

Computer Forensic Tool Testing at NIST

Jim Lyle

Information Technology Laboratory

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NIST United States Department of Commerce
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Outline

- Overview of computer forensics at NIST
- Description of CFTT project
 - Specifications
 - Test assertions
 - Anomalies
- Questions and answers

Where is CFTT?

- US government, executive branch
- Department of Commerce (DOC)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- Information Technology Lab (ITL)
- Software Diagnostics and Conformance Testing Division (SDCT)
- Computer Forensics: Tool Testing Project (CFTT)
- Also, the Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLEs) at NIST provides project input

Goals of CF at NIST/ITL

- Establish methodology for testing computer forensic tools (CFTT)
- Provide international standard reference data that tool makers and investigators can use in investigations (NSRL, CFReDS)

Project Sponsors (aka Steering Committee)

- NIST/OLES (Program management)
- National Institute of Justice (Major funding)
- FBI (Additional funding)
- Department of Defense, DCCI (Equipment and support)
- Homeland Security (Technical input)
- State & Local agencies (Technical input)
- Internal Revenue, IRS (Technical input)

Other Related Projects at NIST

- NSRL -- Hash (MD5, SHA1) file signature data base, updated 4 times a year (Doug White) [TODAY @ 3:30, here]
- PDAs and Cell Phones, NIST (Rick Ayers)
- SAMATE -- Software Assurance Metrics and Tool Evaluation (Paul E. Black)
- CFReDS -- Computer Forensics Reference Data Sets (Jim Lyle)

Forensic Tool Features

- ... are like a Swiss army knife
 - Blade knife for cutting
 - Punch for making holes
 - Scissors for cutting paper
 - Cork screw for opening Chianti
- Forensic tools can do one or more of ...
 - Image a disk (digital data acquisition)
 - Search for strings
 - Recover deleted files

Testing a Swiss Army Knife

- How should tools with a variable set of features be tested? All together or by features?
- Test by feature has a set of tests for each feature: acquisition, searching, recovery
- Examples: EnCase acquisition, iLook string search, FTK file recovery

Conformance Testing

- Start with a standard or specification
- Develop Test Assertions
- Develop Test Suite
- Identify testing labs to carry out tests

If certification desired

- Identify certification authority
- Identify funding

CFTT Model: Test Report

To produce a CFTT test report we need ...

- Forensic tool under test (don't forget there may be several versions and releases)
- Set of test cases (Defined in a test case doc)
- Validated measurement tools (test harness, user manual, design document, test harness requirements, V&V plan for test harness and V&V report for the test harness)
- Test assertions (define what should be measured in a test assertion document)
- Specification (Defines tool feature requirements)
- Resolution of comments document

Creating a Specification

- Specification (informal) vs Standard (Formal ISO process)
- Steering committee selects topic
- NIST does research: tools, vendors, users
- NIST drafts initial specification
- Post specification on web for public comment
- Resolve comments, post final version

Writing the Specification

- Specification for a single forensic function
- Describe technical background, define terms.
- Identify core requirements all tools must meet.
- Identify requirements for optional features related to the function being specified.

Develop Test Cases

- A test case is an execution of the tool under test
- Each test case should be focused on a specific test objective
- Each test case evaluates a set of test assertion

Core Acquisition Requirements

- All visible sectors are acquired
- All hidden sectors are acquired
- All acquired sectors are accurately acquired
- Benign fill of faulty sectors
- Error conditions

Requirements for Optional Features

- Clone creation
- Verify image integrity
- Image file format conversion
- Partition aligned clone creation

Test Case

- A test case for disk imaging
 - Create a target test drive (visible sectors only)
 - Calculate a hash of the test drive
 - Image the test drive with the tool under test
- Based on how tool reports results, measure results
- Sound forensic practice is often not good testing practice

Evaluating Test Results

If a test exhibits an anomaly ...

1. Look for hardware or procedural problem
2. Anomaly seen before
3. If unique, look at more cases
4. Examine similar anomalies

Test Case Example: Setup

- Setup NTFS partition
 - MD5: 92b27b30bee8b0ffba8c660fa1590d49
 - 27,744,192 sectors
 - Each sector filled with sector LBA & disk ID
- Acquire partition
 - Total Sectors:27,744,191
 - 494A6ED8A827AD9B5403E0CC89379956
- Rehash (minus last sector) -- still no match

Example Continued

- Restore image to NTFS partition
- Compare to original
 - Sectors differ: 47
- Restore was in Windows XP ...
- Restore again, unpower drive, no system shutdown. Compare to original
 - Sectors differ: 8
 - Diffs range: 27,744,184-27,744,191

Example Resolution

- Examine the eight sectors
 - Last sector not imaged
 - Other seven are a second copy of seven sectors starting at offset 27,744,120 -- Know this because each sector is tagged with LBA
- Verification:

Acquisition hash: 494a6ed8a827ad9b5403e0cc89379956

```
xena:/Users/jimmy root# dd bs=512 if=/dev/disk2s11 of=~jimmy/nt.dd
```

```
xena.local(1009)==> dd if=nt.dd bs=512 skip=27744120 count=7 of=end.dd
```

```
xena.local(1012)==> dd if=nt.dd bs=512 count=27744184 of=chunk.dd
```

```
xena.local(1013)==> cat chunk.dd end.dd | md5
```

```
494a6ed8a827ad9b5403e0cc89379956
```

```
xena.local(1022)==> md5 nt.dd
```

```
MD5 (nt.dd) = 92b27b30bee8b0ffba8c660fa1590d49
```

Current Activities

- Hard drive imaging tools
- Software hard drive write protect
- Hardware hard drive write protect
- Deleted file recovery
- String Searching

Acquisition Anomalies

- Last sector of partition or drive acquire skipped in Linux 2.4
- Some sectors contiguous to a faulty sectors filled rather than acquired
- In a legacy BIOS acquisition (DOS), last partial cylinder not acquired
- Last partial cylinder of drive not used in a restore

Impact

- Release 18 (Feb 2001) - A US government organization was doing some testing and uncovered an issue under a specific set of circumstances.
- Several vendors have made product or documentation changes
- CFTT cited in some high profile court cases

Available Specifications

- Hard Drive Imaging (e.g., Safeback, EnCase, Ilook, Mares imaging tool)
- Write Block Software Tools (e.g., RCMP HDL, Pdblock, ACES)
- Write Block Hardware Devices (A-Card, FastBloc, NoWrite)
- Cell phone acquisition tools
 - GSM Mobile Device and Associated Media Tool Specification
 - Draft GSM Mobile Device and Associated Media Tool Specification and Test Plan

Specifications Under Development

- String searching
- Deleted file recovery

Available Test Reports

- Sydex SafeBack 2.0
- NTI Safeback 2.18
- EnCase 3.20
- GNU dd 4.0.36 (RedHat 7.1)
- FreeBSD 4.4 dd
- RCMP HDL V0.4, V0.5, V0.7, V0.8
- Pdblock: v2.0, v2.1 & pd_lite
- IXimager

Available Imaging Test Reports

- IXimager (Version 2.0, Feb-01 2006), April 2007
- DCCId Version 2.0, Jan 2008
- dd Provided with FreeBSD 4.4, January 2004
- SafeBack 2.18, June 2003
- EnCase 3.20, June 2003
- SafeBack 2.0, April 2003
- Red Hat Linux dd Version: 7.1 GNU fileutils 4.0.36, August 2002

Software Write Block Reports

- Test Results for Software Write Block Tools: PDBLOCK Version 1.02 (PDF-LITE)
- Test Results for Software Write Block Tools: PDBLOCK Version 2.00
- Test Results for Software Write Block Tools: PDBLOCK Version 2.01
- Test Results for Software Write Block Tools: RCMP HDL VO.4.
- Test Results for Software Write Block Tools: RCMP HDL VO.5.
- Test Results for Software Write Block Tools: RCMP HDL VO.7.
- Test Results for Software Write Block Tools: RCMP HDL VO.8.
- ACES Software Write Block Tool Test Report: Writeblocker Windows 2000 V5.02.00, January 2008
- ACES Software Write Block Tool Test Report: Writeblocker Windows XP V6.10.0, January 2008

Write Block Devices

- FastBloc FE (USB Interface)
- FastBloc FE (FireWire Interface)
- Tableau T5 Forensic IDE Bridge (USB Interface)
- Tableau T5 Forensic IDE Bridge (FireWire Interface)
- Tableau Forensic SATA Bridge T3u (USB Interface)
- Tableau Forensic SATA Bridge T3u (FireWire Interface)
- Tableau Forensic IDE Pocket Bridge T14 (FireWire Interface)
- WiebeTech Forensic SATADock (FireWire Interface)
- WiebeTech Forensic SATADock (USB Interface)
- FastBloc IDE (Firmware Version 16)
- MyKey NoWrite (Firmware Version 1.05)
- ICS ImageMasster DriveLock IDE (Firmware Version 17)
- WiebeTech FireWire DriveDock Combo (FireWire Interface)
- WiebeTech Forensic ComboDock (USB Interface)
- WiebeTech Forensic ComboDock (FireWire Interface)
- WiebeTech Bus Powered Forensic ComboDock (USB Interface)
- WiebeTech Bus Powered Forensic ComboDock (FireWire Interface)
- Digital Intelligence UltraBlock SATA (USB Interface)
- Digital Intelligence UltraBlock SATA (FireWire Interface)
- Digital Intelligence Firefly 800 IDE (FireWire Interface)

Test Reports Later this Year

- EnCase 4.22a (Drafting report)
- Linen 5.05f (Drafting report)
- EnCase 5.05f (Drafting report)
- FTK imager 2.5.3.14 (Drafting report)
- Encase 6.??/Linen 6.?? (Reviewing test reuns)
- Macquisition (Running tests now)
- X-ways, Talon starting soon

Available Testing Software

- FS-TST – tools to test disk imaging: drive wipe, drive compare, drive hash (SHA1), partition compare. (DCCI uses these tools)
- SWBT – tools to test interrupt 13 software write blockers

Benefits of CFTT

Benefits of a forensic tool testing program

- Users can make informed choices
- Neutral test program (not law enforcement)
- Reduce challenges to admissibility of digital evidence
- Tool creators make better tools

Other Testing Activities

- PDAs and Cell Phones, (Rick Ayers)
- DCCI (Department of Defense) not publicly available
- DFTT on source forge (Brian Carrier) just test data, not a test program
- Individual forensic labs -- to meet ASCLAD LAB accreditation criteria

Resources: Testing

- IEEE Standard 829, IEEE Standard for Software Test Documentation
- Conformance testing:
<http://www.itl.nist.gov/div897/ctg/conformProject.html>
- ISO/IEC Guide 2:1996, Standardization and Related Activities – General Vocabulary
- IEEE Standard 610.12-1990, IEEE Standard Glossary of Software Engineering Terminology
- ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
- www.swgde.org -- guidelines for tool validation

Contacts

Jim Lyle

www.cftt.nist.gov

cftt@nist.gov

Doug White

www.nsrl.nist.gov

nsrl@nist.gov

Sue Ballou, Office of Law Enforcement Standards
Steering Committee Rep. For State/Local Law
Enforcement

susan.ballou@nist.gov