Forensic Analysis of Deduplicated File Systems

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Why study the storage deduplication?

- Deduplication is a technology that reduces space used on storage devices. Backup is one of the most important field of application.

- Investigations starts after the crime is committed, therefore data from backups is an important source of evidences;

- There are many implementation of deduplication. I focus attention on **OpenDedup** and **Microsoft** implementations.

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Where can I find Deduplication?

- Data Domain File system DDFS (Since 2001);
- Zettabyte File System (ZFS, Oracle) (since 2009);
- B-tree file system (BTRFS) (since August 2014);
- LiveDFS;

- Windows 10 Technical Preview (2016),
  Microsoft Windows Server 2012/2016
  feature of NTFS post-process deduplication;
- OpenDedup (SDFS) in-line deduplication;

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Previous works

Focus on:

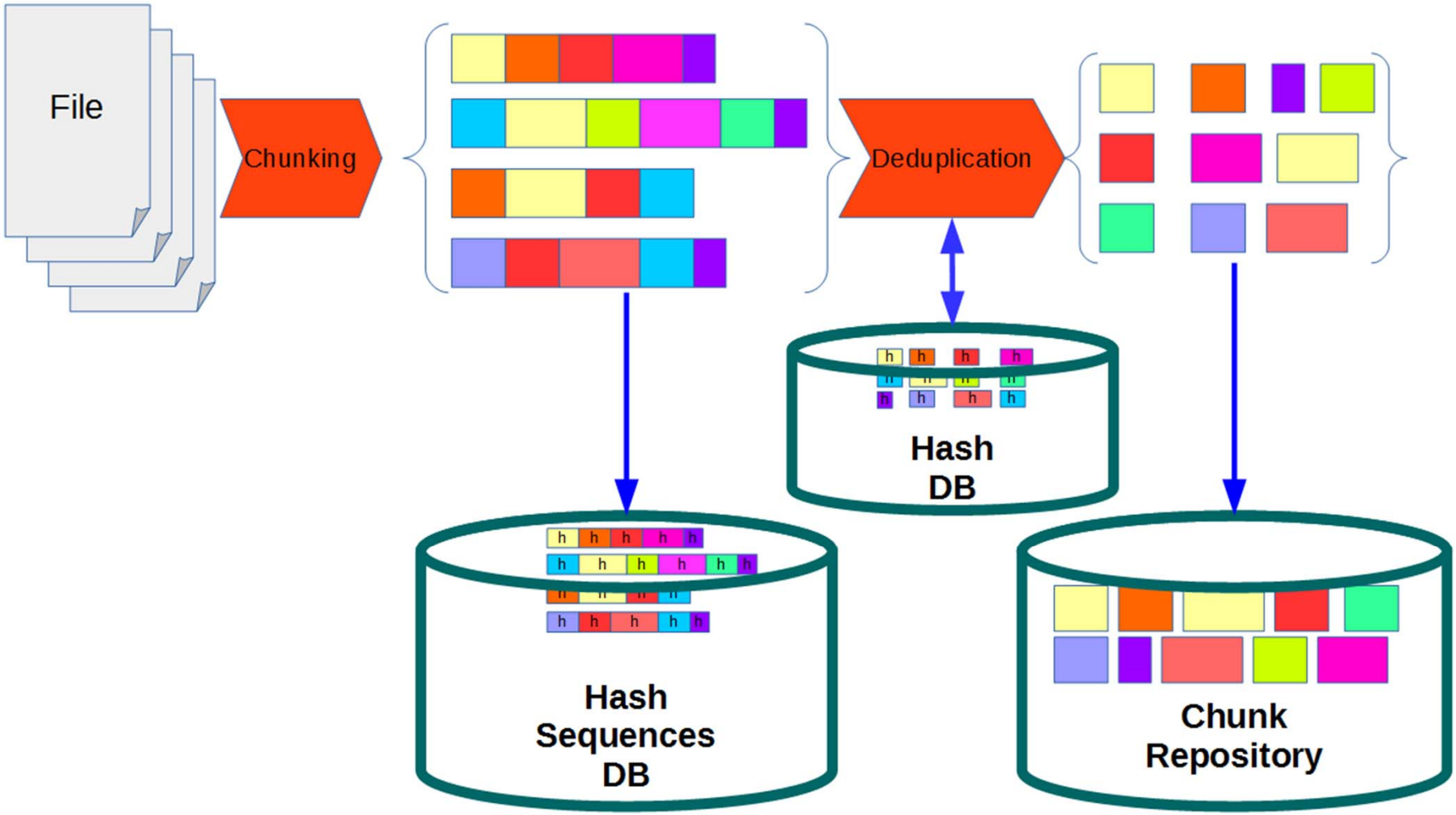
- Deduplication algorithms and deduplication efficiency;
- Deduplication usage - storage technologies to save space to store and analyze forensics data;

Many authors indicate:

- the need for thorough study using experimental data and physical acquisition;
- the importance of marker identification, in order to help storage technology recognition;

Lack of studies that explain actual implementations of deduplication from a forensic point of view.

Deduplication – operating principle



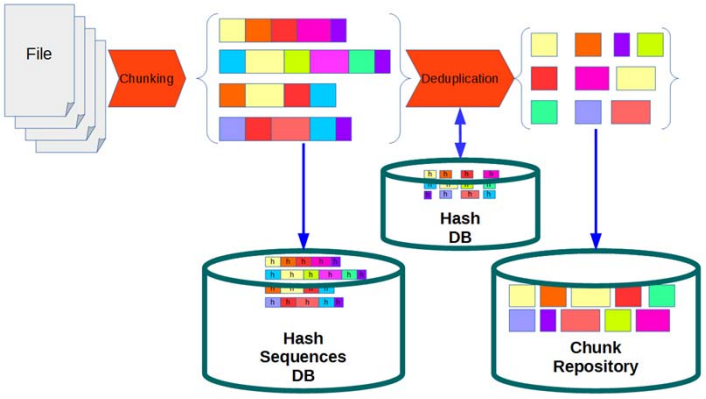
Deduplication – operating principle

- Deduplication transforms a set of files in an organized set of chunks;
- Deduplication computes hash of each chunk and if not jet present it stores hash in a hashdb and it stores chunk in a repository;

- Deduplication stores chunks that are common to multiple files only once;
- Deduplication keeps a sequence of hash for each file;

- Deduplication process can be In-line / Off-line;

- Chunks generation
  - Fixed Length (Fast)
  - Variable length (Better performance)
    - Rabin algorithm



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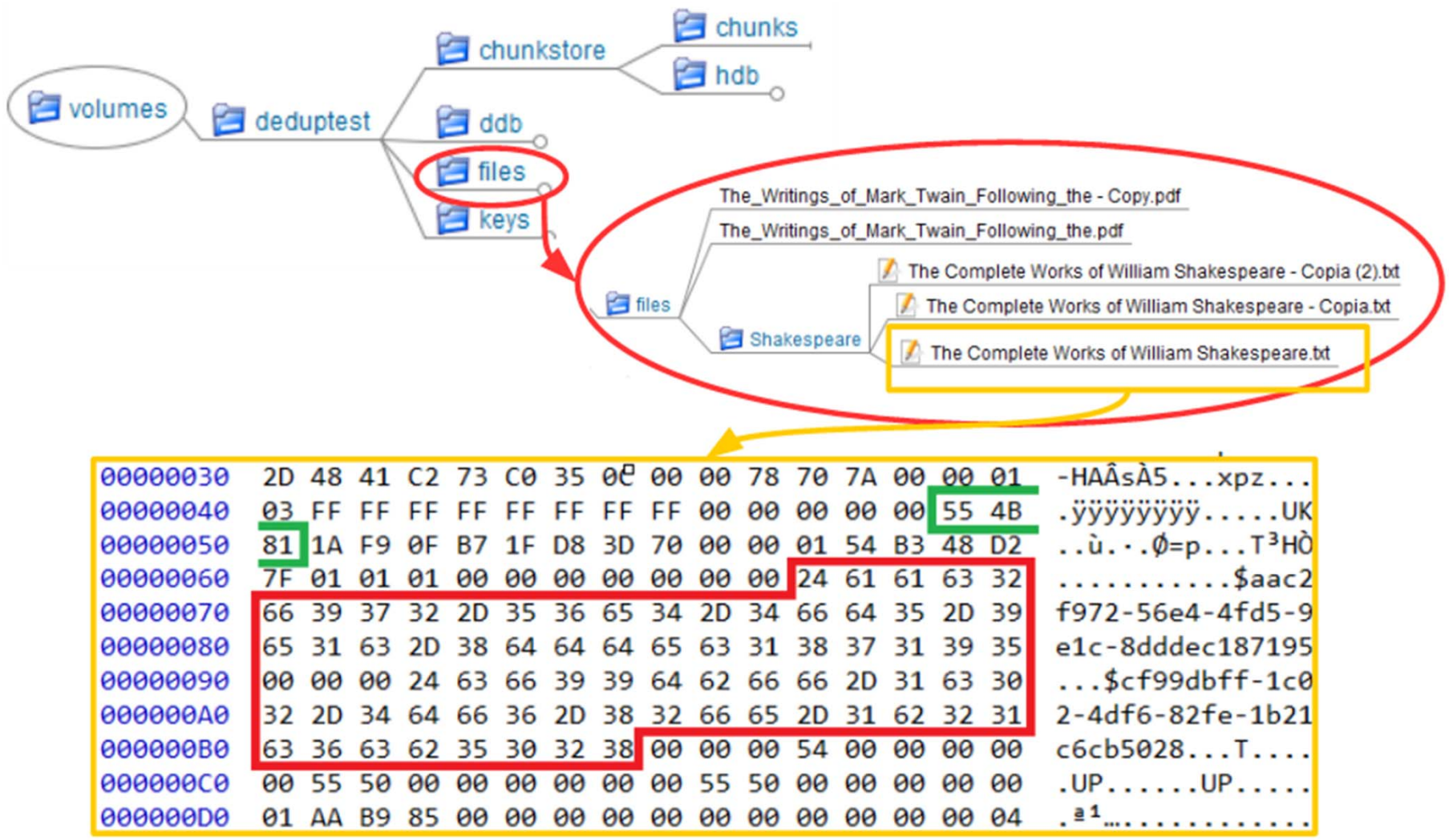
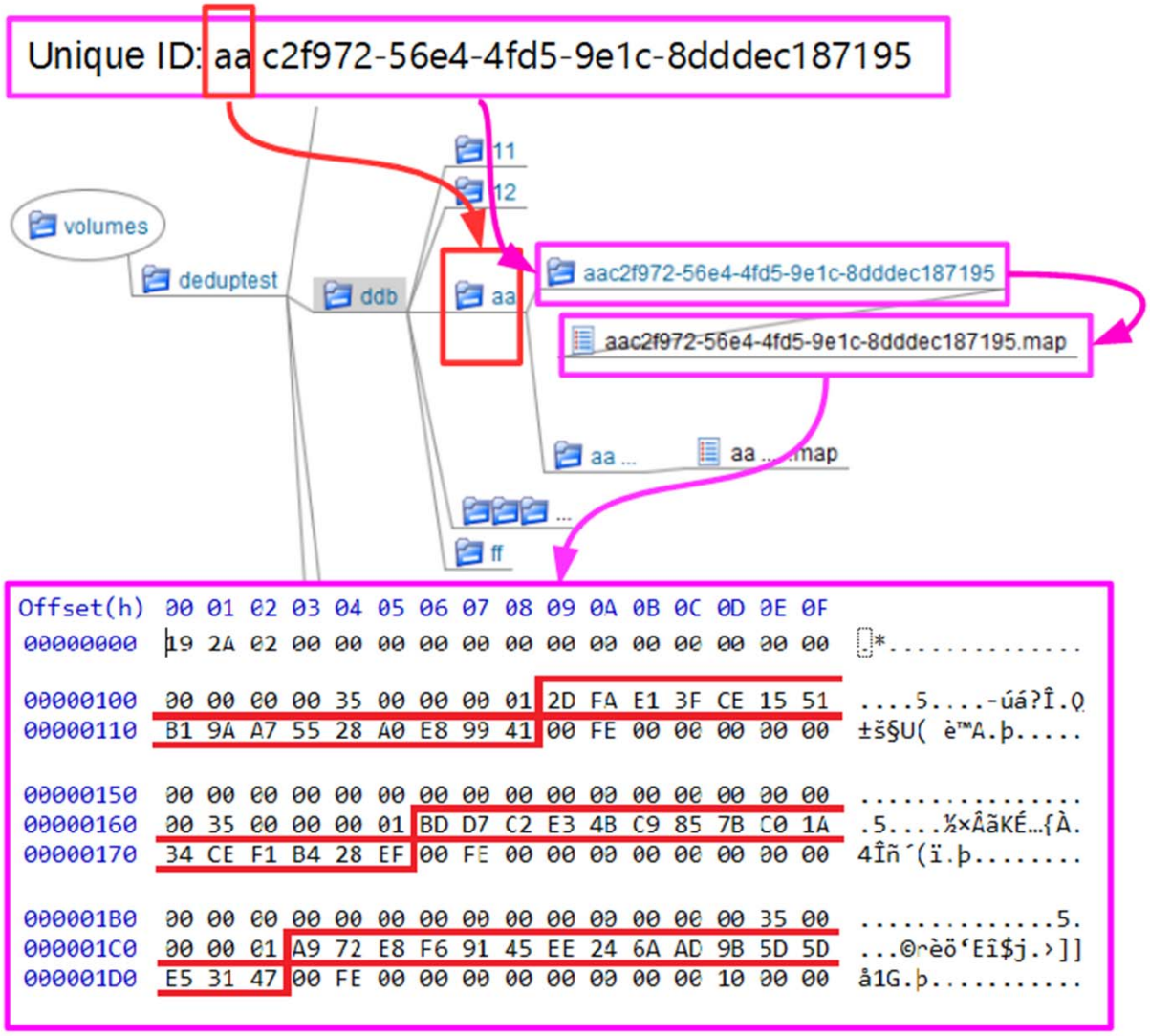
OpenDedup

- OpenDedup
  - OpenDedup (SDFS) inline deduplication;
  - Open source
  - Filesystem in user space (FUSE)
  - Hashes computed using MurMurHash3
  - File Chunking uses Rabin algorithm fingerprint

OpenDedup

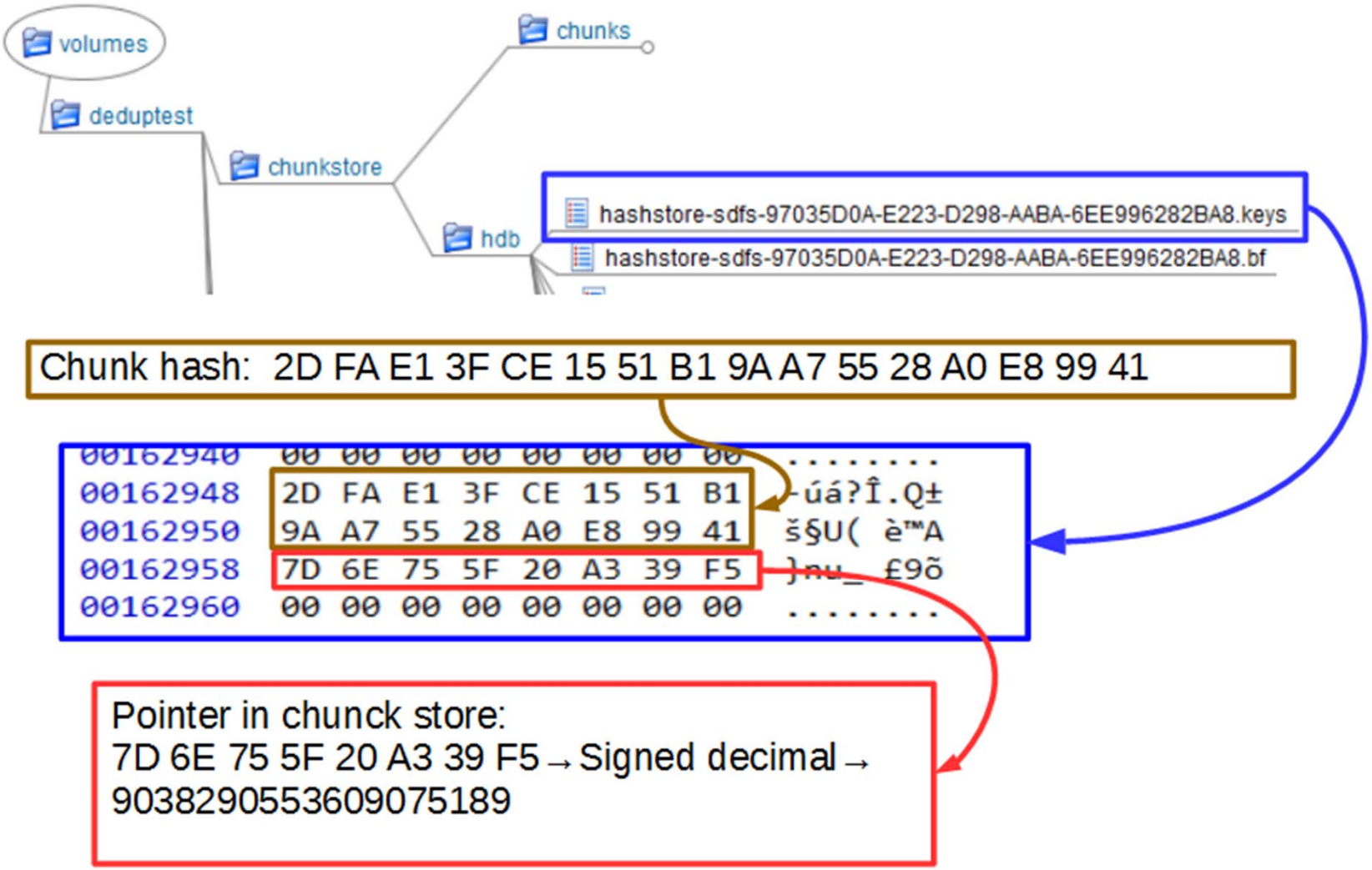

volumes
deduptest
chunkstore
chunks
hdb
ddb
files
keys
The_Writings_of_Mark_Twain_Following_the - Copy.pdf
The_Writings_of_Mark_Twain_Following_the.pdf
files
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare - Copia (2).txt
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare - Copia.txt
Shakespeare
The Complete Works of William Shakespeare.txt
00000030 2D 48 41 C2 73 C0 35 0E 00 00 78 70 7A 00 00 01 -HAÂsÀ5...xpz...
00000040 03 FF FF FF FF FF FF FF FF 00 00 00 00 00 55 4B .ÿÿÿÿÿÿÿÿ.....UK
00000050 81 1A F9 0F B7 1F D8 3D 70 00 00 01 54 B3 48 D2 ..ù..·.Ø=p...T³HÒ
00000060 7F 01 01 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 24 61 61 63 32 ....$aac2
00000070 66 39 37 32 2D 35 36 65 34 2D 34 66 64 35 2D 39 f972-56e4-4fd5-9
00000080 65 31 63 2D 38 64 64 64 65 63 31 38 37 31 39 35 e1c-8dddec187195
00000090 00 00 00 24 63 66 39 39 64 62 66 66 2D 31 63 30 ...$cf99dbff-1c0
000000A0 32 2D 34 64 66 36 2D 38 32 66 65 2D 31 62 32 31 2-4df6-82fe-1b21
000000B0 63 36 63 62 35 30 32 38 00 00 00 54 00 00 00 00 c6cb5028...T....
000000C0 00 55 50 00 00 00 00 00 00 55 50 00 00 00 00 00 .UP......UP.....
000000D0 01 AA B9 85 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 04 .ª¹….............

OpenDedup

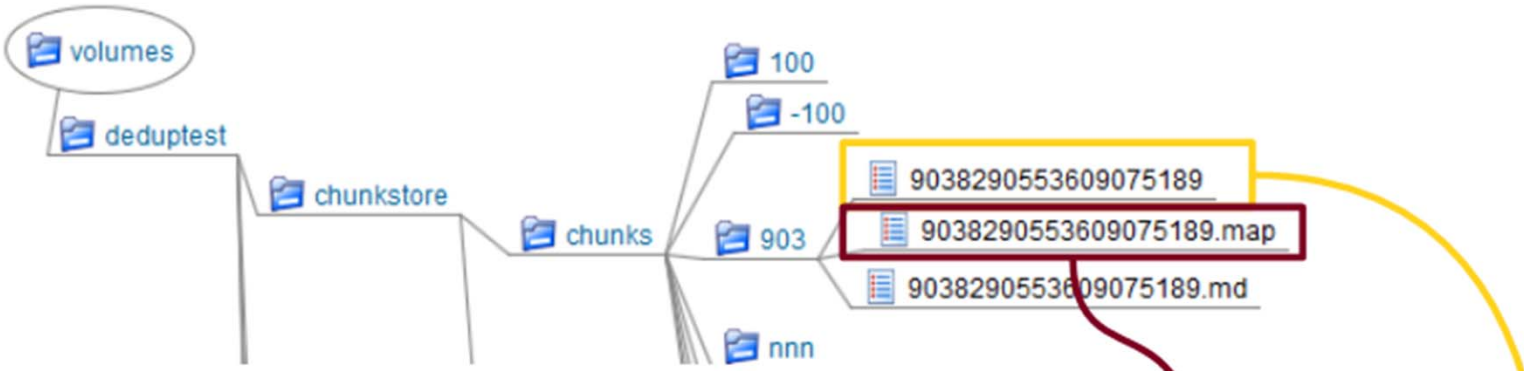


The .map file contains the hash sequence

OpenDedup


volumes
deduptest
chunkstore
chunks
hdb
hashstore-sdfs-97035D0A-E223-D298-AABA-6EE996282BA8.keys
hashstore-sdfs-97035D0A-E223-D298-AABA-6EE996282BA8.bf
Chunk hash: 2D FA E1 3F CE 15 51 B1 9A A7 55 28 A0 E8 99 41
00162940 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
00162948 2D FA E1 3F CE 15 51 B1 -úá?Î.Q±
00162950 9A A7 55 28 A0 E8 99 41 š§U(è™A
00162958 7D 6E 75 5F 20 A3 39 F5 }nu_ £9õ
00162960 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 ....
Pointer in chunck store:
7D 6E 75 5F 20 A3 39 F5 → Signed decimal →
9038290553609075189

OpenDedup




```
0005BC30  00 00 00 00 2D FA E1 3F CE 15 51 B1 9A A7 55 28
0005BC40  A0 E8 99 41 00 0A D2 E4 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
```

```
000AD2D0  00 00 00 10 2D FA E1 3F CE 15 51 B1 9A A7 55 28  ....-úá?Î.Q±š§U(
000AD2E0  A0 E8 99 41 00 00 10 04 FF FF FF FF EF BB BF 54   è™A....ÿÿÿÿï»¿T
000AD2F0  68 65 20 50 72 6F 6A 65 63 74 20 47 75 74 65 6E  he Project Guten
000AD300  62 65 72 67 20 45 42 6F 6F 6B 20 6F 66 20 54 68  berg EBook of Th
000AD310  65 20 43 6F 6D 70 6C 65 74 65 20 57 6F 72 6B 73  e Complete Works
000AD320  20 6F 66 20 57 69 6C 6C 69 61 6D 20 53 68 61 6B   of William Shak
000AD330  65 73 70 65 61 72 65 2C 20 62 79 0D 0A 57 69 6C  espeare, by..Wil
000AD340  6C 69 61 6D 20 53 68 61 6B 65 73 70 65 61 72 65  liam Shakespeare
000AD350  0D 0A 0D 0A 54 68 69 73 20 65 42 6F 6F 6B 20 69  ....This eBook i
```

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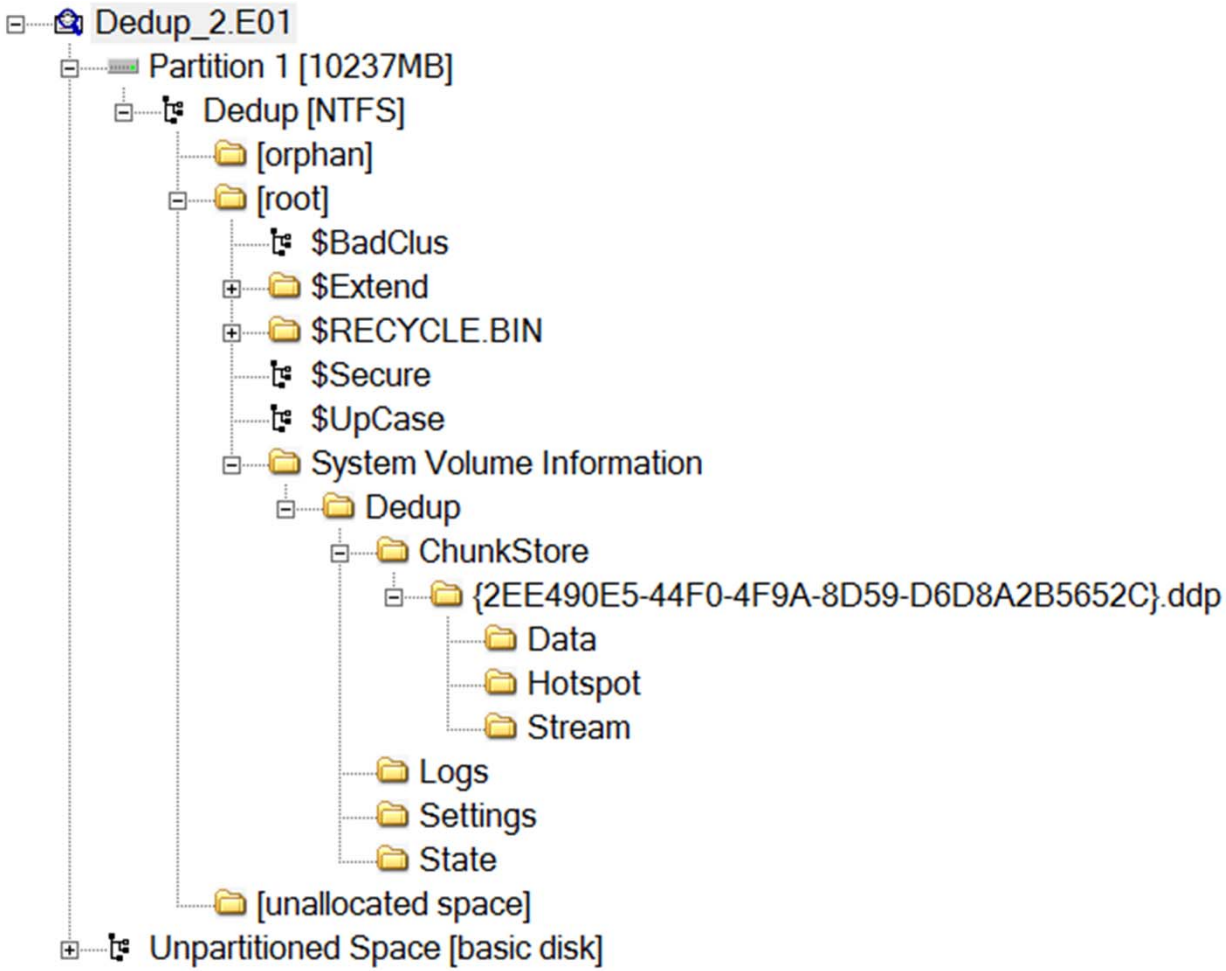
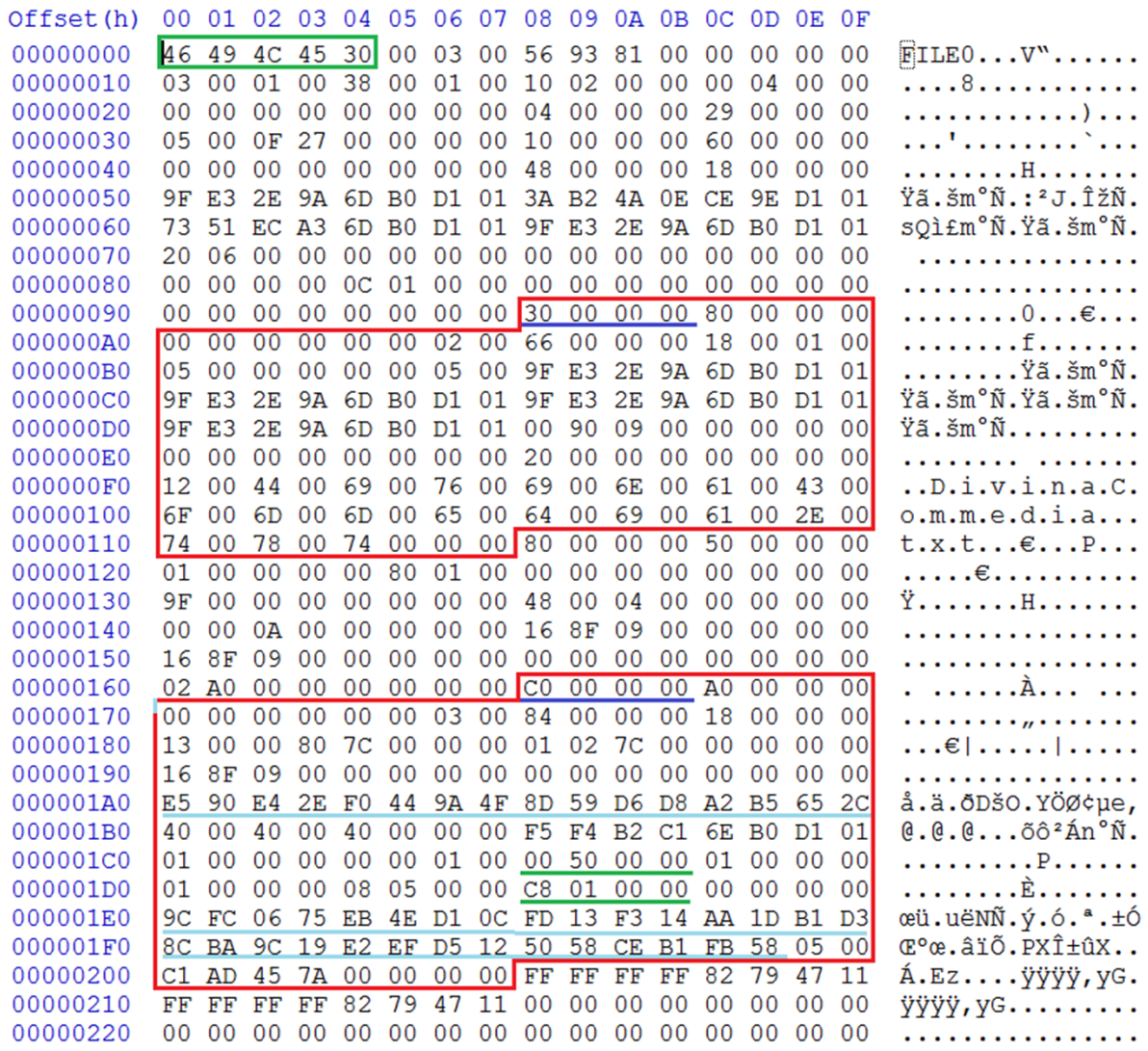
Microsoft Windows Deduplication

- Integrated in NTFS
  - uses the $MFT, attribute Reparse_Point
  - Leave traces in journal log
- Off-line process (age, usage, file type)
  - The process leaves artifacts
- Chunk are compressed
  - High entropy on devices (all chunks contains compressed data)
- System Volume Information contains the chunkstore structure
  - the stream container
  - the data chunk container
  - the hotspot container

Microsoft Windows Deduplication



$MFT Record



Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	
00000000	46	49	4C	45	30	00	03	00	56	93	81	00	00	00	00	00	FILE0...V".....
00000010	03	00	01	00	38	00	01	00	10	02	00	00	00	04	00	00	....8.....
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	29	00	00	00	....)...
00000030	05	00	0F	27	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	00	60	00	00	00	...'....`...
00000040	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	48	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	....H.....
00000050	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	3A	B2	4A	0E	CE	9E	D1	01	Ÿã.šm°Ñ.:²J.ÎžÑ.
00000060	73	51	EC	A3	6D	B0	D1	01	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	sQì£m°Ñ.Ÿã.šm°Ñ.
00000070	20	06	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000080	00	00	00	00	0C	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000090	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	30	00	00	00	80	00	00	00	........0...€...
000000A0	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	00	66	00	00	00	18	00	01	00	........f.....
000000B0	05	00	00	00	00	00	05	00	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	........Ÿã.šm°Ñ.
000000C0	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	Ÿã.šm°Ñ.Ÿã.šm°Ñ.
000000D0	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	00	90	09	00	00	00	00	00	Ÿã.šm°Ñ.....
000000E0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	20	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	....
000000F0	12	00	44	00	69	00	76	00	69	00	6E	00	61	00	43	00	..D.i.v.i.n.a.C.
00000100	6F	00	6D	00	6D	00	65	00	64	00	69	00	61	00	2E	00	o.m.m.e.d.i.a...
00000110	74	00	78	00	74	00	00	00	80	00	00	00	50	00	00	00	t.x.t...€...P...
00000120	01	00	00	00	00	80	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....€.....
00000130	9F	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	48	00	04	00	00	00	00	00	Ÿ.......H.....
00000140	00	00	0A	00	00	00	00	00	16	8F	09	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000150	16	8F	09	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000160	02	A0	00	00	00	00	00	00	C0	00	00	00	A0	00	00	00	. ...À... ...
00000170	00	00	00	00	00	00	03	00	84	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	........„.....
00000180	13	00	00	80	7C	00	00	00	01	02	7C	00	00	00	00	00	...€|.....|.....
00000190	16	8F	09	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
000001A0	E5	90	E4	2E	F0	44	9A	4F	8D	59	D6	D8	A2	B5	65	2C	å.ä.ðDšO.YÖØ¢µe,
000001B0	40	00	40	00	40	00	00	00	F5	F4	B2	C1	6E	B0	D1	01	@.@.@...õô²Án°Ñ.
000001C0	01	00	00	00	00	00	01	00	00	50	00	00	01	00	00	00	.....P.....
000001D0	01	00	00	00	08	05	00	00	C8	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....È.....
000001E0	9C	FC	06	75	EB	4E	D1	0C	FD	13	F3	14	AA	1D	B1	D3	œü.uëNÑ.ý.ó.ª.±Ó
000001F0	8C	BA	9C	19	E2	EF	D5	12	50	58	CE	B1	FB	58	05	00	Œºœ.âïÕ.PXÎ±ûX..
00000200	C1	AD	45	7A	00	00	00	00	FF	FF	FF	FF	82	79	47	11	Á.Ez....ÿÿÿÿ,yG.
00000210	FF	FF	FF	FF	82	79	47	11	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ÿÿÿÿ,yG.....
00000220	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....

- 0x000000C0 $REPARSE_POINT Attribute

- Offset 0x01A0 (E5 90 E4 2E - F0 44 - 9A 4F - 8D 59 - D6 D8 A2 B5 65 2C)

  → identifies the ChunkStore

  →{2EE490E5- 44F0-4F9A- 8D59-D6D8A2B5652C}.ddp

$MFT Record

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	
00000000	46	49	4C	45	30	00	03	00	56	93	81	00	00	00	00	00	FILE0...V".....
00000010	03	00	01	00	38	00	01	00	10	02	00	00	00	04	00	00	....8.....
00000020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	04	00	00	00	29	00	00	00	....)...
00000030	05	00	0F	27	00	00	00	00	10	00	00	00	60	00	00	00	...'....`...
00000040	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	48	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	....H.....
00000050	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	3A	B2	4A	0E	CE	9E	D1	01	Ÿã.šm°Ñ.:²J.ÎžÑ.
00000060	73	51	EC	A3	6D	B0	D1	01	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	sQì£m°Ñ.Ÿã.šm°Ñ.
00000070	20	06	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000080	00	00	00	00	0C	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000090	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	30	00	00	00	80	00	00	00	........0...€...
000000A0	00	00	00	00	00	00	02	00	66	00	00	00	18	00	01	00	........f.....
000000B0	05	00	00	00	00	00	05	00	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	........Ÿã.šm°Ñ.
000000C0	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	Ÿã.šm°Ñ.Ÿã.šm°Ñ.
000000D0	9F	E3	2E	9A	6D	B0	D1	01	00	90	09	00	00	00	00	00	Ÿã.šm°Ñ.....
000000E0	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	20	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	....
000000F0	12	00	44	00	69	00	76	00	69	00	6E	00	61	00	43	00	..D.i.v.i.n.a.C.
00000100	6F	00	6D	00	6D	00	65	00	64	00	69	00	61	00	2E	00	o.m.m.e.d.i.a...
00000110	74	00	78	00	74	00	00	00	80	00	00	00	50	00	00	00	t.x.t...€...P...
00000120	01	00	00	00	00	80	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....€.....
00000130	9F	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	48	00	04	00	00	00	00	00	Ÿ.......H.....
00000140	00	00	0A	00	00	00	00	00	16	8F	09	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000150	16	8F	09	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00000160	02	A0	00	00	00	00	00	00	C0	00	00	00	A0	00	00	00	. ...À... ...
00000170	00	00	00	00	00	00	03	00	84	00	00	00	18	00	00	00	........„.....
00000180	13	00	00	80	7C	00	00	00	01	02	7C	00	00	00	00	00	...€|.....|.....
00000190	16	8F	09	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
000001A0	E5	90	E4	2E	F0	44	9A	4F	8D	59	D6	D8	A2	B5	65	2C	å.ä.ðDšO.YÖØ¢µe,
000001B0	40	00	40	00	40	00	00	00	F5	F4	B2	C1	6E	B0	D1	01	@.@.@...õô²Án°Ñ.
000001C0	01	00	00	00	00	00	01	00	00	50	00	00	01	00	00	00	.....P.....
000001D0	01	00	00	00	08	05	00	00	C8	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....È.....
000001E0	9C	FC	06	75	EB	4E	D1	0C	FD	13	F3	14	AA	1D	B1	D3	œü.uëNÑ.ý.ó.ª.±Ó
000001F0	8C	BA	9C	19	E2	EF	D5	12	50	58	CE	B1	FB	58	05	00	Œºœ.âïÕ.PXÎ±ûX..
00000200	C1	AD	45	7A	00	00	00	00	FF	FF	FF	FF	82	79	47	11	Á.Ez....ÿÿÿÿ,yG.
00000210	FF	FF	FF	FF	82	79	47	11	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ÿÿÿÿ,yG.....
00000220	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....

- Offset 0x01E0
  9C FC 06 75 EB 4E D1 0C
  FD 13 F3 14 AA 1D B1
  D3 8C BA 9C 19 E2 EF
  D5 12 50 58 CE B1 FB 58
  → identifies the hash sequence in the stream

- Offset 0x01C8
  00 50 → 0x5000
  sequence start address

- Offset 0x01D8
  C8 01→ 0x01C8
  Sequence length

$MFT Record → Stream

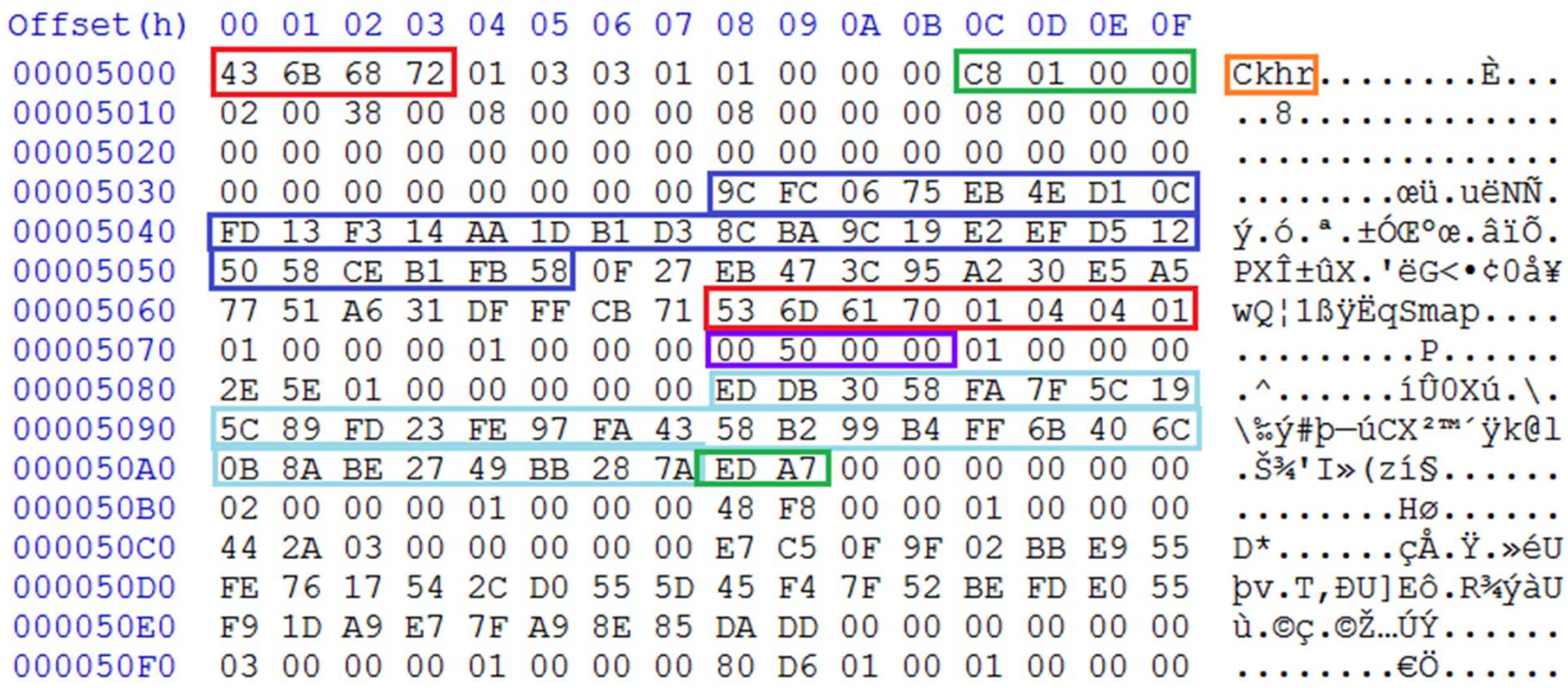
- From $MFT analysis we know
  - ChunkStore ID:
    {2EE490E5- 44F0- 4F9A- 8D59- D6D8A2B5652C}.ddp
  - Stream sequence id:
    9C FC 06 75 EB 4E D1 0C FD 13 F3 14 AA 1D B1 D3 8C BA 9C 19 E2 EF D5 12 50 58 CE B1 FB 58
  - Sequence start address:
    0x5000
  - Sequence length:
    0x01C8

Stream Container

Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	
00005000	43	6B	68	72	01	03	03	01	01	00	00	00	C8	01	00	00	Ckhr.....È...
00005010	02	00	38	00	08	00	00	00	08	00	00	00	08	00	00	00	..8.....
00005020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00005030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	9C	FC	06	75	EB	4E	D1	0C	.....œü.uëNÑ.
00005040	FD	13	F3	14	AA	1D	B1	D3	8C	BA	9C	19	E2	EF	D5	12	ý.ó.ª.±ÓŒºœ.âïÕ.
00005050	50	58	CE	B1	FB	58	0F	27	EB	47	3C	95	A2	30	E5	A5	PXÎ±ûX.'ëG<•¢0å¥
00005060	77	51	A6	31	DF	FF	CB	71	53	6D	61	70	01	04	04	01	wQ¦1ßÿËqSmap....
00005070	01	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	50	00	00	01	00	00	00	.....P.....
00005080	2E	5E	01	00	00	00	00	00	ED	DB	30	58	FA	7F	5C	19	.^.....íÛ0Xú.\.
00005090	5C	89	FD	23	FE	97	FA	43	58	B2	99	B4	FF	6B	40	6C	\‰ý#þ—úCX²™´ÿk@l
000050A0	0B	8A	BE	27	49	BB	28	7A	ED	A7	00	00	00	00	00	00	.Š¾'I»(zí§.....
000050B0	02	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	48	F8	00	00	01	00	00	00	.....Hø.....
000050C0	44	2A	03	00	00	00	00	00	E7	C5	0F	9F	02	BB	E9	55	D*.....çÅ.Ÿ.»éU
000050D0	FE	76	17	54	2C	D0	55	5D	45	F4	7F	52	BE	FD	E0	55	þv.T,ÐU]Eô.R¾ýàU
000050E0	F9	1D	A9	E7	7F	A9	8E	85	DA	DD	00	00	00	00	00	00	ù.©ç.©Ž…ÚÝ.....
000050F0	03	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	80	D6	01	00	01	00	00	00	.....€Ö.....

- Displacement 0x00 → Ckhr – Marker of sequence
- Displacement 0x0C → Sequence length
- Displacement 0x30 → Stream sequence id

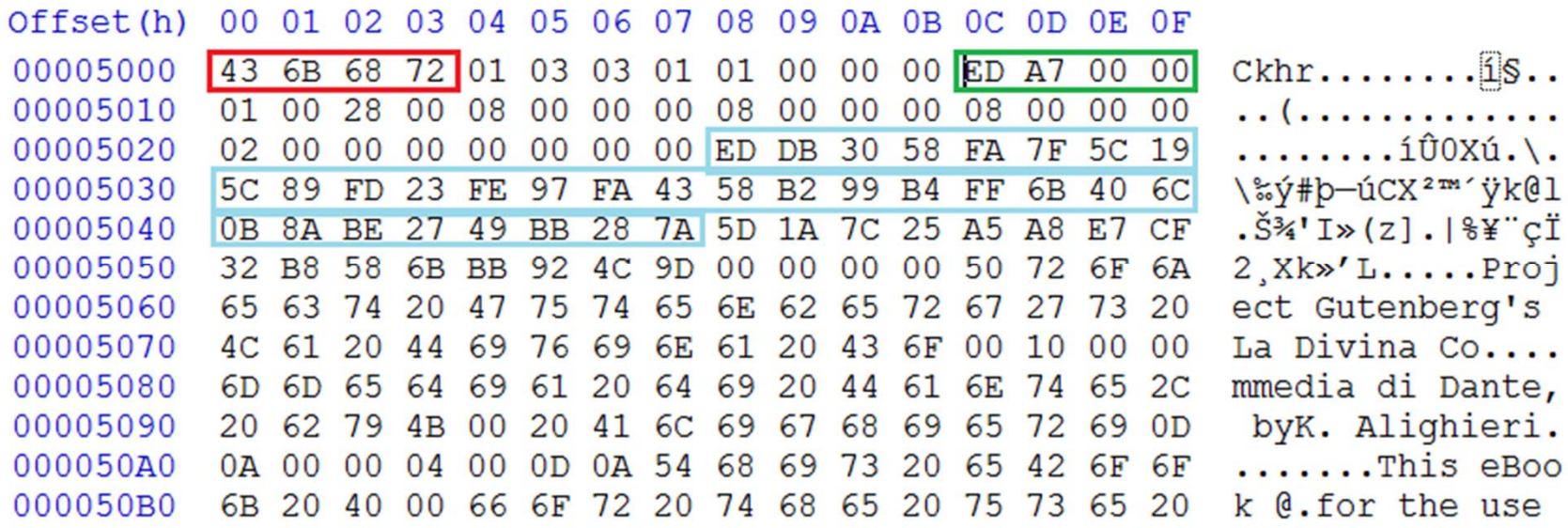
Stream Container



Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	
00005000	43	6B	68	72	01	03	03	01	01	00	00	00	C8	01	00	00	Ckhr.....È...
00005010	02	00	38	00	08	00	00	00	08	00	00	00	08	00	00	00	..8.....
00005020	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	.....
00005030	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	9C	FC	06	75	EB	4E	D1	0C	.....œü.uëNÑ.
00005040	FD	13	F3	14	AA	1D	B1	D3	8C	BA	9C	19	E2	EF	D5	12	ý.ó.ª.±ÓŒºœ.âïÕ.
00005050	50	58	CE	B1	FB	58	0F	27	EB	47	3C	95	A2	30	E5	A5	PXÎ±ûX.'ëG<•¢0å¥
00005060	77	51	A6	31	DF	FF	CB	71	53	6D	61	70	01	04	04	01	wQ¦1ßÿËqSmap....
00005070	01	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	00	50	00	00	01	00	00	00	.....P.....
00005080	2E	5E	01	00	00	00	00	00	ED	DB	30	58	FA	7F	5C	19	.^.....íÛ0Xú.\.
00005090	5C	89	FD	23	FE	97	FA	43	58	B2	99	B4	FF	6B	40	6C	\‰ý#þ—úCX²™´ÿk@l
000050A0	0B	8A	BE	27	49	BB	28	7A	ED	A7	00	00	00	00	00	00	.Š¾'I»(zí§.....
000050B0	02	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	48	F8	00	00	01	00	00	00	.....Hø.....
000050C0	44	2A	03	00	00	00	00	00	E7	C5	0F	9F	02	BB	E9	55	D*.....çÅ.Ÿ.»éU
000050D0	FE	76	17	54	2C	D0	55	5D	45	F4	7F	52	BE	FD	E0	55	þv.T,ÐU]Eô.R¾ýàU
000050E0	F9	1D	A9	E7	7F	A9	8E	85	DA	DD	00	00	00	00	00	00	ù.©ç.©Ž…ÚÝ.....
000050F0	03	00	00	00	01	00	00	00	80	D6	01	00	01	00	00	00	.....€Ö.....

- Displacement 0x68 → Smap…. – Marker of first hash value
- Displacement 0x78 → Chunk address in chunk container
- Displacement 0x88 → First chunk hash
- Displacement 0xA8 → First chunk length

Chunk Container



Offset(h)	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	
00005000	43	6B	68	72	01	03	03	01	01	00	00	00	ED	A7	00	00	Ckhr.....í§..
00005010	01	00	28	00	08	00	00	00	08	00	00	00	08	00	00	00	..(.....
00005020	02	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	ED	DB	30	58	FA	7F	5C	19	.....íÛ0Xú.\.
00005030	5C	89	FD	23	FE	97	FA	43	58	B2	99	B4	FF	6B	40	6C	\‰ý#þ—úCX²™´ÿk@l
00005040	0B	8A	BE	27	49	BB	28	7A	5D	1A	7C	25	A5	A8	E7	CF	.Š¾'I»(z].|%¥¨çÏ
00005050	32	B8	58	6B	BB	92	4C	9D	00	00	00	00	50	72	6F	6A	2¸Xk»'L.....Proj
00005060	65	63	74	20	47	75	74	65	6E	62	65	72	67	27	73	20	ect Gutenberg's
00005070	4C	61	20	44	69	76	69	6E	61	20	43	6F	00	10	00	00	La Divina Co....
00005080	6D	6D	65	64	69	61	20	64	69	20	44	61	6E	74	65	2C	mmedia di Dante,
00005090	20	62	79	4B	00	20	41	6C	69	67	68	69	65	72	69	0D	byK. Alighieri.
000050A0	0A	00	00	04	00	0D	0A	54	68	69	73	20	65	42	6F	6F	.....This eBoo
000050B0	6B	20	40	00	66	6F	72	20	74	68	65	20	75	73	65	20	k @.for the use

- Displacement 0x00 → Ckhr – Marker of Chunk
- Displacement 0x0C → Chunk length
- Displacement 0x20 → Chunk hash

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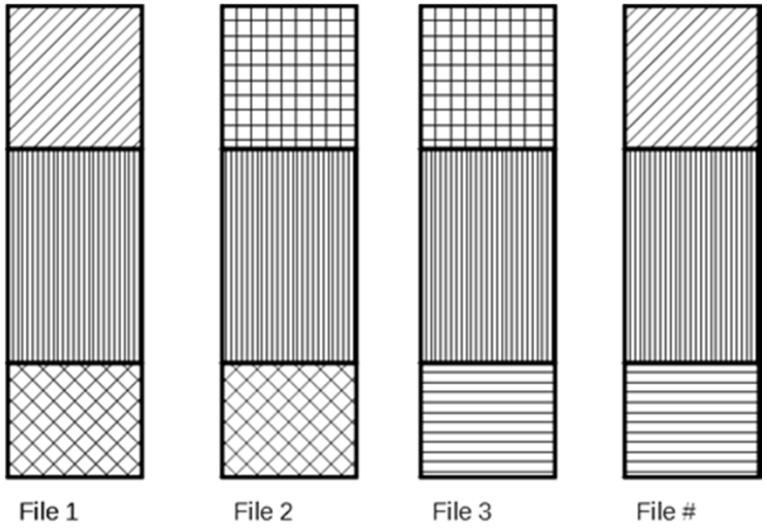
Operation artifacts

- File deleting
  - The $MFT entry is removed
  - The stream map and chunkstore remain unchanged.
  - File is recoverable immediately after its deletion.
- Optimize process
  - no effect on deleted file stream map and chunk store
- Garbage collection (GC)
  - a regular GC invalidates elements in chunkstore
  - a full GC eliminates all traces (write a new file, leave artifacts of the old one)
  - GC process leaves artifacts in unallocated space of the volume

Importance of hash sequence

- Without the knowledge of chunks concatenation sequence, is impossible to do an accurate reconstruction work;
- Hash sequence is the only way to be sure of the accuracy of file reconstruction;
- The Rabin algorithm uses the output of a polynomial function, and cut the files where a fixed fingerprint is present.



- File 1 – Original file, lenght equal to 3 chunks
- File 2 – File 1 first lines modified
- File 3 – File 2 last lines modified
- File # - File created concatenating 3 chunks recovered from chunk repository. This is a valid file, but never existed in the file system

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Conclusion

- Topics covered
  - Analysis of deduplicated file systems;
  - Identification of the elements of the file systems;
  - Recovering deduplicated file system manually;
  - Traces left from deduplication process;
  - Traces left after file deletion;
  - Importance of hash sequence;

Thank you