

Midterm

Kate Moreland

kem0149

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Executive Summary

The following report shows the process of extracting files from a disk image that was taken from an art theft. The files were recoved from one FAT16 partition and one NTFS partition.

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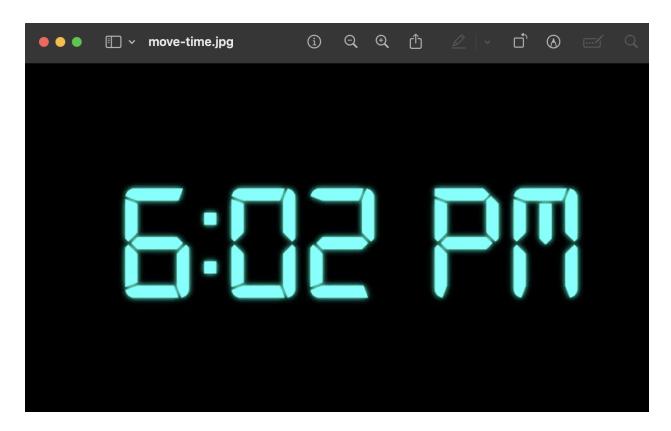
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Bastile.png



Registrar.zip

move-time.png (in registrar)



room_number.jpg (in registrar)



sema_martin.pdf



List of Tables

Disk	Reserved Area	1 st FAT area	2 nd FAT area	Root Discovery	Data Area
Information					
0-2048	2048-2052	2052-2152	2152-2252	2252-2284	2284-104448

File	Confirmation Command	Recovery Command
Bastile.png	hexdump -C -s \$((2288*512)) -n	dd
	((2656*512))	if=case201_investigation_disk.d
	case201_investigation_disk.dd	d of=Bastile.png bs=512
		skip=2288 count=2656
Registrar.zip	hexdump -C -s \$((4944*512)) -n	dd
	((402*512))	if=case201_investigation_disk.d
	case201_investigation_disk.dd	d of=Registrar.zip bs=512
		skip=4944 count=402
Cert.zip	hexdump	dd
	case201_investigation_disk.dd -	if=case201_investigation_disk.d
	s \$((210944*512)) -n \$((d of=Cert.zip bs=512
	288*512))	skip=210944 count=288
Location.txt		dd
		if=case201_investigation_disk.d
		d of=location.txt bs=512
		skip=\$((53560656+8))

	count=512
	iflag=skip_bytes,count_bytes

File Name	Starting Offset	Ending Offset
Bastile.png	1171456	2531328
Registrar.zip	2531328	2738176
Cert.zip	53559296	53559716

1 Detailed Analysis of Partition Allocation

There are two partitions in the image. One is FAT16 and one is NTFS. The sectors before the FAT16 partition are 2048 and the sectors before the NTFS are 104448. Below is an image of the partitions with the descriptions of where the partitions start and end.

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$ fdisk -l case201 investigation disk.dd
Disk case201_investigation_disk.dd: 250 MiB, 262144000 bytes, 512000 sectors
Units: sectors of 1 * 512 = 512 bytes
Sector size (logical/physical): 512 bytes / 512 bytes
I/O size (minimum/optimal): 512 bytes / 512 bytes
Disklabel type: dos
Disk identifier: 0x6cf33727
Device
                               Boot Start
                                              End Sectors
                                                           Size Id Type
case201 investigation disk.dd1
                                      2048 104447
                                                   102400
                                                           50M 6 FAT16
                                                           100M 86 NTFS volume s
case201 investigation disk.dd2
                                    104448 309247
                                                   204800
```

Partition 1

I was able to see the disk information by typing in the following command "hexdump -C – s \$((2048*512)) -n \$((512*1)) case201_investigation_disk.dd". I found the bytes/sec by looking at the location 000Bh for 2 bytes which is 0002 then do big endian and it is 512(0x0200).

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:-/Desktop$ hexdump -C -s $((2048*512)) -n $((1*512)) case201_investigation d
isk.dd
                                                    |.<.mkfs.fat.....
00100000 eb 3c 90 6d 6b 66 73 2e 66 61 74 00 02 04 04 00
00100010   02 00 02 00 00 f8 64 00   20 00 10 00 00 08 00 00
                                                    |.....d. ......
00100020 00 90 01 00 80 00 29 0e 6e 63 e0 4e 4f 20 4e 41
                                                    |.....).nc.NO NA|
00100030 4d 45 20 20 20 20 46 41 54 31 36 20 20 20 0e 1f
                                                    ME
                                                          FAT16 ..
                                                    |.[|.".t.V.....
00100040 be 5b 7c ac 22 c0 74 0b 56 b4 0e bb 07 00 cd 10
00100050    5e eb f0 32 e4 cd 16 cd    19 eb fe 54 68 69 73 20
                                                    |^..2....This
00100060 69 73 20 6e 6f 74 20 61 20 62 6f 6f 74 61 62 6c
                                                    |is not a bootabl
00100070 65 20 64 69 73 6b 2e 20
                              20 50 6c 65 61 73 65 20
                                                    |e disk. Please
00100080 69 6e 73 65 72 74 20 61
                              20 62 6f 6f 74 61 62 6c
                                                    |insert a bootabl|
00100090 65 20 66 6c 6f 70 70 79
                              20 61 6e 64 0d 0a 70 72
                                                    e floppy and..pr
001000a0 65 73 73 20 61 6e 79 20
                              6b 65 79 20 74 6f 20 74
                                                    ess any key to t
001000b0 72 79 20 61 67 61 69 6e
                              20 2e 2e 2e 20 0d 0a 00
                                                    ry again ... ...
00100200
```

I found the number of sec/cluster by looking at the location 000Dh for 1 byte which is 04. In decimal it is the same so the answer is 4.

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$ hexdump -C -s $((2048*512)) -n $((1*512)) case201 investigation d
isk.dd
00100000
        eb 3c 90 6d 6b 66 73 2e 66 61 74 00 02 04 04 00
                                                       |.<.mkfs.fat.....|
00100010 02 00 02 00 00 f8 64 00
                                20 00 10 00 00 08 00 00
                                                       |.....d. ......
                                                       |.....).nc.NO NA|
00100020 00 90 01 00 80 00 29 0e
                                6e 63 e0 4e 4f 20 4e 41
00100030 4d 45 20 20 20 20 46 41
                               54 31 36 20 20 20 0e 1f
                                                       IME
                                                             FAT16
                                                       |.[|.".t.V.....
00100040 be 5b 7c ac 22 c0 74 0b 56 b4 0e bb 07 00 cd 10
00100050    5e eb f0 32 e4 cd 16 cd    19 eb fe 54 68 69 73 20
                                                       |^..2....This
                                20 62 6f 6f 74 61 62 6c
                                                       |is not a bootabl
00100060 69 73 20 6e 6f 74 20 61
00100070 65 20 64 69 73 6b 2e 20
                                20 50 6c 65 61 73 65 20
                                                       e disk. Please
00100080 69 6e 73 65 72 74 20 61
                                20 62 6f 6f 74 61 62 6c
                                                       |insert a bootabl|
00100090 65 20 66 6c 6f 70 70 79
                                20 61 6e 64 0d 0a 70 72
                                                       e floppy and..pr
001000a0 65 73 73 20 61 6e 79 20
                                6b 65 79 20 74 6f 20 74
                                                       ess any key to t
001000Ь0
         72 79 20 61 67 61 69 6e
                                20 2e 2e 2e 20 0d 0a 00
                                                       ry again ... ...
001000⊂0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                                       [......
|....U.|
00100200
```

I found the reserved sectors by looking at the location 000Eh for 2 bytes. It is 0400 adn when you do big endian you get 4 (0x0004).

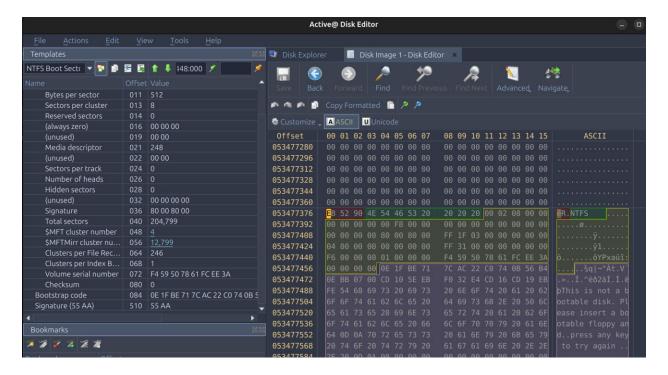
```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:-/Desktop$ hexdump -C -s $((2048*512)) -n $((1*512)) case201 investigation d
isk.dd
00100000
        eb 3c 90 6d 6b 66 73 2e 66 61 74 00 02 04 04 00
                                                       |.<.mkfs.fat.....|
00100010 02 00 02 00 00 f8 64 00
                                20 00 10 00 00 08 00 00
                                                       |.....d. ......
00100020 00 90 01 00 80 00 29 0e
                                6e 63 e0 4e 4f 20 4e 41
                                                       |.....).nc.NO NA|
00100030 4d 45 20 20 20 20 46 41
                                54 31 36 20 20 20 0e 1f
                                                       ME
                                                           FAT16 ..
                                                       |.[|.".t.V.....
00100040 be 5b 7c ac 22 c0 74 0b
                                56 b4 0e bb 07 00 cd 10
00100050    5e eb f0 32 e4 cd 16 cd
                                19 eb fe 54 68 69 73 20
                                                       |^..2....This
00100060 69 73 20 6e 6f 74 20 61
                                20 62 6f 6f 74 61 62 6c
                                                       lis not a bootabl
00100070 65 20 64 69 73 6b 2e 20
                                20 50 6c 65 61 73 65 20
                                                       le disk. Please
00100080 69 6e 73 65 72 74 20 61
                                20 62 6f 6f 74 61 62 6c
                                                       |insert a bootabl|
00100090 65 20 66 6c 6f 70 70 79
                                20 61 6e 64 0d 0a 70 72
                                                       |e floppy and..pr|
001000a0 65 73 73 20 61 6e 79 20
                                6b 65 79 20 74 6f 20 74
                                                       |ess any key to t|
                                20 2e 2e 2e 20 0d 0a 00
001000b0 72 79 20 61 67 61 69 6e
                                                       |ry again ... ...|
001000⊂0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                               00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
00100200
```

I found the sec/fat by looking at location 0016h for 2 bytes. It is 6400 and when you do big endian endian you get 100 (0x0064).

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$ hexdump -C -s $((2048*512)) -n $((1*512)) case201 investigation d
isk.dd
00100000
                                  66 61 74 00 02 04 04 00
          eb 3c 90 6d 6b 66 73 2e
                                                             .<.mkfs.fat.....
00100010
          02 00 02 00 00 f8 64 00
                                   20 00 10 00 00 08 00 00
                                                            |.....d. ......
00100020
          00 90 01 00 80 00 29 0e
                                   6e 63 e0 4e 4f 20 4e 41
                                                            |.....).nc.NO NA|
00100030
          4d 45 20 20 20 20 46 41
                                   54 31 36 20 20 20 0e 1f
                                                            IME
                                                                   FAT16
                                                            |.[|.".t.V.....
          be 5b 7c ac 22 c0 74 0b
                                   56 b4 0e bb 07 00 cd 10
00100040
00100050
          5e eb f0 32 e4 cd 16 cd
                                   19 eb fe 54 68 69 73 20
                                                            |^..2....This
00100060 69 73 20 6e 6f 74 20 61
                                   20 62 6f 6f 74 61 62 6c
                                                            is not a bootabl
00100070 65 20 64 69 73 6b 2e 20
                                   20 50 6c 65 61 73 65 20
                                                            |e disk. Please
00100080 69 6e 73 65 72 74 20 61
                                   20 62 6f 6f 74 61 62 6c
                                                             insert a bootabl
00100090
         65 20 66 6c 6f 70 70 79
                                   20 61 6e 64 0d 0a 70 72
                                                             e floppy and..pr
          65 73 73 20 61 6e 79 20
                                   6b 65 79 20 74 6f 20 74
001000a0
                                                            ess any key to t
001000Ь0
          72 79 20 61 67 61 69 6e
                                   20 2e 2e 2e 20 0d 0a 00
                                                             ry again ... ...
001000⊂0
          00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                   00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
001001f0
          00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
                                  00 00 00 00 00 00 55 aa
                                                            |.....U.|
00100200
```

Partition 2

The 2nd partition is NTFS so the analysis will look a little different. To find our information we need to use Disk Editor. The 2nd partition starts at 104448 so lets start there. The bytes/sec is 512. The sec/custer is 8. The are 0 reserved sectors. The \$MFT Cluster Start is 4 and the \$MFTMirr Cluster Start is 12799. The #System \$MFT Records is standard at 39 and the \$MFT Record Size is also standard at 39.



Detailed Analysis of the Recovery Process

After the disk information is analyzed for the first partition, look at the file allocation table and the root directory. The file allocation will show how many buffers you have between he beginning of the data area and the start of the file location. Then look at your root directory, This will say how many files are on the partition, the size of the file, and the status of the file.

For the NTFS partition, after we look at the boot sector we can calculate where the file information is in the MFT. From the MFT it shows the status of the file, the size of the file, and the characteristics of the file.

2.2.1 Partition 1 File 1

First take a look at the partition 1 allocation table. This will inficate the size of the buffer. This is crucial because if it is ignored file carving will be done incorrectly and result in incorrect files.

The size of the buffer is found by the number of clusters that are found before the files start. The screenshot below shows that there is 1 cluster. Then you multiply it by how many sec/cluster which is 4, 4*1=4

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:-/Desktop$ hexdump -C -s $((2052*512)) -n $((100*512)) case201 investigation
_disk.dd
00100800 f8 ff ff ff 00 00 04 00 05 00 06 00 07 00 08 00
00100810 09 00 0a 00 0b 00 0c 00 0d 00 0e 00 0f 00 10 00
00100820 11 00 12 00 13 00 14 00 15 00 16 00 17 00 18 00
00100830    19 00 1a 00 1b 00 1c 00    1d 00 1e 00 1f 00 20 00
00100840 21 00 22 00 23 00 24 00 25 00 26 00 27 00 28 00
                                                             |!.".#.$.%.&.'.(.
<sup>1</sup>00100850 29 00 2a 00 2b 00 2c 00
                                   2d 00 2e 00 2f 00 30 00
                                                             |).*.+.,.-.../.0.
00100860 31 00 32 00 33 00 34 00 00100870 39 00 3a 00 3b 00 3c 00
                                   35 00
                                         36 00 37 00 38 00
                                                             11.2.3.4.5.6.7.8.
                                    3d 00
                                         3e 00 3f 00 40 00
                                                             9.:.;.<.=.>.?.@.
                                                             A.B.C.D.E.F.G.H.
00100880 41 00 42 00 43 00 44 00
                                   45 00 46 00 47 00 48 00
00100890 49 00 4a 00 4b 00 4c 00
                                   4d 00 4e 00 4f 00 50 00
                                                             |I.J.K.L.M.N.O.P.
                                   55 00 56 00 57 00 58 00
001008a0 51 00 52 00 53 00 54 00
                                                             [Q.R.S.T.U.V.W.X.]
001008b0 59 00 5a 00 5b 00 5c 00
                                   5d 00 5e 00 5f 00 60 00
                                                             |Y.Z.[.\.].^._.`.|
001008c0 61 00 62 00 63 00 64 00
                                   65 00 66 00 67 00 68 00
                                                             |a.b.c.d.e.f.g.h.|
001008d0 69 00 6a 00 6b 00 6c 00
                                   6d 00 6e 00 6f 00 70 00
                                                             |i.j.k.l.m.n.o.p.|
001008e0 71 00 72 00 73 00 74 00
                                   75 00 76 00 77 00 78 00
                                                             q.r.s.t.u.v.w.x.
001008f0 79 00 7a 00 7b 00 7c 00
                                   7d 00 7e 00 7f 00 80 00
                                                             |y.z.{.|.}.~....
00100900 81 00 82 00 83 00 84 00
                                   85 00 86 00 87 00 88 00
00100910 89 00 8a 00 8b 00 8c 00
                                   8d 00 8e 00 8f 00 90 00
00100920 91 00 92 00 93 00 94 00
                                   95 00 96 00 97 00 98 00
00100930 99 00 9a 00 9b 00 9c 00
                                   9d 00 9e 00 9f 00 a0 00
00100940 a1 00 a2 00 a3 00 a4 00 a5 00 a6 00 a7 00 a8 00
```

Next is the see what files aare on the partition by looking at the root directory. This shows the number of files and their sizes. Below shows that there are 2 files. The first is called Bastile.png. The file status is 41 which indicates that it is an active file. To find the file size look at the last 4 bytes and perform the big endian operation on them. The last 4 in this case are 2e bf 14 00 so after the big endian it is 00 14 bf 2e which is 1359662. Then to find the number of sections divide that number by 512 so 1359662/523 = 2656.

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$ hexdump -C -s $((2252*512)) -n $((32*512)) case201_investigation_
disk.dd
00119800 41 42 00 61 00 73 00 74 00 69 00 0f 00 3a 6c 00 |AB.a.s.t.i...:l.|
00119810 6c 00 65 00 00 00 ff ff ff ff 00 00 ff ff ff ff
                                                     |l.e.....
00119820 42 41 53 54 49 4c 4c 45 20 20 20 20 00 21 24 02
                                                     |BASTILLE
00119830 3c 5b 3c 5b 00 00 24 02 3c 5b 03 00 2e bf 14 00
                                                      |<[<[..$.<[.....
00119840 41 72 00 65 00 67 00 69 00 73 00 0f 00 ae 74 00
                                                      |Ar.e.g.i.s....t.|
00119850 72 00 61 00 72 00 00 00 ff ff 00 00 ff ff ff ff
                                                      |r.a.r....
00119860 52 45 47 49 53 54 7e 31
                               20 20 20 20 00 22 24 02
                                                      |REGIST~1
                                                                 ."$.
00119870 3c 5b 3c 5b 00 00 24 02 3c 5b 9b 02 36 23 03 00
                                                      |<[<[..$.<[..6#..|
0011d800
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$
```

Now to carve the file. We have to calculate what to skip which is 2048 + 4 + 100 + 100 + 32 + 4= 2288. So use the dd command to carve it. Type in the following "dd if=case201_investigation_disk.dd of=Bastile.png bs=512 skip=2288 count=2656"

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$ dd if=case201_investigation_disk.dd of=Bastile.png bs=512 skip=22
88 count=2656
2656+0 records in
2656+0 records out
1359872 bytes (1.4 MB, 1.3 MiB) copied, 0.0229989 s, 59.1 MB/s
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$
```

Below is an image of the file that we carved.



2.2.2 Partition 1 File 2

This is on the same partition so we already know that the data buffer is 4 so now it is time for analysis of the root directory. The next file is called registrar.zipTo find the size we need to look at the last 4 bytes of the file. The bytes are 36 23 03 00 so after the big endian it is 00 03 23 26 (205622). To find the number of sections divide that number by 512 so 205622/512. To

find where the file is located add up all of the things that came before so 2048 + 4 + 100 + 100 + 32 + 4 + 2656 = 4944.

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$ hexdump -C -s $((2252*512)) -n $((32*512)) case201 investigation
disk.dd
00119800 41 42 00 61 00 73 00 74 00 69 00 0f 00 3a 6c 00
                                                 |AB.a.s.t.i...:l.|
00119810 6c 00 65 00 00 00 ff ff
                            ff ff 00 00 ff ff ff ff
                                                 |l.e....
|BASTILLE
                                                            .!$.|
00119830 3c 5b 3c 5b 00 00 24 02
                            3c 5b 03 00 2e bf 14 00
                                                 |<[<[..$.<[.....
00119840 41 72 00 65 00 67 00 69 00 73 00 0f 00 ae 74 00
                                                 |Ar.e.g.i.s....t.|
00119850 72 00 61 00 72 00 00 00 ff ff 00 00 ff ff ff ff
                                                 |r.a.r....
00119860 52 45 47 49 53 54 7e 31 20 20 20 20 00 22 24 02
                                                 |REGIST~1 ."$.|
00119870 3c 5b 3c 5b 00 00 24 02 3c 5b 9b 02 36 23 03 00
                                                 |<[<[..$.<[..6#..|
0011d800
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$
```

To carve the file we need to use dd so use the following command dd

if=case201_investigation_disk.dd of=registrar.zip bs=512 skip=4944 count=402. Below is that command.

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$ dd if=case201_investigation_disk.dd of=registrar.zip bs=512 skip=
4944 count=402
402+0 records in
402+0 records out
205824 bytes (206 kB, 201 KiB) copied, 0.00424766 s, 48.5 MB/s
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$
```

Inside the zip folder there are 2 files move-time.png and room_number.jpg. First is move-time and then second is room number below

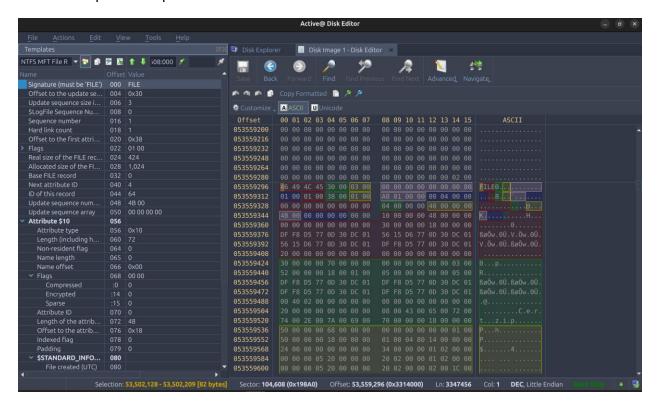


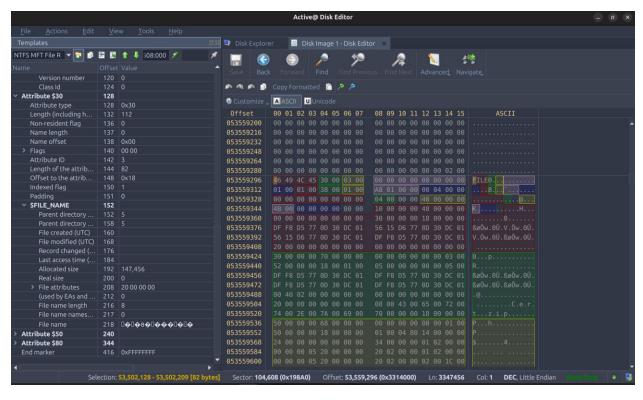


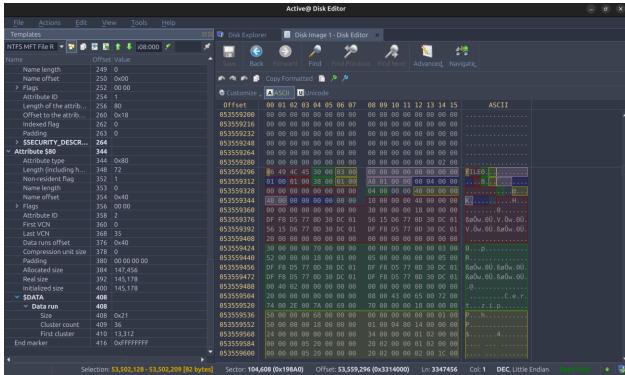
2.2.3 Partition 2 File 3

I ran into some issues with the NTFS partition. I calculated that to sectors to partition was 104448 because earlier when we ran fdisk it showed that was when partition 2 begun. Then the \$MFT Cluster Start is 32 sectors because it is 4 clusters and the sec/cluster is 8 so 8*4 = 32. I assumed that the \$MFT System Records in sectors is 78 like in class because that is standard for NTFS. So after I added up the sectors to the file I got 104448+32+78 = 104558. In

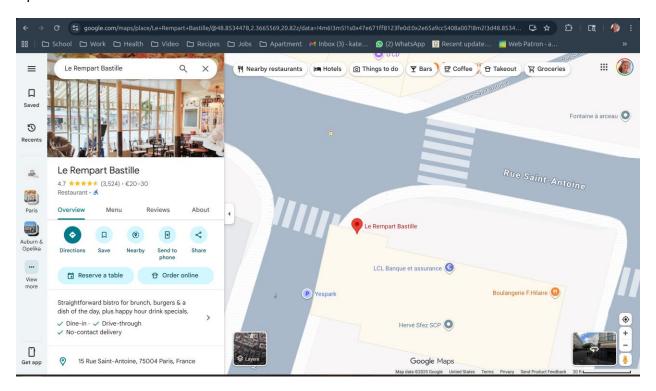
Disk Editor I went there and there was no file. I went back through my calculations and did not find any errors. I went ahead and scrolled through the MFT until I found Cert.zip. Cert.zip is located at sector 104608. After I found that I thought that it was just blank data until the file appeared. Once I found the file I looked through and saw that it was in use and non-resident so I did not have to do cluster carving. The first cluster is 13312 so multiple that by 8 and get 106496 so that is the first sector. Then add the 1st sector plus the stuff before which is 106496 and you get 210944. The number of cluster is 36 so multiple that by 8 and you get 288 which is the number of sectors. It has had \$50 which I learned what a security attribute so you could tell the file was password protected.





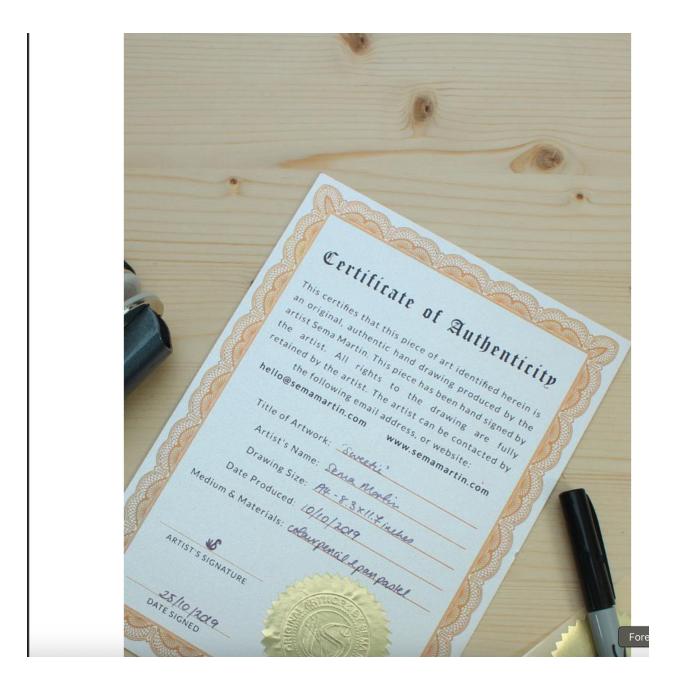


The Cert.zip file was password protected but the clue in the instructions said that it was the zip code from the restaurant. So I looked up the coordinates for the Bastile restaurant and found the zip code which was 75004.



After I entered the zip code and unzipped the file. I saw a sema_martin.txt file but it would not open so I ran the file command on it and it showed that it was a pdf file so I renamed it sema martin.pdf and it opened the certificate.

```
kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$ file sema_martin.txt
sema_martin.txt: PDF document, version 1.3, 1 page(s)
[kate@kate-Surface-Pro-8:~/Desktop$
```



2.2.4 Partition 2 File 2

I continued to scroll down and saw that there was another file called location. I saw that is was a non-resident file. So I attempted to carve it via clusters. I do this dd command but it came back with errors so I believe I did it incorrectly. dd if=case201_investigation_disk.dd of=location.txt bs=512 skip=\$((53560656+8)) count=512 iflag=skip_bytes,count_bytes

3 Description of Analysis Techniques Utilized

During the midterm the use of fdisk to analyze the disk image to see how many partitions there were and what type were crucial. I used hexdump to see the hex and ascii results from the deserved sections for the FAT16, without this file recovery would not be possible. I used dd to carve the images with the exact location and size for both partitions. On the NTFS partition I mainly used Disk Editor. Taking use of the templates that are present are useful to quickly find file names, size, etc.

4 Results and Discussion

The results of the data recovery were 3 files. I attempted to get a 4th but was unable to. I was able to discover the restaurant the group met. The location of the registrar and the move time. I was also able to recover the image of the certificate. I was able to walk through the plan of the thieves and discover how they pulled it off.

5 Conclusions and recommendations

The midterm challenges the knowledge of both analyzing FAT16 partitions and NTFS partitions. The basic understanding of the structure was key to solving the puzzle. I think it would have been helpful to go over a non-resident file a little more and dive a little deeper. I think I am still growing my skills and have some more learning to do.

6 Acknowledgements

The lecture notes from Dr. K were used to aid in this assignment. The lessons on FAT16 and NTFS were used the most.

7 References

[1] "Decimal to hex converter [Internet]. RapidTables; c2025 [cited 2025 Sep 29]. Available from: https://www.rapidtables.com/converter/number/decimal-to-hex.html?x=0".

Appendix A: Place the title of appendix here

Provide appropriate appendices as necessary. Each appendix should begin on a new page.