FSF

# Android Forensic Support Framework [AFSF]

MINOR PROJECT REPORT

06 dan 2016

#### $submitted\ by$

Shankar Raman R

AM.EN.P2CSN13021

 $in\ partial\ fulfillment\ for\ the\ award\ of\ the\ degree$ 

of

MASTER OF TECHNOLOGY

IN

CYBER SECURITY SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS



AMRITA CENTER FOR CYBER SECURITY

AMRITA SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

Kollam - 690525

DECEMBER 2015

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Under the guidance of

Prof. Prabhaker Mateti

Associate Professor Computer Science and Engineering Wright State University



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#### BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this minor project entitled "Android Forensic Support Framework" submitted by Shankar Raman R, Reg.No: AM.EN.P2.CSN13021 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Master of Technology in CYBER SECURITY SYSTEMS AND NETWORK is a bonafide record of the work carried out under my guidance and supervision at Amrita School of Engineering.

Prof.	Prabhaker	Mateti
(Supe	rvisor)	

**Dr. Krishnashree Achuthan** (Professor and Head)

This minor project was evaluated by us on.....

INTERNAL EXAMINER

EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

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# AMRITA CENTER FOR CYBER SECURITY SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS

#### DECLARATION

I, SHANKAR RAMAN R, (Reg.No: AM.EN.P2.CSN13021) hereby declare that this minor project entitled "Android Forensic Support Framework" is a record of the original work done by me under the guidance of Prof. Prabhaker Mateti, Associate Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, Wright State University, USA and this work has not formed the basis for the award of any degree / diploma / associateship / fellowship or a similar award, to any candidate in any University, to the best of my knowledge.

Place : Kollam

Date: Signature of the Student

#### COUNTERSIGNED

#### Dr. Krishnashree Achuthan

Professor and Head, Centre for Cyber Security Systems and Networks

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

At the very outset, I would like to give the first honors to **Amma, Mata Amritanan-damayi Devi** who gave me the wisdom and knowledge to complete this minor project under her shelter in this esteemed institution.

I express my gratitude to my guide, **Prof. Prabhaker Mateti**, Associate Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, Wright State University, USA, for his valuable suggestion and timely feedback during the course of this minor project.

I would like to thank **Dr Krishnashree Achuthan**, Professor and Head of the Center for Cyber Security, for giving me useful suggestions and his constant encouragement and guidance throughout the progress of this minor project.

I would like to thank my co-guides Mr. Vipin Pavithran, Assistant Professor, Cyber Security, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham for giving me useful suggestions and guidance throughout the progress of this minor project.

I express my special thanks to my colleagues who were with me from the starting of the minor project, for the interesting discussions and the ideas they shared. Thanks also go to my friends for sharing so many wonderful moments. They helped me not only enjoy my life, but also enjoy some of the hardness of this minor project.

hoiled plate?

## Abstract

Smartphones have become part of our every day life. We tend to store our personal information such as our contacts, every day notes, bank details, account credentials, official documents etc. Also these devices shows to contain a large volume of other useful information such as Email, Browser history, Network connection and Chat logs.

Due to the potential information found in the Smartphones it has attracted criminals to commit crimes using them. They could use Smartphones for a number of activities such as committing fraud over email, harassment through text message trafficiking of child pornography, stealing the credentials.

Every action we perform on these devices leaves the traces behind. It is possible to reconstruct an action by identifying a relation among these evidences. Analysing and processing the evidences is a Forensic proces. We integrate forensic support to the existing Android ROM which collects all the possible evidence files and steathily trasfers them to the cloud for analysis purpose.

**Keywords:** Mobile Forensics, Android Forensics

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# Abbreviations

 ${\bf AFSF} \quad {\bf A}{\rm nd}{\rm roid} \ {\bf F}{\rm orensic} \ {\bf S}{\rm upport} \ {\bf F}{\rm ramework}$ 

# Chapter 1

# INTRODUCTION

The introduction of smartphones drastically changed the communication landscape. Right from chatting with Whatsapp to online banking transactions can be done using smartphones. Even from a student to working professional smartphones are now becoming an indispensable object in their life. In 2014 about 85 percent of the smartphone users are having Android. Android dominates in the number of application in the Play Store compared to other App Stores. In 2014 about 1.3 million apps are active on Google Play, this dominance is because of the high end features Android is providing.

Nowadays mobile phones are not just for calling and sending messages. They are as powerful as a desktop computer; a high end smart phone can do almost all computing which is done by a normal desktop computer and much more advanced features like NFC, Global Positioning etc. This increased availability of computing power for Smartphone catches the attention of criminals. They easily target mobile users as they are less aware and bother less about the risks associated with the mobile and mobile applications. It is quite obvious that the widely used platform is likely to be targeted more, as in the case of

Year	Android	iOS	Windows	Blackberry
2011	36.1	18.3	1.2	13.6
2012	69.3	16.6	3.1	4.9
2013	79.6	13	3.4	2.8
2014	84.7	11.7	2.5	0.5

Ct27

Table 1.1: Global market share held by the leading smartphone operating systems

Microsoft Windows Operating System. A hacker wants to target mass and for doing that he has to target the most commonly used platform. Android is one such commonly used platform. As Android is capturing market, it is becoming favourite target platform of hackers. There are many Forensics available, these are primarily targeted on applications database files and to extract the deleted data are difficult. Usually data which are used by messaging and mail application stores on encrypted form and to extract these data are hard with the usual forensic tools. There are limitations on collecting deleted data from the device.

#### 1.1 Importance of Forensic Support in Android

With these increased processing ability of smart phones, there is also a potential increase for criminals to use this technology as well. Smart phones can be used for some illegal purposes like forwarding fraud e-mails, communications related to terrorism, etc. Smart phones stored data are extremely useful to analysis during the course of investigation. Analysing basic mobile device investigators can collect call history, contact, and text message data; smart phones contain even more useful information, such as e-mail, browser history, and network connections, etc. These data are harder to acquire once the user delete those information. Knowledgeable criminals can erase the forensic data from the mobile device. There are Mobile applications like Uninstall-It which can delete all the application data from device.

Sagn Proper y Daoff Sheway plantal Chapter 2

LITERATURE SURVEY

2.1 Papers Referred

#### 2.1.1 Android Forensics: Simplifying Cellphone Examination

The paper was authored by Jeff Lessard (Champlain College) and Gary Kessler (Edith Cowan Univ) in September 2010. The paper was published in Small Scale Digital Evidence Forensics Journal and it has around 54 citations till date. The paper describes the challenges faced during the acquisition of evidence files from mobile devices and their limitations. They have demonstrated their work by using various tools such as dd, FTK, adb and CelliBrite tools.

#### 2.1.2 Android Antiforensics through a Local paradigm

The paper briefly explains the forensics techniques that is applied to mobile devices and the tools (commercial/general) used to image the storage mediums. Their automated work is then explained elaborately and their experimental results are shown at the end along with their future work.

Anti-Forensics techniques aims at impeding the acquisition and analyzing the evidence. The common anti-forensics techniques inilude Destroying the evidence, Hiding evidence, Eliminating evidence sources, and Counterfeiting evidence. Their work takes advantage of an Android feature called Private folder, a folder in which every an application installed in the device can store files and information. There are can be more than one private folder. The feature of the private folder is,

- Applications may store potential information in these folders.
- These folders has protection from accessing the data by any other application or default application managers in the device.
- The informations stored in these private folders are not easily visible to users, device apps and to some tools used for recovery (Scalpel).
- The contents of these folders will be logically erased when the corresponding application is uninstalled from the device.

They leverage the private folders features and they have used an application called AF-Droid to carry out the anti forensics techniques. The application creates private folders to store and to remove evidence files. For storing the evidence files, the AFDroid relies on the Evidence Export Process (EEP), Evidence Import Process (EIP) to reconstruct data from the exported content and Evidence Destruction Process (EDP) to destroy the evidence files using the private folder (Anti-forensics).

Their experiments were carried out on a Samsung Galaxy i7500 mobile. They used Nandroid, MIAT and unyaffs to image and analyze the output image files. Unfortunately the commercial tool Parben was not compatible with their device. The EEP process was launched and the results were stored in AFDroids private folder. Casual examination failed to populate evidence from from SMS db, call logs, and multimedia gallery. The EDP process was also executed and they were not able to extract evidence files stored in the private folder using Scalpel, MIAT, and Nandroid Backup.

#### 2.1.3 Security analysis of Android Factory Resets

The paper provides the comprehensive study and reports on these issues,

- quantifies the amount of data left behind the flawed implementation.
- detailed analysis on the flawed devices.

- reveals the drivers which are flaws.
- practical solutions to mitigate these issues.

What did they gain after performing the flawed factory reset on a device,

- Access to Google account credentials
- Associated data (contacts) with the Google services
- Wi-fi credentials.
- Whatsapp conversations
- Gmail app emails

Their study unveils the critical failures on android devices,

- Lack of android support for proper deletion of files in data partition in v 2.3x devices.
- Vendors making users to download incomplete upgrades to their flawed device.
- Lack of driver support for proper deletion (drivers are shipped by vendors)
- Lack of android support for proper deletion of internal and external SD card in all OS versions.
- Easily mitigating the full disk encryption up to KitKat.

#### Secure Deletion Levels

After deleting a file an OS typically deletes the it's names from the table, rather than deleting it's content. There exist various techniques for sanitising the data. The highest level of sanitisation is analog sanitsation, where we will apply a write pass of a fixed pattern across the media surface. The pattern can be either a zero or pseudorandom numbers. This level also includes Cryptographic erase method. The next level is Digital sanitisation and the final level is logical sanitisation which is performing the factory reset settings.

#### Linux Kernel Deletion APIs

This section gives an overview of the various parameters passed to the *ioctl()* system call

to erase flash blocks. On a raw flash, when ioctf() system call is made with MEMERASE option it provides digital sanitisation. On an eMMC there are two possible options BLKDISCARD which will not purge the blocks internally and BLKSECDISCARD provides secure deletion. The options available for logical sanitisations are ERASE, SECURE  $TRIM, SECURE\ ERASE, SANITIZE$ .

#### **Analysis of Android Factory Resets**

Priliminary results of the paper shows that the external storage is not sanitised unless the *External Storage* option is not selected in the Factory Settings. The OS performs the sanitisation of the external storage and reboots into Recovery/Bootloader mode where the data and cache paritions are sanitised.

90% of the Gingerbread devices failed to sanitze the data partition as they were using BLKDISCARD option with ioctl(). Secure command ioctl(BLKSECDISCARD) for logical sanitisation was introduced when Ice cream sandwich was released. But the vendors omitted the device drivers that supports the ioctl(BLKSECDISCARD). The secure command was not supported by ioctl() and returned EOPNOTSUPP. Problems still existed in android versions such as ICS and JB due to the lack of device drivers support for the secure deletion command. Due to device drivers alone 15% of the devices resulted in improper sanitisation of the data partition.

No froyo or Gingerbread versions logically sanitize the *primary SD card*. AOSP just provides some sanitisation by calling Fat::format(), which can only sanitise few dozens of MB. Following android version JB did introduce ioctl(BLKDISCARD) for the primary SD card but since BLKDISCARD is not effective there were improper sanitisation.

Alternative Sanitization Methods There are third party apps which can be used to write random bytes on the partition of interest which can write the unallocated space. Providing Full Disk encryption helps normal users when they enable it before they start using their mobile. Overwriting the partition bit-by-bit provided logical sanitisation for all devices and all partitions and not digital sanitisation.

## 2.1.4 Security analysis of consumer-grade Anti-Theft Solutions Provided by Android Mobile Antivirus Apps

The paper is about the study made to prevent unauthorized access to stolen android devices. The experiments are conducted with the top 10 Mobile Antivirus (MAV) apps. A partial solution to this problem is provided by Mobile Antivirus Apps with their remote lock and wipe features. The paper provides solutions and discusses various flaws which are present in those MAVs.

Their analysis yields 7 issues.

- 1. Incorrect notification to the user after a remote lock/wipe has been performed
- 2. Questionable MAV authentication practices
  - MAV accepts short passwords and some do not accept special character.
  - Few MAVs such as Norton have failed to limit online password guessing.
- 3. Limitations and restrictions imposed by Android APIs and architecture
- 4. Misuse of Android security API by MAVs
- 5. Inconsistency of android APIs in every release
- 6. Incorrect Android API documentation
- 7. MAV reliance on carrier network in security.

#### **Findings**

• Because of API difference in Android versions, 9 MAVs can be uninstalled before a Gingerbread phone is remotely locked.

Myswws 2 wall

- Because of API misuse 4 MAV locks can be bypassed.
- Because of vendor customization all MAVs can be circumvented.

#### 2.1.5 Analysis of WhatsApp Forensics in Android Smartphones

The paper focuses on the analysis conduced on the WhatsApp messenger. WhatsApp messages are stored in the Internal memory of the mobile phones. The analysis has shown that the messages were not stored encrypted. In the recent versions of the messengers uses encryption with custom AES algorithm. But still there are techniques which can allow the retrieval of these keys which can be used to decrypt the encrypted messages stored in msgstore.db.crypt

## $^{\prime}2.2$ Background

#### 2.2.1 Rooting the Emulator

- 1. Install busy box or push the busy box application using adb
- 2. Find out the block device for /system partition using mount
- 3. Remount the /system parition in rw mode\$ adb shell mount -o rw,remount -t ya s2 /dev/block/mtdblock0 /system
- 4. Change the su binary permission to 06755

```
Windows PowerShell
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

PS C:\Users\h1dd3ntru7h\> cd .\Desktop
PS C:\Users\h1dd3ntru7h\Desktop\> adb push .\busybox-i686 /system/xbin/
1400 KB/s (883644 bytes in 0.616s)
PS C:\Users\h1dd3ntru7h\Desktop\>
```

Figure 2.1: Pusing busybox binary into the emulator

A leason

belong

FIGURE 2.2: Rooting the emulator

#### 2.2.2 Build Linux Kernel

#### **Building the Cross Binutils:**

\$export PATH="\$HOME/opt/cross/bin:\$PATH

#### Configuration

\$ sudo make

\$sudo make install

#### **Building the Cross Compiler:**

\* Create a folder gcc-build just outside the gcc-4.7.2

\$mkdir gcc-build

\$cd gcc-build

./gcc-4.7.2/configure-prefix=\$HOME/opt/cross-target=i586-elf-enable-languages=c,c++

-disable-nls -without-headers

\$sudo make all-gcc

\$sudo make install-gcc

\$ sudo make all-libgcc (Check the next point if u get any error)

sudo make install-libgcc (Check the next point if u get any error)

\* If you get the error: \*\*\* No rule to make target...

\$sudo make all-gcc all-target-libgcc

 $\$  sudo make all-gcc all-libcpp

\$sudo make all-gcc all-libdecnumber

\$sudo make all-gcc all-libelf

\$sudo make all-gcc all-libiberty

\$sudo make all-gcc all-libiconv

\$sudo make all-gcc all-libtermcap

\$sudo make all-gcc

\$sudo make install-gcc

#### Testing can be done using Qemu

\$ qemu-system-i386 -cdrom myos.iso

#### 2.2.3 Application Reversing

To reverse a apk file, we can use dex2jar and jd-gui utility. APK files are ZIP archives which can be extracted to get the Dalvik dex file.

\$ unzip flickrj-android-sample-android.apk

Using the dex2jar utility we can convert the dex file to a jar file

\$ dex2jar classes.dex

Finally to get the Java code we will open the jar file in JD-GUI utility.

\$ jd-gui classes\_dex2jar.jar

Chapter 3

RELATED WORK

We propose a tracking system that stores and analyses all the user activities and device details such as SMS, Contacts, Call logs, Browser history, GPS locations, etc. We are implementing this module in the Framework Layer so that we can get the application databases and can make use of Android APIs. There are many events which are happening on the mobile. Our aim is to distinguish forensic relevant data and collect those data.

#### Application Databases and Application Sandboxing

Android applications use SQLite databases as the main data storage. Applications like Contacts, Messages, Instant message services takes use of SQLite to store its data. Both Dalvik and native applications run within the same security environment, contained within the Application Sandbox. Applications get a dedicated part of the filesystem in which they can write private data, including databases and raw files.

All the user activities get logged and stored. We collect user specific data such as Email communications, Call logs, SMS communications, Network specific data such as Bowser History, Search keywords, WLAN credentials, Smart phone specific data such as GPS locations, installed Application details, etc. We collect these data on the device and once the data is connected to the Internet data will be uploaded to server in stealthy mode so that the user cannot find out the upload data traffic.

### 3.1 Android Forensic Support Framework

Android Forensic Support Framework [AFSF] has two modules Data Collection and Data Storage. Until the device gets connected to the Internet, data will be stored on the device.

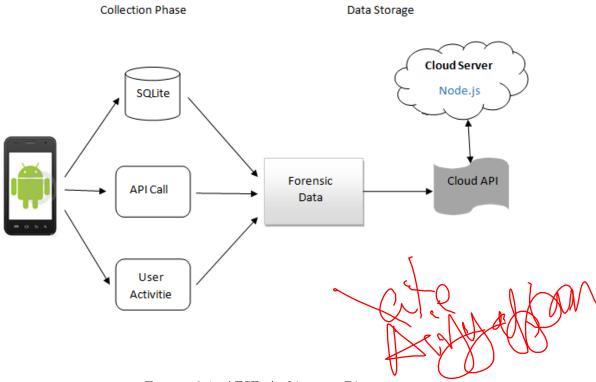


FIGURE 3.1: AFSF: Architecture Diagram

#### **Observing Files**

FileObserver: Its an Android API for monitoring file events. It is not recursive. Meaning that it will not track the files or subfolders changes inside a subdirectory.

notify: The command uses the inotify system call to monitor the file/directory changes. Similar to FileObserver it is not recursive.

inotify: It is also a tool to monitor the file changes.

#### Relevant data:

Critical Data: Phone contacts, Message, Call logs, Network Logs, Chat logs, GPS logs. These type of evidences are potential for investigations and there are hight chances that due to these data the disk space might get exhausted soon. So we categorize these type of data as Critical and we upload to our cloud.

Less critical data: System updates, APK files

According to priority these data are stored inside a xml file and are uploaded to the server. Once when the upload is complete, the data will be deleted

Uploading the evidences: Only when these conditions are met the files in the forensic partition will be uploaded,

- Wifi session is On
- Device is fully charged / While charging
- When the device is idle.

On the other end these data will be identified using the IMEI number to sort relevant data. The collected data gets cleared when they are uploaded to the server. Clearing is done based on priority. If the device does not connect to the internet, the data with less priority gets deleted.

#### Examination

- From a linux machine we connect to a device using adb
- We image the partition or entire disk using dd
- Extractor tool will image and mount the partition on the Linux machine. This extractor tool uses certain code from the Android Free Forensic Toolkit.

#### Stealth Challenges

- How to hide the suspicion from the user
- Device Storage
- Internet usage
- Usage of resources

We can hide a process using *hidepid* command. Which is a technique a rootkit generally prefers. *hidepid* accepts three different values:

- hidepid=0 (default): This is the default setting and gives you the default behaviour.
- hidepid=1: With this option an normal user would not see other processes but their own about ps, top etc, but he is still able to see process IDs in /proc
- hidepid=2: Users are only able too see their own processes (like with hidepid=1), but also the other process IDs are hidden for them in /proc!

**C**onclu**s**ion

- 1. The collected data will be stored encrypted in a separate file volume /forensics and the data will remain until the data is uploaded to the server. This partition is root owned and it cannot be accessed by other applications.
- 2. The custom inotify and inotifywait(ported, compiled using NDK) monitors the user activities and copies those files into the forensic partition
- 3. A XML file keeps track of the path names for the copied files.
- 4. The custom inotify checks if the WiFi session is enabled if yes it uploads the data from the forensic partition.
- 5. Also a shell script that copies an exact bit by bit copy of the disk for offline analysis of the evidence

## 3.2 Symantec Smartphone Honey Stick Project

#### Introduction

In todays world both consumers and corporations need to be concerned about the data stored in their smartphones. It helps individuals to choose appropriate safeguard in terms of policies, procedures, training and technology for employees using mobile devices.

The project was started to help businesses and individuals in understanding the threats to smarphones and their associated information that arise when the smartphone is lost. For example, opening a corporate email app might immediately give the holder of the phone access to confidential corporate information such as intellectual property, financial plans, bid pricing or personal information about employees. This type of confidentiality breach could cost the employer significantly in lost revenue opportunities or even legal actions.

50 devices were intentionally lost and finders were expected to pickup them up for accessing data on those devices. These events will be logged centrally for performing risk assessment. More over there are no security applications or features enabled in those devices.

- 1. Each smartphone was loaded with simple apps
- 2. GPS tracking mechanism was also used to log each phones position occasionally which helps in identifying the whereabouts of the holder.
- 3. To track unethical access attempt, several apps had a simulated login page with prefilled credentials.
- 4. The log data from each phone was collected and stored in a database.
- 5. If a holder tries to contact the owner, this information will also be stored

#### **Key Findings**

- 1. 96 percent of lost smartphones were accessed by the finders of the devices
- 2.~89 percent of devices were accessed for personal related apps and information
- 3. 83 percent of devices were accessed for corporate related apps and information
- 4. 70 percent of devices were accessed for both business and personal related apps and information
- 5. 50 percent of smartphone finders contacted the owner and provided contact Information

#### Recommendation

Recommendations were given to both consumers and corporations.

For Corporations: Organizations should develop and enforce strong security policies for employees using mobile devices for work; this includes requiring password-enabled screen locks. Mobile device management and mobile security software can aid in this area.

- Companies should focus on protecting information as opposed to focusing solely on devices, securing information so it is safe no matter where it ends up. Organizations should educate employees about the risks both online and physical associated with mobile devices, such as the impact of a lost or stolen device.
- 2. Companies should take inventory of the mobile devices connecting to their networks; they cant protect and manage what they don't know about.
- Businesses should have a formal process in place so everyone knows what to do if a device is lost or stolen. Mobile device management software can help automate such a process.
- 4. Companies should integrate mobile device security and management into the overall security and management framework and administer it the same way. In essence, treat mobile devices as the true endpoints they are.

#### For consumers

Smartphone users should use the screen lock feature and make sure it is secured with a strong password or draw to unlock pattern. This is the most basic security precaution and requires minimal effort on the part of the user, yet can provide a critical barrier between personal information and a stranger.

- 1. Consumers should use security software specifically designed for smartphones. Such tools can stop hackers and prevent cybercriminals from stealing information or spying on users when using public networks. In addition it can often help locate a lost or stolen device and even remotely lock or wipe it.
- 2. When out and about, users should make sure mobile devices remain nearby and never be left unattended, being mindful of where they put devices at all times. It is also a good idea to make sure they can differentiate their device from others that

might be sitting in the immediate vicinity; adding distinguishing features such as a sticker or case may help.

# 3.3 Automated Data Collection and Reporting from a mobile device

The work focuses on the application (Droidwatch) which automates and gathers probative information from smartphones and uploads them to an internal server for investigation purpose. A user consent banner will be displayed during the startup or upon launching the Android App. Only upon acceptance of terms and conditions, this particular service will function. When a user rejects the user consent terms the service will not record user activities or send it remotely to a webserver.

The DroidWatch app works by utilizing Android App Components such as *Content observers, Broadcast receivers and Alarms* to perform its data monitoring and collection. First, data sets (contacts, calendar, should be analyzed to determine if they generate system broadcasts. If they do, broadcast receivers should be considered as the collection component. If broadcasts are not available, consider content observers for implementation. Alarms should be used if broadcasts and content observers are unavailable or ineffective for the targeted data collection.

All logged events were transferred from the phone to the enterprise server were automatically ingested into Splunk, a well-known log indexing system with a Web interface for searching. Results were displayed as individual events, formatted as key-value pairs. All data was associated with a device ID and could be searched, filtered, and put into timelines for identification and trend analysis. Note that while Splunk was used in this research because of its cost (free for up to 500 megabytes per day), other products can perform similar functions.

# Chapter 4

# PROPOSED WORK

This section provides an overview of the proposed work

Transmitting user activity to the cloud using ICMP (stealthy protocols) protocol

- (a) Encrypting the evidence files
- (b) Compressing the encrypted evidence files
- 2. Tracking User activities
  - (a) Tracking location
  - (b) Ei Parameter
  - (c) Recovering files using inode table

#### 1. Transmitting user activity

The idea is to transfer the evidence files by injecting them into an echo request packet and sent to a remote cloud i.e the encrypted evidence files/data will be sent over the internet in the ICMP payload section. It is not easy to detect this type of traffic without properly inspecting the packets transmitted through the network. By this way we will achieve stealthy transfer of the evidence files. On the other end we will sniff the ICMP packets and will identify the payload and use them to reconstruct the evidence files.

#### (a) Compression Technique

Adding the data compression technique helps in reducing the consumption of the disk space and also to transfer files over the internet in a faster manner. A file compression

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program uses algorithms and tries to reduces the size of the data by using intense mathematical operations. The data which are stored in the forensic partitions will be compressed before sending over the internet. The evidence files can be compressed using the Java package ( java.util.zip ) which allows to create a compressed archive and to unpack files from the archive.

#### (b) Encryption

Once when all the files are compressed the archives will be encrypted using AES algorithm which offers Confidentiality.

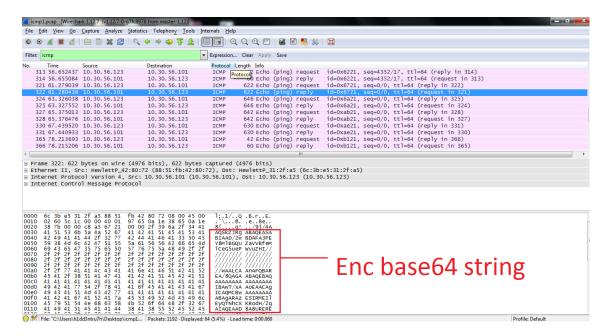


FIGURE A Transferring files using ICMP protocol

#### . Tracking User activities

#### (a)Tracking location

Technologies such as Global Positioning System (GPS) based data can also aid investigators by tracking the whereabouts of a suspect. GPS co-ordinates can be obtained by using the available APIs. If the GPS module fails to locate the current location we will try to at least find the recent location of the user by using two techniques. First one would be to get the location details from a Weather App(Weather & Clock Widget Android) database which would store the GPS location.

If the 1st solution fails to locate the current location we will identify at least the country location by extracting information from a http response from a web server. For example, a user sends a request to google.com from India. He will be receiving a response from google.co.in domain. If the same user accesses the google.com from Italy the response would be from google.it. That is, we will identify country location based on domain names. For instgance, a daemon will periodically send http request to google.com and if we are in a different country we will get a different domain.

#### (b)EI parameter

By parsing the Google Search URLs stored in the browsers SQLite database file we will use the ei parameter that contains an encoded Unix timestamp. By decoding the value contained in the ei parameter we would be able to find the time at which a Google search was made.

- (c)Recovering files using Inode Table Using inode tables we will try to record the location for all the files in a particular directory of interest, likely in a place where the number files are less. For example, a file was intentionally deleted by the user from /Pictures directory. Upon deleting this file it is possible to recover them immediately using the information we recorded from the inode table. We can use inotify to monitor the user activity (here "delete"). To demonstrate,
  - 1. We can find the inode number of a file using stat or ls -i \$ stat hello.txt
  - 2. After finding the inode number now will determine the location of the file in our disk using debugfs utility. We will assume the inode number for hello.txt is 524464.
    \$ sudo debugfs /dev/sda1

(debugfs) stat ;524464;

EXTENTS: (0):2130005

3. The location of the hello.txt is found, now will go ahead and delete the hellot.txt file and will recover them in the next step.

\$ rm hello.txt

4. Now it is possible to recover the deleted file using the dd utility,
\$\sudo dd if=/\dev/\sda1 of=hello\_\text{Recovered.txt skip=2130005 bs=4k count=1}\$

**Limitiation**: Recovery is not possible when this location is overwritten by a new data.

FIGURE 4.2: Recovering Deleted files using in ode table: Screenshot

replace with a typescript capture

# Chapter 5

# CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Forensic analysis of Smartphone is extremely useful during the course of many investigations. Mobile devices have a huge collection of personal data that can help the investigators to tack the activities of the suspect. These data include the call history, location history, messages, browser history, search URL etc. The data in the device can be used to fingerprint the individual.

In addition to the previous work we proposed techniques for stealthy transfer of the evidence files and also few techniques to collect user activities such as tracking location and finding the google search query time by parsing the URLs obtained from the browser SQLite files. We have also provided a solution to quickly recover the deleted files using the inode table.

As part of the future work the proposed techniques will be implemented and incorporated into our framework.

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