

Coursework Digital Forensics Essentials &
Incident response
Module code M2G421123
Session: 2015/2016, 1st Diet

Matthias Seifert
Student ID: S1540546
mseife200@caledonian.ac.uk

December 10, 2015

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Chapter 1

Contemporaneous Notes

The contemporaneous notes for this coursework are included in the zip file (see `coursework.Notes`).

Chapter 2

Self-reflection

Doing the coursework has shown me that it is very important to really know the tools one is working with. Not only is it very time consuming if you have to find out how a tool works when applying it to a system under investigation but it also has a influence on the outcome of the investigation. The more steps have to be repeated during the investigation the more errors may happen especially if a lot of trial-and-error is involved.

In order to achieve better results faster some (maybe self developed) tools come in handy. Especially when hash values have to be created a bash shell script like `createhashes <file>` that creates both md5 and SHA1 and saves both of them to a predefined directory in the names `<filename>.sha1` and `<filename>.md5` or a script comparing the file extensions and the internal file information would be a big help. Comparing file extensions and internal file information manually may work for about 70 files but is not possible for a larger amount of files.

The next point is that the accuracy of the case notes created is unbalanced in my opinion. While some steps like the creation of hash values for the downloaded zip file and the files contained may not be necessary in the scope of this coursework but are described very precisely a more precise description of the use of Autopsy would be necessary.

Finally the contents of both allocated and deleted data on the given virtual disk have not been examined at all. While I am not entirely sure if this was part of the coursework this would definitely be part of a real investigation.

Appendices

Appendix A

List of files included in the .zip archive

Table A.1: Files included in the coursework

Filename	Description
acquisition.script	acquisition.script as mentioned in the case notes
acquisition.script.clean	acquisition.script without escape sequences.
coursework.Notes	The case notes written with Forensic casenotes
deletedFiles_files/	Additional files to display deletedFiles.html
deletedFiles.html	Website containing information about deleted files from Autopsy
fileHash.list	md5 hash values of all allocated files on the given virtual disk.
fileHash.list.md5	md5 hash of fileHash.list
fileInformation.list	The information for each allocated file on the given virtual disk.
fileInformation.list.md5	s md5 hash of fileInformation.list
files.list	The list of all files allocated files on the given virtual disk.
files.list.md5	md5 hash of files.list
la.1.script	la.1.script as mentioned in the case notes
la.1.script.md5	md5 hash of la.1.script
<i>To be continued on the next page</i>	

Files included in the coursework – continuation

Filename	Description
la.2.script	la.2.script as mentioned in the case notes
la.2.script.md5	md5 hash of la.2.script
la.3.script	la.3.script as mentioned in the case notes
la.3.script.md5	md5 hash of la.3.script
mounting.script	mounting.script as mentioned in the case notes
mounting.script.clean	mounting.script without escape sequences
mounting.script.md5	md5 hash of mounting.script
restoredHashes.list	List of the md5 hash values of the restored file
restoredHashes.list.md5	The md5 hash of restoredHashes.list
sdb1.md5	md5 hash of /dev/sdb1
sdb1.sha1	SHA1 hash of /dev/sdb1
timeline.txt	The time line of fiole activity as retrieved from Autopsy.
timeline.txt.md5	md5 hash of timeline.txt