

Roma St Drug Manufacturing Case - Criminal Investigation Report

Investigator: Sangheetha Velayutham

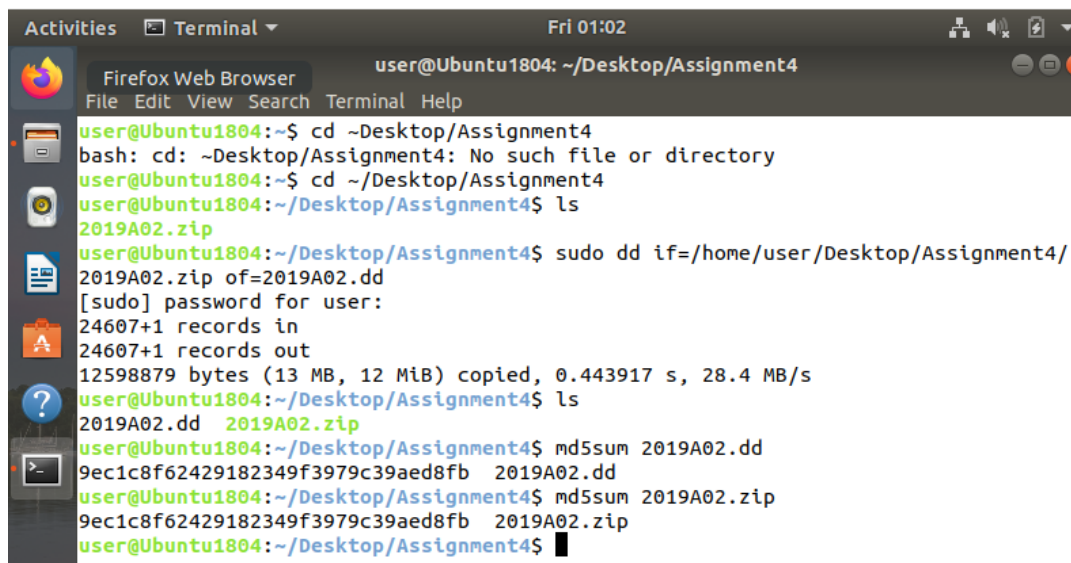
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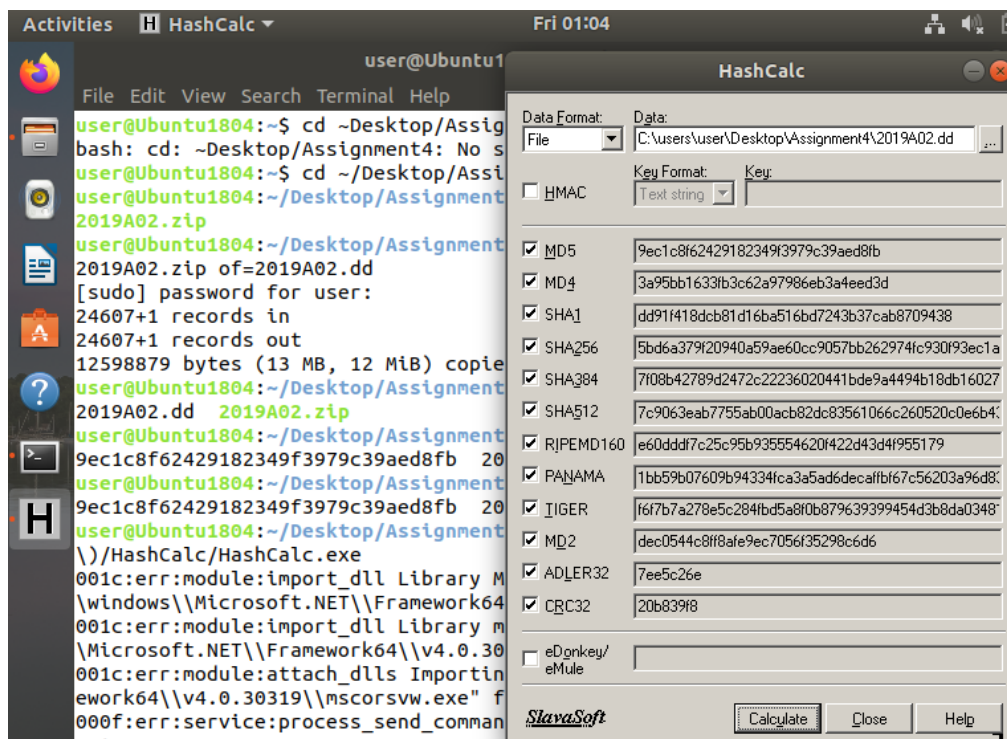
DIGITAL FORENSIC PROCEDURE

1. Explain how you downloaded the file, what precautions you took, and how you ensured its integrity.

File Download Procedure	The zip file was initially downloaded in the host windows OS. The zip file was then transferred into the VM via directory sharing. The zip file was saved in the shared folder which linked the host machine and the VM. Then the zip file was transferred to a directory on the Desktop called Assignment4.
Precautions Applied	Zip file was received from a trusted source (Sandra). BitDefender antivirus program is installed in host windows OS and it would scan for any infected files contained in the zip file. The option called (hide extensions for known file types) is unchecked.
Method used to ensure Integrity	A copy of the zip file was made using the dd tool to preserve tampering of the original file when investigating. Then the zip file (copy) is thoroughly checked to make sure none of the data is tampered with. This is done via hashcalc and MD5 command on the terminal. The hash value of the original and the copy is compared to verify that the copy is not altered.



```
user@Ubuntu1804: ~/Desktop/Assignment4
user@Ubuntu1804:~$ cd ~/Desktop/Assignment4
bash: cd: ~/Desktop/Assignment4: No such file or directory
user@Ubuntu1804:~$ cd ~/Desktop/Assignment4
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ ls
2019A02.zip
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ sudo dd if=/home/user/Desktop/Assignment4/
2019A02.zip of=2019A02.dd
[sudo] password for user:
24607+1 records in
24607+1 records out
12598879 bytes (13 MB, 12 MiB) copied, 0.443917 s, 28.4 MB/s
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ ls
2019A02.dd 2019A02.zip
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ md5sum 2019A02.dd
9ec1c8f62429182349f3979c39aed8fb 2019A02.dd
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ md5sum 2019A02.zip
9ec1c8f62429182349f3979c39aed8fb 2019A02.zip
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$
```



```
user@Ubuntu1804:~$ cd ~/Desktop/Assignment4
bash: cd: ~/Desktop/Assignment4: No such file or directory
user@Ubuntu1804:~$ cd ~/Desktop/Assignment4
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ ls
2019A02.zip
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ sudo dd if=/home/user/Desktop/Assignment4/
2019A02.zip of=2019A02.dd
[sudo] password for user:
24607+1 records in
24607+1 records out
12598879 bytes (13 MB, 12 MiB) copied, 0.443917 s, 28.4 MB/s
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ ls
2019A02.dd 2019A02.zip
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ md5sum 2019A02.dd
9ec1c8f62429182349f3979c39aed8fb 2019A02.dd
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$ md5sum 2019A02.zip
9ec1c8f62429182349f3979c39aed8fb 2019A02.zip
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4$
```

HashCalc

Data Format: File Data: C:\Users\user\Desktop\Assignment4\2019A02.dd

Key Format: Text string Key:

☐ HMAC

☒ MD5 9ec1c8f62429182349f3979c39aed8fb

☒ MD4 3a95bb1633fb3c62a97986eb3a4eed3d

☒ SHA1 dd91f418dcb81d16ba516bd7243b37cab8709438

☒ SHA256 5bd6a379f20940a59ae60cc9057bb262974fc930f93ec1a

☒ SHA384 7f08b42789d2472c22236020441bde9a4494b18db16027

☒ SHA512 7c9063eab7755ab00acb82dc83561066c260520c0e6b4c

☒ RIPEMD160 e60ddd7c25c95b935554620f422d43d4f955179

☒ PANAMA 1bb59b07609b94334fca3a5ad6decafbf67c56203a96d8c

☒ TIGER f6f7b7a278e5c284fbd5a8f0b879639399454d3b8da0348

☒ MD2 dec0544c8ff8afe9ec7056f35298c6d6

☒ ADLER32 7ee5c26e

☒ CRC32 20b839f8

☐ eDonkey/eMule

SlavaSoft Calculate Close Help

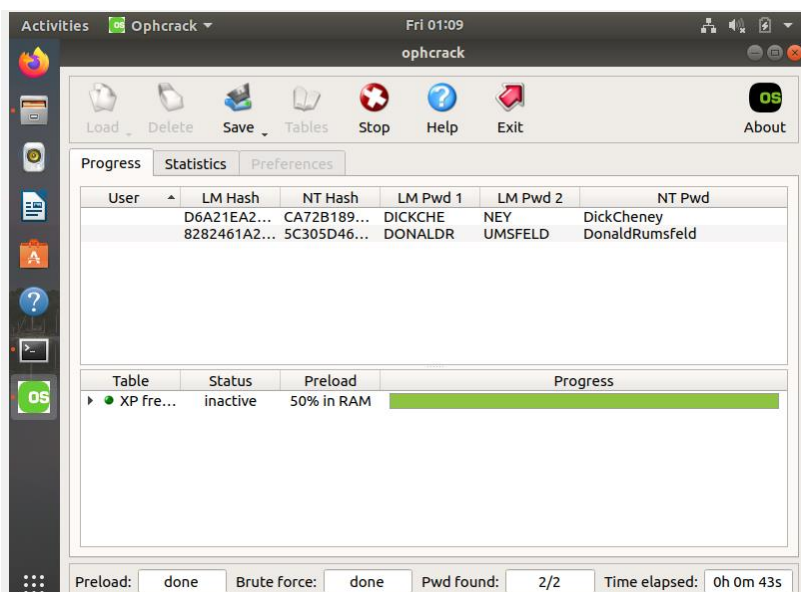
2. Describe how you decrypt two given NTLM hash values by using OphCrack, including screen shots.

First I launched the OphCrack application. Then I pressed load -> single hash. Pasted one of the NTLM hash in the box and pressed ok. Repeated the steps for the second NTLM hash. Then pressed crack and obtained the below passwords. (NTLM hashes:

D6A21EA26063C42FC9876E4B0C51BC82:CA72B189F412A384D96B785A08176773

and

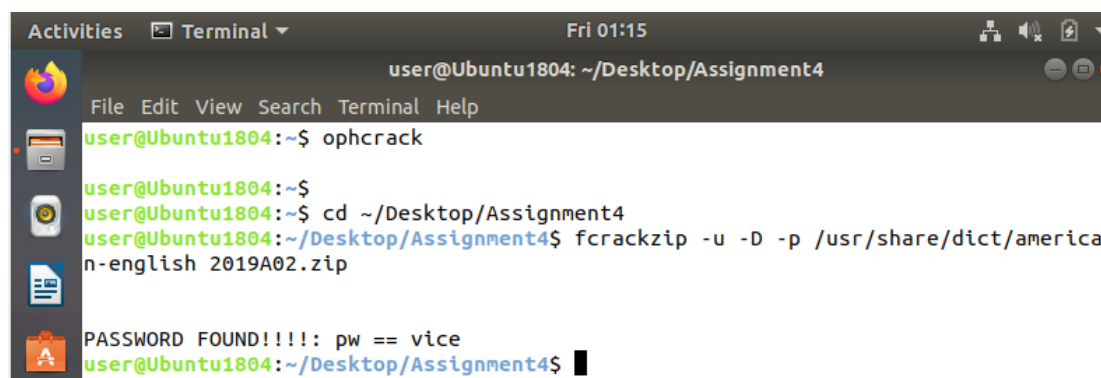
8282461A2BDAF626E6067B973FDDC643:5C305D4616C7571D5DDC6EEA5BA5C395)



3. Describe the process that you apply to open the downloaded file. Describe whether there is a relationship between this process and the information obtained in Step 2.

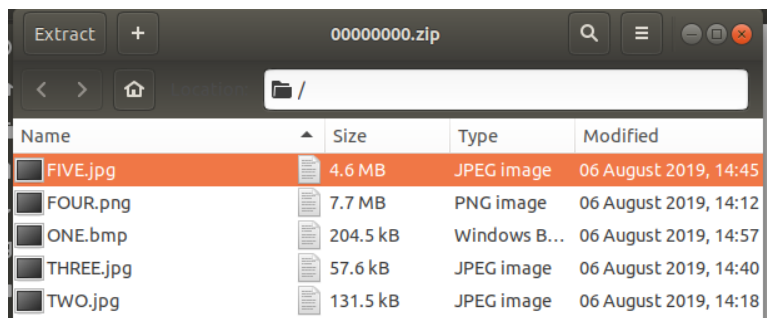
Steps performed to open the file were:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) First I tried to open the zip file using the passwords I obtained via ophcrack (DickCheney and DonaldRumsfeld). However, it returned an error message.2) So, I then used the frackzip zip file password cracker tool to see if I could obtain a password via dictionary mode.3) I obtained the password 'vice'.4) I entered the password to open the image files and it was successful.5) Finally I extracted the contents of the zip file to another directory called Extract.
--	--

There is no relationship between this process and the NTLM passwords I obtained from ophcrack.



4. Describe the actual content of the encrypted file that you identified in Step 3. If there are multiple files, list their file names, types and MD5 hash values. Describe the visual contents in each file.

Content description	There were 5 image files found in the zip file where 3 of them were Jpeg, 1 of them was a PNG image and the other 1 was a windows bitmap image. All five images were stills of the cast members from the movie Vice.	
File Name	File Type	MD5 Hash Value
ONE.bmp	Windows Bitmap	ab873ec4d5c826db5d337f5f287006d5
TWO.jpg	Jpeg Image	4da131832b963f03f990d4c545b2d533
THREE.jpg	Jpeg Image	004b451689688f2d9bb83fb3fc5607aa
FOUR.png	PNG Image	ac88ed263a80632167102c93a966f655
FIVE.jpg	Jpeg Image	815025ac61891bf35ea4f38d7c543db0



MD5 hash values of the files.

```

Activities Terminal Tue 19:18
user@Ubuntu1804: ~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract

0102:err:mshtml:create_document_object Failed to init Gecko, returning CLASS_E_CLASSNOTAVAILABLE
0102:err:ole:CoReleaseMarshalData IMarshal::ReleaseMarshalData failed with error 0x8001011d
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ wine /home/user/.wine/drive_c/Program Files\ \(\x86\)/CrypTool/CrypTool.exe
001c:err:module:import_dll Library MSVCR100_CLR0400.dll (which is needed by L"C:\windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319\mscorlib.exe") not found
001c:err:module:import_dll Library mscorlib.dll (which is needed by L"C:\windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319\mscorlib.exe") not found
001c:err:module:attach_dlls Importing dlls for L"C:\windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319\mscorlib.exe" failed, status c0000135
000f:err:service:process_send_command service protocol error - failed to write pipe!
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ ls
encrypted.txt  FOUR.png  message.txt  ONE.bmp  secret.txt  TWO.jpg  words
FIVE.jpg      How.txt   newthree.jpg rules.ini  THREE.jpg  Where.txt
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ md5sum ONE.bmp
ab873ec4d5c826db5d337f5f287006d5 ONE.bmp
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ md5sum TWO.jpg
4da131832b963f03f990d4c545b2d533 TWO.jpg
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ md5sum THREE.jpg
004b451689688f2d9bb83fb3fc5607aa THREE.jpg
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ md5sum FOUR.png
ac88ed263a80632167102c93a966f655 FOUR.png
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ md5sum FIVE.jpg
815025ac61891bf35ea4f38d7c543db0 FIVE.jpg
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$

```

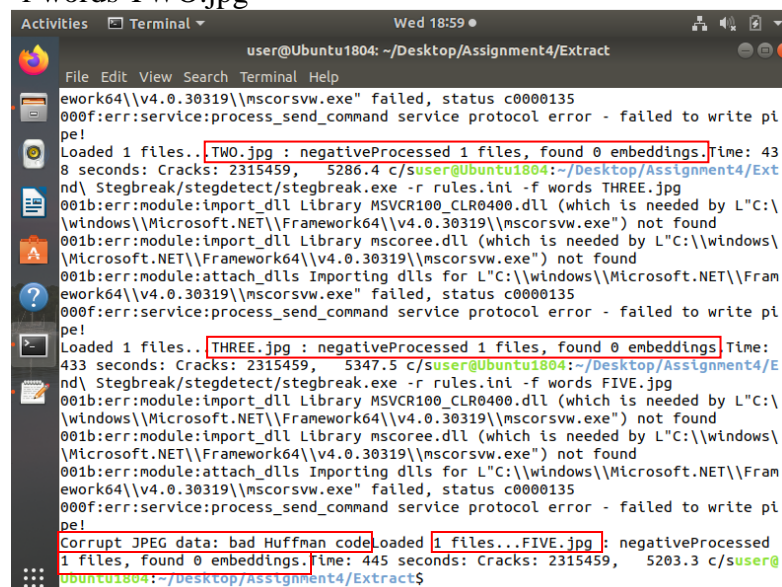
5. What tools will you now use to proceed your investigation and why?

Tool	Reason
Stegbreak	This tool is used to detect steganographic content in JPEG images.
S-Tools	This tool is used to hide and reveal contents in a graphic file.
JPseek	This tool is used to recover Steganography Images and reveal the hidden contents.

HxD Tool (Hex Editor)	This tool is used to compare image files, to recover corrupted files by using the right header, to overwrite the wrong header with the correct ones. This tool is also used to extract encrypted message, to reveal hidden images in the image file itself.
Openpuff	This tool is used to perform multimedia steganography. Also it can detect hidden files within the files.
Cyptool	This tool is used to encrypt a message or decrypt an encrypted message using many different encryptions.
Image viewer	This tool was used to view all the jpg, bmp and png images that were found in the files.
Text Editor	To view text files
RapidTables online ASCII Text to Hex Code Converter	To convert ASCII text into Hex numbers.

6. Describe how your investigation proceeded at this point, including screen shots.

First I transferred the rules.ini file and the words file from week09 directory to Extract directory where all the images were in. Then I used, Stegbreak tool to check if the 3 Jpeg images (TWO.jpg, THREE.jpg and FIVE.jpg) had any stenographic content in them. But all the jpeg images returned as no embedding found. Command example: wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/jphide\ and\ Stegbreak/stegdetect/stegbreak.exe -r rules.ini -f words TWO.jpg

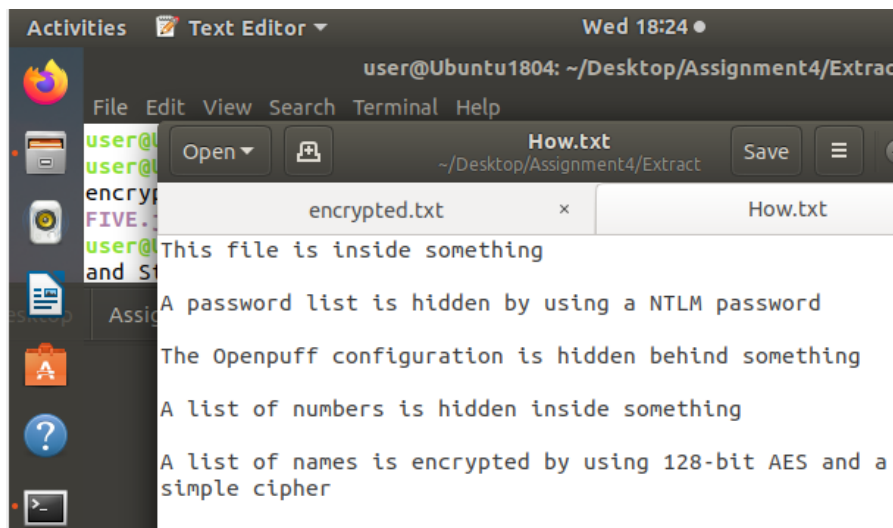
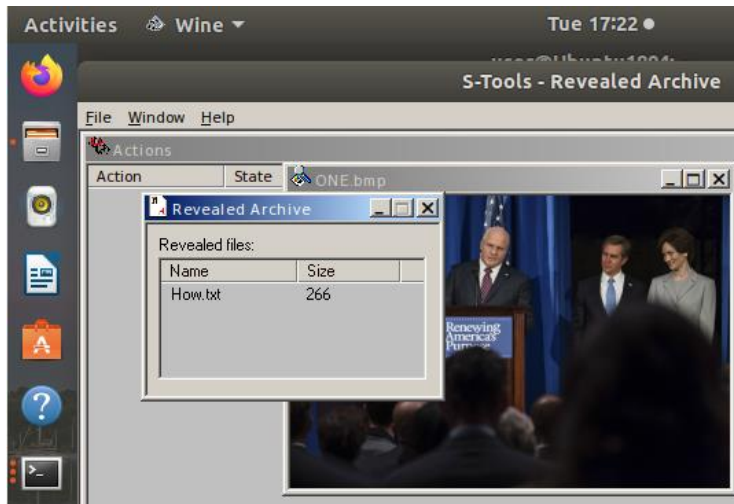


```

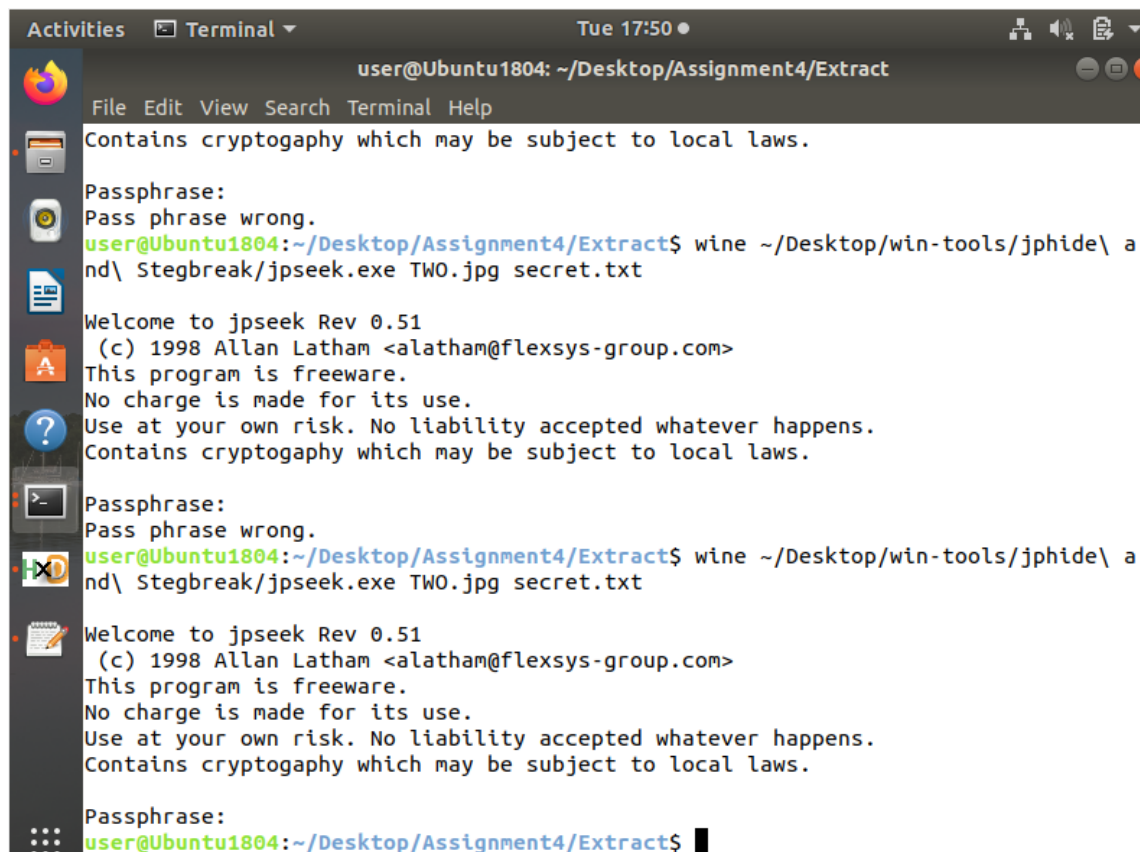
user@Ubuntu1804: ~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
ework64\\v4.0.30319\\mscorlib.exe" failed, status c0000135
000f:err:service:process_send_command service protocol error - failed to write pi
pe!
Loaded 1 files.. TWO.jpg : negativeProcessed 1 files, found 0 embeddings. Time: 43
8 seconds: Cracks: 2315459, 5286.4 c/suser@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Ext
nd\ Stegbreak/stegdetect/stegbreak.exe -r rules.ini -f words THREE.jpg
001b:err:module:import_dll Library MSVCR100_CLR0400.dll (which is needed by L"C:\
\windows\\Microsoft.NET\\Framework64\\v4.0.30319\\mscorlib.exe") not found
001b:err:module:import_dll Library mscoree.dll (which is needed by L"C:\\windows\
\Microsoft.NET\\Framework64\\v4.0.30319\\mscorlib.exe") not found
001b:err:module:attach_dlls Importing dlls for L"C:\\windows\\Microsoft.NET\\Fram
ework64\\v4.0.30319\\mscorlib.exe" failed, status c0000135
000f:err:service:process_send_command service protocol error - failed to write pi
pe!
Loaded 1 files.. THREE.jpg : negativeProcessed 1 files, found 0 embeddings. Time:
433 seconds: Cracks: 2315459, 5347.5 c/suser@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/E
nd\ Stegbreak/stegdetect/stegbreak.exe -r rules.ini -f words FIVE.jpg
001b:err:module:import_dll Library MSVCR100_CLR0400.dll (which is needed by L"C:\
\windows\\Microsoft.NET\\Framework64\\v4.0.30319\\mscorlib.exe") not found
001b:err:module:import_dll Library mscoree.dll (which is needed by L"C:\\windows\
\Microsoft.NET\\Framework64\\v4.0.30319\\mscorlib.exe") not found
001b:err:module:attach_dlls Importing dlls for L"C:\\windows\\Microsoft.NET\\Fram
ework64\\v4.0.30319\\mscorlib.exe" failed, status c0000135
000f:err:service:process_send_command service protocol error - failed to write pi
pe!
Corrupt JPEG data: bad Huffman codeLoaded 1 files...FIVE.jpg : negativeProcessed
1 files, found 0 embeddings. Time: 445 seconds: Cracks: 2315459, 5203.3 c/suser@
ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$

```

Then, I used S-Tools to check if the ONE.bmp image had any contents hidden in it. Command: wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/jphide\ and\ Stegbreak/S-tool/S-Tools.exe was used to launch the S-tools application. After dragging the image onto the tool and pressing reveal it prompted for a password. I entered the NTLM password that I received from Ophcrack (DickCheney) and it revealed a text file called How.txt. I extracted that file into the extract directory. That How.txt file contained a list of instructions which let us know that there are several important information hidden in the other images.

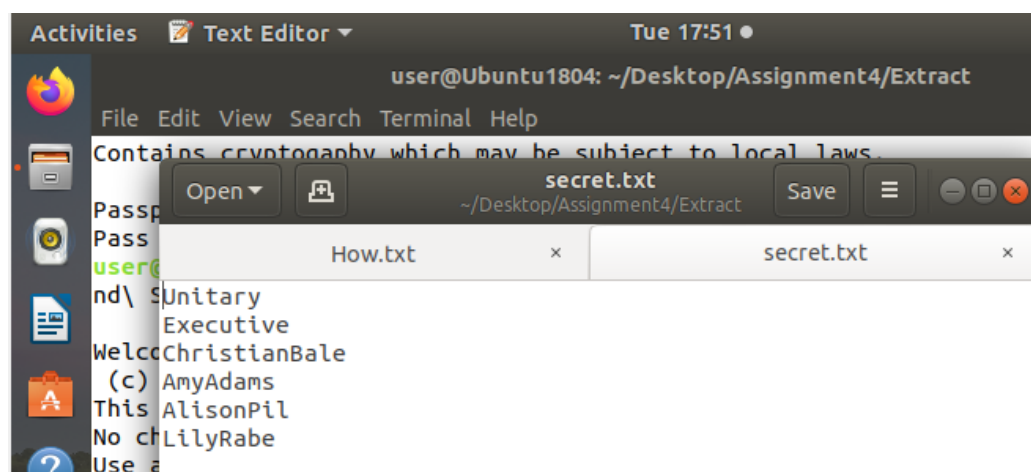


Following the instructions, I used the JPseek tool to recover any hidden contents from Jpeg images. Since the 2nd instruction mentioned a password 'list' I entered the output to be a text file. Command: `wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/jphide\ and\ Stegbreak/jpseek.exe TWO.jpg secret.txt`. This also prompted for a password so based on 2nd instruction, I used the other NTLM password that I obtained from ophcrack (DonaldRumsfeld). I tried for THREE.jpg and FIVE.jpg but it said wrong passphrase and did not return anything. When I tried with TWO.jpg, it worked. The secret.txt was found in the Extract directory and it had a password list.

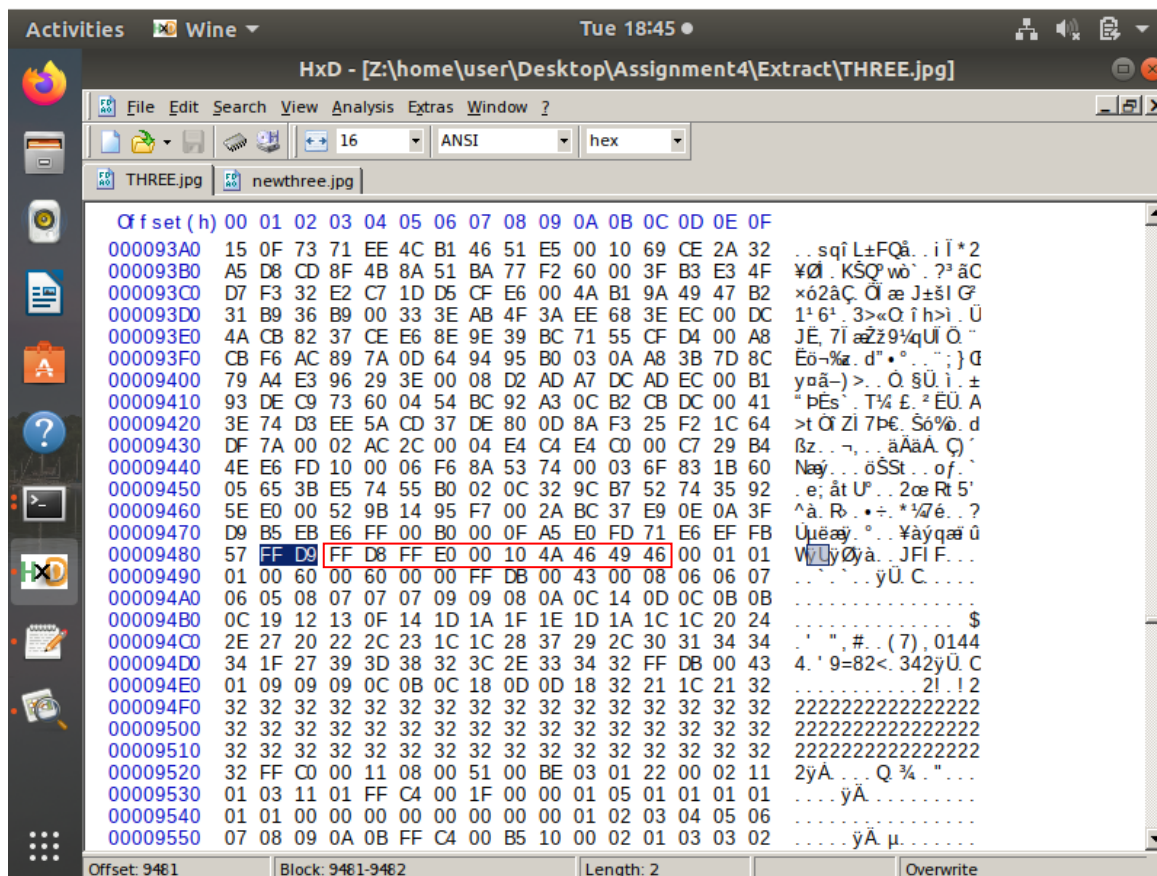


The terminal window shows the user running the command `wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/jphide\ and\ Stegbreak/jpseek.exe TWO.jpg secret.txt`. The output of the command is as follows:

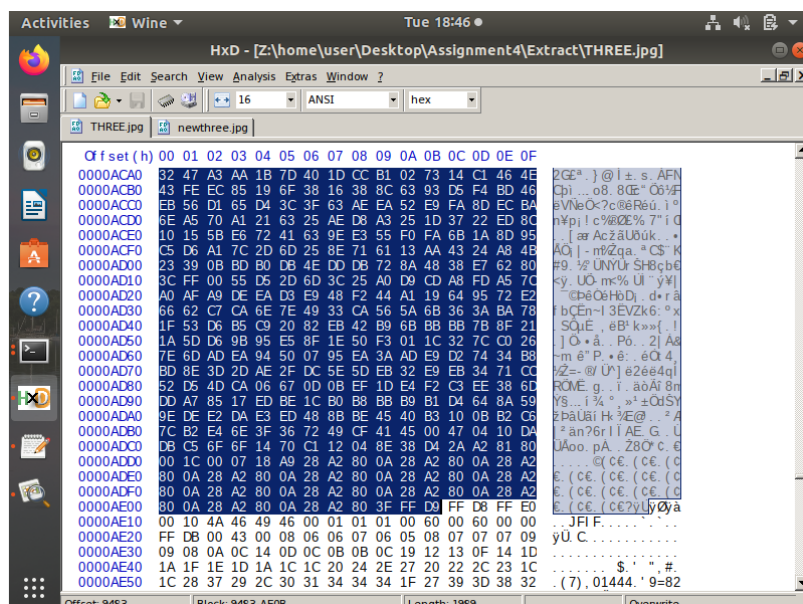
```
user@Ubuntu1804: ~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Contains cryptography which may be subject to local laws.
Passphrase:
Pass phrase wrong.
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/jphide\ a
nd\ Stegbreak/jpseek.exe TWO.jpg secret.txt
Welcome to jpseek Rev 0.51
(c) 1998 Allan Latham <alatham@flexsys-group.com>
This program is freeware.
No charge is made for its use.
Use at your own risk. No liability accepted whatever happens.
Contains cryptography which may be subject to local laws.
Passphrase:
Pass phrase wrong.
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$ wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/jphide\ a
nd\ Stegbreak/jpseek.exe TWO.jpg secret.txt
Welcome to jpseek Rev 0.51
(c) 1998 Allan Latham <alatham@flexsys-group.com>
This program is freeware.
No charge is made for its use.
Use at your own risk. No liability accepted whatever happens.
Contains cryptography which may be subject to local laws.
Passphrase:
user@Ubuntu1804:~/Desktop/Assignment4/Extract$
```

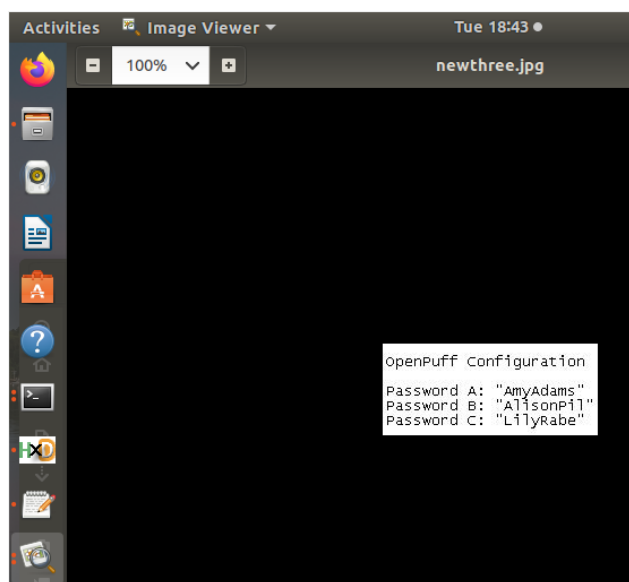
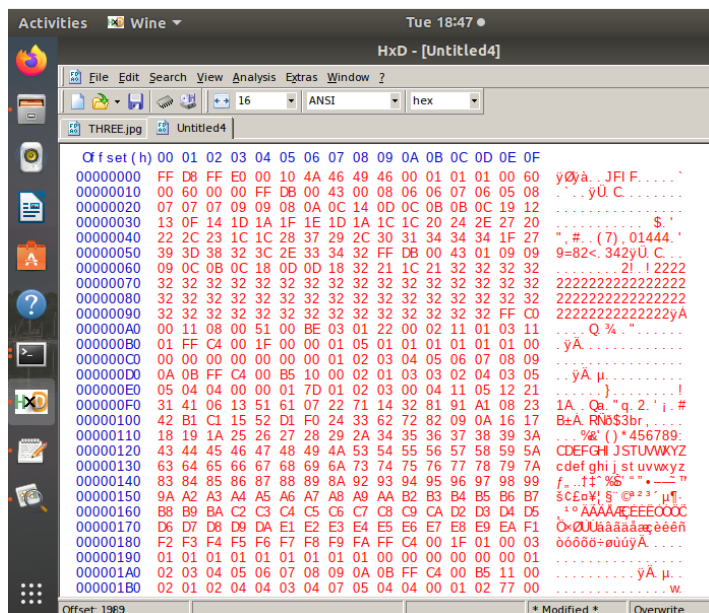


I noticed a pattern from this. The instructions given in the How.txt was for each image file. For instance, the first instruction was for ONE.bmp, the 2nd instruction was for TWO.jpg and the 3rd instruction would be for THREE.jpg and so on. Since JPseek and Stegbreak did not return anything for THREE.jpg, I opened the THREE.jpg in the HexEditor. Command: `wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/HxD.exe`. I noticed that there were multiple JPEG headers and footers found in THREE.jpg file. That meant that another jpeg image file was hidden within the THREE.jpg file.

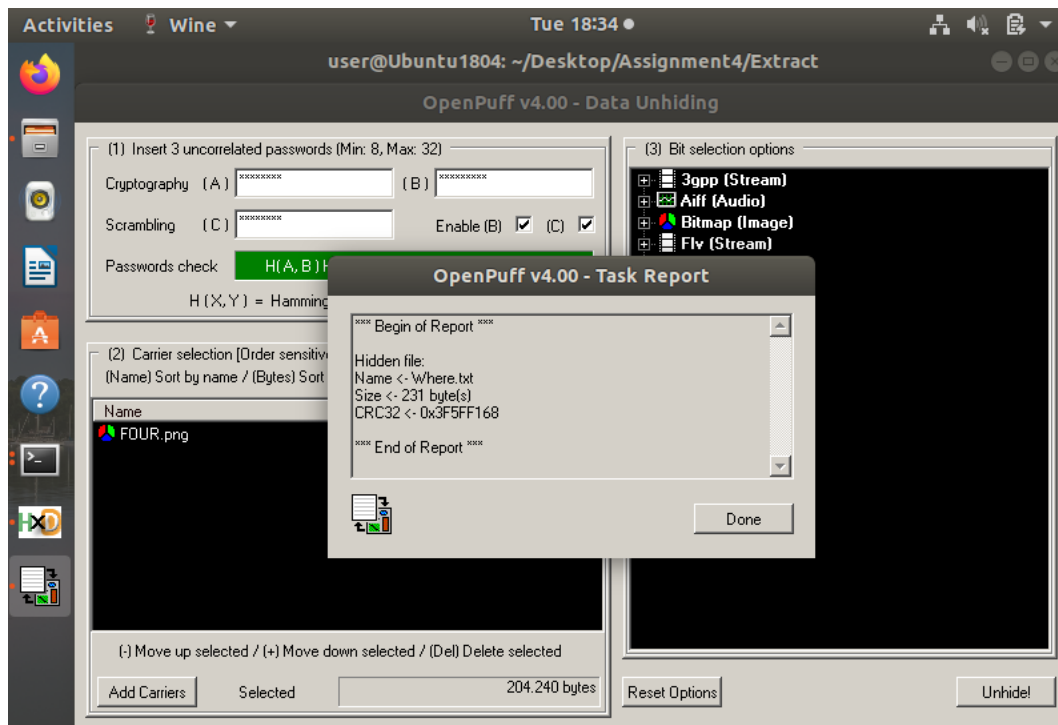


So I copied the hex numbers from the beginning of the 2nd JPG header to its footer and pasted it in a new file. Then, I saved that file as newthree.jpg file. The newthree.jpg file had an openpuff configuration.

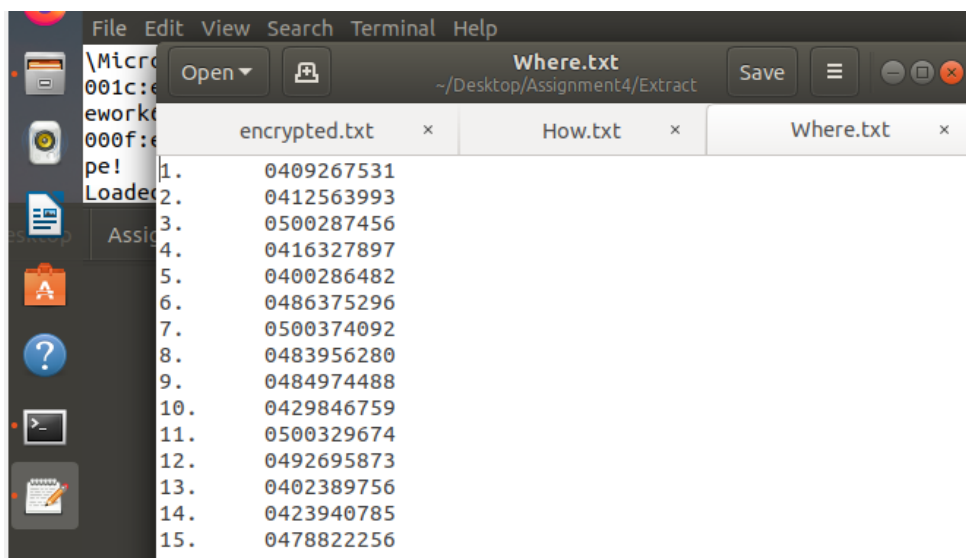




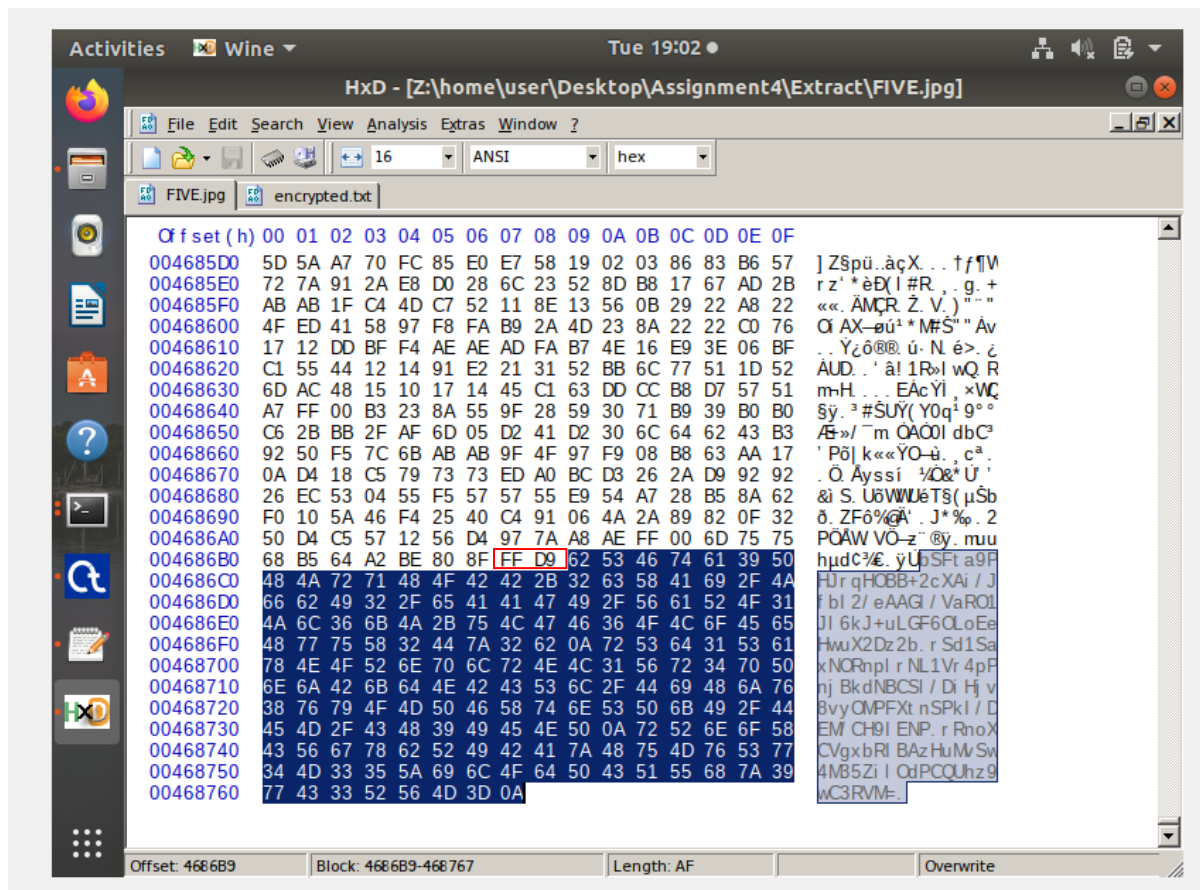
Then I launched the openpuff tool to see if I could reveal any hidden file from FOUR.png since this was the 4th instruction in the How.txt. Command: wine ~/Desktop/win-tools/OpenPuff/OpenPuff.exe. After adding all the passwords according to the configuration and pressing unhide, a text file called where.txt was found. I extracted the where.txt file to the extract directory.



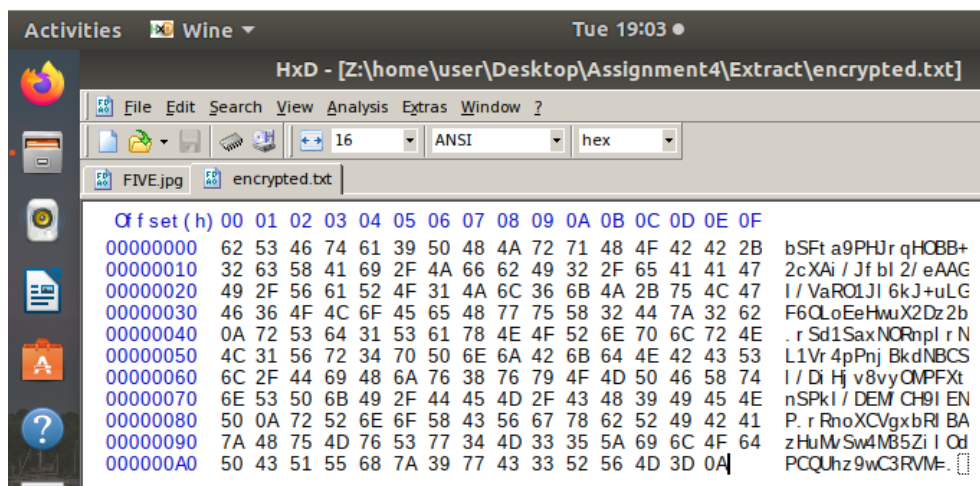
Where.txt had a list of numbers as said in the How.txt.



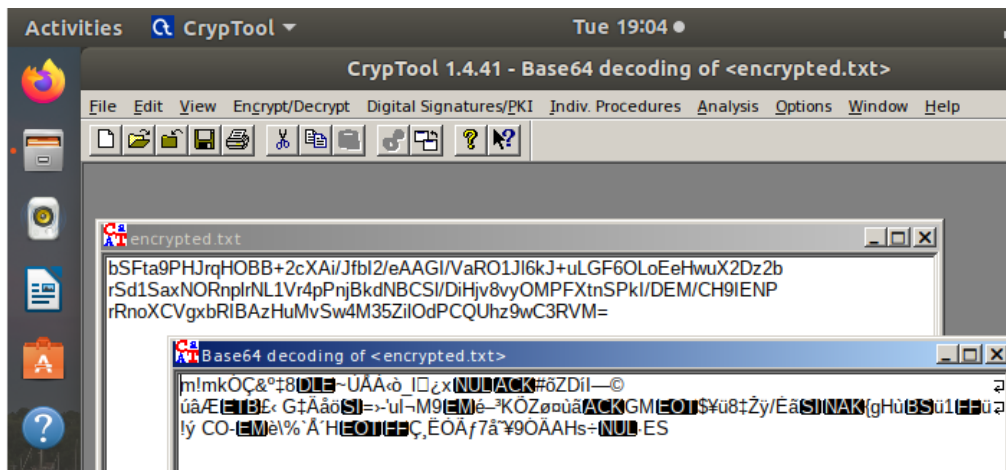
Then I continued to follow the How.txt's final instruction where it mentioned an encrypted message. Previously when I used stegbreak on FIVE.jpg it returned an error saying corrupt JPEG data bad Huffman code. So I decided to open FIVE.jpg file in hex editor. I noticed that the Jpeg footer FFD9 was not found at the end of the file but in the middle. The hex numbers after the footer looked like a message was encoded with base 64 encoding.



So I copied those hex numbers after the Jpeg footer into a new HxD file and saved it as encrypted.txt as the How.txt mentioned that this would be a 'list' of names.



To decode the base 64 encoding and decrypt the message I used Cryptool. Command: wine /home/user/.wine/drive_c/Program\ Files\ \(\x86\)/CrypTool/CrypTool.exe was used to launch the application. Opened the encrypted.txt file and decoded the message using base 64 decoding.



It was mentioned in the How.txt that AES encryption and a simple cipher has been used. First I, decrypted the AES encryption and it prompted for a HEX number password. There were three remaining passwords (Unitary, Executive and ChristianBale) on the password list (secret.txt) that were unused. So I tried converting Unitary, Executive and ChristianBale into hex numbers using an online converting tool and used it as the password. When I used, Unitary and Executive, the output was weird and it did not look like a list of name mentioned in How.txt. But when I used ChristianBale (hex numbers) as the password, the output looked like a list.

Paste text or drop text file

ChristianBale

Character encoding

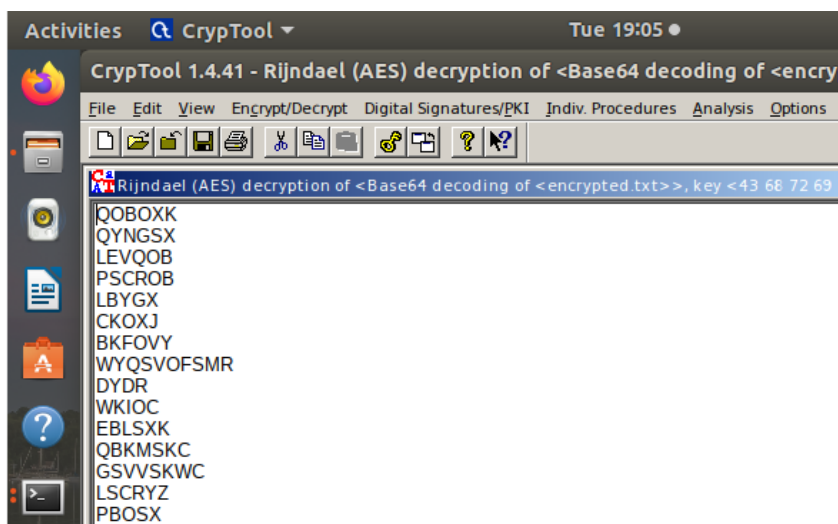
ASCII

Output delimiter string (optional)

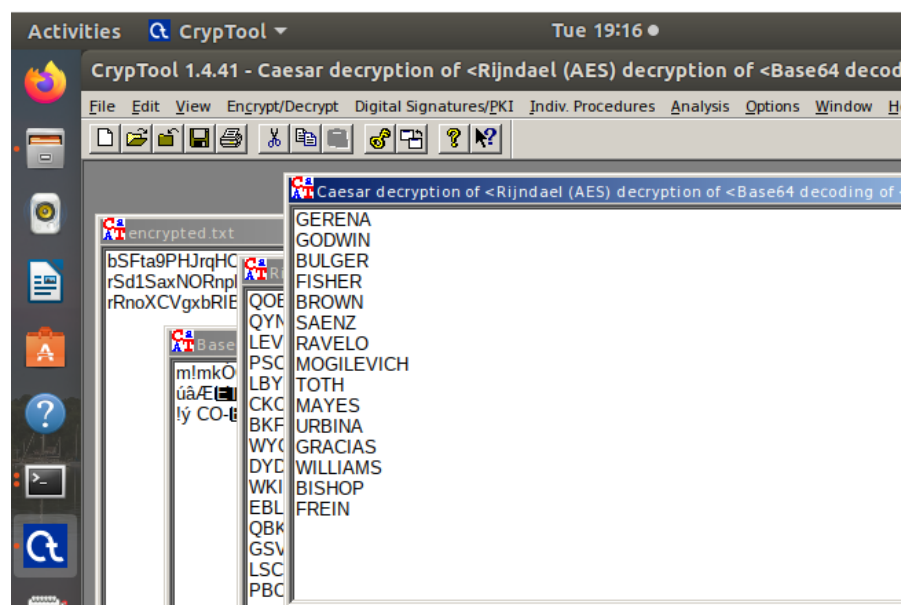
Space

Convert
 Reset
 Swap

43 68 72 69 73 74 69 61 6e 42 61 6c 65



Then I used Caesar cipher to decrypt the message further. Tried all of the alphabets one by one to see which was the key and found out that K was used as the key. Finally, a list of names were revealed.



DIGITAL FORENSIC REPORT

7. Write a two page report for Sandra listing your findings and recommendations. Make appropriate suggestions on how a further investigation should proceed. Construct and complete a single-item evidence form as part of your report.

Overview:

A drug manufacturing location was identified in a warehouse behind Roma St Station where traces of powder was found. A laptop and 4 CDs was retrieved from the warehouse. I, Sangheetha Velayutham was assigned to this case by Sandra to analyse a zip file to retrieve any important information. I received an email from Sandra containing two NTLM hash strings retrieved from the criminal's laptop and the ZIP file from one of the CDs as attachments.

Evidence Form (Figure 1-11 of the text)

Brisbane Special Investigative Unit			
This form is to be used for only one piece of evidence. Fill out a separate form for each piece of evidence.			
Case No:	DrugRomaSt_20092021	Unit Number:	DrugRomaSt_17
Investigator:	Sangheetha Velayutham		
Nature of Case:	Illegal Drug Manufacturing		
Location where evidence was obtained:	Warehouse behind Roma St Station in Brisbane		
Item # ID	Description of evidence	Vendor Name	Model No/Serial No.
123654	CD containing a suspicious ZIP file	N/A	N/A
Evidence Recovered by:	Moti	Date & Time:	10 th May 2021, 3:20 am
Evidence Placed in Locker:	Evidence placed in Forensics Lab Evidence Locker by Moti	Date & Time	10 th May 2021, 4.30 am
Evidence Processed by	Description of Evidence	Date & Time	
Moti	Obtained the CD	10 th May 2021, 3:20 am	
Moti	Stored the CD in the lab's Evidence locker	10 th May 2021, 4.30 am	
Sandra	Analyses CD in lab.	10 th May 2021, 9.30 am	
Sandra	Make 3 copies of the CD. Stores 2 copies in the lab and distributes the 3 rd copy to colleagues. Sends a copy of Zip file to Sangheetha Velayutham.	10 th May 2021, 11.00 am	
Sangheetha Velayutham	Makes a copy of zip file and it is stored on virtual machine, Directory = /Desktop/Assignment4	10 th May 2021, 3.00 pm	
			Page 1 of 1 <

Recommendation:

My steps should be retraced to see if the same results that I got can be obtained. Save all the retrieved files carefully to prevent tampering. There were two unused passwords in the password list (Unitary, Executive). Figure out what the two passwords are for. Maybe it can be used to access any account.

Summary of steps:

1. Made a copy of zip file to ensure integrity of file (dd tool).
2. Verified the integrity by checking the hash values with the given hash value (hashcalc tool and md5 command).
3. Used Ophcrack to crack both the NTLM hashes and obtained two passwords (DickCheney and DonaldRumsfeld).
4. Used the frackzip tool to obtain the password of the zip file (password: vice).
5. Used the password obtained from frackzip (vice) to extract all files in the zip file to another directory called Extract.
6. Stegbreak tool was used to see if there was any hidden content in the jpeg files. None was found.
7. S-Tools was used to reveal a hidden text file (how.txt) from ONE.bmp.
8. The How.txt had instructions on where important details were hidden.
9. Jpseek tool was used to reveal a password list from TWO.jpg image using one of the NTLM password (DonaldRumsfeld).
10. THREE.jpg image was opened using HxD hex editor tool. An image file was hidden within the THREE.jpg.
11. The hidden image file was extracted into a new file. The hidden image file had an openpuff configuration.
12. Openpuff tool was used to unhide hidden contents of FOUR.jpg. The openpuff configuration that was found was used and a text file (Where.txt) was revealed.
13. FIVE.jpg had a corrupt jpeg data, so it was opened in HxD tool. There was a base 64 encoded message after the JPEG footer.
14. The encoded message was then decoded using base 64 decoding in Cryptool. Then the decoded message was decrypted as the How.txt mentioned that the message was encrypted using AES algorithm.
15. Later the message was further decrypted using Caesar cipher (K as key) revealing a list of names.

What was recovered? :

Image File	Content recovered from Image file
ONE.bmp	How.txt (recovered using S-tools) – contained instructions on where important details are hidden
TWO.jpg	secret.txt (recovered using JPseek) - password list with 6 passwords
THREE.jpg	newthree.jpg (hidden image file – recovered using HxD editor) - Openpuff configuration with 3 of the passwords from secret.txt
FOUR.png	Where.txt (recovered using OpenPuff) – list of numbers (15 numbers)
FIVE.jpg	encrypted.txt (encrypted message – obtained using HxD editor and decrypted the message using Cryptool) – list of names (15 names)

Interpretation:

The How.txt was instructions for the accused to know where important details are hidden in the image files. The password list was the various passwords they used via various tools to hide information. The newthree.jpg clearly stated the openpuff password configuration. The list of numbers found in where.txt are most probably Australian mobile numbers of drug dealers/buyers/fellow drug manufacturers. The list of names found may also be of drug dealers/buyers/fellow drug manufacturers. Since there are 15 names and 15 numbers, the numbers could be the mobile number of the people who the names belong to.

Suggestions:

Firstly, contact the relevant communications service provider to check the owners of the mobile numbers obtained. The mobile numbers and the list of names can also be checked in the police database. Check if the any of the names are related to any drug incident. If the numbers belong to the list of names that was obtained, then check each people's background to see if anything relates to drug incidents. Call each of them in for questioning. Then if there are evidence connecting them to any drug incidents, their mobile numbers can be tracked to find them. If the numbers do not match the list of names we have, then call each of them in for questioning and see if they know anything related to the warehouse drug manufacturing incident.

Reference:

RapidTables (2021.) *ASCII to Hex / Text to Hex Code Converter*, RapidTables, accessed 20 September 2021.

Winzip (2021.) *Potentially Unsafe File Types*, Winzip, accessed 20 September 2021.