Finding The Nintendo Gigaleaks

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CS 895: Web Archiving Forensics
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Background

- On July 24, 2020 there was a leak on 4chan that involved multiple anonymous links that can be used to download previously unreleased information about Nintendo
- The contents of the leak included:
  - Old unreleased content about video games that were not completed
  - Prototypes of characters like Yoshi
  - Source code
  - 3D models and sprites
  - Messages between employees
  - ...
- Since the 4chan post is deleted it requires using web archives to find the posts that started the Gigaleak
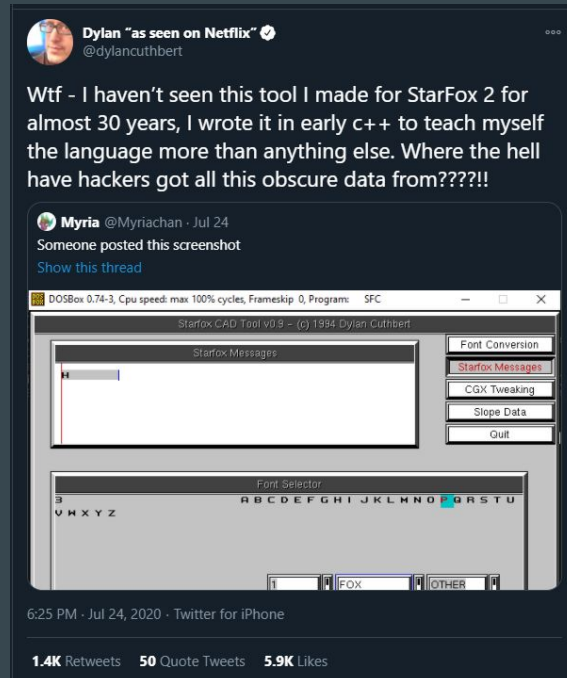
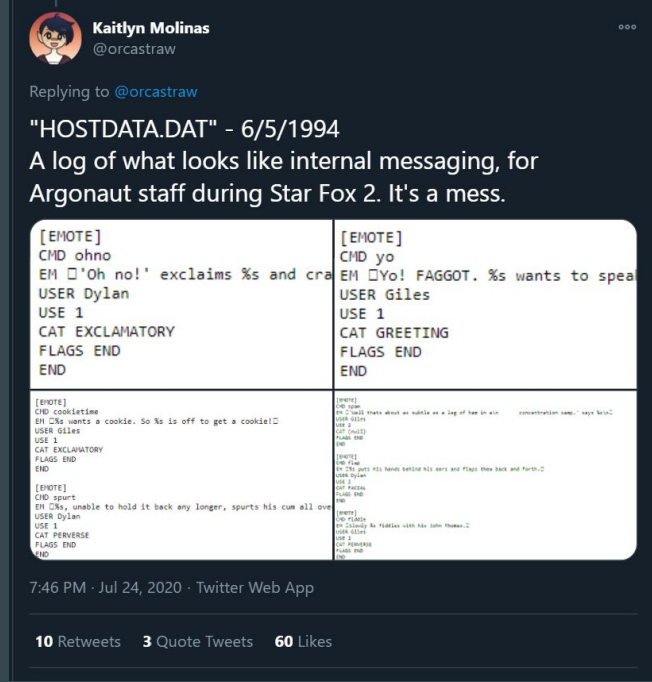# Example Content From The Nintendo Gigaleak

Evolution of Yoshi:
https://twitter.com/felineki/status/1286749414095282177

Tool Created For StarFox 2:
https://twitter.com/dylancuthbert/status/1286789583061934080

Messages between employees:
https://twitter.com/orcastraw/status/1286809988858511361

felineki
@felineki

The evolution of Yoshi, as revealed in the recent Nintendo leaks.

GIF

3:45 PM · Jul 24, 2020 · Twitter Web App

5.7K Retweets   **397** Quote Tweets   **27.5K** Likes

Dylan "as seen on Netflix" ✔
@dylancuthbert

Wtf - I haven't seen this tool I made for StarFox 2 for almost 30 years, I wrote it in early c++ to teach myself the language more than anything else. Where the hell have hackers got all this obscure data from????!!

Myria @Myriachan · Jul 24
Someone posted this screenshot
Show this thread

DOSBox 0.74-3, Cpu speed: max 100% cycles, Frameskip 0, Program: SFC
Starfox CAD Tool v0.9 - (c) 1994 Dylan Cuthbert
Starfox Messages
Font Conversion
Starfox Messages
CGX Tweaking
Slope Data
Quit
Font Selector
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U
V H X Y Z
FOX   OTHER

6:25 PM · Jul 24, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

1.4K Retweets   **50** Quote Tweets   **5.9K** Likes

Kaitlyn Molinas
@orcastraw

Replying to @orcastraw

"HOSTDATA.DAT" - 6/5/1994
A log of what looks like internal messaging, for Argonaut staff during Star Fox 2. It's a mess.

```
[EMOTE]              [EMOTE]
CMD ohno             CMD yo
EM 'Oh no!' exclaims %s and cra    EM Yo! FAGGOT. %s wants to spea
USER Dylan           USER Giles
USE 1                USE 1
CAT EXCLAMATORY      CAT GREETING
FLAGS END            FLAGS END
END                  END
```

7:46 PM · Jul 24, 2020 · Twitter Web App

10 Retweets   **3** Quote Tweets   **60** Likes

Steps Taken To Find The Nintendo Gigaleak Files

1. Read news articles about the Gigaleak and then learned about a Twitter user (@orcastraw) that was sharing posts from 4chan
2. Searched for a 4chan archive that focused on video game imageboards
3. Used the search feature of the 4chan archive to find one of the posts that @orcastraw shared
4. I found the Nintendo Leak Thread and then eventually found the first post on that day that mentions the Nintendo leak
5. The first post that mentions the leak included a link to the original post that shared the anonymous links to the Gigaleak files

1. Learned About Twitter User @orcastraw

https://web.archive.org/web/20200725202641if_/https://twitter.com/orcastraw/status/1287119986201436161
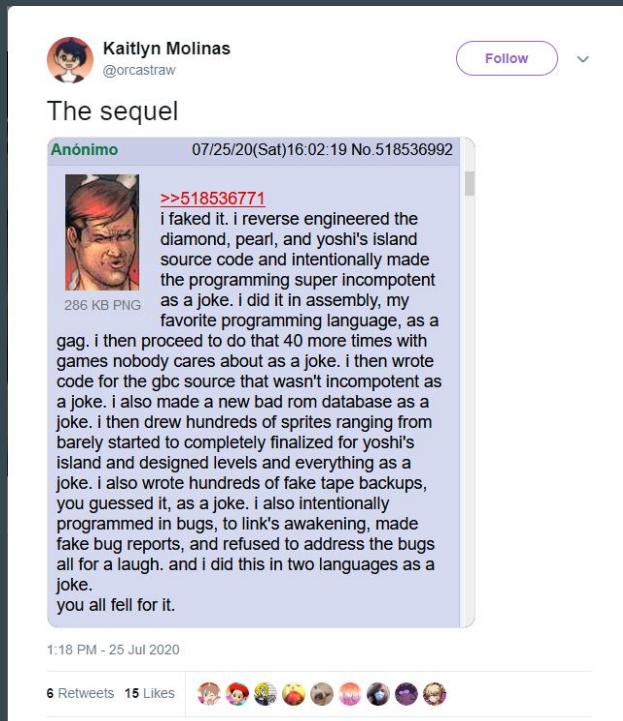
2. Found A 4chan Archive That Focuses On Video Game Imageboards

http://arch.b4k.co/

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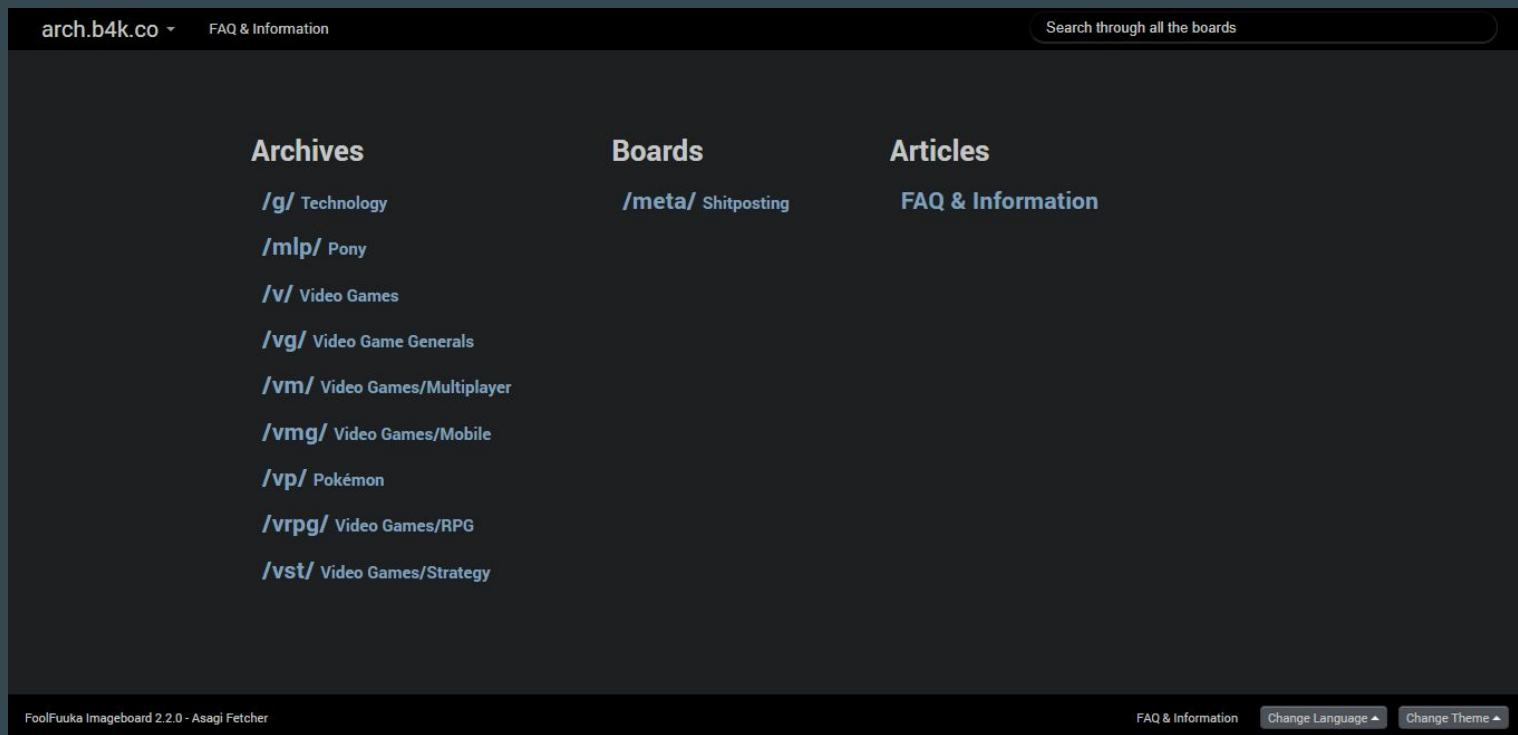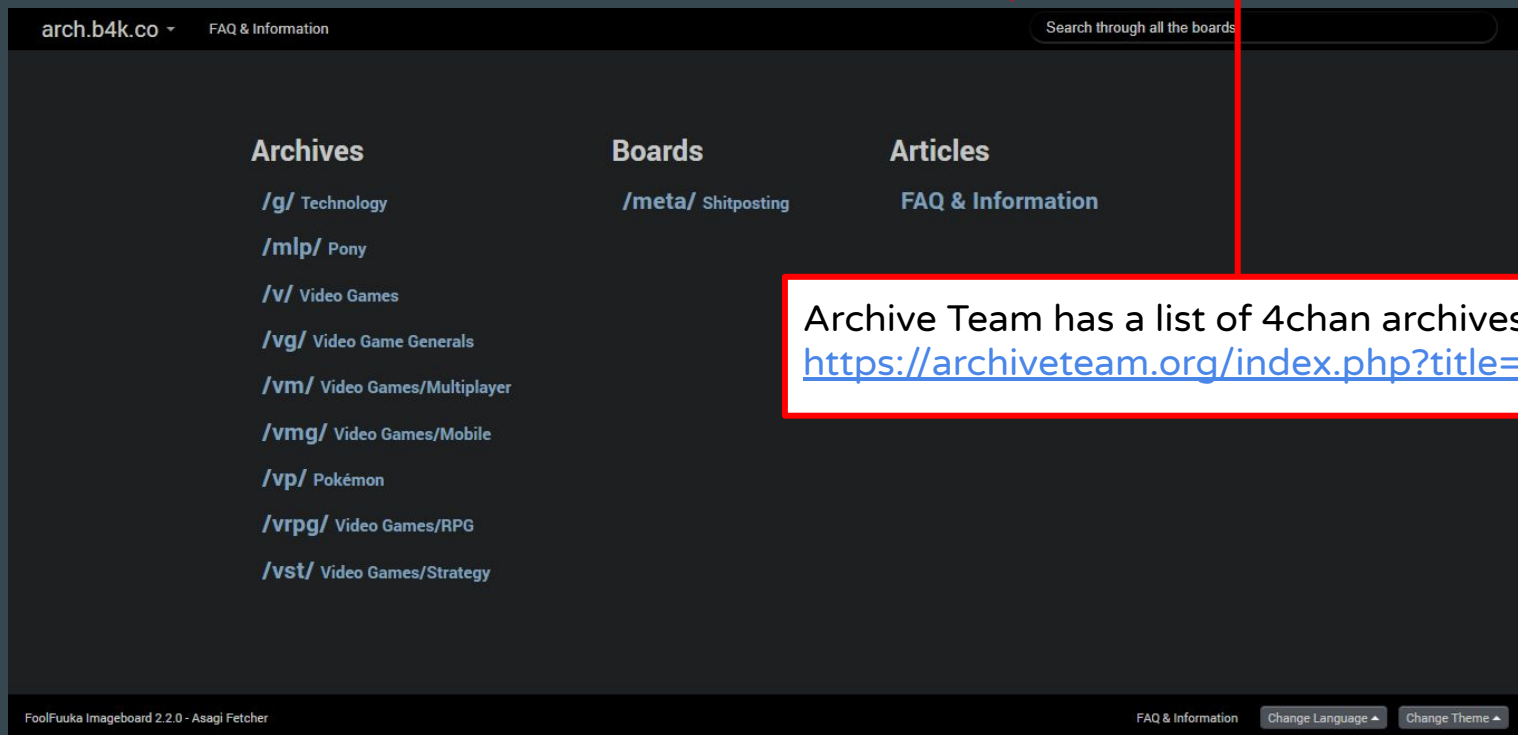
Archive Team has a list of 4chan archives
https://archiveteam.org/index.php?title=4chan

3. Found One Of The 4chan Posts Shared By @orcastraw

https://web.archive.org/web/20200725210406if_/https://twitter.com/orcastraw/status/1287131349405634572

Kaitlyn Molinas
@orcastraw

Follow

LUIGI MODEL FILES FOUND WITHIN SM64 SOURCE CODE LEAK

Anonymous 07/25/20(Sat)15:59:11 No.518544251 ▶ >>518
File: EdzMzLRWsAA7hs5.jpg (11 KB, 168x172)

luigi.c,v
luigi_far_poly.sou,v   LUIGIS MODEL FILES
luigi_mid_body.sou,v
luigi_mid_poly.sou,v
luigi_near_body.sou,v
luigi_near_head.sou,v
luigi_near_poly.sou,v
luigi_swim_hand.sou,v

2:03 PM - 25 Jul 2020

3 Likes

💬   🔁   ♡ 3

3. Found One Of The 4chan Posts Shared By @orcastraw

https://web.archive.org/web/20200725210406if_/https:/
/twitter.com/orcastraw/status/1287131349405634572

https://arch.b4k.co/v/thread/518536491/#518544251

4. Found The Nintendo Leak Thread And The First Post On That Day That Mentions The Nintendo Leak
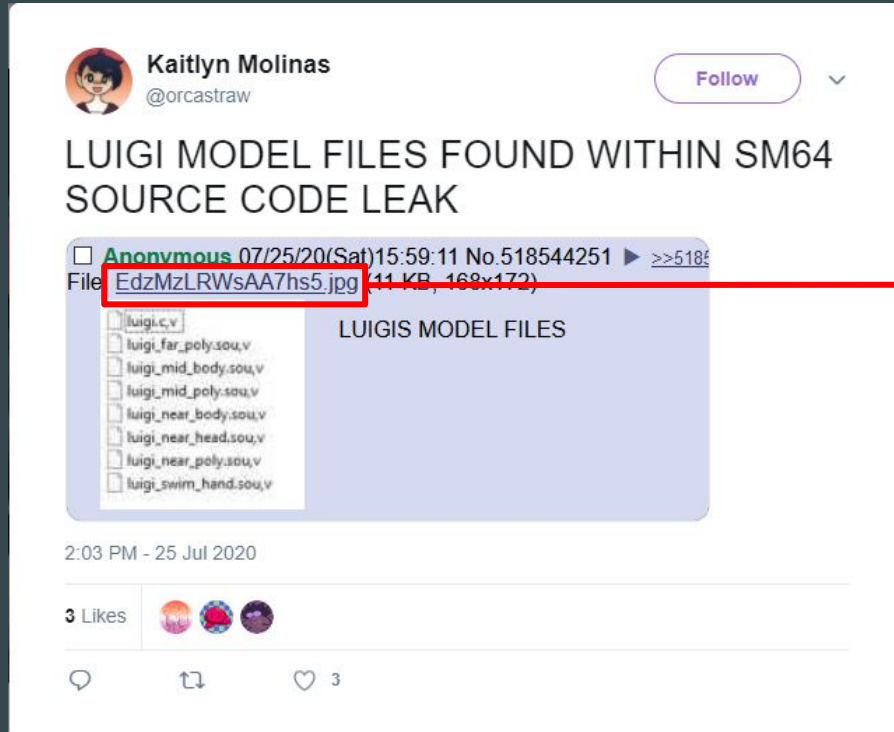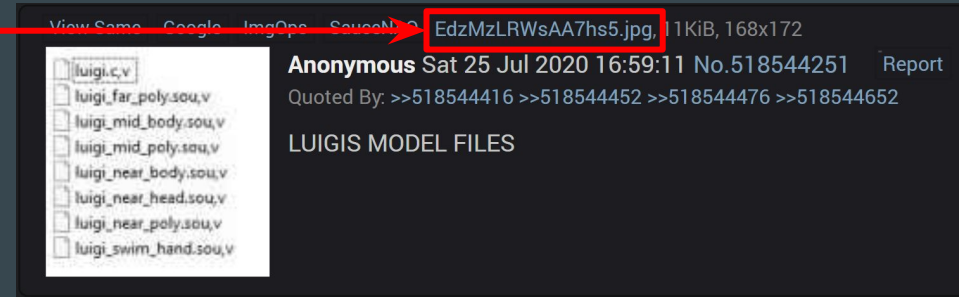
Original poster for Nintendo leak thread 16
https://arch.b4k.co/v/thread/518536491/

Luigi post was a comment

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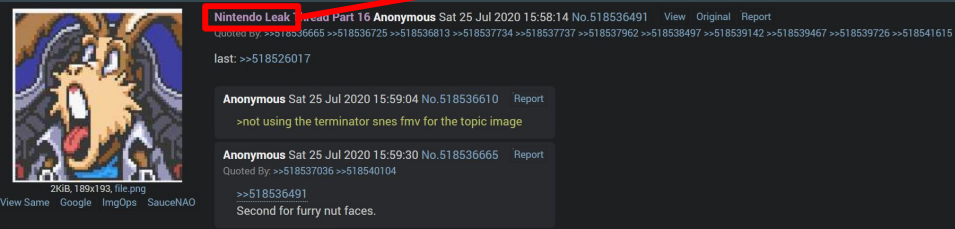
Searched for "Nintendo Leak" on the first day of the leak Jul. 24, 2020

https://arch.b4k.co/v/thread/518363794/
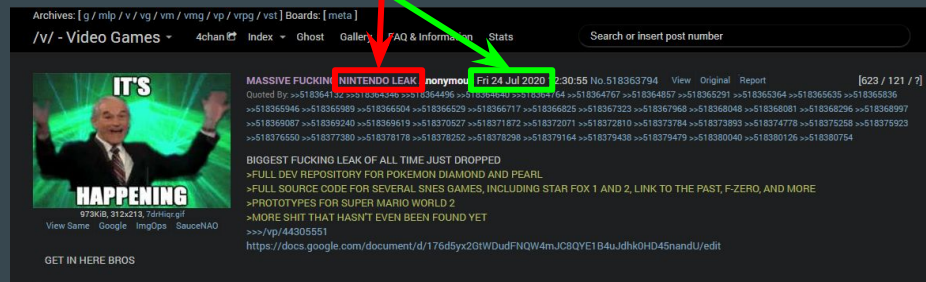
Luigi post was a comment
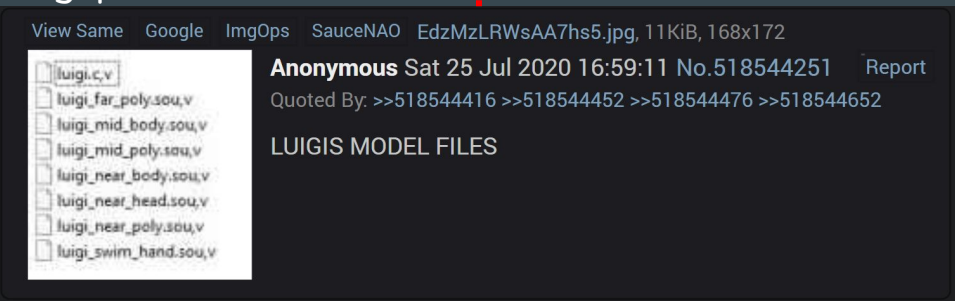
5. Found The Original Post That Shared The Anonymous Links To The Gigaleak Files

Original Nintendo Gigaleak Post:
https://arch.b4k.co/vp/thread/44305551/

This Post Also Includes A Link To A Nintendo Gigaleaks Google Doc

Nintendo Gigaleaks Google Doc:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/176d5yx2Gt
WDudFNQW4mJC8QYE1B4uJdhk0HD45nandU/edit

Downloading The Gigaleaks Requires An Extra Step

https://anonfiles.com/Za4dQ7H6oc
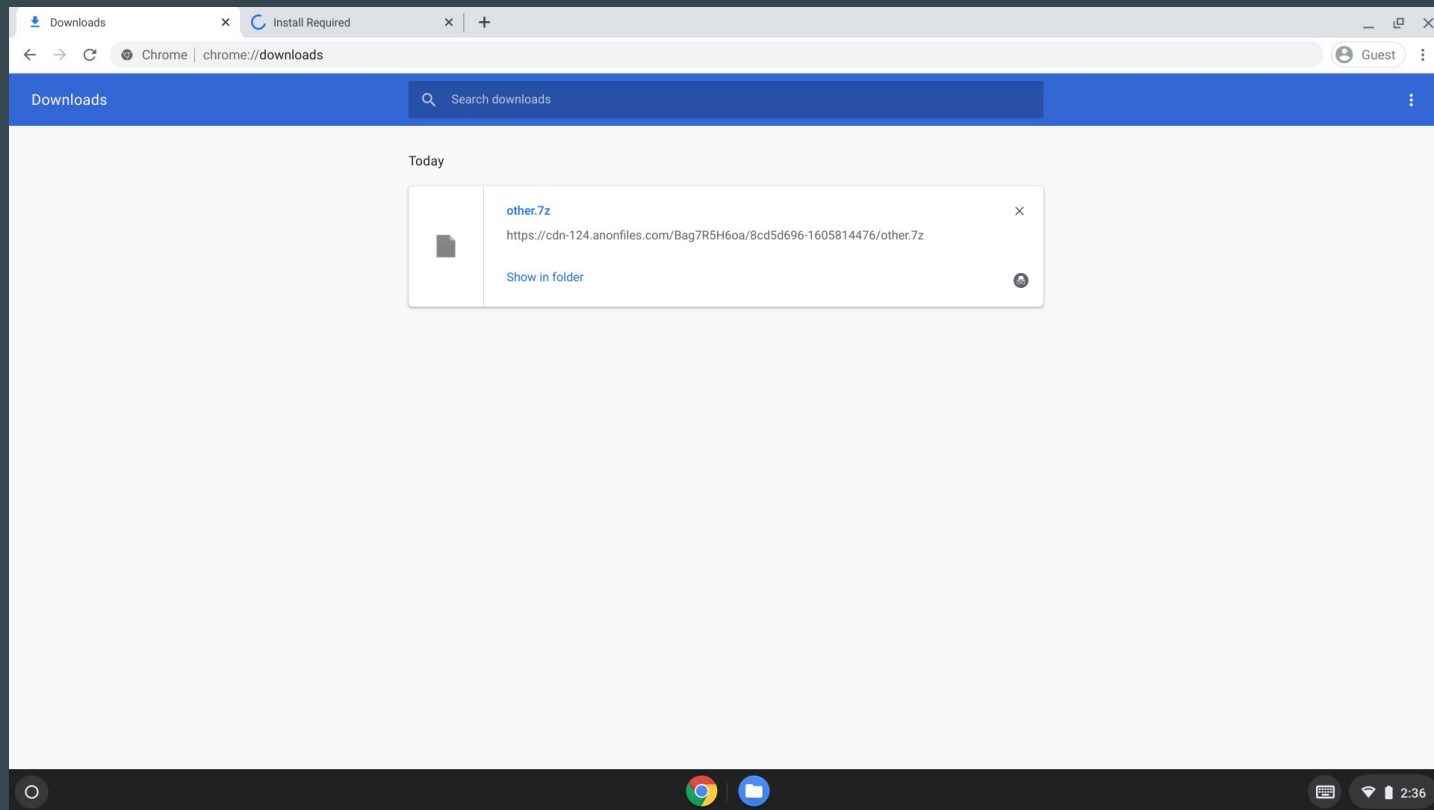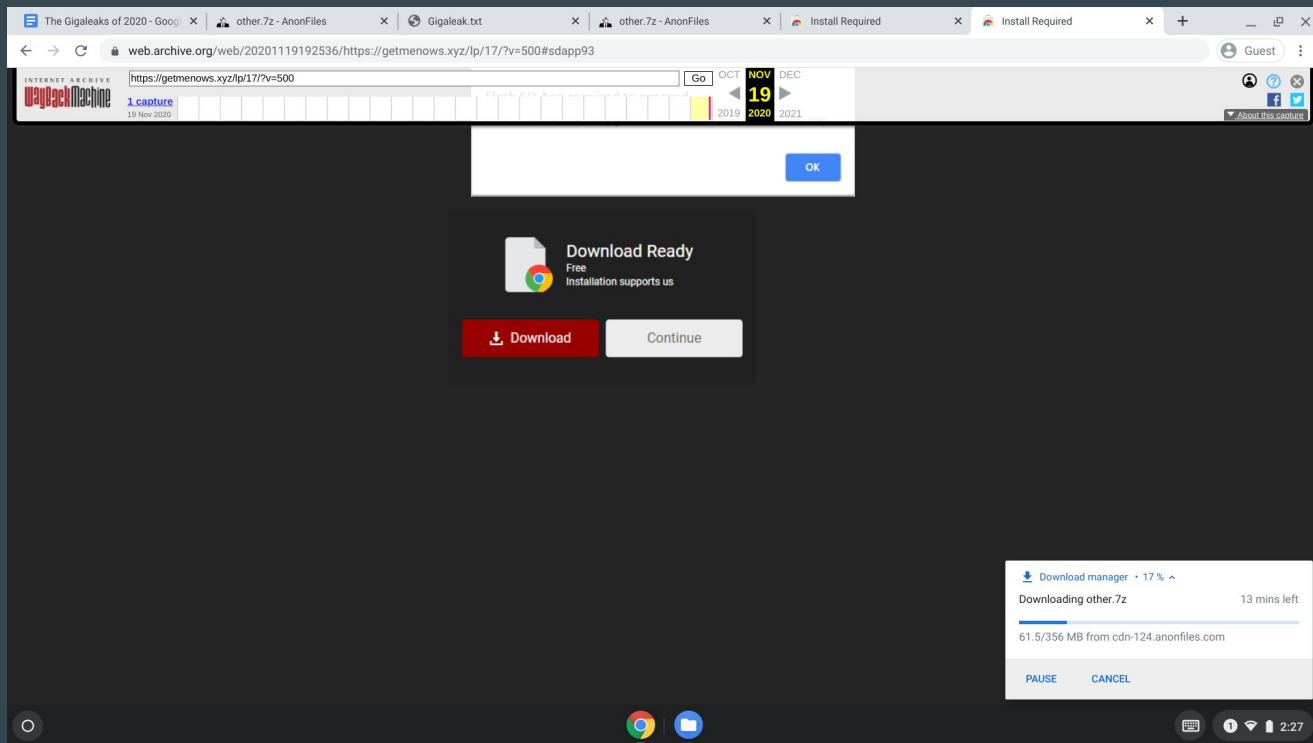
http://getmenows.xyz/lp/main/?v=500
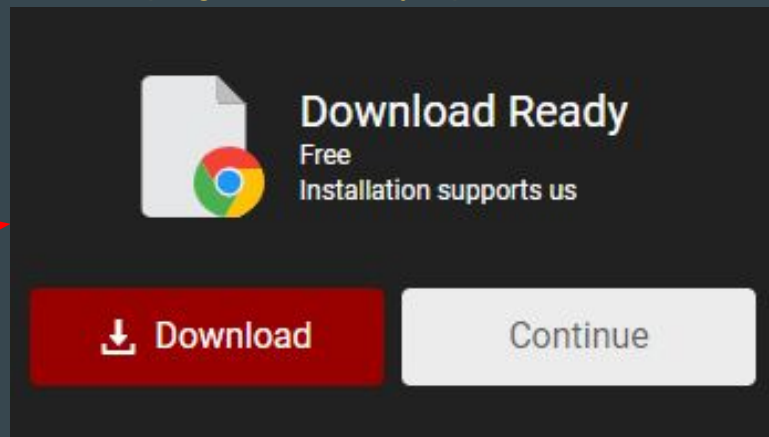
I Was Able To Download One Of The Gigaleak Files From The Original Anonymous Link Without A Chrome Extension

It Is Also Possible To Archive The Web Page, But It Does Not Allow Someone To Download The Files From The Archived Web Page
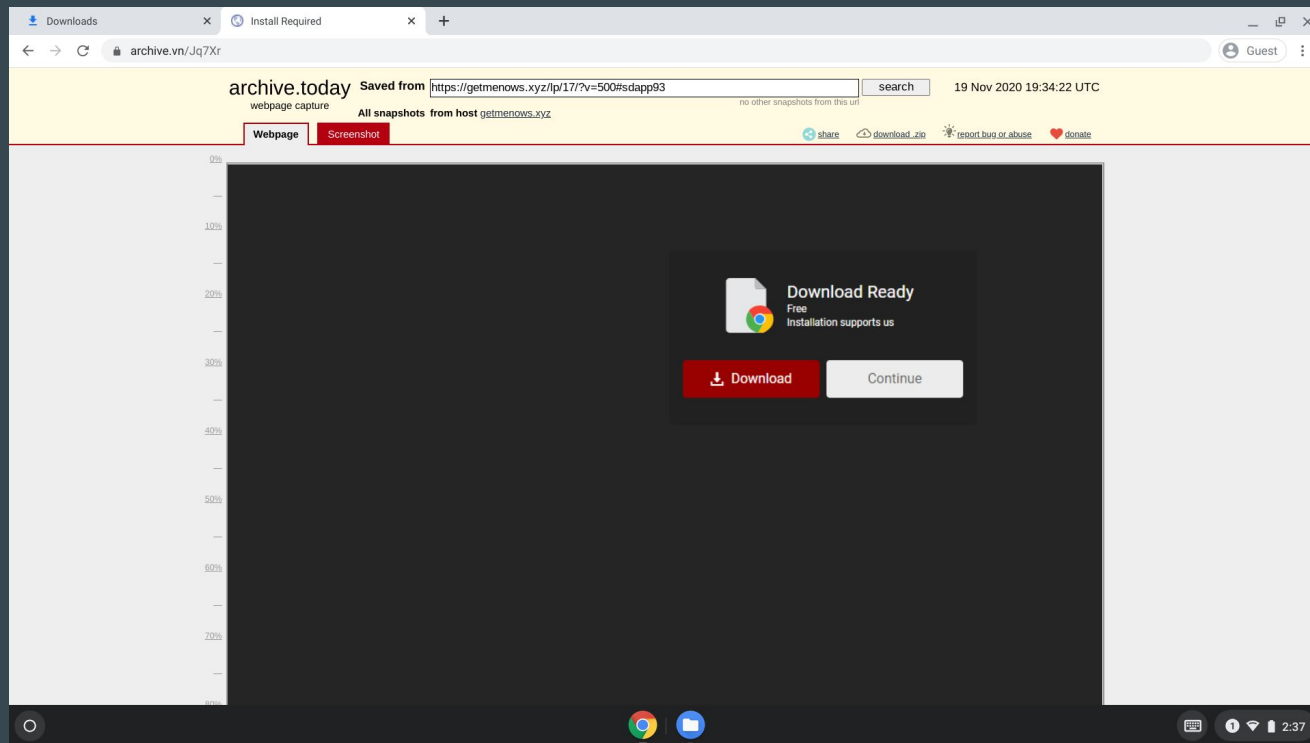
https://web.archive.org/web/20201119192536/http://getmenows.xyz/lp/main/?v=500

The Archived Web Page At archive.vn

https://archive.vn/Jq7Xr

Conclusion

- In order to find the Nintendo Gigaleaks, someone must use a web archive to access the original posts
- When downloading the Nintendo Gigaleaks it may require the user to download a Chrome extension
- It is possible to archive the web pages needed to download the Gigaleak files, but it is not possible to download the files from the Wayback Machine and archive.vn