

**BASIC SCIENCE
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July 24-28 @NIST, Gaithersburg, MD



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Technical Tracks

- Crime Scene
- Death Investigation
- Human Factors

- Legal Factors
- Quality Assurance
- Laboratory Management
- Criminalistics
- Digital Evidence

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Or search for “NIST 2017 forensic error management”



NIST National Institute of
Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

EXPERIENCE VALIDATING DISK- IMAGING TOOLS WITH CFTT FEDERATED TESTING

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FTT

The CFTT project at NIST develops methodologies for testing computer forensic tools. Currently there are CFTT methodologies for testing the following:

Disk imaging

Write blocking

Deleted File Recovery

File Carving

Forensic Media Preparation

Mobile Devices

A variety of tools in each of these categories have been tested and observed flaws in the tools have been reported by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). These results can be used as a basis for identifying the types of likely failures that occur in forensic tools.



Federated Testing

<http://www.cftt.nist.gov/federated-testing.html>

Comparing CFTT Test Methods, Tools & Forensic Lab Test Reports

Relieves a forensic lab of the task of developing a test materials or tool testing because Federated Testing generates a test based on selections made by the user describing how the lab uses the tested tool:

1. A list of test cases (based on user input)
2. Tools and detailed procedures for creating test drives (adding known content)
3. Detailed procedures for running each test case
4. Tools to evaluate test results
5. Tool to generate a skeleton test report that can then can be finished in the style favored by the laboratory.

The test reports can be shared with other labs



What Does Software Testing Get for you?

Software Testing is asking questions to see how the tested tool reacts to various inputs

If software gives the wrong answer it usually is triggered by a specific condition

Better understanding comes from trying more conditions . . .

- More diversity of questions

- More detailed questions

Testing documents tool behaviors that you need to be aware of

Testing NEVER can PROVE a program is always correct.

But it can – and does – catch important errors thus increasing our confidence in the tool



Federated Testing vs Previous Testing

Federated testing is more specific to how a given lab operates
Instead of testing just the tool, test the whole imaging pipeline:
Tool => Blocker => OS

Previous: Connect to host ATA, SATA, USB & FireWire (4 cases)

Federated Testing: Connect to Host USB & Firewire (from Write
Blocker); Connect ATA & SATA to blocker (2 cases)



Best Cases To Pick From

Make an image or clone of a drive

Make an image or clone of media memory card

Make an image or clone of a partition/file sys

Flash device or image file

Out of space errors

Unreadable (bad) sectors



Specific Test Case Selections for a Particular lab might be

Making a clone is rare, so skip clone testing

Rarely acquire partitions, there are many possible types, but most common is NTFS, so just test NTFS

. . . Or We never acquire by partition, so skip partition acquisition

After data has been acquired recalculating a hash rarely needed, so skip

We'll skip bad sector tests, not usually an issue for our lab

. . . Or We really need to know what happens to the tool if there is a bad sector.



Imaging Tools Tested

Tool	Version
DC3DD	V7.2.641
FTK	3.4.2.6
Guymager	0.8.1
Logicube Falcon	2.4U1
Logicube Falcon	3.0U1
Paladin/ewfacquire	6.09/20160403
Paladin/DC3DD	6.08/7.1.614
Ditto	V2016 Mar 01 a
TD2u	V1.1.1.3948-4270f9c
X-Ways	18.8



Write Blockers Used

Blocker

bleau T35es-R2

bleau T3

bleau T3U

UltraBlock Card Reader

iebeTech ComboDock

iebeTech FCD v5.5



Test Cases Selected for each Tested Tool

Παράδειγμα	ΔΧ3ΔΔ	ΦTK	Γυψμαγερ	Φαλαχον 52	Φαλαχον 53	Παλααδιν 6.08	Παλααδιν 6.09	ΤΔ2υ	Διπτο	Ε-Ωαψσ
Drive Image	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Card Image	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Partition Image	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Bad Sector		✓	✓		✓		✓			



Test Cases Selected for each Tested Tool

	DC3DD	FTK	Guymager	Falcon V2	Falcon V3	Paladin 6.08	Paladin 6.09	TD2U	Ditto	X-Ways
e	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
e	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
on e	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
r		✓	✓		✓		✓			



Test Results

For all tools tested . . .

All data acquired (nothing omitted)

All acquired data is accurate (nothing changed)

For “bad sector tests” we created 20 bad sectors

FTK missed no good sectors

GuyMager missed no good sectors

Logicube V3 missed no good sectors

Paladin 6.09 missed 940 readable sectors



Effort Required

We tracked staff time and physical resources to measure the level of commitment that was required to test each tool.

We found that with two PCs a single person could setup test drives in less than eight hours. Quicker if more PCs were devoted to the task.

After the test drives are setup, running the tests takes less than two days. The most time expended is actually taking the generated skeleton test report and adding laboratory specific information.

If a laboratory uses (or just wants to test) more than one imaging tool, the drive setup only needs to be done once and can be reused for additional tool testing.



Test Drive Setup

We used 6 hard drives and one flash card

A2 has an NTFS partition; EE-Bad has faulty sectors created by software

Drive ID	Size (GB)	Type	Time to Wipe	Time to Hash
A1	80GB	ATA	1:36	0:40
A2	60GB	SATA/NTFS	1:05	0:30 + 0:10
A3	160GB	ATA	3:35	1:22
A4	160GB	SATA	5:09	1:24
A5	1GB	CF	0:03	0:02
EE-Bad	480MB	SATA	0:32	--
EE-Ref	480MB	SATA	0:32	--



Final Thoughts

Mediated Testing is useful if you need to test your imaging tool.

Test protocol already designed, just need to use it.

All NIST generated test reports are online at DHS

Other tests can be posted there (Sharing is not required.)

Next we will be adding tests for . . .

- Write blocking

- Mobile device testing

- String searching

Take a look, try it, comments and suggestions welcome





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