Advanced time-lining using open source tools

Using time-line principles, tools and forensic techniques we establish the context necessary to reconstruct a incident



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Ljubljana, 17. in 18. april 2014



About me



- Christian Prickaerts
 - prickaerts@fox-it.com

- My day job
 - In charge of DFIR @Fox-IT
 - Providing expert witness testimony
 - SANS Institute instructor



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Time is of the essence

 You are using timelines in your investigation, are you not?

- Talking about time
 - Timelining is hot!
 - Combine temporal data from <u>multiple</u> sources
 - New artifacts (sources) added constantly

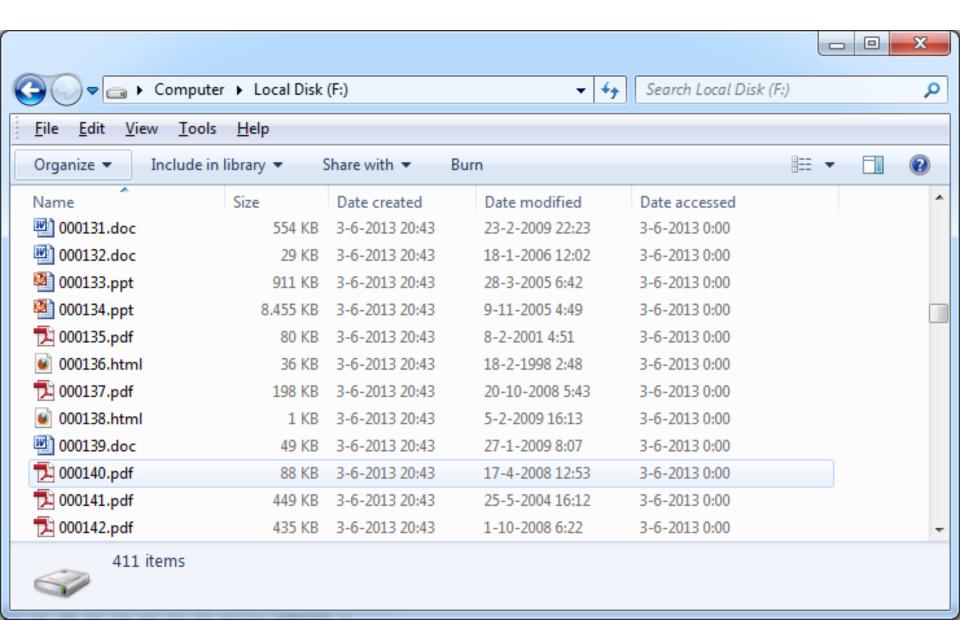


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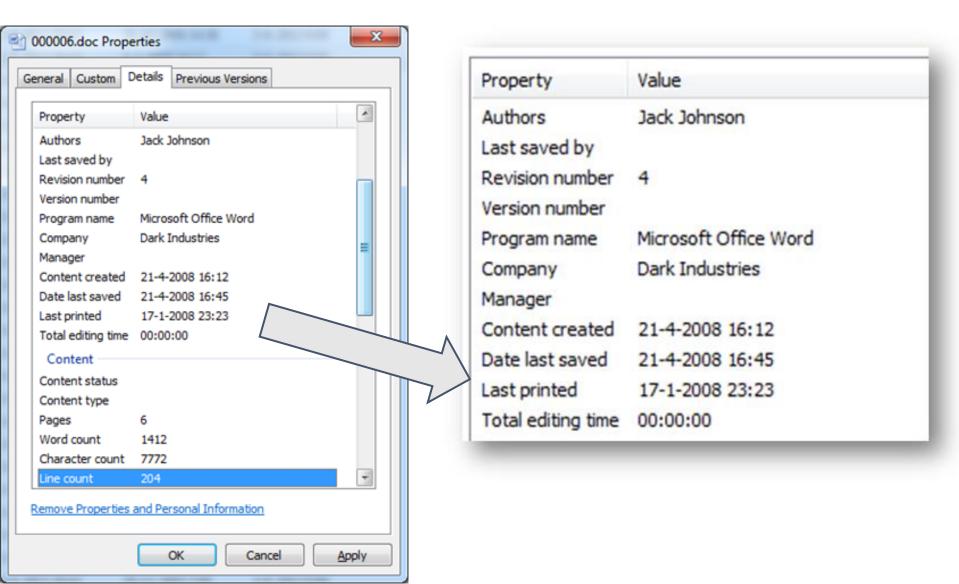
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Timestamp example



When was document last printed?





What time is it?

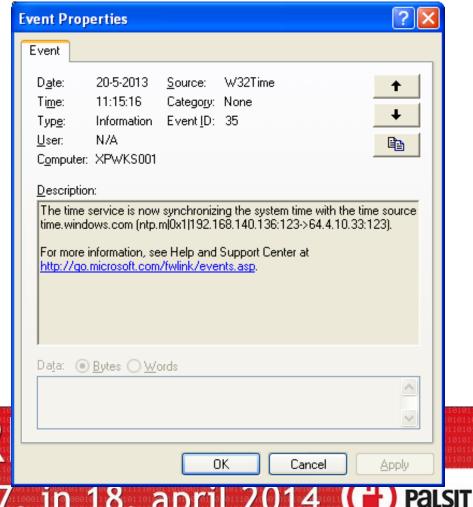


System time at acquisition

PhoenixBIOS Setup Utility							
Main Advanced	Security Boot Exit						
		Item Specific Help					
System Time:	[14:30:22]						
System Date:	[06/10/2013]						
Legacy Diskette A: Legacy Diskette B:	[1.44/1.25 MB 3½"] [Disabled]	Display the diagnostic screen during boot					
▶ Primary Master	[None]						
▶ Primary Slave	[None]						
► Secondary Master	[UMware Virtual ID]						
► Secondary Slave	[VMware Virtual ID]						
► Keyboard Features							
System Memory:	640 KB						
Extended Memory:	1047552 KB						

W32Time / Windows Time Service

- Automatic time sync
 - ID 35 = Good
 - ID 17, 29 (XP) = Bad
 - ID 134 (Win7) = Bad





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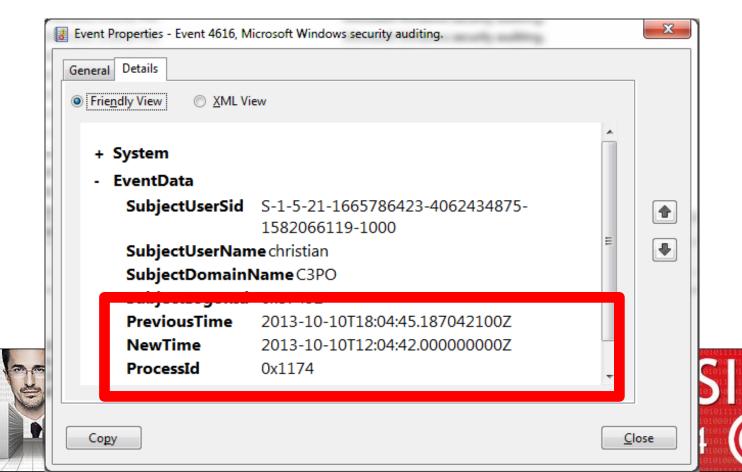
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Look for a bunch of those

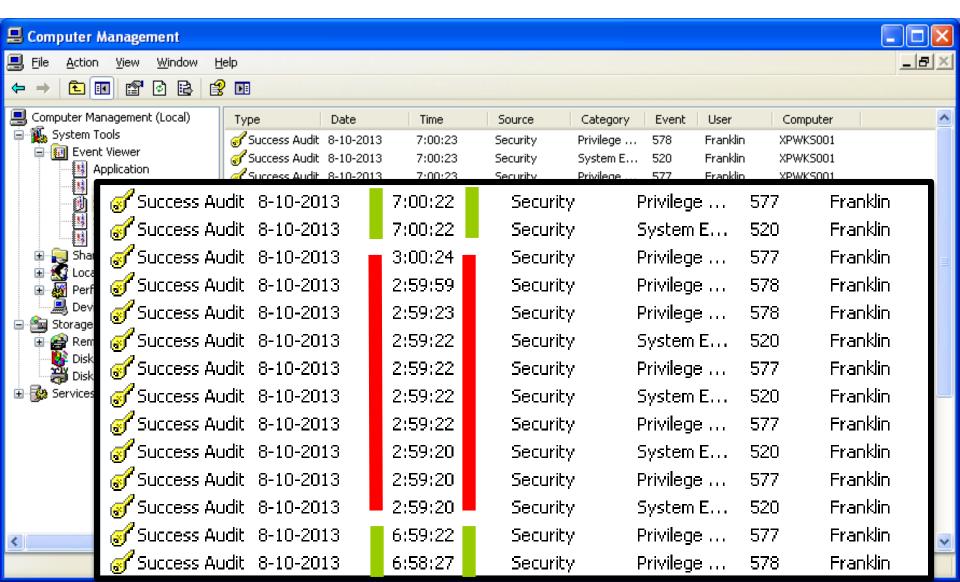
I¶ ¶ ♭ Ы Filt	ered: showing 160 of 5	1467 event(s)		NT 🥋		
уре	Date	Time	Event	Source	Category ∇	User
Information	10/7/2013	12:40:51 PM		Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY/LOCAL SERVICE
Information	10/7/2013	12:40:37 PM	37	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	10/5/2013	8:26:57 AM	35	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	10/5/2013	8:27:08 AM	37	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Warning	10/5/2013	8:23:03 AM	134	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Warning	10/5/2013	8:23:02 AM	134	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	9/16/2013	6:59:38 PM	37	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	9/8/2013	8:17:07 AM	35	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	9/8/2013	8:16:55 AM	37	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	9/2/2013	7:46:32 AM	35	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	9/2/2013	7:46:34 AM	37	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Warning	9/2/2013	7:01:33 AM	134	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	8/27/2013	8:15:46 PM	35	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	8/27/2013	8:15:34 PM	37	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	8/21/2013	3:17:51 PM	35	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	8/21/2013	3:17:55 PM	37	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Warning	8/21/2013	3:17:54 PM	134	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Warning	8/21/2013	3:13:52 PM	134	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Warning	8/21/2013	3:13:51 PM	134	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	8/12/2013	3:22:25 PM	35	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	8/12/2013	3:22:10 PM	37	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	8/6/2013	9:20:06 PM	35	Microsoft-Windows-Time-Service	None	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	8/6/20	ttn://v	./\/\	eventlogxp.co	m/	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE
Information	7/31/2	up.//v	v vv vv	evenillogxp.cc	7111/	NT AUTHORITY\LOCAL SERVICE

Times, they are changing

Look for system time change events: event 4616



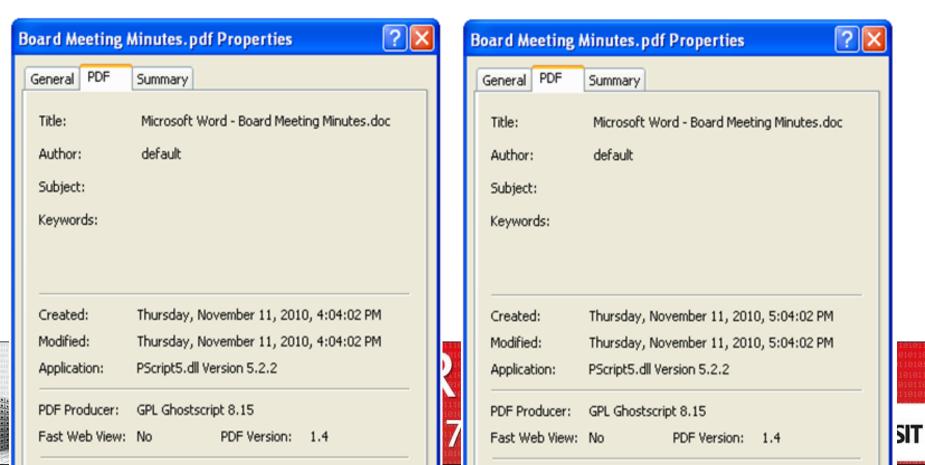
Sorting by logical order



Summertime, and the living is... well, whatever

Viewed on November 11

Viewed on May 28



Timeline Utopia



The Reality



Logic dictates

- You have lots of tools at your disposal
- But they are <u>not</u> intelligent (enough)
- No. 1 tool?
 - (Your) grey mass
- No. 2 tool
 - Log2Timeline/Plaso



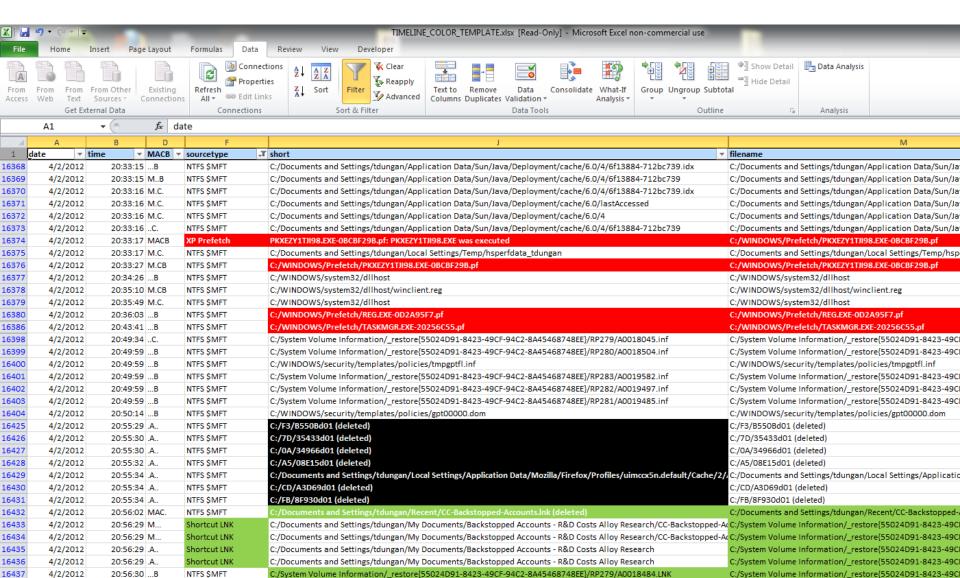
Log2timeline aka Plaso



log2timeline style

https://code.google.com/p/plaso/

Super Timeline



Case Study - Phishing Attack

FILE OPENING
WEB HISTORY
DELETED DATA
EXECUTION
USB USAGE
FOLDER OPENING



























7/20/2008 1:27:40 MAC XP Prefetch

7/20/2008 1:27:40 .AC. NTFS \$MFT

















date time MACI sourcetype

39649 0.0611 MAC Email PST

Email Read

type

short

Message 114: Attachment m57biz.xls Opened

Last run EXCEL.EXE-1C75F8D6.pf: EXCEL.EXE was executed

\$SI [.AC.] time C:/Program Files/Microsoft Office/Office/EXCEL.EXE

7/20/2008 1:27:40 .AC. UserAssist key Time of Launcl UEME_RUNPATH:C:/PROGRA~1/MICROS~2/Office/EXCEL.EXE

7/20/2008 1:27:40 ..CB Shortcut LNK Created C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Desktop/m57biz.xls

7/20/2008 1:27:40 MACINTFS \$MFT \$SI [MACB] tin C:/Documents and Settings/Jean/Application Data/Microsoft/Of

7/20/2008 1:27:41 MACI FileExts key Extension Char File extension .xls opened by EXCEL.EXE

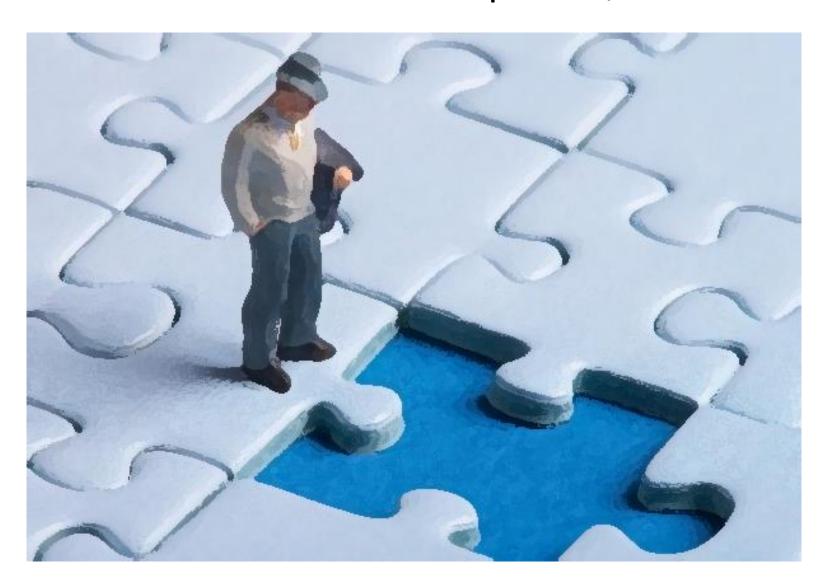
7/20/2008 1:27:41 MACINTFS \$MFT \$SI [MACB] tin C:/windows/system32/winsvchost.exe

7/20/2008 1:27:41 SOFTWARE key Last Written SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run
7/20/2008 1:27:41 Memory Proce Process Starte winsvchost.exe | 1556 | 1032 | | 0x02476768

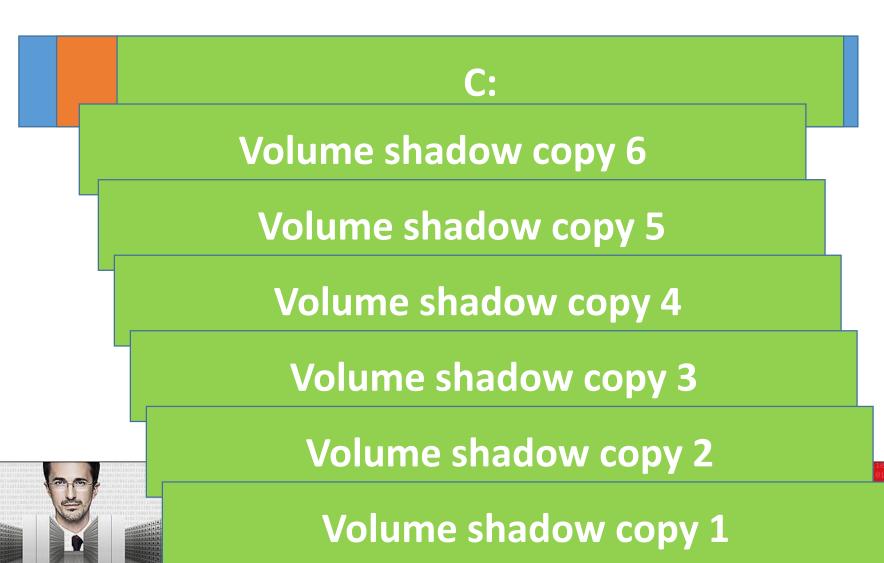
7/20/2008 1:27:41 Memory Socke Socket Opene 4|134.182.111.82:443|Protocol: 6 (TCP)|0x8162de98|||

7/20/2008 1:27:41AM XP Prefetch Last run WINSVCHOST.EXE-1C75F8D6.pf: EXCEL.EXE was executed

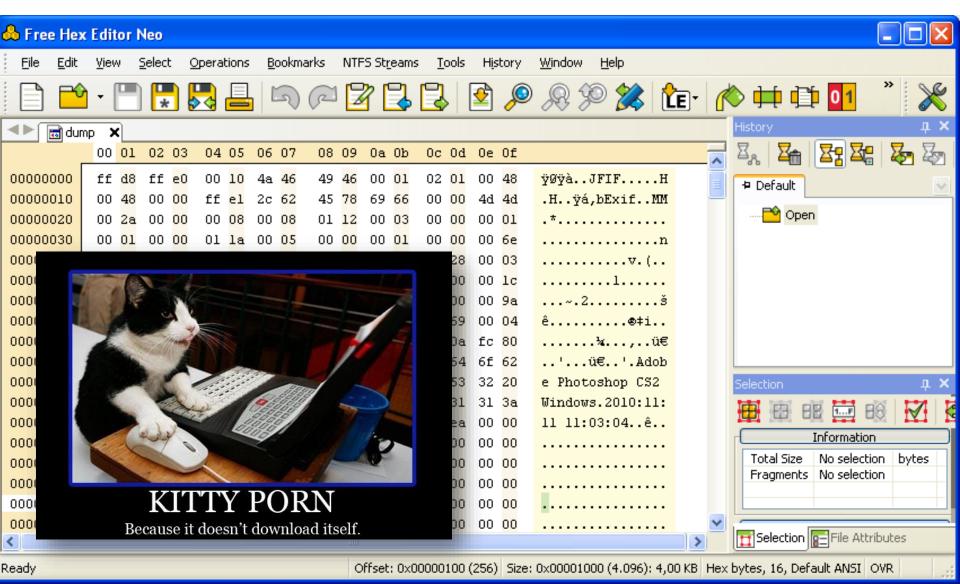
Picture is never complete, ever...



Volume shadow copy



Unallocated space



Exiftool metadata example



Windows – Prefetch files

- When executing a program Windows automatically generates a prefetch file
 - To further enhance performance
 - Existence proves execution
- Location:
 - C:\Windows\Prefetch\
- Name:
 - [application].[ext]-[hash].pf



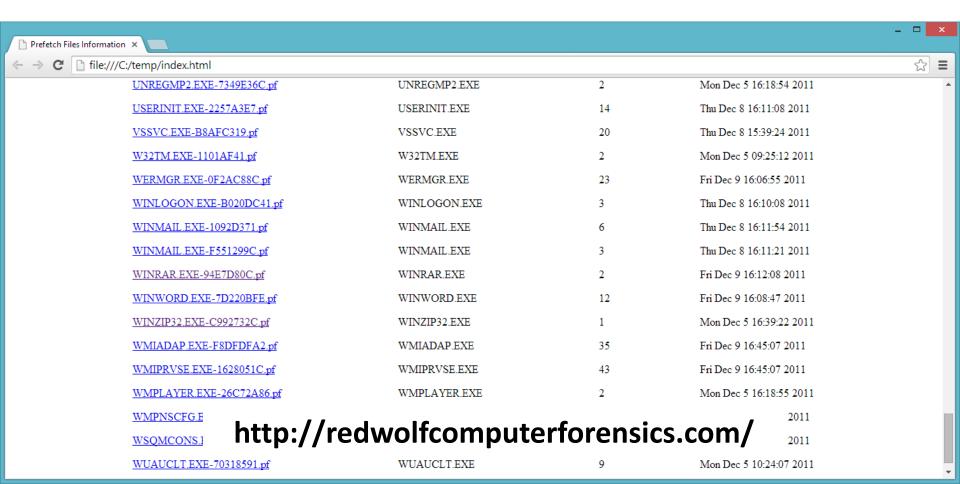
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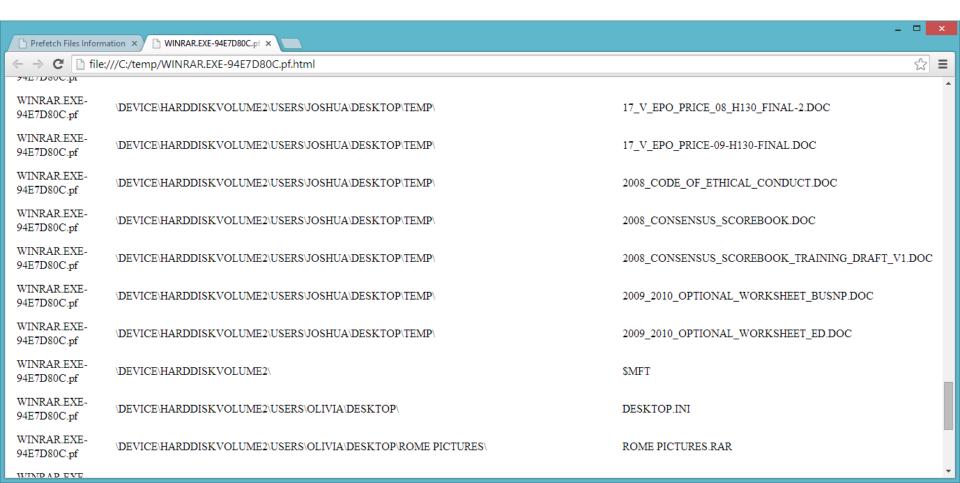
Prefetch (2)

Executables that ran on the system:



Prefetch (3)

Files associated with the execution of WINRAR.EXE:



Analyze recovered prefetch

Foremost signature for carving PF files:
 pf y 80000 ?\x00\x00\x00\x53\x43\x43\x41

Use pf to parse recovered files:pf -v recovered_file.pf

Use Foremost or Photorec



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Carved LNK file

```
Command Prompt
C:\Users\sansforensics408\Desktop>lp carved.lnk
lp (lnk parser) - limited ver: 0.57; Copyright (c) TZWorks LLC
cmdline: lp_carved.lnk
run time: 10/10/13 09:10:31.131 [GMT]
   running w/o admin privileges
source path/filename:
                                                            HasRelativePath, HasWorkingDi
Target ObjID time:
Target file size:
Show cmd:
                           CLSID MyDocuments
                                                          Timestamps of
                           417-a667
                          C:\Documents and Setti
                             My Documents∖My Pict\
                                                       original document
                            Nocuments and Setting
                               . MYPICTURES
  [BIOS name:
                          eb96f 496-6f ce-4cb9-ade8-
5caa92ee-3183-11e3-b837-
                                                        that was opened
C:\Users\sansforensics408\Do
                                https://tzworks.net/
```

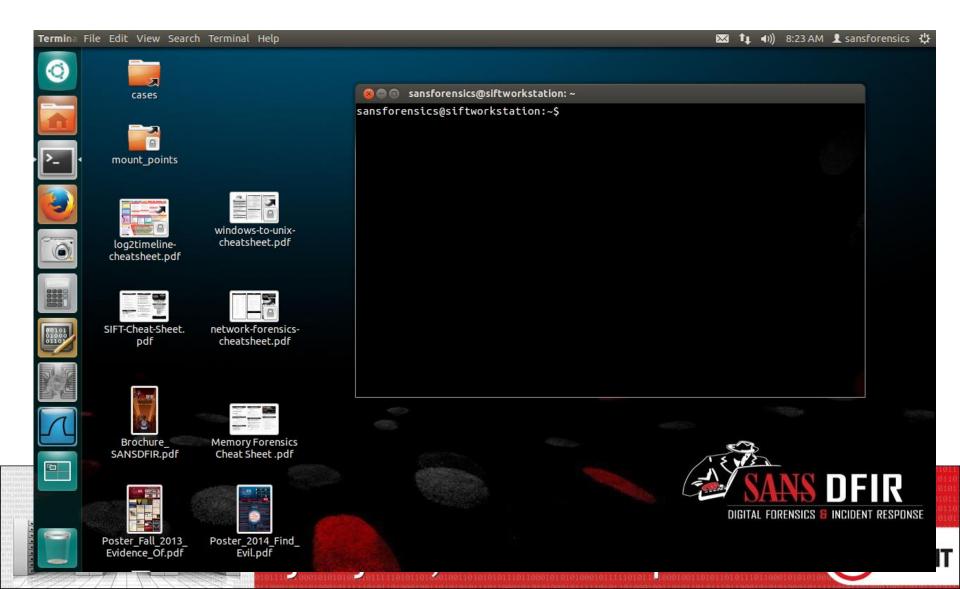
Volatility: timeliner plugin

- Many memory artifacts have embedded timestamps:
 - Processes, threads
 - Portable Executable Files
 - Process EXEs, DLLs, and Drivers
 - Network Sockets, Registry Keys, Event Logs

 Timeliner consolidates artifacts into delimited file that can be easily converted to a timeline



SANS SIFT Workstation



Absence of evidence isn't evidence of absence

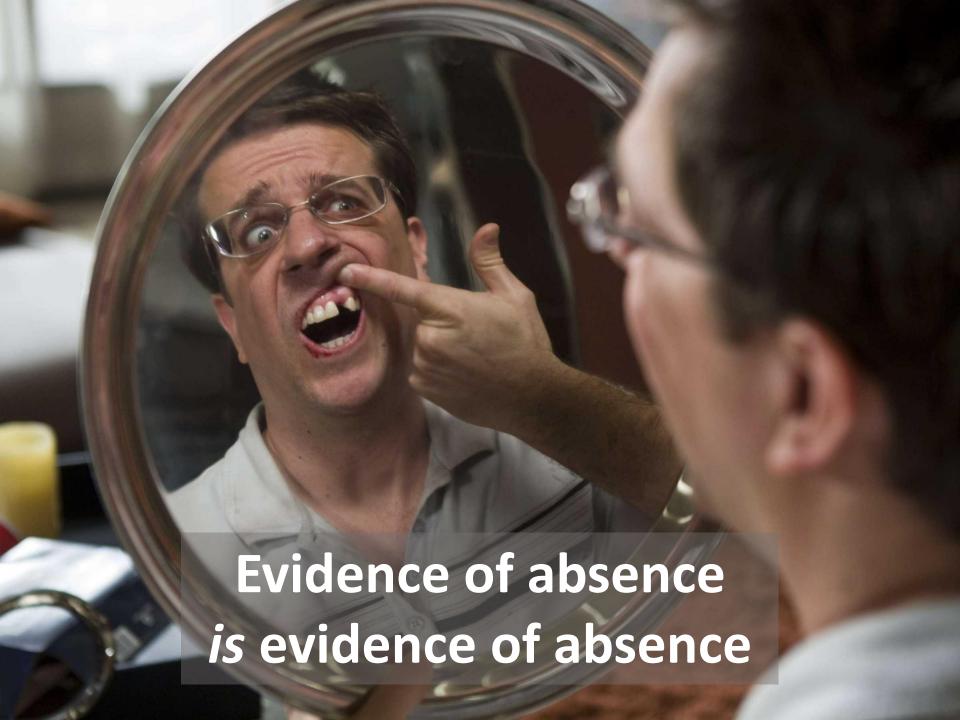
- Carl Sagan



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Test your hypotheses



Final thoughts

 You are looking at the result of certain activity, not at the activity itself

 There might be an alternative scenario that produces that specific pattern



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