Scenario: Drama in the Shire

In 2005, a small computer forensics company called “Hobbytes” was formed by Frodo Baggins. Since its inception, it has grown significantly and, as of January 2015, was valued at close to $100 million. The decision was made to go public in June of 2015 and the stock price rose significantly. On paper, Frodo Baggins is now a billionaire.

Last month, an individual named Samwize Gamgee filed suit against Frodo Baggins for back wages and damages worth over $20 million. Samwize is claiming that, not only did he work for Frodo Baggins, but also helped start the company and was one of the primary reasons why the company is now worth as much as it is. In his claim, Samwize states that, in December 2005, Samwize had a drunken disagreement with Frodo Baggins over a ring Frodo allegedly stole from Samwize and later sold to raise funds to help build the company. This accusation ultimately lead to Frodo firing Samwize. Samwize also claims that Frodo created a hostile work environment because of his violent outbursts and sexual harassment towards him and potential customers.

You have been retained by the attorney who is representing Samwize Gamgee to investigate a computer allegedly used by Frodo and Samwize around the time the company was started back in 2005. After receiving a preservation letter from Samwize’s attorney, a forensic image of the hard drive was created by an investigator hired by Frodo’s attorney and sent to you for investigation. You’ve been tasked to analyze the hard drive and identify any evidence on it that relates to this scenario as mentioned above. You are required to produce a full forensic report of your investigation, a chain of custody document, as well as a log of your actions.