# Industry Project Report On Forensic Analysis of Digital Devices

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# Submitted to Faculty of Engineering and Technology Institute of Computer Technology Ganpat University



**Year - 2025** 











## **CERTIFICATE**

This is to attest that the **Industry** Project work entitled "**Forensic Analysis of Digital Devices**" by Atharva Deshpande (Enrolment No.21162171003 of Ganpat University, towards the partial fulfillment of requirements of the degree of Bachelor of Technology – Computer Science and Engineering, carried out by him in the CSE(CS) Department at Heritage Cyber world LLP. No University or Institute has accepted the outcomes or findings of this project in whole or in part for the fulfillment of any degree or diploma.

Name & Sign. of Internal Guide

Name & Sign. of Head

Place: ICT - GUNI

Date: May 09 2025

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

An excellent opportunity for education and personal growth is the Industry Internship project. Having so many amazing people guide me through the completion of this endeavour makes me feel really fortunate and humbled. First and foremost, I would like to thank Dr. Rohit Patel, Principal, ICT, and Prof. Dharmesh Darji, Head, ICT who gave us an opportunity to undertake this project. Despite their extremely hectic academic schedules, Prof. Tejas Kadiya and Ms. Janvi Sharma (Internal & External Guides) took the time to listen to us, offer advice, and steer us in the right direction during our project work on Digital Forensic Analysis of Evidences. Without his or her assistance, we are unsure of where we might have ended up. The CSE department organized all the facilities to make living easy and kept an eye on our development. We would want to use this opportunity to express our gratitude for their generosity.

ATHARVA DESHPANDE (Enrollment No:21162171003)

#### ABSTRACT

The widespread adoption of computers, smartphones, and other connected technologies in today's advanced society has introduced both unprecedented opportunities and challenging issues. The rapid expansion of digital platforms and mobile apps has heightened the chances of cyberattacks, data breaches, and privacy infringements. To effectively address these problems, there is an increasing need for skilled professionals with education in digital forensics.

The purpose of Forensic Analysis of Digital Devices is to provide individuals with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to investigate and assess digital evidence. For legal and investigative purposes, this entails the systematic examination of digital devices such as computers, tablets, and smartphones to retrieve, analyze and preserve crucial information. Through this Internship, I acquired skills in utilizing forensic methods and instruments to learn about cybercrime evidence, detect anomalies, and reconstruct events. In today's world, this knowledge is essential for supporting cybersecurity efforts, law enforcement actions, and judicial processes.

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**CHAPTER: 1 INTRODUCTION** 

#### **CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION**

The growing reliance on computers, smartphones, and interconnected technologies in modern society has brought about both transformative benefits and significant security concerns. With the rapid rise of digital platforms and mobile applications, the threat landscape has expanded, increasing the frequency and complexity of cyberattacks, data breaches, and privacy violations. Addressing these challenges requires trained professionals equipped with specialized knowledge in digital forensics.

This Internship empowered me with both theoretical understanding and hands-on experience in analyzing digital evidence. The training focused on the structured examination of digital devices—including computers, tablets, and smartphones—to extract, interpret, and securely preserve critical data for investigative and legal purposes. It provides a solid foundation in the core principles of digital forensics, including chain of custody, data recovery, and evidence handling.

I gained proficiency in advanced forensic tools and techniques to uncover traces of cybercrime, detect anomalies, and reconstruct digital events. These skills are essential for supporting cybersecurity operations, assisting law enforcement agencies, and contributing to judicial proceedings. In an era where digital threats continue to evolve, Forensic Analysis of Digital Devices plays a vital role in preparing professionals to respond effectively and ethically.

**CHAPTER: 2 PROJECT SCOPE** 

# **CHAPTER 2 PROJECT SCOPE**

The scope of project includes investigating cybercrimes, recovering lost or deleted data, identifying security vulnerabilities, and analyzing digital evidence to support legal and investigative processes. It also extends to developing predictive models for assessing risks and enhancing the security of digital ecosystems.

CHAPTER: 3 SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE REQUIR	REMENTS

# **CHAPTER 3 SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS**

# **Minimum Hardware Requirements**

Processor	2.0 GHz
RAM	8GB
HDD	40GB

Table 3.1 Minimum Hardware Requirements

# **Minimum Software Requirements**

Operating System	Any operating system which can support an internet browser.
Programming language	-
Other tools & tech	FTK Imager, Autopsy, Encase and Wireshark

Table 3.2 Minimum Software Requirements

**CHAPTER: 4 PROCESS MODEL** 



Figure 4.1 Process Model of Project

**CHAPTER: 5 PROJECT PLAN** 

#### **CHAPTER 5 PROJECT PLAN**

# 5.1 List of Major Activities

- 1. Task: 1 Identification: Clearly define the purpose of the investigation, focusing on the specific digital devices and data to be analyzed.
- 2. Task: 2 Preservation: Isolate, secure, and preserve the data from the digital devices to prevent tampering or loss of critical evidence.
- 3. Task: 3 Analysis: Carefully examine and interpret the preserved digital evidence to uncover insights, patterns, or anomalies related to the investigation.
- 4. Task: 4 Documentation: Maintain comprehensive records of all actions taken during the forensic process, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- 5. Task: 5 Presentation: Summarize and explain the findings and conclusions drawn from the analysis in a clear and concise manner for legal or investigative purposes.

**CHAPTER: 6 IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS** 

#### **CHAPTER 6 IMPLEMENTATION DETAIL**

# 6.1 UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPTS OF HASH VALUES.

In this section we are going to learn about the working of Hash values and different scenarios of their working.

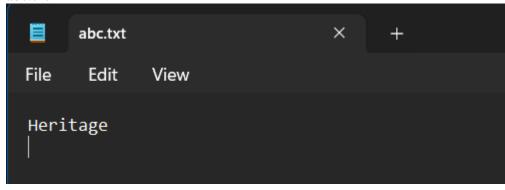
# 6.1.1 Compare hash values of 2 files after changing their extension.

We have 2 files abc.txt and pqr.txt.

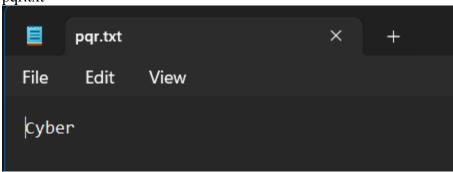
Name	Date modified	Туре	Size
abc.txt	08-01-2025 05:38 PM	Text Document	0 KB
pqr.txt	08-01-2025 05:38 PM	Text Document	0 KB

Their contents are as below.

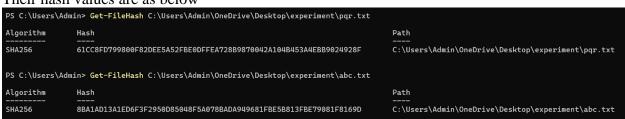
abc.txt



pqr.txt

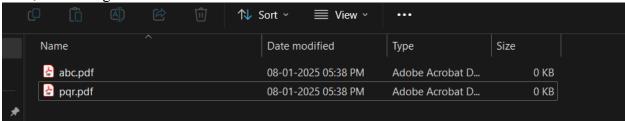


Their hash values are as below



Hash values did not change.

Now, let's change their file formats.



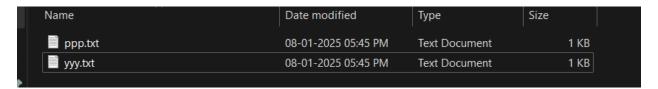
Now let's check their hash values again.



We see that their hash values did not change and remained the same.

# 6.1.2 Compare hash values of 2 files with the same content after changing their file name.

We will change abc.txt to ppp.txt and pqr.txt to yyy.txt.



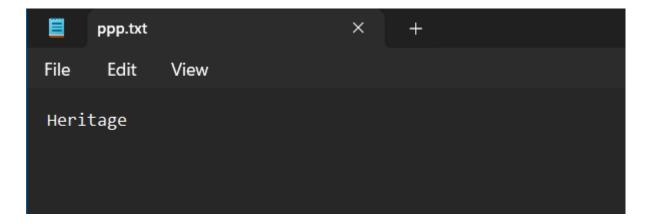
Now let's check the hash values.



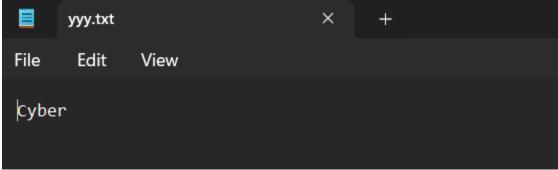
We see that their hash values did not change in spite of changing the file name.

# 6.13. Compare hash values of 2 different file names with changed content.

Content of ppp.txt

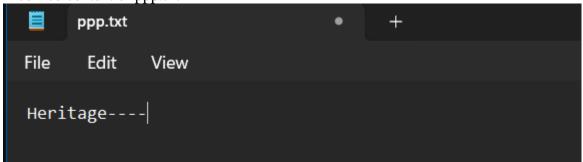


Content of yyy.txt

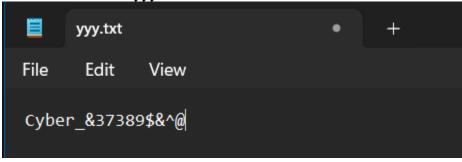


Now let's modify the content.

Modified content of ppp.txt



Modified content of yyy.txt



Now let's check their hash values.

PS C:\Users\Admin> Get-FileHash C:\Users\Admin\OneDrive\Desktop\experiment\yyy.txt

Algorithm Hash C:\Users\Admin\OneDrive\Desktop\experiment\yyy.txt

PS C:\Users\Admin> Get-FileHash C:\Users\Admin\OneDrive\Desktop\experiment\yyy.txt

PS C:\Users\Admin> Get-FileHash C:\Users\Admin\OneDrive\Desktop\experiment\yyy.txt

Algorithm Hash Path C:\Users\Admin> Get-FileHash C:\Users\Admin\OneDrive\Desktop\experiment\pyp.txt

Algorithm Hash C:\Users\Admin\OneDrive\Desktop\experiment\pyp.txt

Path C:\Users\Admin\OneDrive\Desktop\experiment\pyp.txt

# Their hash values are different!!

#### Conclusion

From three scenarios, we conclude that hash value changes when content of 2 files are changed.

#### 6.2 WORKING OF BOOTING PROCESS

#### **6.2.1. Windows Booting Process**

Step 1: Power-On Self-Test (POST)

When the system is powered on, the BIOS (Basic Input Output System) or UEFI (Unified Extensible Firmware Interface) firmware initializes the hardware components. It performs a hardware check (POST) to verify that essential components like CPU, RAM, and storage devices are functioning correctly.

Step 2: Boot Manager

The BIOS/UEFI locates the Master Boot Record (MBR) or GUID Partition Table (GPT) on the primary boot device. It loads the Windows Boot Manager (bootmgr) from the EFI System Partition (ESP) for UEFI or from the boot sector for legacy BIOS systems.

Step 3: Boot Configuration Data (BCD)

The Boot Manager reads the Boot Configuration Data (BCD) file to determine the location of the Windows loader and other boot parameters.

Step 4: Windows Loader

The Windows Loader (winload.exe) is executed. It:

- Loads essential drivers.
- Loads the ntoskrnl.exe (Windows Kernel).
- Loads the HAL (Hardware Abstraction Layer).

## Step 5: Kernel Initialization

The kernel initializes system processes and threads.

The Session Manager Subsystem (smss.exe) is launched, which starts critical system processes, including csrss.exe (Client-Server Runtime Subsystem) and wininit.exe.

# Step 6: User Mode Initialization

The winlogon.exe process is started, which handles user authentication. The Graphical User Interface (GUI) is initialized, and the login screen is displayed.

Step 7: User Login

After successful login, user-specific settings are loaded from the registry, and the desktop environment is displayed.

# **6.2.2 Linux Booting Process**

# Step 1: BIOS/UEFI Initialization

Similar to Windows, the system starts with POST to check hardware functionality. The BIOS/UEFI firmware identifies the bootable device and loads the bootloader from the MBR or GPT.

# Step 2: Bootloader

Common bootloaders include GRUB (GNU GRUB) or LILO (Linux Loader). The bootloader displays a menu allowing the user to select the kernel or operating system to boot. It loads the selected kernel and an initial RAM disk (initramfs or initrd).

#### Step 3: Kernel Initialization

The kernel is loaded into memory and begins execution. It initializes hardware drivers and mounts the root files System. The initramfs or initrd provides temporary access to necessary files until the root files ystem is ready.

## Step 4: Init/Systemd Process

The first process started by the kernel is init (in older systems) or systemd (modern systems). systemd is the most common initialization system in modern Linux distributions. It organizes system processes into units for efficient management. init uses run levels (0 to 6) to manage system states.

## Step 5: Services and Daemons

Essential services and background processes (daemons) are started according to the run level or systemd target (e.g., graphical .target for GUI-based systems).

## Step 6: User Login

The login manager (e.g., getty for text-based login or a display manager like gdm, lightdm, etc., for GUI) prompts the user for credentials. After successful authentication, the user shell or desktop environment is launched.

#### **Screenshot**

Screenshot: Not available as can't capture screenshot on Company system

# **Comparison of Key Components**

Stage	Windows	Linux
Bootloader	bootmgr	GRUB, LILO, or others
Kernel Loader	winload.exe	Kernel directly loaded by bootloader
System Initialization	smss.exe, winlogon.exe	init Or systemd
Login Process	GUI-based login (Winlogon)	CLI or GUI (getty or Display Manager)

#### **Overall Conclusion**

Both systems aim to efficiently load the OS, initialize the hardware, and provide an environment for user interaction, though their architectures and tools differ significantly.

#### **Screenshot**

Not available as can't capture screenshot on Company system

#### 6.3 CHAIN OF CUSTODY

In the context of **Digital Forensics (DF)**, the **chain of custody** refers to the documented and unbroken process of collecting, preserving, transferring, analyzing, and presenting digital evidence. This ensures that the evidence is handled properly and remains admissible in court, maintaining its integrity throughout the investigation.

#### **Key Elements of the Chain of Custody**

## 6.3.1 General Flow in Chain of Custody

## **Collection of Evidence**

1.Identify and document the digital evidence at the scene (e.g., hard drives, USBs, computers, mobile devices).

Label the evidence with a unique identifier (e.g., serial numbers, case IDs).

o Use forensic tools (e.g., write-blockers) to prevent accidental alteration while acquiring the data.

#### 2. **Documentation**

- o Record every detail of the evidence, including:
  - Who collected it.
  - When and where it was collected.

- What the evidence contains (a brief description).
- How it was collected (e.g., tools used, method followed).
- o Include photos, screenshots, or sketches for clarity.

# 3. Storage and Preservation

- Store the evidence in a secure, tamper-proof environment (e.g., locked storage, sealed evidence bags).
- o Ensure digital data is not altered or damaged during storage.
- o Maintain backups in case of accidental corruption.

#### 4. Transfer of Evidence

- o Document every handover of the evidence between individuals, including:
  - The date and time of transfer.
  - The names of the sender and recipient.
  - The reason for transfer.
- o Ensure the evidence is securely transported (e.g., encrypted containers for digital files).

# 5. Analysis

- Use forensically sound tools and methods for analysis to ensure evidence integrity (e.g., EnCase, FTK, or Autopsy).
- o Maintain logs of all actions performed on the evidence during analysis (e.g., hash value verification).

#### 6. **Presentation**

- o Present the evidence in court or to relevant authorities.
- o Ensure that the evidence's chain of custody is well-documented to establish its authenticity and admissibility.
- o Expert witnesses may testify to validate the processes followed.

# **6.3.2** Importance of Chain of Custody in Digital Forensics

#### 1. Evidence Integrity:

 Ensures the evidence is not altered, tampered with, or corrupted during the investigation process.

## 2. Admissibility in Court:

• Without a proper chain of custody, the evidence may be deemed inadmissible, as its authenticity can be questioned.

# 3. Accountability:

Assigns responsibility for handling and securing the evidence at every stage.

#### 4. Transparency:

 Provides a clear and documented trail of how the evidence was managed from collection to presentation.

#### 6.4 FILE SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

File system architecture defines the way data is stored, organized, retrieved, and managed on storage devices. Common file systems include FAT, NTFS, exFAT, ext, and others, each designed with different features, limitations, and use cases.

## **6.4.1 FAT (File Allocation Table)**

• Types: FAT12, FAT16, FAT32

• Developer: Microsoft

Common Use: USB drives, memory cards, and legacy systems

# **Key Features:**

- Simple structure, highly compatible across OSes
- FAT32 supports partitions up to 2 TB (Windows supports up to 32 GB)
- Maximum file size: 4 GB

#### Limitations:

- No journaling support
- No file permissions or security features
- Prone to fragmentation and corruption

## **6.4.2 NTFS (New Technology File System)**

• Developer: Microsoft

• Common Use: Default file system for modern Windows OS

#### **Key Features:**

- Supports very large file and partition sizes (up to 16 EB theoretical)
- Journaling for improved reliability
- File-level security via Access Control Lists (ACLs)
- Built-in compression, encryption (EFS), and disk quotas

#### Limitations:

- Limited support in macOS and Linux (read-only access by default)
- More complex structure compared to FAT

## **6.4.3** exFAT (Extended File Allocation Table)

• Developer: Microsoft

• Common Use: USB drives and SD cards for large file transfers

#### **Key Features:**

• Removes FAT32's 4 GB file size limit

- Lightweight with better performance for flash media
- Compatible with Windows, macOS, and Linux (with drivers)

#### Limitations:

- No journaling or advanced security
- Less robust than NTFS for critical storage

# **6.4.4** ext (Extended File System)

- Versions: ext2, ext3, ext4
- Developer: Linux community
- Common Use: Default file system in many Linux distributions

# Key Features (ext4):

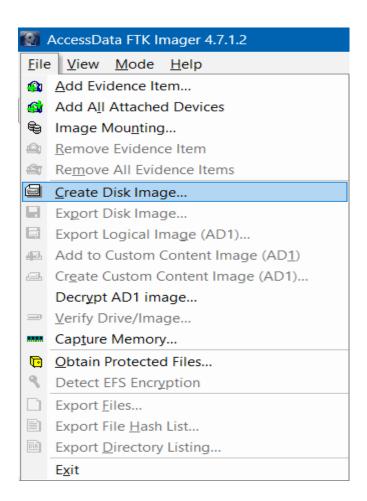
- Journaling and backward compatibility with ext2/ext3
- Maximum file size: 16 TB; maximum volume size: 1 EB
- Supports extents, delayed allocation, and reduced fragmentation

#### Limitations:

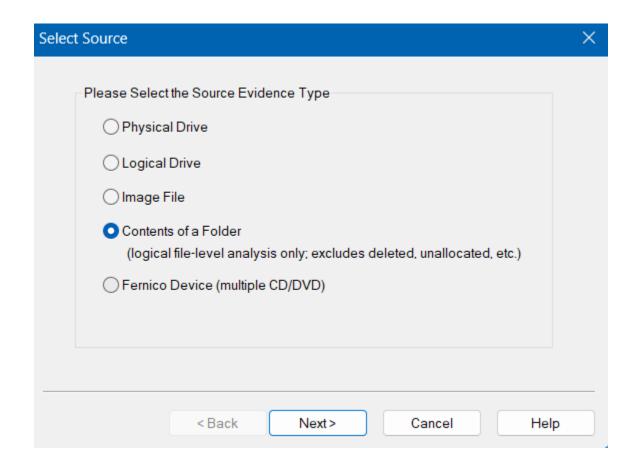
• Native support limited to Linux; third-party tools needed for Windows/macOS

## 6.5 IMAGING: CREATING AN IMAGE OF A FOLDER USING FTK IMAGER

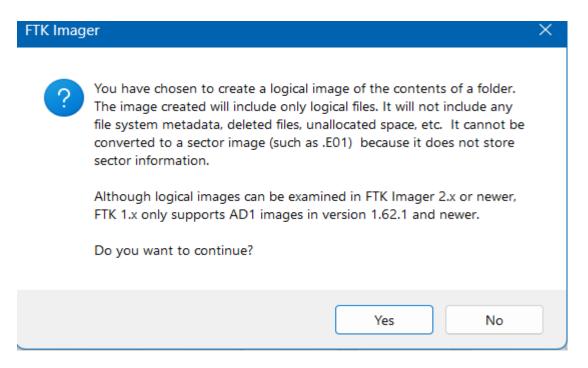
1. Open ftk imager. Go to create a disk image.



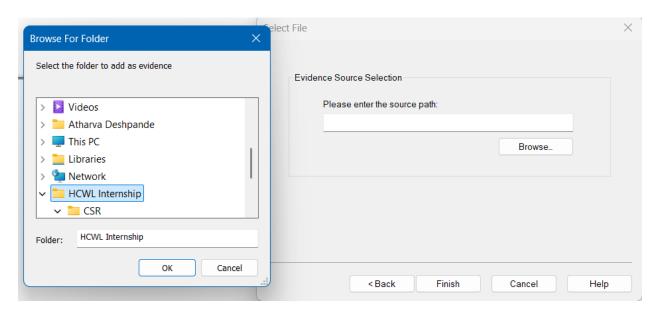
2. Next select contents of a folder option to create an image (selecting this option as it will take less time)



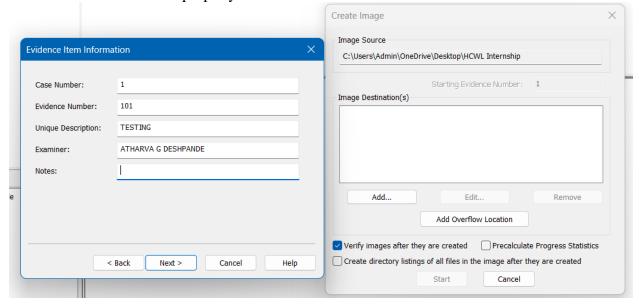
#### 3. Click ok.



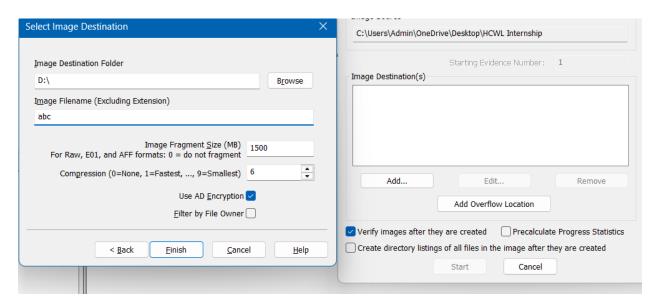
4. I am selecting this folder. (This folder contains internship related data).



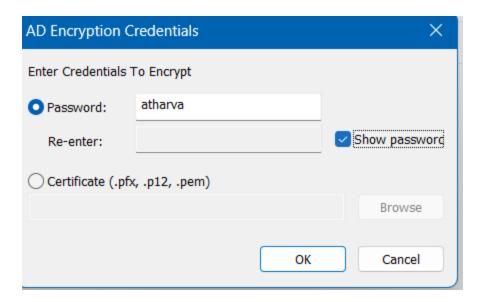
5. Fill in these details properly.



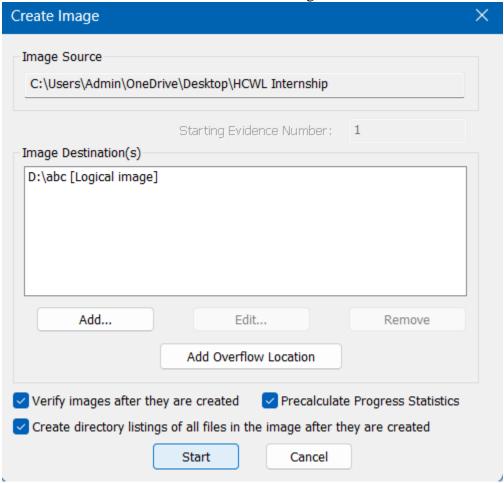
6. Enter image destination folder details



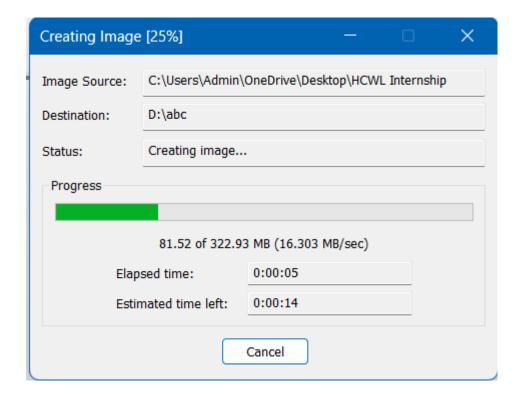
7. Enter the AD image encryption details (As earlier we selected this option for encryption).



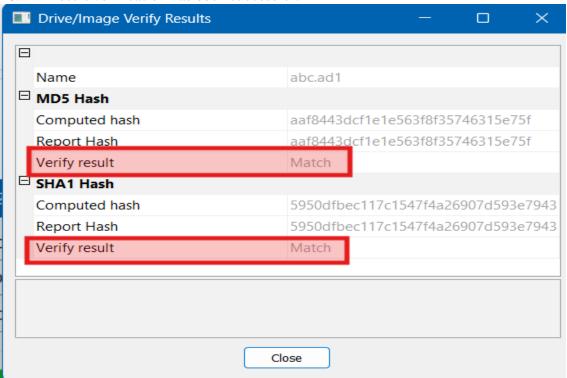
8. Click on the Start button to start the image creation.

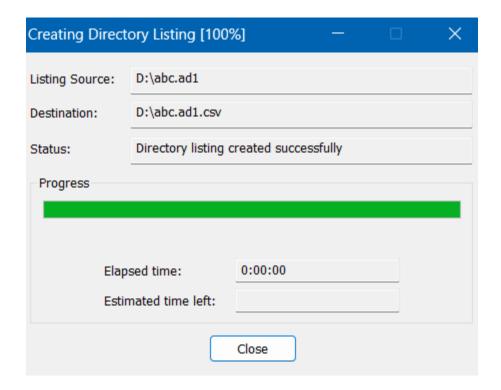


9. Image creation is in Progress.



10. Result verification has been successful.

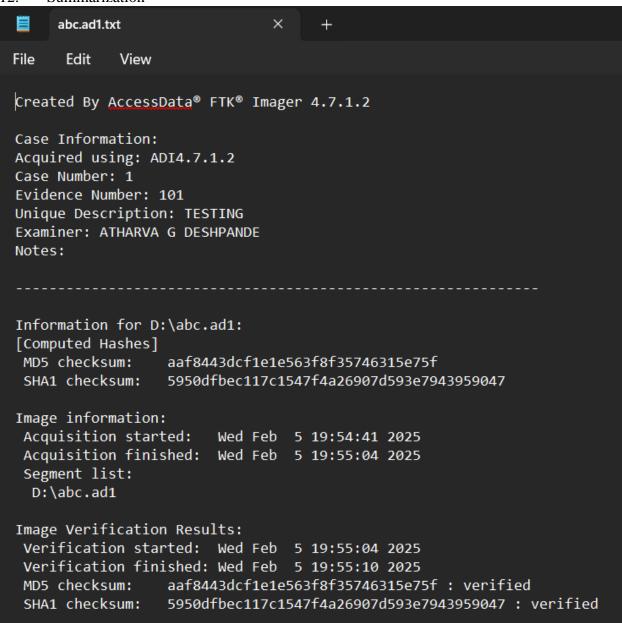




11. Final output of the image created.

abc.ad1	05-02-2025 07:55 PM	AD1 File	3,27,732 KB
abc.ad1.csv	05-02-2025 07:55 PM	Microsoft Excel Co	20 KB
abc.ad1.txt	05-02-2025 07:55 PM	Text Document	1 KB

#### 12. Summarization



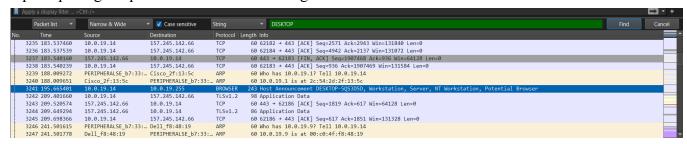
**Conclusion: Image verification is successful** 

# 6.6 WIRESHARK ANALYSIS: TASK TO ANALYZE SUSPICIOUS FILE.

In this section, we will analyze a suspicious peap file and try to look for any malicious content in it.

## 6.6.1 Install Wireshark and open the file.

Upon opening the packet we see the following interface with it's user details.



We got the following details. This is the user of the system.

User: Patrick Zimmerman

IP Address: 10.0.19.14

Device: DESKTOP-5QS3D5D

MAC Address: 00:60:52:b7:33:0f

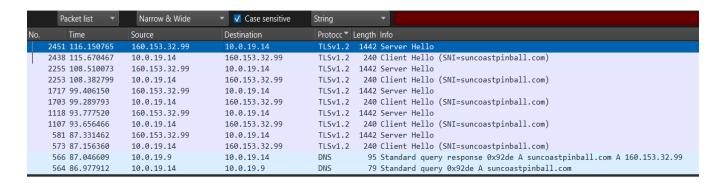
# 6.6.2 Scanning for IOC's in the packet.

Upon examining the stream, we came across with a suspicious and unusual IP and domain name 'filebin.net'.

Again on deep inspection of messages and data exchanged, we observe data is being sent to suspicious domain 'situla.bitbit.net'.

```
03 2d fb d5 d9 68 39 f6
                               f2 d6 9f c9 53 72 7f be
                                                           ----h9
                                                                   · · · · Sr ·
                                                          s ;r H7b
                               48 37 62 0d bb a4 f7 f4
      73 a8 9a c6 3b 72 1b 1d
      3e 00 c0 30 00 00 11 ff
                               01 00 01 00 00 0b 00 04
                                                          > 0 - - -
      03 00 01 02 00 23 00 00
                               16 03 03 10 ce 0b 00 10
                                                          ----#--
0080
      ca 00 10 c7 00 06 40 30
                               82 06 3c 30 82 05 24 a0
                                                          · · · · · · @0 · · < 0 · · $ ·
0090
      03 02 01 02 02 12 03 10
                               04 a3 94 1c 10 9a a3 23
                                                          -----#
                                                          ·{···b2· 0···*·H·
                               30 0d 06 09 2a 86 48 86
00a0
      c6 7b 91 f5 14 62 32 8f
00b0
      f7 0d 01 01 0b 05 00 30
                               32 31 0b 30 09 06 03 55
                                                          .....0 21.0...U
00c0
      04 06 13 02 55 53 31 16
                               30 14 06 03 55 04 0a 13
                                                          ....US1. 0...U...
      0d 4c 65 74 27 73 20 45
                                           70
                                              74 31 0b
                                                          ·Let's E ncrypt1.
00d0
                               6e 63 72 79
00e0
      30 09 06 03 55 04 03 13
                               02 52 33 30 1e 17 0d 32
                                                          0 · · · U · · · R30 · · · 2
aafa
      32 30 32 30 38 31 32 34
                               31 30 37 5a 17 0d 32 32
                                                          20208124 1077..22
                                                          05091241 06Z0·1·0
         35 30 39 31 32 34 31
                               30 36 5a 30 1c 31 1a 30
0100
      30
                                                          ····U···· situla.b
         06 03 55 04 03 13 11
                               73 69
                                     74
                                        75 6c 61
                                                  2e 62
0110
      18
                                                          itbit.ne t0⋅⋅"0⋅⋅
0120
      69
         74 62 69
                 74 2e 6e 65
                               74
                                  30 82 02 22 30 0d 06
                                                          ·*·H····
0130
      09
         2a 86 48 86
                     f7 0d 01
                               01
                                  01 05 00 03 82 02 0f
0140
      00 30 82 02 0a 02 82 02
                               01 00 c5 29 cf 76 49 dc
                                                          ·0·····)·vI·
                                                          b· |)···· ·=···|·2
0150
      62 b0 20 7c 29 d0 d7 a2
                               d3 3d b6 a5 b1 7c e4 32
```

Lastly, we observe malicious interaction with DNS server 'suncoastpinball.net'. The Server IP and Port Number looks suspicious as well.



#### Conclusion

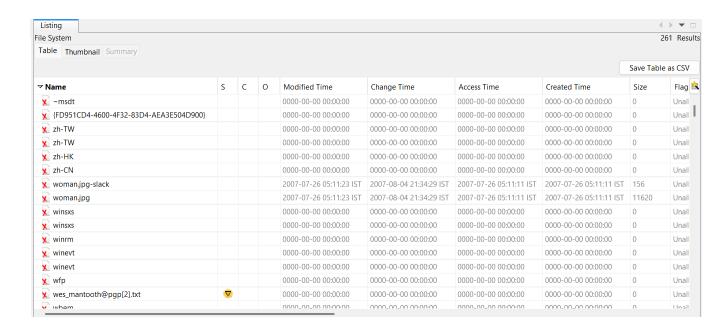
From the packet analysis, I have found a total of 3 IOC's with their details explained above. The IOC's are malicious domains by which a cyber- attack might have been performed on the user.

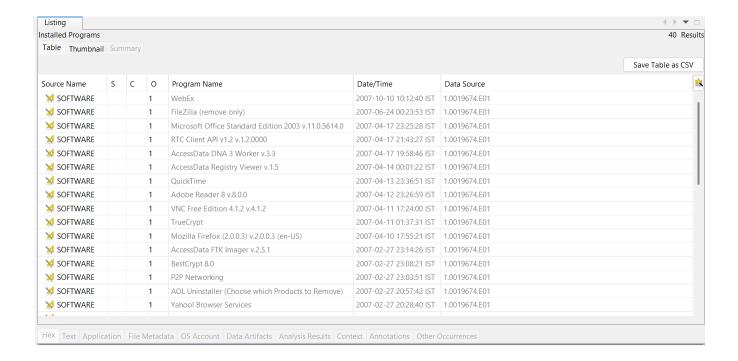
## 6.7 ANALYZING FORENSIC IMAGE OF DISC DRIVE

## 6.7.1 Load the image in Autopsy (A software for analyzing disc images).

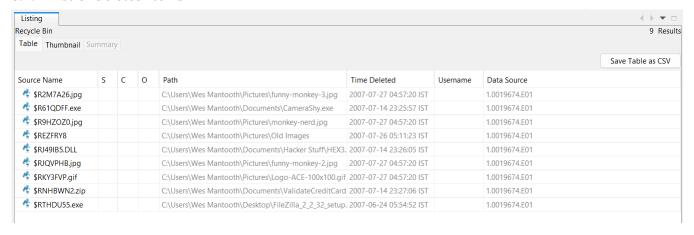
Autopsy accepts E.01 File Formats images. In this case, we will analyze an E.01 image file generated from evidence master copy.

### **6.7.2** List of Deleted Files

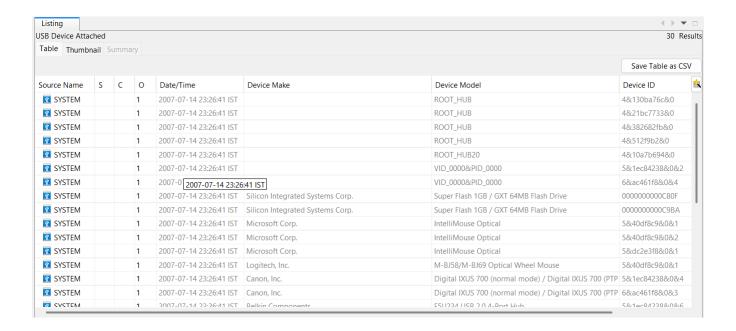




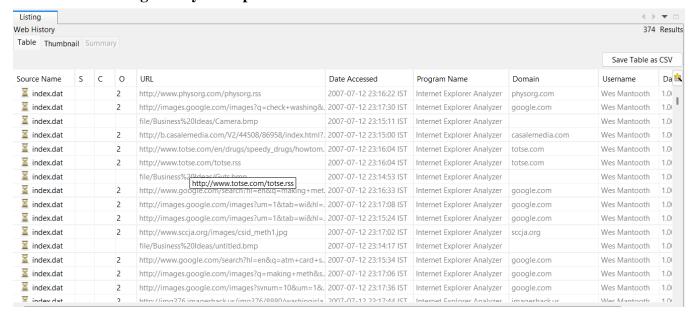
#### 6.7.4 List of deleted items



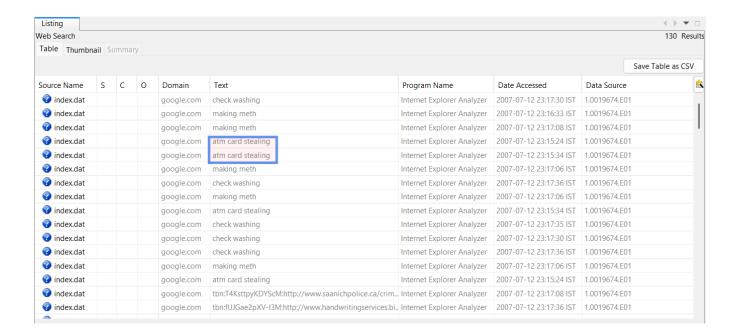
## 6.7.5 List of USB Devices Attached



# 6.7.6 Web browsing history of suspect



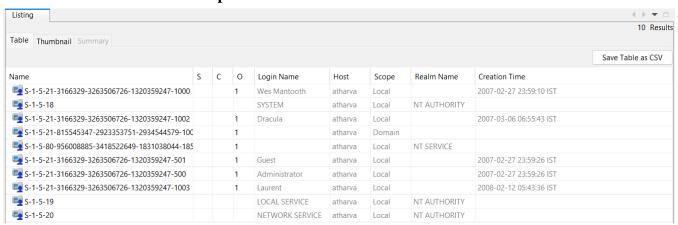
## 6.7.7 Web Search history of suspect



# 6.7.8 List of Encrypted Data Found



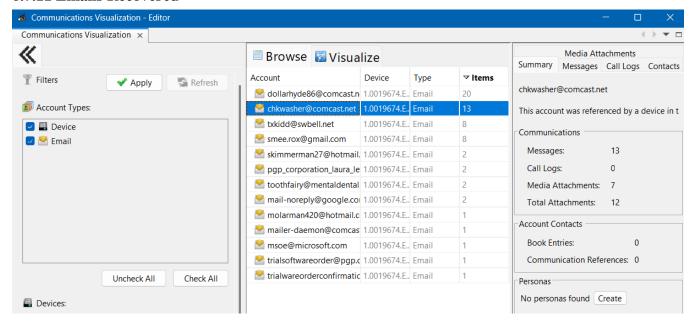
## 6.7.9 OS Account Details of Suspect



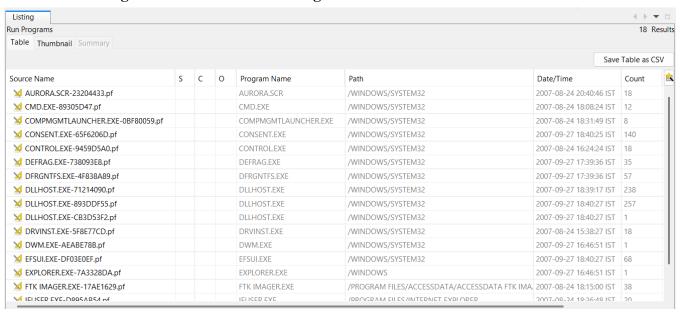
# **6.7.10 Images Recovered**



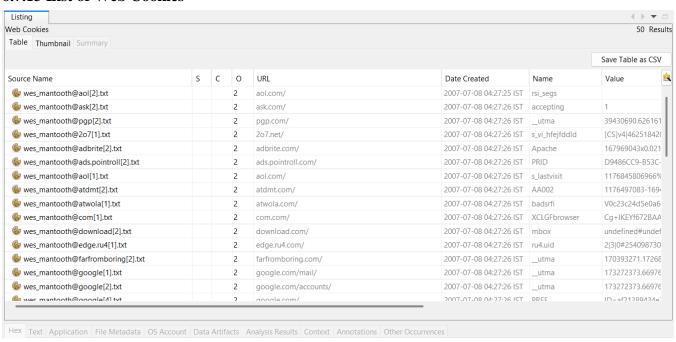
## 6.7.11 Emails Recovered



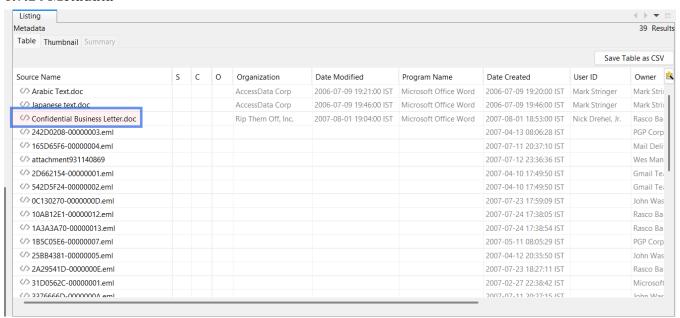
## 6.7.12 List of Programs and Processes running



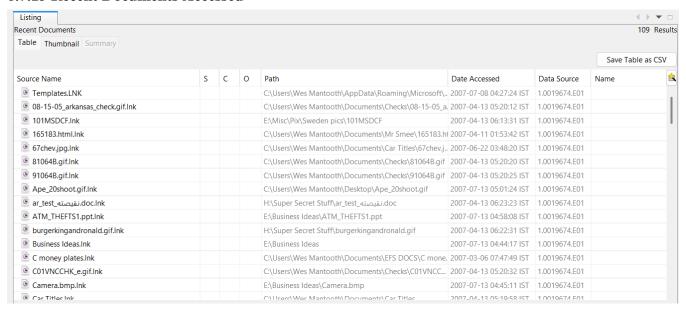
## 6.7.13 List of Web Cookies



## 6.7.14 Metadata



## 6.7.15 Recent Documents Accessed



## 6.3 DRAFTING A COMPREHENSIVE FORENSIC REPORT

# 6.3.1 Drafting Reports based on previous case studies.

Reports are an integral part of any Forensic Investigation. A report documents and presents findings from a forensic investigation in a clear, structured, and legally admissible manner.

Importance of Documentation and Reporting

- Evidence Documentation Provides a detailed account of digital evidence, ensuring integrity and authenticity.
- Legal Compliance Helps in legal proceedings by adhering to forensic investigation standards.
- Incident Response Aids organizations in understanding cyber incidents, identifying vulnerabilities, and preventing future attacks.
- Decision-Making Supports law enforcement, corporate security teams, and courts in making informed decisions.
- Accountability & Transparency Ensures a clear record of actions taken during an investigation, reducing the risk of disputes.

# **6.3.2 DFIR Report Writing Task**

We were given a task to prepare Forensic Analysis reports based on past security incidents. I have followed Industry oriented format to prepare the report.

#### Link

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1orVZw2voNHpE7K8MCTPtq4Rb2XNQcyX/view?usp=drive\_link

**CHAPTER: 7 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK** 

## **CHAPTER 7 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK**

## **Conclusion**

It was an amazing and exciting Internship where I gained immense technical exposure from chain chain of custody to analyzing image files. The company seniors were helpful and guidance resulted in the successful completion of this Internship.

# **Future work**

I am looking forward to work in this industry after gaining a handful of technical expertise. In addition, I also aspire in

- Assisting seniors in analysis of ram dump and digital device data.
- Solving Corporate cases (eg. Company Frauds)
- Preparing comprehensive reports after performing investigation.

**CHAPTER: 8 REFERENCES** 

## **CHAPTER 8 REFERENCES**

- 1) https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hr51ve1feKZzl3qpsUApXmbALOnnLsuuOHXJZZR37xw/edit ?usp=sharing (Atharva, 2025)
- 2) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK551677 (Ashish, 2023)
- 3) Research Paper 1 : <a href="https://iajit.org/upload/files/Digital-Forensics-Techniques-and-Trends-A-Review.pdf">https://iajit.org/upload/files/Digital-Forensics-Techniques-and-Trends-A-Review.pdf</a> (Himanshu Dubey, 2023)
- 4) Research Paper 2: <a href="https://tijer.org/tijer/papers/TIJER2407038.pdf">https://tijer.org/tijer/papers/TIJER2407038.pdf</a> (Dr S Sarvanna, 2024)

# **Atharva Deshpande**

# draft report final.docx



Research\_1

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