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Informatica

Forensic Analysis of Video File Containers

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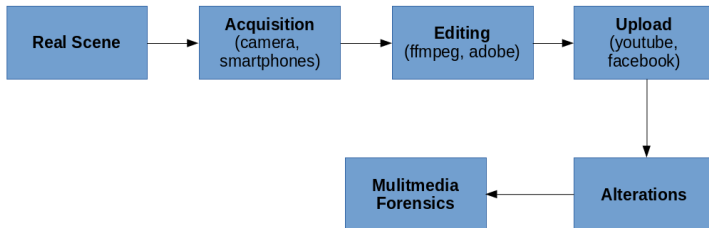
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Introduction

In an increasingly digital world, the analysis of multimedia objects is rapidly assuming importance in the context of digital investigation.

Multimedia Forensics has developed many techniques with the goal of providing aid in making decisions about a digital content authenticity, integrity and origin.



Introduction

We have focused our attention on Source Identification and Integrity Verification of digital videos acquired by smartphones and tablets.

In this regard, techniques mainly use two different tools:

1. **Audio-video signal:** the research of inconsistencies and artefacts in the digital content.
2. **Metadata:** the determination of their compatibility, completeness, and consistency.

Video File Container - What's inside?

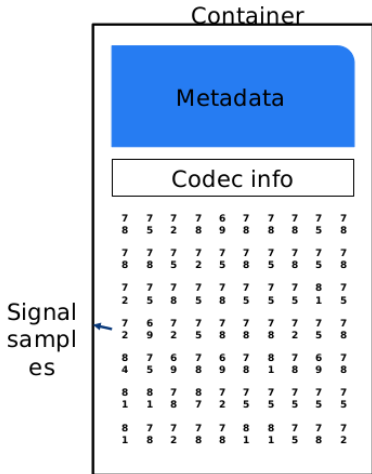
Container data, structured information about the content, like:

- Content-related metadata (acquisition time, place, settings, etc.)
- Number of tracks/signals (e.g. a video container may include several video tracks.)

Codec data, necessary information to decode and present the signal, like:

- Quantization tables.
- Information for entropy decoding

Encoded signal(s)

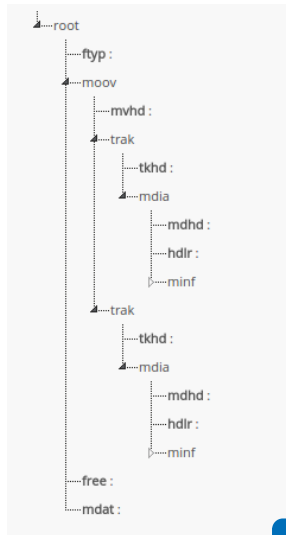


Video File Container - Structure

As defined by the *ISO Base Media File Format Standard* [1], file containers have a object-oriented type structure.

Each object, called *box* or *atom*, includes specifics information about the media and are identified by 4-byte characters (e.g. *ftyp*, *mdat*, *moov*, etc.).

Boxes can have fields and can contain other boxes.



Video File Container - Why?

As noticed by *Gloe et al.* [2], the video format standards (e.g. *ISO Base Media* [1], *MP4* [3], *MOV* [4]) for the file container prescribe only a limited number of features.

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Low-level information to be exploited by the Forensic Analyst.

Source Identification

Given a video, we want to assess its origin based on its file container.

We split the problem in binary questions.

Ex. Does the video belongs to Samsung?

... to Samsung Galaxy S3?

... to Huawei G6?

... to Apple?

... to Apple iPhone 5?

Given a question, a training dataset is queried to obtain two classes (videos for which the answer is true, and the complementary).

For each question, we want to define a compatibility score.

Source Identification - Training

Determine whether a video belongs to a class C (e.g. Samsung).

We split the ground-truth in two sets:

$$\Omega = X_C \cup X_{\bar{C}} = x_1, \dots, x_{N_C} \in C \cup x_1, \dots, x_{N_{\bar{C}}} \in \bar{C}$$

Ω contains all the attributes ω of the boxes contained in each of the ground-truth media.

We determine the discrimination power of each of the attributes ω for the class C and \bar{C} .

$$W_C(\omega) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_C} |X_i \cap \omega|}{N_C}$$

$$W_{\bar{C}}(\omega) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{\bar{C}}} |X_i \cap \omega|}{N_{\bar{C}}}$$

Source Identification - Test

Given a media query $X = \omega_1, \dots, \omega_t$, we solve the two hypothesis test problem:

$$H_0 : X \in \overline{C}$$

$$H_1 : X \in C$$

To do so, we determine the likelihood ratio of observing $\omega_j, j = 1 \dots t$.

$$P(\omega_j | H_0) = W_{\overline{C}}(\omega_j)$$

$$P(\omega_j | H_1) = W_C(\omega_j)$$

$$L(X) = \prod_{\omega_j} \frac{W_C(\omega_j)}{W_{\overline{C}}(\omega_j)}$$

Then, $l(X) = \ln L(X)$ can be used to determine whether X belongs to class C .

Source Identification - Correlated Features

Some features might be correlated. For each box, we consider the entropy of its attributes in order to remove redundant information.

When considering a box, given a vector of likelihood ratios $\bar{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$, we compute the likelihood for that box as:

$$L(\bar{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{\alpha_i}$$

with

$$\alpha_i = \frac{(n-1)\gamma_i + 1}{n}$$

$$\gamma_i = -\frac{n}{\log n} P(x_i) \log P(x_i)$$

and where $P(x_i)$ represents the probability of finding that value of ratio in the vector.

Source Identification - Experiments

The dataset is composed of 260 videos acquired from smartphones and tablets with Android (Samsung, Huawei) and iOS.

The tests are divided in two types, changing the definition of a class of device:

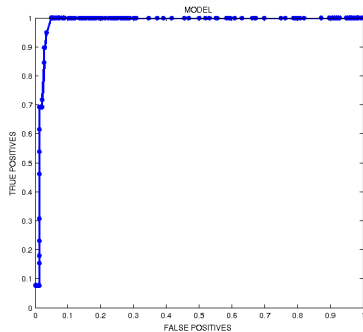
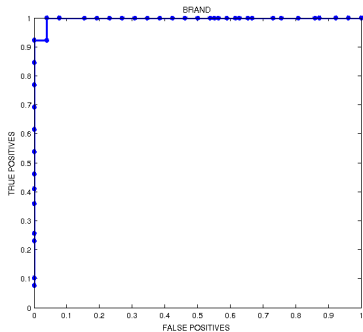
- **Brand:** we try to identify the test videos brand (3 brands).
- **Model:** we try to identify both brand and model (13 models).

For each of these types, we consider:

- **Binary Classification:** for each class of devices in the dataset, we try to correctly classify the test videos.
- **Retrieval:** how many times the correct classes are in the first position, in the top three position, or in the top five position (ordered by the likelihood ratios).

Source Identification - Results

Type	ACC	THRESHOLDS	TH = 0	TOP 1	TOP 3	TOP 5
Brand	98.08%	[-12, 14]	98.08%	92%	-	-
Model	97.54%	[3, 4]	96.79%	84.62%	100%	100%



Integrity Verification

Given a query video X that supposedly comes from a certain device.

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By comparing the two file containers, we compute the percentage of differences.

Integrity Verification - Experiments

For these experiments, we have altered the videos of the dataset with different tools:

- **Ffmpeg**: we have directly cut the videos, without re-encoding.
- **Exiftool**: we have changed the metadata related to Date and Time.
- **YouTube**: we have uploaded and downloaded the videos from *YouTube*.

Using their file containers, we compute the differences:

1. $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in C_i, (x_i, x_j) \rightarrow d_{ij}$
2. $(\overline{x}_1, \dots, \overline{x}_n) \in \overline{C}_i, (x_i, \overline{x}_j) \rightarrow \overline{d}_{ij}$

Integrity Verification - Results

N.	Tool	ACC	THRESHOLD
1	Ffmpeg	100%	[0.11, 0.66]
2	Exiftool	100%	0.001
3	YouTube	100%	[0.39, 0.55]

Using the file containers, we were always able to correctly separate the original videos from the modified ones.

For the *Exiftool* case, we did not consider the differences caused by attributes whose values are unique to each video (acquisition time, modification time, duration, size, etc.).

Integrity Verification - Results

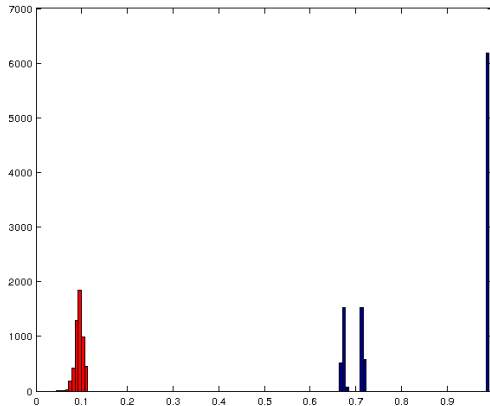


Figura : Differences distribution for the Ffmpeg case. Red for original videos; blue for modified videos.

Web Application

The screenshot shows a web application interface for Source Identification. The interface is divided into three main sections: Class, Upload, and Output.

- Class:** Contains two dropdown menus. The first is labeled "Brand:" and has "apple" selected. The second is labeled "Model:" and has a list of models: Any, Any, ipad2, **ipadmini** (highlighted), iphone4s, iphone5, iphone5c, and iphone6.
- Upload:** Contains two sections. The first is labeled "Select Video/XML:" and has an "Upload" button and the text "No file chosen". The second is labeled "Download vft-parse.jar:" and has a "Download" button.
- Output:** Contains a large text area with "..." and a "Run query" button.

Figura : Interface for the Source Identification feature.

Conclusions

- Using the video file containers, we implemented two approaches for Source Identification and Integrity Verification.
- Video file container turned out to be a powerful tool; both approaches achieved promising results.
- Should be considered preliminary work; further developments:
 - Perform tests with a higher variety of devices.
 - Take into consideration the version of the operating system.
 - Specialize how the attributes are compared (e.g. check for format for Date and Time).
 - For Source Identification, it is critical how the reference population is built.

References

- [1] I. 14496. *Information Technology. Coding of audio-visual objects, part 12: ISO Base Media File Format*, 3rd ed. 2008.
- [2] T. Gloe, A. Fischer, and M. Kirchner. Forensic analysis of video file formats. *Digital Investigation*, 11, Supplement 1:S68-S76, 2014. Proceedings of the First Annual DFRWS Europe.
- [3] I. 14496. *Information Technology. Coding of audio-visual objects, part 14: Mp4 File Format*, 2003.
- [4] I. Apple Computer. *Quicktime file format*, 2001.