

## Module 04: Data Acquisition and Duplication

### Lab Scenario

Electronic evidence is fragile by nature and it can be very easily modified, destroyed, or damaged. Even the boot process can delete temporary files, modify stamps, or alter other data to writing data, and then create new files to the drive using the boot process.

### Lab Objectives

The objective of this lab is to help students learn to monitor a system remotely and to extract hidden text strings and other tasks that include:

- Creating a dd image file
- Converting image file to a bootable virtual machine
- Memory acquisition (RAM) on Windows workstation
- Extracting the hidden content from hard drives

### Overview of Data Acquisition and Duplication

Data acquisition is the process of gathering evidence or information. This can be done by using established methods to acquire data from a suspected storage media in order to get access to information about the crime or other incident and potentially using that data as evidence to convict a suspect.

Data duplication is a critical process in any computer forensic investigation. Many duplication tools are available that can duplicate or create a copy of data. To start an investigation, a person who wants to examine data on a suspect machine needs to create an image of the disk.

### Lab Tasks

Recommended labs to assist you in data acquisition and duplication:

- Creating a dd image of a system drive
- Converting acquired image file to a bootable virtual machine
- Acquiring RAM from Windows workstation
- Viewing contents of forensic image file

## Lab 1: Creating a dd Image of a System Drive

### Lab Scenario

Jason, a forensics investigator, is appointed to examine a suspect's computer. Examining suspect's machine directly would result in loss of data and hence it is necessary to generate a forensic copy/image of the suspect machine's hard disk. The investigator needs to perform forensic examination on the acquired evidence file and retrieve potential artifacts that could be useful for investigation.

As a forensics investigator, you need to know how to create a dd image of any system drive.

### Lab Objectives

A dd image is a disk image file that is a bit-by-bit copy of hard disk or a partition of a disk that includes all the files/folders, deleted files, files left in slack space and unallocated space, file system information, etc.

The objective of this lab is to help you understand how to create a dd image of system drive using dd tool in Windows OS.

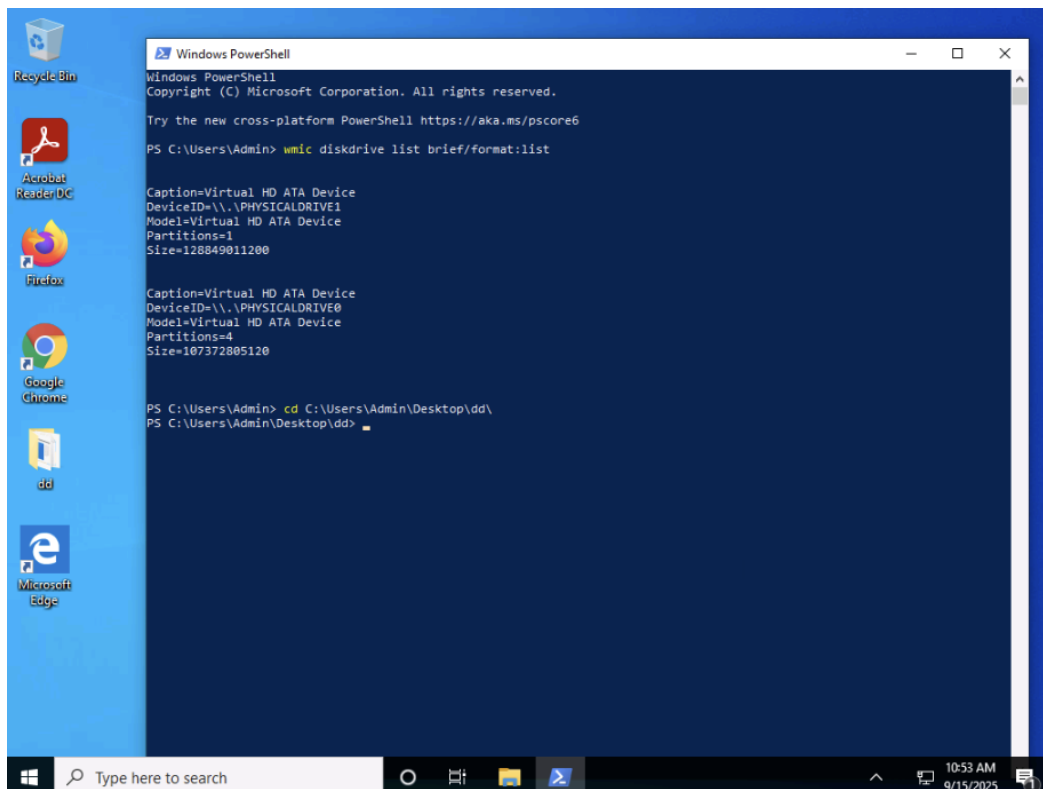
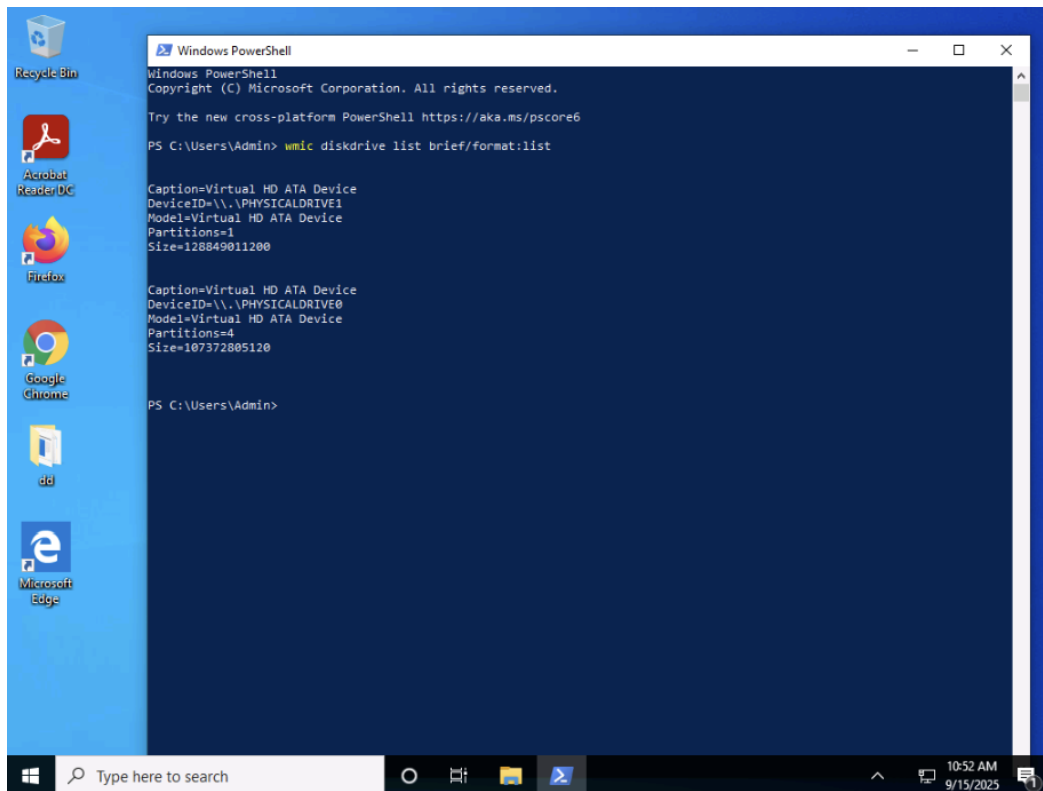
### Overview of the Lab

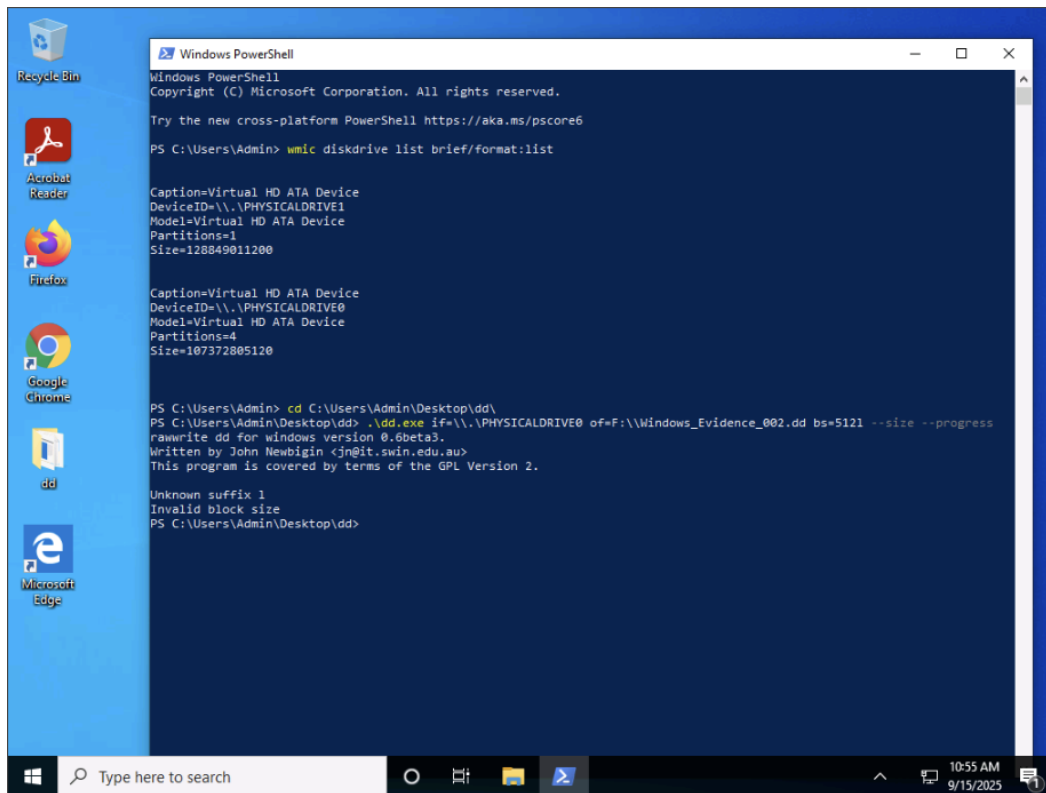
This lab familiarizes you with physical acquisition of a system drive/disk using the dd command.

Physical acquisition of the suspect disk/drive usually requires an external data storage medium, such as a hard disk or a pen drive, to collect the image generated during physical acquisition process.

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In this lab, we will be performing physical acquisition of the primary disk/internal disk (**PHYSICALDRIVE0**) of the Windows 10 virtual machine using **dd** command. Acquisition usually requires an external data storage device for storing the image. However, since this is a lab environment, we are using a secondary physical disk (**PHYSICALDRIVE1**, created during the lab setup) assuming it as an external storage device to store the image. Therefore, we will be treating this disk as an external disk for this lab.





The dd.exe command was used to create a physical image of PHYSICALDRIVE0. The tool processed the disk, but some sectors could not be read, resulting in an error for those sectors. The image was still created and can be used for further forensic analysis.

## Lab 2: Converting Acquired Image File to a Bootable Virtual Machine

### Lab Scenario

During an investigation, the investigator needs to perform data acquisition on the suspect's machine in a forensically sound manner. In some cases, the investigator might need to create a live environment of the machine and boot the forensically acquired image file into the virtual machine so that the investigator can extract additional artifacts that may not have been discovered in the static analysis. These additional artifacts might serve as an evidence and help the investigator solve the case.

As a forensic investigator, you should know how to convert an acquired image file to a bootable virtual machine.

### Lab Objectives

A virtual machine runs a dedicated OS on shared physical hardware resources and provides the same functionality as an actual computer.

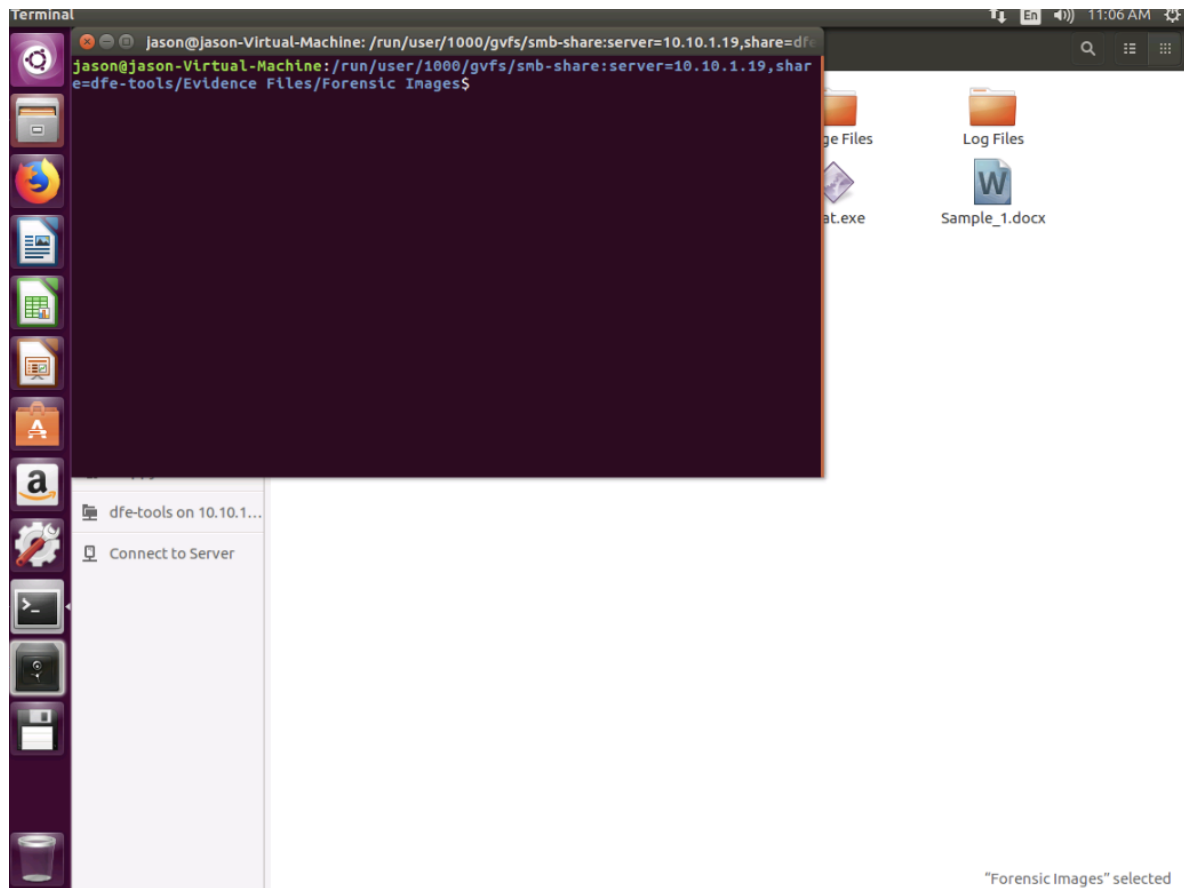
The objective of this lab is to help you understand how to convert an acquired image file to a bootable virtual machine.

## Overview of the Lab

In the lab **Creating a dd Image of a System Drive**, we saw how to create a dd image of an entire disk. In this lab, we shall demonstrate how to convert that disk into a bootable virtual machine in order to launch the virtual machine and examine artifacts.

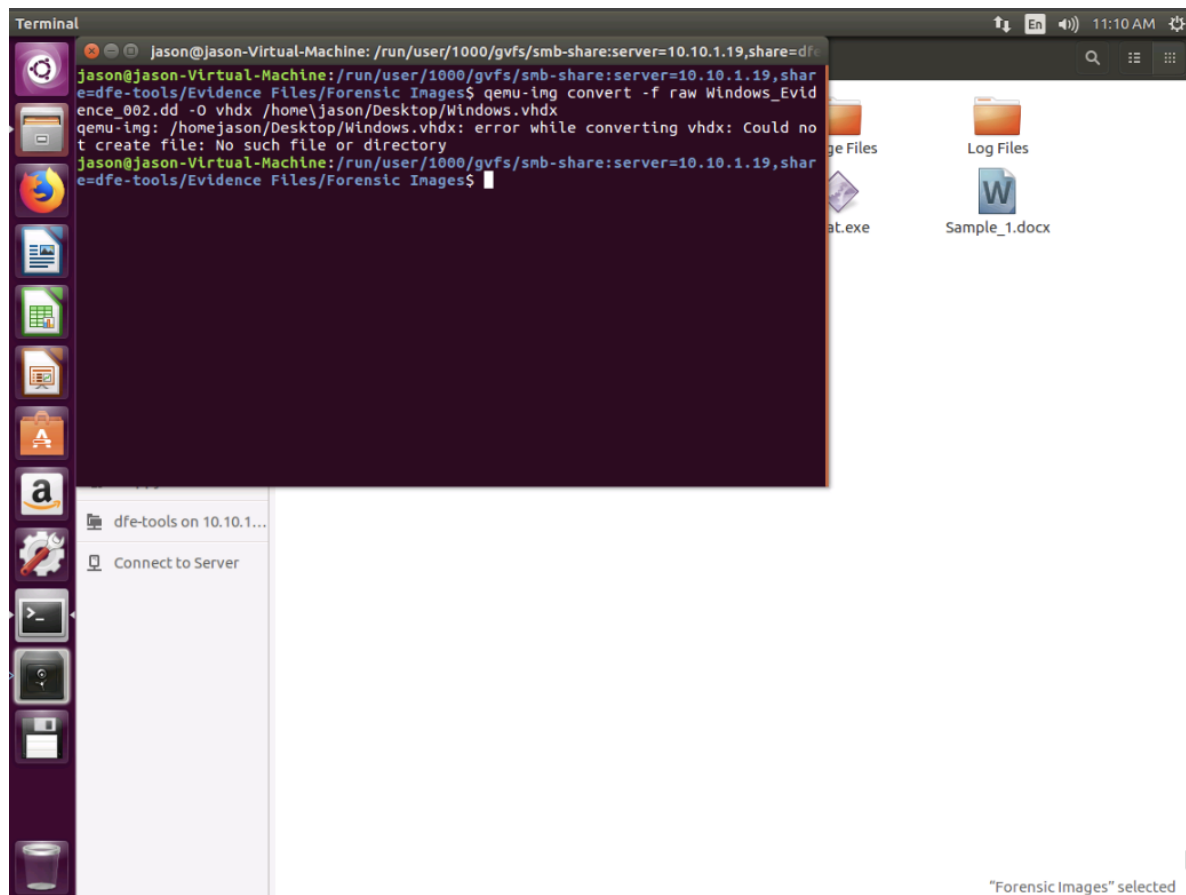
```
jason@jason-Virtual-Machine: ~
jason@jason-Virtual-Machine:~$ sudo apt-get install -y qemu-utils
[sudo] password for jason:
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  libaio1 libboost-random1.58.0 libboost-thread1.58.0 libiscsi2 librados2
  librbd1 qemu-block-extra sharutils
Suggested packages:
  debootstrap bsd-mailx | mailx
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  libaio1 libboost-random1.58.0 libboost-thread1.58.0 libiscsi2 librados2
  librbd1 qemu-block-extra qemu-utils sharutils
0 upgraded, 9 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
Need to get 4,576 kB of archives.
After this operation, 17.5 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 libiscsi2 amd64 1.12.0-2 [51.5 kB]
Get:2 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 libaio1 amd64 0.3.110-2 [6,356 B]
Get:3 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 libboost-random1.58.0 amd64 1.58.0+dfsg-5ubuntu3 [11.7 kB]
Get:4 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 libboost-thread1.58.0 amd64 1.58.0+dfsg-5ubuntu3 [47.0 kB]
Get:5 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 librados2 amd64 10.1.2-0ubuntu1 [1,631 kB]
Get:6 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 librbd1 amd64 10.1.2-0ubuntu1 [2,070 kB]
Get:7 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 qemu-block-extra amd64 1:2.5+dfsg-5ubuntu10 [30.7 kB]
Get:8 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 qemu-utils amd64 1:2.5+dfsg-5ubuntu10 [579 kB]
Get:9 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 sharutils amd64 1:4.15.2-1 [148 kB]
Fetched 4,576 kB in 0s (10.1 MB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package libiscsi2:amd64.
(Reading database ... 178437 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../libiscsi2_1.12.0-2_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libiscsi2:amd64 (1.12.0-2) ...
Selecting previously unselected package libaio1:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../libaio1_0.3.110-2_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libaio1:amd64 (0.3.110-2) ...
Selecting previously unselected package libboost-random1.58.0:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../libboost-random1.58.0_1.58.0+dfsg-5ubuntu3_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libboost-random1.58.0:amd64 (1.58.0+dfsg-5ubuntu3) ...
Selecting previously unselected package libboost-thread1.58.0:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../libboost-thread1.58.0_1.58.0+dfsg-5ubuntu3_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libboost-thread1.58.0:amd64 (1.58.0+dfsg-5ubuntu3) ...
Selecting previously unselected package librados2.
Preparing to unpack .../librados2_10.1.2-0ubuntu1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking librados2 (10.1.2-0ubuntu1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package librbd1.
Preparing to unpack .../librbd1_10.1.2-0ubuntu1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking librbd1 (10.1.2-0ubuntu1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package qemu-block-extra:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../qemu-block-extra_1%3a2.5+dfsg-5ubuntu10_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking qemu-block-extra:amd64 (1:2.5+dfsg-5ubuntu10) ...
Selecting previously unselected package qemu-utils.
```

```
jason@jason-Virtual-Machine: ~
Get:4 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 libboost-thread1.58.0 amd64 1.58.0+dfsg-Subuntu3 [47.0 kB]
Get:5 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 librados2 amd64 10.1.2-0ubuntu1 [1,631 kB]
Get:6 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 librbd1 amd64 10.1.2-0ubuntu1 [2,070 kB]
Get:7 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 qemu-block-extra amd64 1:2.5+dfsg-Subuntu10 [30.7 kB]
Get:8 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 qemu-utils amd64 1:2.5+dfsg-Subuntu10 [579 kB]
Get:9 http://us.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 sharutils amd64 1:4.15.2-1 [148 kB]
Fetched 4,576 kB in 0s (10.1 MB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package libiscsi2:amd64.
(Reading database ... 178437 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../libiscsi2_1.12.0-2_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libiscsi2:amd64 (1.12.0-2) ...
Selecting previously unselected package libaio1:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../libaio1_0.3.110-2_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libaio1:amd64 (0.3.110-2) ...
Selecting previously unselected package libboost-random1.58.0:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../libboost-random1.58.0_1.58.0+dfsg-Subuntu3_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libboost-random1.58.0:amd64 (1.58.0+dfsg-Subuntu3) ...
Selecting previously unselected package libboost-thread1.58.0:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../libboost-thread1.58.0_1.58.0+dfsg-Subuntu3_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libboost-thread1.58.0:amd64 (1.58.0+dfsg-Subuntu3) ...
Selecting previously unselected package librados2.
Preparing to unpack .../librados2_10.1.2-0ubuntu1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking librados2 (10.1.2-0ubuntu1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package librbd1.
Preparing to unpack .../librbd1_10.1.2-0ubuntu1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking librbd1 (10.1.2-0ubuntu1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package qemu-block-extra:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../qemu-block-extra_1%3a2.5+dfsg-Subuntu10_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking qemu-block-extra:amd64 (1:2.5+dfsg-Subuntu10) ...
Selecting previously unselected package qemu-utils.
Preparing to unpack .../qemu-utils_1%3a2.5+dfsg-Subuntu10_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking qemu-utils (1:2.5+dfsg-Subuntu10) ...
Selecting previously unselected package sharutils.
Preparing to unpack .../sharutils_1%3a4.15.2-1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking sharutils (1:4.15.2-1) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.23-0ubuntu1) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.7.5-1) ...
Processing triggers for install-info (6.1.0-1) ...
Setting up libiscsi2:amd64 (1.12.0-2) ...
Setting up libaio1:amd64 (0.3.110-2) ...
Setting up libboost-random1.58.0:amd64 (1.58.0+dfsg-Subuntu3) ...
Setting up libboost-thread1.58.0:amd64 (1.58.0+dfsg-Subuntu3) ...
Setting up librados2 (10.1.2-0ubuntu1) ...
Setting up librbd1 (10.1.2-0ubuntu1) ...
Setting up qemu-block-extra:amd64 (1:2.5+dfsg-Subuntu10) ...
Setting up qemu-utils (1:2.5+dfsg-Subuntu10) ...
Setting up sharutils (1:4.15.2-1) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.23-0ubuntu1) ...
jason@jason-Virtual-Machine:~$
```



"Forensic Images" selected





Attempted to convert the physical disk image `Windows_Evidence_002.dd` to VHDX format using `qemu-img`. The conversion failed because the specified directory did not exist. This illustrates the steps for preparing images for Hyper-V virtualization.

### Lab 3: Acquiring RAM from Windows Workstations

#### Lab Scenario

James, a forensic investigator, is performing live analysis on a suspect's computer. In this process, the investigator needs to primarily capture the RAM dump of the machine as RAM contains volatile data that is lost when the machine loses power. In this scenario, the investigator performs RAM acquisition on Windows workstation.

To be an expert forensic investigator, one must understand how to acquire a RAM dump from Windows and Linux OSes.

#### Lab Objectives

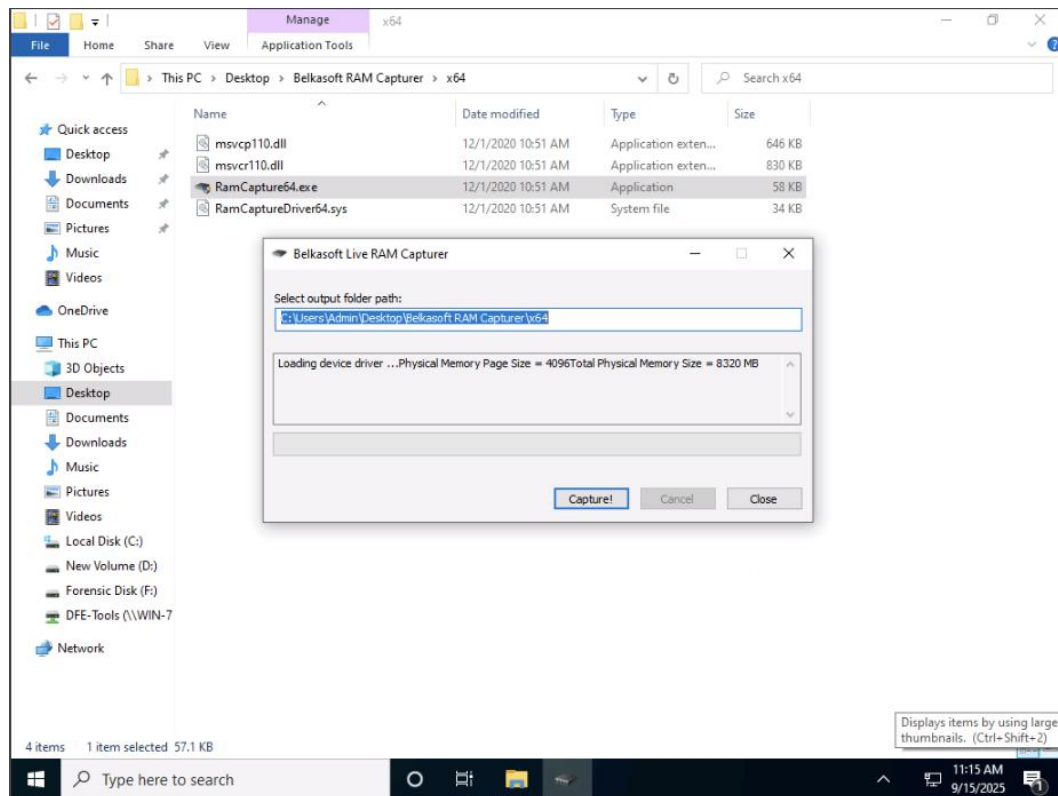
RAM (Random Access Memory) is a volatile-memory storage found in computing devices that temporarily holds the data your device needs to access.

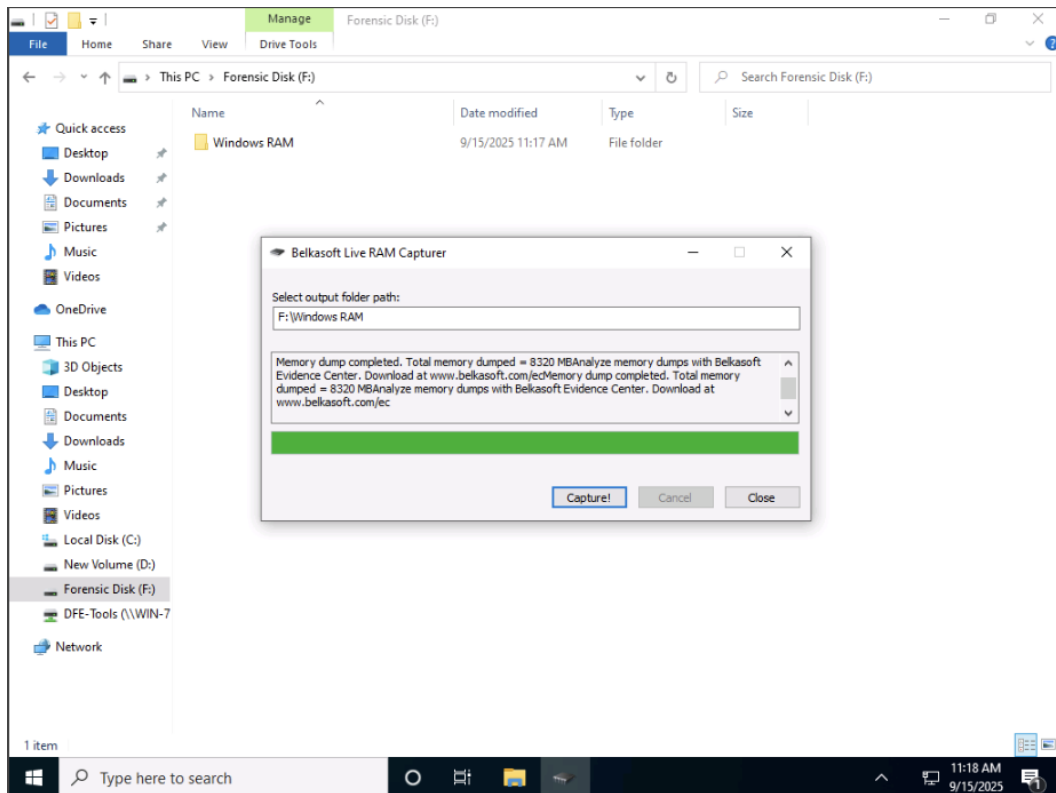
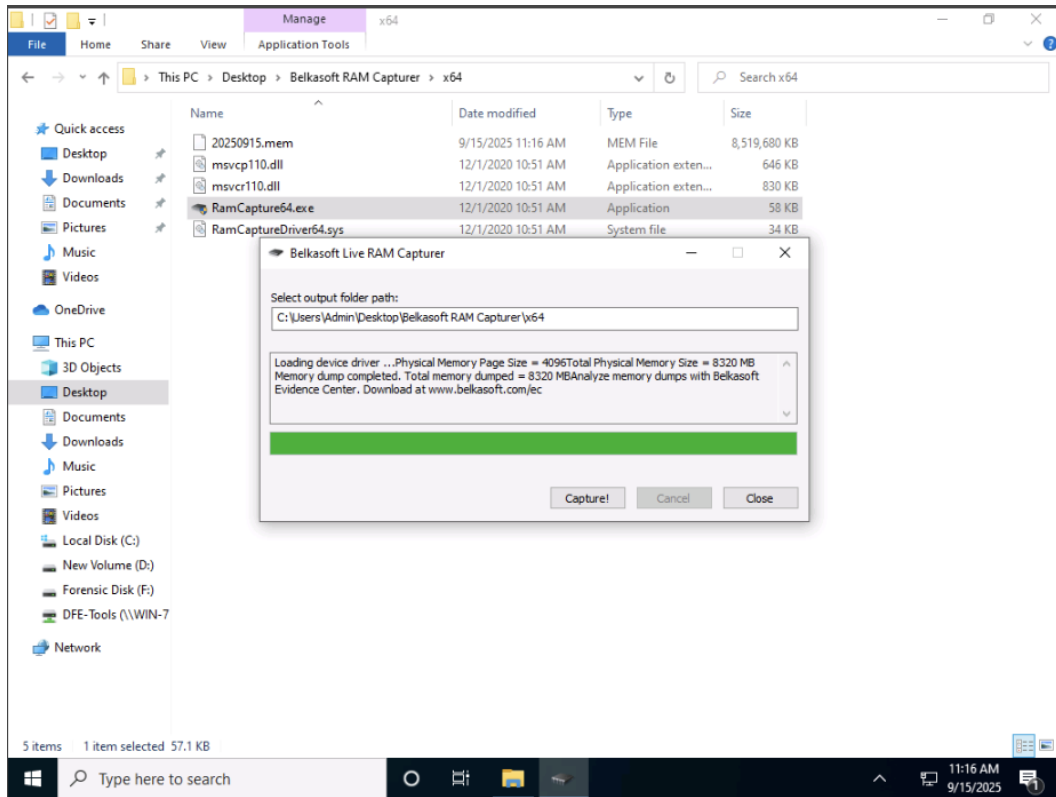


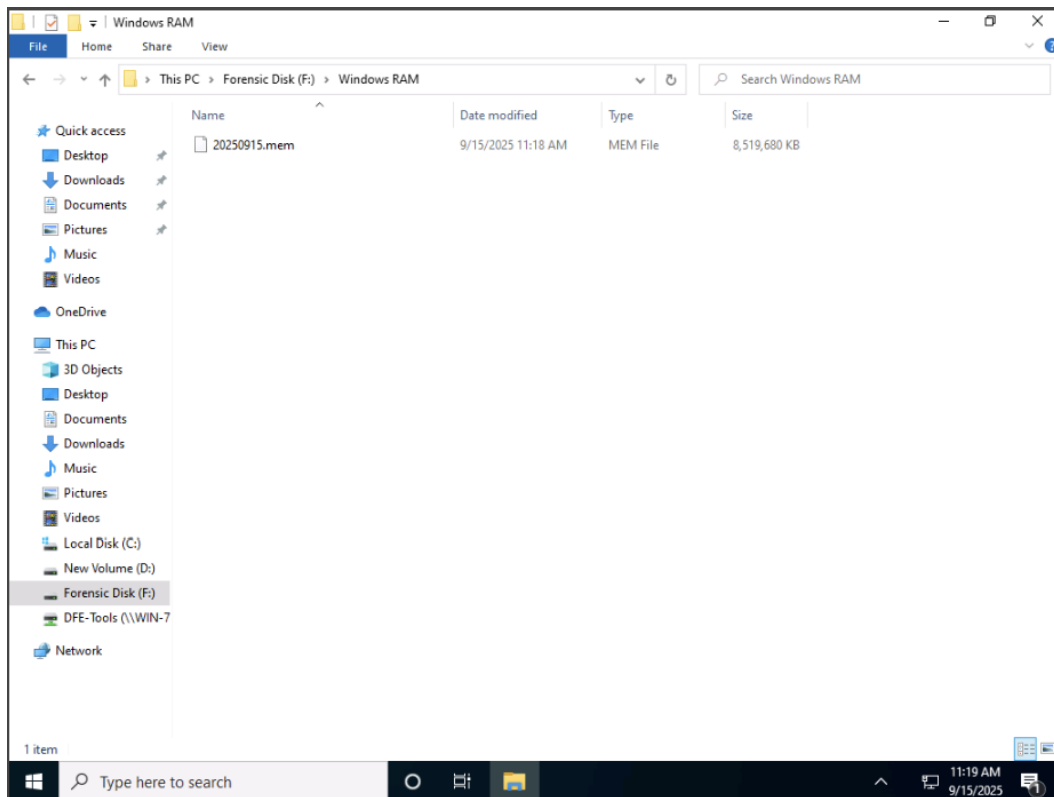
The objective of this lab is to help students learn how to perform RAM acquisition on Windows workstation.

## Overview of the Lab

This lab familiarizes you with the **Belkasoft RAM Capturer** tool, which helps perform RAM acquisition on Windows systems.







## Lab 4: Viewing Contents of Forensic Image File

### Lab Scenario

As part of investigation in an information theft case, senior investigator Alex has concluded scanning all the systems using the AccessData FTK Imager tool to know if the deleted files on the systems contain any information of evidentiary value. The tool saves the investigator's time as it eliminates the hectic process of recovering every deleted file from the system.

To be an expert forensic investigator, you must understand how to assess forensic images and collect the evidentiary data from those images.

### Lab Objectives

After acquiring the forensic image of the hard disk, the forensic investigator needs to preview the contents of the image file to see if it contains any evidence useful for investigation or any additional analysis is required.

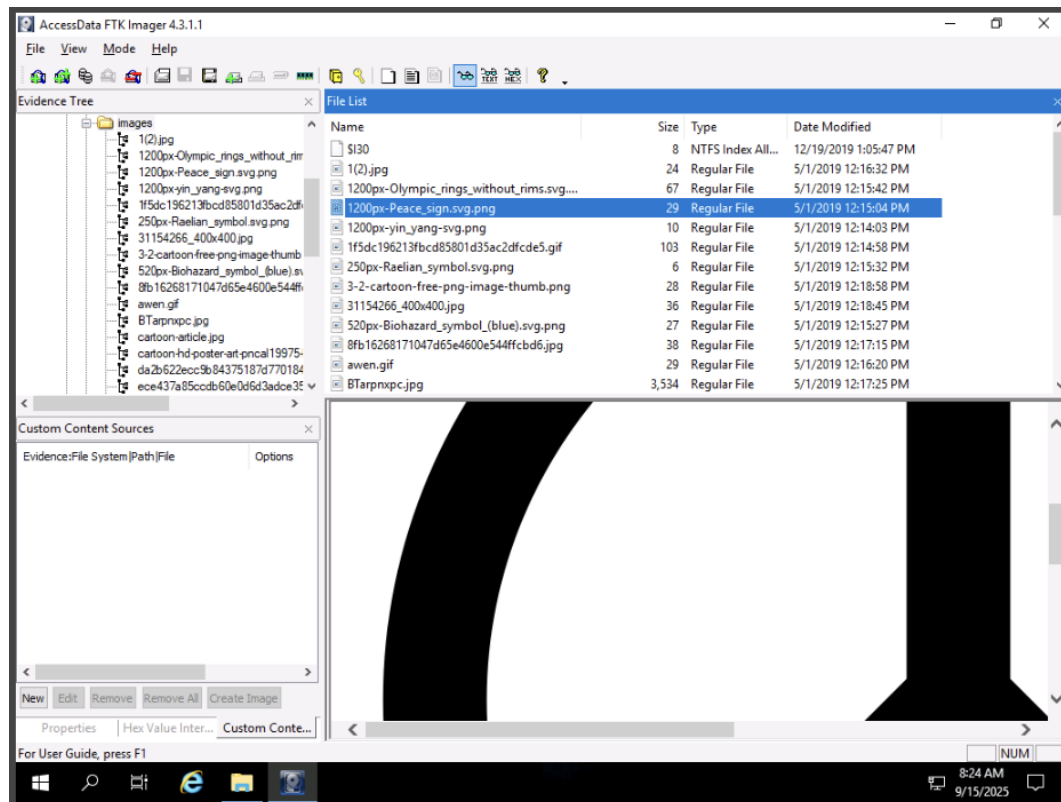
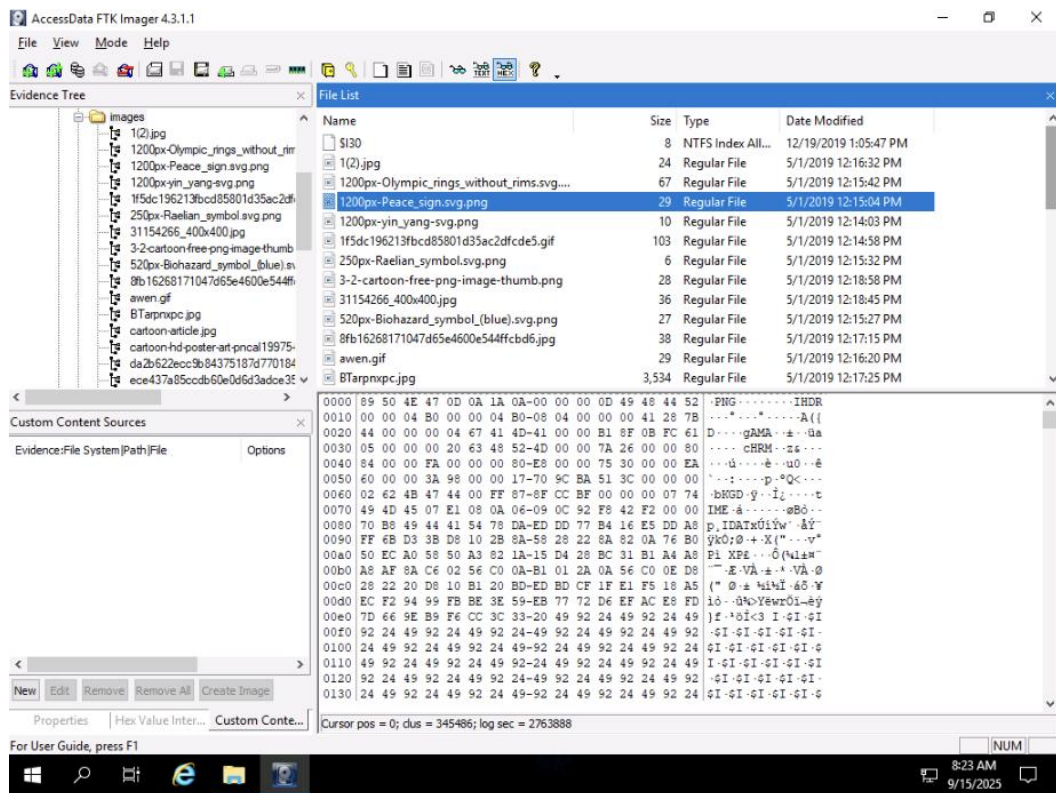
The objective of this lab is to help students learn how to use **AccessData FTK Imager** for viewing forensics images.

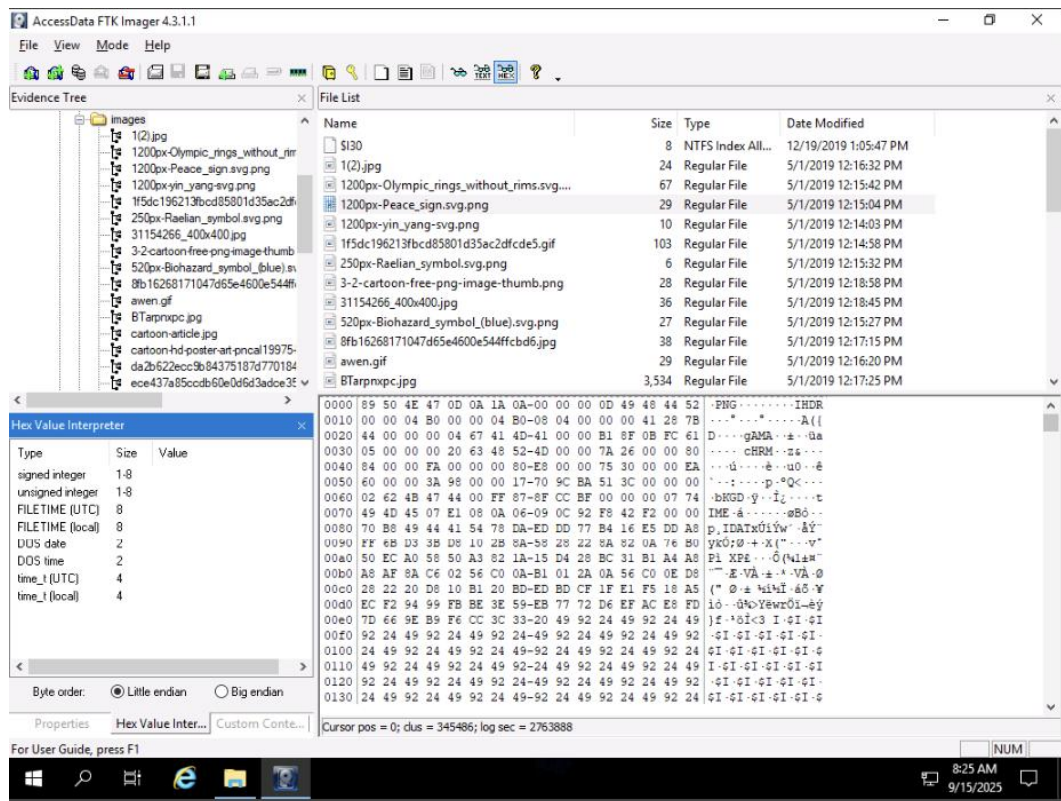
### Overview of the Lab

The screenshot displays the AccessData FTK Imager 4.3.1.1 interface. The top menu bar includes File, View, Mode, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations. The main window is divided into three panes:

- Evidence Tree:** Shows a single item, "Windows\_Evidence\_001.dd".
- File List:** A table with columns: Name, Size, Type, and Date Modified. It contains a single entry: "00000000 EB 52 90 4E 54 46 53 20-20 20 00 02 08 00 00 eR NTFS".
- Custom Content Sources:** A section with a sub-pane titled "Evidence:File System[Path]File" and an "Options" button. It displays a list of file system entries, including "00000000 EB 52 90 4E 54 46 53 20-20 20 00 02 08 00 00 eR NTFS" and "00000000 EB 52 90 4E 54 46 53 20-20 20 00 02 08 00 00 eR NTFS".

At the bottom, a status bar shows "Cursor pos = 0; log sec = 0" and a "NUM" button.





## **Module 04: Data Acquisition and Duplication**

### **Lab 1: Creating a dd Image of a System Drive**

- Students performed a physical acquisition of a Windows system drive (PHYSICALDRIVE0) using the dd command.
- The lab demonstrated creating a bit-by-bit copy of the disk, including deleted files, slack space, and file system metadata.
- A secondary disk was used to simulate an external storage device for storing the acquired image.

### **Lab 2: Converting Acquired Image File to a Bootable Virtual Machine**

- The acquired disk image was prepared to boot as a virtual machine.
- This allows investigators to examine the system in a live environment and extract additional artifacts.

### **Lab 3: Acquiring RAM from Windows Workstations**

- Students learned to capture volatile memory (RAM) using the Belkasoft RAM Capturer tool.
- RAM acquisition preserves data that would be lost when the machine is powered off, such as running processes and temporary files.

### **Lab 4: Viewing Contents of Forensic Image File**

- Students used AccessData FTK Imager to view and analyze the contents of forensic images.
- This enables investigators to examine evidence without altering the original data, and to assess whether further analysis is required.

### **Overall Summary:**

Module 4 provided hands-on experience with data acquisition, image duplication, RAM capture, and forensic image analysis. These labs reinforce critical skills for preserving and analyzing electronic evidence in a forensically sound manner.