

AFF4-L: A scalable open logical evidence container

Dr. Bradley Schatz

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AFF4-L A scalable open logical evidence container

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V1.1 – Techno Security Myrtle Beach 2019

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This seminar

- Background on AFF4
- Logical imaging
- AFF4 logical imaging
- AFF4 *deduplicated* logical imaging
- Evaluation

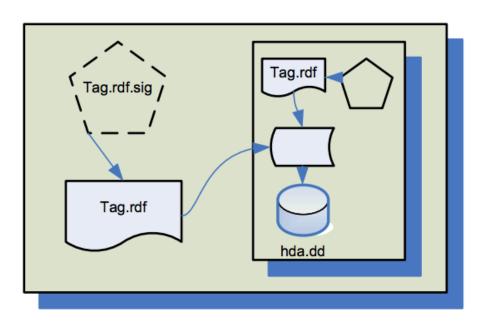


Background

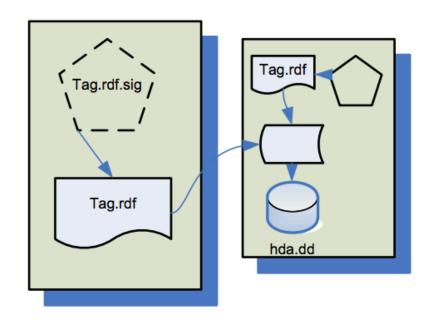


Sealed Digital Evidence Bags (Schatz, 2006):

Cross-container referencing for forensic images



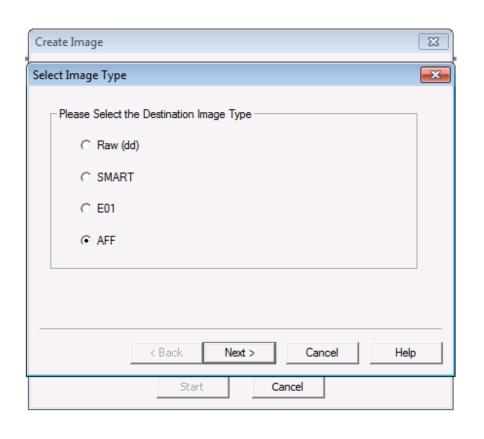
Embedded DEB



Referenced DEB



The Advanced Forensic Format (Garfinkel, 2006): A vendor neutral next-generation format

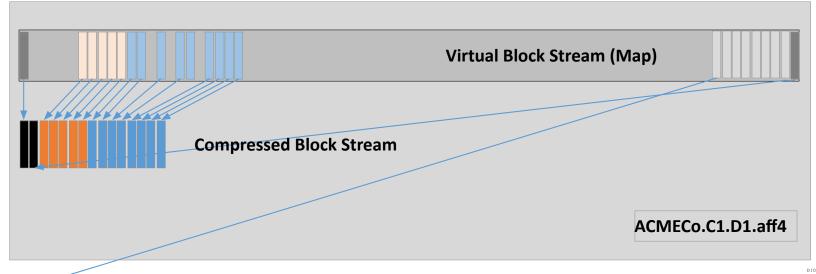


- Good
 - Well defined format
 - Open source
 - Extensible Name/Value pair metadata storage
- Bad
 - Large compressed chunk sizes (16M by default) slow w/ NTFS MFT



AFF4 (Cohen, Garfinkel, Schatz 2009)

Virtualisation + Efficient compressed block store + Arbitrary linked data



Synthetic Zero Block Stream



Extending the advanced forensic format to accommodate multiple data sources, logical evidence, arbitrary information and forensic workflow

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Australian Federal Police, High Tech Crime Operations, 203 Wharf St., Spring Hill, Brisbane 4001, Australia



The Compressed Block Stream (in-ZIP)

```
<aff4://c215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610>
                                    aff4:ImageStream ;
        a
        aff4:chunkSize
                                    "32768"^^xsd:int :
        aff4:chunksInSegment
                                    "2048"^^xsd:int :
                                    <http://code.google.com/p/snappy/> ;
        aff4:compressionMethod
                                    "fbac22cca549310bc5df03b7560afcf490995fbb"^^aff4:SHA1 ,
        aff4:hash
"d5825dc1152a42958c8219ff11ed01a3"^^aff4:MD5 ;
aff4:imageStreamHash "7c909ad458a904873c33c59de0a3e6c7657e234e7ba0db3"^^aff4:SHA512
                                    "7c909ad458a90ca083cf2d10848fb3aaee7d9ac008605f85aef1ac2db8249973ac7b6716f3250edb80219ff628d6fb
                                    "c663bc90d996d2c9699e00dc1ea2c55b3724f1eaca2b92119bb7c764aad222eed321cb00ee67899c027f6837a3bd8f
        aff4:imageStreamIndexHash
789a96adb6e9df51629b3cac0b6f9f0722"^^aff4:SHA512 :
                                    "3964928"^^xsd:long;
        aff4:size
        aff4:stored
        aff4:target
                                    <aff4://fcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b> :
        aff4:version
                                    "1"^^xsd:int .
aff4://685e15cc-d0fb-4dbc-ba47-48117fc77044
 Length
              Date
                      Time
                               Name
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               container.description
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               version.txt
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000
  3047794
    1936
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.blockнash.md5
```

```
2420
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.blockHash.sha1
         11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.index
    1452
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/map
  114884
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/idx
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/mapPath
    6580 11-07-2016 13:40
                              information.turtle
                              10 files
© 231675530 Brensic
```



The Virtual Block Stream (in-ZIP)

```
<aff4://c215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610>
                                     aff4:ImageStream;
        a
        aff4:chunkSize
                                     "32768"^^xsd:int :
        aff4:chunksInSegment
                                    "2048"^^xsd:int :
                                    <http://code.google.com/p/snappy/> ;
        aff4:compressionMethod
                                     "fbac22cca549310bc5df03b7560afcf490995fbb"^^aff4:SHA1 ,
        aff4:hash
"d5825dc1152a42958c8219ff11ed01a3"^^aff4:MD5 ;
aff4:imageStreamHash "7c909ad458a904873c33c59de0a3e6c7657e234e7ba0db3"^^aff4:SHA512
                                    "7c909ad458a90ca083cf2d10848fb3aaee7d9ac008605f85aef1ac2db8249973ac7b6716f3250edb80219ff628d6fb
                                     "c663bc90d996d2c9699e00dc1ea2c55b3724f1eaca2b92119bb7c764aad222eed321cb00ee67899c027f6837a3bd8f
        aff4:imageStreamIndexHash
789a96adb6e9df51629b3cac0b6f9f0722"^^aff4:SHA512 :
                                     "3964928"^^xsd:long;
        aff4:size
        aff4:stored
        aff4:target
                                     <aff4://fcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b> :
        aff4:version
                                     "1"^^xsd:int .
aff4://685e15cc-d0fb-4dbc-ba47-48117fc77044
 Length
              Date
                       Time
                               Name
                               container.description
          11-07-2016 13:40
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               version.txt
```

```
3047794
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000
    1936
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/0000000.blockHash.md5
    2420
         11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.blockHash.sha1
         11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.index
    1452
          11-07-2016 13:40
                             aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/map
  114884
         11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/idx
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/mapPath
    6580 11-07-2016 13:40
                              information.turtle
                              10 files
© 231675530 Brensic
```



Metadata & information is represented in RDF

```
<aff4://c215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610>
                                     aff4:ImageStream;
        a
        aff4:chunkSize
                                     "32768"^^xsd:int :
        aff4:chunksInSegment
                                     "2048"^^xsd:int :
        aff4:compressionMethod
                                     <http://code.google.com/p/snappy/> ;
                                     "fbac22cca549310bc5df03b7560afcf490995fbb"^^aff4:SHA1 ,
        aff4:hash
"d5825dc1152a42958c8219ff11ed01a3"^^aff4:MD5;
aff4:imageStreamHash "7c909ad458a90c4873c33c59de0a3e6c7657e234e7ba0db3"^^aff4:SHA512;
                                     "7c909ad458a90ca083cf2d10848fb3aaee7d9ac008605f85aef1ac2db8249973ac7b6716f3250edb80219ff628d6fb
                                     "c663bc90d996d2c9699e00dc1ea2c55b3724f1eaca2b92119bb7c764aad222eed321cb00ee67899c027f6837a3bd8f
        aff4:imageStreamIndexHash
789a96adb6e9df51629b3cac0b6f9f0722"^^aff4:SHA512 :
        aff4:size
                                     "3964928"^^xsd:long;
        aff4:stored
        aff4:target
                                     <aff4://fcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b> :
        aff4:version
                                     "1"^^xsd:int .
aff4://685e15cc-d0fb-4dbc-ba47-48117fc77044
 Length
              Date
                               Name
                               container.description
           11-07-2016 13:40
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               version.txt
  3047794
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000
```

```
11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/0000000.blockHash.md5
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/0000000.blockHash.sha1
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.index
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/map
  114884
          11-07-2016 13:40
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/idx
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/mapPath
          11-07-2016 13:40
                              information.turtle
    6580
                              10 files
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```



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10 files

AFF4 Objects = Metadata and/or data streams

```
<aff4://c215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610>
                                    aff4:ImageStream ;
        a
        aff4:chunkSize
                                    "32768"^^xsd:int :
        aff4:chunksInSegment
                                    "2048"^^xsd:int :
        aff4:compressionMethod
                                    <http://code.google.com/p/snappy/> ;
                                    "fbac22cca549310bc5df03b7560afcf490995fbb"^^aff4:SHA1 .
        aff4:hash
"d5825dc1152a42958c8219ff11ed01a3"^^aff4:MD5;
aff4:imageStreamHash "7c909ad458a90c4873c33c59de0a3e6c7657e234e7ba0db3"^^aff4:SHA512;
                                    "7c909ad458a90ca083cf2d10848fb3aaee7d9ac008605f85aef1ac2db8249973ac7b6716f3250edb80219ff628d6fb
                                    "c663bc90d996d2c9699e00dc1ea2c55b3724f1eaca2b92119bb7c764aad222eed321cb00ee67899c027f6837a3bd8f
        aff4:imageStreamIndexHash
789a96adb6e9df51629b3cac0b6f9f0722"^^aff4:SHA512 :
        aff4:size
                                    "3964928"^^xsd:long;
        aff4:stored
        aff4:target
                                    <aff4://fcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b> :
        aff4:version
                                    "1"^^xsd:int .
aff4://685e15cc-d0fb-4dbc-ba47-48117fc77044
 Length
              Date
                      Time
                               Name
                               container.description
          11-07-2016 13:40
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               version.txt
  3047794
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2F<mark>c215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610</mark>/00000000
    1936
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/0000000.blockHash.md5
     2420
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.blockHash.sha1
         11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.index
    1452
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/map
  114884
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/idx
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/mapPath
     6580 11-07-2016 13:40
                               information.turtle
```



AFF4 Objects = Metadata and/or data streams

```
<aff4://c215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610>
                                    aff4:ImageStream ;
        a
        aff4:chunkSize
                                    "32768"^^xsd:int ;
        aff4:chunksInSegment
                                    "2048"^^xsd:int :
                                    <http://code.google.com/p/snappy/> ;
        aff4:compressionMethod
                                    "fbac22cca549310bc5df03b7560afcf490995fbb"^^aff4:SHA1 .
        aff4:hash
"d5825dc1152a42958c8219ff11ed01a3"^^aff4:MD5;
aff4:imageStreamHash "7c909ad458a90c4873c33c59de0a3e6c7657e234e7ba0db3"^^aff4:SHA512;
                                    "7c909ad458a90ca083cf2d10848fb3aaee7d9ac008605f85aef1ac2db8249973ac7b6716f3250edb80219ff628d6fb
                                    "c663bc90d996d2c9699e00dc1ea2c55b3724f1eaca2b92119bb7c764aad222eed321cb00ee67899c027f6837a3bd8f
        aff4:imageStreamIndexHash
789a96adb6e9df51629b3cac0b6f9f0722"^^aff4:SHA512 :
        aff4:size
                                    "3964928"^^xsd:long :
                                                                          Note the URL
        aff4:stored
        aff4:target
                                    <aff4://fcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6
                                                                            encoding
        aff4:version
                                    "1"^^xsd:int .
aff4://685e15cc-d0fb-4dbc-ba47-48117fc77044
 Length
                      Time
              Date
                               Name
                              container.description
           11-07-2016 13:40
           11-07-2016 13:40
                              version.txt
                              aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000
  3047794
           11-07-2016 13:40
    1936
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/0000000.blockHash.md5
     2420
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.blockHash.sha1
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Fc215ba20-5648-4209-a793-1f918c723610/00000000.index
    1452
           11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/map
  114884
          11-07-2016 13:40
                               aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/idx
```

aff4%3A%2F%2Ffcbfdce7-4488-4677-abf6-08bc931e195b/mapPath

information.turtle

© 2312755303 rensic 10 files

11-07-2016 13:40

11-07-2016 13:40

6580



Rethinking logical imaging Time for an open logical imaging format



Acquisition challenges increase as we go up the stack Logical Imaging

- No currently widely adopted standard for interoperability
 - L01, AD1, TGZ, ZIP...
- All approaches preserve less metadata than is desirable
 - e.g. File birth time



Research Goals

- Human interpretability using regular Zip tools
- Efficient access for large logical files
- Arbitrary metadata

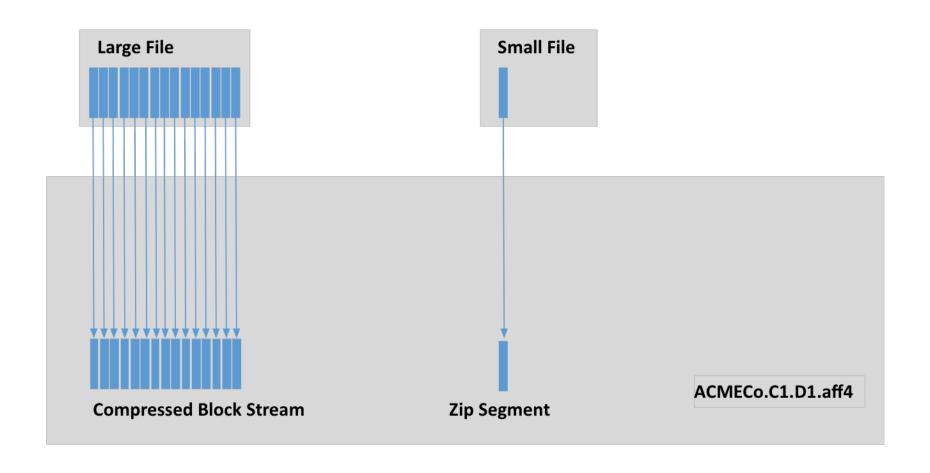


Goal: make AFF4 Logical Images viewable in 7Zip and WinRAR

Zz F:\test.aff4\\test_images\AFF4-L\ File Edit View Favorites Tools Help Extract Test Copy Move Delete Info $F:\text{test.aff4}\times_{\text{images}}AFF4-L$ Packe... Modifi Name Created Access Attribu Enc unicode.aff4 14 124... 14 124... dream.aff4 4 542 4 3 1 6 ٧ dream.txt 8 688 3 5 1 9 V unicode.zip 174 103 utf8segment-macos.zip 168 108 ネコ.txt 6



Efficiency concerns: small vs large





How do we name things in AFF4?

Evolution

- 2009: Used URN for identifying AFF4 objects
 - urn:aff4:f901be8e-d4b2...
 - But the definition of a URN was overly specific
- 2010: Shifted to URL as the identifier of AFF4 objects
 - aff4://f901be8e-d4b2...
 - Percent encoded the "://" in the ZIP layer
 - But the definition of the URL is overly specific for representing logical files
 - Query syntax is valid in some file names "?" as is fragment "#"
 - Also the URL syntax is meant to represent a location and not a name...
- Conclusion
 - We need our own IRI scheme: The AFF4 Resource Identifier



We need our own IRI name scheme: ARN

- AFF4-ARN = "aff4://" object-guid-part ["/" host "/" path
- host and path
 - may contain any Unicode character that is not forbidden in the IRI specification ("/" is used as a path delimiter).
 - Forbidden printable characters
 - <>\^`{|}
 - Percent Encoded



Naming is the primary challenge

Suspect file name

- HFS+ Any Unicode but NULL
- NTFS Any Unicode but /\:*"?<>| & NULL

RDF identifier

- Unicode excluding control characters
- % encoded " ", "#", "?"
- Conforming to IRI standard

ZIP Segment Name • UTF-8 Unicode



Suspect path to ARN Mapping Similar to the file:// protocol

OS Path	AFF4 Resource Name
c:	aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//c:
c:\	aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//c:/
c:\foo	aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//c:/foo
\\bar\c\$	aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18/bar/c\$
\\bar\c\$\foo\ ネコ.txt	aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18/bar/c\$/foo/ ネコ.txt
/foo/bar	aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//foo/bar
/foo/some file	aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//foo/some%20file



ARN to Zip segment name mapping

AFF4 Resource Name	Zip segment name
aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//c:	/C:
aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//c:/	/C:/
aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//c:/foo	/C:/foo
aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18/bar/c\$	bar/c\$/foo
aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18/bar/c\$/foo/ネコ.txt	bar/c\$/foo/ネコ.txt
aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//foo/bar	/foo/bar
aff4://e6bae91b-14d231833e18//foo/some%20file	/foo/some file



Example RDF

```
</test images/AFF4-L/dream.txt> a aff4:FileImage,
    aff4:Image,
    aff4:ImageStream;
  aff4:birthTime "2018-09-17T13:42:20+10:00"^^xsd:datetime;
  aff4:chunkSize 32768;
  aff4:chunksInSegment 1024;
  aff4:compressionMethod <a href="http://code.google.com/p/snappy/">http://code.google.com/p/snappy/</a>;
  aff4:hash "75d83773f8d431a3ca91bfb8859e486d"^^aff4:MD5, "9ae1b46bead70c322eef7ac8bc36a8ea2055595c"^^aff4:SHA1;
  aff4:lastAccessed "2018-09-30T11:18:27+10:00"^^xsd:datetime;
  aff4:lastWritten "2018-09-17T13:42:20+10:00"^^xsd:datetime:
  aff4:originalFileName "./test_images/AFF4-L/dream.txt"^^xsd:string;
  aff4:recordChanged "2018-09-17T13:42:20+10:00"^^xsd:datetime;
  aff4:size 8688.
</test images/AFF4-L/ネコ.txt> a aff4:FileImage,
    aff4:Image,
    aff4:zip segment;
  aff4:birthTime "2018-09-18T15:49:51+10:00"^^xsd:datetime;
  aff4:hash "d3b07384d113edec49eaa6238ad5ff00"^^aff4:MD5, "f1d2d2f924e986ac86fdf7b36c94bcdf32beec15"^^aff4:SHA1;
  aff4:lastAccessed "2018-09-30T11:18:34+10:00"^^xsd:datetime;
  aff4:lastWritten "2018-09-18T15:49:51+10:00"^^xsd:datetime;
  aff4:originalFileName "./test_images/AFF4-L/ネコ.txt"^^xsd:string;
  aff4:recordChanged "2018-09-18T15:49:51+10:00"^^xsd:datetime;
  aff4:size 4.
```



AFF4 Logical Imaging

Code available now in the pyaff4 github

```
git clone --recurse-submodules
https://github.com/aff4/pyaff4.git
python aff4.py -r --create-logical test.aff4
./test_images/AFF4-L/
Creating AFF4Container: file://test.aff4 <aff4://05e730d3-
f6de-4961-9e9a-a30d5043a562>
     Adding: ./test_images/AFF4-L/
     Adding: ./test_images/AFF4-L/dream.aff4
     Adding: ./test_images/AFF4-L/dream.txt
     Adding: ./test_images/AFF4-L/unicode.aff4
     Adding: ./test_images/AFF4-L/unicode.zip
     Adding: ./test_images/AFF4-L/utf8segment-macos.zip
     Adding: ./test_images/AFF4-L/ネコ.txt
```



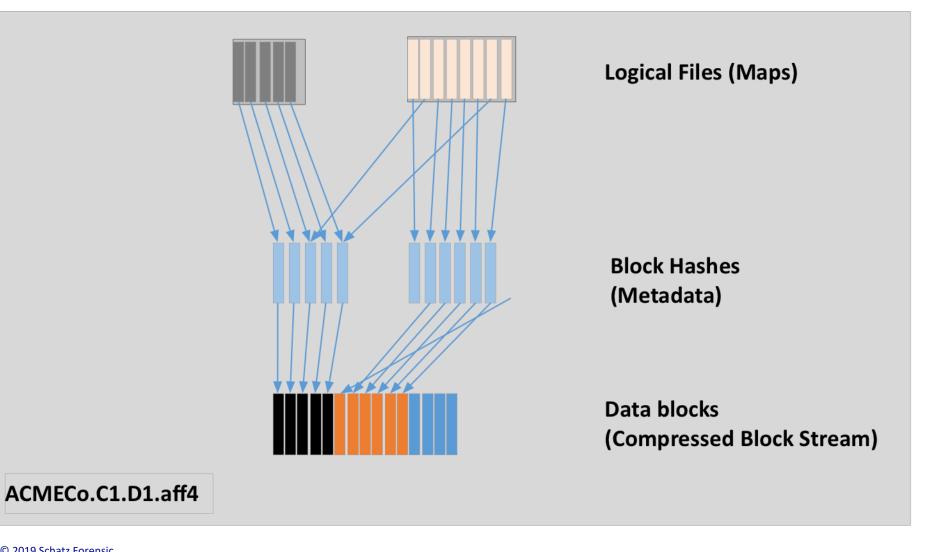
Deduplicated logical imaging



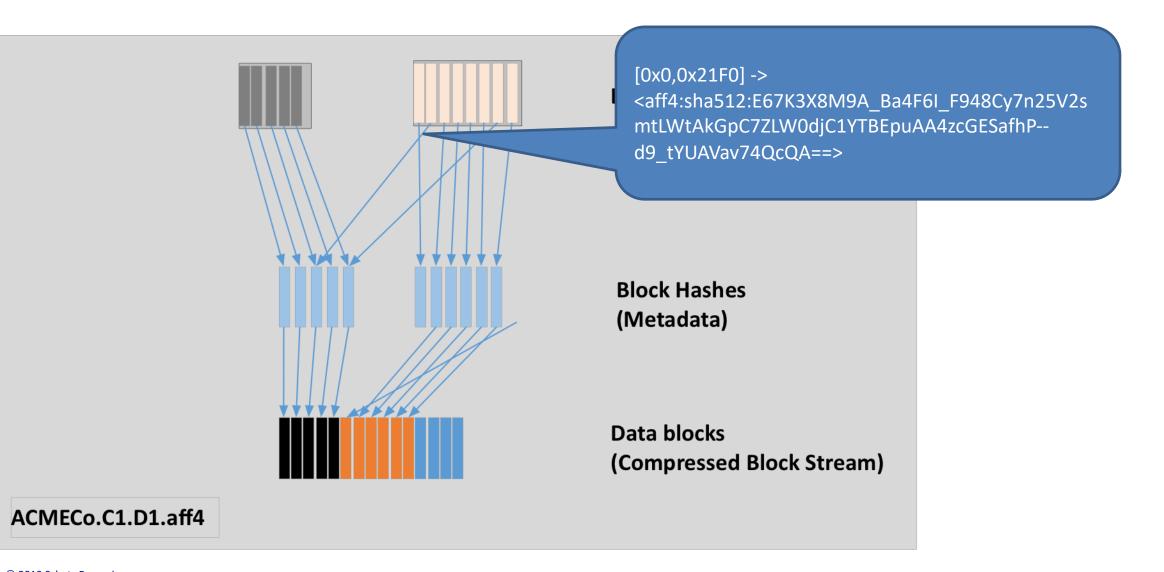
Research Goals

Extend deduplication to AFF4 logical imaging

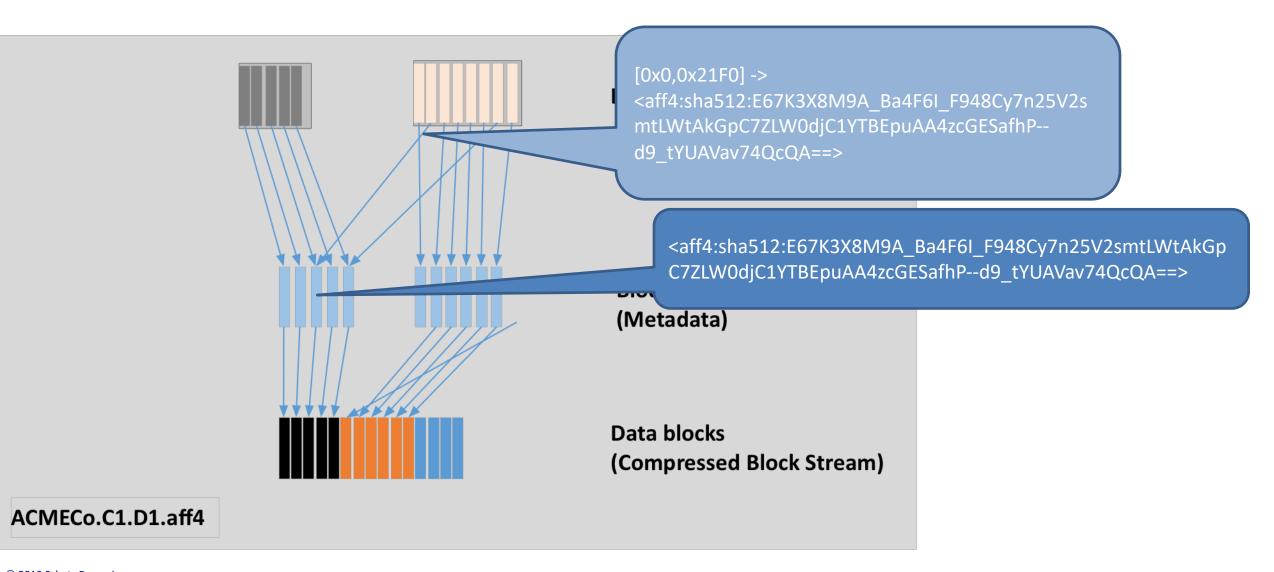




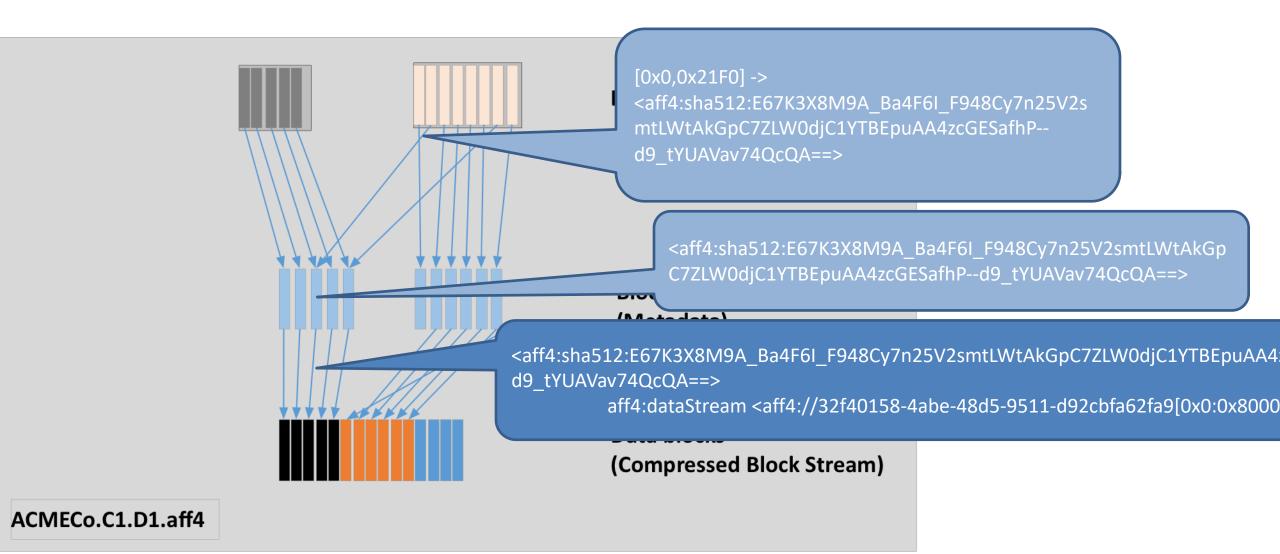














Evaluation



Opening large logical images took too long.

Img	Count files	RDF Triples	Container Size (GB)	First Access Latency	Subsequent Access Latency
Α	19,463	228,287	1.5	33	33
В	21,835	236,235	1.9	39	39
С	41,298	461,220	3.4	67	67

A: Logical of Server 2012 / system32

B: Logical of Windows 10 / system32

C: Logical of A + B



Use a better RDF encoding?

- RDFHDT "RDF Header Data Triples"
 - A highly compressed indexed RDF encoding.
- Convert the RDF turtle on first open to RDFHDT
- Reuse cached encoding on subsequent opens



Choice of RDF serialization has major impacts for image consumers.

Img	Count files	RDF Triples	Container Size (GB)		Initial access latency HDT (s)
Α	19,463	228,287	1.5	33/33	3.8/0
В	21,835	236,235	1.9	39/39	4.4/0
С	41,298	461,220	3.4	67/67	8.9/0

A: Logical of Server 2012 / system32

B: Logical of Windows 10 / system32

C: Logical of A + B



Observations

- CASE/UCO uses the same representational approach as AFF4
 - RDF (JSON-LD) + Python/RDFLib
 - JSON-LD is equally as slow to load as Turtle
- Ontology design choices made now have far reaching effects on the number of triples stored



Future work

- Logical Imaging
 - Using "/" at the start of the ZIP Segment name violates the spec
 - The ARN mapping rules need to be fleshed out to identify more edge cases
 - Is it overly ambitious keeping the ZIP segment names human readable?
 - Standardisation
- Record based imaging
 - Sub file level imaging (web service calls, etc)
- Deduplication
 - Use different chunking algorithm (CDC, and others)
- AFF4-L as a container/transport for CASE/UCO



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