

Windows Artifacts Exercise

BitCuratorEdu

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About This Exercise

Author

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Description

This hands-on exercise introduces students to forensic artifacts produced by Windows operating systems and tools to analyze them. These slides are excerpted from Cal Lee's SAA "Advanced Digital Forensics" class. The sample data referenced in these slides is available here:

<https://github.com/BitCurator/bcc-dfa-sample-data/>

Learning object type

Lesson plan/materials

Learning objectives

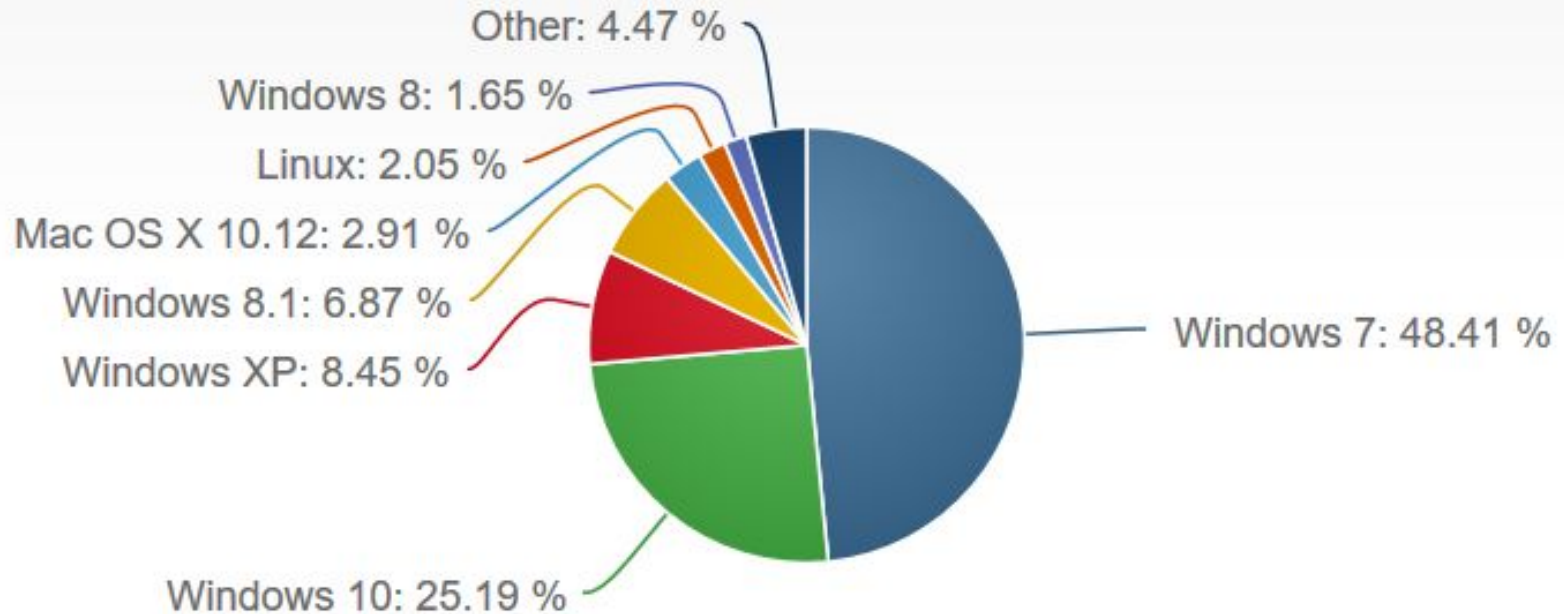
This learning object might be used in a lesson to satisfy the following learning objectives:

- Practice using tools in the BitCurator Environment.

Windows Artifacts

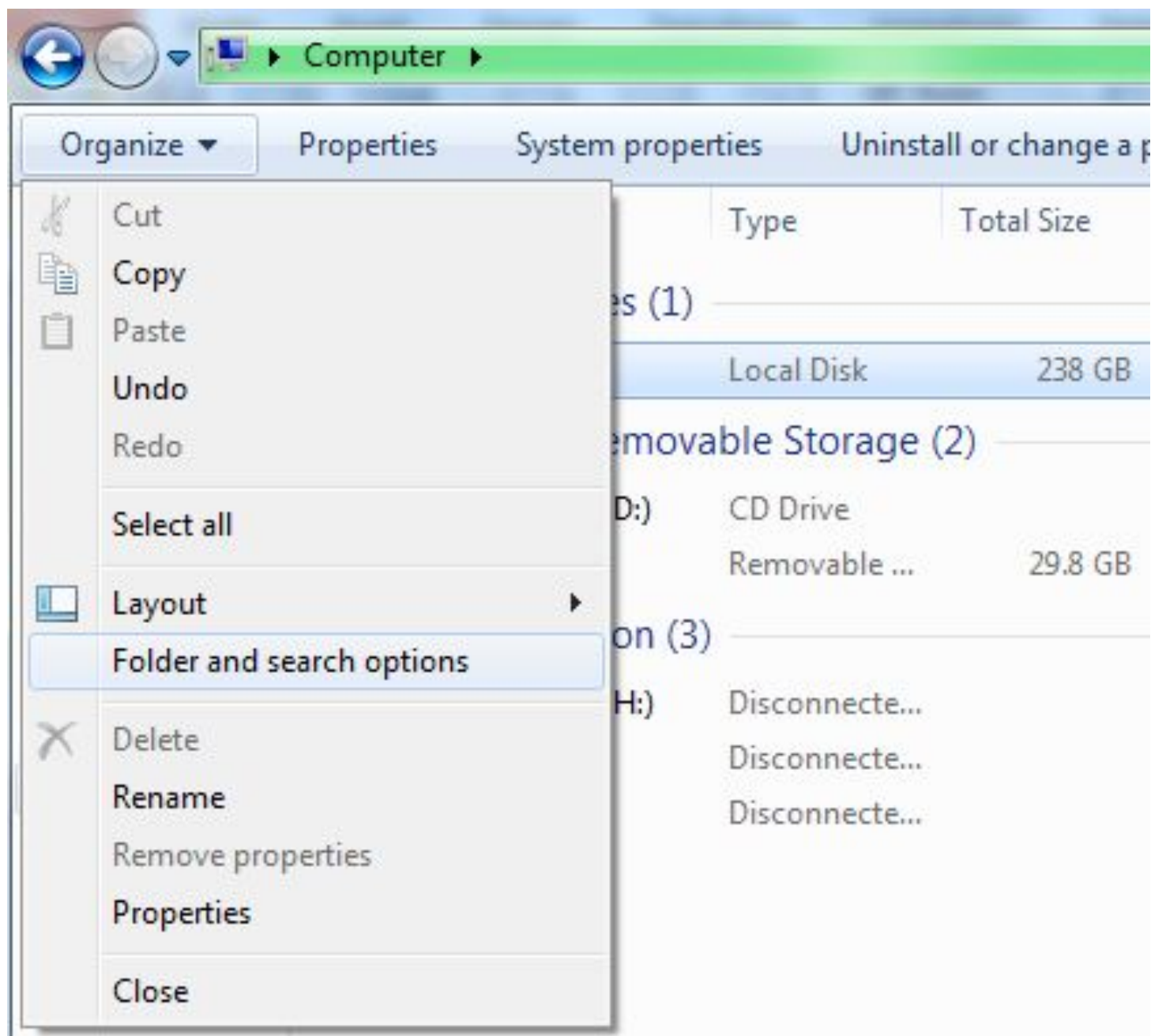


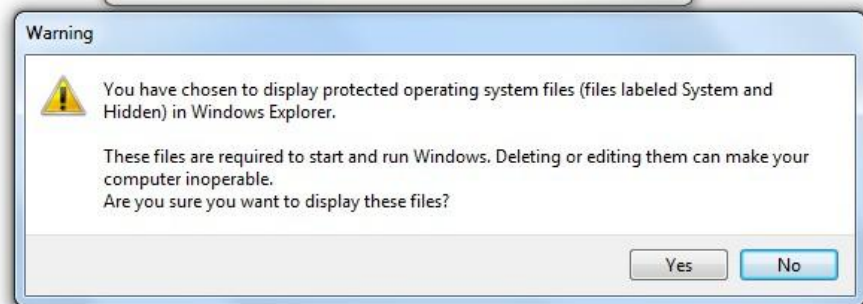
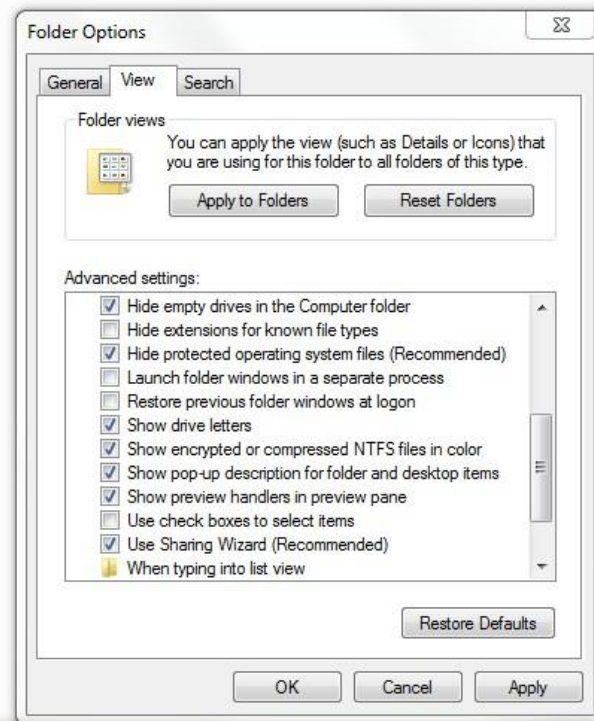
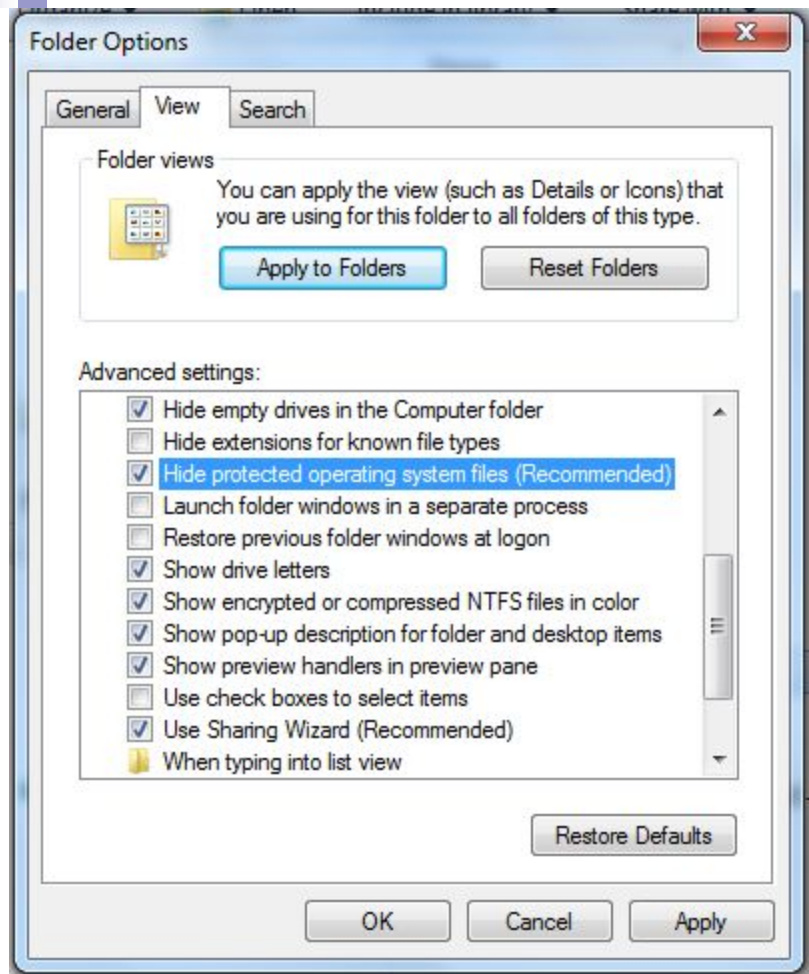
Desktop Operating System Market Share

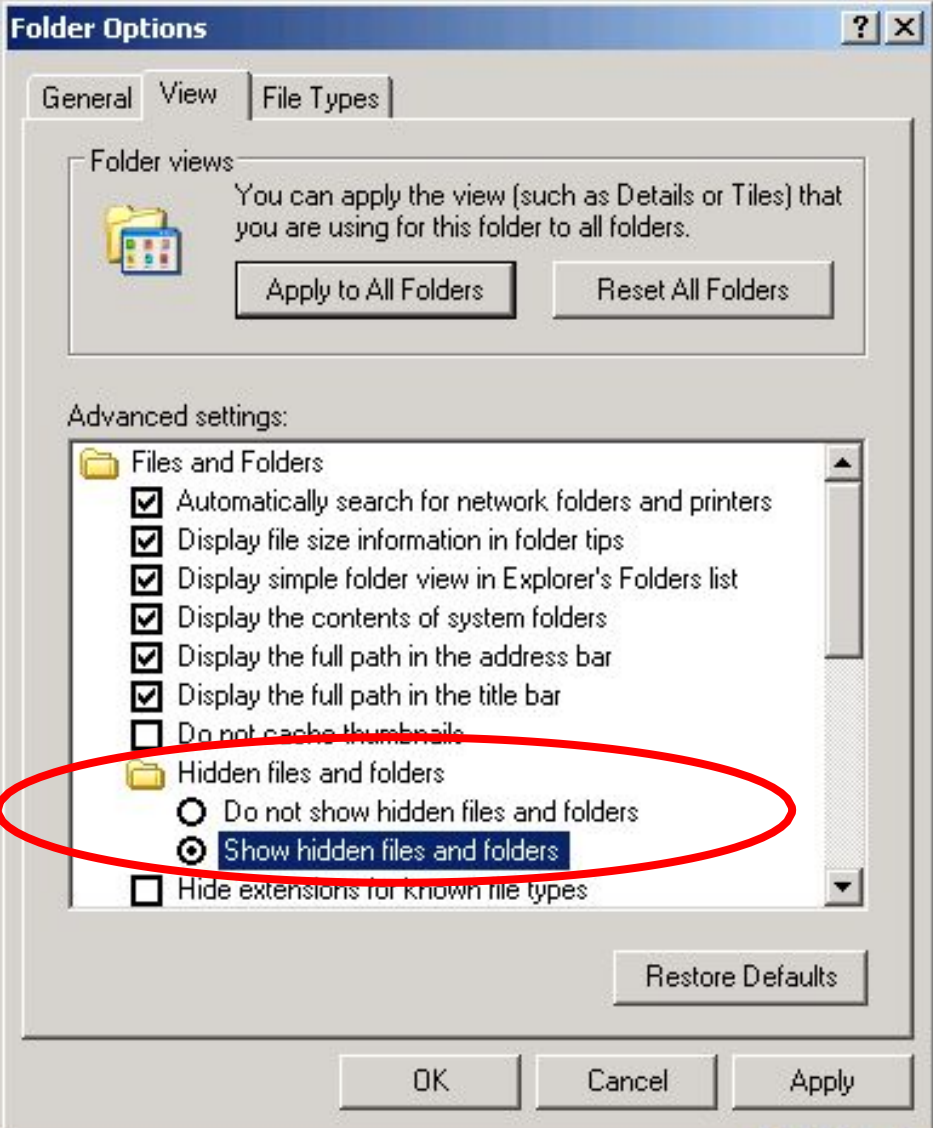
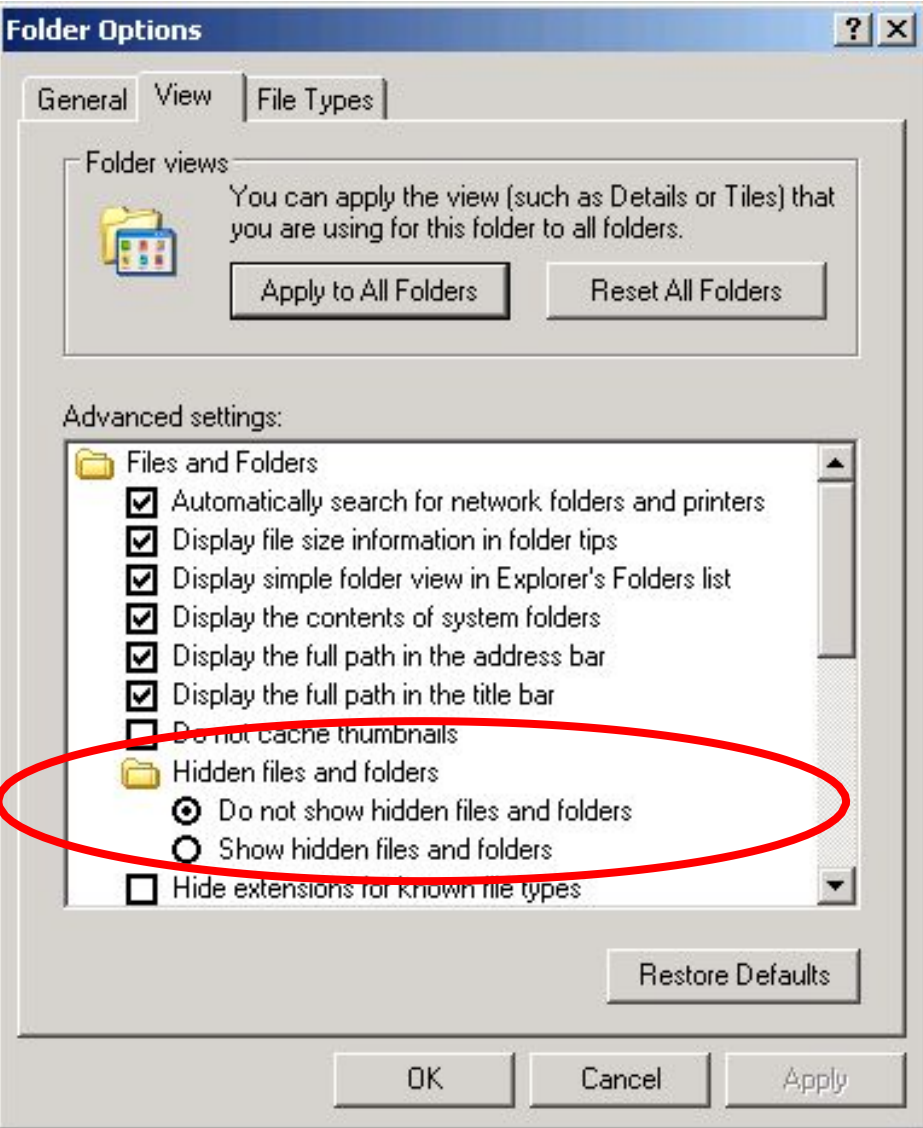


<https://www.netmarketshare.com/operating-system-market-share.aspx>

Let's make sure you can see all of the files on your computer.







Windows Registry

- Information about:
 - Applications installed
 - Application settings
 - Hardware installed
 - Hardware settings
 - User interface and system preferences
 - User accounts
 - Locations of files and recent activities, e.g. Most Recently Used (MRU)
 - Lots of online activities, e.g. user names and passwords, browsing and search query history

Five Main Registry Files

File	Description
NTUSER.DAT	One for each user account, includes information such as Most Recently Used (MRU) file lists, desktop settings, default application behaviors
SAM (Security Accounts Manager)	User account information (including passwords) and security settings
SECURITY	User and group security policies, e.g. which accounts can load device drivers, get remote access to the machine
SOFTWARE	Information about all install programs, including settings and directory paths
SYSTEM	Windows systems settings, such as drive letter mappings, storage volume information, system boot profile, last known good configuration, system name, Windows setup information, hardware profile information

Where are They Located?

Computer > Windows (C:) > Windows > System32 > config >				
Include in library ▾ Share with ▾ New folder				
Name	Date modified	Type	Size	
Journal	7/13/2009 10:34 PM	File folder		
RegBack	10/21/2013 12:39 ...	File folder		
systemprofile	11/20/2010 9:41 PM	File folder		
TxR	2/21/2011 2:10 PM	File folder		
BCD-Template	6/28/2013 6:36 AM	File	28 KB	
COMPONENTS	10/22/2013 3:50 PM	File	43,008 KB	
COMPONENTS.LOG	11/21/2010 1:33 AM	Text Document	1 KB	
COMPONENTS.LOG1	10/22/2013 3:50 PM	LOG1 File	256 KB	
COMPONENTS.LOG2	7/13/2009 10:34 PM	LOG2 File	0 KB	
DEFAULT	10/22/2013 3:40 PM	File	512 KB	
DEFAULT.LOG	11/21/2010 1:33 AM	Text Document	1 KB	
DEFAULT.LOG1	10/22/2013 3:40 PM	LOG1 File	256 KB	
DEFAULT.LOG2	7/13/2009 10:34 PM	LOG2 File	0 KB	
netlogon.ftl	10/22/2013 3:17 PM	ETL File	3 KB	
SAM	10/22/2013 7:24 AM	File	256 KB	
SAM.LOG	11/21/2010 1:33 AM	Text Document	1 KB	
SAM.LOG1	10/22/2013 7:23 AM	LOG1 File	21 KB	
SAM.LOG2	7/13/2009 10:34 PM	LOG2 File	0 KB	
SECURITY	10/22/2013 3:18 PM	File	256 KB	
SECURITY.LOG	11/21/2010 1:33 AM	Text Document	1 KB	
SECURITY.LOG1	10/22/2013 3:18 PM	LOG1 File	25 KB	
SECURITY.LOG2	7/13/2009 10:34 PM	LOG2 File	0 KB	
SOFTWARE	10/22/2013 5:13 PM	File	85,504 KB	
SOFTWARE.LOG	11/21/2010 1:33 AM	Text Document	1 KB	
SOFTWARE.LOG1	10/22/2013 5:13 PM	LOG1 File	256 KB	
SOFTWARE.LOG2	7/13/2009 10:34 PM	LOG2 File	0 KB	
SYSTEM	10/22/2013 5:14 PM	File	19,456 KB	
SYSTEM.LOG	11/21/2010 1:33 AM	Text Document	1 KB	
SYSTEM.LOG1	10/22/2013 5:14 PM	LOG1 File	256 KB	
SYSTEM.LOG2	7/13/2009 10:34 PM	LOG2 File	0 KB	

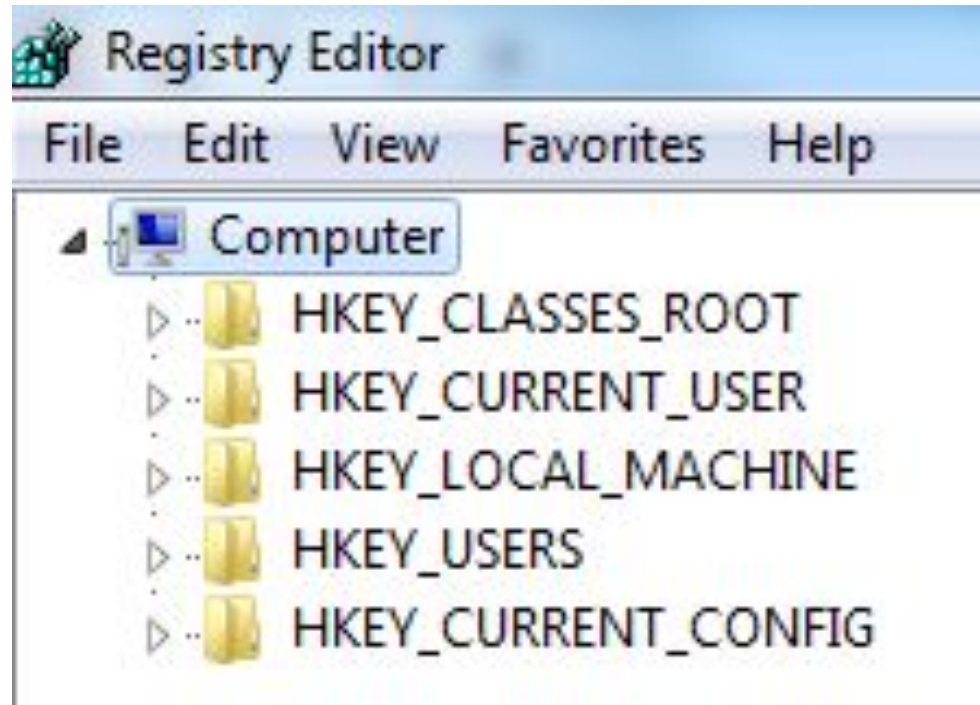
Computer > Windows (C:) > Users > callee >				
Include in library ▾ Share with ▾ New folder				
Name	Date modified	Type	Size	
.VirtualBox	10/21/2013 11:37 ...	File folder		
AppData	3/19/2012 9:39 AM	File folder		
Application Data	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
Backup	7/15/2013 12:04 PM	File folder		
Contacts	9/24/2013 7:16 AM	File folder		
Cookies	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
Desktop	10/22/2013 9:26 AM	File folder		
Downloads	10/22/2013 8:36 AM	File folder		
Dropbox	7/15/2013 12:16 PM	File folder		
Favorites	9/24/2013 7:16 AM	File folder		
GodMode	2/1/2010 6:40 PM	File folder		
Links	9/24/2013 7:16 AM	File folder		
Local Settings	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
My Documents	10/16/2013 12:19 ...	File folder		
My Documents	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
My Music	9/24/2013 7:16 AM	File folder		
My Pictures	9/24/2013 7:16 AM	File folder		
My Videos	9/24/2013 7:16 AM	File folder		
NetHood	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
Oracle	7/15/2013 11:47 AM	File folder		
PrintHood	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
Recent	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
Roaming	6/28/2013 4:40 AM	File folder		
Saved Games	9/24/2013 7:16 AM	File folder		
Searches	9/24/2013 7:16 AM	File folder		
SendTo	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
Start Menu	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
Templates	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	File folder		
VirtualBox VMs	10/17/2013 5:53 PM	File folder		
.gitconfig	9/29/2013 5:13 PM	GITCONFIG File	0 KB	
NTUSER.DAT	10/22/2013 7:26 PM	DAT File	5,888 KB	
ntuser.dat.LOG1	10/22/2013 7:26 PM	LOG1 File	256 KB	
ntuser.dat.LOG2	7/15/2013 9:55 AM	LOG2 File	0 KB	

Registry Hives

Structure:

Hive

- Key
 - Subkey
 - Value



Example:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer
\ RecentDocs

What do you think this is?

Registry Hives

Name	Description
HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT	Just points to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Classes
HKEY_CURRENT_USER	User setting information, which is generated dynamically from HKEY_USERS when a user logs into Windows
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE	Hardware and software settings that are specific to this computer but shared across users (generated at startup from SYSTEM.DAT)
HKEY_USERS	Information about each of the user accounts on the computer, e.g. desktop settings, default software behaviors - generated at startup from NTUSER.DAT files, and when user logs out of applications or out of Windows, data are written back to the ntUSER.DAT files
HKEY_CURRENT_CONFIG	Just points to HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Config

Question: Where would you find these registry hives on a disk image? (Hint: This is a trick question)



Registry Hive Value Data Types

Type	Description
REG_BINARY	Raw binary data displayed as hexadecimal*
REG_DWORD	32-bit unsigned integer (4 bytes)
REG_EXPAND_SZ	Variable-length string, usually in UTF-16 (Unicode)
REG_FULL_RESOURCE_DESCRIPTOR	Series of nested arrays used by a hardware device, binary data displayed as hexadecimal*
REG_LINK	Symbolic link to another registry key (Unicode)
REG_MULTI_SZ	Ordered list of strings (multi-string value), usually in UTF-16
REG_NONE	No specific type – displayed as hexadecimal*
REG_QWORD	64-bit integer (8 bytes)
REG_RESOURCE_LIST	Series of nested arrays used by a hardware device, binary data displayed as hexadecimal*
REG_RESOURCE_REQUIREMENTS_LIST	Series of nested arrays used by a hardware device, binary data displayed as hexadecimal*
REG_SZ	Fixed-length text string, usually in UTF-16

*Can open in hex viewer or hex editor using View and Edit menus, respectively.

Security ID (SID)

- One assigned to each user account
- Associated with various resources, including files, folders and Recycling Bins

SID Example

S-1-5-21-1180590209-877416012-3186324384-1002

S-1-5-21-1180590209-877416012-3186324384-1002

Always an “S”, indicating that this is an SID.

S-1-5-21-1180590209-877416012-3186324384-1002



Revision level (version of the SID specification being used).

S-1-5-21-1180590209-877416012-3186324384-1002



Authority that issued the SID.
Value is usually “5”, indicating NT
Authority.

S-1-5-21-1180590209-877416012-3186324384-1002



Domain identifier – value can be up to 500.

S-1-5-21-1180590209-877416012-3186324384-1002

Account or group on a domain or
local machine

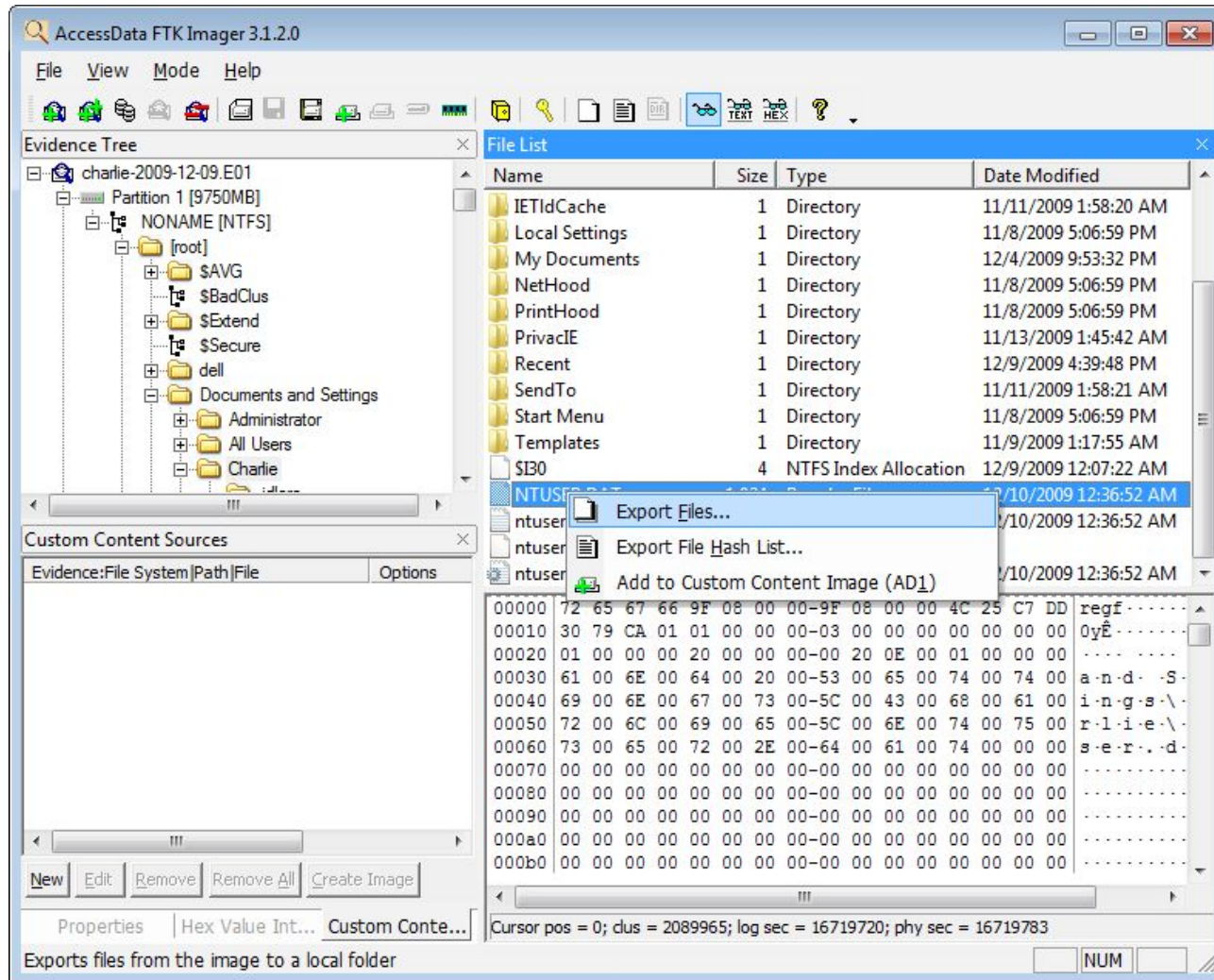
S-1-5-21-1180590209-877416012-3186324384-1002

Relative Identifier (RID), designating a specific user in the SAM file. Those below 1000 are default accounts (e.g. 500 = Administrator), and those 1000 or above are created for specific groups or users.

Examining an NTUSER.DAT File

- The files on your flash drive in registry.zip were extracted from a full-drive (including the operating system) disk image
- The following is an example of how these files can be extracted using FTK Imager

- Navigate to: Partition 1 > [root] > Documents and Settings > Charlie > NTUSER.DAT
- Right click on NTUSER.DAT and select Export Files.



Then export the other four registry files from Windows\System32\config

AccessData FTK Imager 3.1.2.0

File View Mode Help

Evidence Tree

- system32
 - 1025
 - 1028
 - 1031
 - 1033
 - 1037
 - 1041
 - 1042
 - 1054
 - 2052
 - 3076
 - 3com_dmi
 - CatRoot
 - CatRoot2
 - Com
 - config

File List

Name	Size	Type	Date Modified
SAM			12/10/2009 12:36:59 AM
SAM.LOG			12/10/2009 12:36:59 AM
SAM.LOG.FileSlack			
SecEvent.Evt			12/10/2009 12:36:59 PM
SECURITY	256	Regular File	12/10/2009 12:36:59 AM
SECURITY.LOG	1	Regular File	12/9/2009 11:29:01 AM
SECURITY.LOG.FileSlack	3	File Slack	
software	12,800	Regular File	12/10/2009 12:36:59 AM
software.LOG	1	Regular File	12/10/2009 12:36:58 AM
software.LOG.FileSlack	3	File Slack	
software.sav	1,064	Regular File	11/8/2009 5:05:02 PM
SysEvent.Evt	256	Regular File	12/10/2009 12:36:55 AM
system	3,584	Regular File	12/10/2009 12:36:59 AM
system.LOG	1	Regular File	12/10/2009 12:36:59 AM

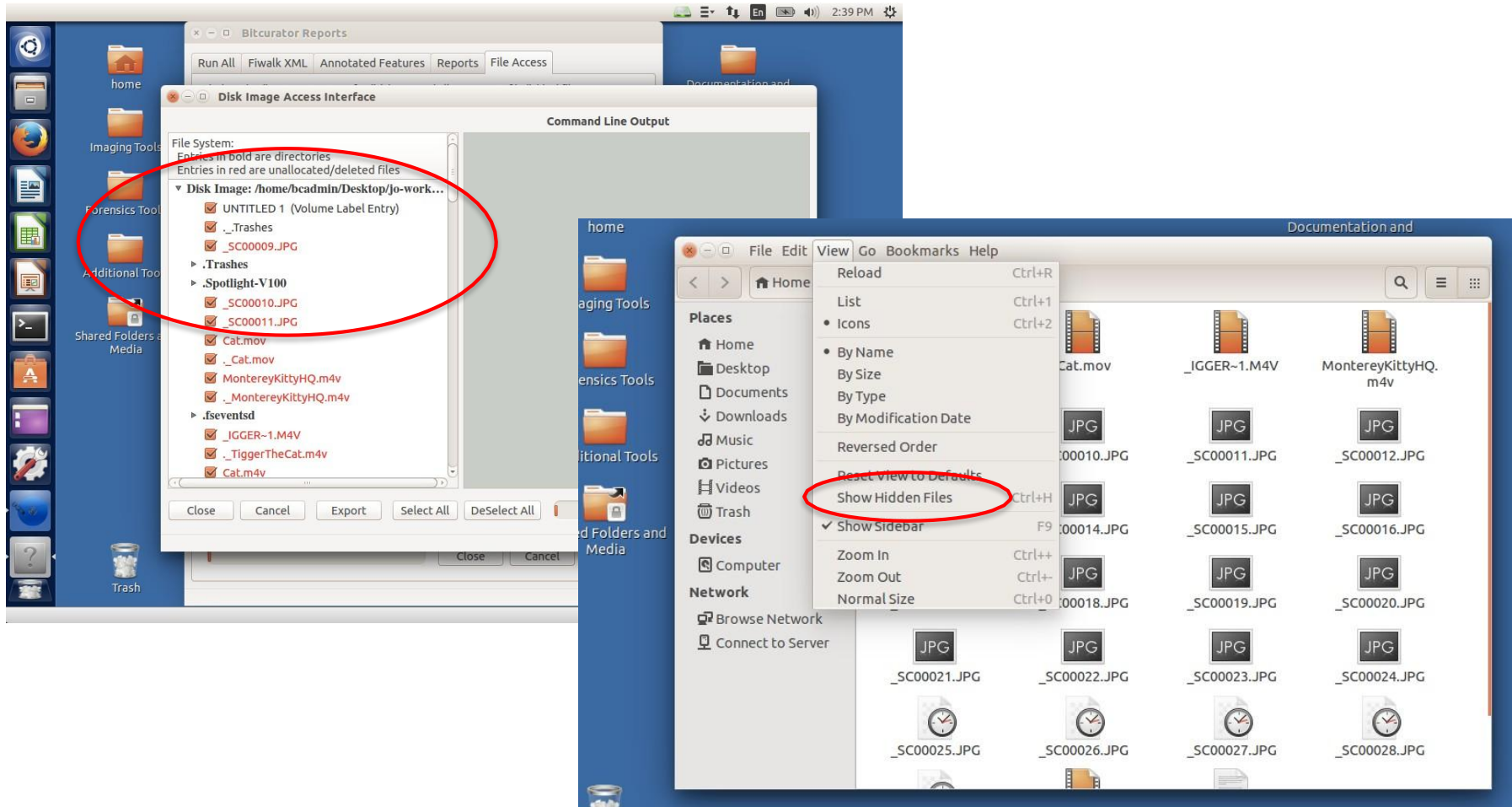
Custom Content Sources

Evidence	File System	Path	File	Options

000000 72 65 67 66 11 11 00 00-11 11 00 00 74 17 49 E2 regf.....t
 000010 30 79 CA 01 01 00 00 00-05 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0yE.....
 000020 01 00 00 00 20 00 00 00-00 90 34 00 01 00 00 004..
 000030 53 00 59 00 53 00 54 00-45 00 4D 00 00 00 00 00 S-Y-S-T-E-M..
 000040 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
 000050 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
 000060 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
 000070 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
 000080 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
 000090 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
 0000a0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
 0000b0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00-00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
 Cursor pos = 224; dus = 2057026; log sec = 16456208; phy sec = 16456271

Properties Hex Value Int... Custom Conte...
 Exports files from the image to a local folder

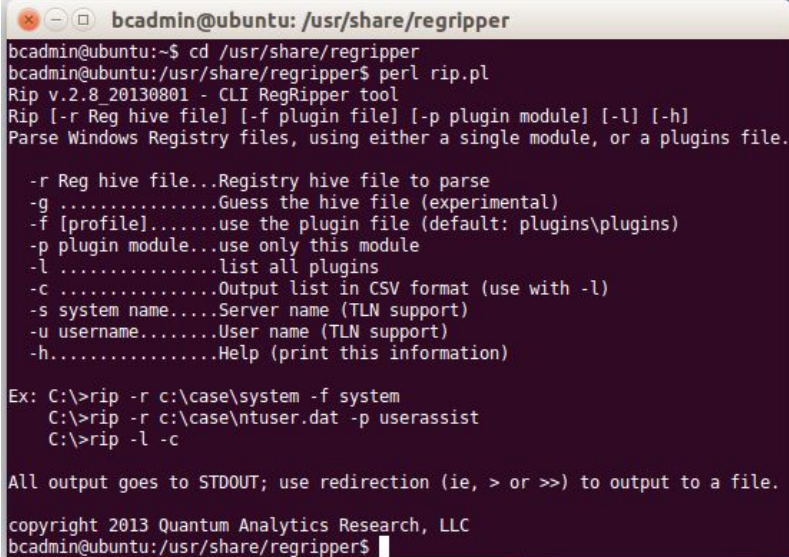
Performing these same tasks using the BitCurator environment



RegRipper Instructions – BitCurator

- Navigate to Forensics Tools and double-click on the RegRipper icon
- NOTE: **IGNORE** examples that it presents, because they use commands and syntax for Windows, not Linux
- Issue each of the following commands:*

- `perl rip.pl -r ~/Desktop/sample-data/registry/NTUSER.DAT > ~/Desktop/ntuser-report -f ntuser`
- `perl rip.pl -r ~/Desktop/sample-data/registry/SAM > ~/Desktop/sam-report -f sam`
- `perl rip.pl -r ~/Desktop/sample-data/registry/SECURITY > ~/Desktop/security-report -f security`
- `perl rip.pl -r ~/Desktop/sample-data/registry/SOFTWARE > ~/Desktop/software-report -f software`
- `perl rip.pl -r ~/Desktop/sample-data/registry/SYSTEM > ~/Desktop/system-report -f system`



```
bcadmin@ubuntu: /usr/share/regripper
bcadmin@ubuntu:~$ cd /usr/share/regripper
bcadmin@ubuntu:usr/share/regripper$ perl rip.pl
Rip v.2.8_20130801 - CLI RegRipper tool
Rip [-r Reg hive file] [-f plugin file] [-p plugin module] [-l] [-h]
Parse Windows Registry files, using either a single module, or a plugins file.

-r Reg hive file...Registry hive file to parse
-g .....Guess the hive file (experimental)
-f [profile].....use the plugin file (default: plugins\plugins)
-p plugin module...use only this module
-l .....list all plugins
-c .....Output list in CSV format (use with -l)
-s system name....Server name (TLN support)
-u username.....User name (TLN support)
-h.....Help (print this information)

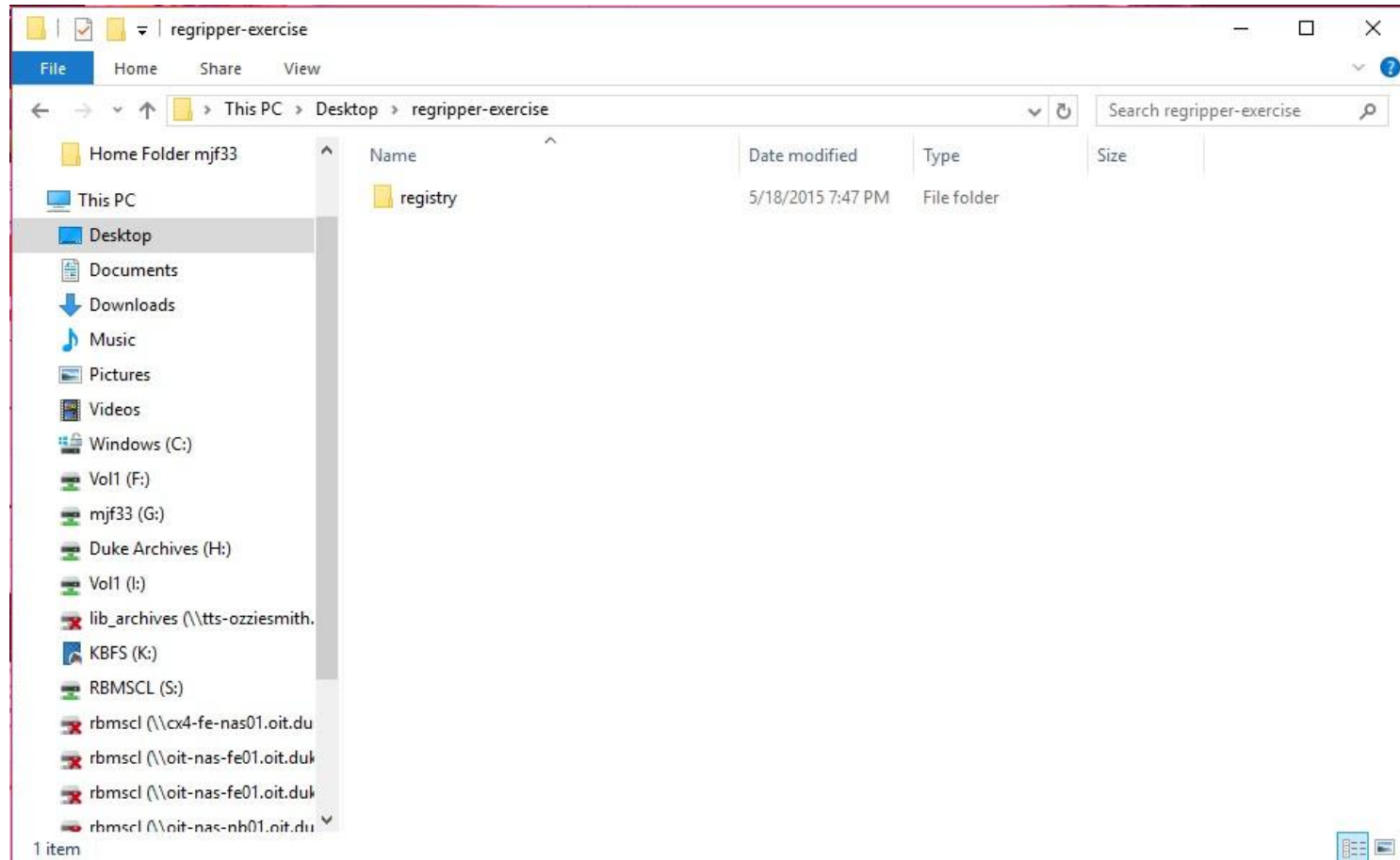
Ex: C:\>rip -r c:\case\system -f system
    C:\>rip -r c:\case\ntuser.dat -p userassist
    C:\>rip -l -c

All output goes to STDOUT; use redirection (ie, > or >>) to output to a file.

copyright 2013 Quantum Analytics Research, LLC
bcadmin@ubuntu:usr/share/regripper$
```

*Enter each command in its entirety before hitting enter (line breaks above are simply to fit the text onto the slide, not ones that you should type yourself). Remember that the up arrow and tab can save you time when typing commands.

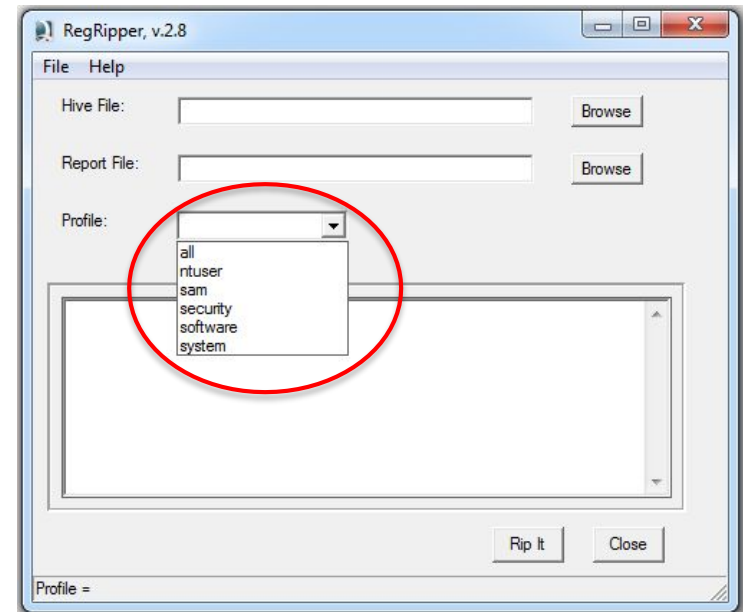
RegRipper Instructions – Windows I



- Create a folder on your desktop called regripper-exercise
- Go to \das-forensics-flash-drive-files\Sample Data\
- Extract contents of registry.zip to Desktop\regripper-exercise

RegRipper Instructions – Windows II

- Navigate to \das-forensics-flash-drive-files\reg-ripper
- Run rr.exe
- The next set of steps will be run 5 times—once for each of the files in regripper-exercise\registry
- Next to the Hive File window, select Browse
 - Navigate to regripper-exercise\registry and select the first Hive File
 - E.g., NTUSER.DAT
- Next to Report File, select Browse
 - Create a new file in regripper-exercise that corresponds to the Hive File above
 - E.g., NTUSER_report.txt
- In the Profile dropdown, select the appropriate profile
 - E.g., ntuser
- Select Rip It.
- Repeat the above steps for SAM, SECURITY, SOFTWARE, and SYSTEM



RegRipper Output Questions

Examine ntuser-report.txt

Are you able to identify files that the user recently opened? If so, what were they? Can you determine what the most recently opened files of specific types (e.g. txt) were?

Examine sam-report.txt

How many accounts were there on the computer that is represented in the disk image? What is the Relative Identifier (RID) for the user account you're examining? What other interesting information can you gain from the SAM report about this user account and how might you use that information?

Examine security-report.txt

What is the Machine SID for the computer represented in the disk image? Why would you want to know this? How does it relate to the RID that you identified above?

Examine software-report.txt

Identify three different applications that were installed on the computer and the file paths where the applications were stored.

Examine system-report.txt

Find the devclass output. What does this output tell you? How might this information be useful?

RegRipper Output Discussion: ntuser-report

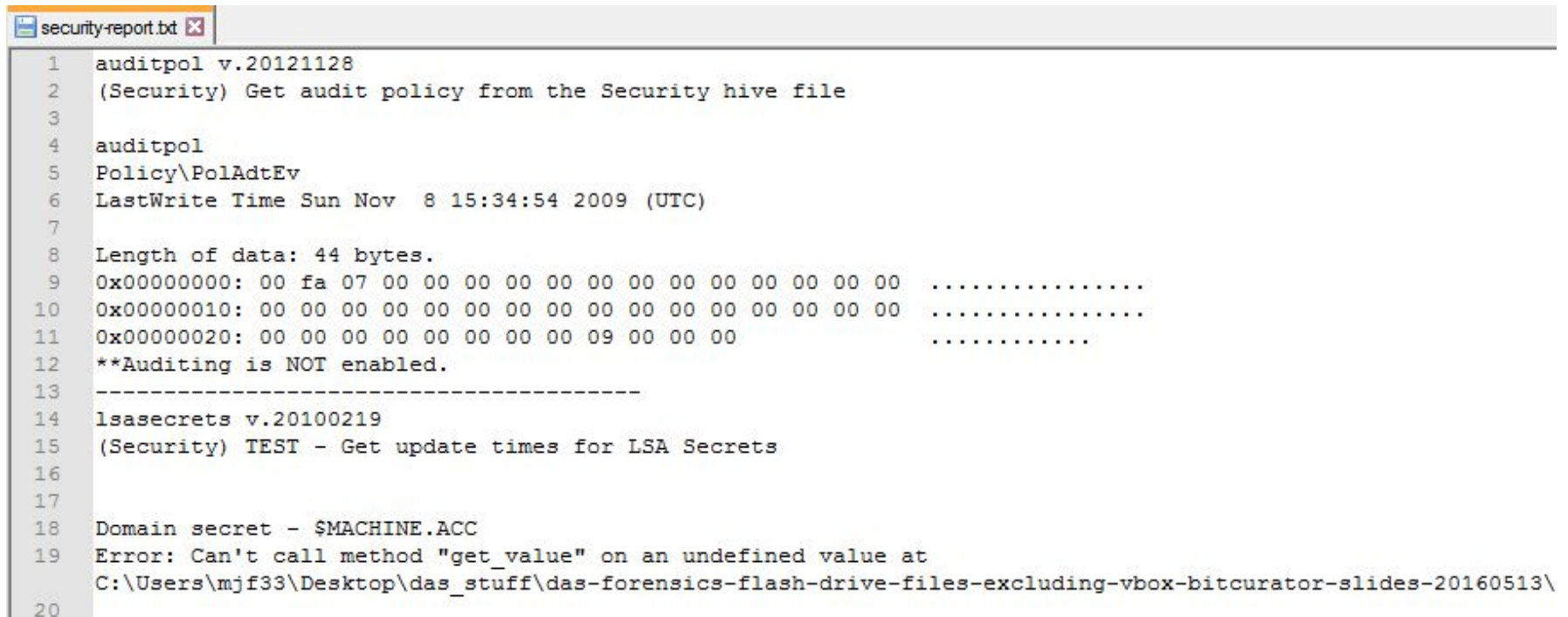
- Are you able to identify the files that the user recently opened? If so, what were they?
 - How did you go about finding this information?
 - What line number(s) points to this information?
- Can you determine what the most recently open files of specific types (e.g. txt) were?
 - How did you go about finding these?
 - What line numbers have this information?
- Look at lines 1109-1117—what type of information are you looking at?
- Is there any other information you find particularly compelling in this report?
- What might you do with this information?

RegRipper Output Discussion: sam-report

- How many accounts were there on the this computer?
 - How did you go about finding this information?
 - What line number(s) points to this information?
- What was the Relative Identifier (RID) for the user account you're examining?
 - How did you go about finding this?
- How many logins did Pat make on this machine?
- Is there any other information you find particularly compelling in this report?
- What might you do with this information?

RegRipper Output Discussion: security-report

- What is the Machine SID for the computer represented here?
 - How did you go about finding this information?
 - What line number(s) points to this information?
- Why would you want to know this information
- How does this relate to the RID in the previous report?



```
1 auditpol v.20121128
2 (Security) Get audit policy from the Security hive file
3
4 auditpol
5 Policy\PolAdtEv
6 LastWrite Time Sun Nov  8 15:34:54 2009 (UTC)
7
8 Length of data: 44 bytes.
9 0x00000000: 00 fa 07 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
10 0x00000010: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 .....
11 0x00000020: 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 09 00 00 00 .....
12 **Auditing is NOT enabled.
13 -----
14 lsasecrets v.20100219
15 (Security) TEST - Get update times for LSA Secrets
16
17
18 Domain secret - $MACHINE.ACC
19 Error: Can't call method "get_value" on an undefined value at
20 C:\Users\mjf33\Desktop\das_stuff\das-forensics-flash-drive-files-excluding-vbox-bitcurator-slides-20160513\
```

RegRipper Output Discussion: software-report

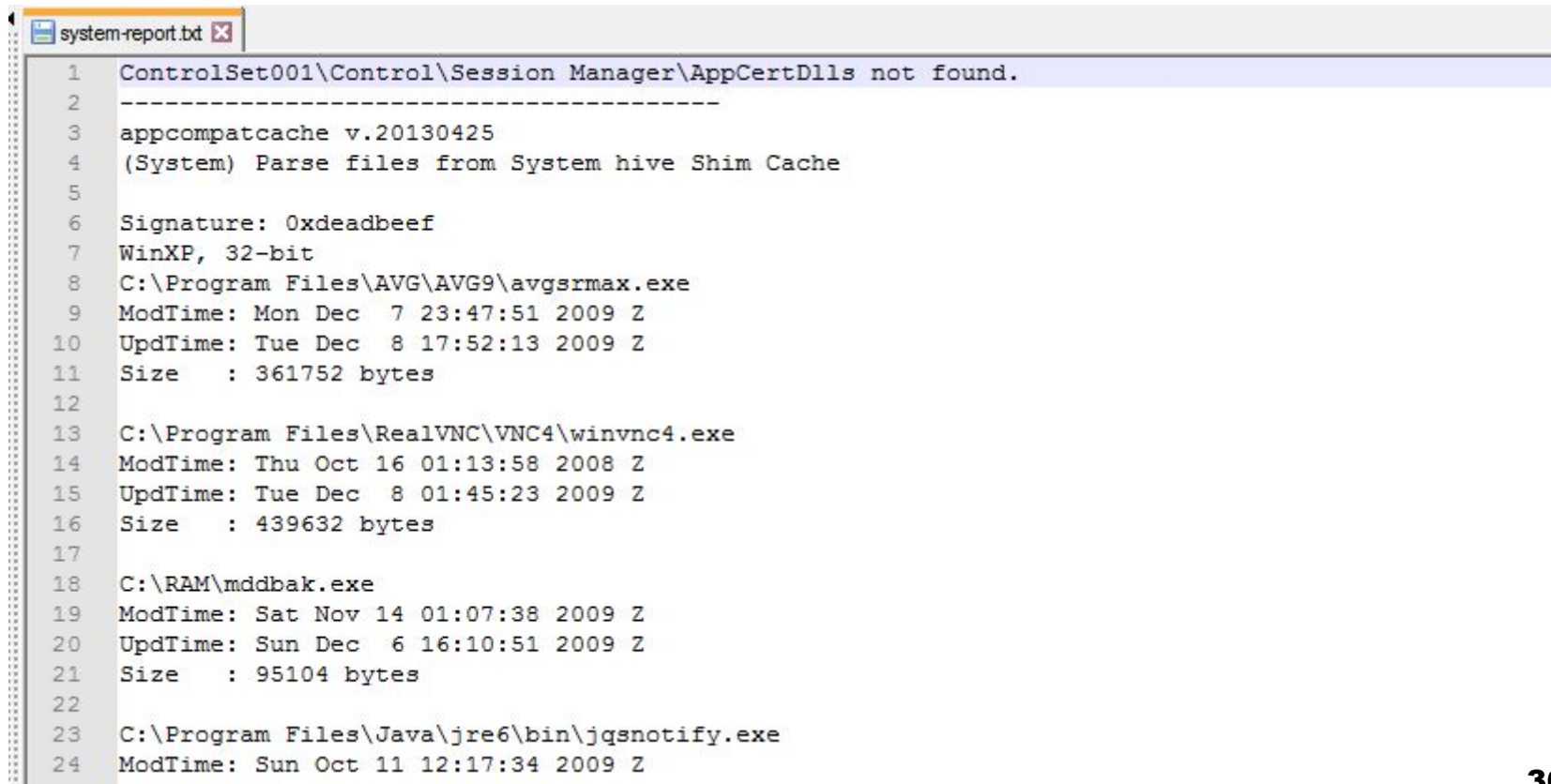
- Identify three different applications that were installed on this computer
 - How did you go about finding this information?
 - What line number(s) points to this information?
- Why would you want to know this information?
- How might it aid description?



```
software-report.txt
1 Launching appinitdlls v.20130425
2 appinitdlls v.20130425
3 (Software) Gets contents of AppInit_DLLs value
4
5 AppInit_DLLs
6 Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows
7 LastWrite Time Fri Nov 20 18:55:34 2009 (UTC)
8   AppInit_DLLs : {blank}
9   LoadAppInit_DLLs : 1
10 *LoadAppInit_DLLs value globally enables/disables AppInit_DLLS.
11 0 = disabled (default)
12
13 Wow6432Node\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows not found.
14 Analysis Tip: The AppInit_DLLs value should be blank; any DLL listed
15 is launched with each user-mode process.
16 -----
17 apppaths v.20120524
18 (Software) Gets content of App Paths subkeys
19
20 App Paths
21 Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\AppData
```

RegRipper Output Discussion: system-report

- Find the devclass output
- What does this output tell you?
- How might this information be useful?



```
1 ControlSet001\Control\Session Manager\AppCertDlls not found.
2 -----
3 appcompatcache v.20130425
4 (System) Parse files from System hive Shim Cache
5
6 Signature: 0xdeadbeef
7 WinXP, 32-bit
8 C:\Program Files\AVG\AVG9\avgsrcmax.exe
9 ModTime: Mon Dec  7 23:47:51 2009 Z
10 UpdTime: Tue Dec  8 17:52:13 2009 Z
11 Size   : 361752 bytes
12
13 C:\Program Files\RealVNC\VNC4\winvnc4.exe
14 ModTime: Thu Oct 16 01:13:58 2008 Z
15 UpdTime: Tue Dec  8 01:45:23 2009 Z
16 Size   : 439632 bytes
17
18 C:\RAM\mddbak.exe
19 ModTime: Sat Nov 14 01:07:38 2009 Z
20 UpdTime: Sun Dec  6 16:10:51 2009 Z
21 Size   : 95104 bytes
22
23 C:\Program Files\Java\jre6\bin\jqsnotify.exe
24 ModTime: Sun Oct 11 12:17:34 2009 Z
-- -- -- -- --
```

Viewing and Copying Registry Information if You're Running the Original Environment

- What if you're actually running the original computer? How might you get information out of the registry?
- What if you wanted to replicate that registry information on another computer?
- Hint: There are tools built into Windows for this.

Restore Points

- Snapshots of Registry hives and some other essential system (including .EXE, .INI, .LNK) files. They're created:
 - when there are major system changes, e.g. installing software
 - at regularly scheduled intervals
 - if the user manually creates one
- Let's look at some restore points: Start Button > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools > System Restore [or just "System Restore" in the Start box]

Examining the Recycle Bin

1. In the start menu box, type “cmd”
2. Type: “cd c:\\$recycle.bin” (What is this doing?)
3. Type “dir /a” (What is this doing?)
4. Type “dir *.* /s” (What is this doing?)
5. Put one or more files into the Recycle Bin (by moving there or by deleting)
6. Repeats steps 2-4. What do you see now?

A Brief Discussion of Mac Forensics

- No Registry, so where is all the good stuff stored?
- See:

https://forensicswiki.xyz/wiki/index.php?title=Mac_OS_X_10.9_-_Artifacts_Location

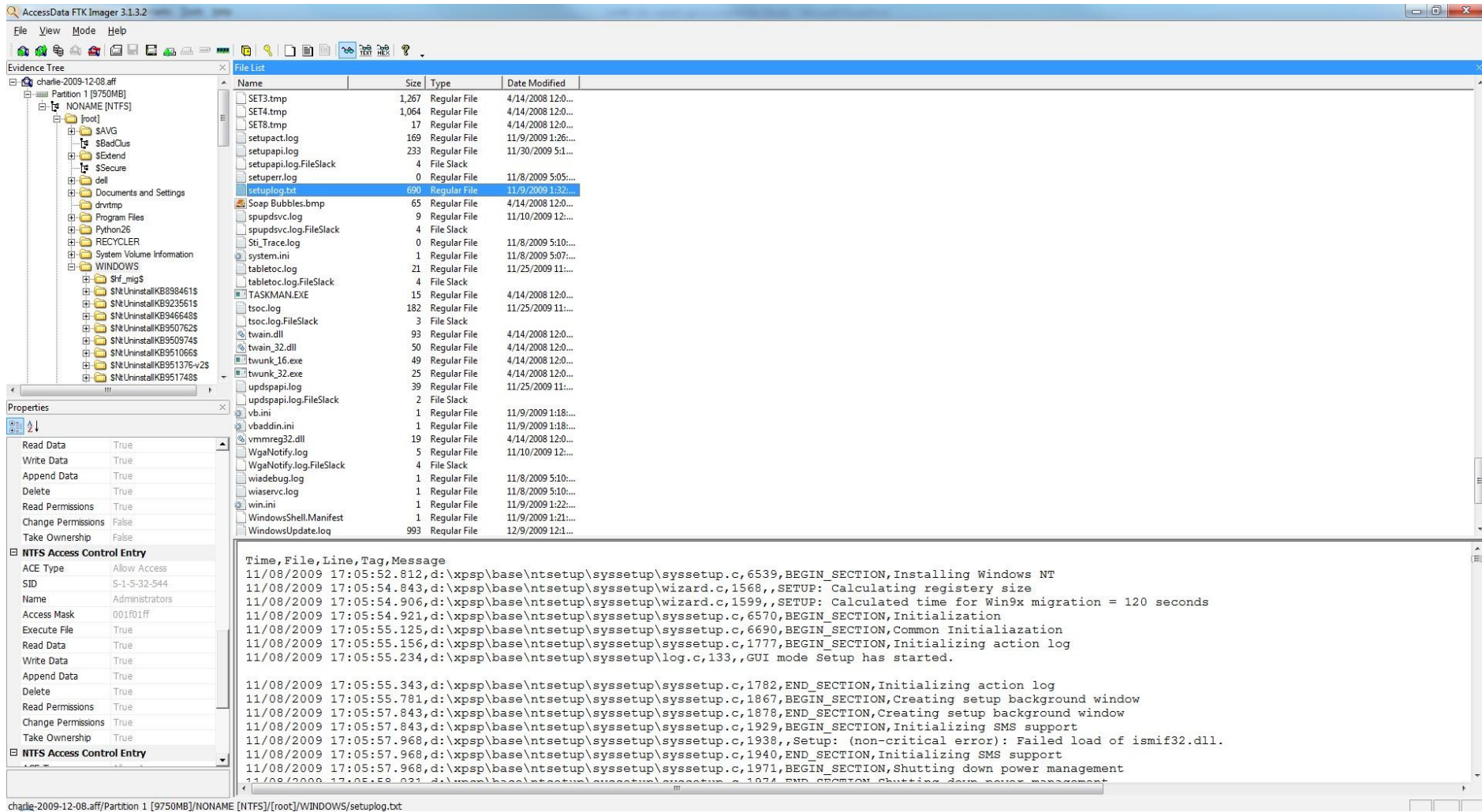


Archival Importance and Role of SID

- If the volume is NTFS, you can find the SID associated with a specific file
- If you also have registry files from the original computer (particularly SAM.DAT), you can get information associated with that SID, such as the name of the user/group, last time he/she logged in, and various other account details

setuplog.txt

- See disk image example below: Partition 1 > [root] > WINDOWS > setuplog.txt



- What do you see in this file?
- What information could be useful for digital curation? When/how might you use it?



BitCuratorEdu

Advancing the adoption of digital forensics tools and methods in libraries and archives through professional education efforts

EDUCOPIA
INSTITUTE
Community Cultivators



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