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COURSE: Current Issues in Cybersecurity

WEEK 4: Assignment

ASSIGNMENT TOPIC: Recuva/CCleaner

1. WHAT DID I DO

I installed Recuva software on my Mac and downloaded Dilbert\_Security.gif file as a sample file to work with to see how data can be erased partially or permanently from my system.

I deleted the Dilbert file from my system and also deleted from my recycle bin, then tried recovering the Dilbert file with the Recuva software.

Recuva is a file recovery tool that can restore files that have been accidentally deleted from your computer, as well as files lost due to a corrupted or formatted hard drive, virus attack, or other reasons.

On the other hand, I downloaded ccleaner software on my Mac and did a run of the software on my system for cleanup, protection and speed. I deleted dilbert\_security.gif and also manually deleted it as it only deleted the file on my recycle bin.

CCleaner is a system cleaning tool for Windows and Mac that helps you to keep your computer clean and running smoothly by removing unused files, temporary files, and other system clutter. It also provides features to optimize your computer's performance, such as registry cleaning and startup item management. Additionally, CCleaner can also securely erase sensitive data to protect your privacy.

Afterwards I did a run of Recuva again to try if I can recover Dilbert\_security.gif.

Recuva and CCleaner are both software tools used for data recovery and computer maintenance, respectively.

1. WHAT WERE MY RESULTS

The results gotten from running the Recuva for my Trash Bin after I deleted the file permanently from my recycle bin, no file was found to be recovered. A recovery scan on my Bootcamp disc, recovered about 14 files (2 files in Trash and 12 files on File Name Not Found). When trying to open the files recovered under trash, the software needed me to upgrade to Pro Version to be able to recover and view the file. With the modified dates on the items recovered on Trash, it shows that the files are recent files deleted from trash. The other 12 files with unknown file names do not have a modified date.

The ccleaner removed about 2.46gb unneeded junk items on my system, no threats where found and increased system performance by 3 tasks to run.

A run of recuva again repeated the recovery of the previous files from Bootcamp disc, that was done earlier during the first recovery exercise. Still the files cannot be opened without a approved licence key.

1. WHAT DID I LEARN

I learnt that file cannot be erased completely form a system, even if it was deleted a long time ago, though the modified date might not show for items deleted a longtime ago.

Recovered files that were deleted permanently form recycle bin can still be recovered but will be able to open if one has a licensed software key that can open the file.

The likelihood of successful recovery depends on the status of my system and the file system, Recuva determines the likelihood of successfully recovering the deleted file. If the file has been overwritten or partially overwritten, it may not be recoverable.

Recuva determines the state of the deleted file, such as whether it's recoverable or not, the file size, and its last known location.

The speed of recovery for the Trash files was faster than the other files, The speed is also influenced by the size of the deleted file, the speed of your computer's hard drive, and the state of your system.

Recuva also shows other deleted files on my system, which gave me an idea of the extent of data loss and the potential to recover other lost files.

The earlier recuva is run after deleting a file, the better the chances of a successful recovery, as my system will have less time to overwrite the deleted file and render it unrecoverable.