Madhesh M A

231901029

Aim: To study the fundamentals of computer forensics and explore various forensic tools used for digital investigations.

Tools:

- Autopsy (open-source forensic analysis tool)
- FTK Imager (forensic imaging)
- Wireshark (network analysis)
- Volatility (memory forensics)

Algorithm (High-level):

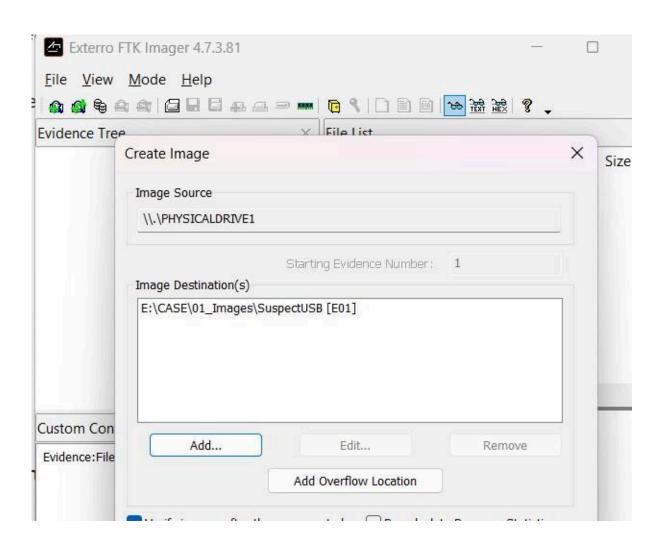
- 1. Identify the different categories of forensic tools.
- 2. Install and set up the chosen forensic tools on lab systems.
- 3. Perform a sample operation with each tool:
 - Imaging a drive with FTK Imager.
 - Analyzing deleted files and metadata in Autopsy.
 - Capturing packets with Wireshark.
 - Analyzing RAM dump with Volatility.
- 4. Document the findings with screenshots and observations.

Procedure:

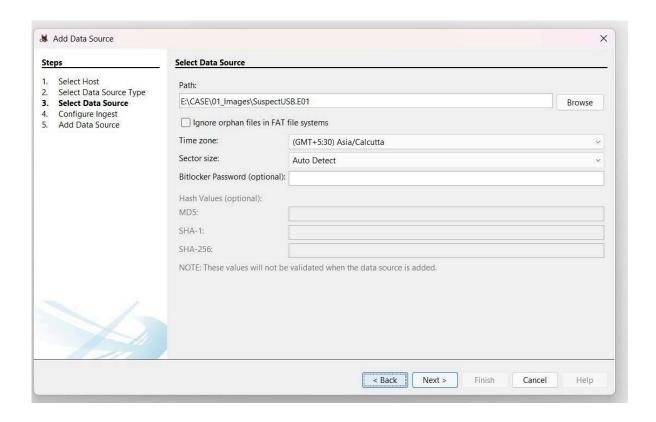
- 1. Create a lab case folder /CaseID/ForensicTools/.
- 2. Launch **FTK Imager** \rightarrow acquire an image of a removable drive \rightarrow save hash log.
- 3. Open **Autopsy** \rightarrow create a new case \rightarrow add the acquired image \rightarrow run ingest modules.

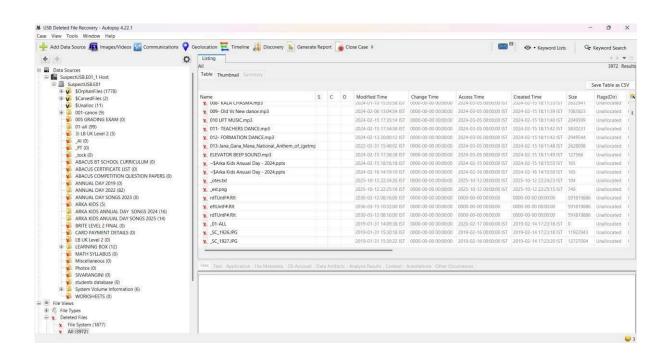
- 4. Install and open **Wireshark** \rightarrow capture live traffic for 2–3 minutes \rightarrow apply filters for http or dns.
- 5. Open **Volatility** \rightarrow run pslist on a sample memory image \rightarrow export process list.
- 6. Record observations: screenshots of tool dashboards, outputs, and key findings.

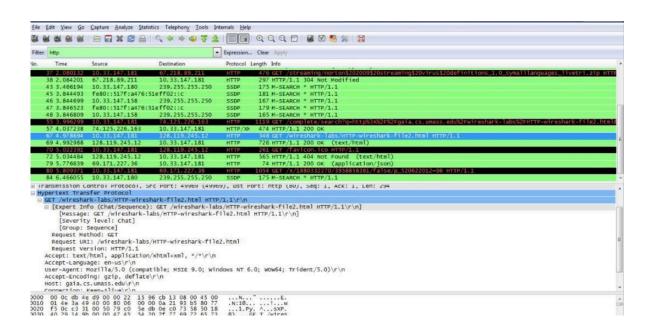
Output:











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Conclusion:

The exercise successfully introduced core concepts of computer forensics and provided hands-on familiarity with key tools across the investigation lifecycle. We created a verified disk image with FTK Imager, examined artifacts and deleted data in Autopsy, captured and filtered live network traffic in Wireshark, and extracted volatile evidence from a memory image using Volatility—each step documented with hashes, screenshots, and observations. Together, these activities demonstrated a defensible workflow for acquiring, analyzing, and reporting digital evidence that can be replicated in future investigations.