

Using Open Source Digital Forensics Software for Digital Archives Workshop

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Overview

- Open source digital forensics: what, why, and how
- Technical overview on storage: media, file systems, etc.
- Introduction to tools: Sleuth Kit, fiwalk, bulk_extractor
- Hands-on walkthroughs with sample data/disk images

We're not covering...

- 1. Hands-on disk imaging
- 2. Processing, arrangement, description, etc. - left as an exercise to the student
- 3. How to aggregate extracted (meta)data in ways most useful to archives and libraries
- 2 and 3 are left as exercises for the student - but we can discuss! :)

Digital Forensics

Branches of Digital Forensics

- File system forensics
- Incident response
- Intrusion detection
- Mobile device forensics
- Network forensics
- Database forensics

We know how to go from
this ... to this



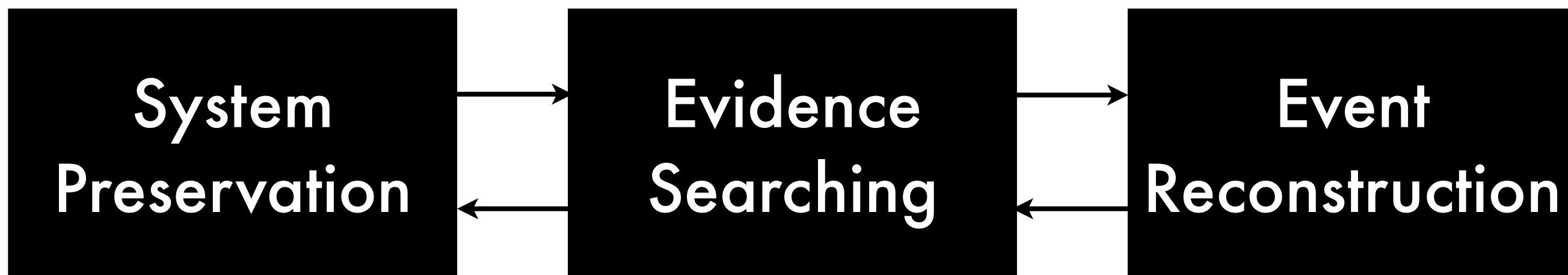
Should these be
any different?



Why Digital Forensics in Archives?

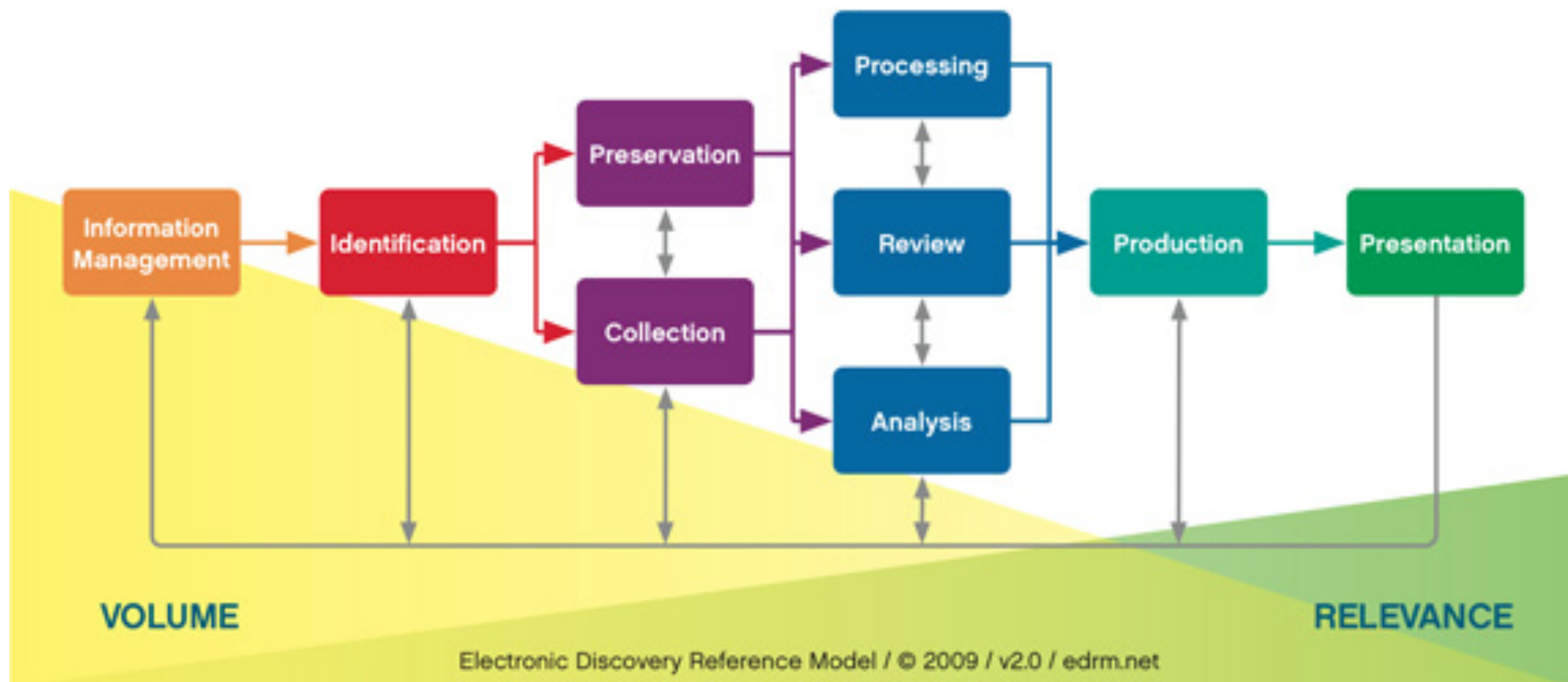
- Digital forensics is an established discipline that demands holistic capture and preservation of evidence
- Archives are faced with growing mass of digital information, with much stored on removable media
- Overlap in terms of skills and knowledge and many potential opportunities for collaboration

Forensic Discovery Process



Electronic Discovery Reference Model Stages

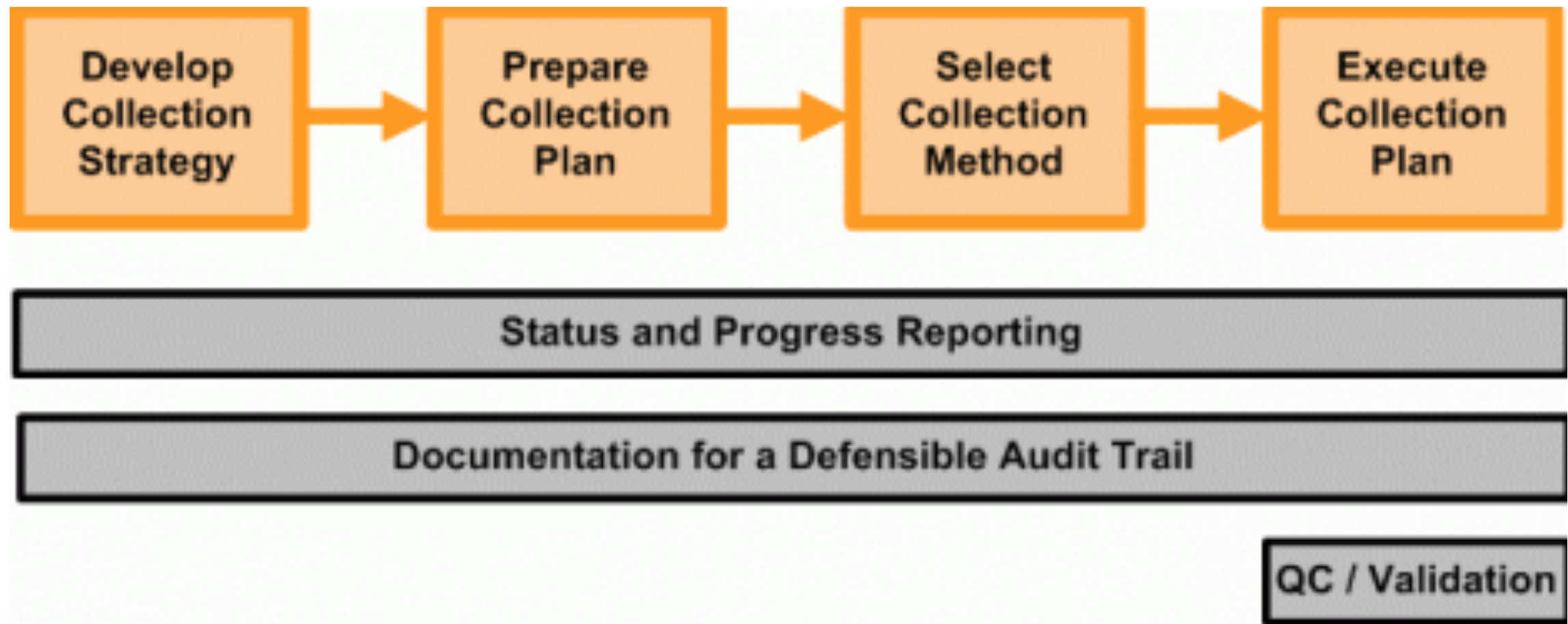
Electronic Discovery Reference Model



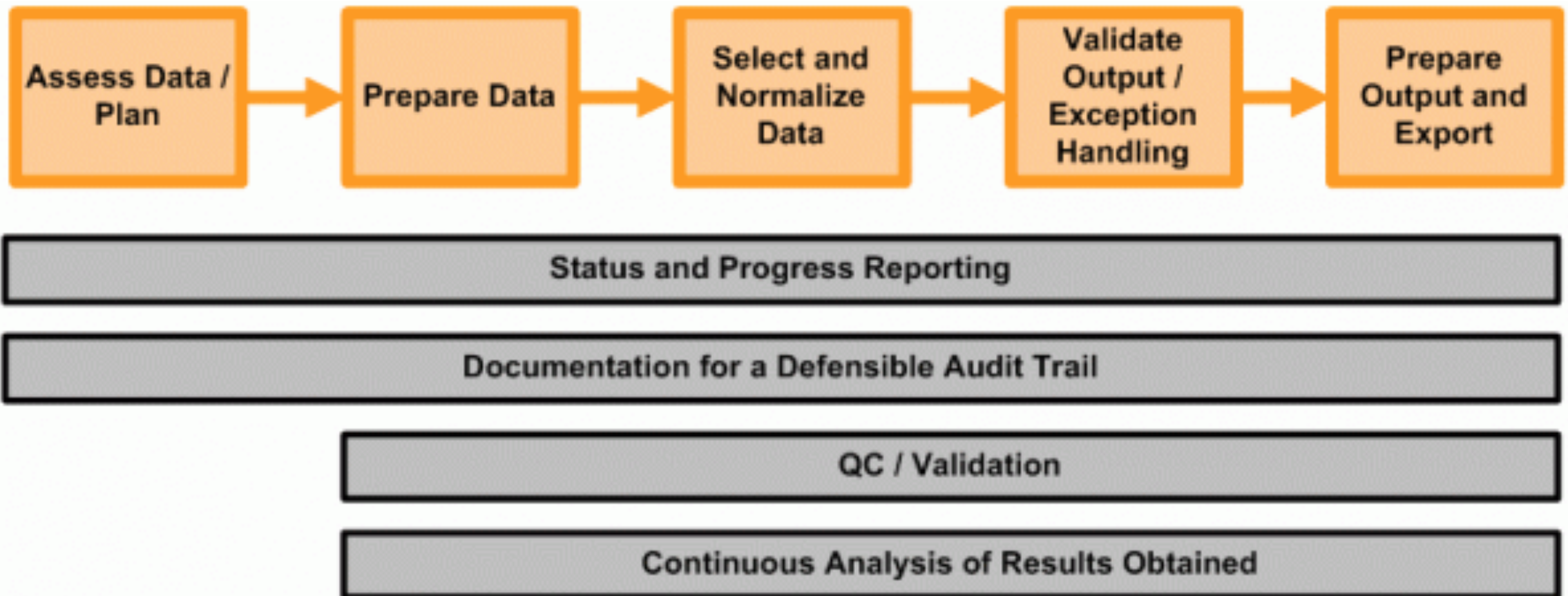
EDRM: Preservation



EDRM: Collection



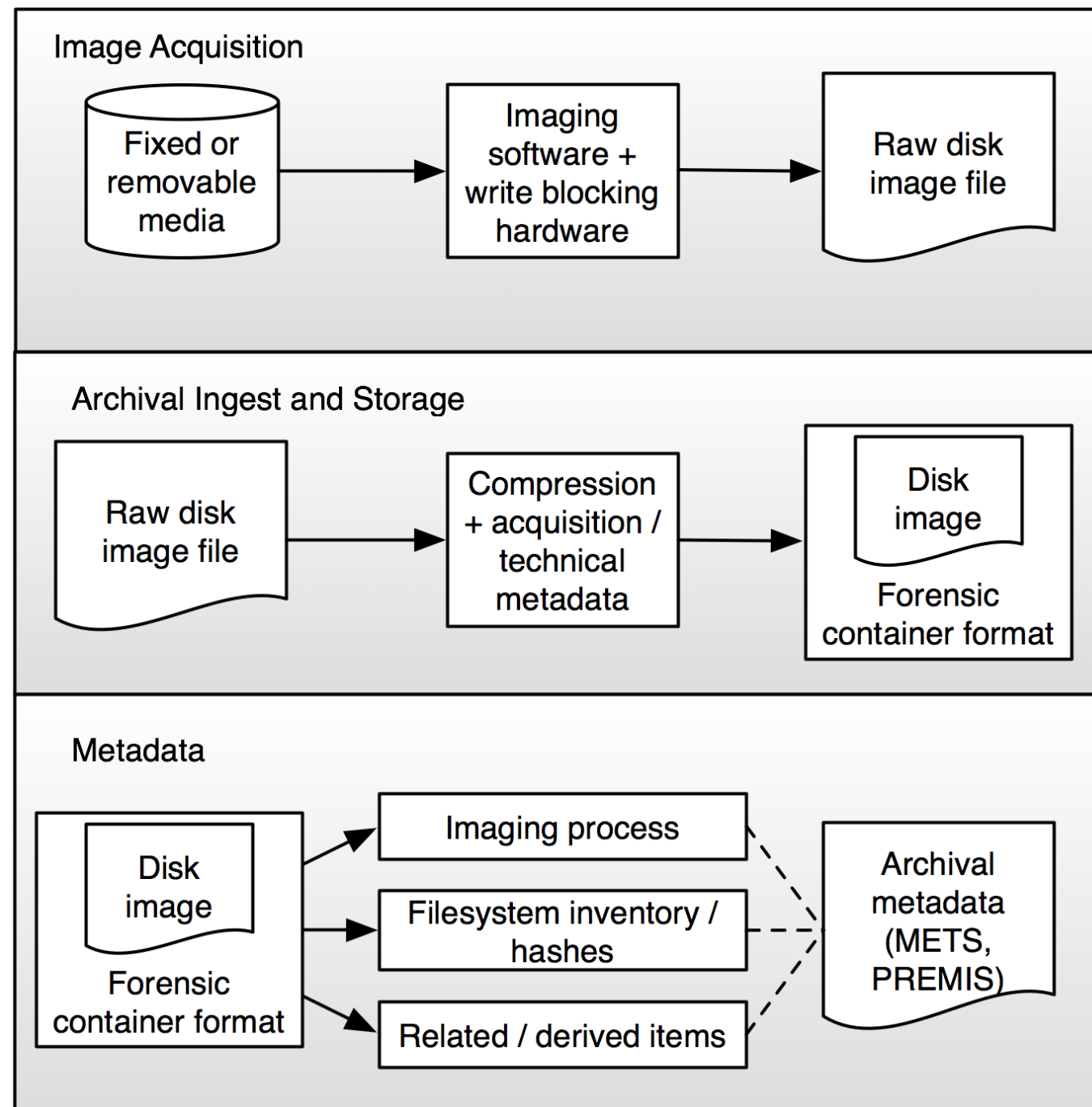
EDRM: Processing



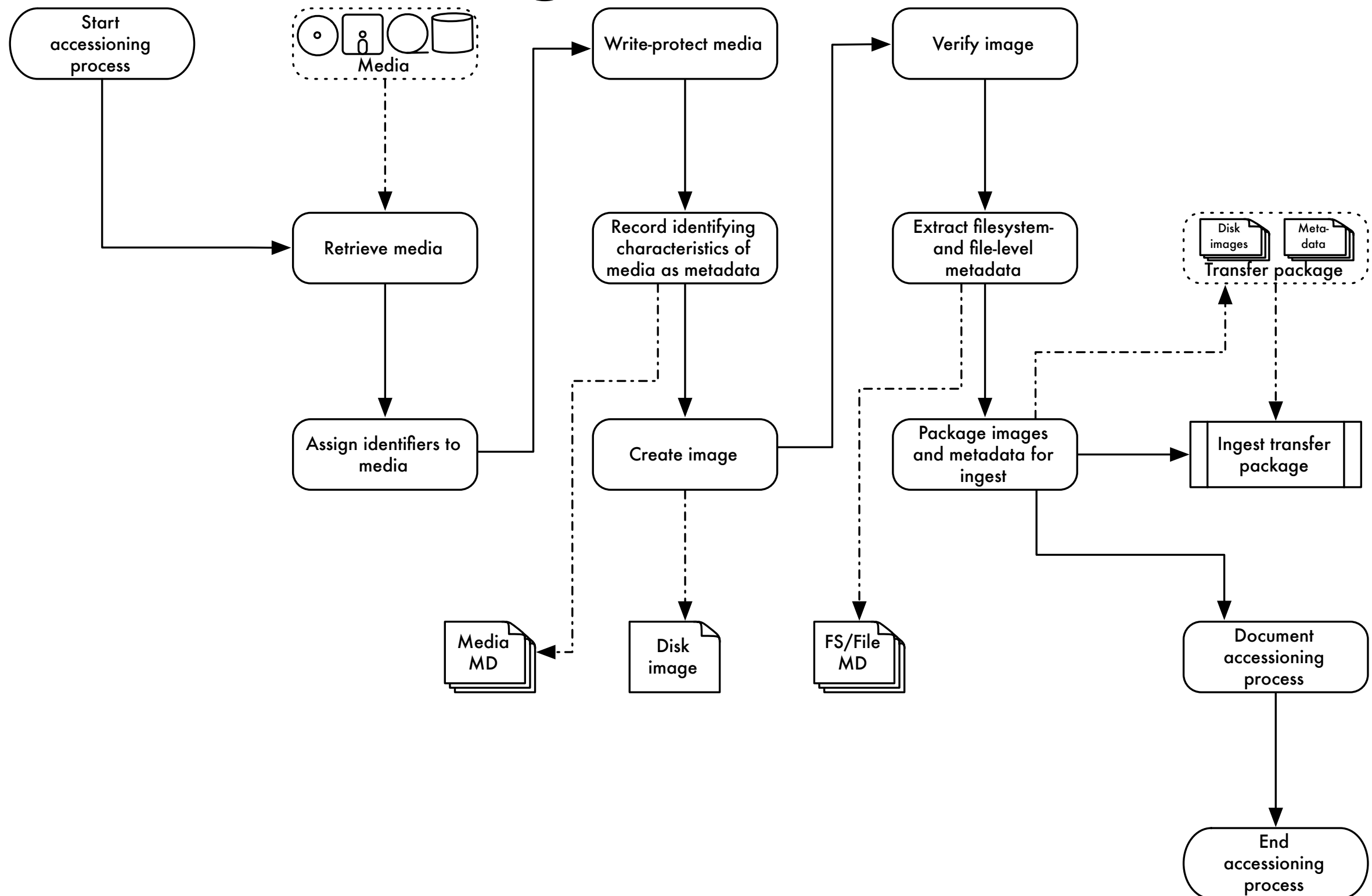
Useful Aspects of Digital Forensics for Archives

- Obtain provenance information about context of creation, and record provenance information about processes of transfer and analysis
- Document original order: relationship of files in directory hierarchy, related applications, associated accounts
- Document and ensure chain of custody through proven transfer methods that maintain integrity and authenticity
- Identification of sensitive information

Combining Workflows (1)



Combining Workflows (2)



Transfer Goals

- Obtain records/files/assets in a manner that does not threaten their integrity and authenticity
- Understand correspondence or gaps between capabilities and identified requirements

Ensuring Integrity and Authenticity

- Use means to prevent accidental alteration of assets as received, using write protection mechanisms
- Document process, especially when you take extraordinary steps

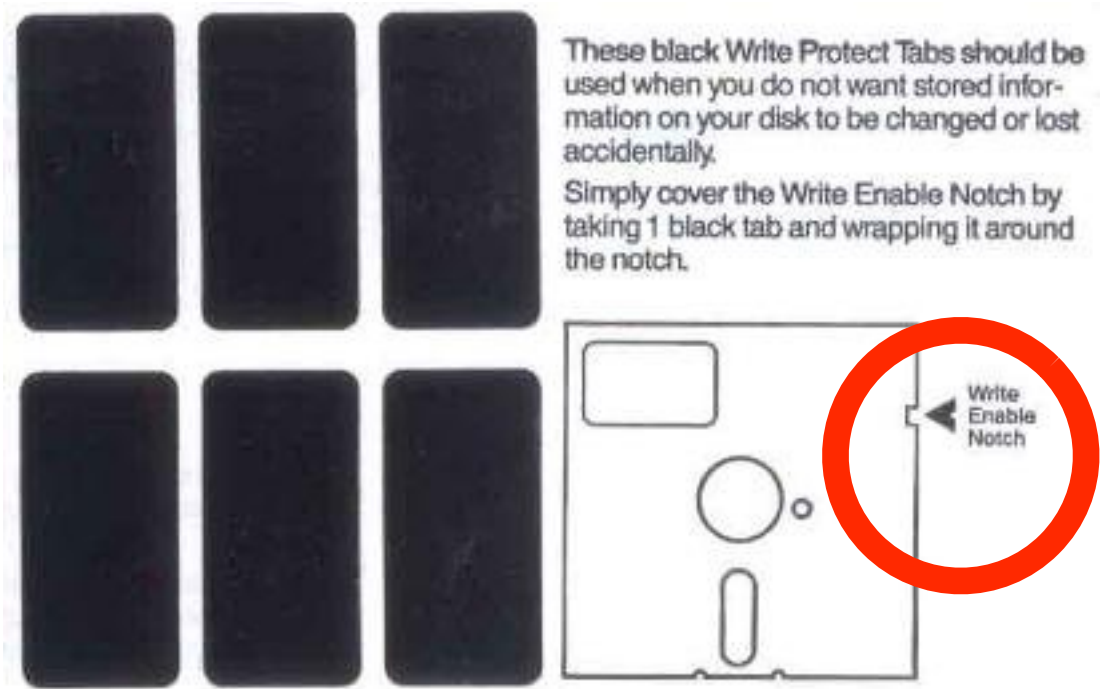
Transfer Options

- Disk imaging the entirety of a piece of media including deleted files, errors, etc.
- Logical imaging: Selecting files directly and transferring them off
- Need to ensure that files do not get altered regardless of process

Preventing Accidental Modification

- Write protection: some media formats have physical means (floppies) or limitations (CD-ROMs)
- Write blocking: using hardware or software mechanism to prevent write signals from being processed by computer or drive

Write Protection



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Floppy_tabs_3x2.jpg



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bfishadow/5533694844>

Hardware Write Blocking















http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Portable_forensic_tableau.JPG














Documentation Goals

- Identify and record characteristics of media
- Document transfer process
- Gather information about assets (descriptive metadata, technical metadata, preservation metadata...)

Electronic Records on Media Accessioning Log

New ▾	Actions ▾	Settings ▾	View: All Items									
ID	Type	Media number	Media Format	Imaging Date	Imaging Successful?	Bag Created?	Metadata Extracted?	Transfer to Storage Date	Examiner	Image format	Imaging Software	Source
		2011-M-075.0001	CD-R		No	No	No		Glick, Kevin	N/A	N/A	FAT
		2011-M-075.0002	DVD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO
		2011-M-075.0003	DVD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO (1.0)
		2011-M-075.0004	DVD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO (1.0)
		2011-M-075.0005	DVD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO (1.0)
		2011-M-075.0006	DVD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO (1.0)
		2011-M-075.0007	CD-R		Yes	No	No		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO
		2011-M-075.0008	CD-R		Yes	No	No		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO
		2011-M-075.0009	CD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO (1.0)
		2011-M-075.0010	DVD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO (1.0)
		2011-M-075.0011	CD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO
		2011-M-075.0012	CD-R		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	ISO	ImgBurn	ISO
		2011-M-075.0013	Zip disk		Yes	No	Yes		Glick, Kevin	dd (Raw)	FTK Imager 3.0.0.1443	FAT

Electronic Records on Media Accessioning Log

New Actions Settings						
Type	Media number	Media Format	Imaging Date	Imaging Successful?	Bag Create	
	2011-M-075.0001	CD-R		No	No	
	2011-M-075.0002	DVD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0003	DVD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0004	DVD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0005	DVD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0006	DVD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0007	CD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0008	CD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0009	CD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0010	DVD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0011	CD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0012	CD-R		Yes	No	
	2011-M-075.0013	Zip disk		Yes	No	

Electronic Records on Media Accessioning Log: 2011-M-075.0008

Close

[New Item](#) |
 [Edit Item](#) |
 [Delete Item](#) |
 [Manage Permissions](#) |
 [Alert Me](#)

Media number	2011-M-075.0008
Media Format	CD-R
Media Density (floppies only)	N/A
Interface	N/A
Label text	Osaka Monograph Final Images Aug 29 2003 Monograph Latest Files
Manufacturer	
Serial Number (hard drives only)	
Examiner	Glick, Kevin
Imaging Successful?	Yes
Imaging Date	
Image filename	2011-M-075.0008.ISO
Source File System	ISO9660, Joliet
Image format	ISO
Imaging Software	ImgBurn
Image Fixity Function	MD5
Image Fixity Value	dbca43c94690edff07329b6687550f60
Notes	mam54 04/28/2011: Could not extract metadata using fiwalk; log file from imaging process says that the block structure is Mode 2/Form 1
Metadata Extracted?	No
Bag Created?	No
Transfer to Storage Date	
Fiscal Year	2010-11

Created at 4/27/2011 9:35 AM by Glick, Kevin
 Last modified at 4/28/2011 4:26 PM by Matienzo, Mark

Close

Extraction & Analysis Goals

- Desire to obtain metadata that can be repurposed:
 - Provide an inventory (listing of files, with modification dates and extents)
 - Provide more detailed technical information (file format, software used, etc.)
 - Provide context (creator information, etc.)
- Repurposing may mean translation into standards used by archives and libraries
- Extract and possibly migrate files of interest

Why Open Source Digital Forensics?

- Cultural heritage sector is an emerging market for vendors and comparatively small to their primary market
- Allows for better collaboration and less dependence on specific individuals or companies
- Transparency of design and implementation allows for better understanding of impact on authenticity
- Potential to shape future of software

Understanding Storage and Forensic Analysis

Nature of Digital Objects

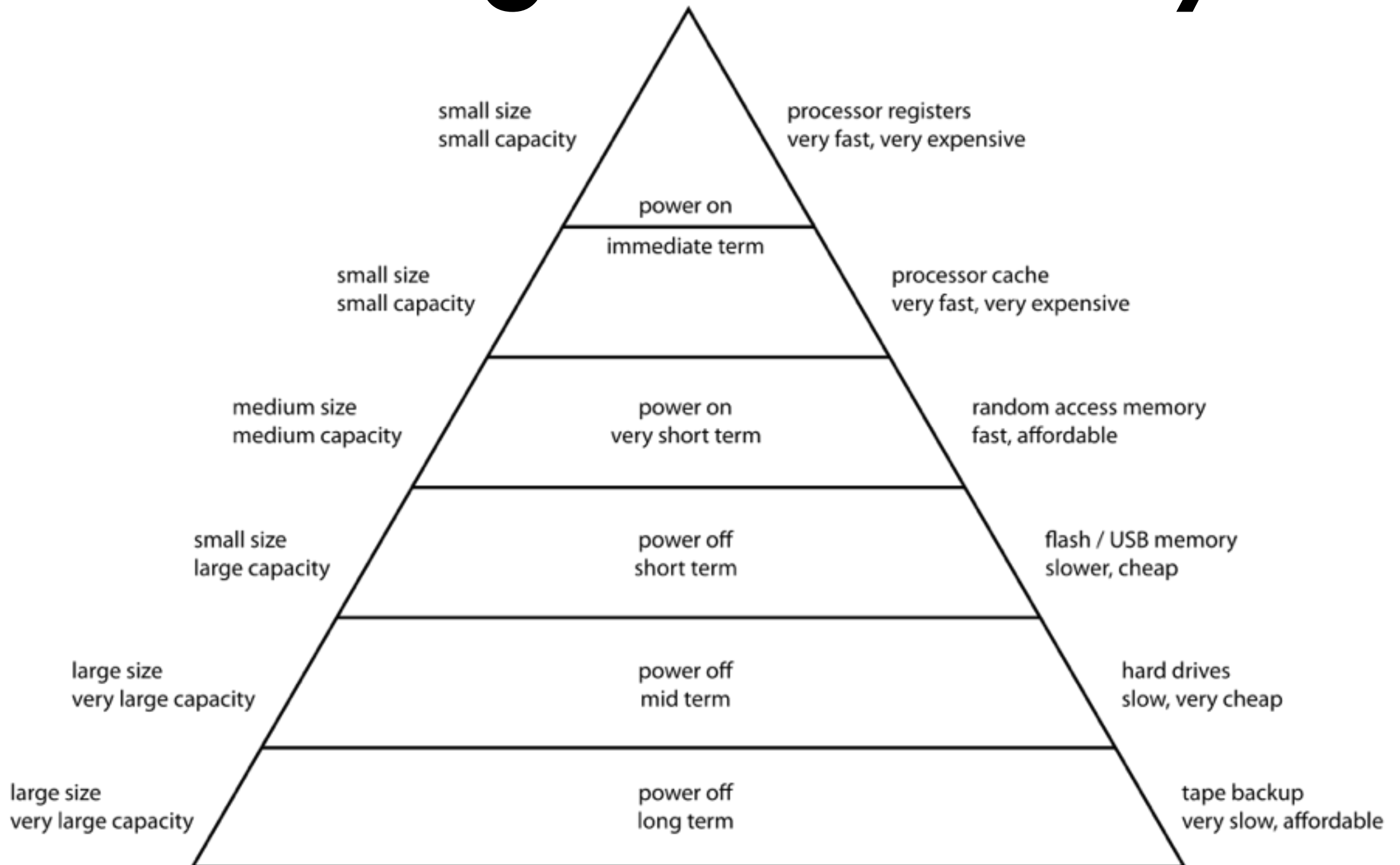
- Digital objects require mediation and depend on a complex interplay of technological systems and entities
- Like any technology, digital objects depend on layers of abstraction, e.g. OSI Model for computer networking

Levels of Representation

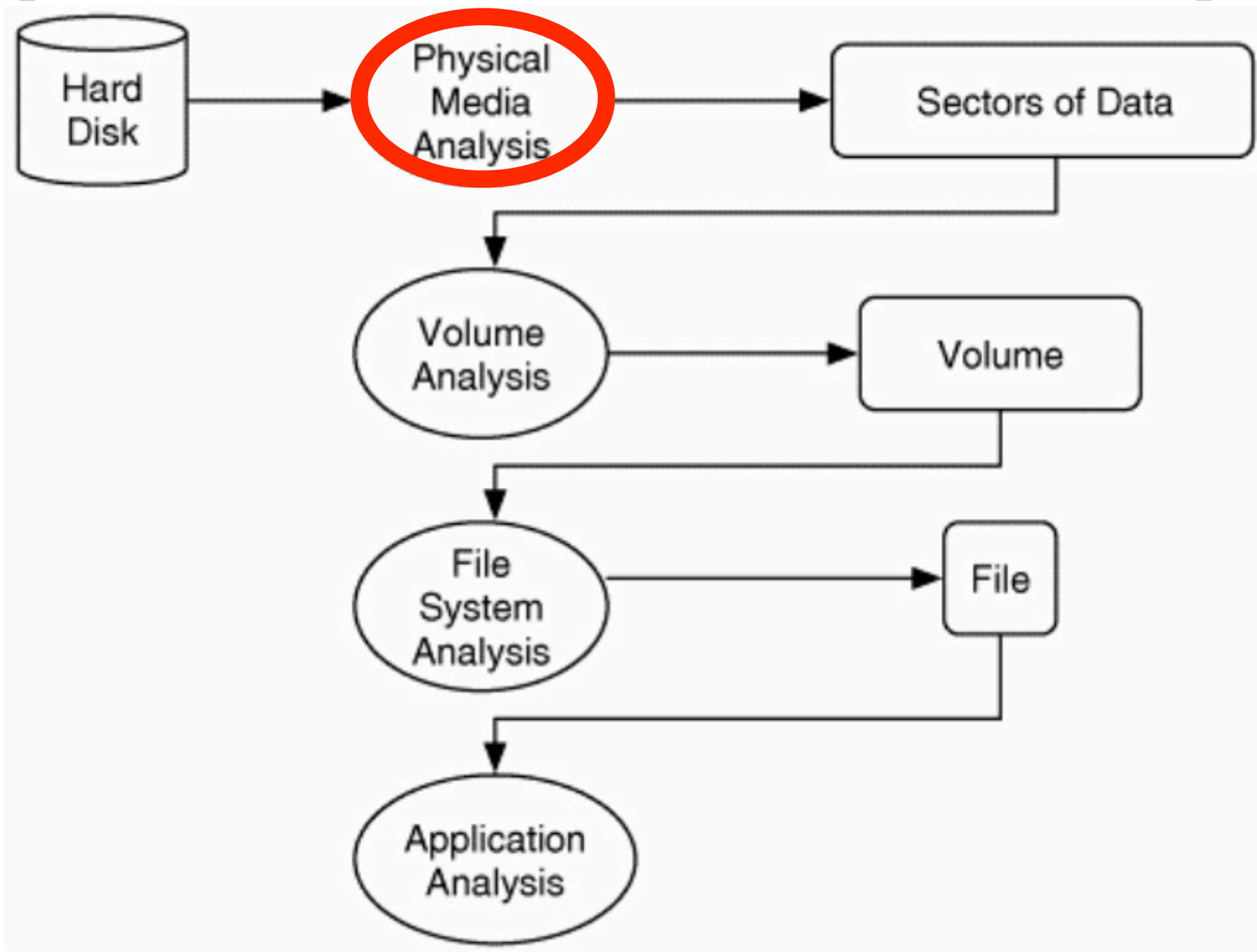
Level	Label	Description
8	Aggregation of Objects	Set of objects that form an aggregation that is meaningful when encountered as an entity
7	Object or package	Object composed of multiple files, each of which could also be encountered as individual files
6	In-application rendering	As rendered and encountered within a specific application
5	File through filesystem	Files encountered as discrete set of items with associate paths and file names
4	File as "raw" bitstream	Bitstream encountered as a continuous series of binary values
3	Sub-file data structure	Discrete "chunk" of data that is part of a larger file
2	Bitstream through I/O equipment	Series of 1s and 0s as accessed from the storage media decoded using input/output hardware and software
1	Raw signal stream through I/O equipment	Stream of analog electronic output read from the drive without yet interpreting the signal stream as a set of discrete values
0	Signal on physical medium	Physical properties of the storage medium used to encode an analog signal

Adapted from Lee 2012

Storage Hierarchy



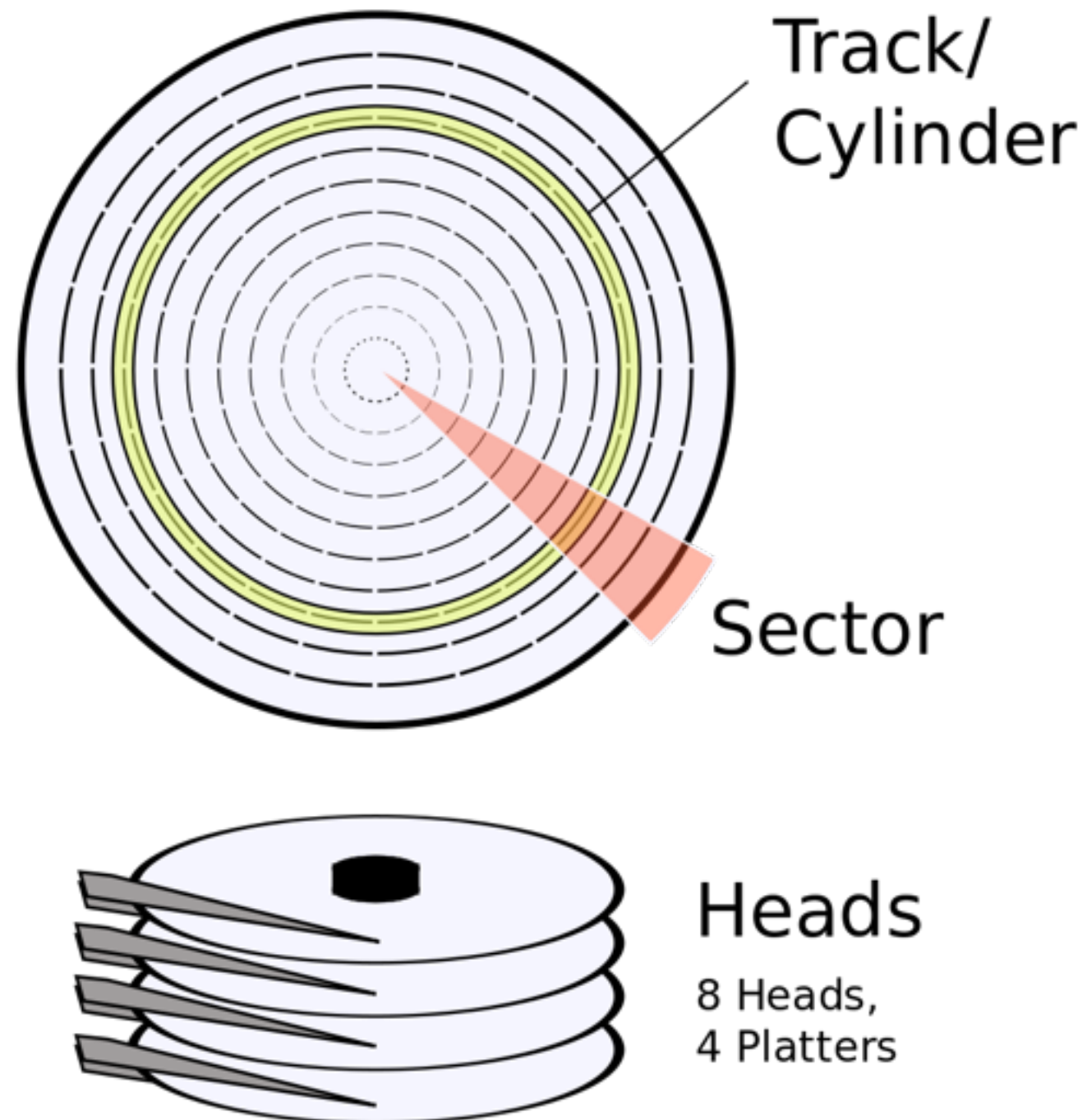
Layers of Forensic Analysis



Physical Media & Signals

- Floppy disks and hard drives use changes in magnetic polarity (magnetic flux transitions); encoded and decoded using a particular algorithm
- Optical media (CDs/DVDs) use physically altered substrate with “pits”/“lands” that determine reflectivity of light; encoded and decoded using series of algorithms
- Flash memory uses stored amounts of electric charge

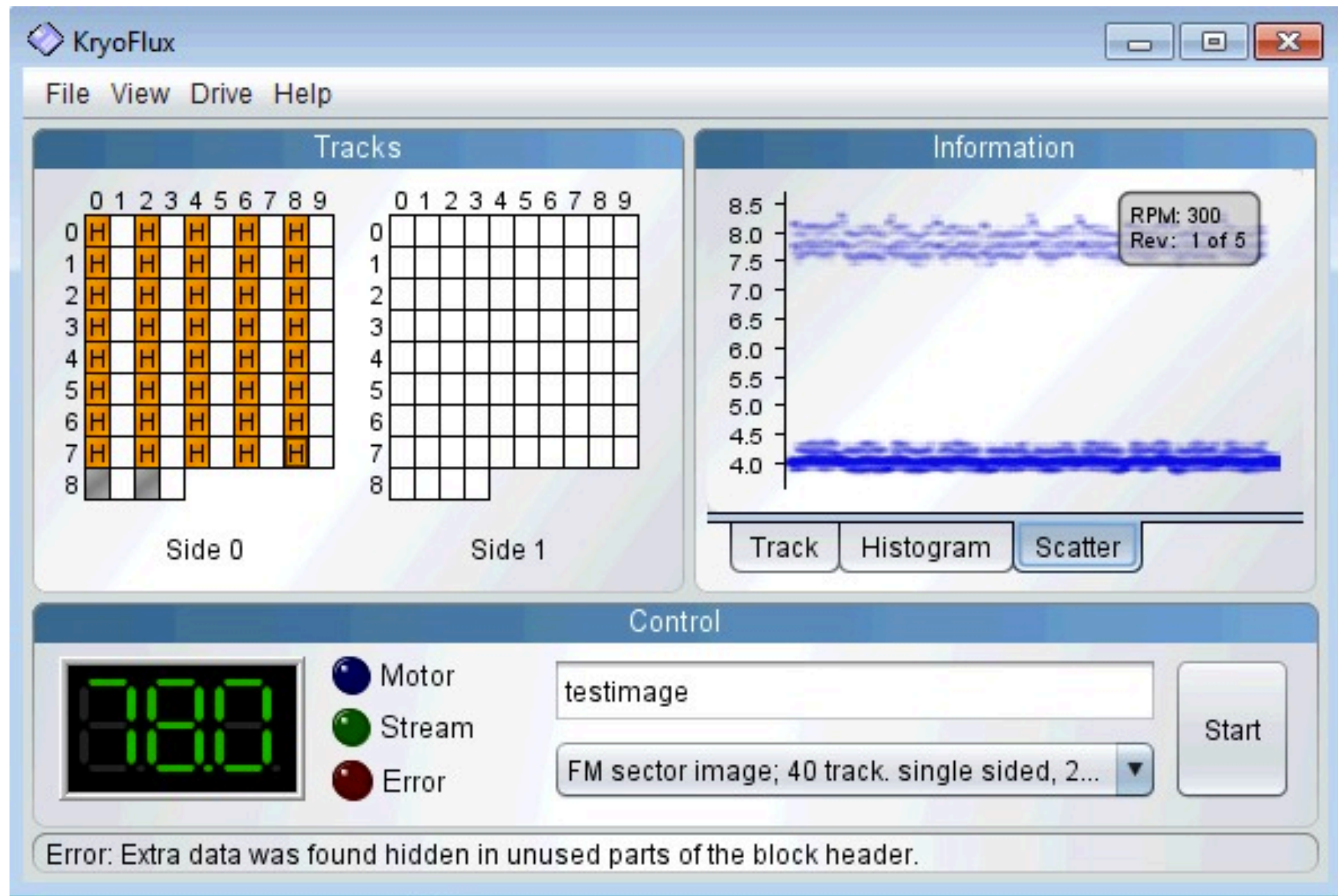
Disk Geometry



Disk Imaging

- Process that runs through representation levels 0-2
- Uses drive to acquire analog signals stored on physical medium
- Those analog signals become analog electrical signals
- Hardware/software interprets those electrical signals into a bitstream using one or more algorithms

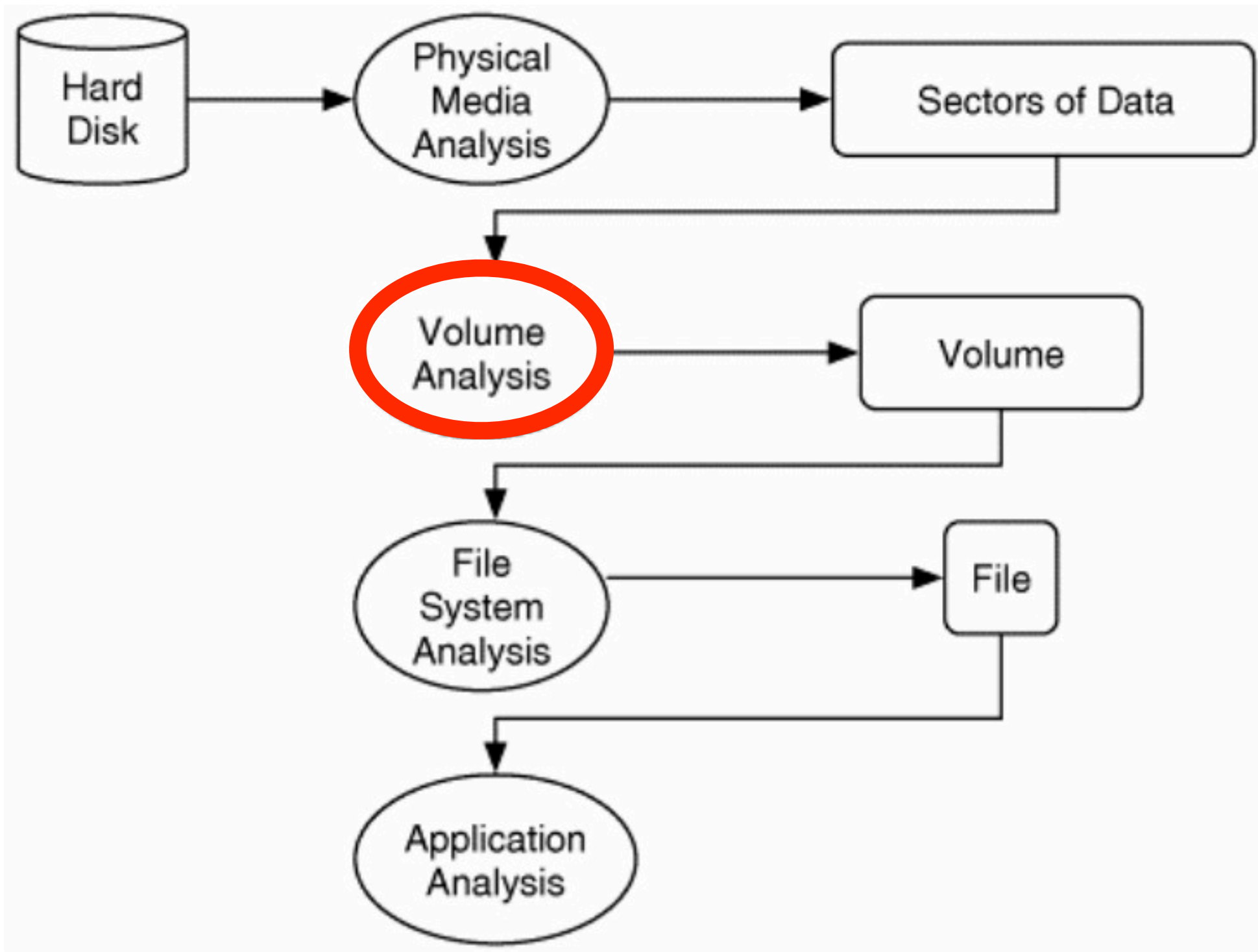
Decoding Floppy Disks



Disk Image Formats

- Raw image (“dd”): decoded bitstream from media
- AFF: Open source; has embedded or external metadata
- EnCase E01: Proprietary with open source support; has embedded metadata
- Above formats can be split into multiple files
- Other formats: VMDK, DMG ...

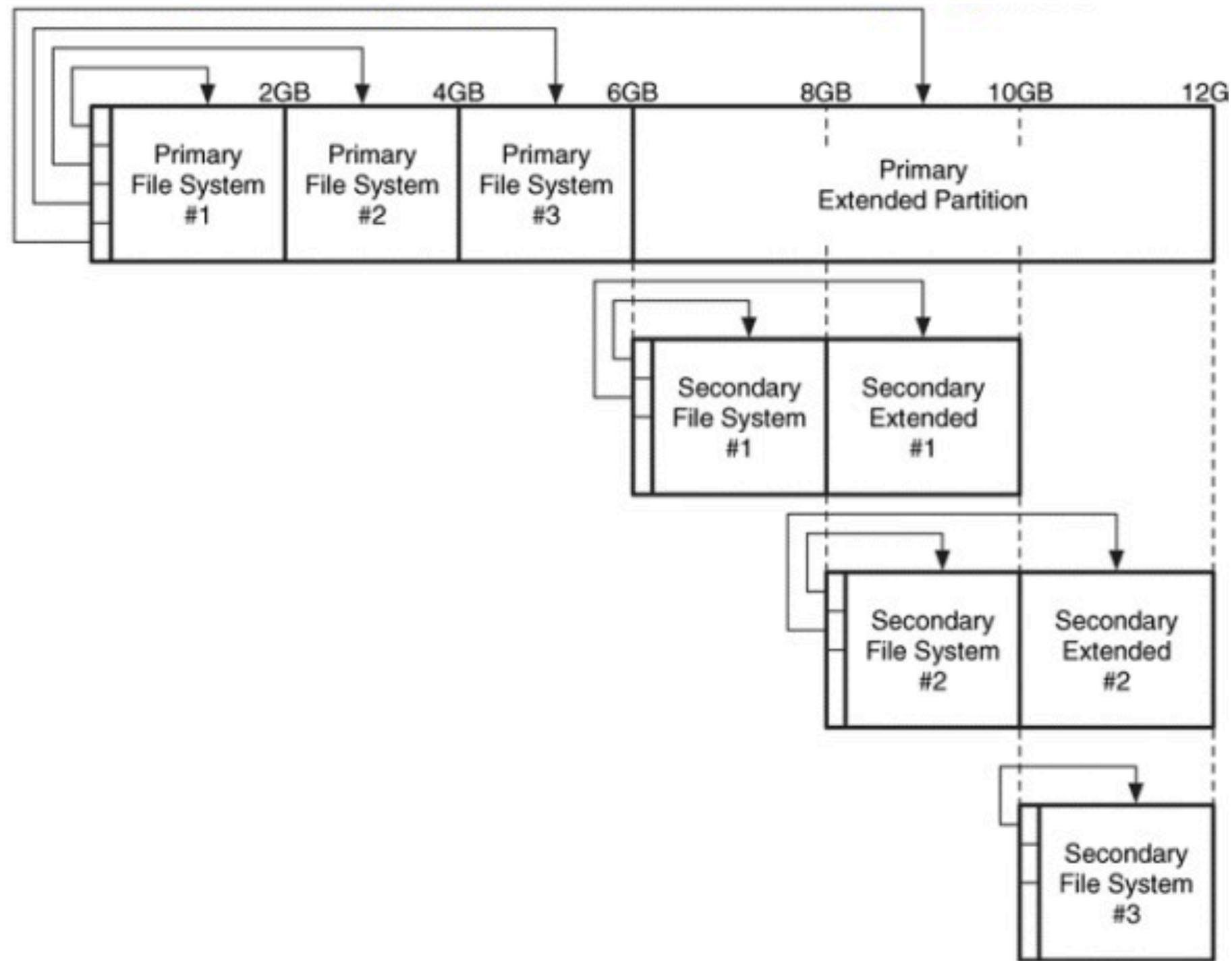
Layers of Forensic Analysis



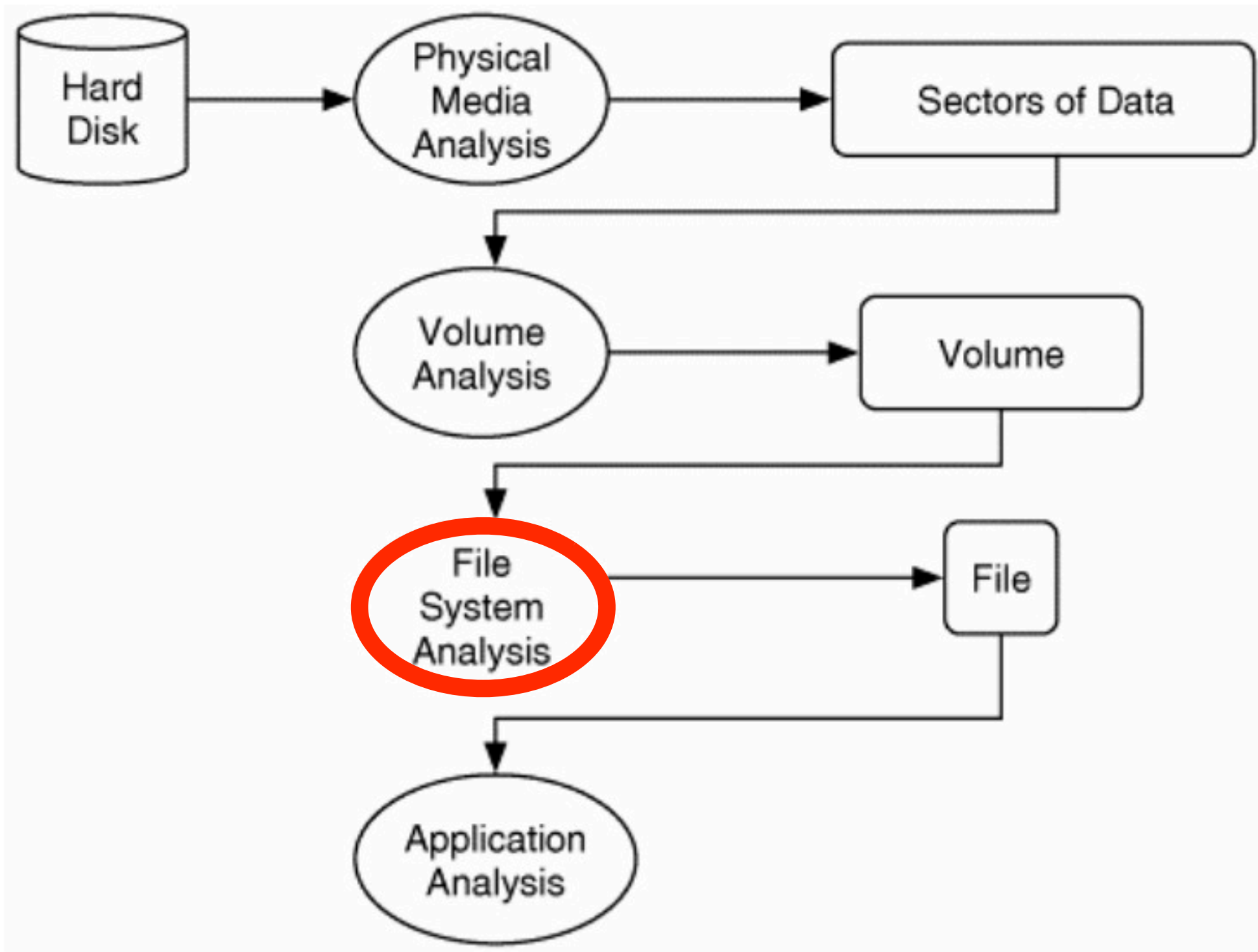
Volumes and Partitions

- Volume: collection of addressable sectors usable for storage
- Partition: a collection of consecutive sectors in a volume
- Partition map (or partition table): metadata structure that describes layout of partitions within a volume
- Partition formats: DOS, GPT, Apple, others

Partition Organization



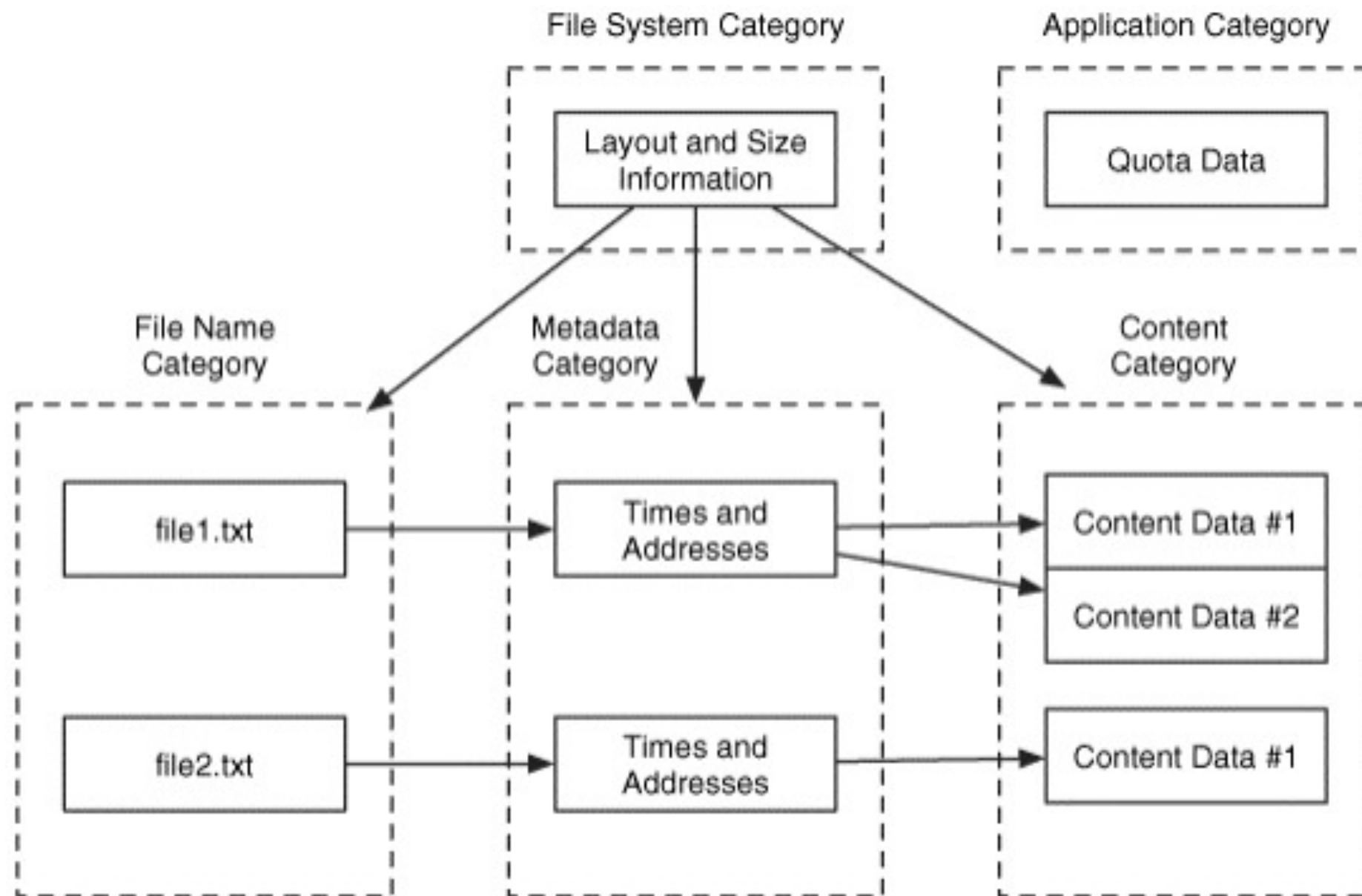
Layers of Forensic Analysis



File Systems

- Mechanism to store data in series of files and directories with associated information about those data using unified set of procedures
- Separates information and content into “layers” or “categories”

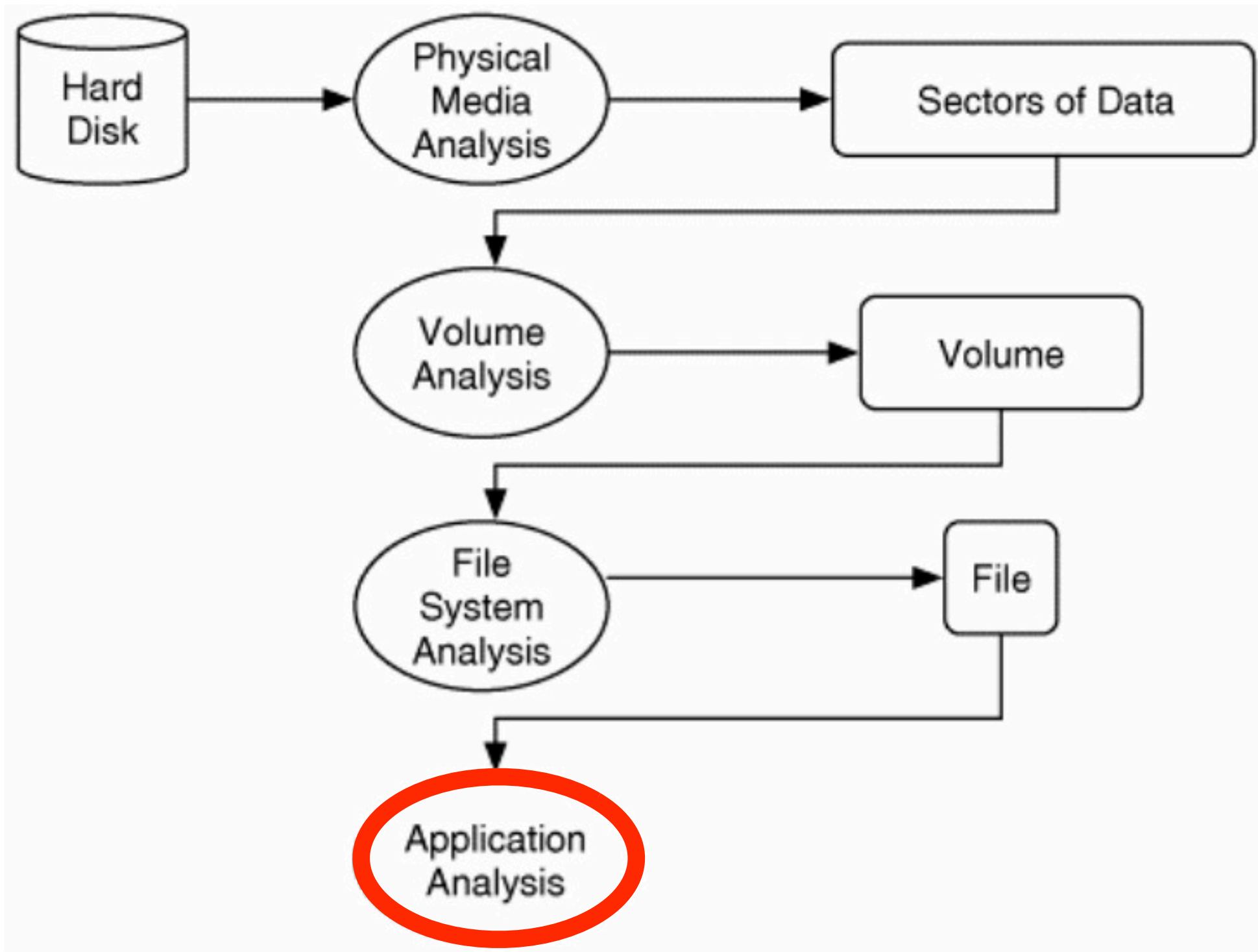
File System Data Categories



File System Types

- FAT (FAT12, FAT16, FAT32 ...): Early PCs (1981-) onward; still very common
- NTFS: Windows systems
- HFS+/HFSX: Mac systems (Mac OS 8.1+)
- ext2/ext3/ext4: Linux systems
- ISO9660: optical media
- Many, many others

Layers of Forensic Analysis



Application-level Analysis

- File format identification
- Data recovery (“carving”)
- Checksum calculation/verification
- Searching for specific data
- Virus checking
- Searching for PII

Tools Overview

BitCurator

- Project funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Partners: UNC SILS and Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities
- Developing a system for cultural heritage sector that incorporates functionality of digital forensics tools into a common environment
- Still under development!
- <http://bitcurator.net>

Guymager

- Disk imaging software
- Supports multiple imaging formats (raw, E01, AFF)
- Allows basic metadata entry and checksum calculation and verification

GUYMAGER

Devices Misc Help

Rescan

Serial nr.	Linux device	Model	State	Size	Hidden Areas	Bad sectors	Progress
VBa20f4682-664af47b	/dev/sda	ATA VBOX HARDDISK	Idle	549.8GB	unknown		

Size 549,755,813,888 bytes
Sector size 512
Image file
Info file
Current speed
Started
Hash calculation
Source verification
Image verification

Acquire image of /dev/sda

File format

- ☐ Linux dd raw image (file extension .dd or .xxx)
☒ Expert Witness Format, sub-format Encase6 (file extension .Exx)
☐ Advanced forensic image (file extension .aff)

☒ Split image files

Split size 2047 MiB

Case number

Evidence number

Examiner

Description

Notes

VBa20f4682-664af47b

Destination

Image directory

...

Image filename (without extension)

Info filename (without extension)

Hash calculation / verification

☒ Calculate MD5☐ Calculate SHA-256☐ Re-read source after acquisition for verification (takes twice as long)☒ Verify image after acquisition (takes twice as long)

Ok

Cancel

The Sleuth Kit (TSK)

- Open source library, command line tools, and GUI application (Autopsy) for forensic analysis
- Supports analysis of FAT, NTFS, ISO9660, HFS+, Ext2/3, UFS1/2
- Splits tools into layers: volume system, file system, file name, metadata, data unit ("block")
- Additional utilities to sort and post-process extracted metadata
- <http://sleuthkit.org>

Image File Tools

- `img_stat`: Display information about a disk image
- `img_cat`: Dump the entire bitstream of a disk image (removes wrapper if using E01, AFF, etc.)

Volume System Tools

- **mmls:** Display partition layout of a volume system
- **mmstat:** Display information about volume system
- **mmcat:** Dump the entire bitstream of a partition

File System Layer Tools

- **fsstat:** Display file system details: layout, sizes, labels

File Name Layer Tools

- `fls`: List allocated and unallocated file name entries
- `ffind`: Find allocated and unallocated file name entries that refer to a given metadata structure

Metadata Layer Tools

- **ils**: List metadata structures and their contents
- **ifind**: Find metadata structure referred to by a specific file name entry
- **istat**: Display information about a specific metadata structure
- **icat**: Extract data units of a file specified by its metadata address

Data Unit Layer Tools

- **blkls**: List details about data units, especially when unallocated
- **blkstat**: Display information about a specific data unit
- **blkcat**: Extract contents of a given data unit
- **blkcalc**: Calculate location of where data in unallocated space exists within a disk image

Additional TSK Tools

- **tsk_loaddb**: Extract metadata into a SQLite database
- **tsk_recover**: Extract allocated or unallocated files from a disk image
- **mactime**: Create timeline of activity (using ils/fls input)
- **sorter**: Sorts files based on type (basic application-level analysis)

fiwalk

- Command line program; depends on The Sleuth Kit
- Outputs results in multiple formats: Digital Forensics XML, CSV, plain text, ARFF (for data mining)
- Developed to support automated forensic processing by breaking it into three steps: extract, represent, process
- Can create plugins to allow for application-level analysis
- Faster in many cases; reads directly in sector order

Digital Forensics XML

- Representation in XML of structured forensic information developed by Simson Garfinkel
- Easily extensible to incorporate additional data elements added by other tools
- Straightforward to process; has existing set of Python scripts for data processing and analysis

bulk_extractor

- Performs bulk data analysis (reads entire bitstream in one pass instead of analyzing individual files)
- Command line program with additional GUI interface (BEViewer)
- Finds patterns: email addresses, phone numbers, URLs, SSNs, credit card numbers, GPS coordinates, EXIF metadata
- Very good for identifying potential PII issues

Run bulk_extractor

Required Parameters

Scan: ☒ Image File ☐ Raw Device ☐ Directory of FilesImage file Output Feature Directory

General Options

☐ Use Banner File☐ Use Alert List File☐ Use Stop List File☐ Use Find Regex Text File☐ Use Find Regex Text

Tuning Parameters

☐ Use Context Window Size☐ Use Page Size☐ Use Margin Size☐ Use Min Word Size☐ Use Max Word Size☐ Use Block Size☐ Use Number of Threads

Scanners

☐ bulk☐ wordlist☒ accts☒ aes☒ base16☒ base64☒ elf☒ email☒ exif☒ gps☒ gzip☒ hiber☒ json☒ kml☒ net☒ pdf☒ vcard☒ windirs☒ winpe☒ winprefetch☒ zip

Scanner Controls

☐ Use Plugin Directory☐ Use Scan Option Name

Restore Defaults

Start bulk_extractor

Cancel

Hex

Highlight: ☒ Match case

Reports

▼ filesisoraw
domain.txt
domain_histogram.txt
email.txt
email_histogram.txt
rfc822.txt
telephone.txt
telephone_histogram.txt
url.txt
url_histogram.txt
url_services.txt
windirs.txt

Feature Filter ☒ Match case

Histogram File email_histog...

n=12	ksadmin8@ink.org
n=10	support@researchconce
n=2	johno@dadisc1.wpo.stat
n=2	maxw@dadisc1.wpo.stat
n=1	discweb.discweb@state.
n=1	discweb@state.ks.us
n=1	wjcoutts@netcom.ca
n=1	y2k@pvcla.com

Referenced Feature File e...

Referenced Feature ks...

2982886	ksadmin8@ink.org
2993016	ksadmin8@ink.org
3015037	ksadmin8@ink.org
3039716	ksadmin8@ink.org
3055400	ksadmin8@ink.org
3092853	ksadmin8@ink.org
3108325	ksadmin8@ink.org
3130582	ksadmin8@ink.org
3147224	ksadmin8@ink.org
3162323	ksadmin8@ink.org
3177236	ksadmin8@ink.org
3189947	ksadmin8@ink.org

Navigation

files.iso.raw, 2993016, ksadmin8@ink.org

Image File files.iso.raw

Feature File email.txt

Feature Path 2993016

Feature ksadmin8@ink.org

Image

2991232 ble to coordinate the.. mitigation and testing for that s
2991296 system with all stakeholders whose systems provide.. elect
2991360 ronic input to, or utilize electronic output from, the system.</p>
2991424 small></p>.. </blockquote>.. <p ALIGN="JUSTIFY"><small>
2991488 >7.0 PROCEDURES:</small></p>.. <blockquote>.. <p ALI
2991552 GN="JUSTIFY"><small>7.1 Agencies are to review all electronic ex
2991616 change data for.. dates and take suitable action to imple
2991680 ment the appropriate date data exchange format.. defined
2991744 elsewhere in this policy.</small></p>.. <p ALIGN="JUSTIFY
2991808 "><small>7.2 Whenever possible, conversion of date data exchange
2991872 formats.. should be accomplished as systems are brought
2991936 into year 2000 compliance. </small></p>.. </blockquote>..
2992000 <p ALIGN="JUSTIFY"><small>8.0 RESPONSIBILITIES:</small></p>..
2992064 . <blockquote>.. <p ALIGN="JUSTIFY"><small>8.1 Heads
2992128 of agencies, boards and commissions, will establish.. pr
2992192 ocedures for their organization's compliance with the requiremen
2992256 ts of this policy.</small></p>.. <p ALIGN="JUSTIFY"><small>
2992320 l>8.2 The Chief Information Technology Officer, Executive Branch
2992384 .. is responsible for the maintenance of this policy.</sm
2992448 all></p>.. </blockquote>.. <p ALIGN="JUSTIFY"><small>8
2992512 .0 CANCELLATION: None</small></p>.. <p ALIGN="JUSTIFY"><sm
2992576 ll>10.0 CONTACT PERSON: Kansas Information..
2992640 Technology Office, 785-296-3463.</small></p>.. </p>
2992704 <blockquote>.. </td>.. </tr>.. <tr>.. <td width="100%"></td>.. </tr>.. </table>
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2992832 le>..</center></div>...<p align="center"> </p>...<p align
2992896 ="center"> </p>...<p align="center"><small><small><small>
2992960 strong>Updated on 5/11/99
..<a href="mailto:ksadmin8
2993024 @ink.org">Comments/Questions
..on this web page?</small></p>..
2993088 /small></small></p>...<p> </p>..</body>...<SCRIPT language

Hands-On

- Start BitCurator VM on VirtualBox
- Walkthrough of command line tools
- Walkthrough of bulk_extractor/BEViewer
- Other tools if we have time (ghex Hex Editor, sdhash)
- Username and password (if it asks) are both "bcadmin"

Thanks!

Questions?

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@anarchivist

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