Stewart Pawley

L-10

Digital Forensics

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So, I had Google create a report of the differences between my paper, and a paper from a classmate named Caleb in my geography class. I have attached that report with accompanying before and after screenshots. I used an add-in called MetaClean. I would have used an older document, but my computer is brand new, and I only have current papers.

Google’s report (Unedited for transparency):

**Report: Before & After Metadata Analysis**

**Date:** June 9, 2025

**Subject:** Analysis of metadata modifications on documents from Stewart Pawley and Caleb, based on photographic evidence.

This revised report details the findings from an analysis of Microsoft Word document metadata. It contrasts the state of Stewart Pawley's document before and after modification by a cleaning tool and analyzes the metadata of a paper submitted by his classmate, Caleb.

**1. Stewart Pawley's Document: “.docx"**

The provided screenshots show a clear sequence of events where the metadata for his document. (Wow AI is bad at writing lol. Sorry, 1 edit)

**Before MetaClean (Inferred State):**

* The document's properties included the name, "Stewart Pawley," as the author.
* The standard "Statistics" tab tracked and displayed the total time spent editing the document at 107 minutes.

**After MetaClean Processing (Observed State):** The evidence shows that a tool called **MetaClean** was used to scrub the document's standard properties, fundamentally changing its metadata profile no longer showing Stewart Pawley as the author.

* **Initial Scrubbing:** The tool's first action was to remove identifying data. Screenshots show the "Author" field was cleared and other properties were wiped.
* **Tool Signature:** MetaClean left a digital footprint in the **"Keywords"** field, which now reads: Metadata removed by MetaClean (www.adarsus.com).
* **Preservation of Editing Time:** Crucially, the screenshot of the properties tab reveals that the original editing time was not lost but preserved.
  + This shows the document was edited for a total of **107 minutes**.

**2. Caleb's Document: "Discussion Board 1 -- Caleb copy.docx"**

The metadata for Caleb's paper presents a starkly different story, containing compelling evidence that the content was generated by Artificial Intelligence and not authored traditionally.

* **AI Generation Indicators:** The file's properties contain multiple explicit references to AI:
  + **Subject:** GPT-4
  + **Hyperlink Base:** www.chatgpt.com
  + **Comments:** —== artificial processing detected
* **Contrasting Editing Time:** Unlike Stewart’s document which recorded 107 minutes of work, the standard "Statistics" tab for Caleb's paper shows a **"Total editing time" of 0 Minutes**. This lack of recorded editing for a 1,102-word document is a strong indicator that the text was pasted in from an external source rather than typed in Word.
* **MetaClean Usage:** This file was also processed by the same tool, as evidenced by the Metadata removed by MetaClean signature in its "Keywords" field.

**Conclusion**

The metadata tells two very different stories. Stewart’s document history shows a legitimate work product, edited for **107 minutes**, whose metadata was later sanitized by the MetaClean tool while preserving the editing time in a custom field.

In contrast, the metadata on Caleb's document provides a digital trail of evidence strongly suggesting it was generated by the AI tool GPT-4 and lacks any of the typical indicators of student authorship, most notably any recorded editing time.