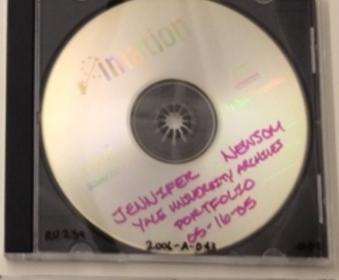
Digital Forensics & Born-Digital Archives at Yale

Mark A. Matienzo YUL Manuscripts and Archives SCOPA Conference Recap September 19, 2012









Core

Digital forensics in the archival domain

- Increasing use of digital forensics tools/methodologies within the context of digital archives programs (Kirschenbaum et al. 2010)
- Technology-focused work (John 2008; Woods & Brown 2009; AIMS Work Group 2012, Lee et al. 2012)
- Methodology-focused work (Duranti 2009; Xie 2011)

Significant barriers to use of digital forensics in archives

- Cost (Kirschenbaum et al. 2010; Daigle 2012)
- Complexity (Kirschenbaum et al. 2010; Daigle 2012)
- Digital archives as an emerging market for forensics

Potential of open source digital forensics software

- Requires additional tool development work to be useful for archivists (Kirschenbaum et al. 2010)
- Requires additional integration work (Lee et al. 2012)

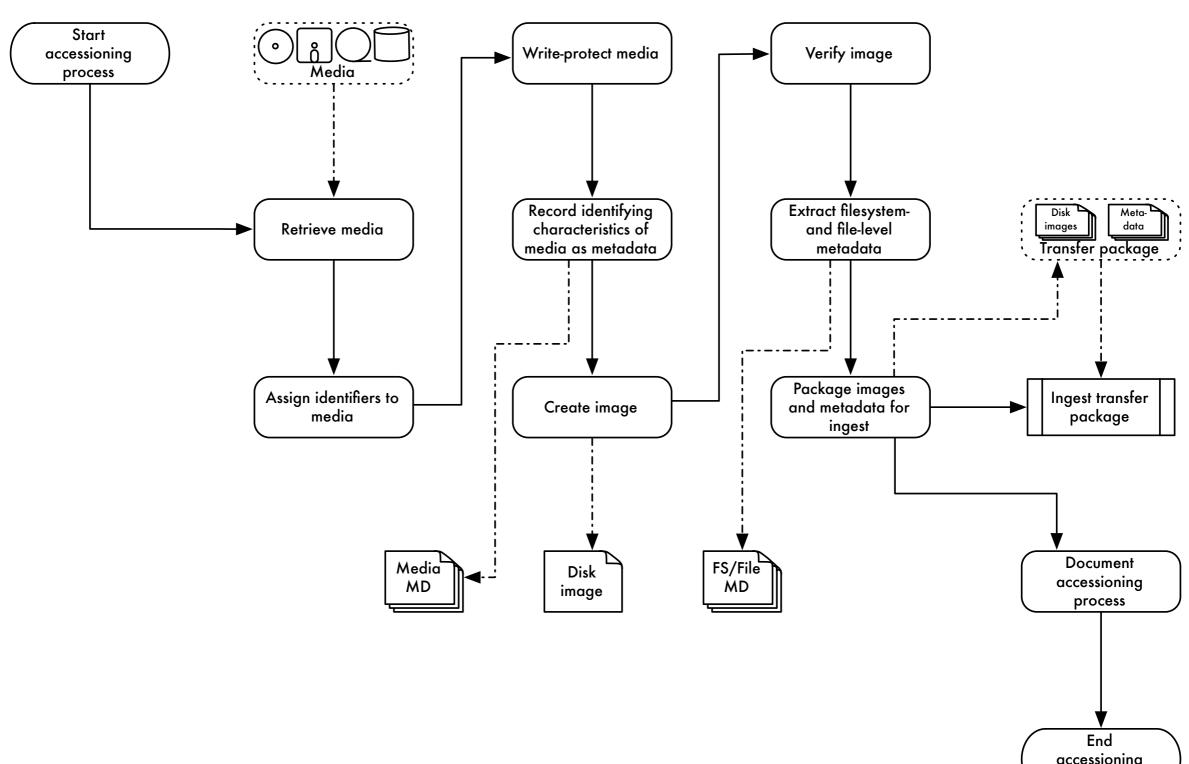
Institutional Context

- Focus on implementation of and development with digital forensics software at YUL
- Work must support accessioning, processing, and management of born-digital archival material
- Primary focus are records received on legacy media

Design Principles

- Whenever possible, use and develop with open source digital forensics software to support accessioning, arrangement, and description of borndigital archival records
- Focus on first two phases (preservation and searching) of Carrier's (2005) model of digital investigation process
- Curation micro-services (Abrams, et al. 2010) as philosophical basis to guide development and implementation
- Recognition of both disk images as digital object (Woods, Lee, and Garfinkel 2011) and objects within disk images as needing management
- Intention of forensic soundness, but assume much of state is lost

Workflow



accessioning process

Disk Image Acquisition

- Requires a combination of hardware (drives/media readers, controller cards, write blockers) and software
- In some cases, software depends on particular hardware
- Software tested: FTK Imager (proprietary/gratis), hardware-specific solutions (FC5025 WinDIB; KryoFlux DTC/GUI; Catweasel Imagetool3)
- Goal: sector image interpretable by multiple tools

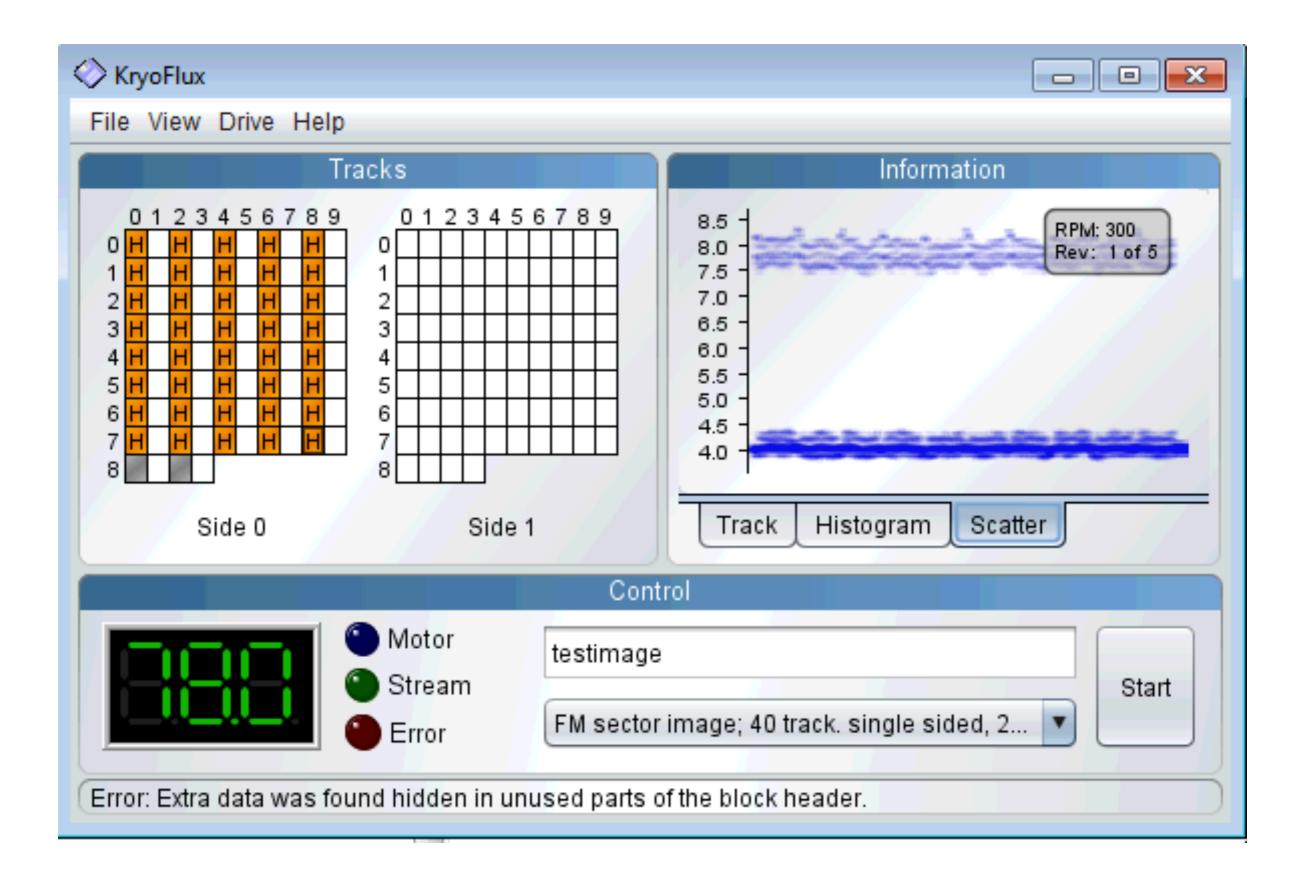


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		075.0006					Imaging Successful?	Yes
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		075.0009					Image Fixity Function	MD5
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		2011-M-	CD-R		Yes	No	Bag Created?	No
		075.0012					Transfer to Storage Date	
		2011-M-	Zip disk		Yes	No	Fiscal Year	2010-11
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Electronic Records on Media Accessioning Log Electronic Records on Media Accessioning Log: 2011-M-075.0008

Analysis Process

- Multiple levels of analysis within digital forensics based on layers of abstraction (Carrier 2003)
- Conceptual linkages with metadata extraction/analysis processes with digital curation/archival domain

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Metadata Extraction

- Use open source digital forensics software (Sleuth Kit, fiwalk) and other open source tools to characterize media, volume, file system, and file information
- Attempt to repurpose this information as descriptive, structural, and/or technical metadata to support accessioning, appraisal, and processing

The Sleuth Kit

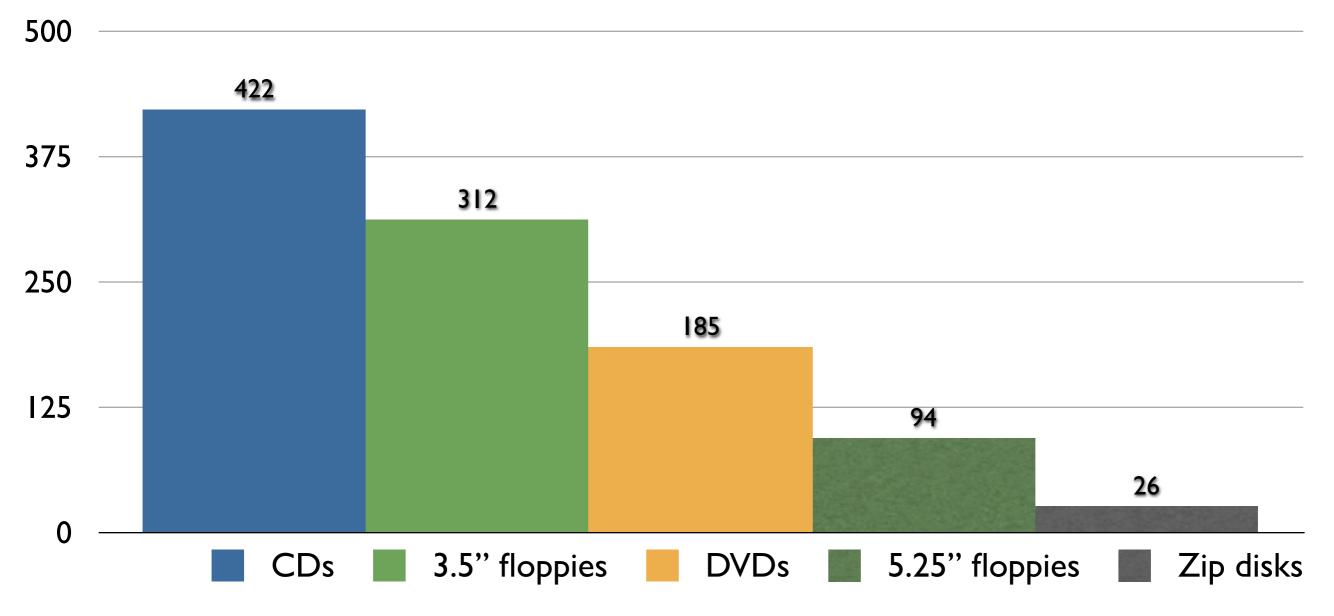
- Open source C library, command line tools, and GUI application (Autopsy) for forensic analysis
- Supports analysis of FAT, NTFS, ISO9660, HFS+, Ext2/3, UFS1/2
- Splits tools into layers: volume system, file system, file name, metadata, data unit ("block")
- Additional utilities to sort and post-process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

Digital Forensics XML

- Representation in XML of structured forensic information developed by Simson Garfinkel
- Produced by tools including fiwalk (Garfinkel 2012), which uses Sleuth Kit for volume, file system, file, and application-level analysis
- Easily extensible (local plugin development as focus)
- Straight forward to process

Disk Images

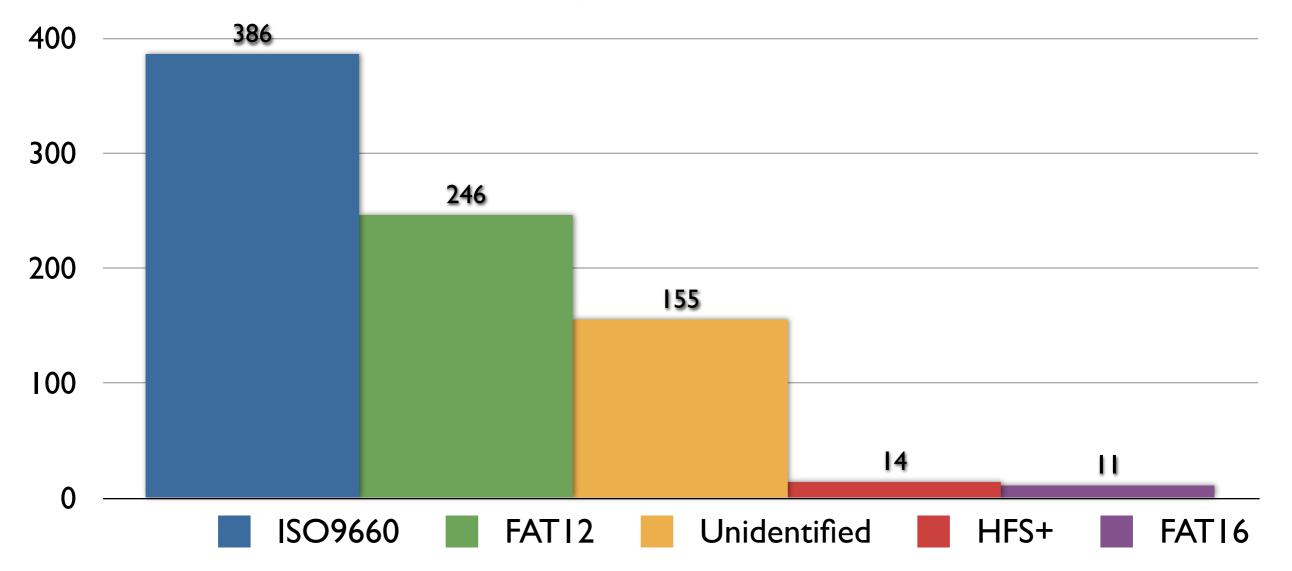
 Acquired 1,039 disk images from across 69 accessions at Manuscripts and Archives



Metadata Extraction

Ran metadata extraction on 812 images

File Systems within Images



Metadata Extraction

- Ran enhanced metadata extraction on 619 images (users plugins for fiwalk developed during research)
- Performed analysis on 49,724 files within images
- Successfully identified 43,729 files (147 unique file types) against PRONOM format registry
- Identified 9 files as containing virus signatures (2 unique virus signatures)

Software Development

- Created Fiwalk plugins to perform additional analysis and evaluation of files/bitstreams within disk images (virus identification and file format identification)
- Gumshoe: prototype interface (using Blacklight and Solr) to provide search/browse access to disk image metadata

Advantages

- Faster (and more forensically sound) to extract metadata once rather than having to keep processing an image
- Possibility of developing better assessments during accessioning process (significance of directory structure, accuracy of timestamps)
- Integrating additional extraction processes and building supplemental tools is simple
- Performance of tools correlates to complexity of analysis

Limitations

- Use of tools limited to specific types of file systems
- Additional software (particularly to document imaging process) requires additional integration and data normalization
- DFXML is not (currently) a metadata format common within domains of archives/libraries and requires an domain-specific application profile
- Extracted metadata maybe harder to repurpose for descriptive purposes based on level of granularity

Work in Progress

- BitCurator project under development; early release available for testing: <u>http://wiki.bitcurator.net</u>
- The Sleuth Kit and related tools under continuing development (Autopsy, fiwalk, etc.): <u>http://sleuthkit.org</u>
- Additional testing, development integration under work at Yale and NYPL

Thanks!

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