



DATA ACQUISITION REPORT

By: Team 6 -Lam Luong, William Zaourbekov, Lima Sin, Sam Zheng

CASE #: CIS 481-006

SUSPECT NAME: BAD HACKER

LOCATION SEIZED: CAL POLY POMONA

COLLECTED BY: PROFESSOR TOBI WEST

Abstract

This report outlines the chain of custody we used to systematically acquire the evidence, create and validate a bit stream image (exact copy) of the Hard Disk Drive (HDD, Storage Device), and lastly how we transferred custody of the evidence once we were done with creating the bit stream image of the Hard Drive.

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Chain of custody form filler page

Acquisition of the Evidence

We began the preparation for our data acquisition by first having Professor West sign off on our "Evidence Chain of Custody Tracking Form." as shown below in *Photo 1*. This form is especially important to ensure that we keep track of the what, who, and where of the evidence. Without this, the evidence is more than likely going to be inadmissible in court.

Property Record Number:				
Anywhere Police Department EVIDENCE CHAIN OF CUSTODY TRACKING FORM				
Case Number: <u>CIS 481-006</u> Offense: <u>Unknown</u>				
Submitting Officer: (Name/ID#) <u>Professor Tobi West</u>				
Victim: <u>Unknown</u>				
Suspect: <u>Bad Hacker</u>				
Date/Time Seized: <u>6:10PM/2/6/17</u> Location of Seizure: <u>Cal Poly Pomona</u>				
Description of Evidence				
Item #	Quantity	Description of Item (Model, Serial #, Condition, Marks, Scratches)		
1	1	Seagate Barracuda ATA IV/Model: ST320011A, Serial #: 3HT1NAY0, Condition: Working		
Chain of Custody				
Item #	Date/Time	Released by (Signature & ID#)	Received by (Signature & ID#)	Comments/Location
1	6:15PM/2/6/17	Tobi West	Team 6	Location: CIS Lab, Lab Information 6

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Photo 1: Chain of custody form documenting the transfer of the evidence from Tobi West to Team 6. We later obtained her signature as seen in Photo 21.

The hard disk drive obtained is as described:

Manufacturer: Seagate Barracuda ATA IV

Model: ST320011A

Serial: 3HT1NAY0

Condition: Working Condition with no visible damages

Photos 2, 3, & 4 shown below are of the front & back of the HDD released by Tobi West with a phone for scale and to time stamp it.



Photo 2: Front of the Hard Drive.

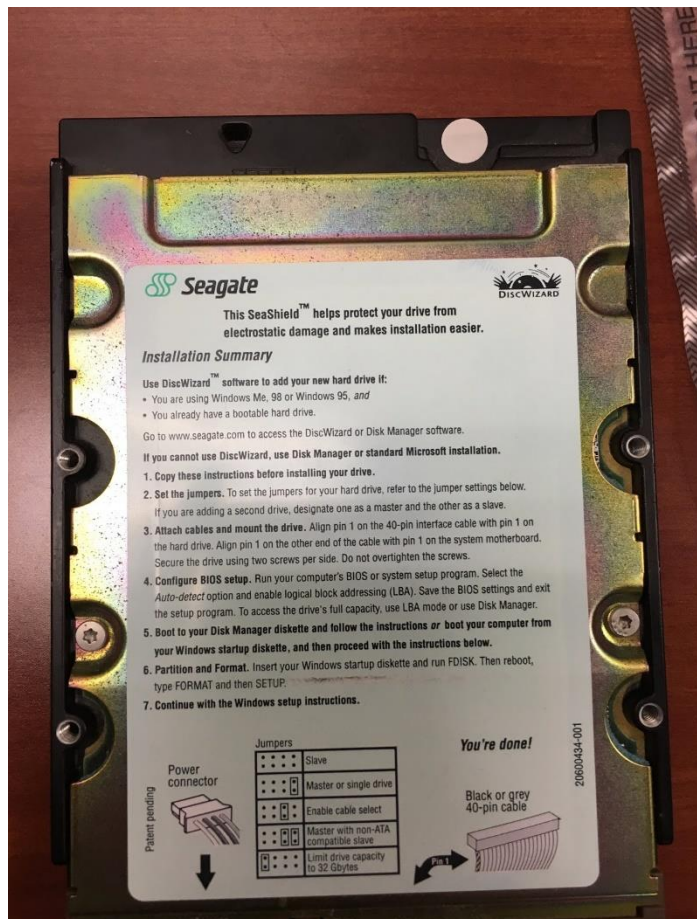
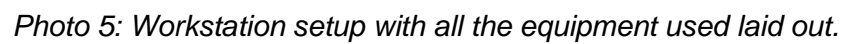


Photo 3: Back of the Hard Drive.



Photo 4: Hard Drive with Phone for Scale & Time.



Assembling the Hardware

We then started to carefully connect all the cables to the correct ports as shown in the YouTube video on blackboard. After we finished plugging everything in, we connected the write blocker (a physical device that prevents modifications or edits to the evidence drive) to the computer on one end and the hard drive on the other. To finish the setup, we flipped the switch to turn on the write blocker. The setup we used with everything properly connected is shown on *Photo 6*.



Photo 6: Full setup of the write blocker connected to the hard drive on one end and the computer on the other.

FTK Imager Software

When we first logged in, we ran FTK and needed the Admin password so we had Professor West come over and input it for us. Afterwards, the following images are of the process, step by step that we went through from start to finish without omitting a single frame to create the bit stream image. This image is important because we will not want to be ever working with the evidence besides to create a copy. It is very dangerous to do so because if we were to change even a single bit on the drive, it may render the evidence inadmissible in court, therefore we will want to create a bit stream image to work on instead. We will do this using FTK software alongside a write blocker to prevent any alterations to the evidence, then afterwards validate the integrity of the bit stream image with the evidence HDD to ensure the integrity of the cloned image.

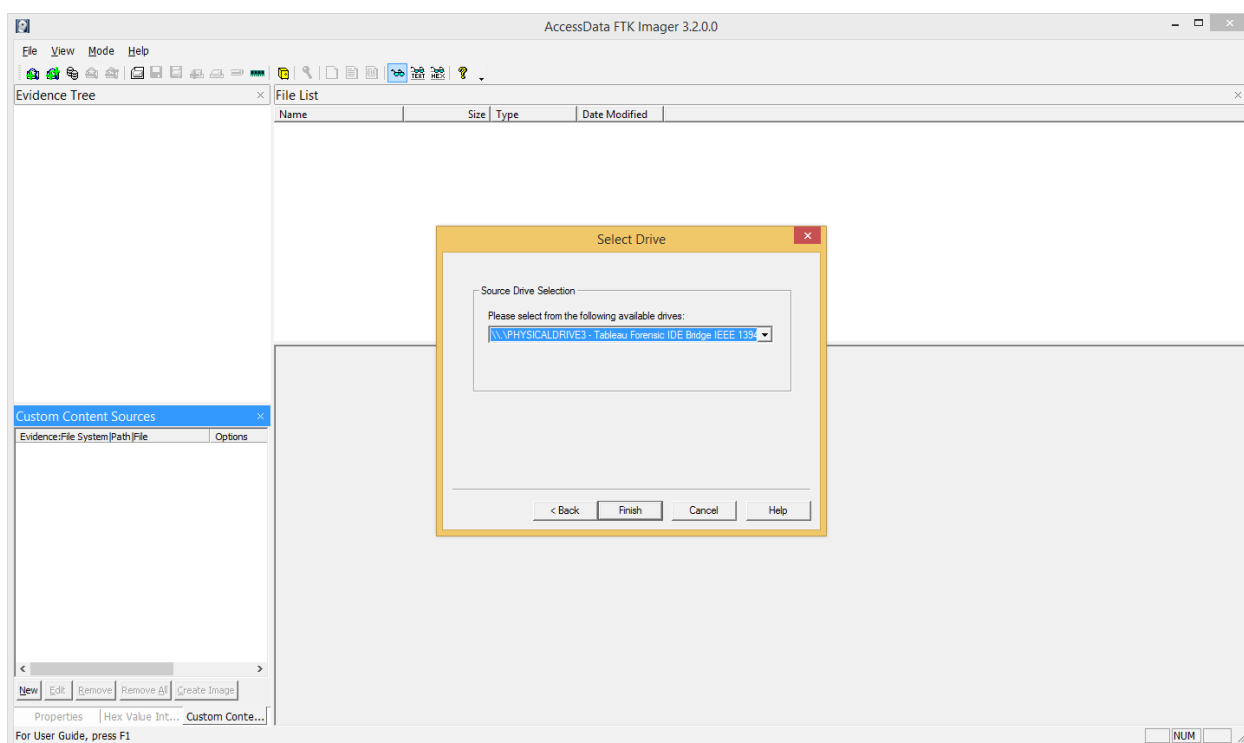


Photo 7: We first selected the physical device as the source drive to create the bit stream image.

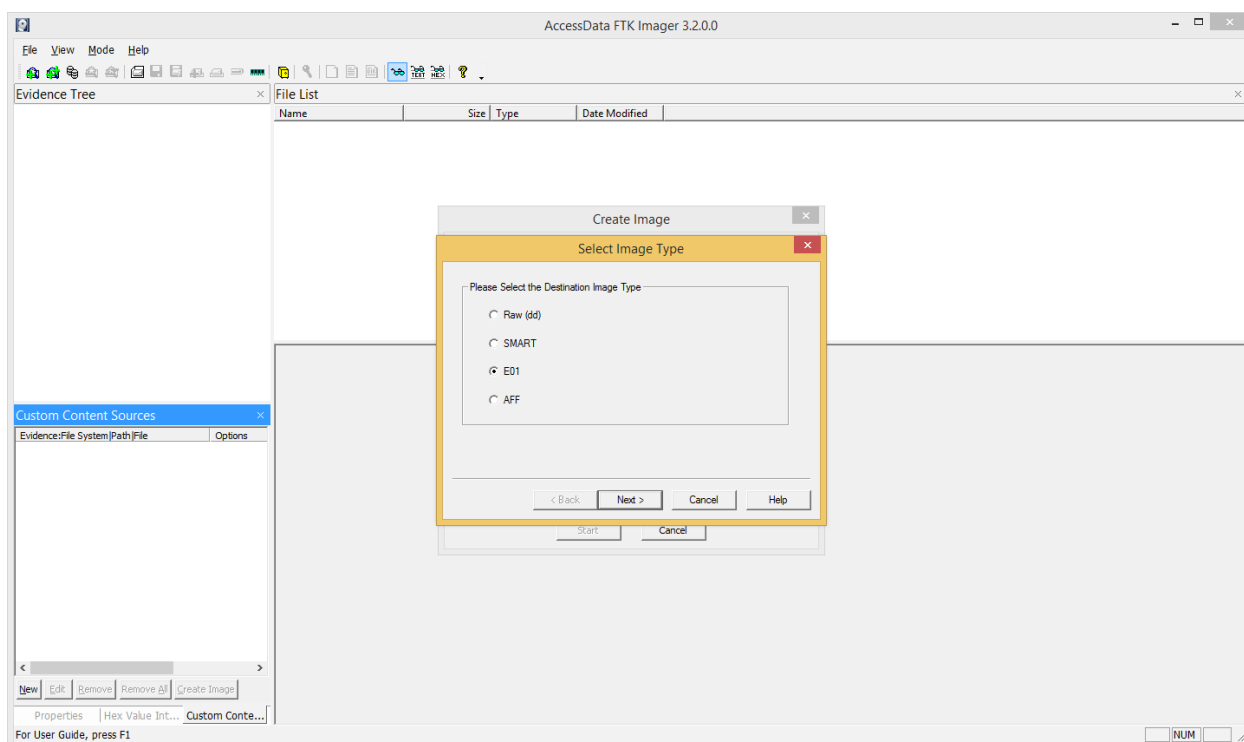


Photo 8: We selected “E01” as the destination image type so that we can import the image onto EnCase Forensic.

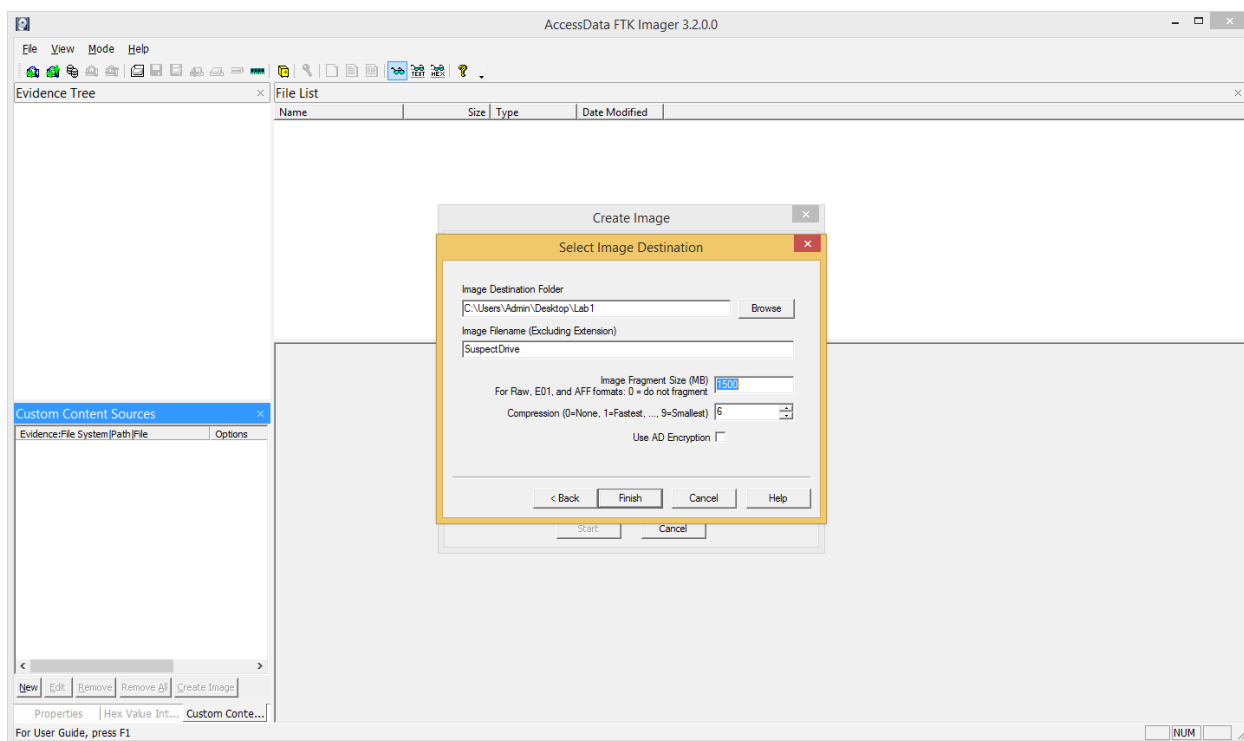


Photo 9: We are then about to start the process, with an image fragment size of 1500MB.

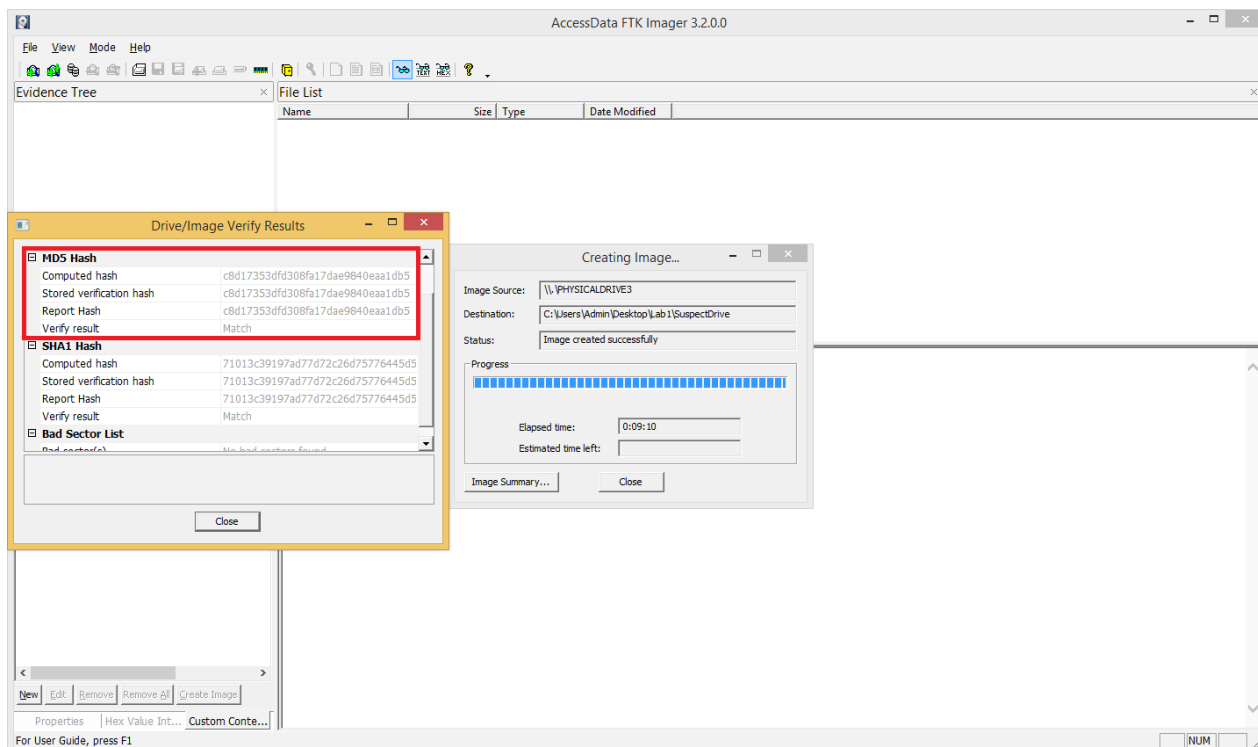


Photo 10: The bit stream image is successfully created, generating the **MD5 hash value: c8d17353dfd308fa17dae9840eaa1db5**
SHA-1 hash value: 71013c39197ad77d72c26d75776445d5

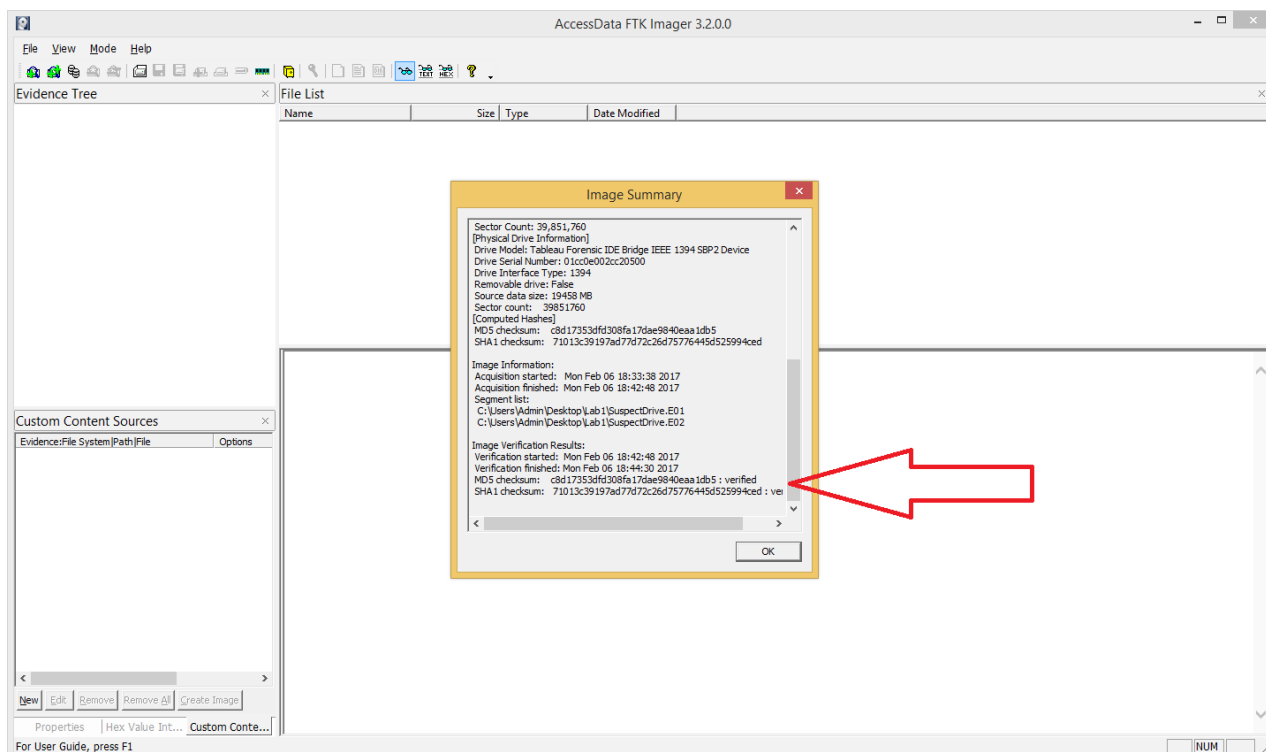


Photo 11: Image summary. Both MD5 and SHA1 checksums are verified.

EnCase Forensic Software

We then created another copy of the bit stream image to have a “Master Copy” (That we will never touch unless we need it for a new copy) in case we accidentally change the data on the image we are working on, we will have a backup without having to go back to the evidence locker to create another image. This master copy should be locked up or properly stored with restricted access as well. If the copy we are working on becomes unusable and we need to go back to our master copy and it turns out that the master copy was tampered with (and hopefully we catch that is was), we would have to go back to the evidence locker to request the original HDD to create a new image. We wouldn't want to go back to the locker because this creates additional windows for error in some way. We want to minimize contact with the evidence as much as we can to reduce the chance of any tampering or damage to the evidence. If the evidence becomes tampered with, damaged, or if there is an error with the chain of custody form or with the process of documenting it, there is a good chance the evidence will become inadmissible in court.

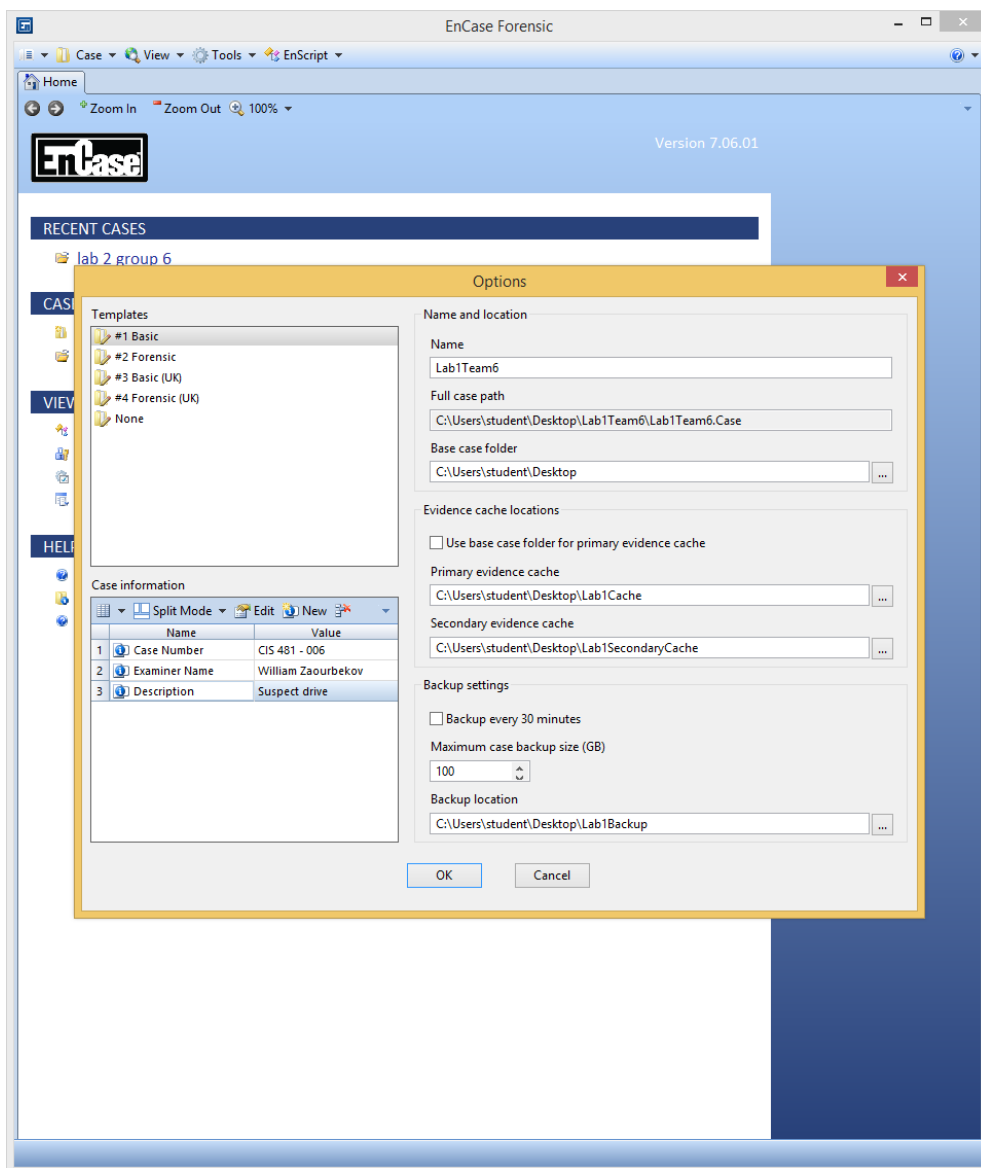


Photo 12: We then move onto EnCase Forensic to perform the image acquisition/hash value verification processes. We start out by creating a new case with these specified parameters.

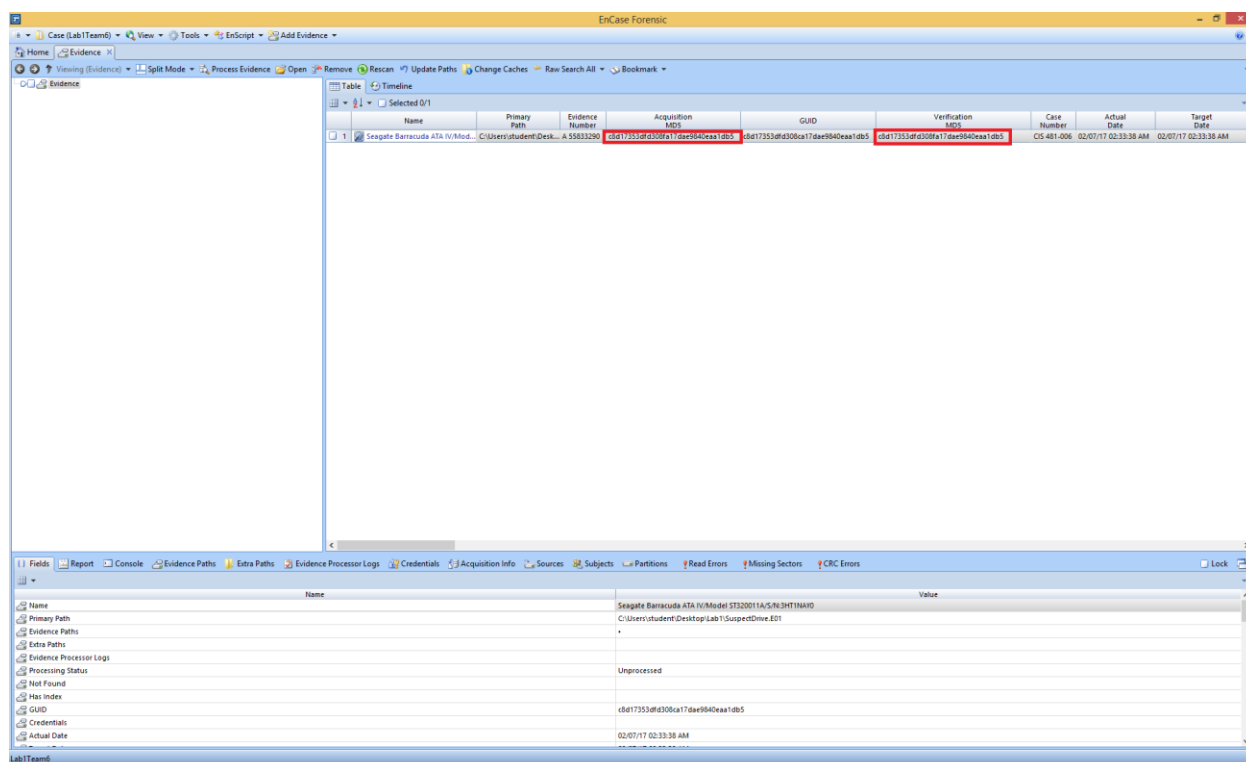


Photo 13: After dragging the image file onto EnCase it verifies the E01 file and then generates a verification MD5 hash value.

This value has the same MD5 hash value as the acquisition files (c8d17353dfd308fa17dae9840eaa1db5). It is very important that these two values match as it means that the bit stream image was not tampered with or altered between the time it was acquired and the time it was verified by EnCase.

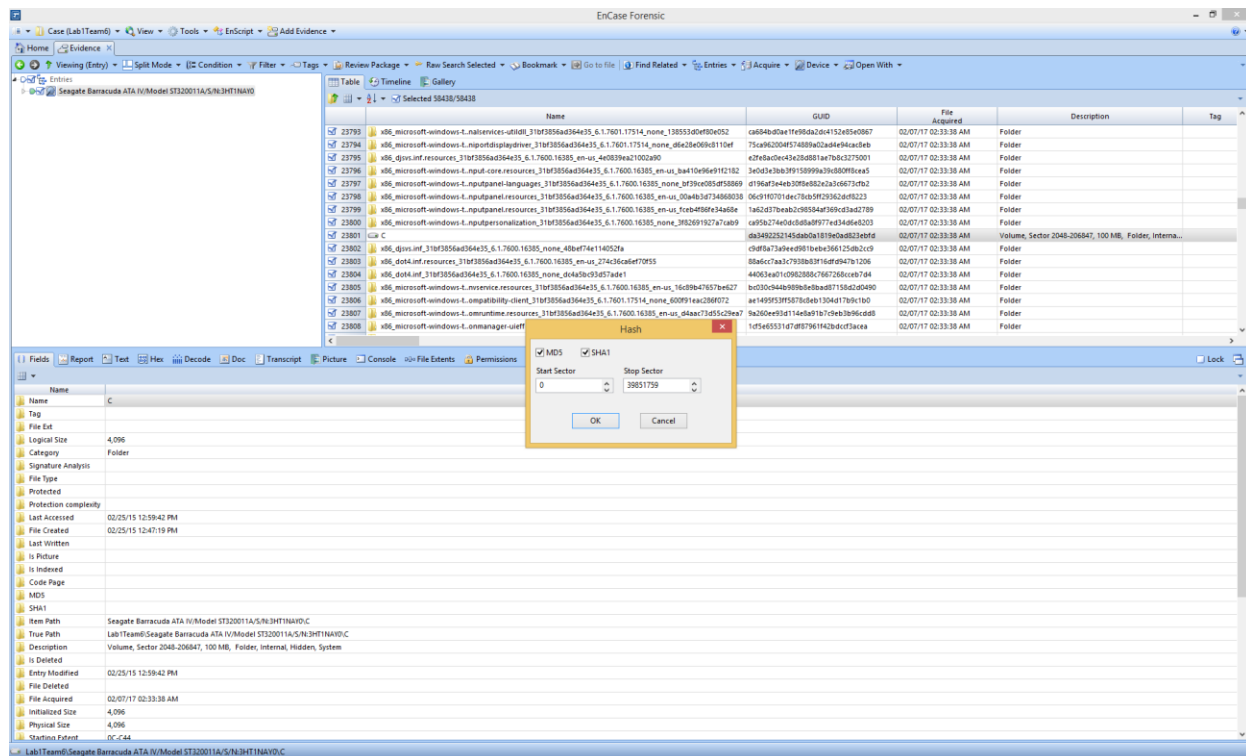


Photo 14: We then generate MD5 and SHA1 hash values from the physical drive, so we can compare it to the hash values that were generated by FTK Imager.

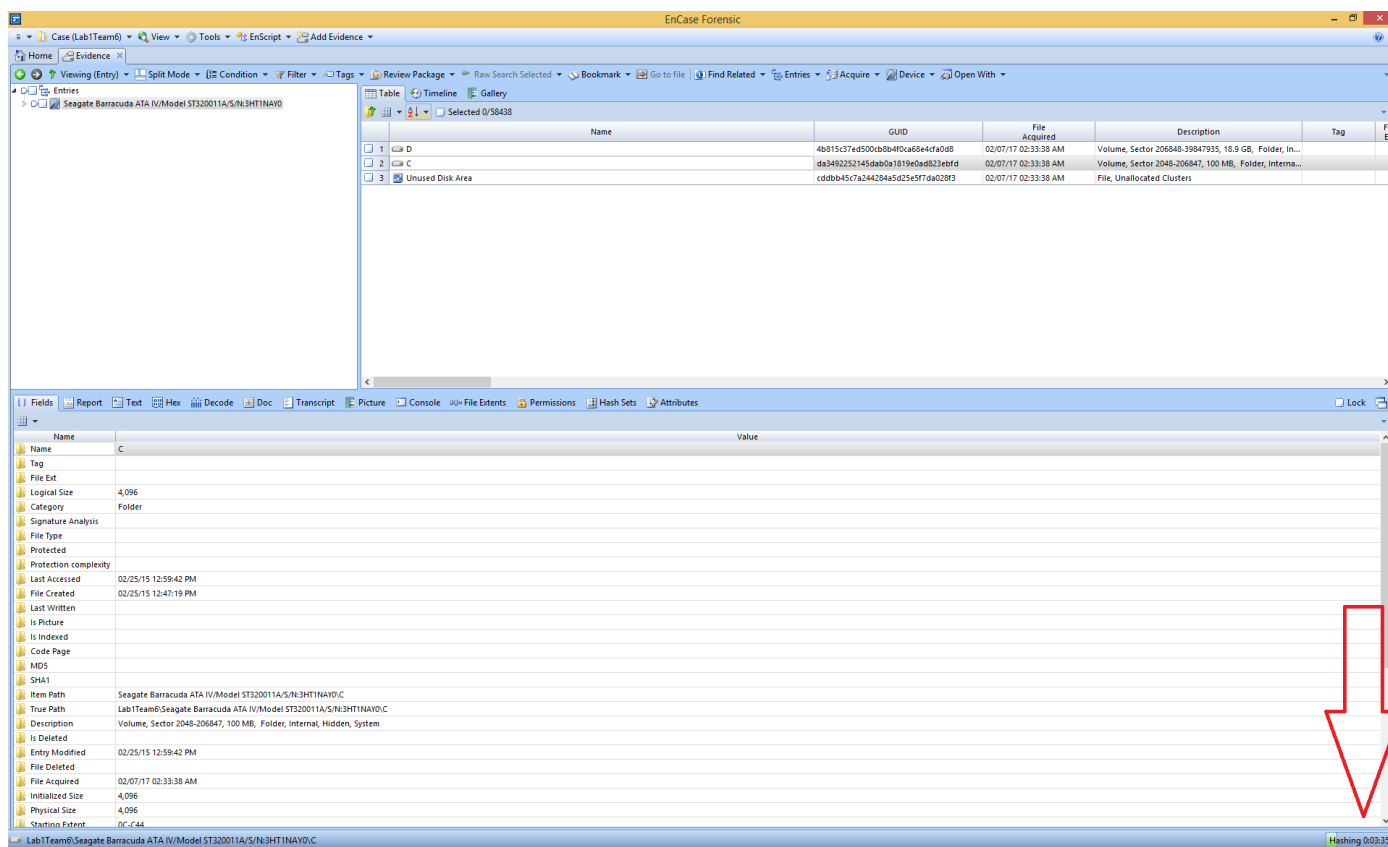


Photo 15: EnCase then starts to generate the hash values, note the arrow pointing to “Hashing”

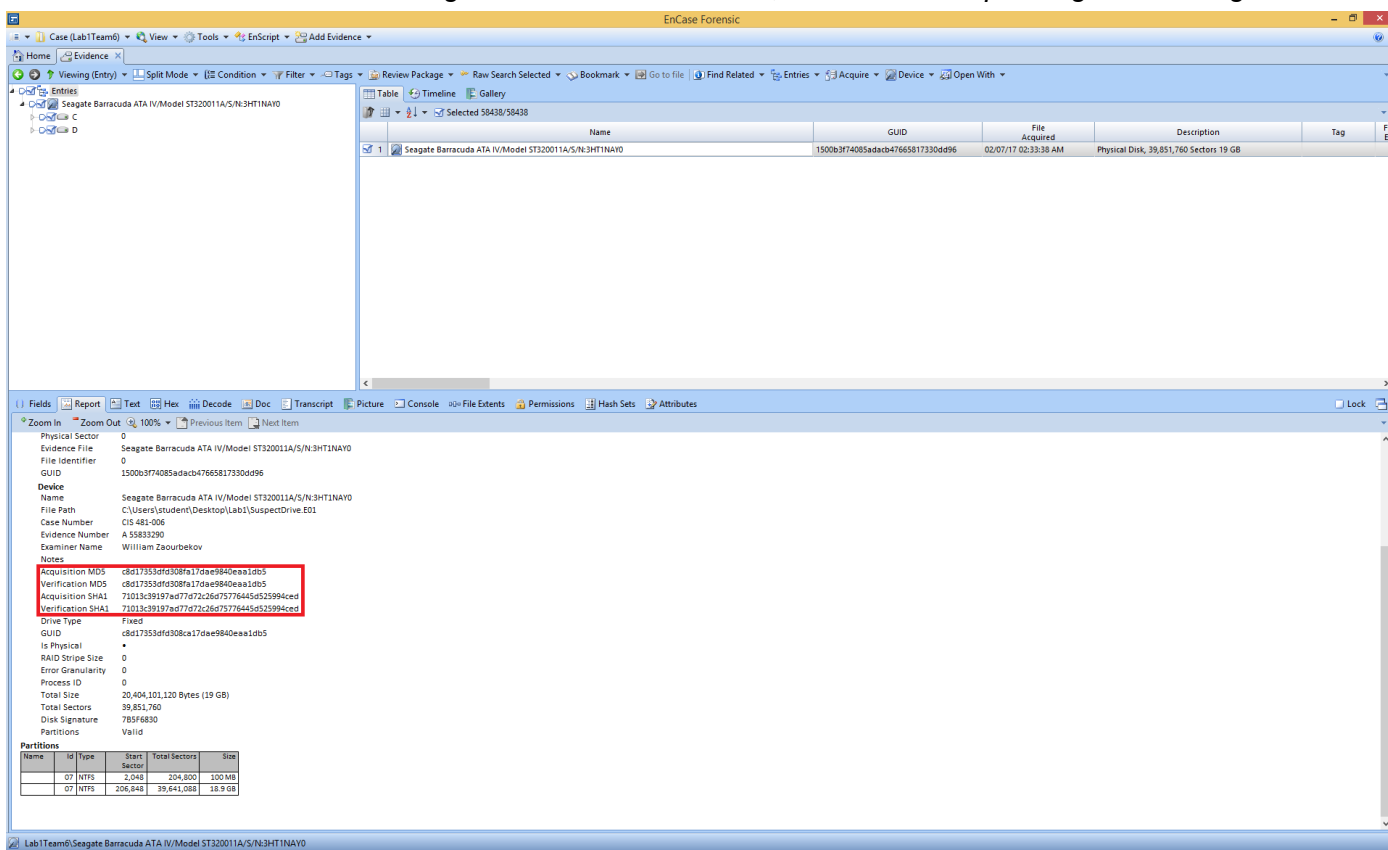


Photo 16: Hashing process is completed; these MD5 and SHA-1 hash values are then generated

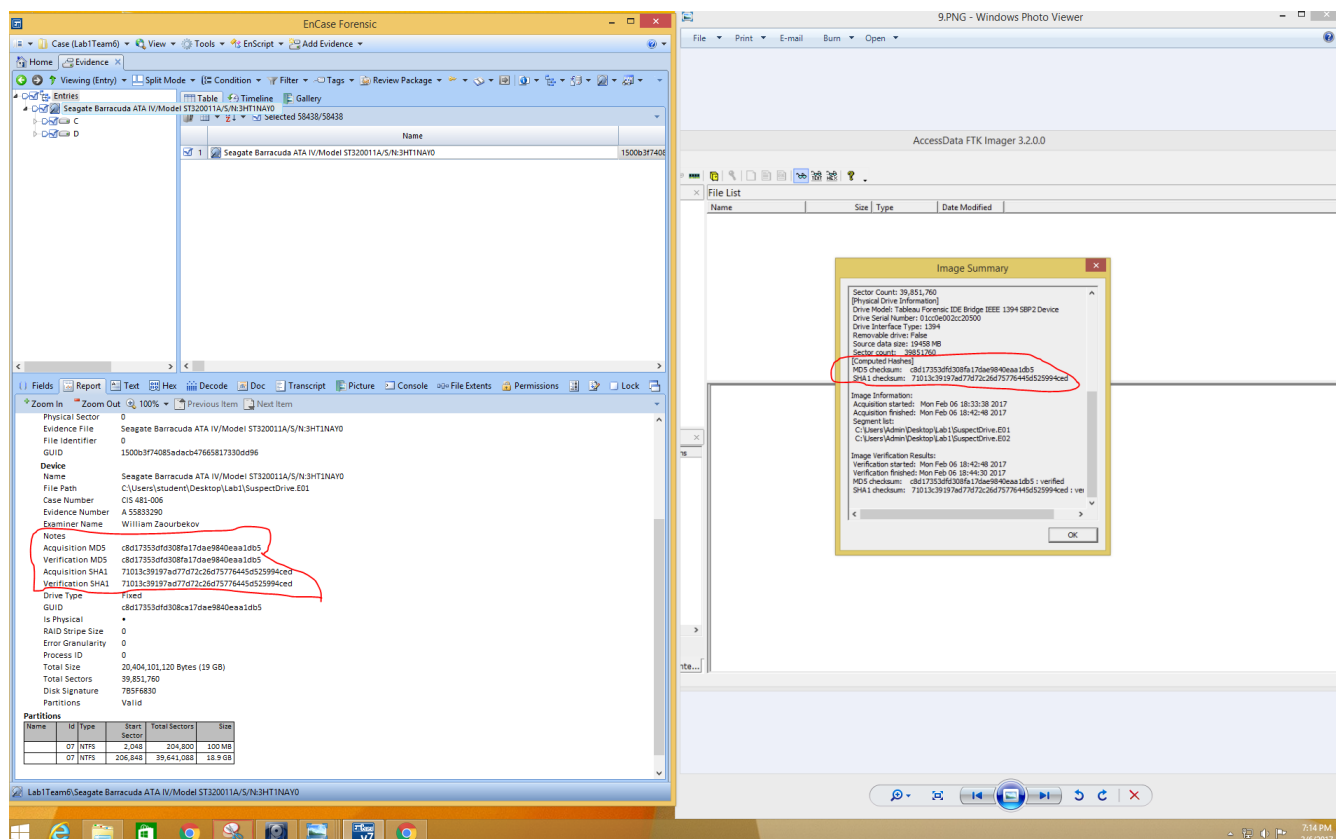


Photo 17: Comparing the hash values, and since they match, we can say now say that we have created a bit stream image of the evidence drive.

After comparing the hash values to FTK imager, we notice that they both match with each other, meaning that the image has not been tampered and therefore a correct copy of the physical drive. This means that the image can be provided as admissible evidence in court.

Preparing the Evidence for Release

After completing our hash validation, we proceeded to carefully disassemble our set up from *Photo 6*, placed the hard drive into its original zip lock bag and sealed it. We then had Lam fill out the evidence bag with the proper and sufficient information, enough to ensure that the evidence would not be misplaced, and is easily identifiable. *Photos 18, 19, & 20* below shows the HDD & evidence bag side by side, the receipt of the evidence bag in one picture, and the last shows a precisely placed HDD in a way to see easily see the serial number within the post-sealed bag. The receipt was then safely stored.



Photo 18: Original HDD in its bagging, filled out evidence bag & a phone for Scale & the time Stamp.

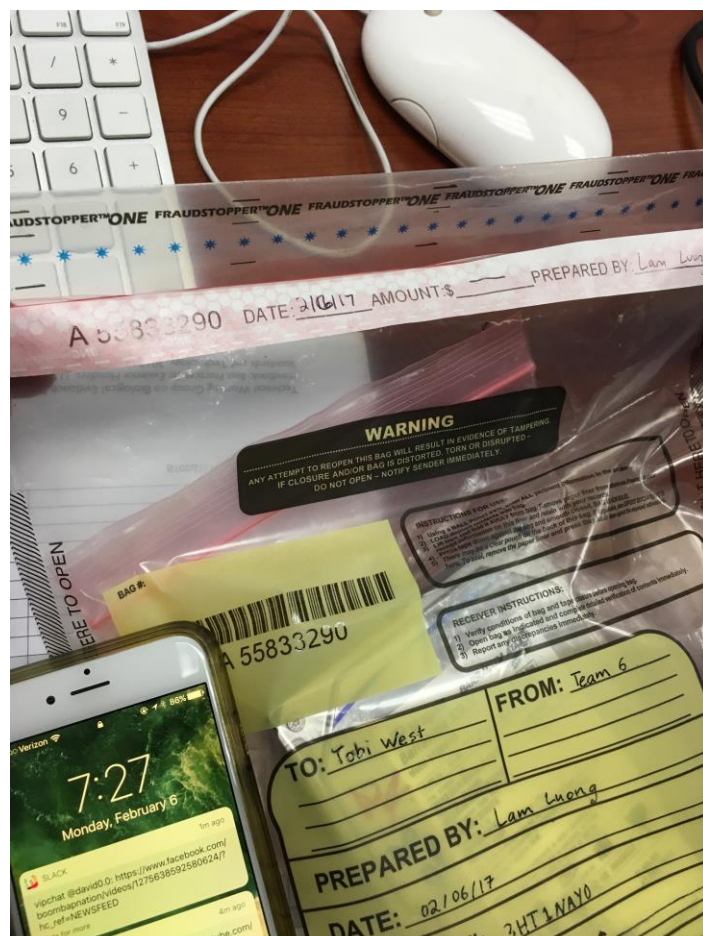


Photo 19: Receipt seal & phone for the time stamp.

WARNING
ANY ATTEMPT TO REOPEN THIS BAG WILL RESULT IN EVIDENCE OF TAMPERING.
IF CLOSURE AND/OR BAG IS DISTORTED, TORN OR DISRUPTED -
DO NOT OPEN - NOTIFY SENDER IMMEDIATELY.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:
1) Using a BALL POINT PEN, enter ALL pertinent information in the area below.
2) LOAD deposit contents into bag. Remove paper liner from adhesive area. Remove, enter receipt information on this liner and retain with your records. BAG IS NOW SEALED.
3) Lift tape and fold it AWAY from bag and retain with your records. If applicable, place DEPOSIT DOCUMENTS
4) Press tape down against the bag and smooth closed. If applicable, place DEPOSIT DOCUMENTS
5) There may be a clear pouch on the back of this bag. If applicable, place the plastic down against the adhesive.
To seal, remove the paper liner and press the plastic down against the adhesive.

RECEIVER INSTRUCTIONS:
1) Verify conditions of bag and tape closure before opening bag.
2) Open bag as indicated and complete detailed verification of contents immediately.
3) Report any discrepancies immediately.

SERIAL NUMBER: 3HT1NAY0

TO: Tobi West

FROM: Team 6

PREPARED BY: Lam Luong

DATE: 02/06/17

ACCOUNT #: 3HT1NAY0

DECLARED AMOUNT: \$

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Seagate Barracuda ATA IV
ST320011A

Photo 20: Hard Drive sealed within the evidence bag with the serial # visible to prove the authenticity of the hard drive within the bag.

Releasing the Evidence

The next step was to place the evidence back in the locker for safekeeping. We were assigned the locker labeled as "Team 6" by the evidence locker supervisor. We were instructed that the person who received the evidence was not named Tobi West, but rather a generic evidence locker supervisor person, and so we had that person sign off on receiving the evidence we provided (*Photo 21*). Then, we asked the supervisor to watch us transfer custody of the evidence from our hands to the locker labeled "Team 6." (*Photo 22*). Lastly, we locked up the evidence locker (*Photo 23*), and the proper process for the chain of custody was completed.

Property Record Number:

Anywhere Police Department
EVIDENCE CHAIN OF CUSTODY TRACKING FORM

Case Number: CIS 481-006 Offense: Unknown
 Submitting Officer: (Name/ID#) Professor Tobi West
 Victim: Unknown
 Suspect: Bob Hacker
 Date/Time Seized: 6:10 PM 12/16/17 Location of Seizure: Cal Poly Pomona

Description of Evidence		
Item #	Quantity	Description of Item (Model, Serial #, Condition, Marks, Scratches)
1	1	Seagate Barracuda ATA IV, Model: ST320011A, Serial #: 314T1NAY0, Condition: Working

Chain of Custody				
Item #	Date/Time	Released by (Signature & ID#)	Received by (Signature & ID#)	Comments/Location
1	6:15 PM 12/16/17	Tobi West	Team 6	CIS Lab, Workstation 6
1	7:33 PM 12/16/17	Team 6	Evidence Locker Supervisor	Stored in CIS Lab locker 6

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Photo 21: Chain of custody form documenting the transfer of the evidence from Team 6 to the evidence locker supervisor.

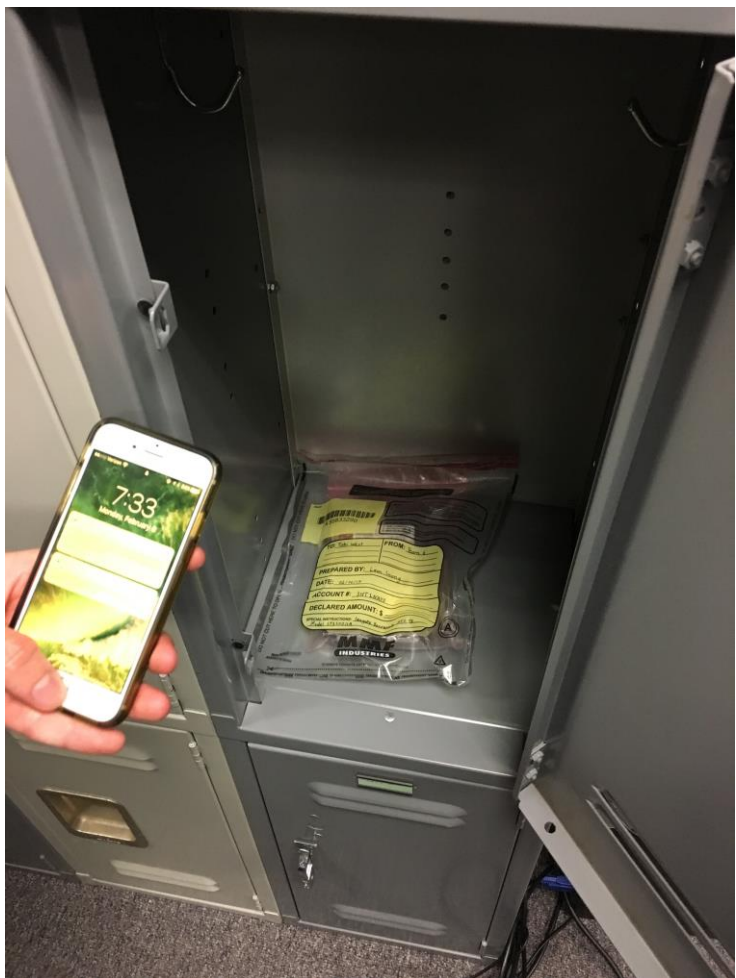


Photo 22: Placing the Evidence within the locker and the time stamp.



Photo 23: Locking up the evidence locker labeled Team 6.

Executive Summary

The process of creating an exact bit for bit copy of the hard drive began with the critically important step of documenting the chain of custody form in detail during the acquisition of the evidence. To have not done so correctly at the acquisition and release of the evidence would be a violation of the chain of custody. Not only may the evidence become inadmissible by the judge, it may establish a basis for the opposing court representative to dismiss, refute, or even use the evidence against our case. We used a write blocker (a piece of hardware that prevents modification to the evidence storage device) alongside FTK Imager (software that creates an exact cloned copy of the storage device) and went through the steps frame by frame to make visible the process in which we cloned the evidence. Afterwards, we used EnCase (software that compares 2 storage devices to ensure they are the same) to authenticate the integrity of our cloned copy of the evidence drive, again frame by frame to increase visibility and to allow easy replicability should our process be disputed. Once we knew the bit stream image was court admissible, we created a master copy and restricted access to it just in case we make a blunder in our analysis process so we will have a backup to fall back to. We were finished creating the copy and no longer had a need to hold onto the evidence so we followed the chain of custody in transferring the device back into the evidence locker and had it signed off, thus properly releasing the evidence from our custody.

Glossary

Hard Disk Drive (HDD) / Hard Drive / Disk Drive – A storage device used by a computer.

Bit Stream Image / Bit-by-bit Image – An exact cloned copy of a disk drive that is admissible in court.

Chain of Custody (CoC) – Refers to the chronological documentation or paper trail, showing the seizure, custody, control, transfer, analysis, and disposition of physical or electronic evidence.

Write Blocker – Are devices that allow acquisition of information on a drive without creating the possibility of accidentally damaging the drive contents. They do this by allowing read commands to pass but by blocking write commands, hence their name.

FTK Imager – A software used to create the bit stream image.

MD5 – A cryptographic hash (128 bits) that is used in this case to check the integrity of files.

SHA1 – A cryptographic hash (160 bits) that is used in this case to check the integrity of files.

Checksum – A 32 character hexadecimal number computed on a file. If two files have the same check sum, they are the same.

EnCase Forensic – A software used to validate the integrity of the bit stream image vs the original disk drive.

Evidence Bag Receipt

Team Contract

Project Name: CIS 481 Lab 1

Project Team Members Names and Sign-off:

Name	Sign-off on Team Contract
Lam Luong	
Sam Zheng	
William Zaourbekov	
Lima Sim	

Code of Conduct: As a project team, we will:

- Work together to complete the Forensics Project
- Keep all of the team members informed on project assignments and developments
- Respect other team members and their ideas

Participation: We will:

- Actively provide our input for the project
- Distribute project work equally among team members
- Provide quality work to complete the project
- Inform the team prior to an absence

Communication: We will:

- Make sure each team member is up to date with project status
- Actively discuss open issues
- Use email and group meetings as means of communication
- Inform each other of any problems encountered

Problem Solving: We will:

- Encourage team members to provide their view
- Make use of possible solutions brought up by team members
- Use positive attitude to benefit the team