



How to Detect Timestomping with KAPE

June 15, 2022

Upcoming KAPE Intensive Training and Certification Sessions

- Virtual live sessions
- Max 25 students

Full Calendar Available here:
<https://bit.ly/KAPE2022>

SCHEDULE	INSTRUCTORS
June 23, 2022 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET	Eric Zimmerman Sean Straw Scott Zuberbuehler Andrew Rathbun
September 27, 2022 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET	Eric Zimmerman Sean Straw Scott Zuberbuehler Andrew Rathbun
October 4, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. BST	James Thoburn Paul Wells Guillermo Roman

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Andrew Rathbun



Vice President, Cyber Risk

Let's Connect

- LinkedIn ([andrewrathbun](#))
- Twitter ([@bunsofwrath12](#))
- GitHub ([AndrewRathbun](#))
- Discord (rathbuna#0679)

Work Experience

- 2020-Present: Vice President at Kroll
 - Digital Forensics & Incident Response
 - KAPE Instructor
- 2019-2020: HHS OIG
 - Forensic Computer Examiner (2210)
- 2012-2019: Michigan State University Police Department
 - 2016-2019: Detective (digital forensics and general investigations)
 - 2012-2015: Police Officer
- 2005-2011: USMC Veteran
 - Rifleman (0311)
 - Deployment to Fallujah, Iraq (2006-2007)

Side Projects

- 2018-Present: Administrator of the [Digital Forensics Discord Server](#)
 - 2020 DFIR Resource of the Year – Winner
 - 2019 DFIR Resource of the Year – Winner
- 2019-Present: [AboutDFIR.com](#) Contributor
 - 2020 DFIR Resource of the Year – Nominee
 - 2019 DFIR Resource of the Year – Nominee
- 2020-Present: [Steward of many GitHub repos](#)
- 2021-Present: [SANS DFIR Summit Advisory Board](#) Member
- 2022: SANS Gold Paper (GCPE) – Post-submission, in review

What is Timestomping?

What is Timestomping?

Making sure we're all on the same page

- Common anti-forensic technique observed in incident response matters
- Altering timestamps on an NTFS file system
 - MAC(B) – Modified, Accessed, Change, and Birth (File Creation)
 - Usually 0x10, but 0x30 can be altered with extra effort/knowledge
- Why would someone timestomp files?
 - Often used to hide tools or tool output from incident responders when conducting file system timestamp analysis in the \$MFT
 - Can also be used to make those files you downloaded back in the early days of the internet have the 1996 timestamps that were lost over time transferring from one storage medium to another, from one ZIP file to another, etc.
- In 2 scenarios, this webinar will cover:
 - Examples of the most widely observed techniques seen by Kroll in our day-to-day engagements
 - Example of detection and analysis techniques using KAPE and Timeline Explorer

Investigative Mindset

Things to keep in mind when hunting for Timestomping

- Timestomping is common enough to where one should expect to see it on most IR cases where threat actors have something to hide
- Examiners don't know if timestomping is present on a host until they do
 - Normally, I discover suspicious files based on file name or location, and THEN notice indicators of timestomping
 - Once I've seen it once on a host, I usually find multiple other instances of it on the host and within the network
- Understand that as with everything, context is king
 - Plenty of applications don't record the sub-seconds

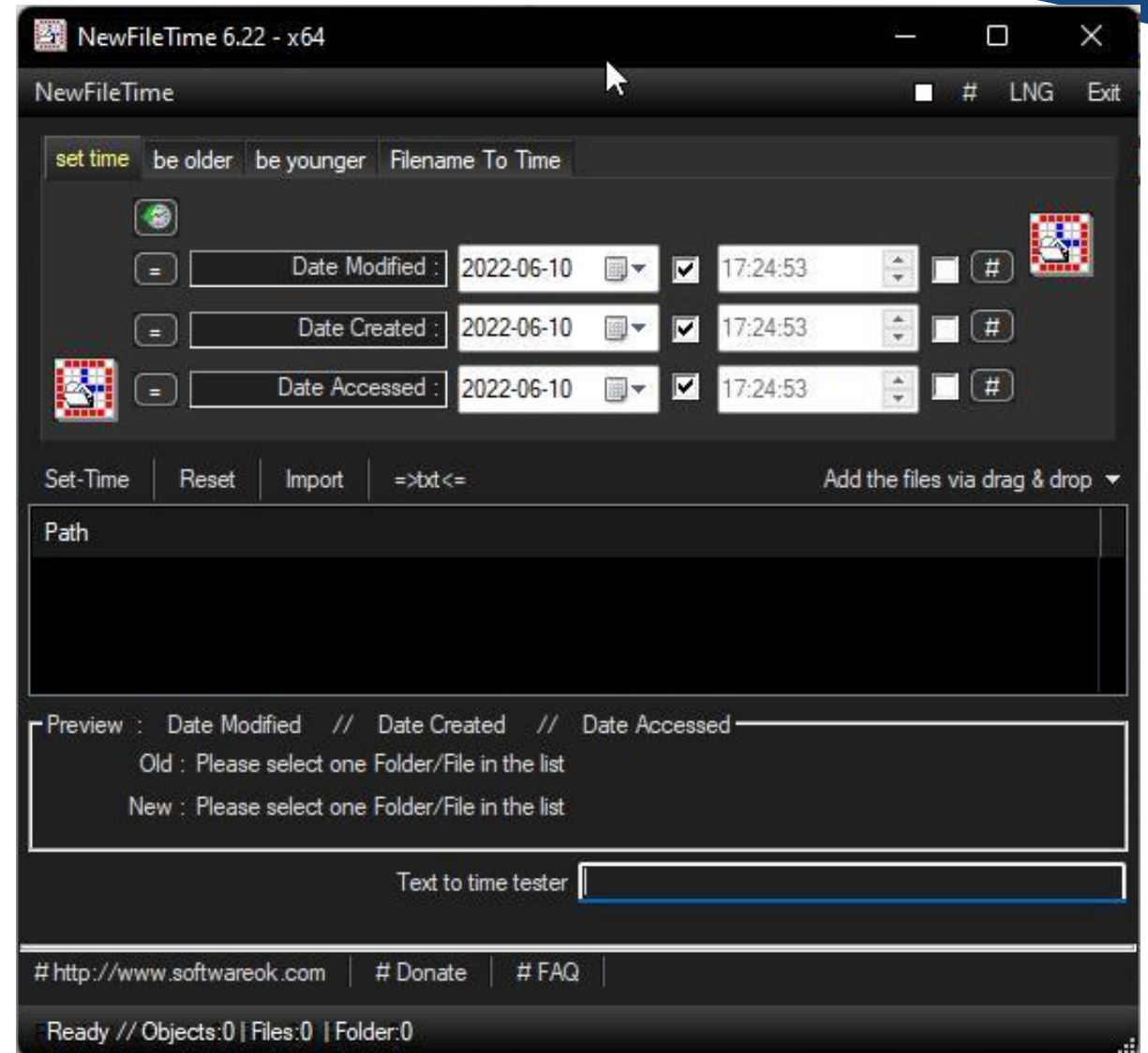


Timestomping Tools

NewFileTime

Popular Timestamp Manipulation Tool

- Covered extensively in the blog post series
- [Timestomping a File with NewFileTime](#)
- Free
- Easy to use
- Can modify the Modified, Created, and Accessed timestamps of any file
- Can also adopt the timestamp of another file
- [NewFileTime 6.22 Download \(softwareok.com\)](#)



NewFileTime Alternatives

AlternativeTo.net – List of NewFileTime Alternatives

- SKTimeStamp
- BulkFileChanger
- Chronos (time stamp)
- Attribute Magic
- TouchPro
- Ninotech Date Edit
- File version info editor

NewFileTime Alternatives

NewFileTime is described as 'Windows tool that provides you easy access to correct or manipulate any of the timestamps for any file and folder on your Windows system' and is an app. There are nine alternatives to NewFileTime for Windows and Windows Explorer. The best alternative is SKTimeStamp, which is both free and Open Source. Other great apps like NewFileTime are BulkFileChanger, FCorp File & Folder Tools, Image Time Stamp Modifier and CHRONOS (time stamp).

NewFileTime alternatives are mainly Duplicate File Finders but may also be File Search Utilities or File Managers. Filter by these if you want a narrower list of alternatives or looking for a specific functionality of NewFileTime.

Share on Facebook | Tweet | Share on Reddit | Suggest changes

This page was last updated May 24, 2019

NewFileTime info, screenshots & reviews | Alternatives to NewFileTime

Popular filters: None | 9 alternatives

Platforms: Windows, Windows Explorer | Features & Tags: Duplicate File Finder, File Search Utility, File Manager, Change File Dates, Timestamps, Portable, Windows Explorer extension | License: Free, Open Source, Paid

All Filters

SKTimeStamp

Free • Open Source | Windows | Windows Explorer

Change File Dates | One click | Timestamps | Windows Explorer extension

17 alternatives to SKTimeStamp

SKTimeStamp is a very simple shell extension which adds a new tab to the Explorer properties dialog. On that new tab, you can change the file/folder date and time.

BulkFileChanger

Free • Proprietary | Windows

Change File Dates | Batch processing | Multiple languages | Portable

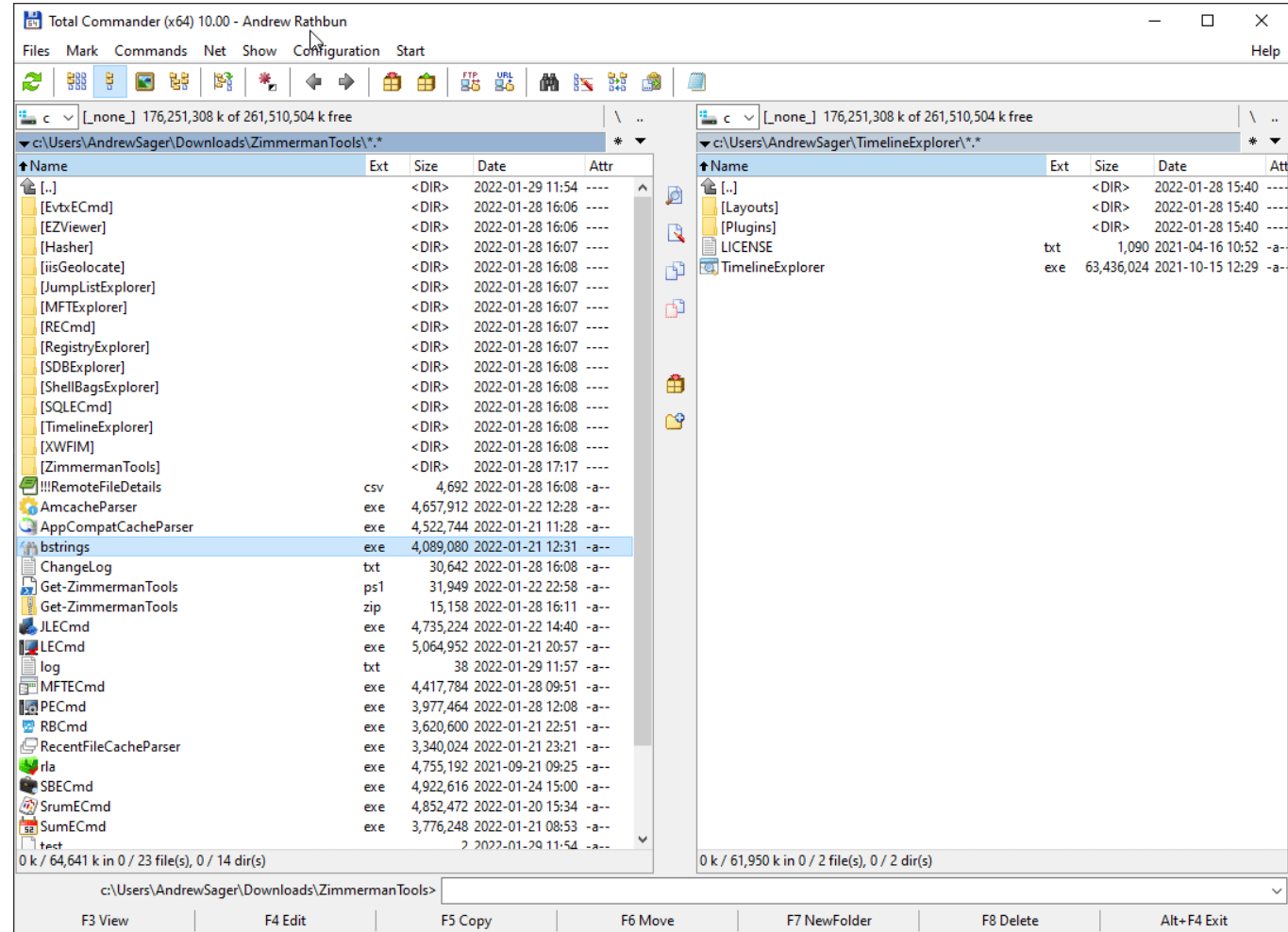
13 alternatives to BulkFileChanger

BulkFileChanger is a small utility that allows you to create files list from multiple folders, and then make some action on them - Modify their created/modified/accessed time, change their file attribute (Read Only, Hidden, System), run an executable with these files as...

Total Commander

Windows File Explorer Alternative

- Dual Pane Windows File Explorer alternative with lots of functionality and extensibility via plugins
 - [Total Commander - Plugins \(ghisler.com\)](https://ghisler.com)
- Can be used as a data exfil tool
- File -> Change Attributes
- Lots of alternatives on AlternativeTo
 - Sidenote: KAPE Targets exist for most of them 😊
 - Compound Target: FileExplorerReplacements.tkape
- [Total Commander - home \(ghisler.com\)](https://ghisler.com)



Investigative Process Using KAPE



Acquiring Necessary Artifacts Using KAPE

Featuring Snips from \$MFT, \$J, and LNKFilesAndJumpLists Targets

- Artifacts needed:
 - \$MFT – index of all files on an NTFS-formatted file system
- Artifacts that aren't needed but can be helpful
 - \$J – journal of changes to files (does not store actual file contents that are changed)
 - .LNK files – evidence of file access, stores timestamps of the target file within
- All of the above (and more) are acquired using the KapeTriage Compound Target

```
Name: $MFT
Category: FileSystem
Path: C:\
FileMask: $MFT
AlwaysAddToQueue: true
```

```
Name: $J
Category: FileSystem
Path: C:\$Extend\
FileMask: $UsnJrnl:$J
AlwaysAddToQueue: true
SaveAsFileName: $J
```

```
Name: LNK Files from Recent
Category: LNKFiles
Path: C:\Users\%user%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Recent\
Recursive: true
Comment: Also includes automatic and custom jumplist directories

Name: LNK Files from Microsoft Office Recent
Category: LNKFiles
Path: C:\Users\%user%\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Office\Recent\
Recursive: true

Name: LNK Files from Recent (XP)
Category: LNKFiles
Path: C:\Documents and Settings\%user%\Recent\
Recursive: true

Name: Desktop LNK Files XP
Category: LNKFiles
Path: C:\Documents and Settings\%user%\Desktop\
FileMask: '*.LNK'

Name: Desktop LNK Files
Category: LNKFiles
Path: C:\Users\%user%\Desktop\
FileMask: '*.LNK'

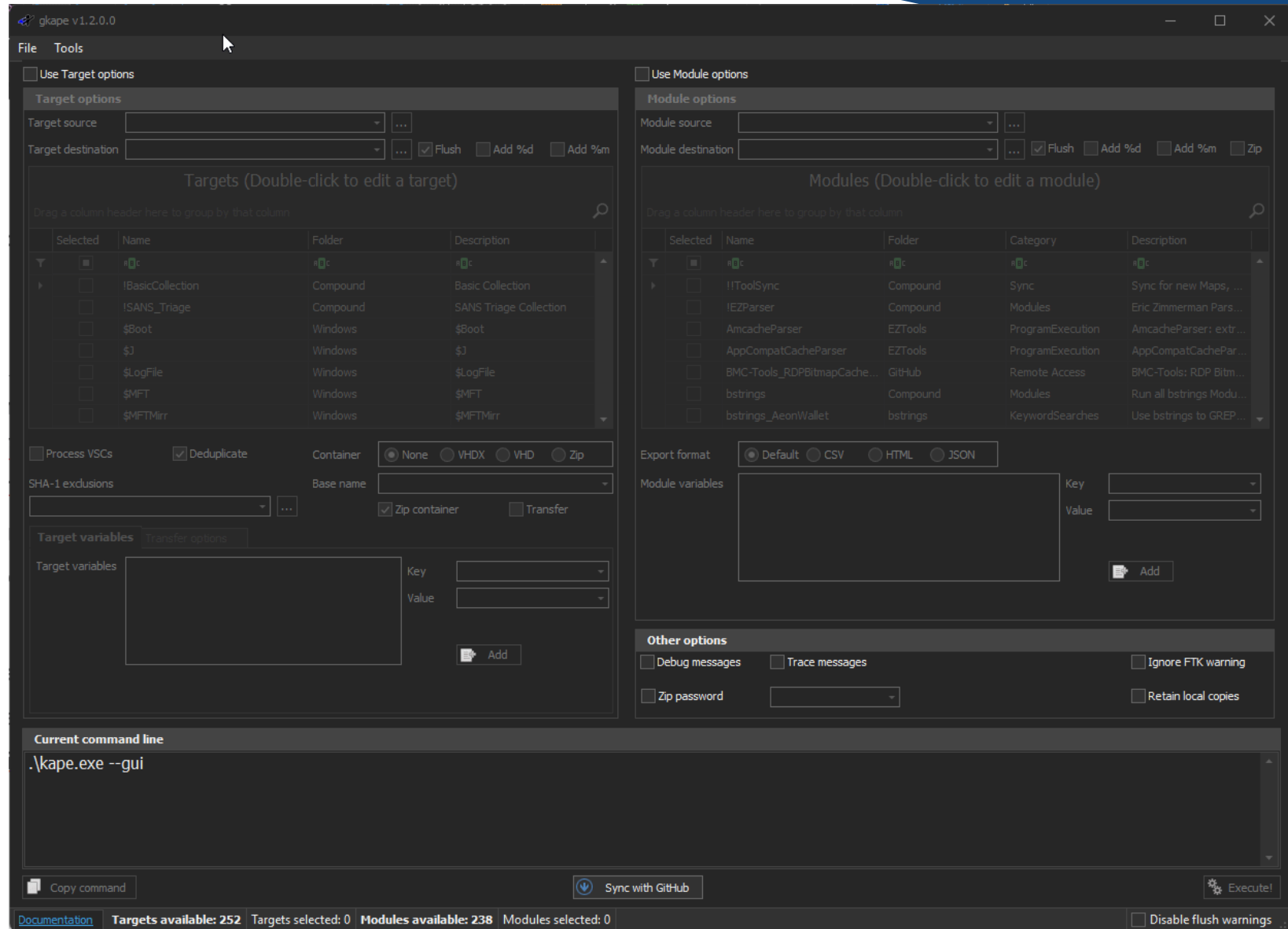
Name: Restore point LNK Files XP
Category: LNKFiles
Path: C:\System Volume Information\_restore*\RP*\
FileMask: '*.LNK'

Name: LNK Files from C:\ProgramData
Category: LNKFiles
Path: C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\
FileMask: '*.LNK'
```

KAPE Workflow

Using gkape

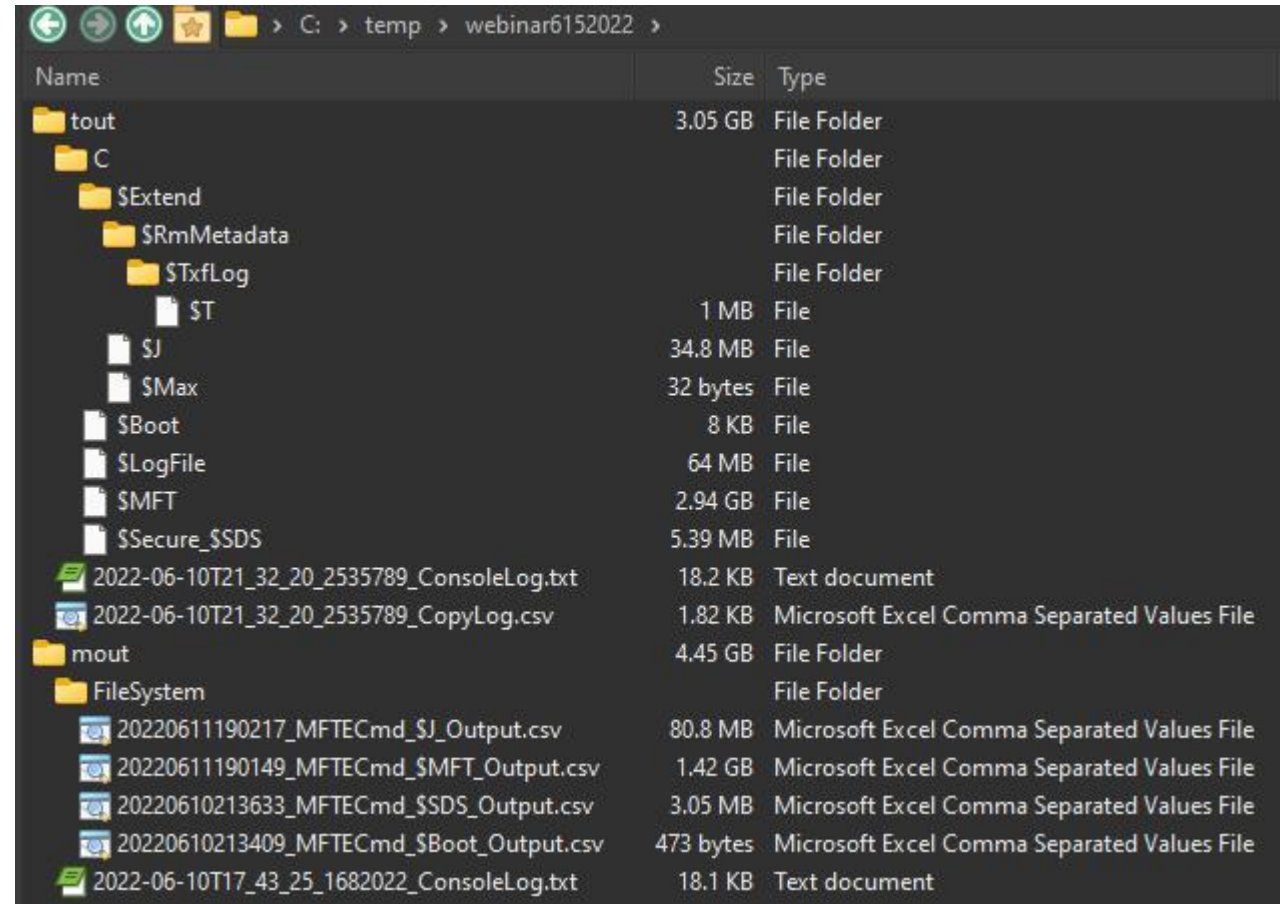
- My common workflow:
 - KapeTriage Target
 - !EZParser Module
- Grabs (most) everything I need to answer 95% of the questions I initially have
- Produces output for most artifacts pulled using KapeTriage Compound Target
- Every EZ Tool is put to work so long as the corresponding artifact exists



KAPE Output

tout and mout folders

- tout
 - Target Destination location
 - Will have the files we acquired using KAPE Targets with recreated directories
- mout
 - Module Destination location
 - Will have the parsed output from the \$MFT, \$J, and more
- With this workflow, we have the raw files and parsed output for us to analyze in Timeline Explorer
- Full disclosure: this example was only the [FileSystem/MFTECmd](#), NOT [KapeTriage/!EZParser](#)



Name	Size	Type
folder tout	3.05 GB	File Folder
folder C		File Folder
folder \$Extend		File Folder
folder \$RmMetadata		File Folder
folder \$TxfLog		File Folder
file \$T	1 MB	File
file \$J	34.8 MB	File
file \$Max	32 bytes	File
file \$Boot	8 KB	File
file \$LogFile	64 MB	File
file \$MFT	2.94 GB	File
file \$Secure_\$SDS	5.39 MB	File
file 2022-06-10T21_32_20_2535789_ConsoleLog.txt	18.2 KB	Text document
file 2022-06-10T21_32_20_2535789_CopyLog.csv	1.82 KB	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
folder mout	4.45 GB	File Folder
folder FileSystem		File Folder
file 20220611190217_MFTECmd_\$J_Output.csv	80.8 MB	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
file 20220611190149_MFTECmd_\$MFT_Output.csv	1.42 GB	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
file 20220610213633_MFTECmd_\$SDS_Output.csv	3.05 MB	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
file 20220610213409_MFTECmd_\$Boot_Output.csv	473 bytes	Microsoft Excel Comma Separated Values File
file 2022-06-10T17_43_25_1682022_ConsoleLog.txt	18.1 KB	Text document

Timeline Explorer

Brief introduction to Timeline Explorer

- Our KAPE workflow acquired files and generated output from those files for us to analyze
- Timeline Explorer is the best companion for the examiners who primarily analyze CSV output from EZ Tools or any other tool
- Built by an examiner, for examiners
- Opens much larger files than Excel can handle, plus many other quality of life features
- [Timeline Explorer - AboutDFIR - The Definitive Compendium Project](#)

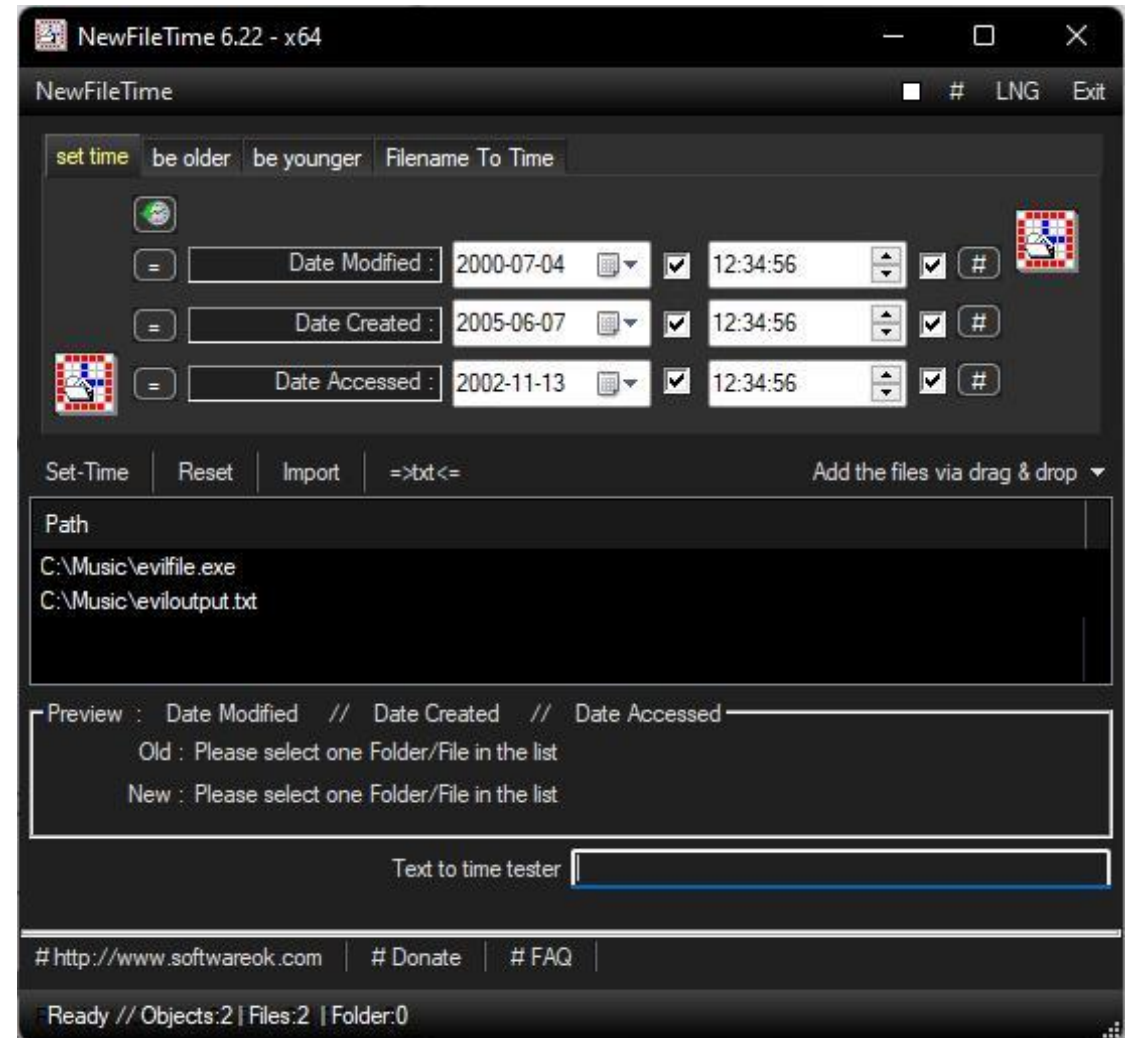


Analysis with Timeline Explorer: NewFileTime Scenario

NewFileTime Timestomping Analysis: \$MFT

Change Attributes settings and subsequent \$MFT output from MFTECmd

- Timestamps in NewFileTime (right) are in Local Time (EST)
- Timestamps in MFTECmd output are in UTC
 - i.e., 12:34:56 (EST) -> 16:34:56 (UTC)
- Temporal analysis of \$MFT timestamps would show evilfile.exe and eviloutput.txt as created much earlier than reality (next slide)



Timeline Explorer v2.0.0.1

File Tools Tabs View Help

20220610213514_MFTECmd_\$MFT_Output.csv × 20220610174446_LECmd_Output.csv 20220611190217_MFTECmd_\$J_Output.csv

Drag a column header here to group by that column

	Parent Path	File Name	Extension	Is Directory	Has Ads	Is Ads	File Size	Created
Y	evil	evil	=	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	=	=
	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	.txt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	2005-06-07 16:34:56.000
	.\Music	evilfile.exe	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34645160	2005-06-07 16:34:56.000

× File Name Contains evil And Extension In .exe .txt

C:\temp\webinar6152022\mout\FileSystem\20220610213514_MFTECmd_\$MFT_Output.csv Total lines 3,145,486 Visible lines 2 Open files: 3 Search options

Timeline Explorer v2.0.0.1

File Tools Tabs View Help

20220610213514_MFTECmd_\$MFT_Output.csv × 20220610174446_LECmd_Output.csv 20220611190217_MFTECmd_\$J_Output.csv

Drag a column header here to group by that column

	Parent Path	File Name	Created0x10	Created0x30	Extension	Is Directory
Y	nc	nc	=	=	=	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\DP\CB_CloudSensor\macOS...	confer_installer_mac-3.5...	2021-11-16 21:15:40.966581		.dmg	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\DP\CB_CloudSensor\macOS...	installer_vista_win7_win8...	2021-11-16 21:15:40.982204		.msi	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\Intel	GfxCPLBatchFiles	2022-06-10 17:10:51.095642			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	.\Intel	IntelOptaneData	2021-09-29 09:50:00.867133			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	.\Intel	Logs	2021-09-29 10:15:54.757790			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	.\Intel\Logs	HIDEVENTFILTER.log	2021-09-29 10:15:54.757790		.log	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\IT	Kroll	2022-02-18 20:04:43.628312			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	.\IT\Kroll	scripts	2022-02-18 20:04:43.643020			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	.\IT\Kroll\scripts	Backup-BitlockerKeyToAAD...	2022-02-18 20:04:43.645030		.ps1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\Music	evilfile.exe	2005-06-07 16:34:56.000000	2022-04-08 20:19:46.421014	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	2005-06-07 16:34:56.000000	2022-06-10 17:40:55.014300	.txt	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp	S-1-5-21-868105201-274932...	2021-11-22 17:25:54.743617			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp\S-1-5-21-8...	d34280959f3c40be91d22fcbd...	2022-06-06 20:09:42.662290		.bin	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp\S-1-5-21-8...	d34280959f3c40be91d22fcbd...	2022-06-06 20:09:07.866883		.bin	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp\S-1-5-21-8...	d34280959f3c40be91d22fcbd...	2022-06-06 20:09:10.483535		.bin	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp\S-1-5-21-8...	d34280959f3c40be91d22fcbd...	2022-06-06 20:09:49.792544		.bin	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp\S-1-5-21-8...	d34280959f3c40be91d22fcbd...	2022-06-06 20:10:10.250830		.bin	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp\S-1-5-21-8...	d34280959f3c40be91d22fcbd...	2022-06-06 20:11:46.054987		.temp	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp\S-1-5-21-8...	d34280959f3c40be91d22fcbd...	2022-06-07 20:06:30.917246		.temp	<input type="checkbox"/>
	.\OneDriveTemp\S-1-5-21-8...	d34280959f3c40be91d22fcbd...	2022-03-22 11:24:38.887417		.bin	<input type="checkbox"/>

C:\temp\webinar6152022\mout\FileSystem\20220610213514_MFTECmd_\$MFT_Output.csv

Total lines 3,145,486 Visible lines 3,145,486 Open files: 3 Search options

NewFileTime Timestomping Analysis: \$J

\$J parsed output from MFTECmd

- \$J is one of my favorite artifacts!
- I've seen the \$J cover anywhere from a few hours to 2+ years of file system activity
 - Sometimes it doesn't exist 😞
- If it exists and covers your time period of interest, it'll be a great asset to your investigation
- On a live system:
 - fsutil.exe usn queryJournal C:
- On an image:
 - C:\\$Extend\UsnJrnl:\$J

Update Timestamp	Parent Path	Name	Update Reasons
=	=	=	=
2022-06-10 17:40:51.517965	.\Music	evilfile.exe	RenameNewName
2022-06-10 17:40:51.640468	.\Music	evilfile.exe	RenameNewName Close
2022-06-10 17:40:57.409875	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	RenameNewName
2022-06-10 17:40:57.409875	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	RenameNewName Close
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	evilfile.exe	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	evilfile.exe	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	evilfile.exe	BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	evilfile.exe	BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	evilfile.exe	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	evilfile.exe	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 17:41:59.763226	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	evilfile.exe	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	evilfile.exe	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	evilfile.exe	BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	evilfile.exe	BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	evilfile.exe	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	evilfile.exe	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange
2022-06-10 21:31:36.013735	.\Music	eviloutput.txt	IndexableChange BasicInfoChange Close

First time I timestomped both files, but I accidentally only changed the date, and not the time

I realized my mistake the next time at the keyboard and timestomped both the date and times of both files

NewFileTime Timestomping Analysis: LNK Files

LNK file parsed output from LECmd

- After creating eviloutput.txt, no LNK file exists (yet)
- Opening eviloutput.txt the first time will generate a LNK file
- In this scenario, I timestomped eviloutput.txt before opening it for the first time
 - 1st: Parsed LNK file upon opening eviloutput.txt the first time
 - 2nd: Parsed LNK file upon timestomping again but NOT opening
 - 3rd: Parsed LNK file upon opening eviloutput.txt AFTER timestomping
 - 4th: Parsed LNK file upon timestomping files to 1975 but NOT opening
- 5th: Cycle keeps going
- We find that LNK files refresh metadata upon opening of target file AFTER timestomping occurred

Date Modified :	1975-07-27	13:34:56
Date Created :	1975-05-02	07:06:40
Date Accessed :	1975-10-08	06:06:40

```
Source created: 2022-06-11 20:26:08
Source modified: 2022-06-11 20:26:08
Source accessed: 2022-06-11 20:26:50
-- Header ---
Target created: 2005-06-07 16:34:56
Target modified: 2000-07-04 16:34:56
Target accessed: 2002-11-13 16:34:56
```

1

```
Source created: 2022-06-11 20:26:08
Source modified: 2022-06-11 20:26:08
Source accessed: 2022-06-11 20:29:35
-- Header ---
Target created: 2005-06-07 16:34:56
Target modified: 2000-07-04 16:34:56
Target accessed: 2002-11-13 16:34:56
```

2

```
Source created: 2022-06-11 20:26:08
Source modified: 2022-06-11 20:29:59
Source accessed: 2022-06-11 20:30:06
-- Header ---
Target created: 2040-06-07 16:34:56
Target modified: 2030-07-27 16:34:56
Target accessed: 2050-11-13 16:34:56
```

3

```
Source created: 2022-06-11 20:26:08
Source modified: 2022-06-11 20:29:59
Source accessed: 2022-06-11 20:39:50
-- Header ---
Target created: 2040-06-07 16:34:56
Target modified: 2030-07-27 16:34:56
Target accessed: 2050-11-13 16:34:56
```

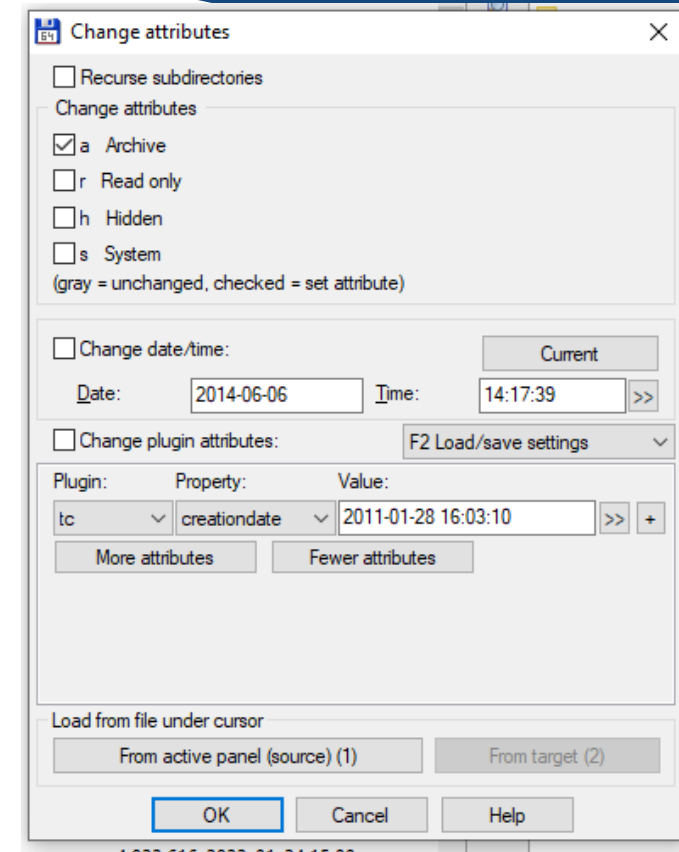
4

Analysis with Timeline Explorer: Total Commander Scenario

Total Commander Timestomping Analysis: \$MFT

Change Attributes settings and subsequent \$MFT output from MFTECmd

- Timestamps in Total Commander (right) are in Local Time (EST)
- Timestamps in MFTECmd output (below) are in UTC
- Notice how I timestomped bstrings.exe back to 2011 (right)
- Temporal analysis of \$MFT timestamps would show bstrings.exe as created a decade prior to my time period of interest (below)
- Total Commander and **most** other tools only can modify the 0x10 timestamps, but not the 0x30 timestamps



Parent Path	File Name	Extension	Is Directory	Has Ads	Is Ads	File Size	Created0x10	Created0x30
c:\	c:\	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	=	=	=
.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\ZimmermanTools	bstrings.exe	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4089080	2011-01-28 21:03:10.000000	2022-01-28 21:03:10.859034
.\Users\AndrewSager\Desktop\KAPE\Modules\EZ...	bstrings		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	2021-10-25 12:52:49.499302	
.\Users\AndrewSager\AppData\Local\Temp\vmwa...	bstrings		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	2022-01-17 23:07:28.444185	
.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\KAPE\Modules\...	bstrings		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	828650	2
.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\KAPE\Modules\...	bstrings.exe	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2680568	364652	2

Zeroed subseconds in 0x10

Actual file creation timestamp in 0x30

Total Commander Timestomping Analysis: \$J

\$J parsed output from MFTECmd

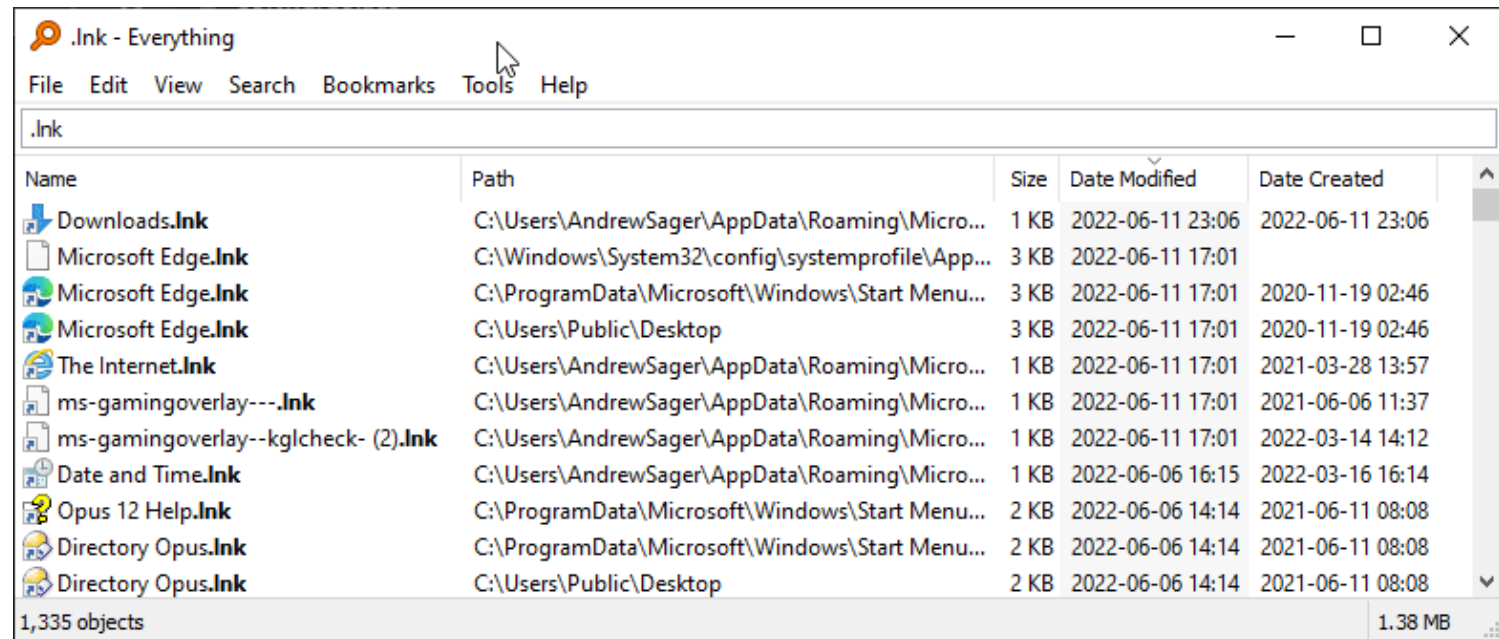
- Identical fact pattern from the NewFileTime Timestomping example
- \$J provides an awesome play-by-play of what happens on the file system

Update Timestamp	Parent Path	Name	Update Reasons
=	RBC	RBC bstrings.exe	RBC
2022-06-06 18:17:44.076992	.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\ZimmermanTools	bstrings.exe	BasicInfoChange
2022-06-06 18:17:44.076992	.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\ZimmermanTools	bstrings.exe	BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-06 18:29:21.589998	.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\ZimmermanTools	bstrings.exe	BasicInfoChange
2022-06-06 18:29:21.589998	.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\ZimmermanTools	bstrings.exe	BasicInfoChange Close
2022-06-06 18:29:21.589998	.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\ZimmermanTools	bstrings.exe	BasicInfoChange
2022-06-06 18:29:21.591022	.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\ZimmermanTools	bstrings.exe	BasicInfoChange Close

Total Commander Timestomping Analysis: LNK Files

LNK file parsed output from LECmd

- Same behavior as previous
- Key takeaways
 - Source timestamps refer to LNK file itself
 - Target timestamps refer to the file the LNK file is pointing to
 - LNK files are only created upon the first time a file is opened
 - LNK file is created for the file opened itself and the parent folder (right)
 - SourceModified provides the Last Modified timestamp of the LNK file itself, indicating last time the target file was opened
 - Timestamps within the LNK file are only updated once the target file is opened
 - LNK file timestamps do not appear to be refreshed in real time as files are timestomped (file access indicator)



Name	Path	Size	Date Modified	Date Created
Downloads.lnk	C:\Users\AndrewSager\AppData\Roaming\Micro...	1 KB	2022-06-11 23:06	2022-06-11 23:06
Microsoft Edge.lnk	C:\Windows\System32\config\systemprofile\AppData...	3 KB	2022-06-11 17:01	
Microsoft Edge.lnk	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu...	3 KB	2022-06-11 17:01	2020-11-19 02:46
Microsoft Edge.lnk	C:\Users\Public\Desktop	3 KB	2022-06-11 17:01	2020-11-19 02:46
The Internet.lnk	C:\Users\AndrewSager\AppData\Roaming\Micro...	1 KB	2022-06-11 17:01	2021-03-28 13:57
ms-gamingoverlay---.lnk	C:\Users\AndrewSager\AppData\Roaming\Micro...	1 KB	2022-06-11 17:01	2021-06-06 11:37
ms-gamingoverlay--kglcheck- (2).lnk	C:\Users\AndrewSager\AppData\Roaming\Micro...	1 KB	2022-06-11 17:01	2022-03-14 14:12
Date and Time.lnk	C:\Users\AndrewSager\AppData\Roaming\Micro...	1 KB	2022-06-06 16:15	2022-03-16 16:14
Opus 12 Help.lnk	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu...	2 KB	2022-06-06 14:14	2021-06-11 08:08
Directory Opus.lnk	C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu...	2 KB	2022-06-06 14:14	2021-06-11 08:08
Directory Opus.lnk	C:\Users\Public\Desktop	2 KB	2022-06-06 14:14	2021-06-11 08:08

1,335 objects 1.38 MB

Pop Quiz!

Can you spot the timestomped bstrings.exe?

Parent Path	File Name	Created0x10	Created0x30
C:	C:\bstrings.exe	=	=
.	bstrings.exe	2022-02-22 17:57:22.325777	
.\Users\AndrewSager	bstrings.exe	2022-01-28 20:36:21.907677	
.\Users\AndrewSager\Desktop\EZ Tools	bstrings.exe	2022-02-21 20:31:14.876454	
.\Users\AndrewSager\Desktop\EZ Tools\net6	bstrings.exe	2022-02-21 20:31:15.486706	
.\Users\AndrewSager\Desktop\KAPE\Modules\bin	bstrings.exe	2021-12-09 15:01:48.532763	
.\Users\AndrewSager\Desktop\test\Modules\bin	bstrings.exe	2022-02-22 21:39:33.249799	
.\Users\AndrewSager\Documents\SAPIEN\PowerShell Studio\Files	bstrings.exe	2022-02-23 22:11:32.088681	
.\Users\AndrewSager\Documents\SAPIEN\PowerShell Studio\Files\net6	bstrings.exe	2022-02-23 22:11:32.448181	
.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\KAPE\Modules\bin	bstrings.exe	2021-11-22 17:31:40.364652	2022-01-17 23:07:30.957537
.\Users\AndrewSager\Downloads\ZimmermanTools	bstrings.exe	2011-01-28 21:03:10.000000	2022-01-28 21:03:10.859034
.\Users\AndrewSager\net6	bstrings.exe	2022-01-28 20:37:02.665958	

Important Considerations

Lots of False Positives

If judging ONLY by .0000000 subseconds, you'll find a lot of false positives

- Toggling the u Sec Zeros column header filter in Timeline Explorer with MFTECmd CSV output ingested will filter on all entries in the \$MFT that have any timestamp with zeroed out subseconds (.0000000).
- Obviously, no threat actor is timestomping that many files on a victim's system
- This is exactly why context matters (as seen in the next slide)
 - Example of an everyday \$MFT on a victim system

SI<FN	u Sec Zeros	Copied
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total lines 3,145,486 | Visible lines 1,695,890

Parent Path	File Name	Extension	Is Directory	Has Ads	Is Ads	File Size	Created0x10	Created0x30
C:\	C:\	C:\				=	=	=
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	powershell-tpl.xml	.xml				68	2022-04-20 16:50:07.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:50.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	download.png	.png				7531	2022-04-20 16:50:07.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:50.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	box_uftp.png	.png					2022-04-20 16:50:07.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:50.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	boxes-aa.png	.png					2022-04-20 16:50:09.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:50.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	One Dark.ue-theme	.ue-theme					2022-04-20 16:50:08.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:50.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	Predawn.ue-theme	.ue-theme					2022-04-20 16:50:08.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:50.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	uestudio.com	.com					2022-04-20 16:50:14.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:51.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	arrange.js	.js					2022-04-20 16:50:14.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:51.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	localize.js	.js					2022-04-20 16:50:14.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:51.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	style.js	.js				2657	2022-04-20 16:50:14.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:51.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	fp.html	.html				32941	2022-04-20 16:50:14.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:51.000000
.\Program Files\IDM Compu...	style.css	.css				2366	2022-04-20 16:50:14.000000	2022-04-07 16:15:51.000000
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	2022-04-07_13-05-29.snagx	.snagx				50734	2022-04-07 17:05:29.421510	2022-04-07 17:05:29.421510
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	2022-04-07_15-29-11.snagx	.snagx				305966	2022-04-07 19:29:27.544186	2022-04-07 19:29:27.544186
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	Lab 1 Using MFTECmd.pdf	.pdf				534885	2021-12-09 16:17:50.956495	2021-12-09 16:17:50.956495
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	2022-04-08_11-50-55.snagx	.snagx				363835	2022-04-08 15:51:48.022282	2022-04-08 15:51:48.149283
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	2022-04-08_14-41-45.snagx	.snagx				172409	2022-04-08 18:42:37.524527	2022-04-08 18:42:37.626517
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	2022-04-08_14-42-48.snagx	.snagx				150486	2022-04-08 18:43:37.518451	2022-04-08 18:43:37.602448
.\Music	evilfile.exe	.exe				34645160	2005-06-07 16:34:56.000000	2022-04-08 20:19:46.421014
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	README-CFL-ARathbunNov202...	.md				2045	2022-06-06 20:10:02.098836	2022-04-08 20:27:44.079240
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	2022-04-08_16-47-33.snagx	.snagx				64923	2022-04-08 20:47:33.385602	2022-04-08 20:47:33.425602
.\Users\CFUser\AppData\Lo...	5491bd3b.jpg	.jpg				17015	2014-11-25 21:27:33.000000	2022-04-09 03:35:51.000000
.\Users\CFUser\Downloads\...	NewFileTime_x64.exe	.exe				362224	2022-06-02 12:59:56.000000	2022-04-08 20:19:46.421014
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	MarkdownExamples-CFL-ARat...	.md				6330	2022-06-06 20:09:51.763805	2022-04-08 20:27:44.079240
.\Users\CFUser\OneDrive -...	chapter9-CFL-ARathbunNov2...	.md				14046	2022-06-06 20:09:56.394555	2022-04-10 02:46:02.489981

1

Files related to UESTudio. These files were not timestomped despite having .000000 subseconds

4

This file was timestomped

3

Example of a malicious file that normally would stick out to me when conducting \$MFT analysis

2

Another false positive

Was a File Opened After Timestomping?


Another way to enumerate threat actor activity

- If a LNK file reflects timestomped values for the target file, the file was opened AFTER timestomping
- If the LNK file doesn't reflect timestomped values for file(s) that you know were timestomped, they've not been opened AFTER timestomping
- LECmd
 - --mp switch for LECmd provides more precise timestamps (subseconds!)

```
Source created: 2022-06-11 20:26:08.3986957
Source modified: 2022-06-11 20:29:59.6827365
Source accessed: 2022-06-11 21:08:03.5500911

-- Header ---
Target created: 2040-06-07 16:34:56.0000000
Target modified: 2030-07-27 16:34:56.0000000
Target accessed: 2050-11-13 16:34:56.0000000
```

```
Description: 'LECmd: process .lnk files'
Category: FileFolderAccess
Author: Eric Zimmerman
Version: 1.1
Id: 1b66f0e2-2ccf-449c-ae02-a1b3dc59df08
BinaryUrl: https://f001.backblazeb2.com/file/EricZimmermanTools/LECmd.zip
ExportFormat: csv
Processors:
-
  Executable: LECmd.exe
  CommandLine: -d %sourceDirectory% --csv %destinationDirectory% -q --mp
  ExportFormat: csv
-
  Executable: LECmd.exe
  CommandLine: -d %sourceDirectory% --html %destinationDirectory% -q --mp
  ExportFormat: html
-
  Executable: LECmd.exe
  CommandLine: -d %sourceDirectory% --json %destinationDirectory% -q --mp
  ExportFormat: json
```



Real Life Examples of Timestomping

Real-Life Examples of Timestomping

Advanced Port Scanner timestomped by threat actors

Timeline Explorer v2.0.0.1

File Tools Tabs View Help

advportscanneronly.csv

Drag a column header here to group by that column

Parent Path	File Name	Extension	Is Directory	Has Ads	Is Ads	File Size	Created
C:\	C:\	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	=	=
.\Users\TestUser\AppData\Local\Temp\Advanced Port Scanner 2	advanced_port_scanner.exe	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1718688	2017-06-
.\Users\TestUser\AppData\Local\Temp\Advanced Port Scanner 2	advanced_port_scanner_console.exe	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	613048	2017-06-

Enter text to search... Find

Extension = .exe

Total lines 102 Visible lines 2 Open files: 1 Search options

Real-Life Examples of Timestomping

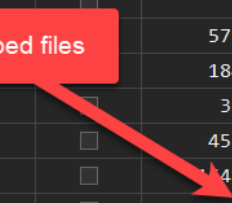
ScreenConnect timestomped by threat actors

- Again, context matters! ScreenConnect isn't a malicious tool, but it can be used by a malicious actor
- Client stated they never have used ScreenConnect, yet these files appear during the timeframe of interest
- Analysis will direct us to look around 2022-03-10 at 0945 hours to see what else what going on at the time these unauthorized files appeared on disk....likely more malicious activity!

Drag a column header here to group by that column

Parent Path	File Name	Extension	Is Directory	Has Ads	Is Ads	File Size	Created0x10	Created0x30
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	ScreenConnect.WindowsClient.exe.config	.config	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	266	2022-01-12 19:22:58.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.697794
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	ScreenConnect.WindowsClient.exe	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	572624	2022-01-12 19:23:00.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.690882
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	ScreenConnect.Client.dll	.dll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	184832	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.650780
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	ScreenConnect.ClientService.dll	.dll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	33280	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.656794
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	ScreenConnect.Core.dll	.dll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	451584	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.659790
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	ScreenConnect.Windows.dll	.dll	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	47616	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.672797
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	ScreenConnect.ClientService.exe	.exe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	94416	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.700793
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	app.config	.config	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2168	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.703788
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	Client.en-US.resources	.resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	42807	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.706787
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	Client.resources	.resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2238	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.708851
.\Program Files (x86)\ScreenConnect Client (abc123def456ghi789)	system.config	.config	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	893	2022-01-12 19:23:13.000000	2022-03-10 09:45:13.711788

Timestomped files



Advanced Timestomping Methods/Tools

Advanced Timestomping Methods

Special thanks to Mark Spencer of Arsenal Recon for these ideas

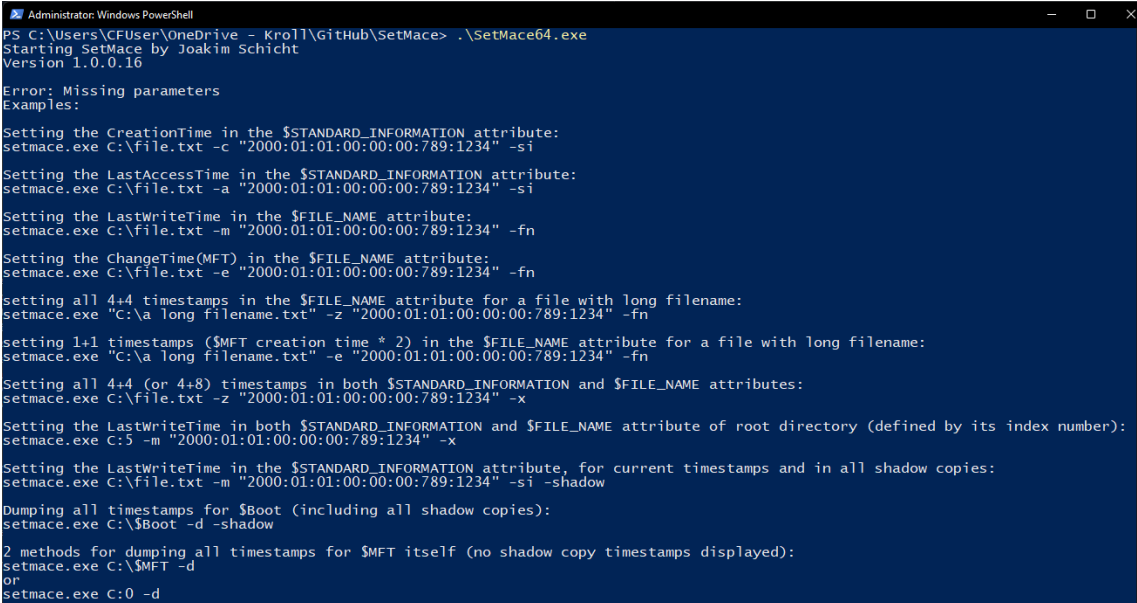
- Copying files to a drive containing one or more NTFS volumes by physically attaching it to an already backdated workstation and extracting ZIP/RAR contents whose timestamps have been previously forged
- Delivering files using malware that contains an embedded NTFS driver
- Using SetMace to alter the 0x30 timestamps using a kernel mode driver (next slide)



SetMace

Created by Joachim Schicht of Arsenal Recon

- SetMace is an advanced timestamp manipulation tool
- SetMace rebuilds the filesystem internally and writes new timestamps directly to the physical disk
- Uses a kernel driver and completely bypasses the filesystem/OS (Windows API)
- Can change the 0x10 AND 0x30 timestamps
- More advanced than something like NewFileTime, Total Commander, etc.
- Threat actor(s) can get away with simpler ways of timestamping. Likely only to be used by highly motivated actors in highly sensitive environments
- [jschicht/SetMace: Manipulate timestamps on NTFS \(github.com\)](https://github.com/jschicht/SetMace)



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\CFUser\OneDrive - Kro11\GitHub\SetMace> .\SetMace64.exe
Starting SetMace by Joakim Schicht
Version 1.0.0.16

Error: Missing parameters
Examples:

Setting the CreationTime in the $STANDARD_INFORMATION attribute:
setmace.exe C:\File.txt -c "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -si

Setting the LastAccessTime in the $STANDARD_INFORMATION attribute:
setmace.exe C:\File.txt -a "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -si

Setting the LastWriteTime in the $FILE_NAME attribute:
setmace.exe C:\File.txt -m "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -fn

Setting the ChangeTime(MFT) in the $FILE_NAME attribute:
setmace.exe C:\File.txt -e "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -fn

setting all 4+4 timestamps in the $FILE_NAME attribute for a file with long filename:
setmace.exe "C:\a long filename.txt" -z "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -fn

setting 1+1 timestamps ($MFT creation time * 2) in the $FILE_NAME attribute for a file with long filename:
setmace.exe "C:\a long filename.txt" -e "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -fn

Setting all 4+4 (or 4+8) timestamps in both $STANDARD_INFORMATION and $FILE_NAME attributes:
setmace.exe C:\File.txt -z "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -x

Setting the LastWriteTime in both $STANDARD_INFORMATION and $FILE_NAME attribute of root directory (defined by its index number):
setmace.exe C:5 -m "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -x

Setting the LastWriteTime in the $STANDARD_INFORMATION attribute, for current timestamps and in all shadow copies:
setmace.exe C:\File.txt -m "2000:01:01:00:00:00:789:1234" -si -shadow

Dumping all timestamps for $Boot (including all shadow copies):
setmace.exe C:\$Boot -d -shadow

2 methods for dumping all timestamps for $MFT itself (no shadow copy timestamps displayed):
setmace.exe C:\$MFT -d
or
setmace.exe C:0 -d
```

Other Tools with Timestomping Capabilities

Commonly seen in IR engagements

- Metasploit
 - Timestomp module
- Cobalt Strike
 - Timestomp beacon added in 2014
- nTimetools
 - [limbenjamin/nTimetools: Timestomper and Timestamp checker with nanosecond accuracy for NTFS volumes \(github.com\)](https://github.com/limbenjamin/nTimetools)

```
meterpreter > timestomp test.txt -f C:\\WINNT\\system32\\cmd.exe
[*] Setting MACE attributes on test.txt from C:\\WINNT\\system32\\cmd.exe
meterpreter > timestomp test.txt -v
Modified      : Tue Dec 07 08:00:00 -0500 1999
Accessed      : Sun May 03 05:14:51 -0400 2009
Created       : Tue Dec 07 08:00:00 -0500 1999
Entry Modified: Sun May 03 05:11:16 -0400 2009
```

Timestomp

Beacon now includes its own timestomp command. This command will match the Modified, Accessed, and Created times for one file to another.

```
chngFilesystem type:      NTFS
Filename:                 C:\\Users\\Benjamin\\startup.ps1
File size:                278

File timestamp successfully set

[M] Last Write Time:      2020-11-12 12:38:29.5019588 UTC
[A] Last Access Time:    1995-05-19 12:34:56.7890123 UTC
[C] Metadata Change Time: 1995-05-19 23:59:59.0000001 UTC
[B] Creation Time:       2020-11-12 12:38:29.5019588 UTC
```

Thank You

Upcoming KAPE Intensive Training and Certification Sessions

- Virtual live sessions
- Max 25 students

Full Calendar Available here:
<https://bit.ly/KAPE2022>

SCHEDULE	INSTRUCTORS
June 23, 2022 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET	Eric Zimmerman Sean Straw Scott Zuberbuehler Andrew Rathbun
September 27, 2022 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ET	Eric Zimmerman Sean Straw Scott Zuberbuehler Andrew Rathbun
October 4, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. BST	James Thoburn Paul Wells Guillermo Roman