



DIGITAL FORENSICS LAB SERIES

Lab 3: Hashing Data Sets

Objective: Evidence Acquisition, Preparation and Preservation

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Introduction

This lab includes the following tasks:

1. Imaging and Hashing a Disk and Verifying the Hashes of the Image
2. Using BackTrack to Hash Images, Disks, and Partitions
3. Using HashCalc to Verify Hashes

Objective: Digital Forensics Fundamentals

Performing this lab will provide the student with a hands-on lab experience meeting the Digital Forensics Fundamentals Objective:

The candidate will demonstrate an understanding of forensic methodology, key forensics concepts, and identifying types of evidence on current Windows operating systems.

A forensic examination is not performed on a suspect's actual drive. A copy, or image, of the drive is made and then the examination is performed on the copy. A hash, like MD5 or SHA1 can be used to prove that the copy is forensically equivalent to the actual disk.

EnCase Imager – Encase Imager is a GUI Program that will allow a user to create a disk image from within Windows. You can run into complications imaging a disk while in Windows because certain files are locked by the OS. EnCase Imager is a free product.

HashCalc – A free program from <http://www.slavasoft.com/hashcalc/> that allows you to calculate the MD5, SHA-256, SHA-384, SHA-512, and other hash values of data sets.

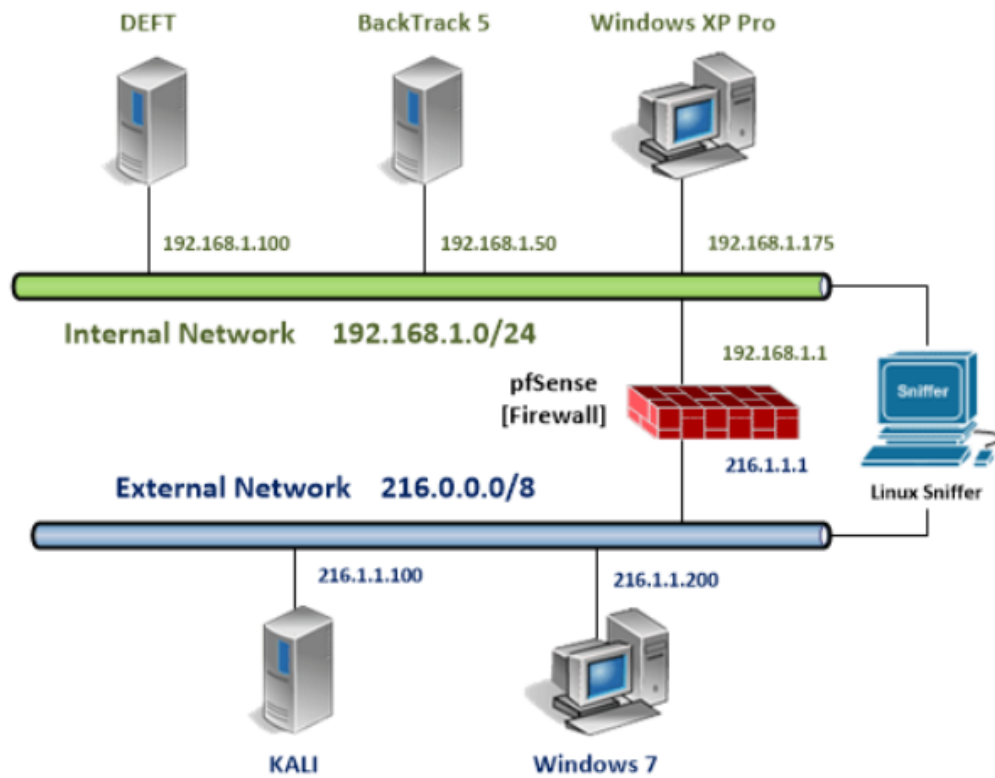
MD5 – Message Digest 5 is a 128 bit hashing algorithm that aids forensic examiners by “proving” that the copy of the media they are working on is ‘equivalent’ to the original. Other hashes, like SHA-1, which is 160 bits, are more accurate than the 128 bit MD5.

SHA1 – Secure Hash Algorithm is a 160 bit hashing algorithm that aids forensic examiners by “proving” that the copy of the media they are working on is ‘equivalent’ to the original. There are also 256, 384, and 512 bit versions of SHA that are more accurate.

BackTrack– BackTrack is a free Ubuntu Linux-based Live DVD. BackTrack, from Offensive-Security, is used for forensics and penetration testing. It is available for download free at the following link: <http://www.backtrack-linux.org/downloads/>.



Lab Topology



Lab Settings

The information in the table below will be needed in order to complete the lab. The task sections below provide details on the use of this information.

Virtual Machine	IP Address	Account (if needed)	Password (if needed)
Windows 7 External Machine	216.1.1.200	student	password



1 Imaging and Hashing a Disk and Verifying the Hashes of the Image

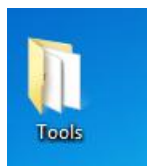
Disks are imaged, or copied, so that an examiner can work on a copy of the disk as opposed to analyzing the actual drive. A disk can be imaged and hashed from within Windows using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) based tool like EnCase Imager. EnCase Imager is a free product that is made by Guidance Software. After a disk is imaged with EnCase Imager, you will receive an acquisition and verification hash. When the image is loaded into a case, the acquisition hash should match the verification hash.

1.1 Using EnCase Imager

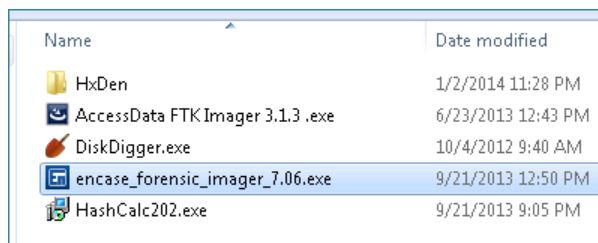
1. To log into the **Windows 7 External Machine**, click on the **Windows 7** icon on the topology.
2. If required, enter the username, **student**.
3. Type in the password, **password**, and press **Enter** to log in.



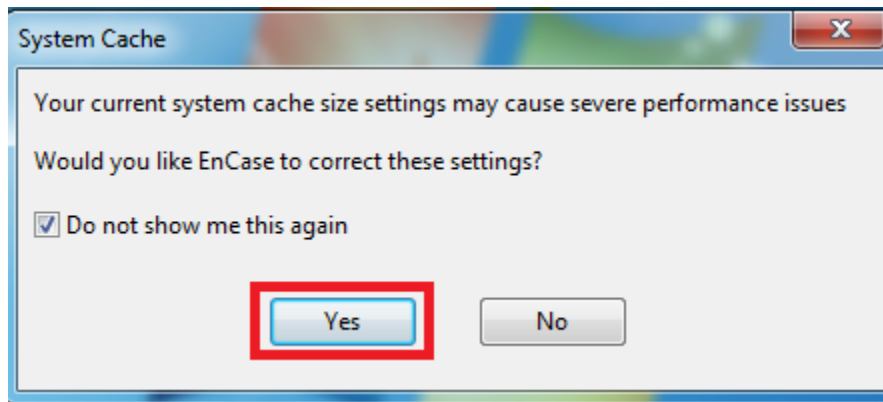
1. Double-click on the Tools folder on the desktop.



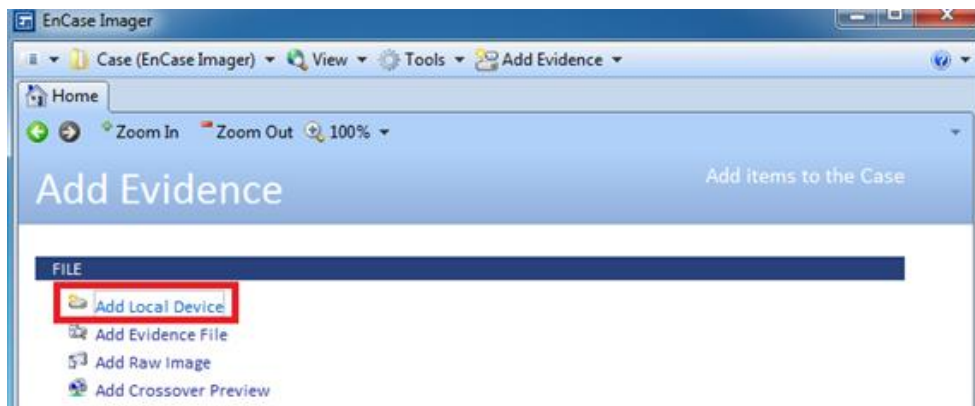
2. Double-click on **encase_forensic_imager_7.06.exe** to launch the program.



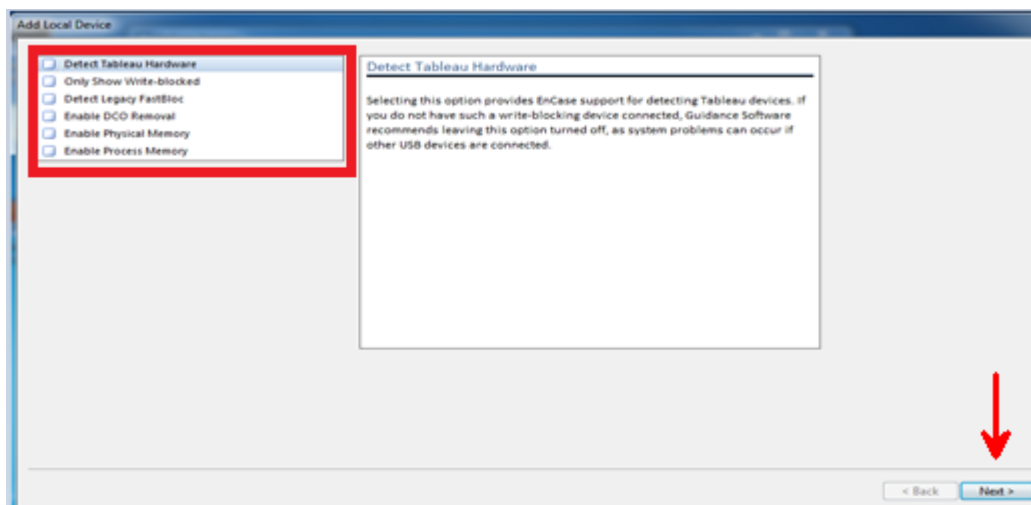
- Click **Yes** when you are asked if you want EnCase to correct the settings.



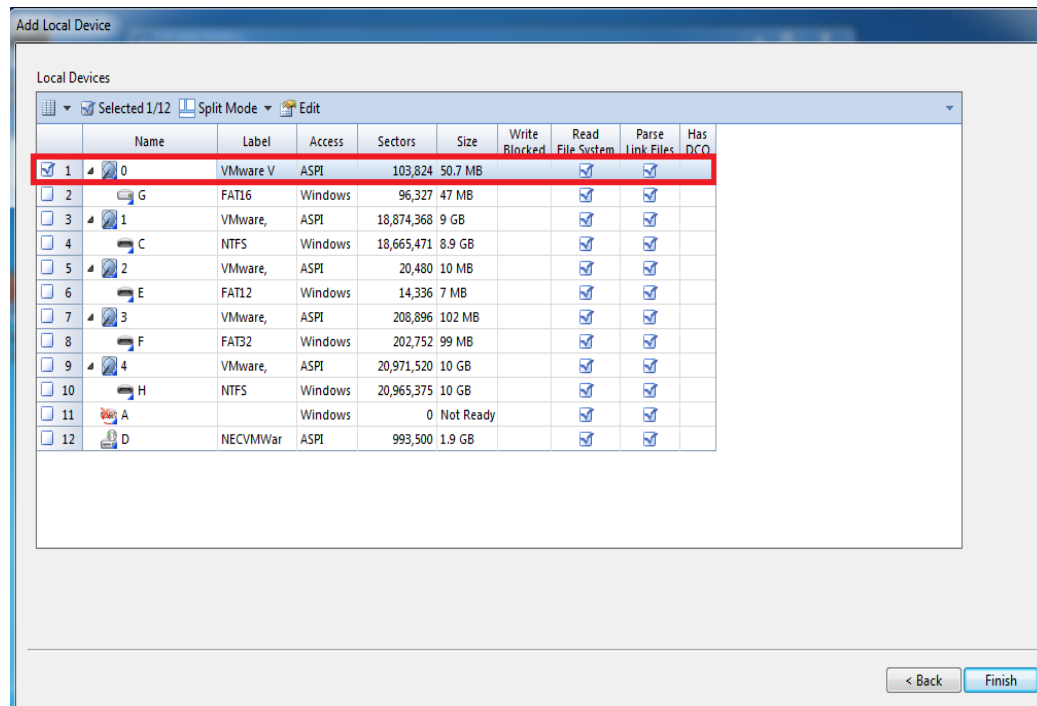
- At the Encase Imager Add Evidence screen, click **Add Local Device**.



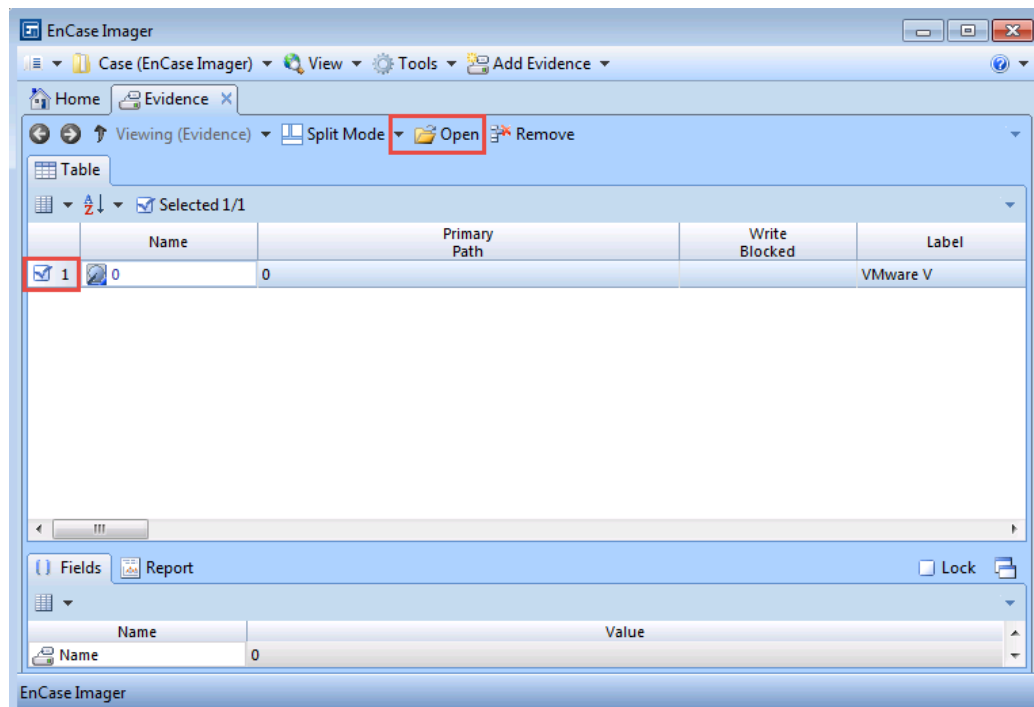
- At the Add Local Device screen, **uncheck all of the boxes**. Click **Next**.



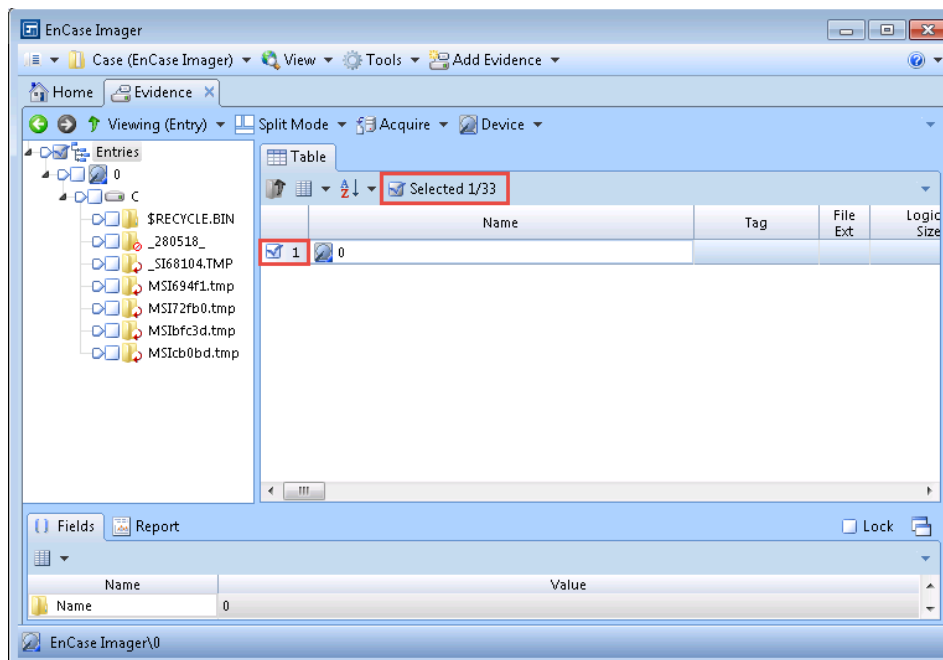
- Click the first box to select disk 0, with a size of 50.7 MB. Click **Finish**.



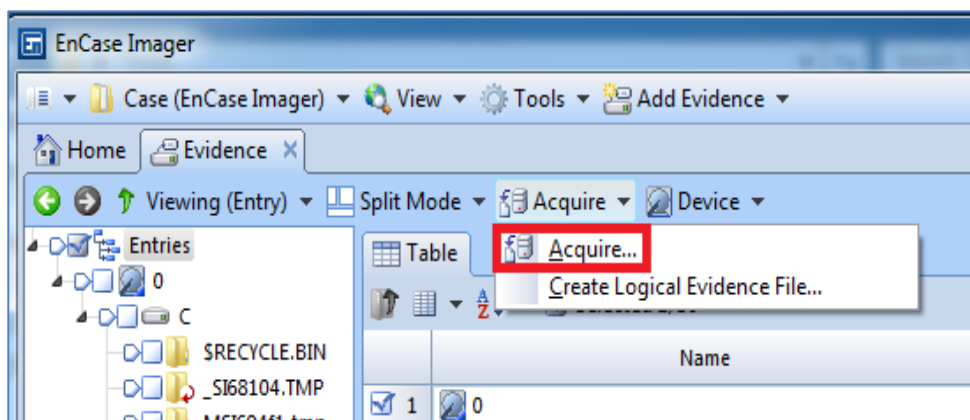
- Verify that the Disk is selected with check mark. Click the **Open** button in the middle of the screen.



8. Check the disk in the table pane. It should state that **0/33** or **1/33** items is selected.



9. Click the arrow to the right of Acquire and select **Acquire** from the menu.



10. Input the following information in the fields of the **Acquire Device 0** screen.

Field	Entry
Name	FAT16
Evidence Number	Disk1
Case Number	LAB03
Examiner Name	Student
Output Path	H:\FAT16.Ex01

Acquire Device 0

Location | **Format** | Advanced

Name: FAT16 Evidence Number: Disk1

Case Number: LAB03 Examiner Name: Student

Notes:
☐ Restart Acquisition

Output Path: H:\FAT16.Ex01

Alternate Path:
 OK Cancel

11. Click the **Format** tab of the Acquire Device 0 screen,

Acquire Device 0

Location | **Format** | Advanced

Evidence File Format: Current (Ex01) Compression: Enabled

Verification Hash: MD5 File Segment Size (MB): 2048

Password Encryption

12. In the Dropdown boxes, change the Evidence File Format from Current (Ex01) to Legacy (E01). In the Verification Hash dropdown box, select the MD5 and SHA1 hashes.

Acquire Device 0

Location | **Format** | Advanced

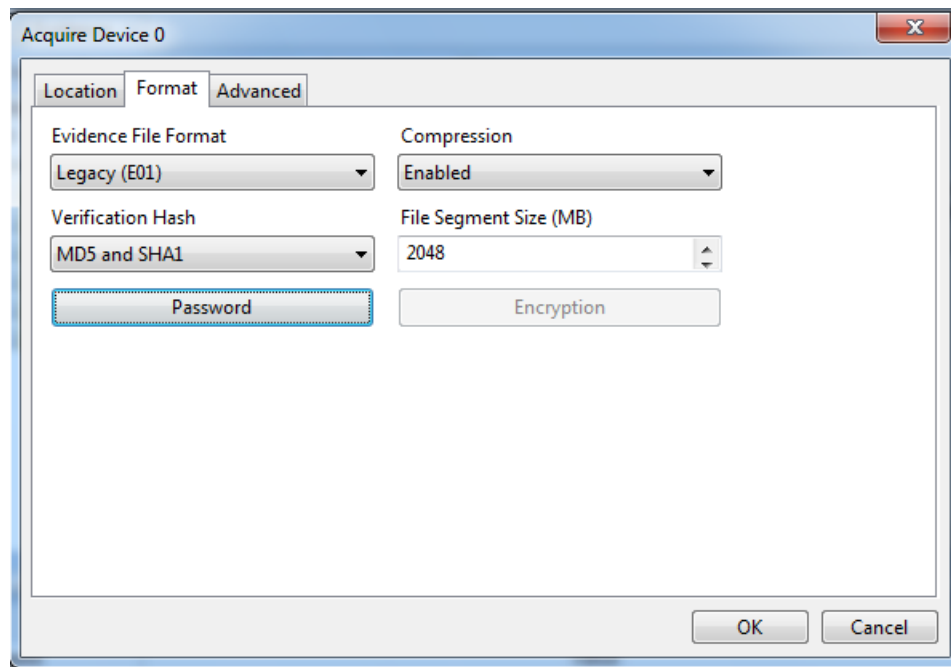
Evidence File Format: Legacy (E01) Compression: Enabled

Verification Hash: MD5 and SHA1 File Segment Size (MB): 2048

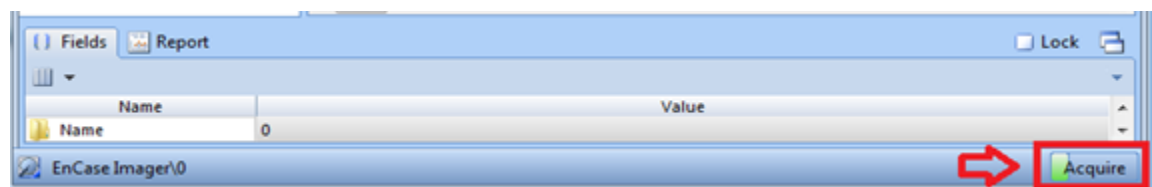
Password Encryption

OK Cancel

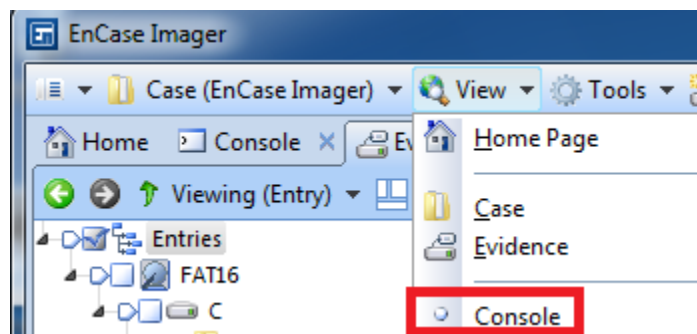
13. Notice that when the image type is changed (Evidence File Format), the password box becomes available. This will allow the investigator to password protect the disk image being created. Click **OK**.



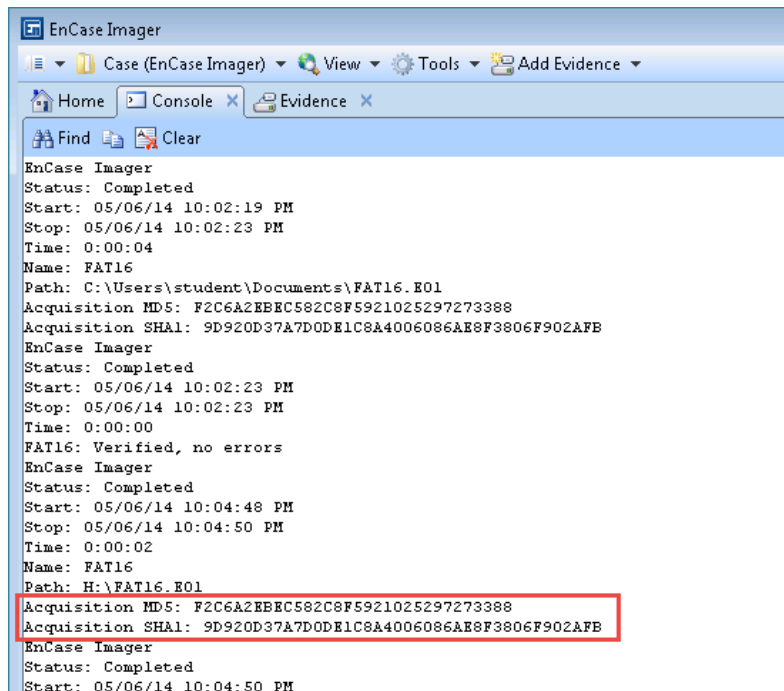
14. A box in the lower-right corner will appear, indicating acquiring, then verifying. This happens quickly.



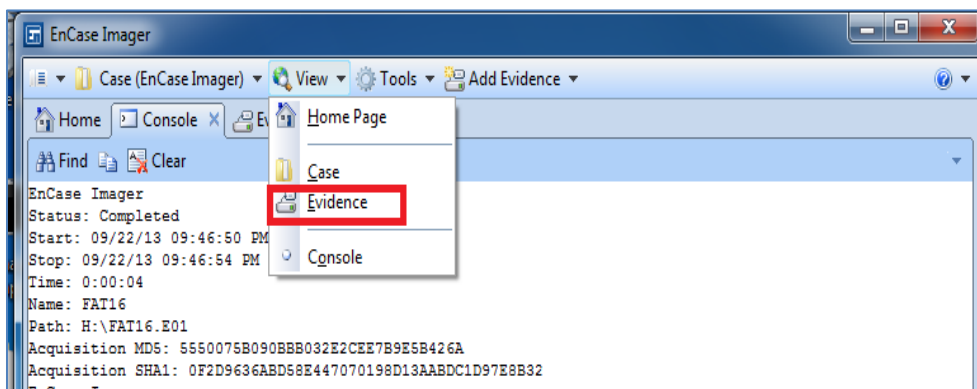
15. From the View menu, select **Console** to view acquisition information.



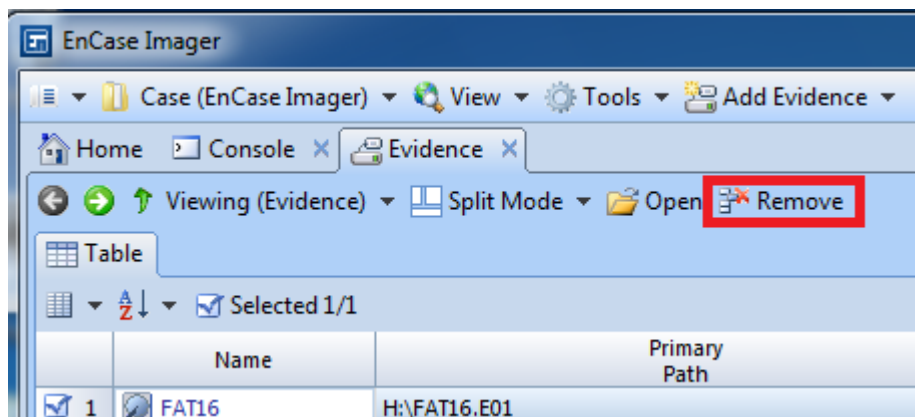
16. View the MD5 and SHA1 hashes, along with the date and time of the acquisition.



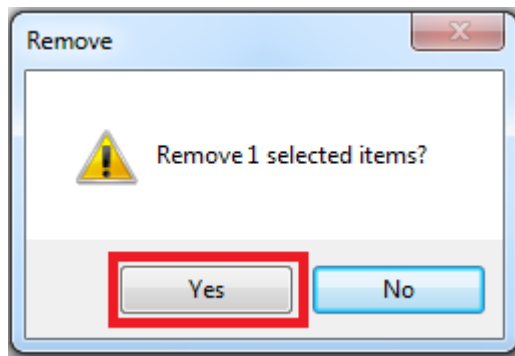
17. Select View from the Menu bar and then select **Evidence** from the dropdown list.



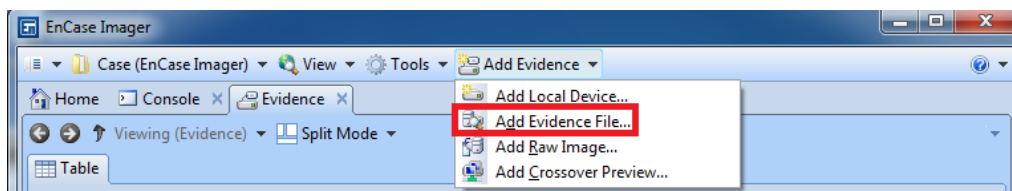
18. Verify that disk 1 is checked and then click the **Remove** button.



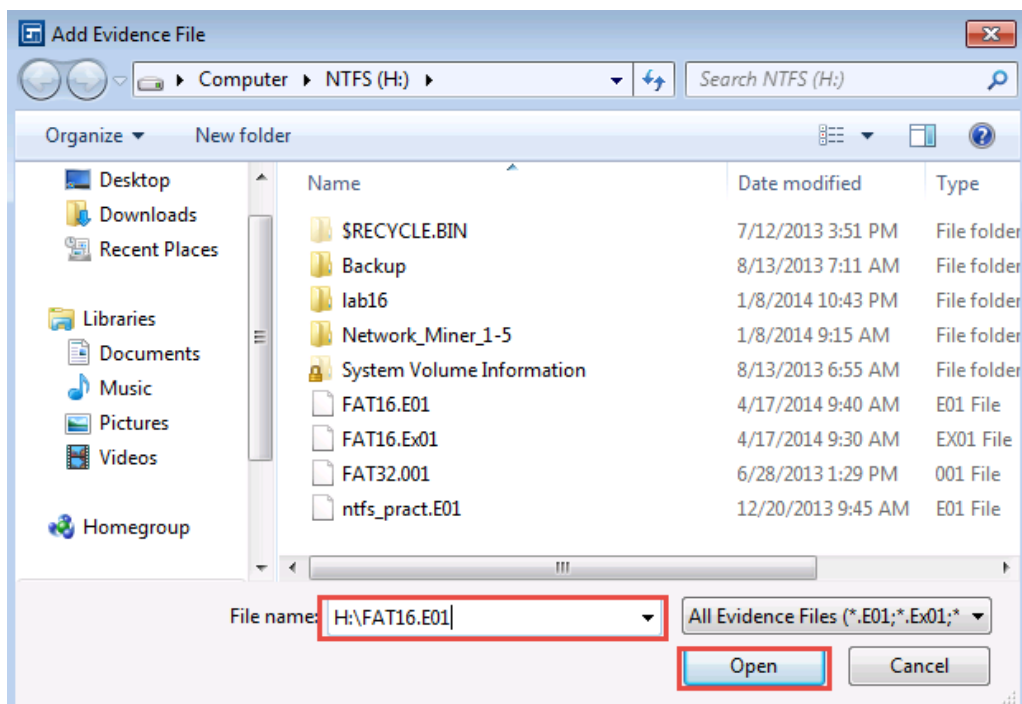
19. Click **Yes** when you are asked, *Remove 1 selected items?*



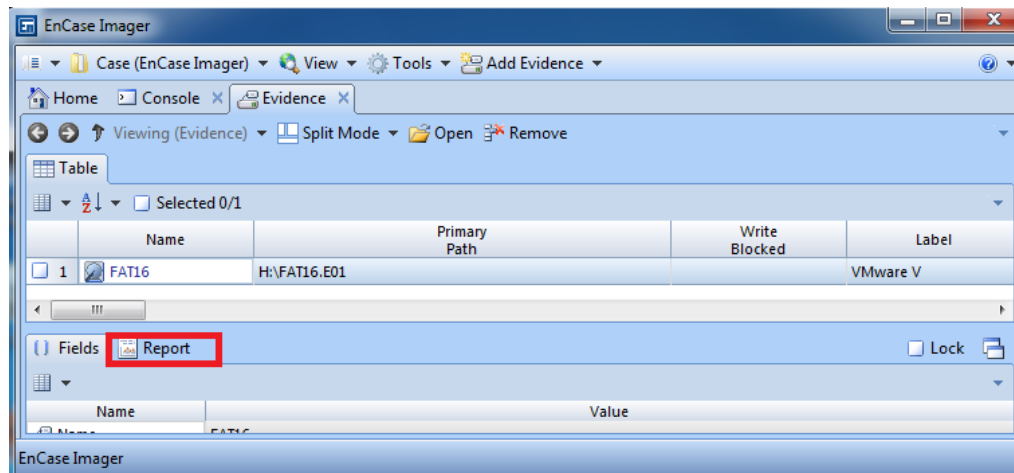
20. Click the Add Evidence Drop-down box. Click **Add Evidence File**.



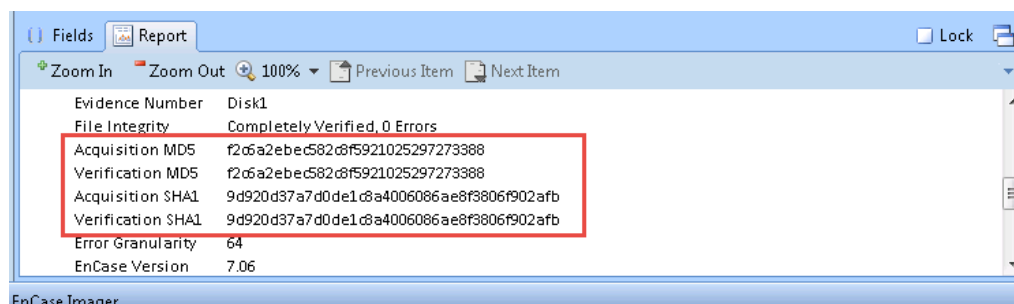
21. Type **H:\FAT16.E01** as the file name and click **Open** to load the image file into EnCase.



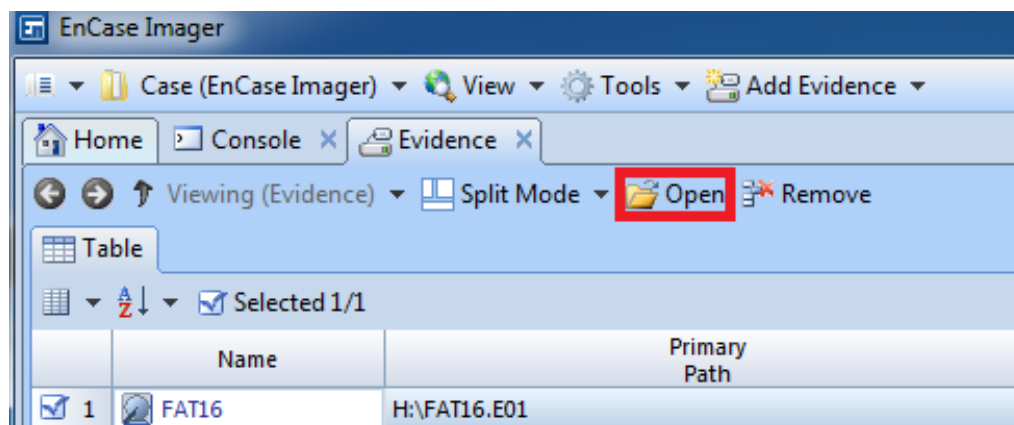
22. Click the **Report** tab so you can obtain information about the image hashes.



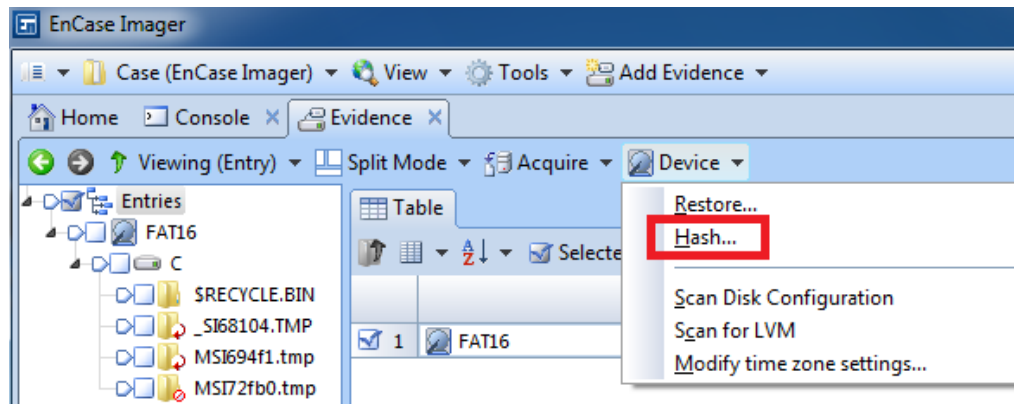
23. View the MD5 and SHA1 Verification and Acquisition hashes within the report. (You may need to resize the report window.)



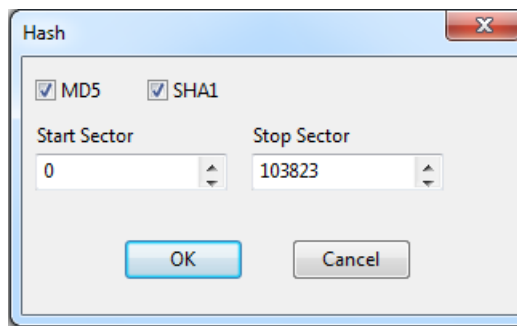
24. Verify that the disk is selected and click the **Open** button.



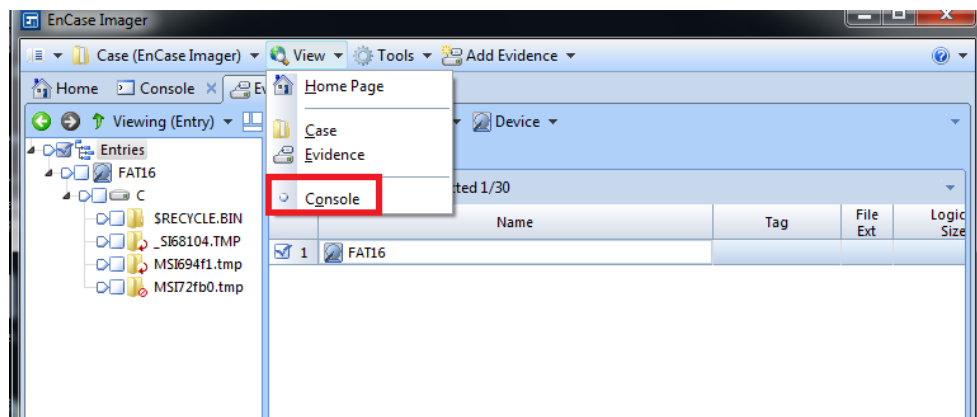
25. From the Device menu within EnCase, select **Hash** from the menu list.



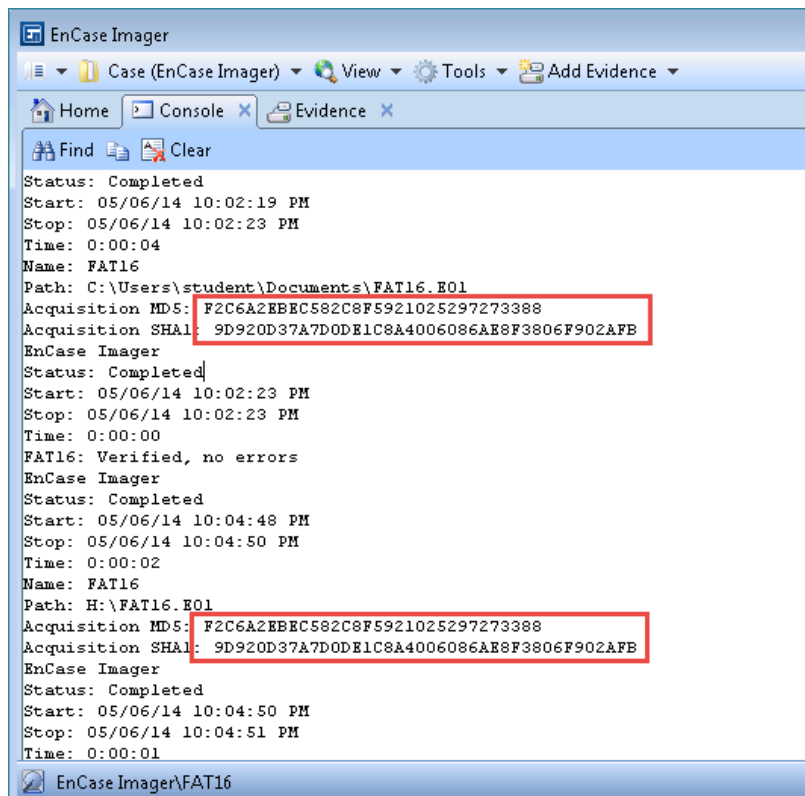
26. Leave the default options for the Hash window that appears. Click OK.



27. Select **Console** from the View menu, in order to view the hashes of the disk.



28. View the Verification Hashes. They should match the previous Acquisition hashes. Close all open windows.



1.2 Conclusion

EnCase Imager is a GUI Program that will allow a user to create a disk image from within Windows. You can choose to use the MD5 or SHA1 hash, or you can use both hashes. The examiner will hash the disk image after loading it and verify the acquisition hashes.

1.3 Discussion Questions

1. What company makes EnCase Imager?
2. EnCase allows you to create disk images in which two formats?
3. What are the two hashing algorithms that EnCase Imager supports?
4. Which sections of EnCase Imager allow you to view information about hashes?

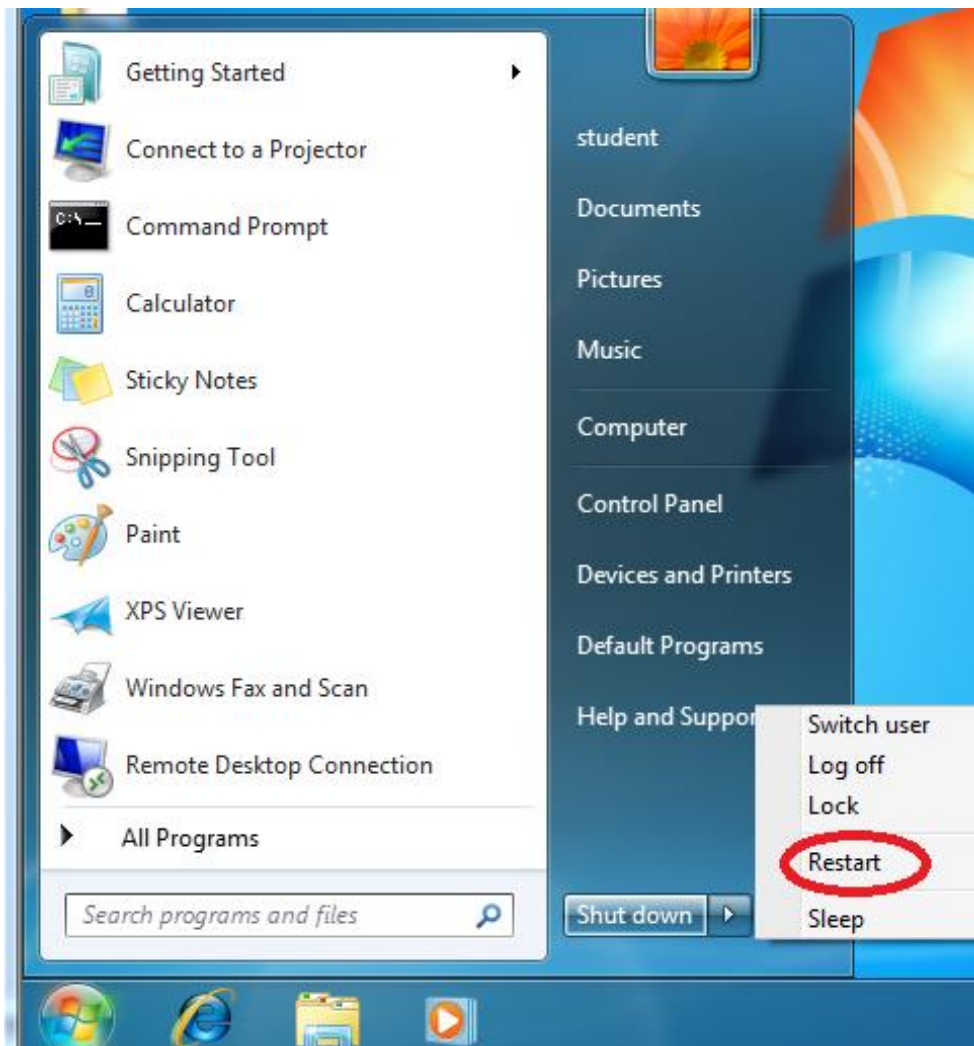
2 Using BackTrack to Hash Images, Disks, and Partitions

BackTrack is a free Ubuntu Linux-based Live DVD. BackTrack, from Offensive-Security, is used for forensics and penetration testing. It is available for download at the following link: <http://www.backtrack-linux.org/downloads/>. The BackTrack DVD, like HELIX, does not automatically mount disks. When disks are automatically mounted, it is possible that they can be written to, possibly resulting in the contamination of evidence.

2.1 Using BackTrack

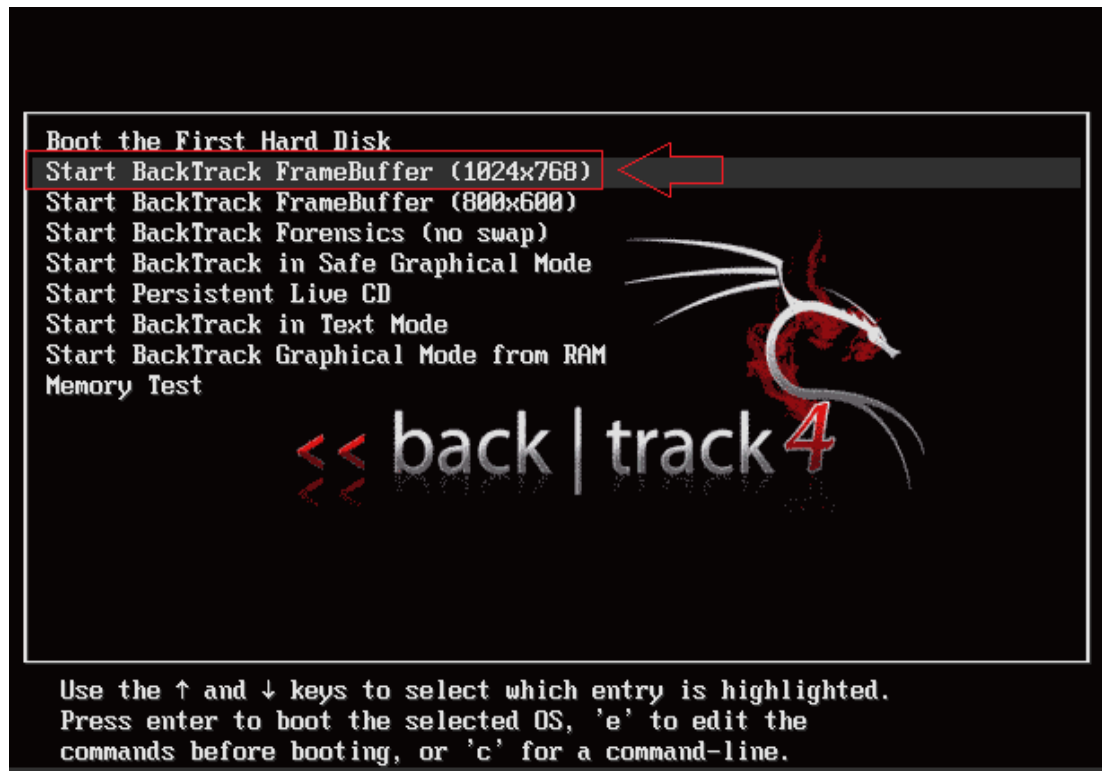
Perform the following steps on the Windows 7 External Machine.

1. Click Start, click the arrow to the right of Shutdown and then click **Restart**.

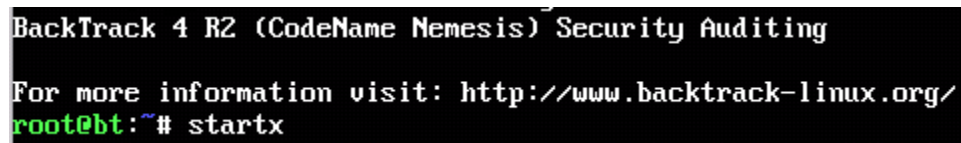


The machine will be booting to a Linux Live DVD Distribution (BackTrack). A Live DVD is an operating system that runs completely in Random Access Memory (RAM).

2. Choose the second choice on the boot menu. Press **Enter**.



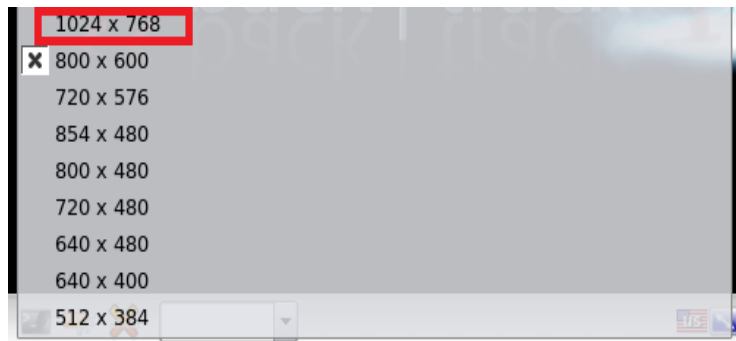
3. After BackTrack boots, type the following command to initialize the GUI.
root@bt:~# **startx**. If you get a message saying the connection to the virtual machine was lost, click **YES** to reconnect.



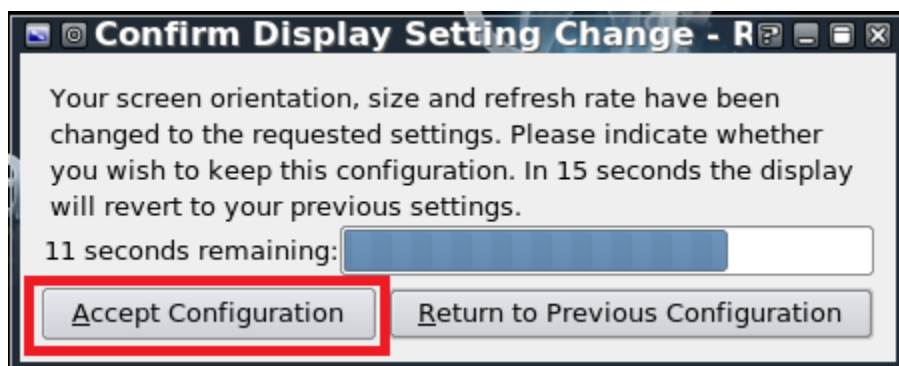
4. You can adjust the resolution by clicking on the blue arrows to the right of US.



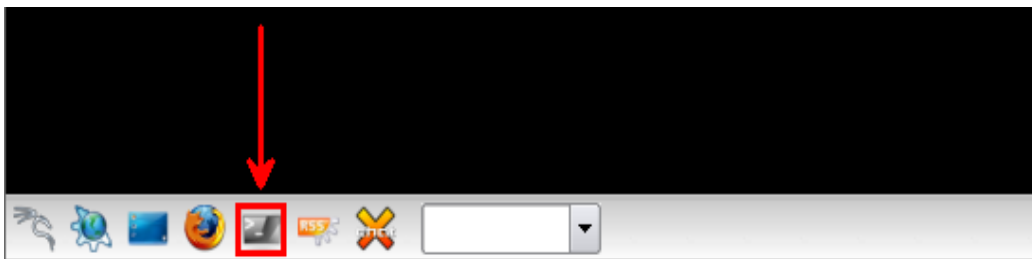
5. Select the resolution of your choice to use on the virtual machine.



6. Click **Accept Configuration** to accept the Display Settings change.



7. Open a terminal on the Linux system by clicking on the black square icon (to the right of Firefox) in the task bar, at the bottom of the BackTrack desktop.



8. Type the following to display the disks and their corresponding partitions:
root@bt:~# **fdisk -l | grep sd**

```
root@bt:~# fdisk -l | grep sd
Disk /dev/sda: 9663 MB, 9663676416 bytes
/dev/sda1 *          1          13          102400      7 HPFS/NTFS
/dev/sda2            13        1175      9332736      7 HPFS/NTFS
Disk /dev/sdb: 10 MB, 10485760 bytes
/dev/sdb1            1           2           7168      1 FAT12
Disk /dev/sdc: 106 MB, 106954752 bytes
/dev/sdc1            1           64       101376      b W95 FAT32
Disk /dev/sdd: 10.7 GB, 10737418240 bytes
/dev/sdd1            1        1306     10482688      7 HPFS/NTFS
```

We need to mount our destination media so we can send images and hashes to it.

9. Type the following to make a directory called `sdd1` in the `/mnt` directory:
`root@bt:~# mkdir /mnt/sdd1`

```
root@bt:~# mkdir /mnt/sdd1
```

Next, we will mount the `sdd1` partition to the `/mnt/sdd1` directory we created.

10. Type the following command to mount the NTFS partition:
`root@bt:~# ntfs-3g /dev/sdd1 /mnt/sdd1`

```
root@bt:~# ntfs-3g /dev/sdd1 /mnt/sdd1
```

11. Type the following command to view the newly mounted partition:
`root@bt:~# mount | grep sdd1`

```
root@bt:~# mount | grep sdd1
/dev/sdd1 on /mnt/sdd1 type fuseblk (rw,nosuid,nodev,allow other,blksize=4096)
```

In the next step, we will make an image of the second SATA disk and send it to our destination drive, the 4th SATA drive that is the mounted NTFS data drive.

12. To make a copy of the second SATA drive using `dd`, type the following:
`root@bt:~#`

```
root@bt:~# dd if=/dev/sdb of=/mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
20480+0 records in
20480+0 records out
10485760 bytes (10 MB) copied, 0.691811 s, 15.2 MB/s
```

13. Next, we will hash the files of the second SATA disk using the `md5sum` command:
`root@bt:~# md5sum /dev/sdb`

```
root@bt:~# md5sum /dev/sdb
35b5c9fc6cae58dcdb13ac4e2f3c399c /dev/sdb
```

14. Now, we will hash the disk image we created using the `md5sum` command:
`root@bt:~# md5sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd`

```
root@bt:~# md5sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
35b5c9fc6cae58dcdb13ac4e2f3c399c /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

The hashes match. This means the disk and image file are forensically equivalent.

Next, we will use the SHA1 hash, which is a 160 bit value, and more accurate than MD5.

15. Using the SHA1 hash, both devices can be hashed at the same time by typing the following command:

```
root@bt:~# sha1sum /dev/sdb && sha1sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

```
root@bt:~# sha1sum /dev/sdb && sha1sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
b1bdfaf626001756e2f7f0aa752bda9e14766379 /dev/sdb
b1bdfaf626001756e2f7f0aa752bda9e14766379 /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

16. Using the SHA256 hash, both devices can be hashed at the same time by typing the following command:

```
root@bt:~# sha256sum /dev/sdb && sha256sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

```
root@bt:~# sha256sum /dev/sdb && sha256sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
5d638b89379964fa6a88cda8a494e1b1fca7f8da476669e5b4124bacaf18f7ba /dev/sdb
5d638b89379964fa6a88cda8a494e1b1fca7f8da476669e5b4124bacaf18f7ba /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

17. Using the SHA384 hash, both devices can be hashed at the same time by typing the following command:

```
root@bt:~# sha384sum /dev/sdb && sha384sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

```
root@bt:~# sha384sum /dev/sdb && sha384sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
a2d857e9b2a0b7bd92d11f9317b11ace74213ac246dcf80a225b849c313ce599e2bdc6aa295d24b6
c219d4549b41cc7f /dev/sdb
a2d857e9b2a0b7bd92d11f9317b11ace74213ac246dcf80a225b849c313ce599e2bdc6aa295d24b6
c219d4549b41cc7f /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

18. Using the SHA512 hash, both devices can be hashed at the same time by typing the following command:

```
root@bt:~# sha512sum /dev/sdb && sha512sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

```
root@bt:~# sha512sum /dev/sdb && sha512sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
3d43737fe101db8696ba5cc26aa48843da4000f17de6963da660ed31376b61981e5aadd0ad48b631
eb3f2f61c5fca9551305249929a581c18da1fd7e98af353c /dev/sdb
3d43737fe101db8696ba5cc26aa48843da4000f17de6963da660ed31376b61981e5aadd0ad48b631
eb3f2f61c5fca9551305249929a581c18da1fd7e98af353c /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

19. Send the MD5 hash of the image file to a text file named hashes by typing:

```
root@bt:~# md5sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd > /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt
```

```
root@bt:~# md5sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd > /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt
```

20. Send the SHA1 hash of the image file to a text file called hashes by typing:
 root@bt:~# sha1sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd >> /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt

```
root@bt:~# sha1sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd >> /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt
```

21. Send the SHA256 hash of the image file to a text file called hashes by typing:
 root@bt:~# sha256sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd >> /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt

```
root@bt:~# sha256sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd >> /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt
```

22. Send the SHA384 hash of the image file to a text file called hashes by typing:
 root@bt:~# sha384sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd >> /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt

```
root@bt:~# sha384sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd >> /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt
```

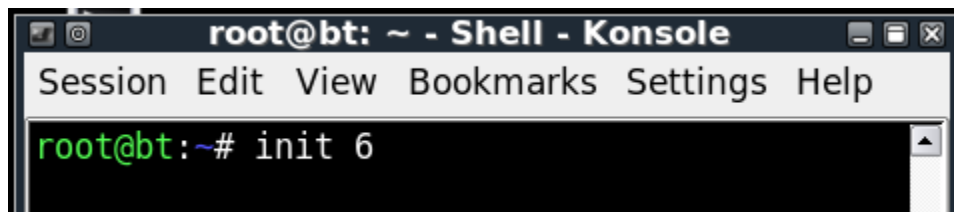
23. Send the SHA512 hash of the image file to a text file called hashes by typing:
 root@bt:~# sha512sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd >> /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt

```
root@bt:~# sha512sum /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd >> /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt
```

24. View the contents of the hashes.txt file you created by typing:
 root@bt:~# cat /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt

```
root@bt:~# cat /mnt/sdd1/hashes.txt
35b5c9fc6cae58dcd13ac4e2f3c399c /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
b1bdfaf626001756e2f7f0aa752bda9e14766379 /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
5d638b89379964fa6a88cda8a494e1b1fca7f8da476669e5b4124bacaf18f7ba /mnt/sdd1/sata
drive2img.dd
115d6f8945a85cb15be5c4db7f39f04a533944fb81496b20d8f8b9d67413c20170cf449182c9e6
640fac7998df6112 /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
3d43737fe101db8696ba5cc26aa48843da4000f17de6963da660ed31376b61981e5aadd0ad48b631
eb3f2f61c5fca9551305249929a581c18da1fd7e98af353c /mnt/sdd1/satadrive2img.dd
```

25. Type the following command to unmount all disks and reboot the system:
 root@bt:~# init 6



26. Press Enter when you receive the message to remove the disk.

```
Please remove the disc and close the tray (if any) then press ENTER:
```

2.2 Conclusion

BackTrack can be used as a Live DVD to perform forensic acquisitions with the `dd` or `dcfldd` command. After acquiring a disk image, the image and the original disk can be hashed to verify that their data sets are forensically equivalent. Commands like `md5sum`, `sha1sum`, `sha256sum`, `sha384`, and `sha512sum` can be used for hashing.

2.3 Discussion Questions

1. What is BackTrack?
2. What is a Live DVD?
3. What are the different sha commands available within BackTrack for hashing?
4. What command can be used to verify that disks are mounted within Linux?



3 Using HashCalc to Verify Hashes

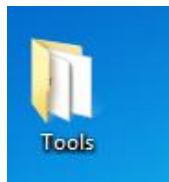
The md5sum, sha1sum, sha256sum, sha384, and sha512sum commands in BackTrack can be used for hashing. However, not everyone is comfortable with using the terminal within Linux to run commands. There are GUI based tools, such as HashCalc, that will allow an examiner to hash files within Windows without typing commands at the command prompt.

3.1 Installing and Using HashCalc

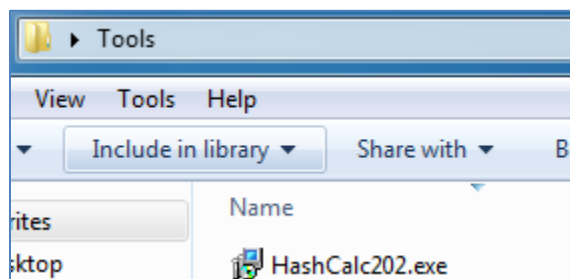
1. To log into the **Windows 7 External Machine**, click on the **Windows 7** icon on the topology.
2. If required, enter the username, **student**.
3. Type in the password, **password**, and press **Enter** to log in.



4. Double-click on the **Tools** folder on the desktop.



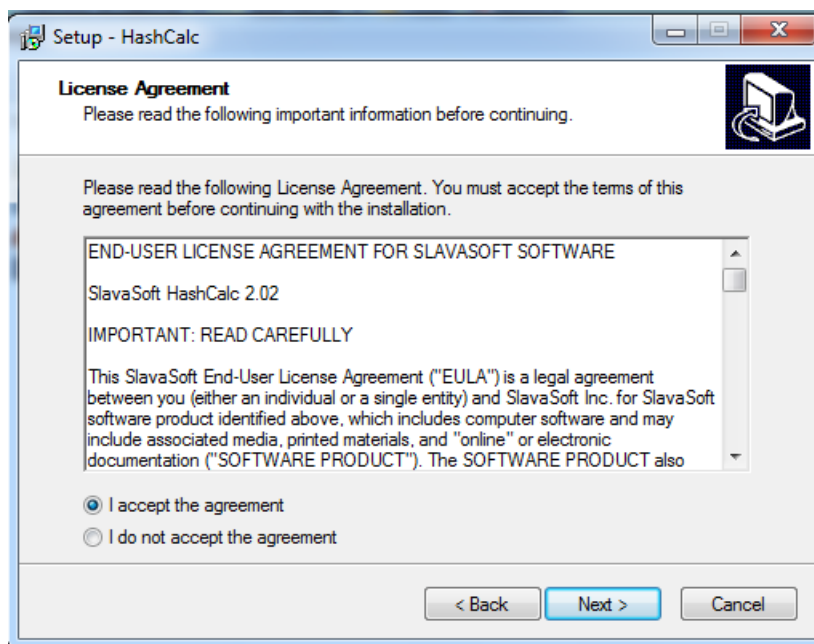
5. Double-click on the **HashCalc202.exe** file in the Tools folder.



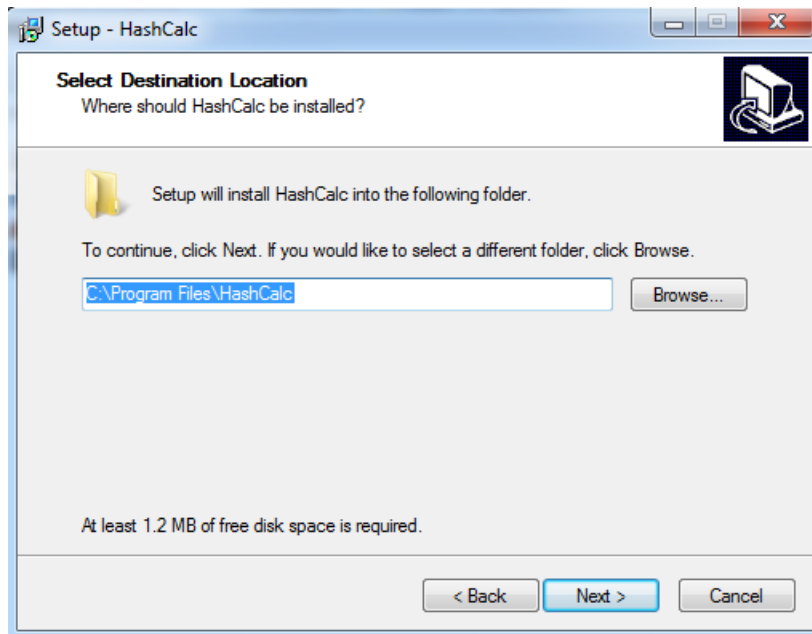
6. Click **Next** at the Welcome to the HashCalc Setup Wizard screen.



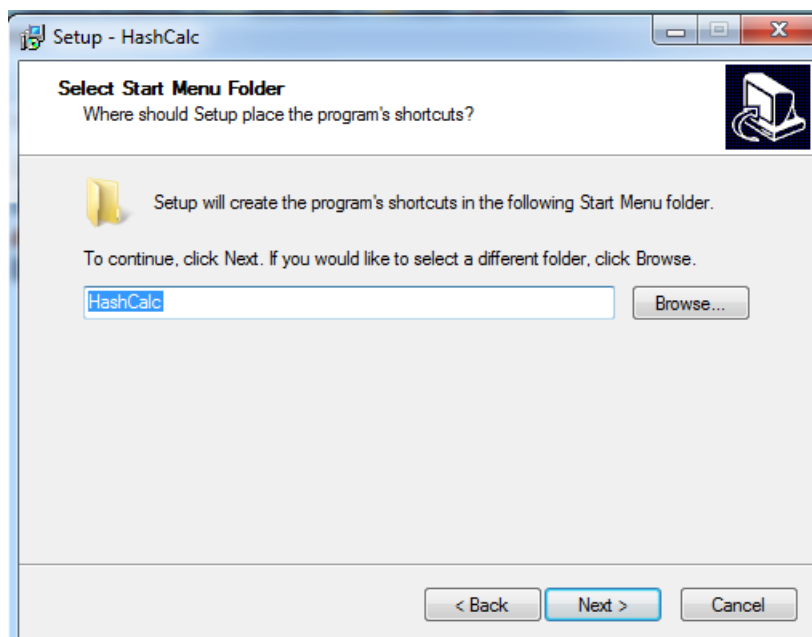
7. Select the **I accept the agreement** box and click Next.



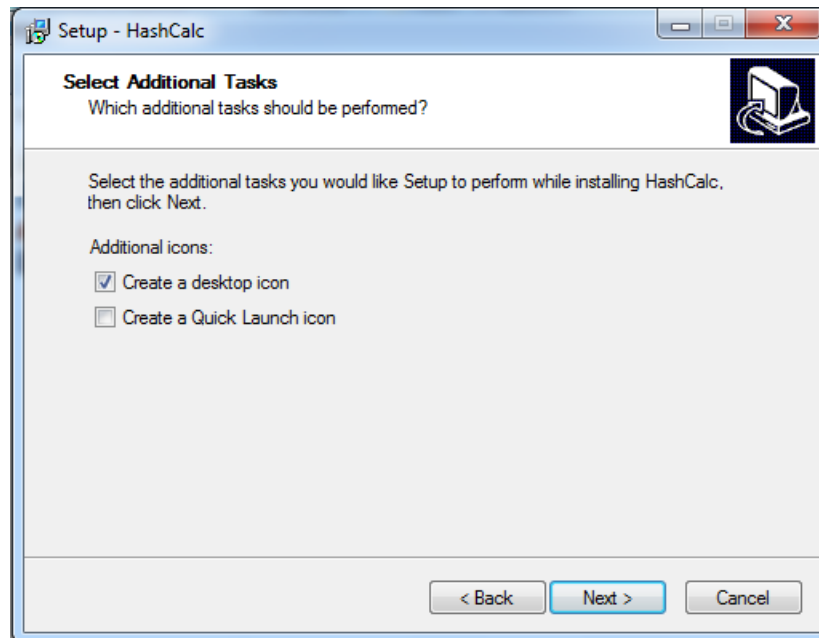
- Accept the default location for the installation and click Next.



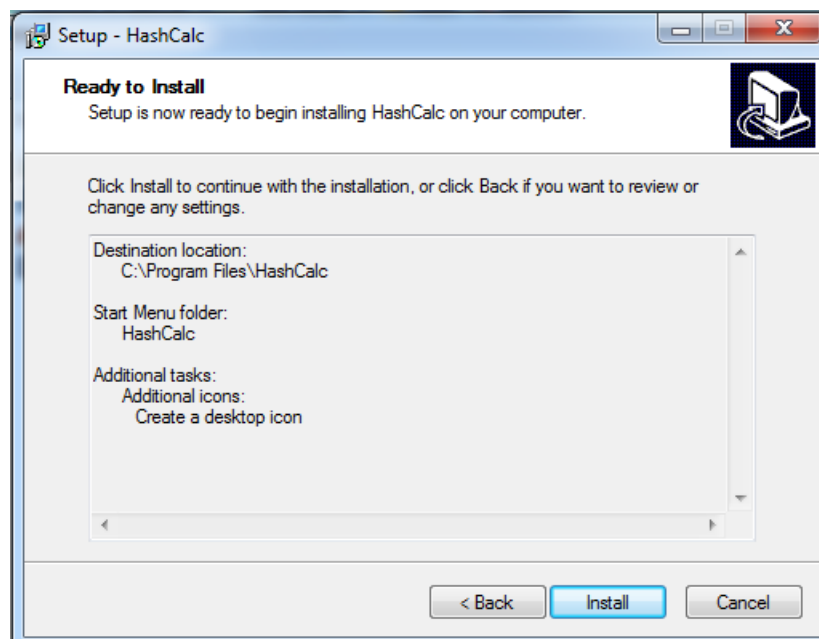
- Click Next at the **Select Start Menu Folder** screen.



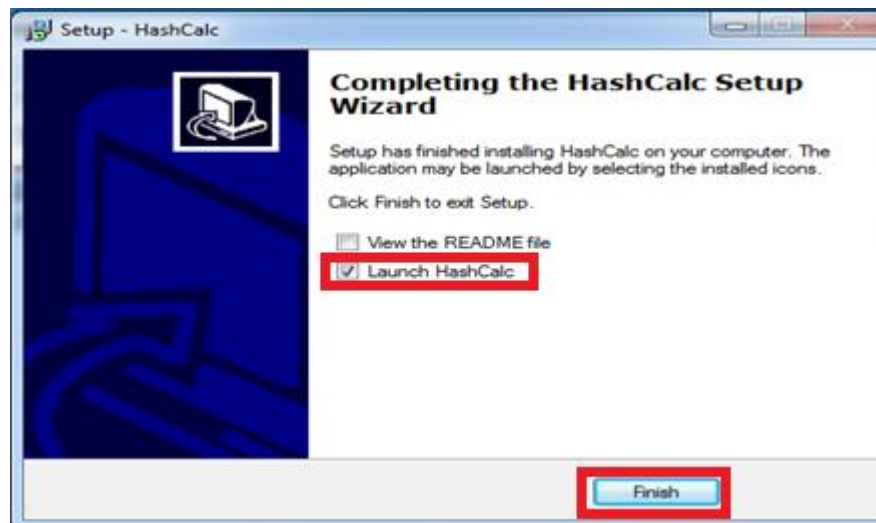
10. Accept the default choices at the **Select Additional Tasks** screen.



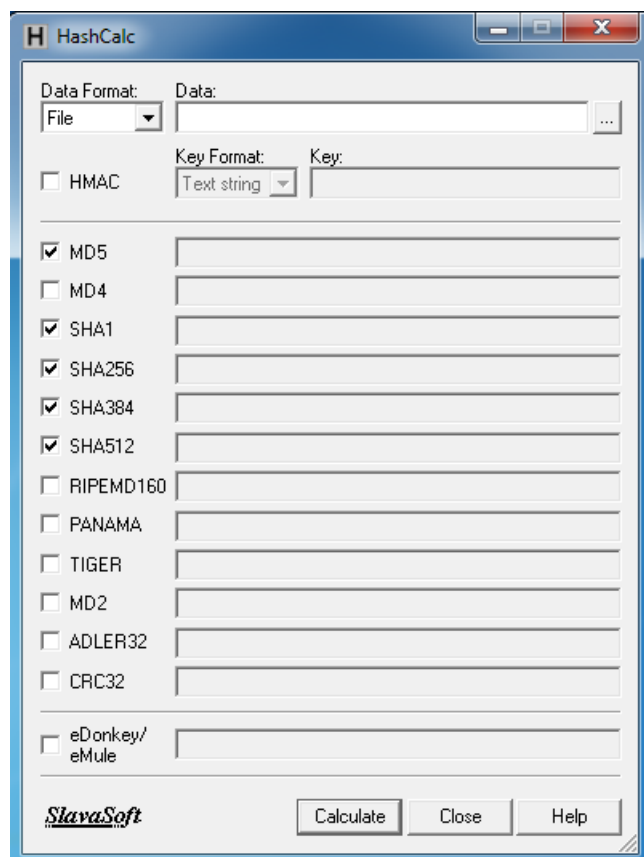
11. Click the Install button at the **Ready to Install** screen.



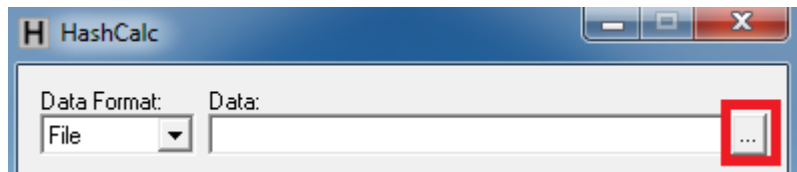
12. At the Completing the HashCalc Setup Wizard Screen, uncheck the View the README file checkbox. Verify **Launch HashCalc** is checked and click **Finish**. Close the Tools Folder.



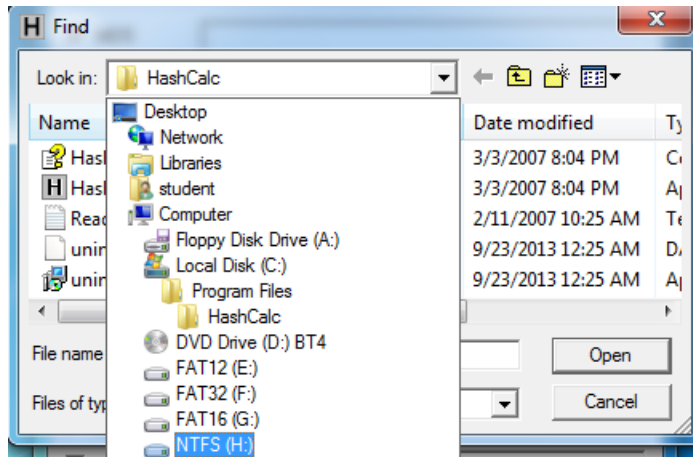
13. On the HashCalc screen, check only MD5, SHA1, SHA256, SHA384, and SHA512.



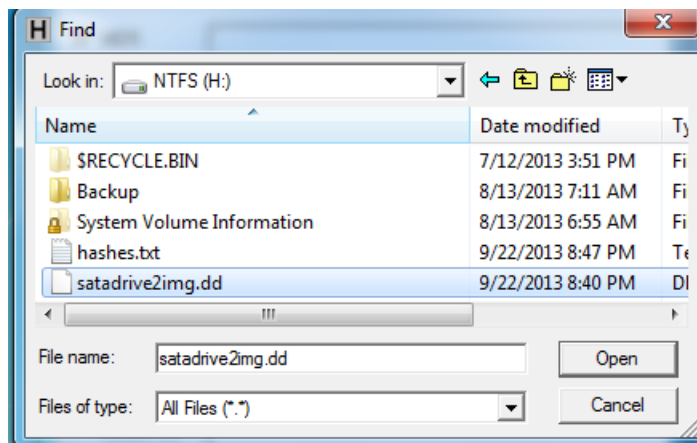
14. Click the browse button within the HashCalc program.



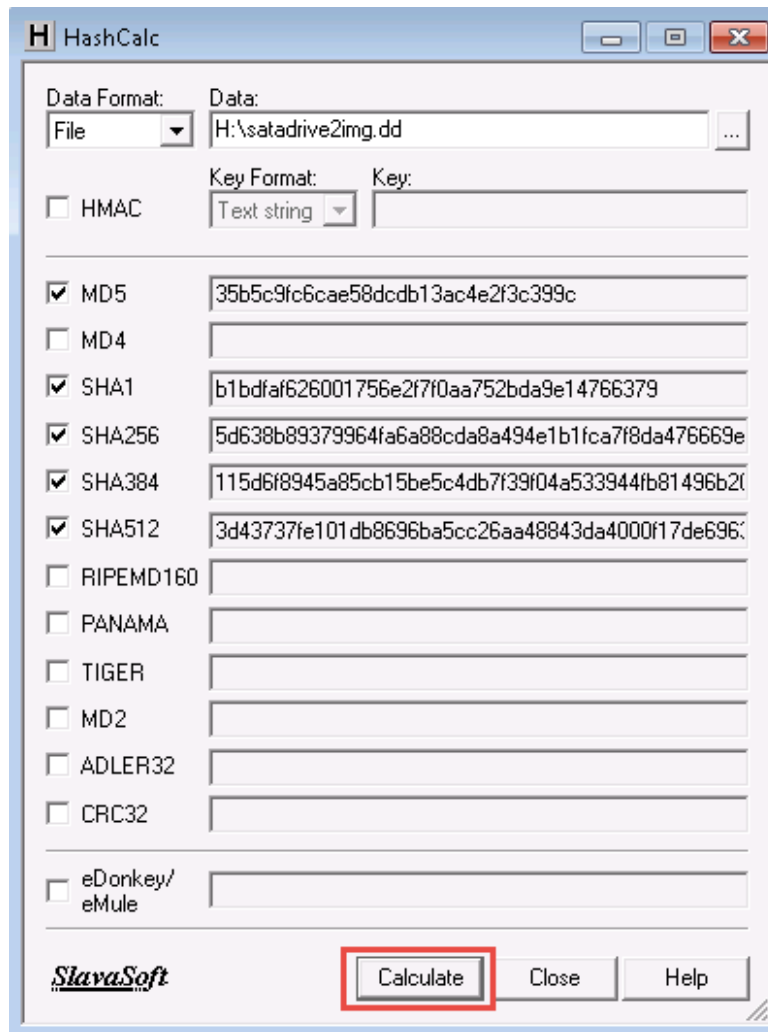
15. Click the **Look in** drop-down box and select **NTFS(H:)** from the list.



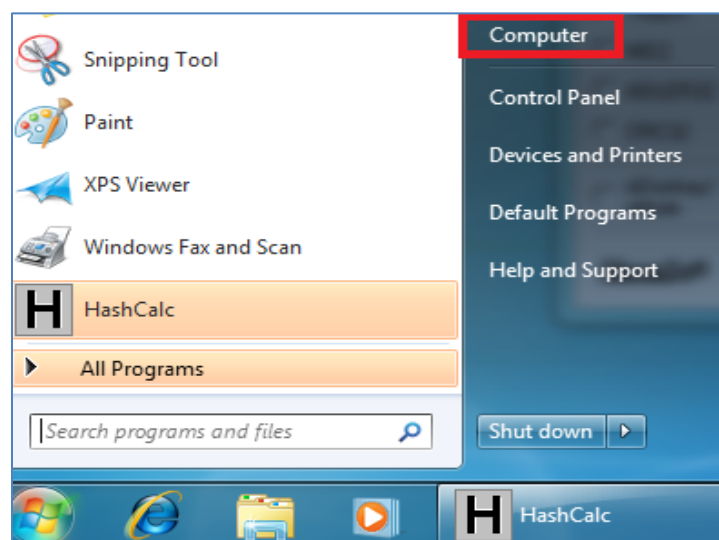
16. Double-click on the **satadrive2img.dd** file located on the NTFS(H:) drive.



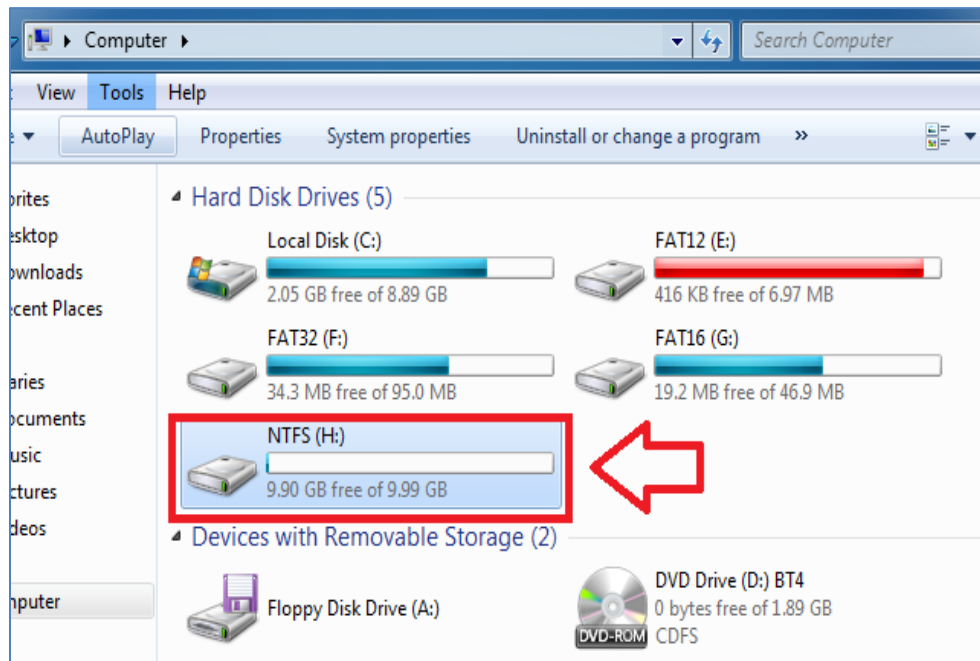
17. Click the **Calculate** button to calculate all of the hashes.



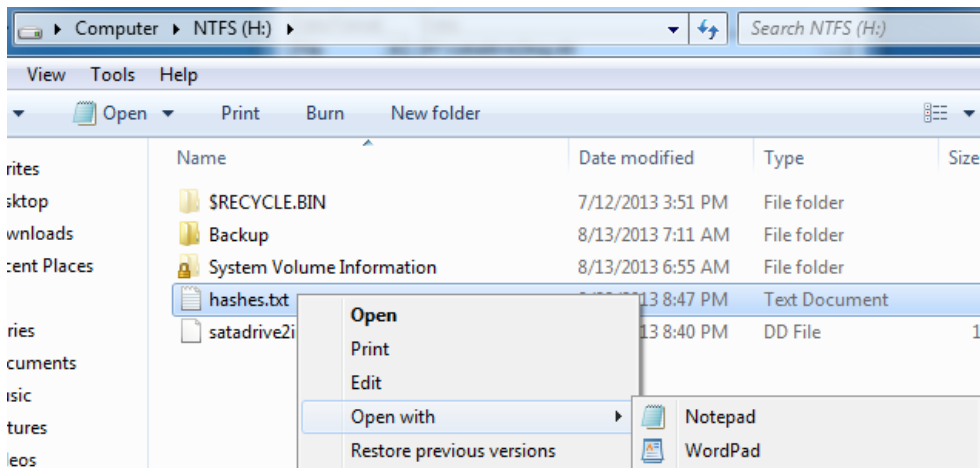
18. Click on the Start button and then click on **Computer**.



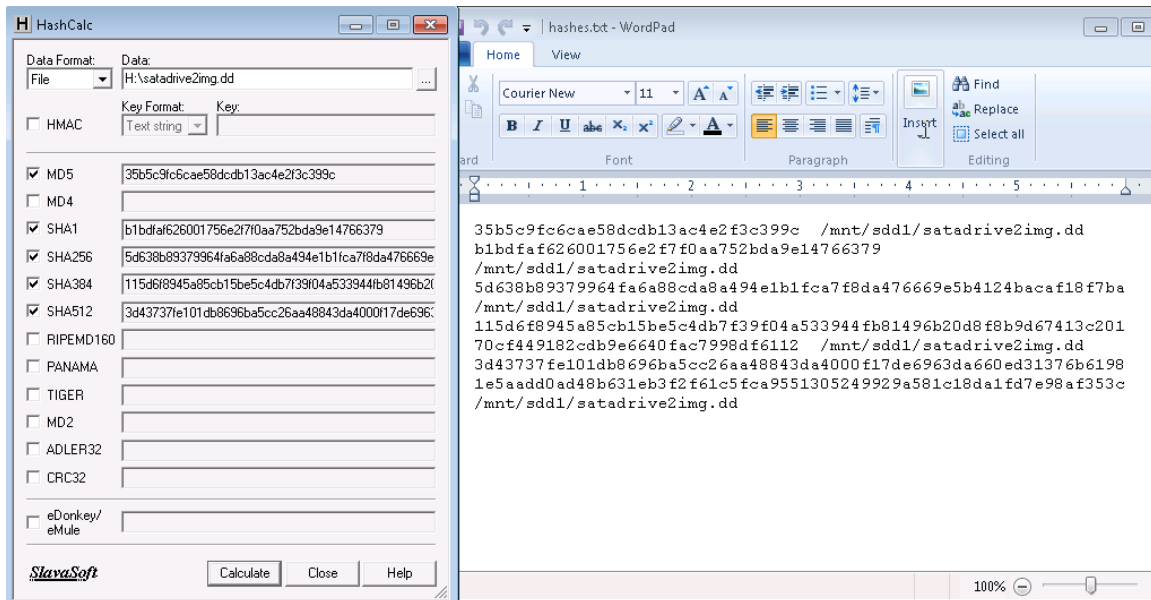
19. Double-click on the **NTFS (H:)** drive on the list.



20. Right-click on the hashes.txt file and select **Open with > WordPad**.



21. Compare all of the hashes from HashCalc and hashes.txt. They are the same. Close all open windows and the Windows 7 PC Viewer.



3.2 Conclusion

HashCalc is a free program from <http://www.slavasoft.com/hashcalc/> that allows you to calculate the MD5, SHA256, SHA384, SHA512, and other hash values of data sets. After installing the program, you can browse to any file and calculate the hashes. Hashing data sets is a way to determine if a data set is forensically equivalent.

3.3 Discussion Questions

1. What does the HashCalc tool do?
2. What are some of the hashes that the HashCalc program will calculate?
3. What company makes the HashCalc Program?
4. Which SHA hash values does the HashCalc Program calculate?

References

1. BackTrack Linux:
<http://www.backtrack-linux.org/>
2. EnCase Imager:
[https://www.guidancesoftware.com/pages/search.aspx?q=Forensics Imager](https://www.guidancesoftware.com/pages/search.aspx?q=Forensics+Imager)
3. The dd Command:
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<http://www.slavasoft.com/hashcalc/>
5. MD5 Hash Explained:
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