



DIGITAL FORENSICS LAB SERIES

Lab 8: Introduction to PTK Forensics Basic Edition

Objective: Evidence Acquisition, Preparation and Preservation

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Introduction

This lab includes the following tasks:

1. Loading and Verifying an Image
2. Exploring Image Details
3. Extracting Files
4. Forensic Reporting with PTK

Objective: Evidence Acquisition, Preparation and Preservation

Performing this lab will provide the student with a hands-on lab experience meeting the Evidence Acquisition, Preparation and Preservation Objective:

The candidate will demonstrate understanding of evidence chain-of-custody and integrity, E-discovery concepts, evidence acquisition and preservation, and the tools and techniques used by computer forensic examiners.

Understanding file systems is key to understanding Computer Forensics investigations. File systems store data in different ways. The NTFS file system is commonly used on Microsoft Windows operating systems. It can also be utilized by Linux and Mac OS X.

PTK – An open source forensic suite that will allow you to analyze disk images.

The Sleuth Kit – The Sleuth Kit (TSK) is a collection of command line tools that are utilized by the Autopsy forensic browser. The Sleuth Kit tools can be utilized without Autopsy.

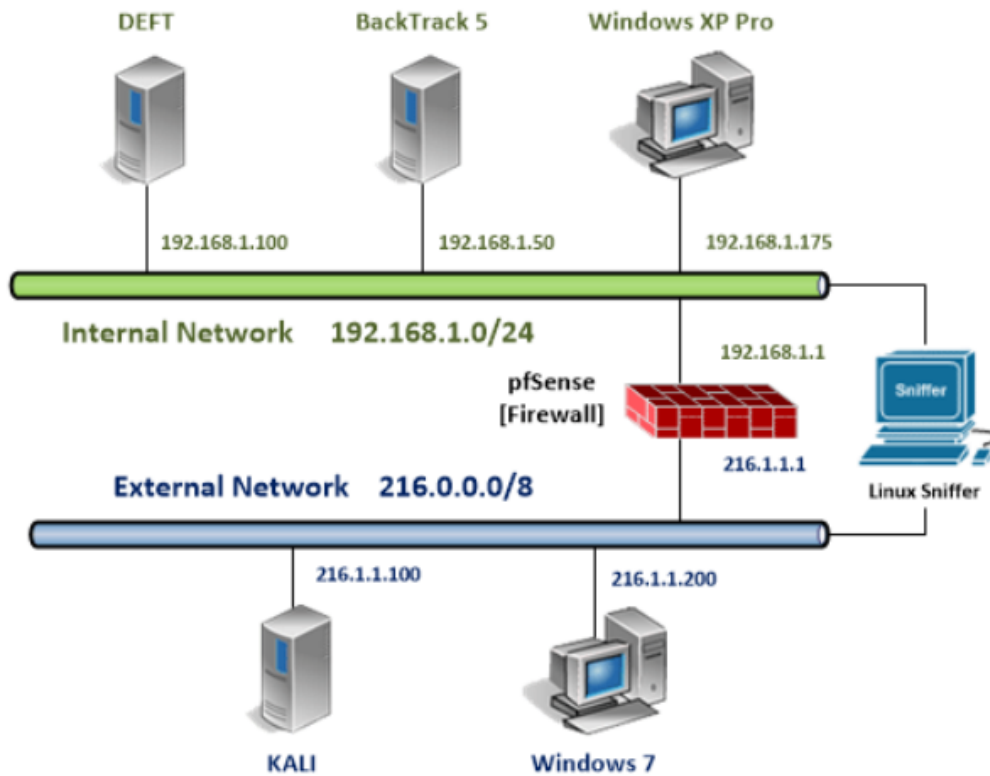
\$MFT – The Master File Table is similar to a Table of Contents for an NTFS volume.

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.



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)
BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine	192.168.1.50	root	toor



1 Loading and Verifying an Image

An image is a bit-by-bit copy of a disk. Starting with Windows Vista, NTFS had to be used on the OS drive. NTFS is also commonly utilized on data drives. PTK is included with Release 5 of BackTrack. It is not included with the Kali distribution.

1.1 Verifying and Viewing Image Details

1. Open the **BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine**. Type **root** for the login and **toor** (*root spelled backwards*) for the password.

The password will not be displayed when you type it, for security purposes.

```
BackTrack 5 R3 - 32 Bit bt tty1
bt login: root
Password: toor
Last login: Tue Aug 13 22:37:12 EDT 2013 on tty1
Linux bt 3.2.6 #1 SMP Fri Feb 17 10:40:05 EST 2012 i686 GNU/Linux

System information disabled due to load higher than 1.0
root@bt:~# _
```

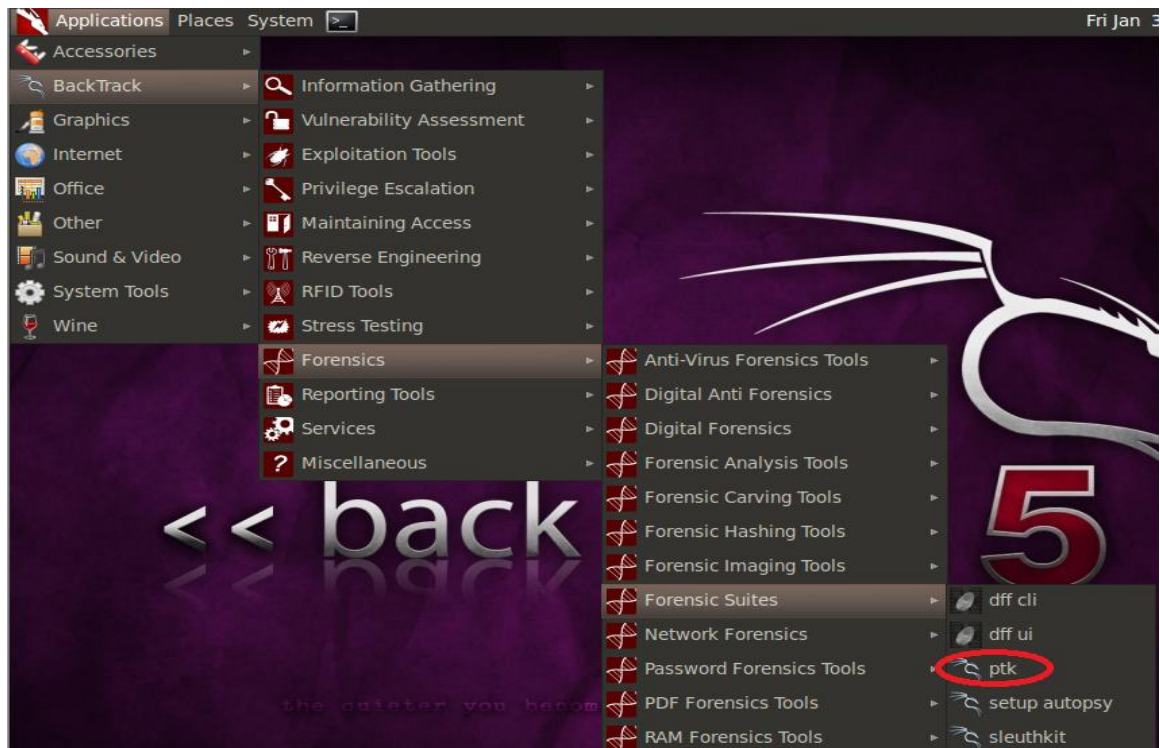
2. Type the following command to start the Graphical User Interface (GUI):
root@bt:~# **startx**

```
root@bt:~# startx_
```

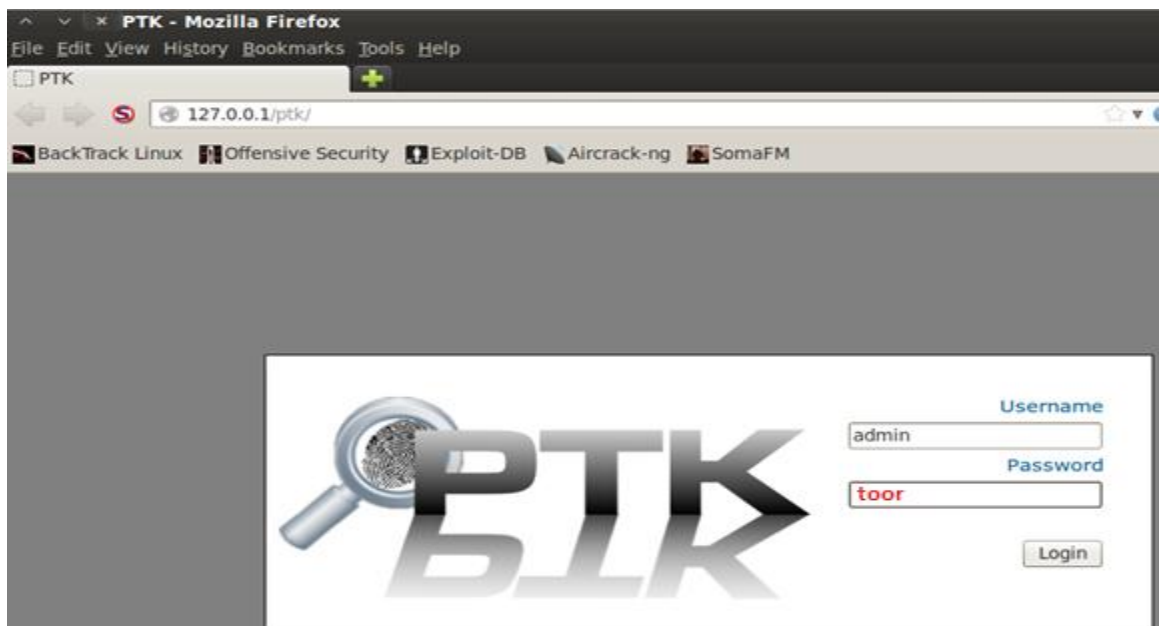
3. The BackTrack 5 GUI screen may appear in a few seconds after loading.



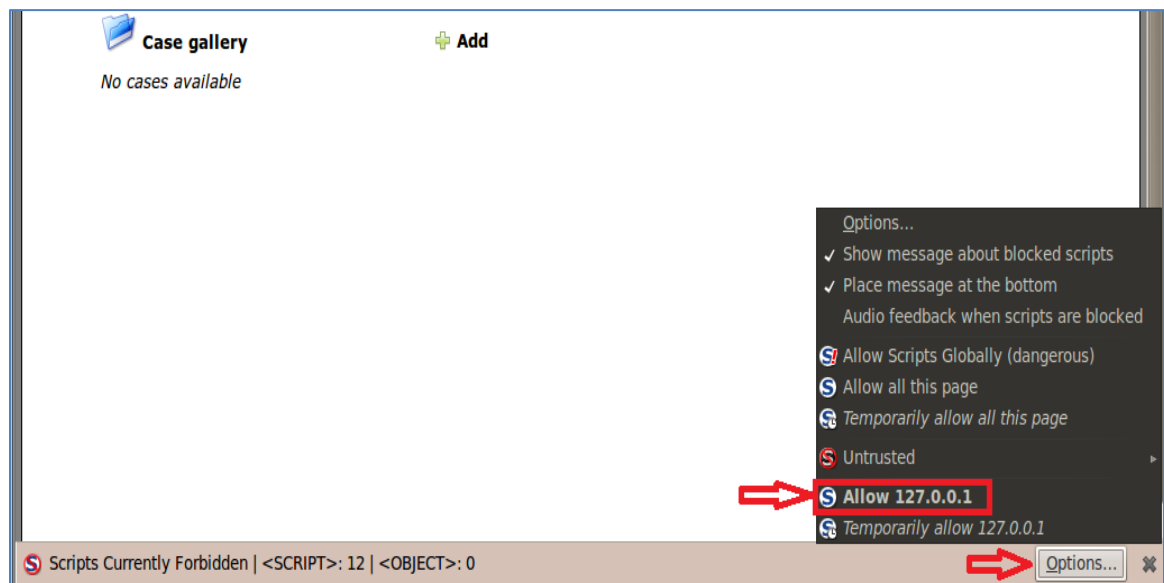
4. To use the PTK forensic suite, click **Applications > BackTrack > Forensics > Forensic Suites > PTK**.



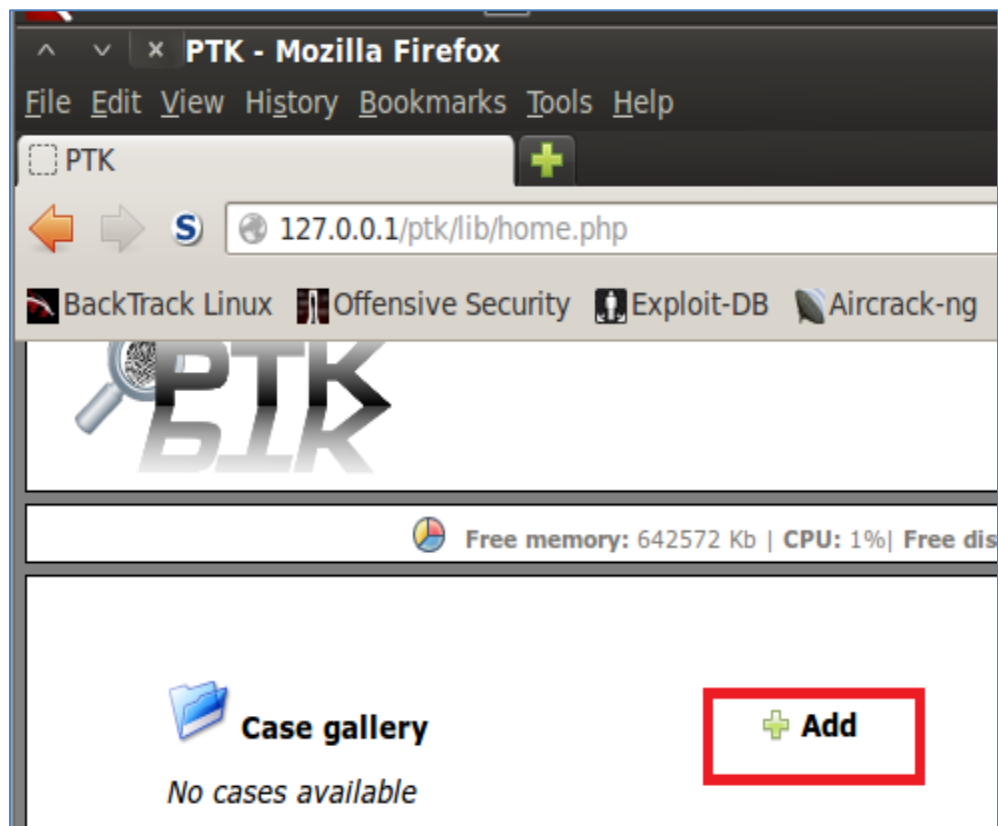
5. For the username, type **admin** and for the password, type **toor**.



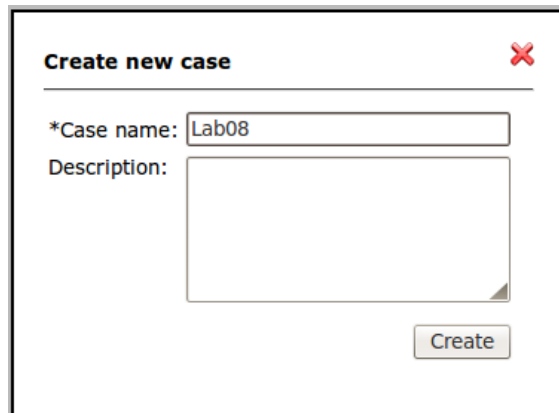
6. In the bottom-right corner of Firefox, click **Options** and click **Allow 127.0.0.1**.



7. Click the **Add** button to start a new case within PTK.



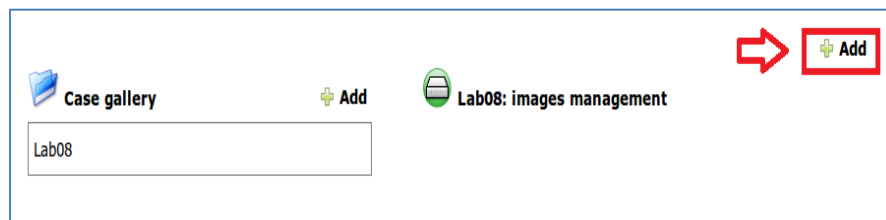
8. Enter **Lab08** as the Case name. Click **Create**.



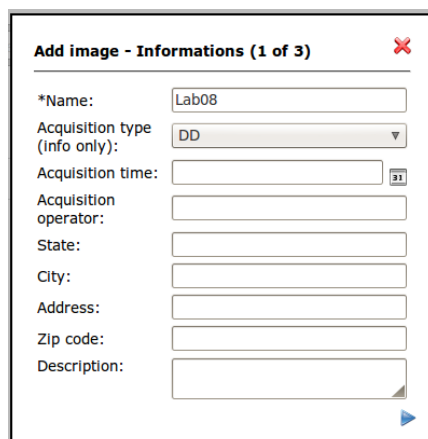
9. Hover mouse pointer over the Lab08 box under Case gallery and click the green icon to **Manage images**.



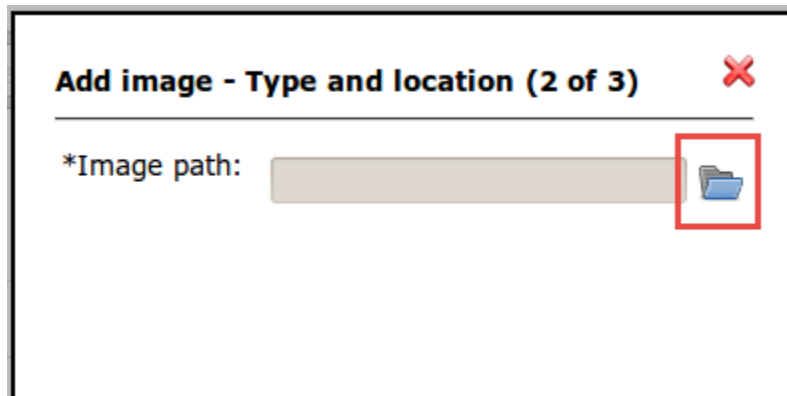
10. Click **Add** on the far right to add an image to the Case gallery.



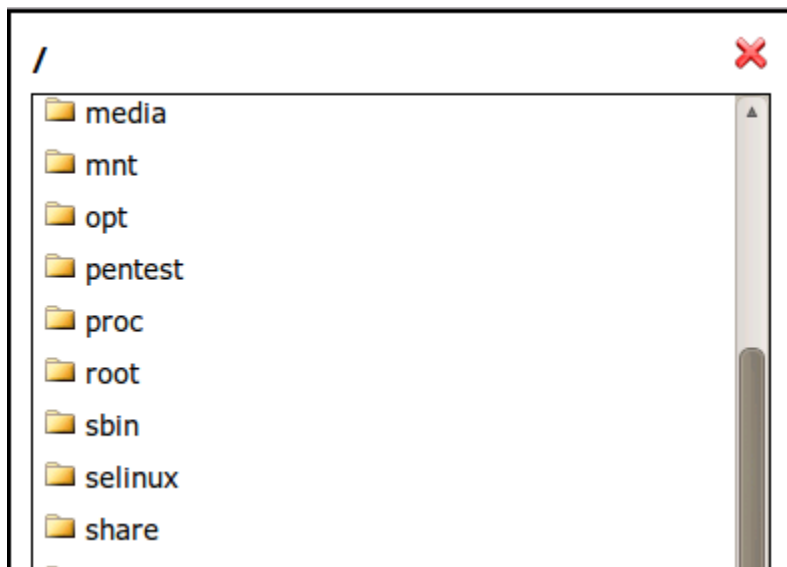
11. Type **Lab08** for the name and select DD for acquisition type. Click the blue arrow to continue.



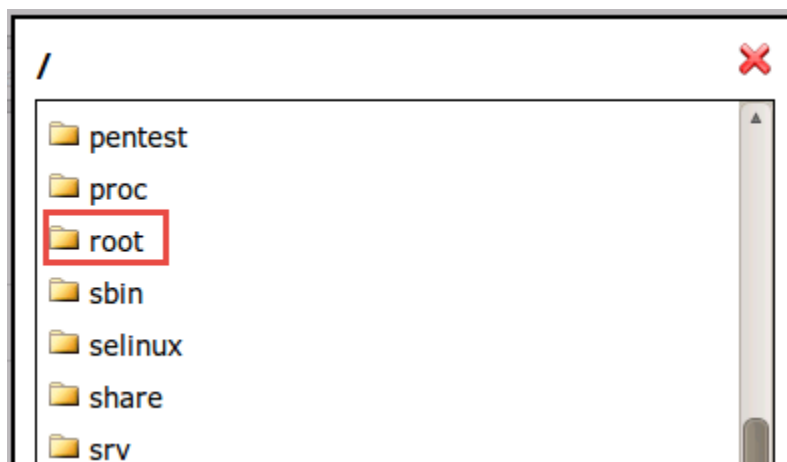
12. Click the blue folder to start browsing.



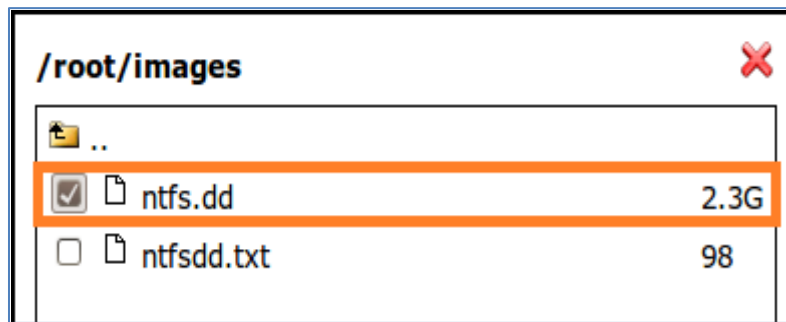
13. Click the yellow folder icon four times to move up to the / root directory.



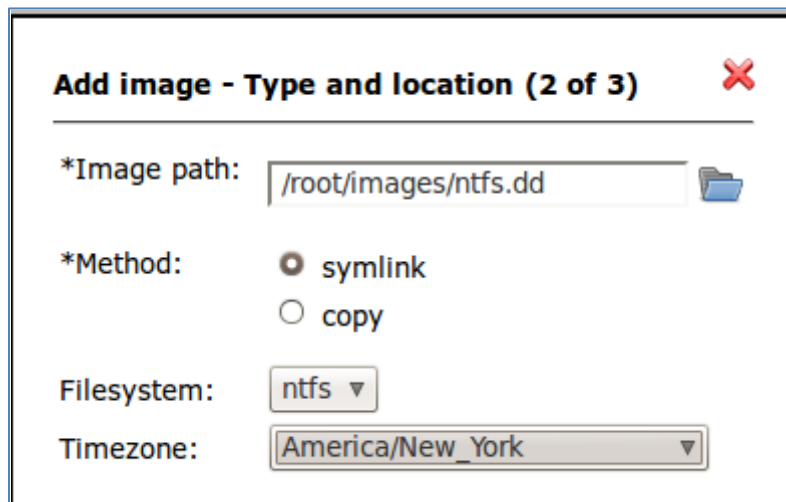
14. Click the **root** folder, and then click the **images** folder.



15. Check the **ntfs.dd** file and click the blue arrow on the right to continue.

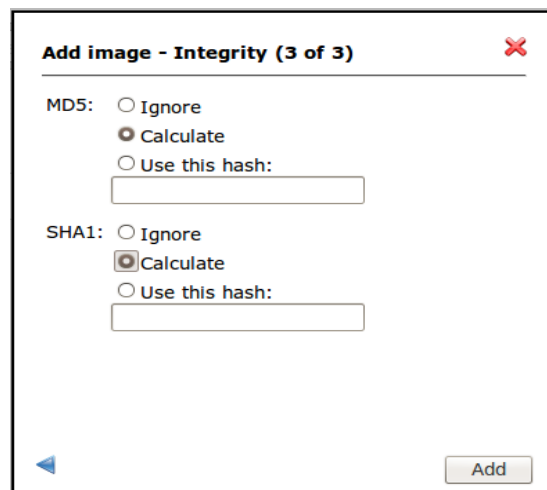


16. Verify that **symlink** is checked and that the filesystem is recognized as NTFS. Use the drop-down box to change the Timezone to **America/New_York**. Click the blue arrow on the right to continue.

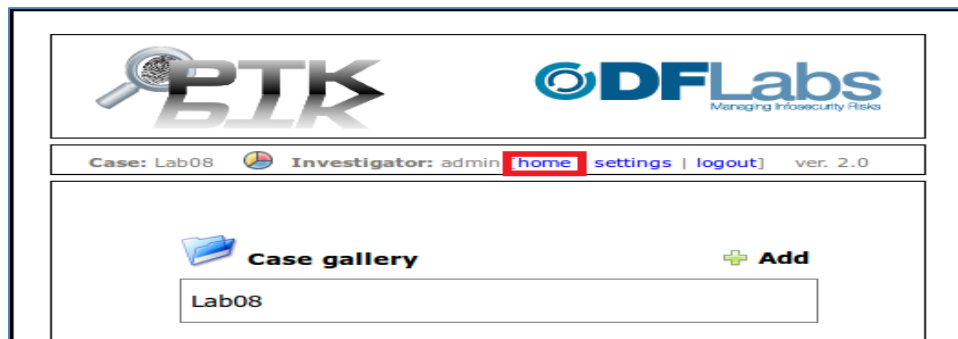


17. For the MD5 and the SHA1 images, select **Calculate**. Click **Add**.

The images will take approximately 5-10 minutes to calculate.



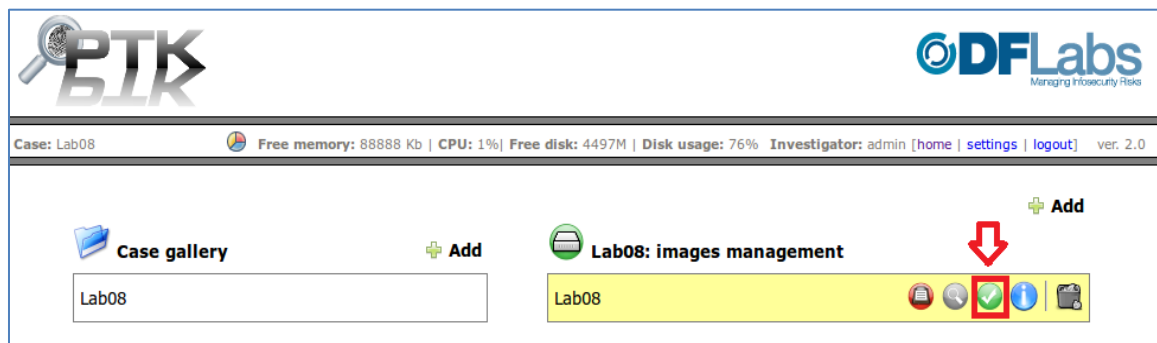
18. Click the home link to go back a page.



19. Hover over the Lab08 box under **Case gallery** and click **Manage Images**.



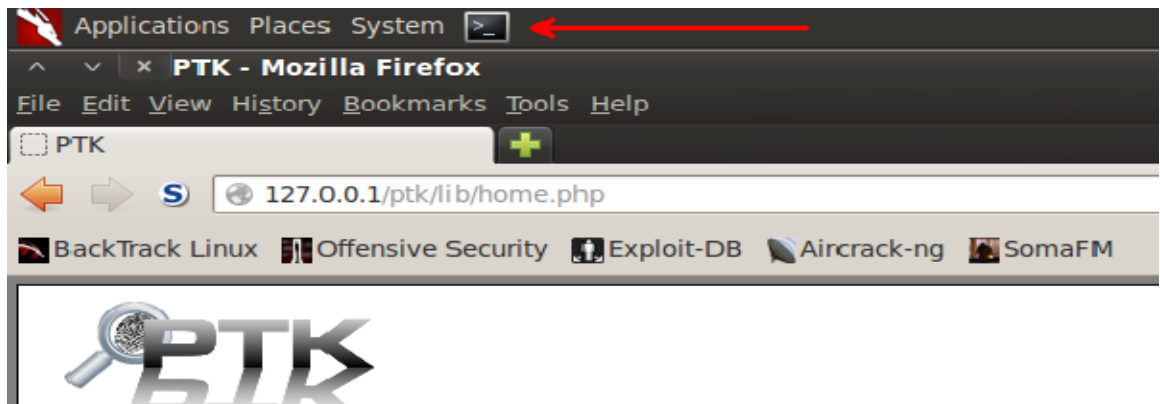
20. On the right side of the screen, click the green check icon under Lab08: images management.



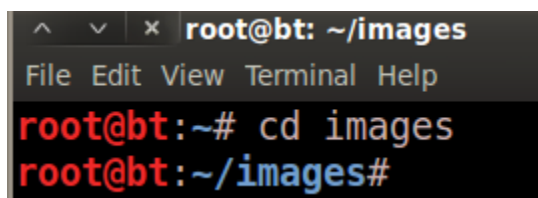
21. After clicking the image integrity check button, you will see the calculated hashes.



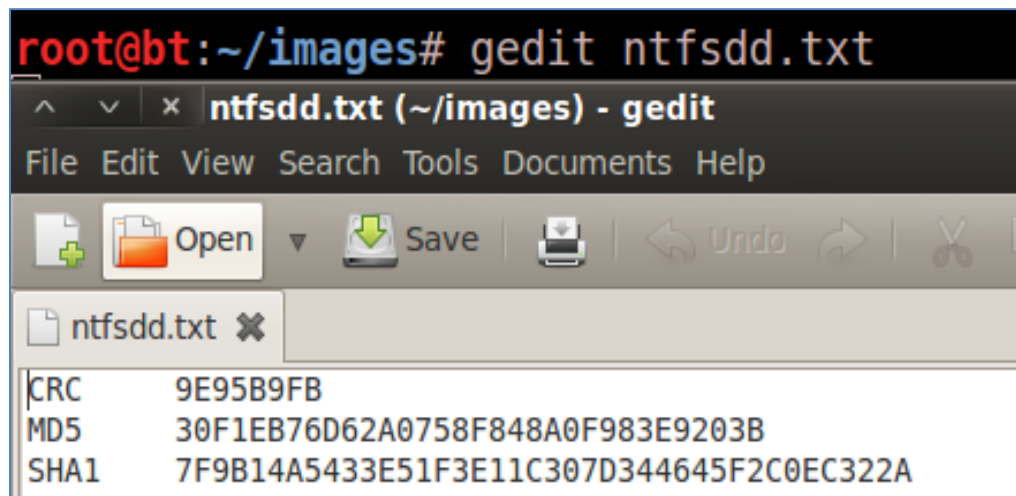
22. Open a terminal on the Linux system by clicking on the picture to the right of the word **System** in the task bar in the top of the screen of the BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine.



23. Switch to the images directory by typing the following command:
root@bt:~# cd images



24. Type the following command to view the file from the Graphical User Interface:
root@bt:~/images# **gedit ntfsdd.txt**



```
root@bt:~/images# gedit ntfsdd.txt
```

ntfsdd.txt (~/.images) - gedit

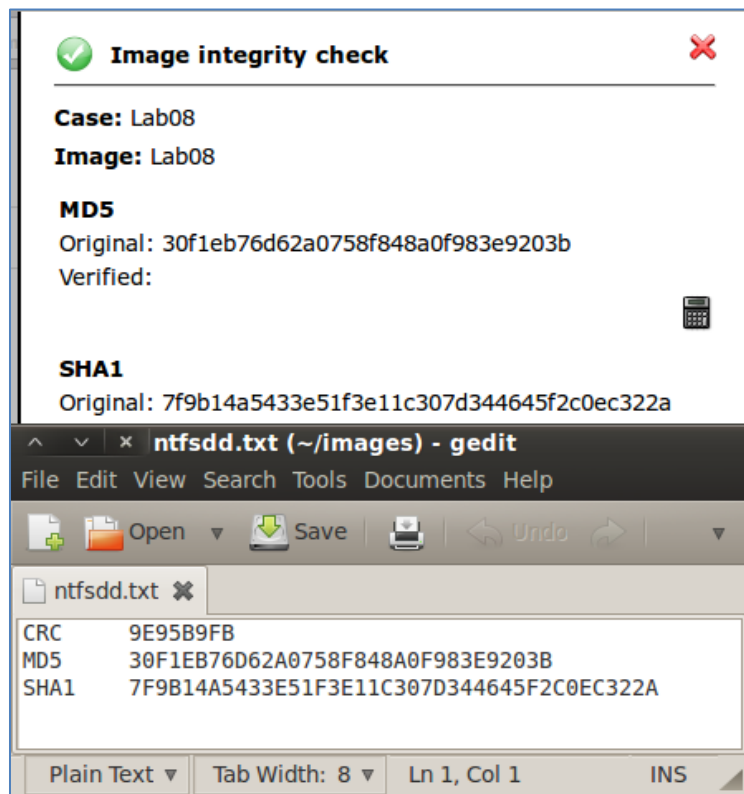
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help

Open Save Undo

ntfsdd.txt

CRC	9E95B9FB
MD5	30F1EB76D62A0758F848A0F983E9203B
SHA1	7F9B14A5433E51F3E11C307D344645F2C0EC322A

25. Examine the PTK and ntfsdd.txt hash values. Both the MD5 and SHA1 hash values from PTK should match the hash values reported by the incident responder.



26. Close the ntfsdd.txt file when you are finished viewing it with the gedit application. Close the Linux terminal. Also, close the Image Integrity check window, but leave PTK running.

1.2 Conclusion

PTK comes installed on BackTrack, but the end user still needs to do some configuration, including specifying the image location and where evidence will be stored.

1.3 Discussion Questions

1. Why do you need to verify image integrity?
2. What are the most common types of hash values used in computer forensics?
3. What types of things are done in PTK during the initial case setup?
4. Describe a method to determine that an image has been successfully recognized.



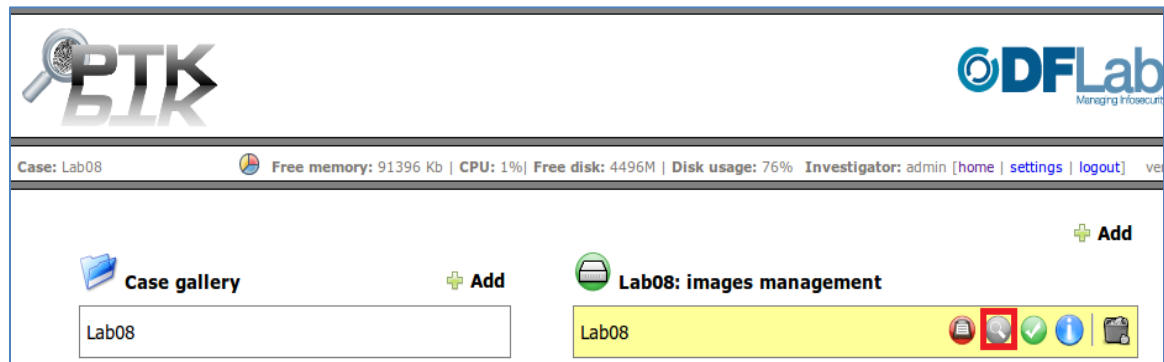
2 Exploring the Image Details

Performing forensic analysis requires loading an image file into a forensic tool. The most widely used forensic tools are commercial tools like EnCase and FTK (Forensic Tool Kit). EnCase is made by Guidance software and FTK is made by Access Data. Both tools require hardware dongles, which helps to prevent illegal copies of the software. There are some free tools, such as Autopsy and PTK, which also can be used to perform forensic analysis.

2.1 Loading the NTFS Image into PTK

PTK is included with Release 5 of BackTrack. It is not included with the Kali distribution.

1. In the right pane, under lab 8: images management, click the gray **magnifying glass** icon. This button is used to analyze the NTFS image loaded into the case.

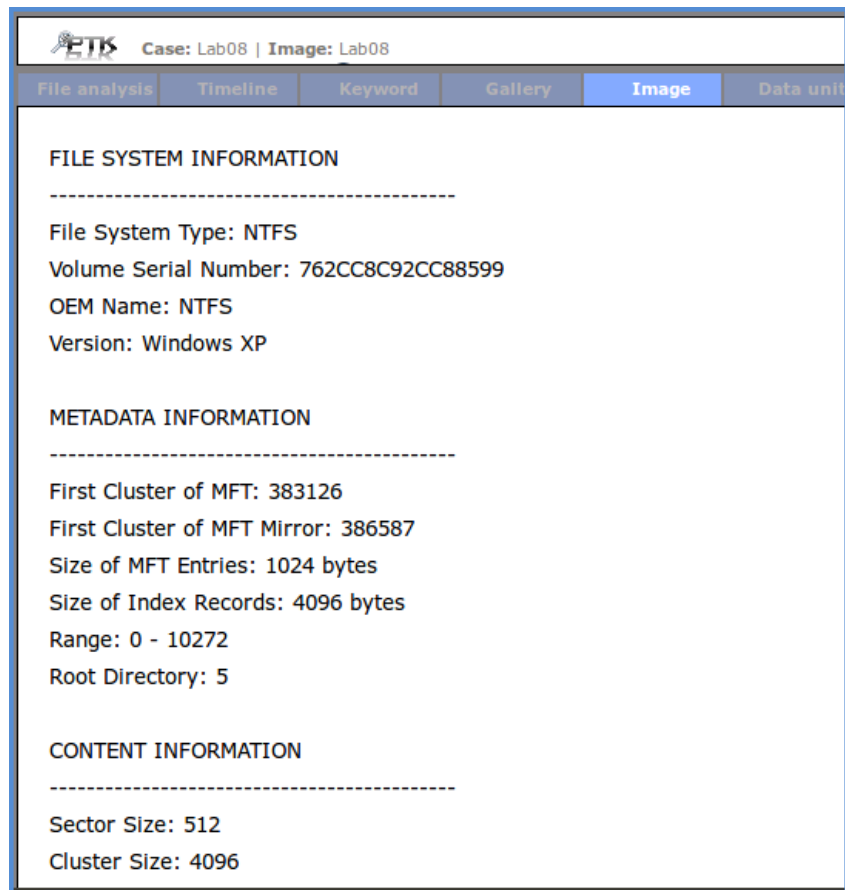


2. View all of the available tabs within the PTK menu.

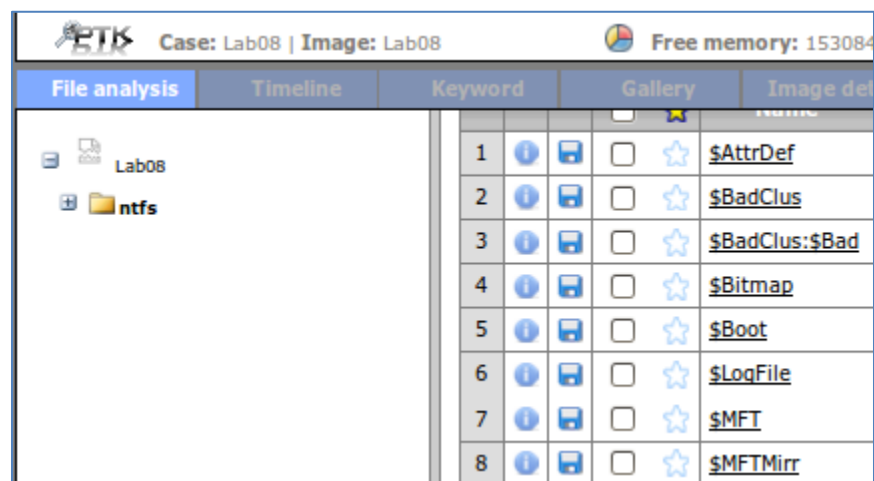


List of Tabs
File Analysis
Timeline
Keyword
Gallery
Image Details
Data Unit
Bookmark
Data Unit

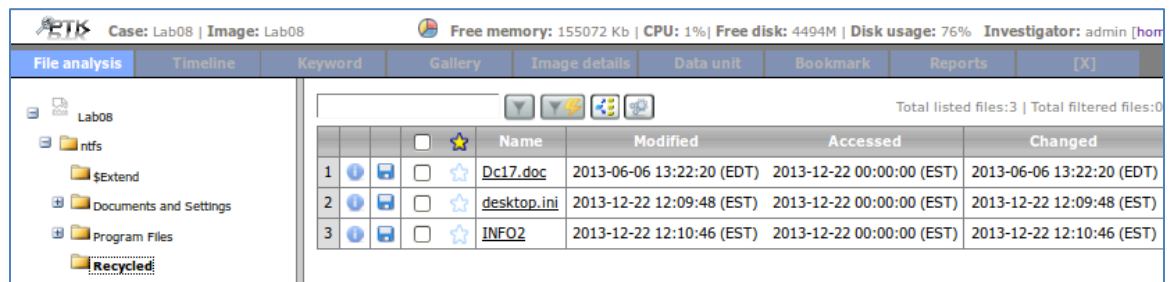
- Click the **Image** tab of PTK and examine the details of the image.



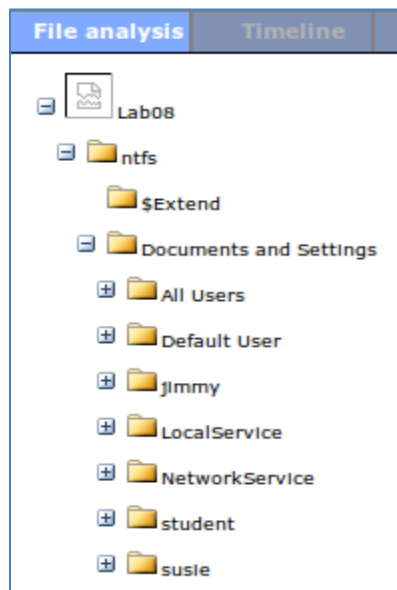
- Click the **File Analysis** tab of PTK, Expand Lab08, and then click on **NTFS**. Notice the NTFS system files including the Master File Table (\$MFT) and \$MFTMirr. These files cannot be seen within Windows, even if hidden files are shown.



5. Within the File Analysis tab of PTK, expand NTFS, and select the **Recycled** folder. In the right pane, you will see a list of the files that are present. There are 3 files.



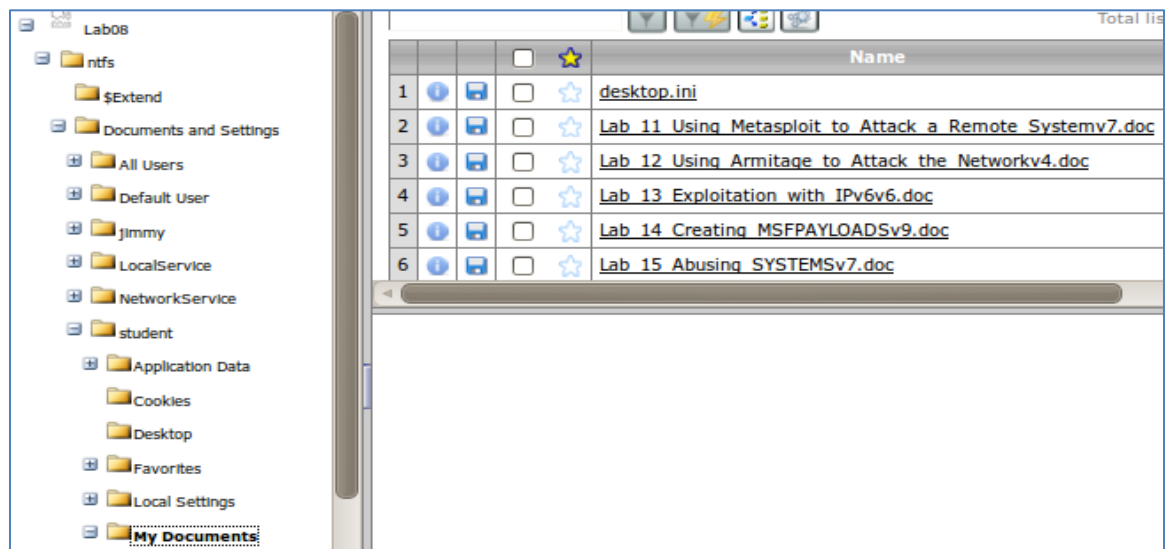
6. Within the File Analysis tab of PTK, expand NTFS, and expand the Documents and Settings folder. This will allow you to determine what user profiles have been loaded on to the system. In this case, three users have logged on to this system.



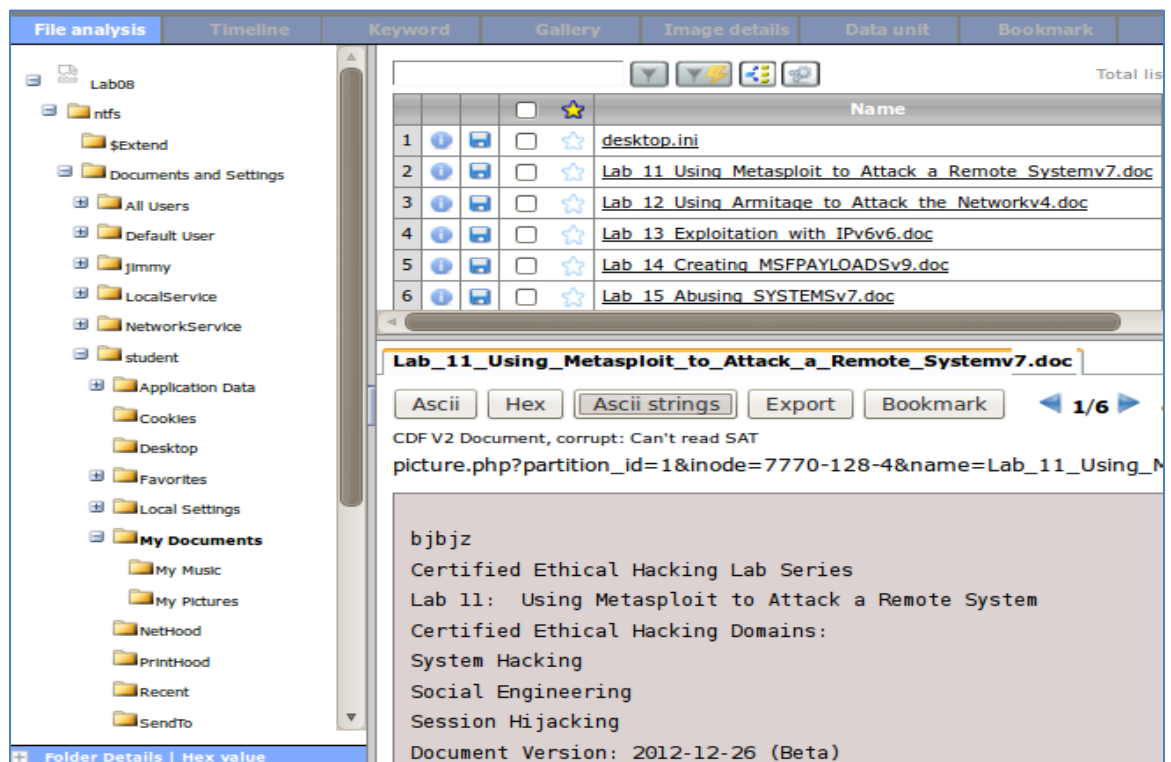
Documents and Settings Folder Breakdown

User(s)	Status
All Users	Present on All Windows XP/2003 Systems
Default User	Present on All Windows XP/2003 Systems
jimmy	This Account has Logged On to the System
LocalService	Present on All Windows XP/2003 Systems
NetworkService	Present on All Windows XP/2003 Systems
student	This Account has Logged On to the System
susie	This Account has Logged On to the System

- Within the File Analysis tab of PTK, expand NTFS, expand Documents and Settings, student, and click on My Documents. This will allow us to view the items within the **My Documents** folder for this user account. There are several documents.



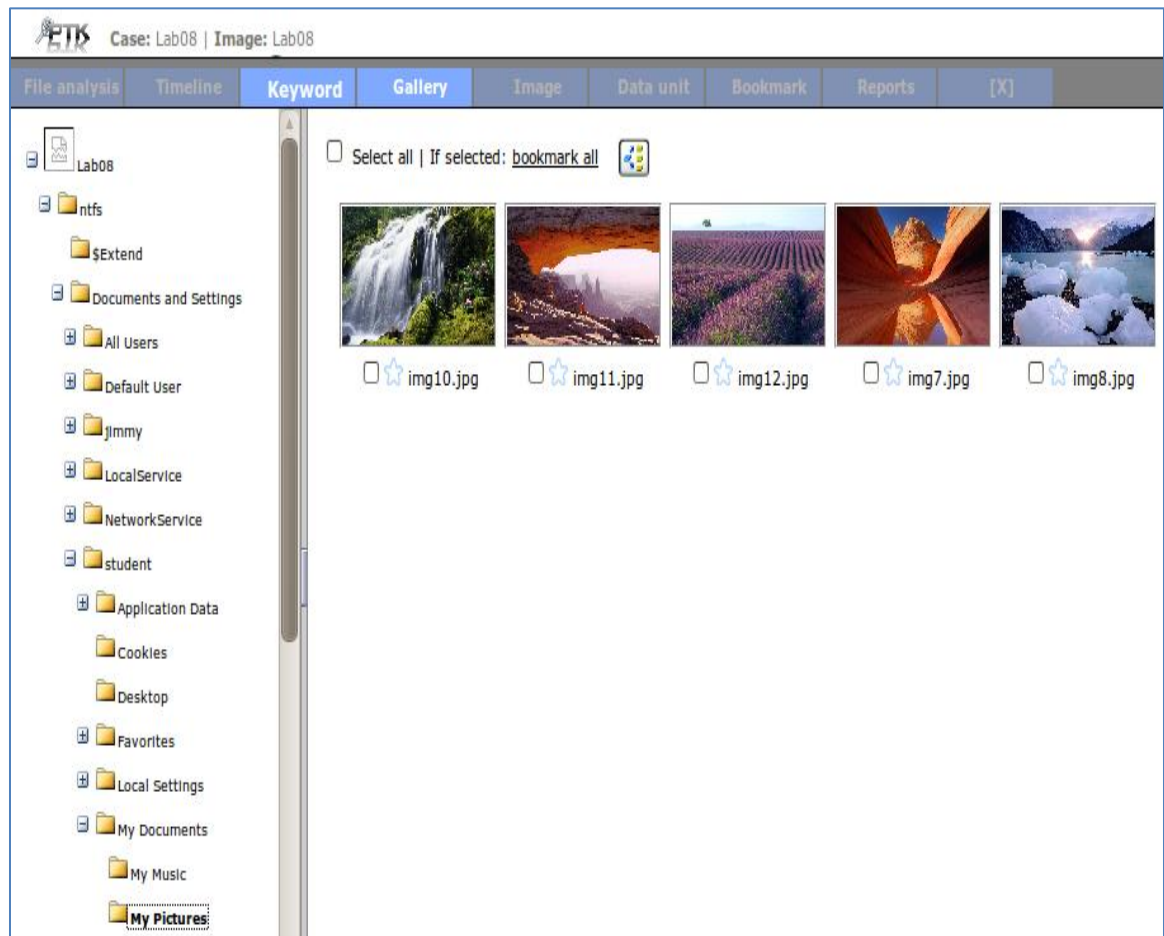
- Click on the link to **Lab 11** within PTK. In the bottom pane, click the **ASCII strings** tab to view information within the Word document.



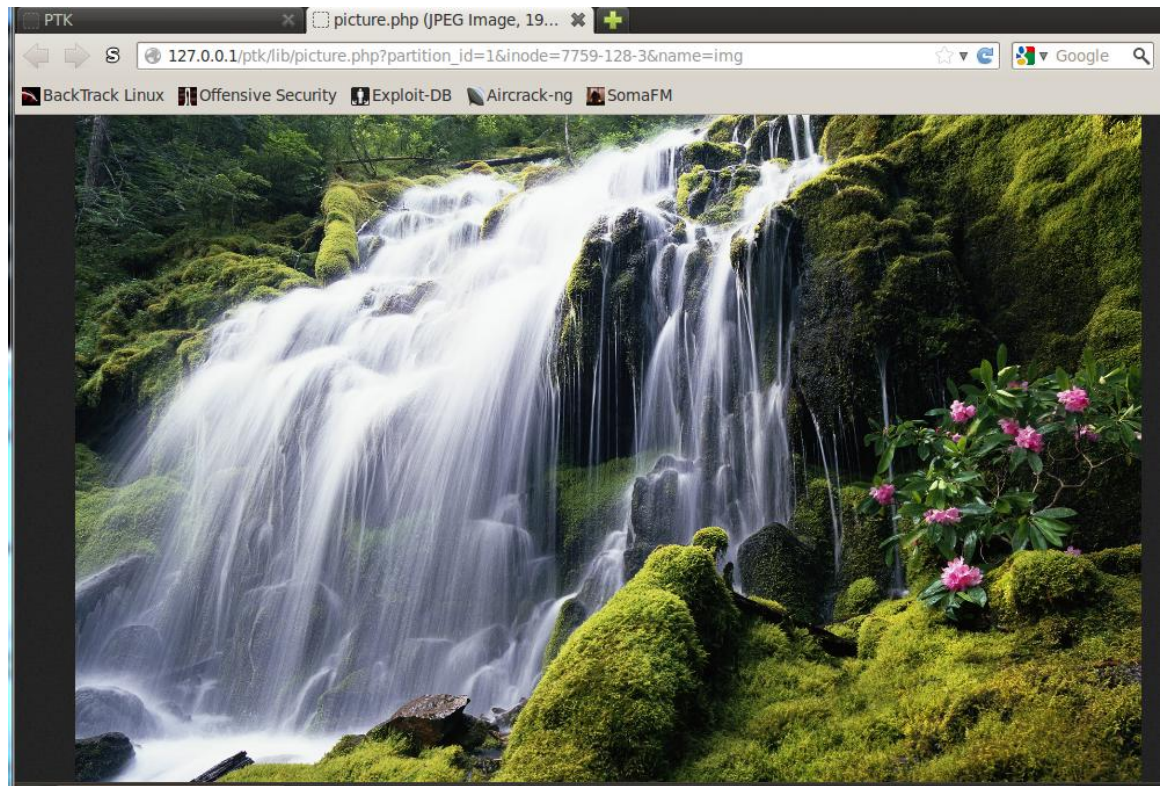
9. View the date and time stamps that are displayed by PTK for the documents.

Name	Modified	Accessed	Changed
<u>desktop.ini</u>	2013-12-05 11:03:16 (EST)	2014-01-02 00:00:00 (EST)	2014-01-02 23:26:11 (EST)
<u>Lab 11 Using Metasploit to Attack a Remote Systemv7.doc</u>	2013-06-06 13:20:00 (EDT)	2013-12-22 00:00:00 (EST)	2014-01-02 23:26:12 (EST)
<u>Lab 12 Using Armitage to Attack the Networkv4.doc</u>	2013-06-06 13:20:16 (EDT)	2013-12-22 00:00:00 (EST)	2014-01-02 23:26:12 (EST)
<u>Lab 13 Exploitation with IPv6v6.doc</u>	2013-06-06 13:20:58 (EDT)	2013-12-22 00:00:00 (EST)	2014-01-02 23:26:12 (EST)
<u>Lab 14 Creating MSFPAYLOADSv9.doc</u>	2013-06-06 13:21:14 (EDT)	2013-12-22 00:00:00 (EST)	2014-01-02 23:26:12 (EST)
<u>Lab 15 Abusing SYSTEMSv7.doc</u>	2013-06-06 13:21:28 (EDT)	2013-12-22 00:00:00 (EST)	2014-01-02 23:26:12 (EST)

10. Click on the Gallery tab. Expand Lab08, NTFS, Documents and Settings, student, My Documents, and select My Pictures. View the pictures in the **Gallery**.



11. Click on one of the pictures in the Gallery to open it in full screen in a new tab.



12. Close the newly opened tab with the picture when you are finished viewing it.

2.2 Conclusion

PTK gives you detailed information about an image file. It allows you to browse through files and folders, and view documents and picture files.

2.3 Discussion Questions

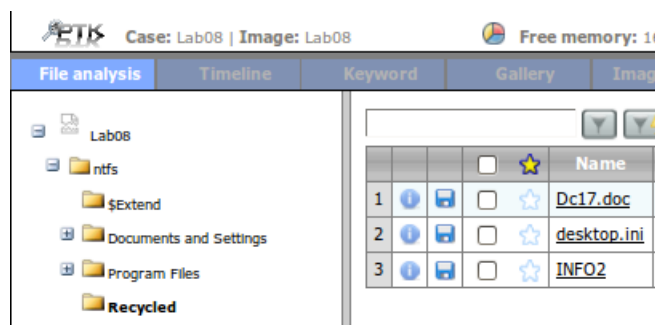
1. Where do you go within PTK to find out details about the image file?
2. What can be done if you want to examine text within a Word document in PTK?
3. What tab is used to view picture files?
4. What is the function of the \$MFT?

3 Extracting Files

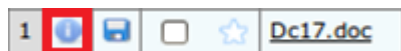
Forensic investigators often need to export files from an image to examine them for more detail or to perform additional analysis. With the correct application software, files that are exported from images can be opened by the investigator. Sometimes investigators need to be cautious because files extracted from images can be malicious. For that reason, their forensic workstation may not be connected to the Internet.

3.1 Extracting Files from PTK

1. Within the File Analysis Tab of PTK, expand Lab08, NTFS, and select the **Recycled** folder.



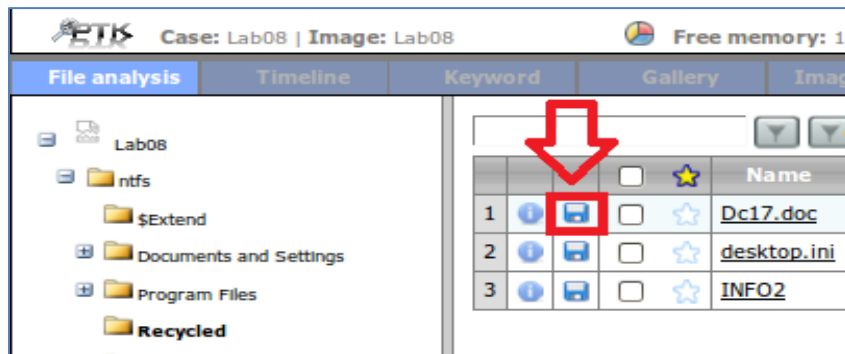
2. You will see 3 files listed on the right. Click the information (i) icon for the **DC17.doc** file.



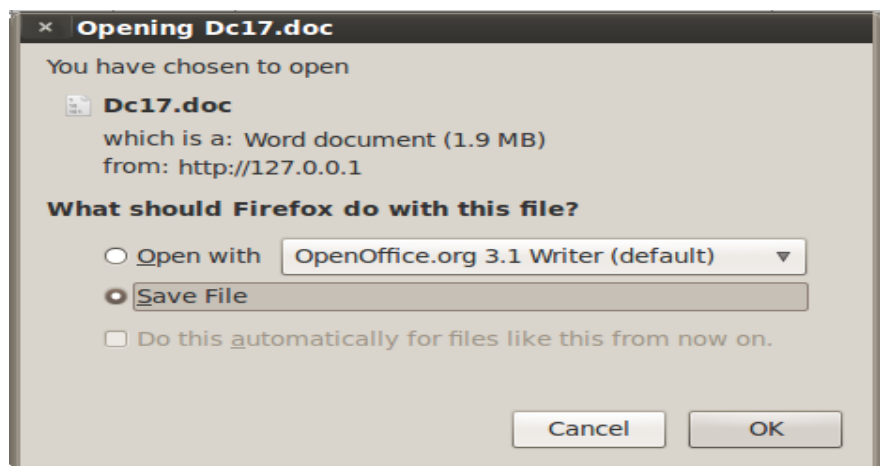
3. View the file details. Notice md5 and sha1 are not provided by default. Close the **File Details** window.



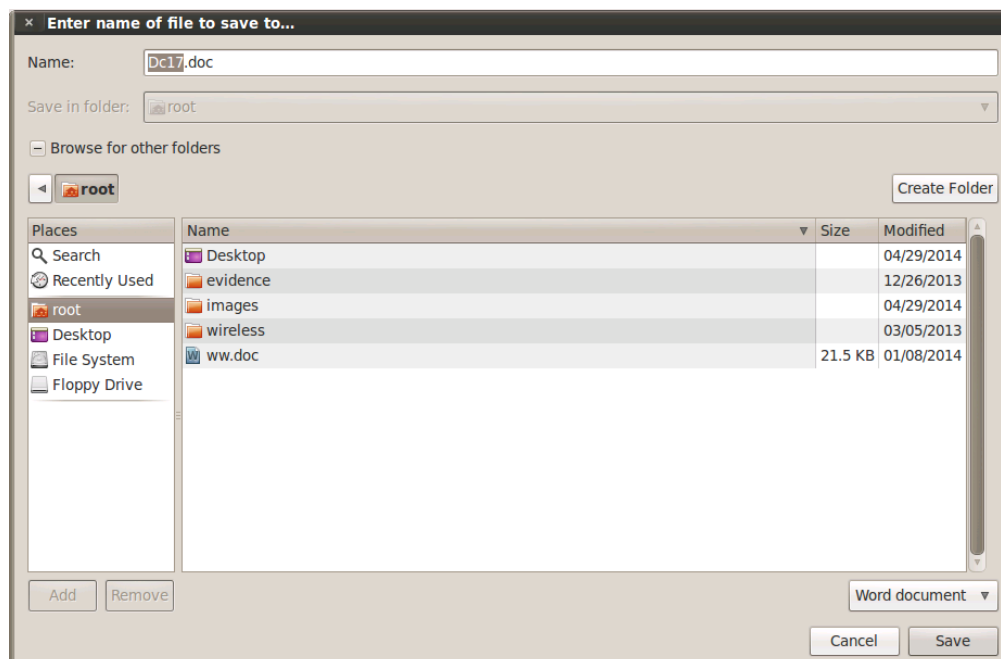
- Click the floppy drive icon for the **DC17.doc** file.



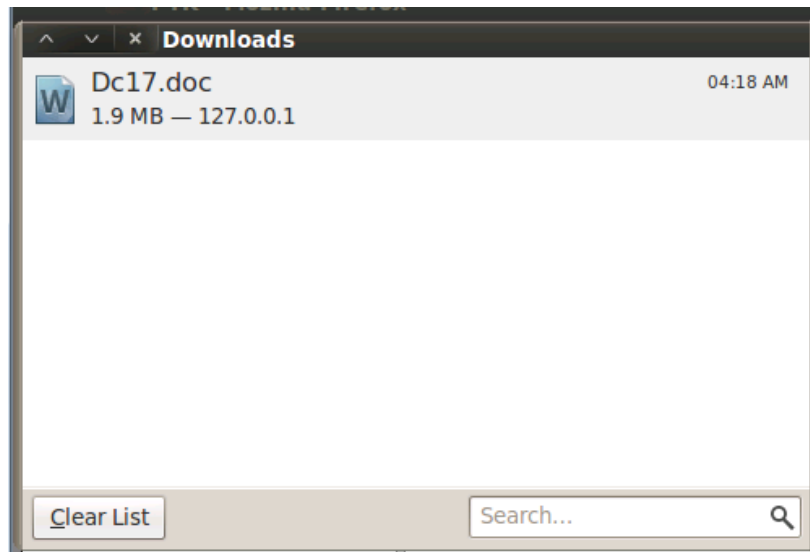
- Click the **Save File** button and click OK.



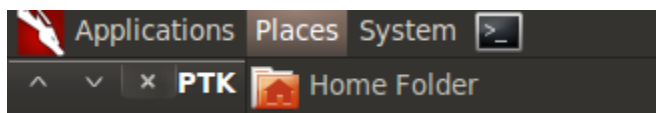
- Click **Save** to save the Dc17.doc file.



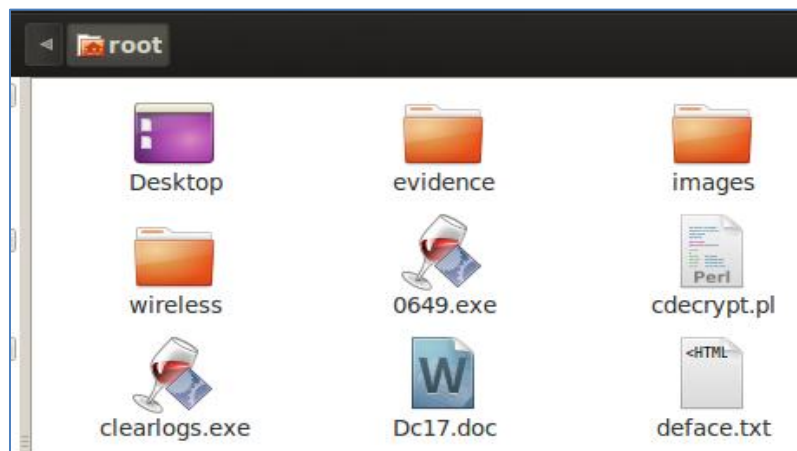
7. Close the Downloads window.



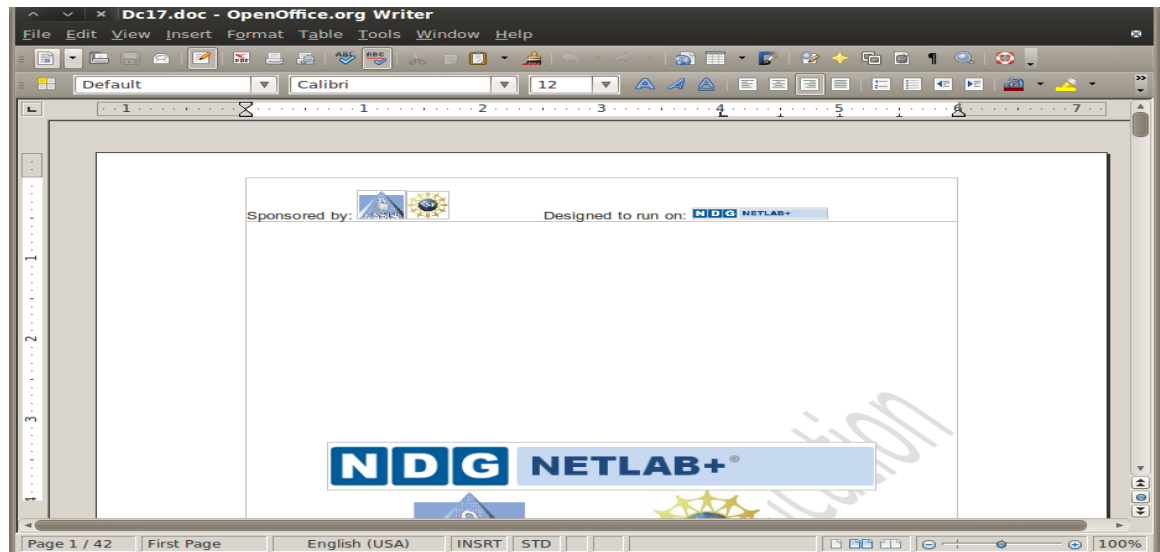
8. Click on Places and select the **Home folder**.



9. Double-click on **DC17.doc** file to open it with Open Office.

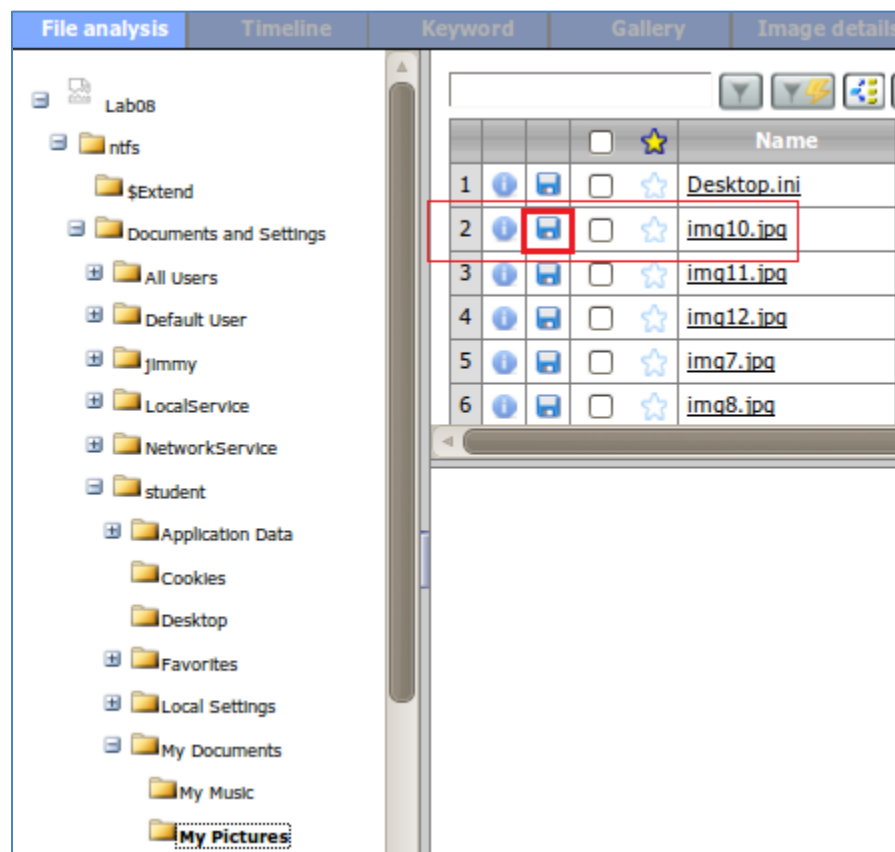


10. View the exported document file.

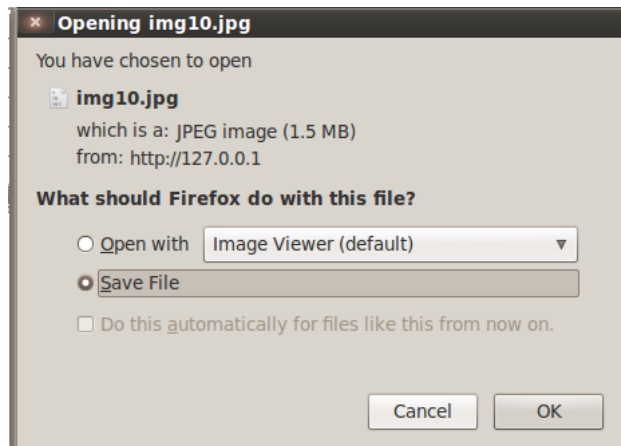


11. Close the document when you are finished viewing it and Open Office. Close root's home folder.

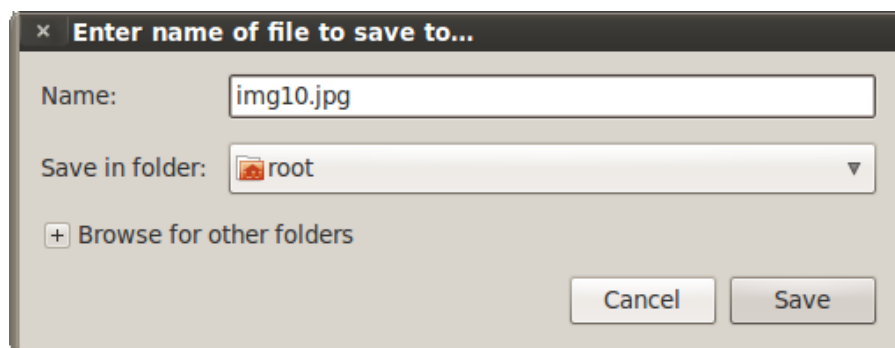
12. Under the File Analysis tab, expand NTFS, Documents and Settings, student, My Documents and select My Pictures. Click the floppy disk button for the **img10.jpg** file.



13. Click the **Save File** button and click **OK**.

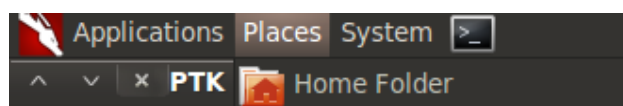


14. Click **Save** to save the img10.jpg file.



15. Close the Downloads window.

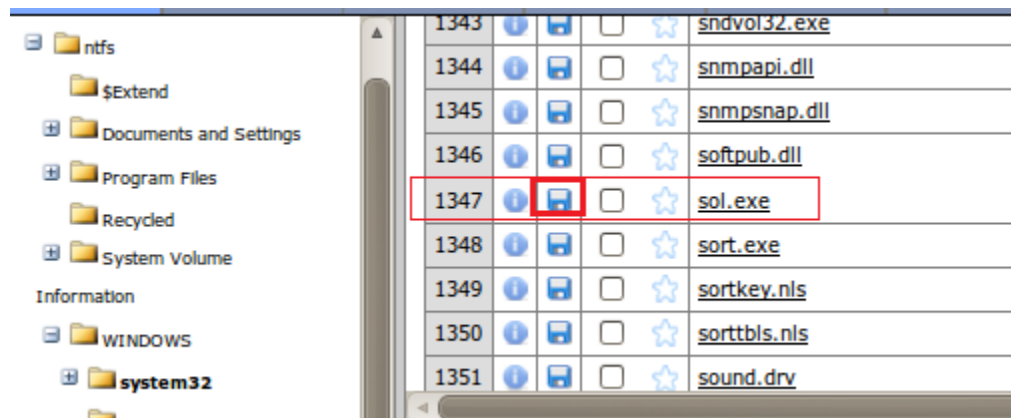
16. Click on Places and select the Home Folder.



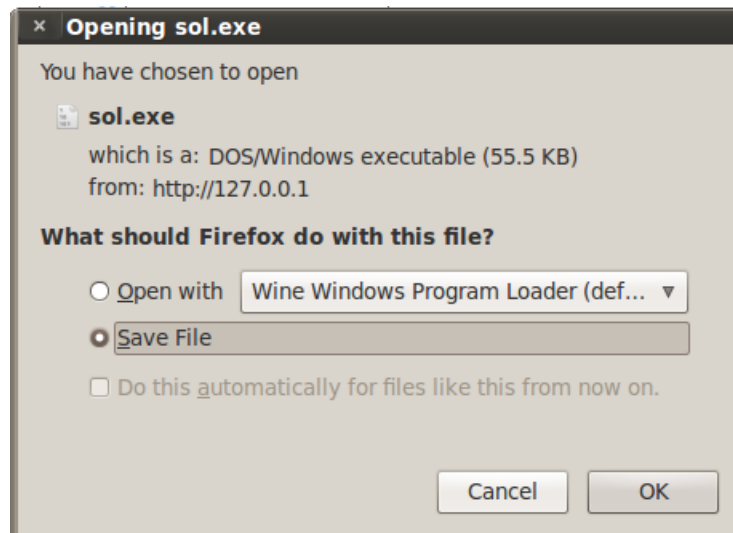
17. View the exported JPG image file.



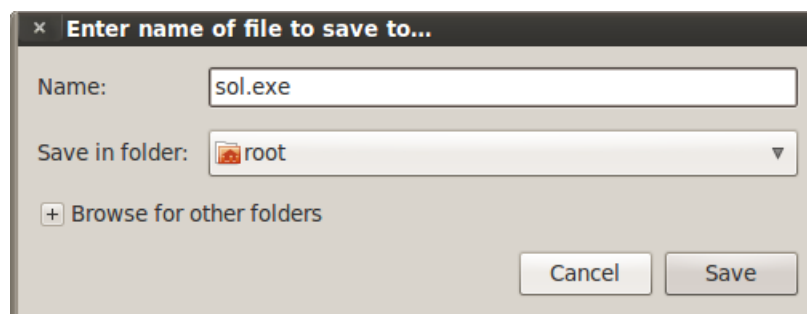
18. Close root's home folder when you are finished viewing the JPEG file.
19. Under the File Analysis Tab, expand NTFS, Windows, and select system32. In the long list of files, find **sol.exe**. Click the floppy disk button to the left of sol.exe.



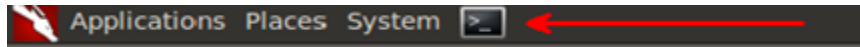
20. Click the **Save file** button and click **OK**.



21. Click **Save** to save the sol.exe file.



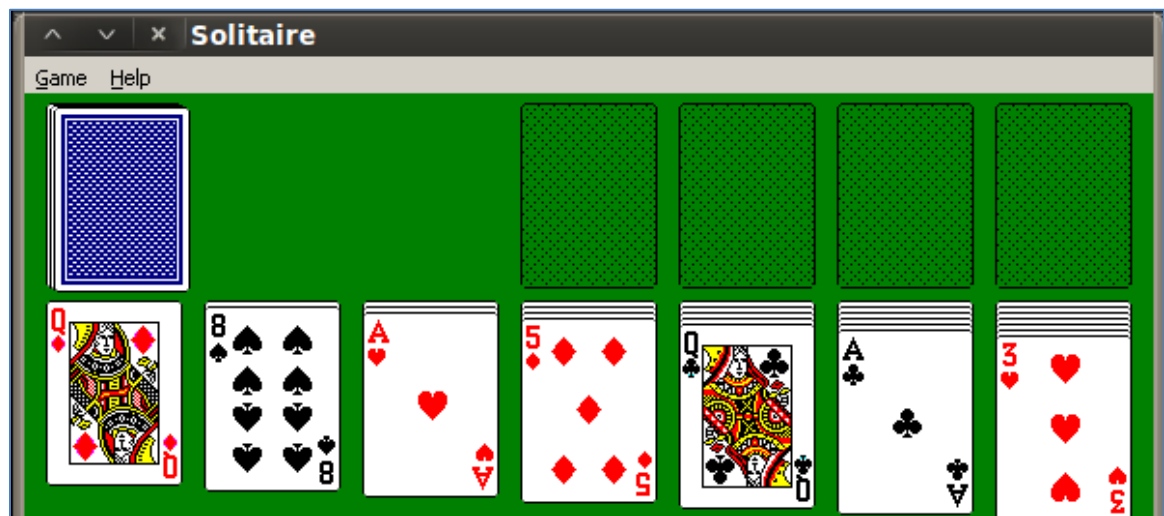
22. Open a terminal on the Linux system by clicking on the picture to the right of the word **System** in the task bar in the top of the screen of the BackTrack 5 R3 Internal Machine.



23. Type the following command to run the Windows solitaire program in Linux:
root@bt:~# **wine sol.exe**

```
root@bt:~# wine sol.exe
```

24. Solitaire will eventually open. Close **solitaire**, close the **terminal** window and close the **download** window.



3.2 Conclusion

PTK is a forensic analysis tool that allows you to export files. Investigators may want to export files so they can be further examined or to determine a program's function.

3.3 Discussion Questions

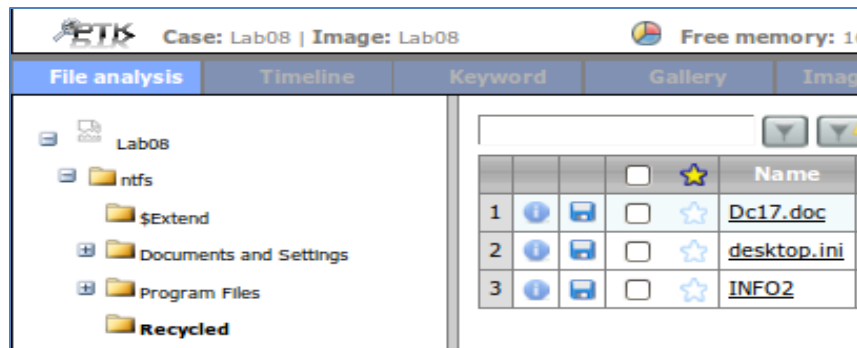
1. How do you export a file within PTK?
2. What program makes it possible to run a Windows program in Linux?
3. Why do you need to exercise caution when exporting files from an image?
4. Why might an investigator disconnect their workstation from the Internet?

4 Forensic Reporting with PTK

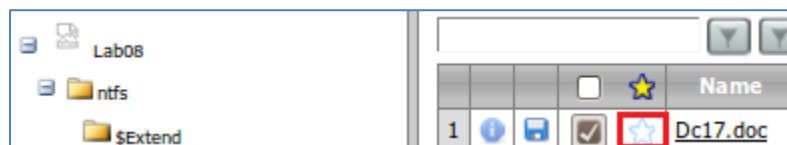
One of the most important tasks for an investigator is to produce a report of his/her findings. A built-in report generator in PTK reports on any tagged items.

4.1 Generate a Forensic Report

1. Within the File Analysis tab of PTK, expand NTFS, and select the Recycled folder.



2. You see 3 files on the right. Click the star icon to the left of DC17.doc.



3. For the category, put **document**. Enter **Student Document** for the Description. Click **Add**.

✖

Bookmark

Name:

Dc17.doc

Categories:

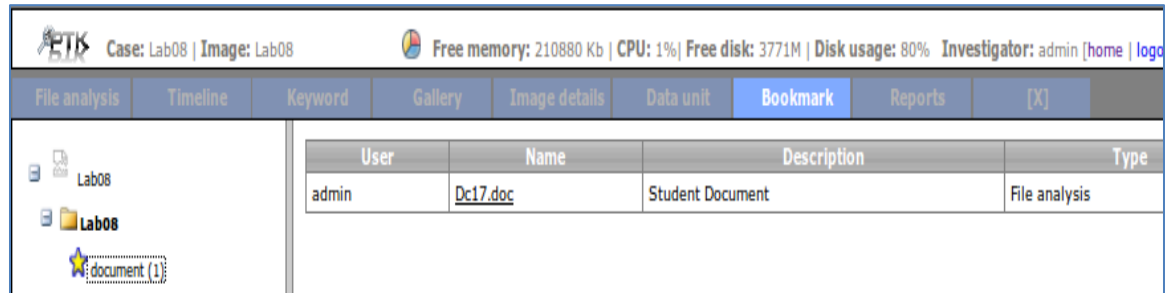
document

Description:

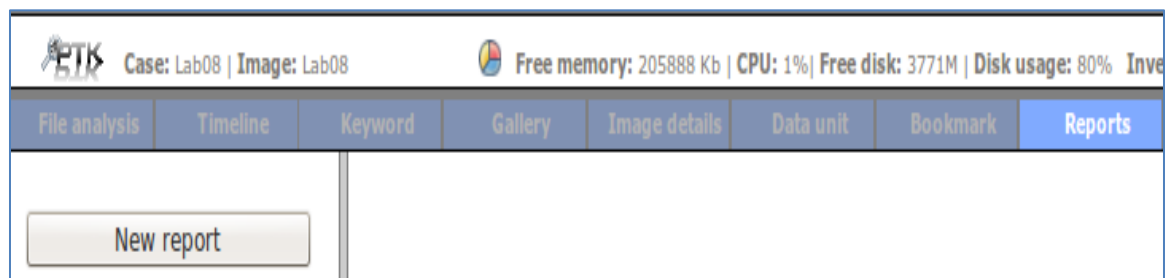
Student Document

Add

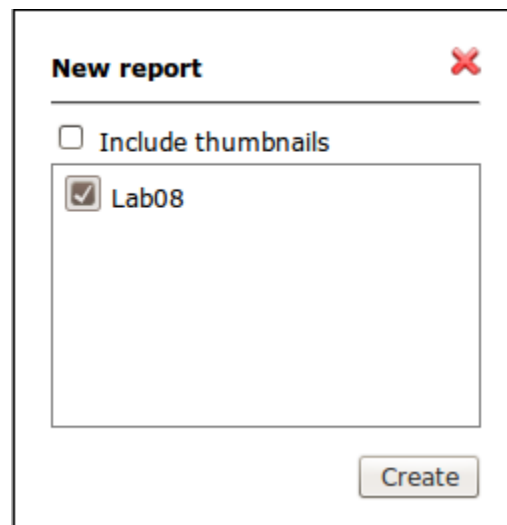
- Click the Bookmark tab in PTK. Expand Lab08, Lab08, click on document (1) and you will see the document.



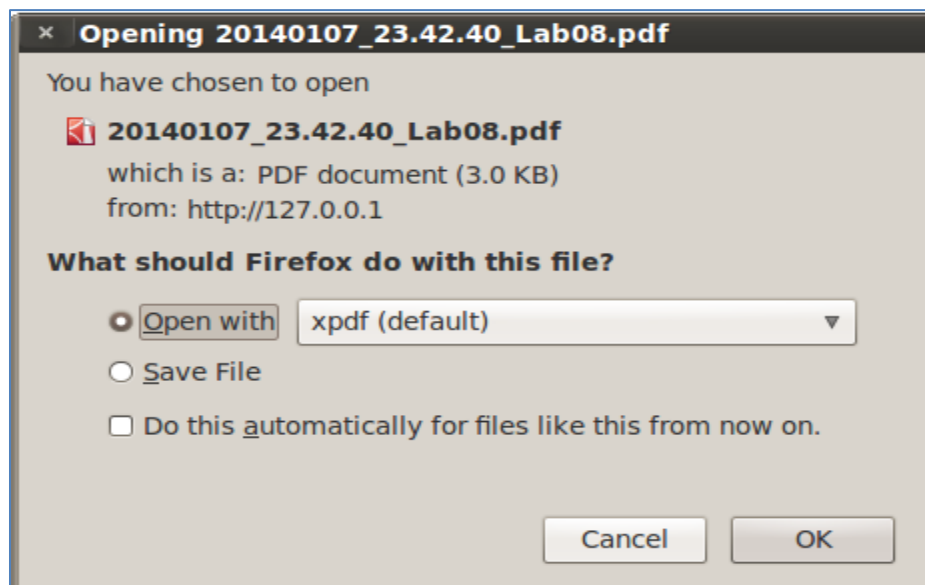
- Click the Reports tab in PTK. Click the **New Report** button.



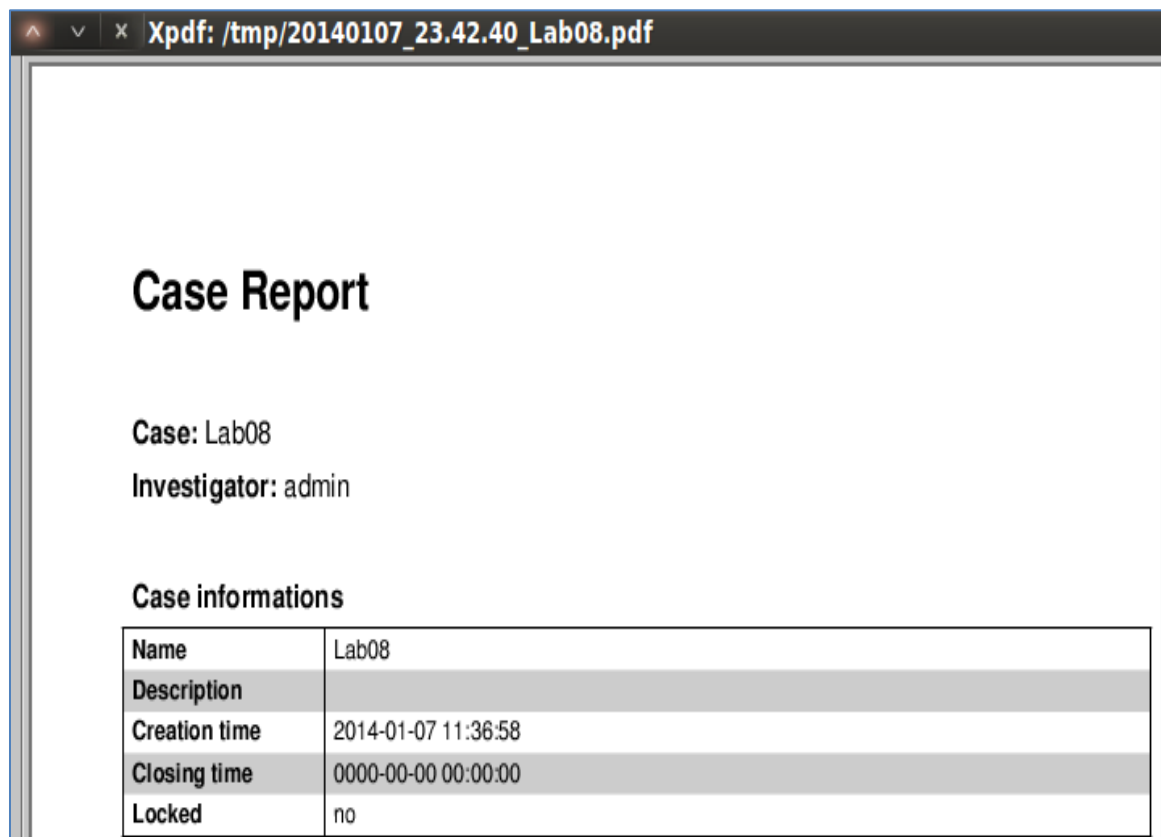
- Click the box next to Lab08 and click **Create**. Click **Include thumbnails** if pictures are bookmarked.



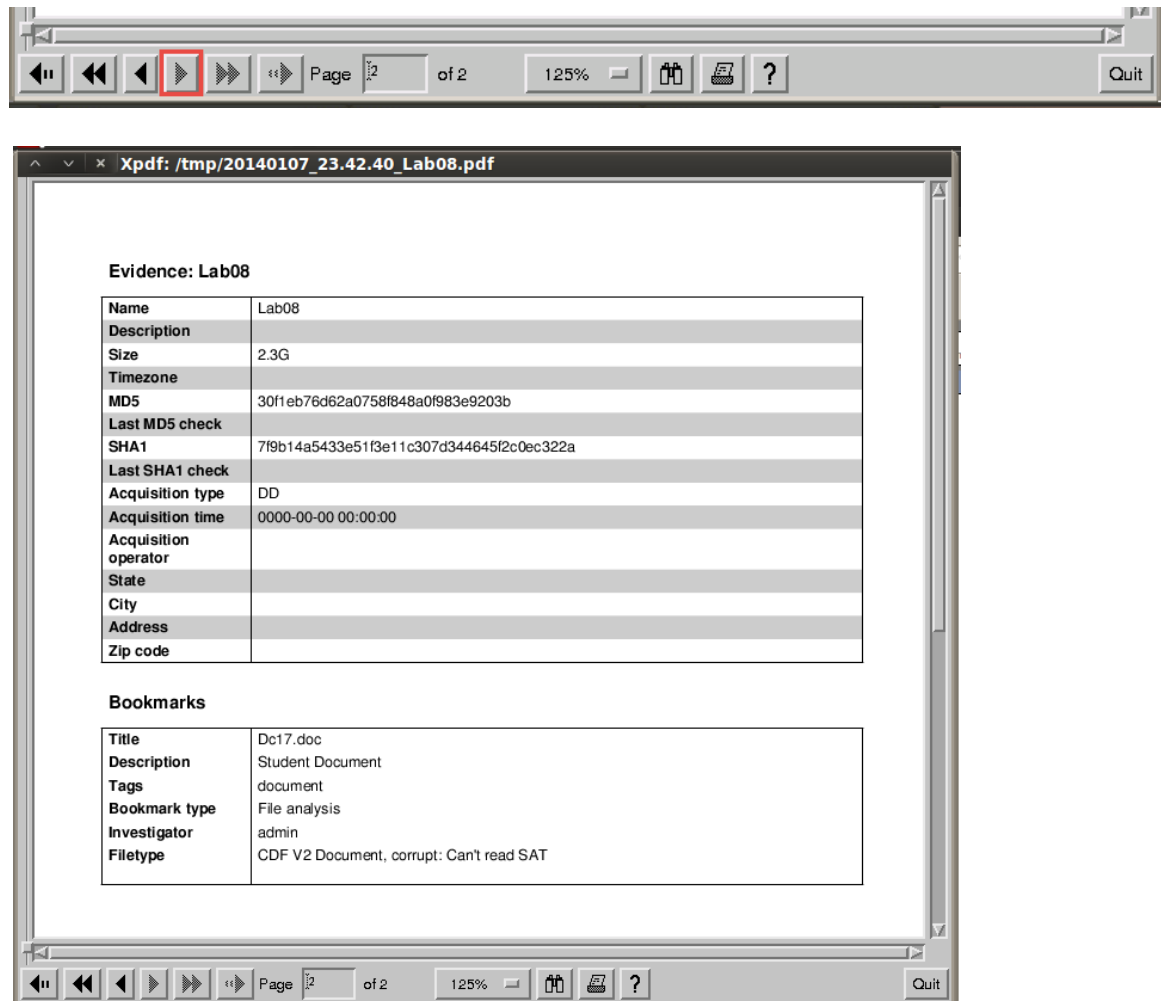
7. Click **OK** to open the report with the PDF reader.



8. View the first page of the generated Case Report.



9. Click the **Next** arrow to view the second page of the Case Report.



10. Close all open windows and the BackTrack 5 PC Viewer.

4.2 Conclusion

PTK has a reporting feature that will allow an investigator to bookmark items within a case. The report can be generated in a PDF format. Once the report is opened, you will get a summary of information within your case, including items that were bookmarked. Thumbnail images can be also added to the report.

4.3 Discussion Questions

1. In what format is a report generated in PTK?
2. Where do you navigate to within PTK to generate a report?
3. How do you bookmark an item?
4. Where do you navigate to within the PTK to view bookmarked items?

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