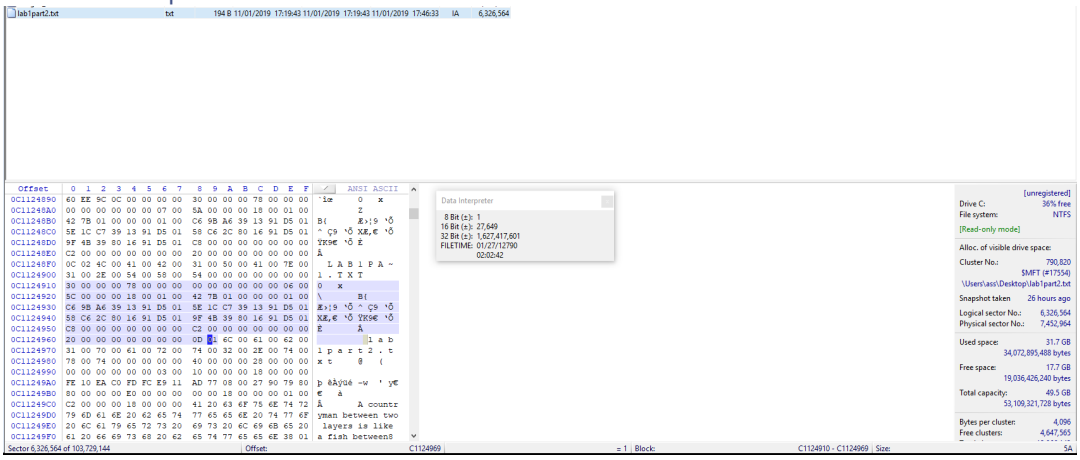


Figure 22: Long file name at offset `0x5A` from the second `0x30` attribute.

8. Is this file a resident file or nonresident file? Where can you find the evidence?

   - The resident/nonresident flag exists at offset `0x08` from attribute `0x80`. In this case we can see it is a resident file. This makes sense because it is only 194 Bytes in size.

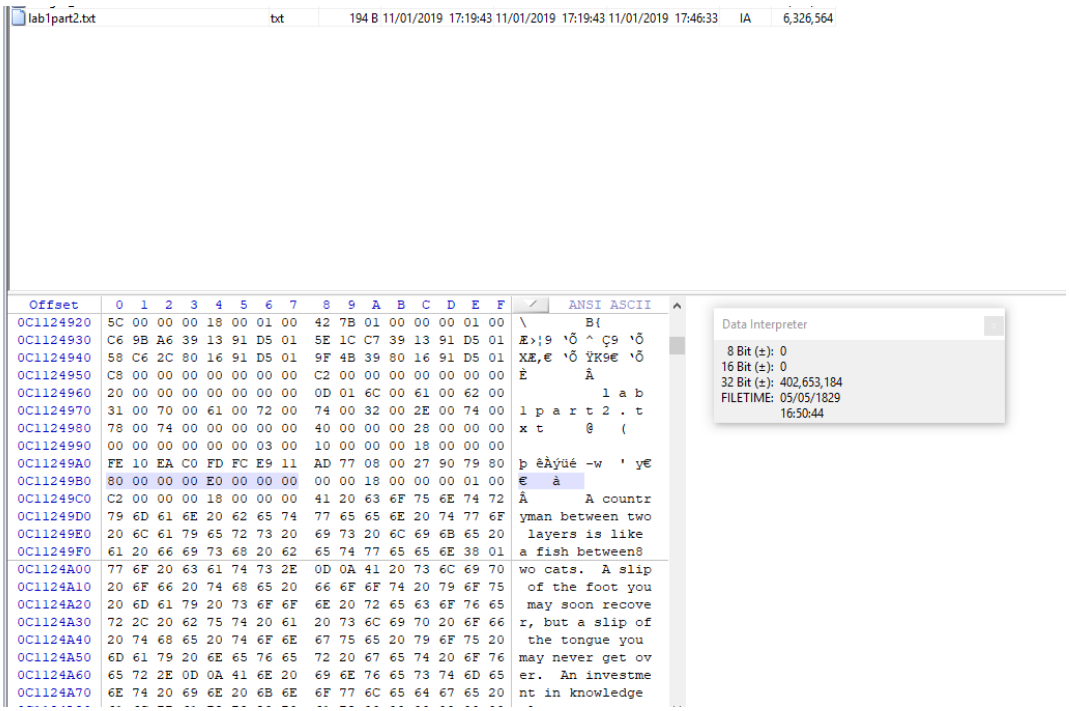


Figure 23: Resident flag set to `0x00`, meaning it is a resident file.

9. In which attribute can you find the data run? Where is the start of the data run?

    - The start of the data run for resident files exists at offset `0x18` from attribute `0x80`.

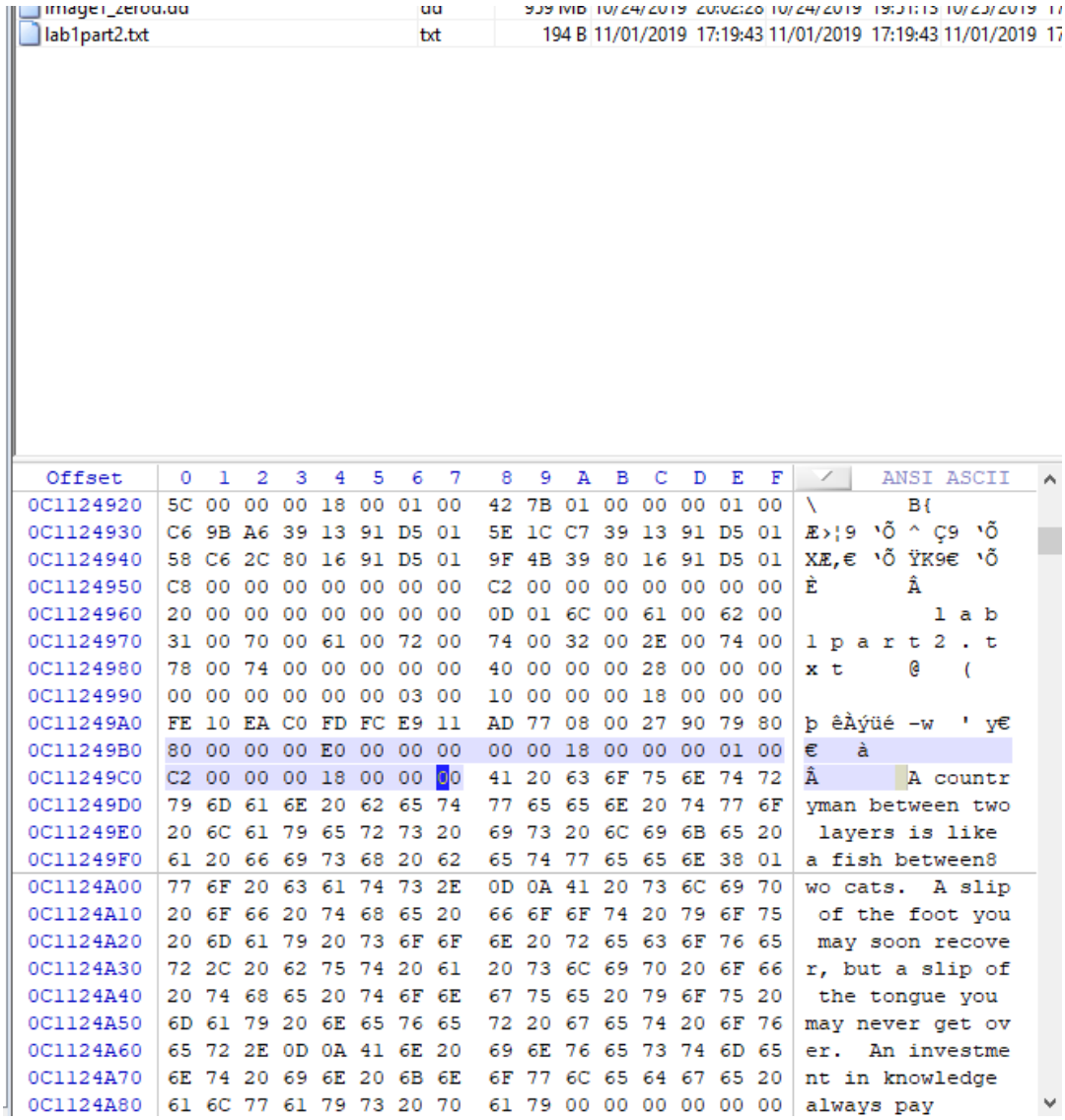


Figure 24: The start of the data run at offset `0x18` from attribute `0x80`.