

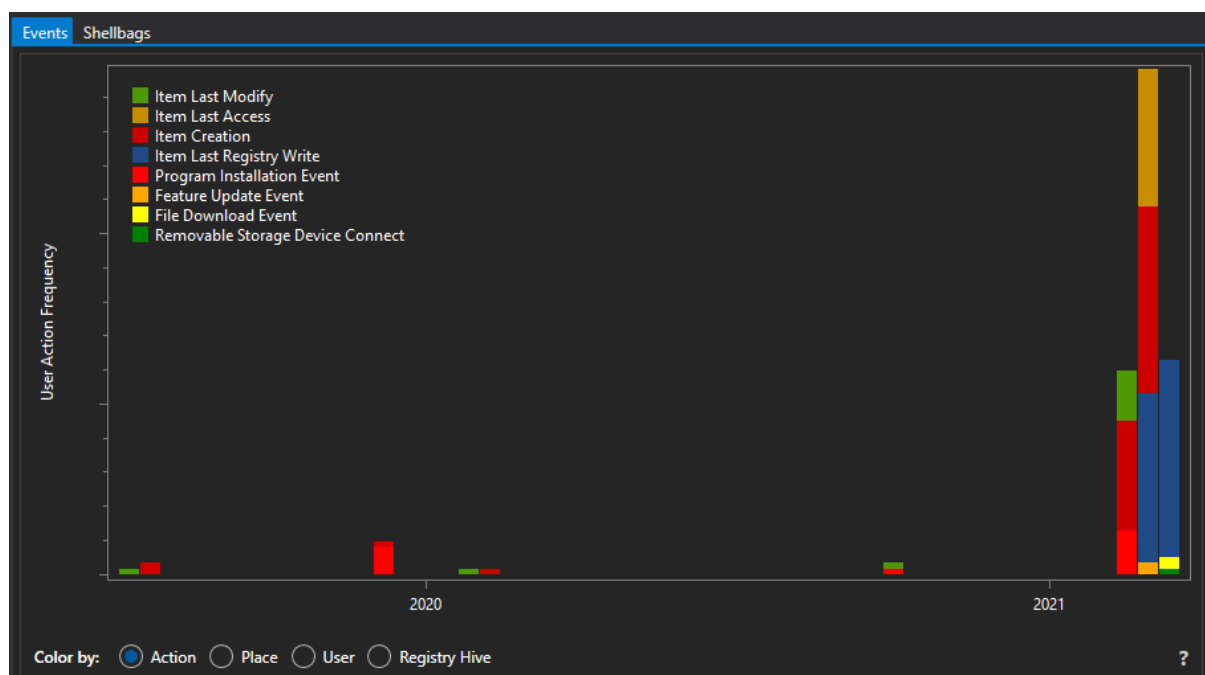
To demonstrate how SeeShells can provide an effectively rich interface for finding shellbag information, a situation, analysis, and results are presented below:

Situation

Assuming the present day is 03/15/2021, while working as a Digital Forensics and Incident Response (DFIR) analyst, you are investigating an insider threat of Intellectual Property (IP) theft case. The company, Tehsla, said their own Cyber Threat Intelligence department found that a person or group was selling a folder on the dark web with intellectual property inside the folder. The forum post selling the information was posted at 9:34 PM on 03/08/2021. The Threat Intelligence team couldn't verify what exactly was being sold inside the folder, but they believe the claim is legitimate and only people working within the company could have accessed any confidential company information. Therefore, the company's security department believes they have identified a suspect. However, the company does not have definitive proof that this employee was the one who did it, so they hired you to help. They were able to get the suspected employee's computer and registry information - are you able to find any solid evidence and gather information on what exactly was stolen?

Analysis

Using SeeShells and opening the registry file provided by Tehsla security department, one of the first things that can be seen is the large timeline of the events spanning from 2019 to March 2021 shown below:



SeeShells showing one of the first events in 2019.

One thing that can be done to reduce the number of events shown, is to filter out some events using the SeeShells Global Events Filter. One of the key details about the investigation is the timeline of incidents. The company's Cyber Threat Intelligence team said the post was put up

on 03/08/2021. Showing activity from a week before the incident date could show a list of events that led up to it.

Within SeeShells, you can edit the Start Date and End Date fields to only show events within that time frame. For this, I set the Start Date on 03/01/2021 and End Date on 03/08/2021 as shown below:



SeeShells using a Start and End Date in the Global Events Filter.

From the situation description, the company was not able to figure out what specific confidential information is found, so currently it is not possible to filter by event name. Looking around at the folder names could show what could potentially be intellectual property (IP). IP is any information, property, or asset that the company owns which is prohibited from outside use or distribution.

From the directory names, we can figure out the company, industry, and potential IP items. The following are directory names that were found that are indicative of the industry:

- Self_Driving_Code
- 2020CarDesigns
- SelfDrivingCompCode
- ElectricMotorBlueprint

We see that the employee had access to those files and was able to modify them, shown below. Though so far there's no evidence that the employee took them from his or her work computer.

ImportExportResetSEESHELLS

Shell Inspector

SHELLBAG INFORMATION

Data fields extracted from a shellbag in the user's registry hive.

Description: Electric Motor Blueprint

Type: File Entry

Subtype: Directory

Location Name: Electric Motor Blueprint

Location Path: My Computer\Documents

Registry Path: Hk\Shell\Case Study 1\UsrClassdat

Registry Owner: User

Last Registry Write Date: 3/6/2021 7:15:01 AM

SHELLBAG PRIDS

Size: 122

Type: 49

Type Name: File Entry

Subtype Name: Directory

File Size: 0

View Versions

Select a shellbag in the Shell Inspector or Registry View to view its version history.

EventsShellbags

DESCRIPTION	TYPE	SUBTYPE	LOCATION NAME	LOCATION PATH	REGISTRY	USER	LAST REGISTRY WRITE
Testing code	File Entry	Directory	Testing code	My Computer\Desktop\work_2	UsrClassdat	User	3/1/2021 2:18:23 PM
Electric Motor Blueprint	File Entry	Directory	Electric Motor Blueprint	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/6/2021 7:15:01 AM
general_documents_1	File Entry	Directory	general_documents_1	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/16/2021 3:19:13 PM
general_documents_2	File Entry	Directory	general_documents_2	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/1/2021 2:17:29 PM
general_documents_3	File Entry	Directory	general_documents_3	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/1/2021 3:18:18 AM
general_documents_4	File Entry	Directory	general_documents_4	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/1/2021 3:18:37 PM
general_documents_5	File Entry	Directory	general_documents_5	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/3/2021 5:24:06 PM
ISExpress	File Entry	Directory	ISExpress	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/16/2021 3:19:19 PM
My Web Sites	File Entry	Directory	My Web Sites	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/5/2021 11:10:00 AM
Public_Company_Stuff_1	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_1	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/6/2021 7:15:39 AM
Public_Company_Stuff_10	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_10	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/1/2021 3:18:14 AM
Public_Company_Stuff_11	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_11	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/4/2021 8:37:29 AM
Public_Company_Stuff_12	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_12	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	5/1/2021 2:59:51 PM
Public_Company_Stuff_13	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_13	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/3/2021 11:23:21 AM
Public_Company_Stuff_14	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_14	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/4/2021 9:37:03 AM
Public_Company_Stuff_15	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_15	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/1/2021 2:18:50 PM
Public_Company_Stuff_2	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_2	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/15/2021 10:28:28 PM
Public_Company_Stuff_3	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_3	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/2/2021 9:22:48 PM
Public_Company_Stuff_4	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_4	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/1/2021 3:18:13 AM
Public_Company_Stuff_5	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_5	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/1/2021 3:17:39 PM
Public_Company_Stuff_6	File Entry	Directory	Public_Company_Stuff_6	My Computer\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/3/2021 5:24:06 PM

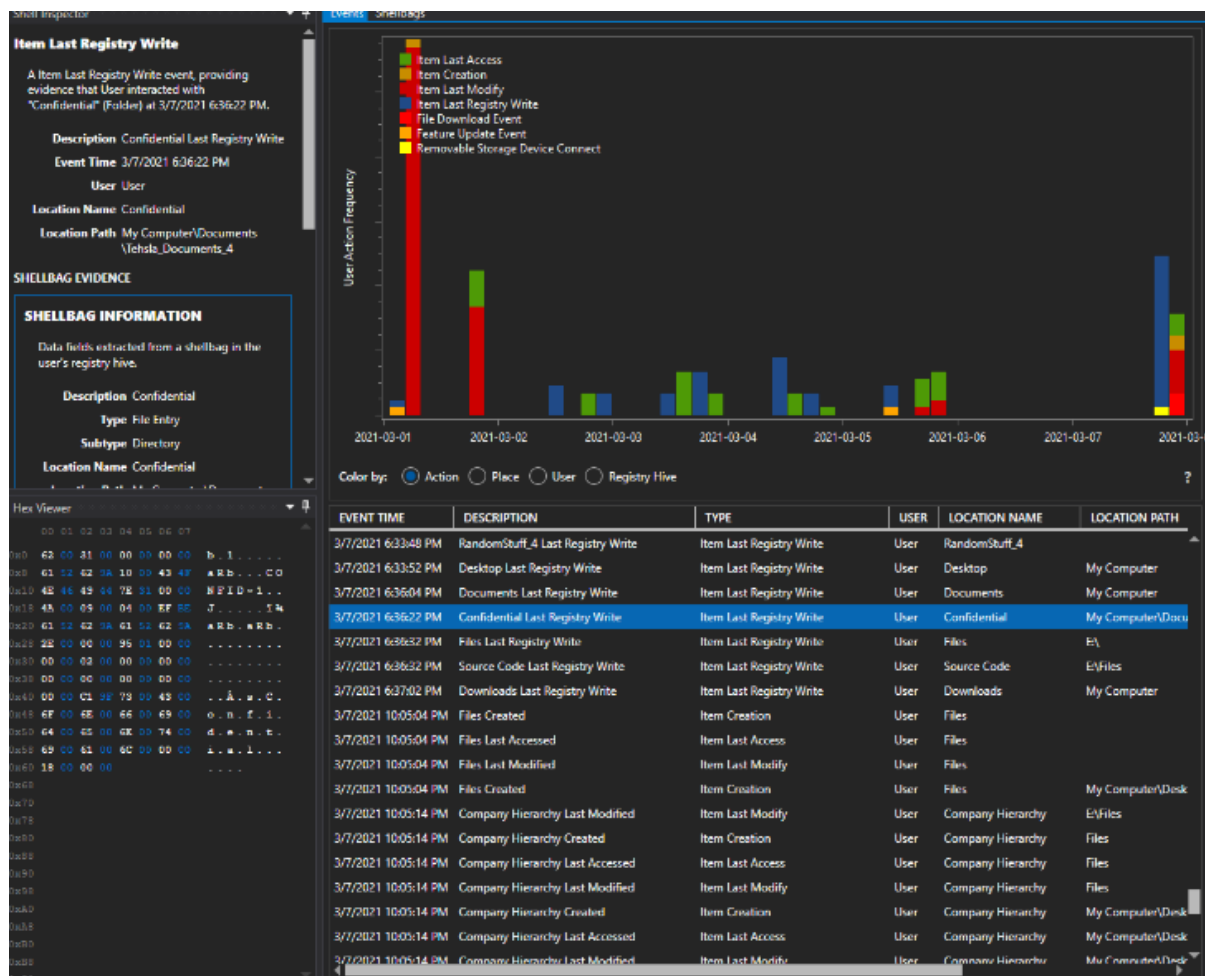
Finding one of the folders that can potentially be IP.

This company is an electric vehicle company that also has specialization in self driving technology which is highly valued. Though it is worth noting that there are other directories within the environment and not all are suspicious files, such as general folders like Tehsla_Documents_1. Also, since the suspect was an internal employee, he or she is allowed legitimate access to those internal documents and so far, there's no evidence they have taken anything outside the company's work environment. By continuing to walk up the dates there is interesting activity found the day before the IP is posted online for sale on the deep web (03/08/2021) as shown below.

Shell Inspector										
SHELLBAG INFORMATION										
Data fields extracted from a shellbag in the user's registry hive.										
Description		Source Code	Type	File Entry	Subtype	Location Name	Location Path	Registry	User	Last Registry Write
Tehsla_Documents_4		File Entry	Directory	Tehsla_Documents_4	My Computer\Users\User\Documents	UsrClassdat	User	3/5/2021 4:12:53 PM		
Confidential		File Entry	Directory	Confidential	My Computer\Users\User\Documents\Tehsla_Documents_4	UsrClassdat	User	3/5/2021 4:12:54 PM		
Source Code		File Entry	Directory	Source Code	My Computer\Users\User\Documents\Tehsla_Documents_4\Confidential	UsrClassdat	User	3/5/2021 4:12:54 PM		
Self_Driving_Code_3		File Entry	Directory	Self_Driving_Code_3	My Computer\Scripts	UsrClassdat	User	3/5/2021 4:14:11 PM		
Blueprints		File Entry	Directory	Blueprints	My Computer\Documents\Tehsla_Documents_4\Confidential	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:04:56 PM		
2022 Car Designs		File Entry	Directory	2022 Car Designs	Files	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:05:50 PM		
Company Hierarchy		File Entry	Directory	Company Hierarchy	Files	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:05:51 PM		
Location Path		My Computer\Users\User\Documents	Self Driving Comp Code	File Entry	Directory	Self Driving Comp Code	Files	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:06:00 PM
Files		File Entry	Directory	Files	Files	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:06:22 PM		
EA		Root Folder	Removable Drive	EA		UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:09:15 PM		
2022 Car Designs		File Entry	Directory	2022 Car Designs	EA\Files	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:09:16 PM		
Company Hierarchy		File Entry	Directory	Company Hierarchy	EA\Files	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:09:18 PM		
Self Driving Comp Code		File Entry	Directory	Self Driving Comp Code	EA\Files	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:09:19 PM		
Files		File Entry	Directory	Files	My Computer\Desktop	UsrClassdat	User	3/7/2021 5:22:38 PM		

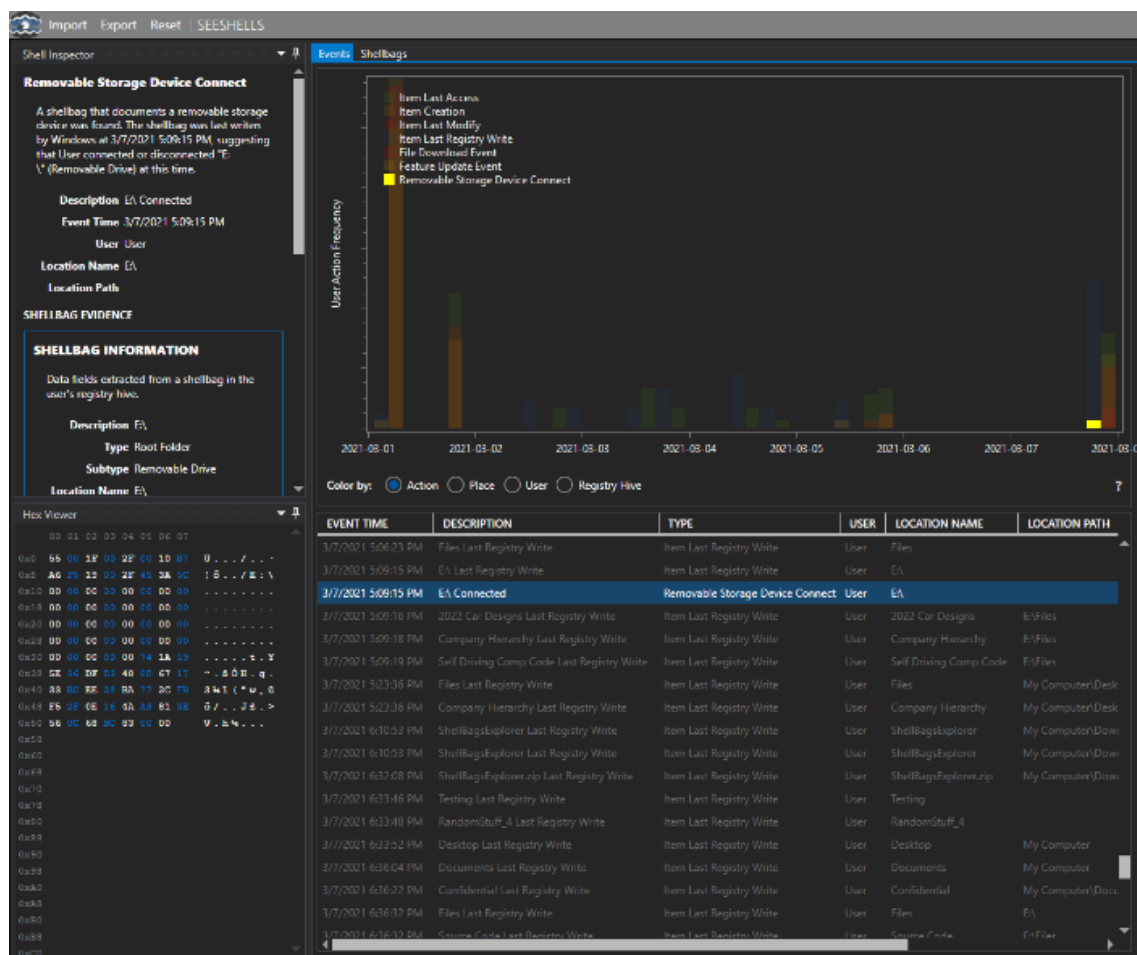
Showing another interesting directory within the timeframe.

On March 7th, it is observed that the employee viewed several directories within the folder labeled Confidential, created another folder Files, and copied directories under that Confidential folder into the new folder called "Files". This is highlighted and shown below:



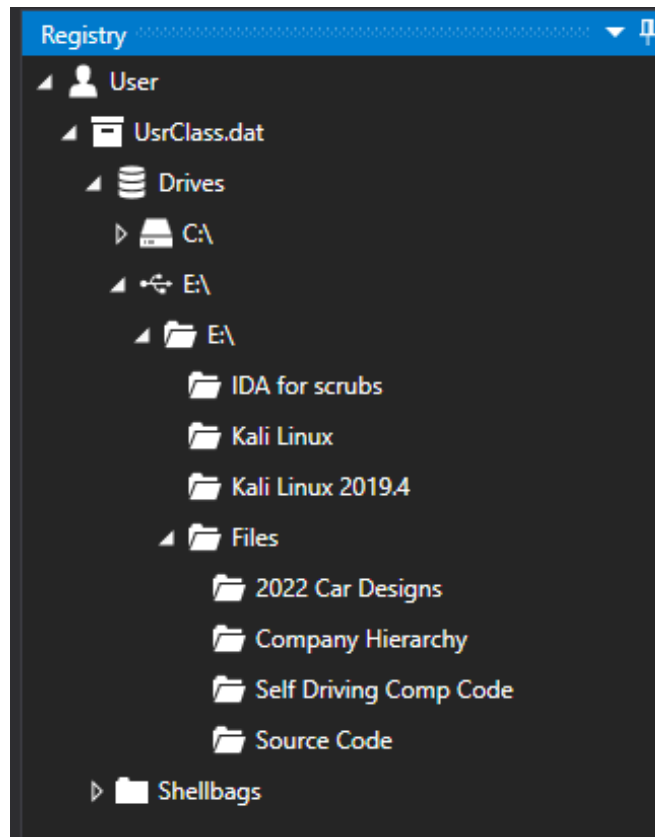
Creation of a folder named Files.

Furthermore, filtering out the types of events to Removable Storage Device Connect by clicking on it, will grey out everything and show that a drive named "E:\\" was connected. Clicking on it will show that it is a removable storage device that was connected in the interested timeframe and is shown below:



Getting proof some type of external device was last plugged in before the post date with confidential files within them.

On the top right-hand side of the SeeShells explorer, the registry view will show what the filesystem looked like. We can expand "Drives" and see both the C drive (the main computer) and the E drive (the external device). We can expand on the E drive which shows a few folders, one of which is the same Files folder we found earlier. Expanding on that we see the following folders as shown below:



The same files in that external hard drive can be found under the Confidential Folder.

Analysis Conclusion

The data analyzed from Shellbags in the Windows Registry clearly indicates that the employee copied several confidential files from their work computer onto some type of external storage device (E:) on 03/07/2021 at 22:09. In our case study, using SeeShells we were able to quickly find evidence that several files such as the 2022 Car Designs, Corporate Hierarchy, Self-Driving Computer Code, and Source Code were all taken from the company's computer. Even though that external device is no longer attached to the system, the Windows Registry (more specifically Shellbags) was able to log information regarding folders that had previously existed on this device. This data should be a lead to other artifact files or data within the OS to corroborate this assertion. Examples may include, but are not limited to, link or shortcut files, file system artifacts, event logs, etc.