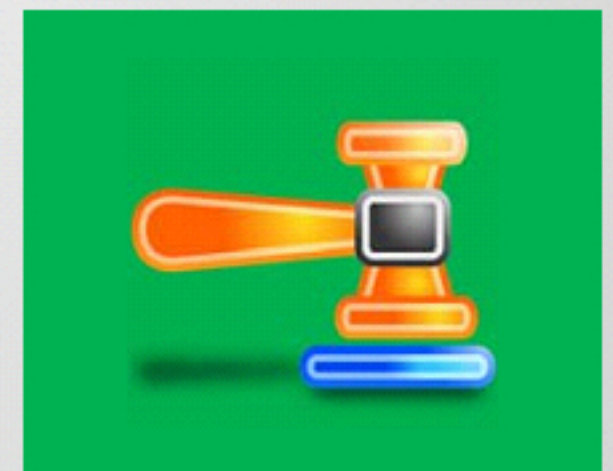


# Cloud Forensics

## Module 10

Designed by **Cyber Crime Investigators**. Presented by Professionals.





# Module Objectives



After successfully completing this module, you will be able to:

- 1 Summarize cloud computing concepts
- 2 List all the cloud computing attacks
- 3 Understand the importance of cloud forensics
- 4 Interpret the usage of cloud forensics
- 5 Distinguish between the various types of cloud forensics
- 6 Understand the roles of stake holders in cloud forensics
- 7 Interpret the challenges faced by investigators while performing cloud forensics
- 8 Investigate the cloud storage services Dropbox and Google Drive



# Introduction to Cloud Computing

Cloud computing is an on-demand delivery of **IT capabilities** where IT infrastructure and applications are provided to **subscribers** as a metered service over a network

## Characteristics of Cloud Computing

1

On-demand self service

Broad network access

5

2

Distributed storage

Resource pooling

6

3

Rapid elasticity

Measured service

7

4

Automated management

Virtualization technology

8



# Types of Cloud Computing Services

## Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS)

- Provides **virtual machines** and other abstracted hardware and operating systems which may be **controlled through a service API**
- E.g. Amazon EC2, Go grid, Sungrid, Windows SkyDrive, etc.

## Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS)

- Offers **development tools, configuration management, and deployment platforms** on-demand that can be used by subscribers to **develop custom applications**
- E.g. Intel MashMaker, Google App Engine, Force.com, Microsoft Azure, etc.

## Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)

- Offers **software to subscribers** on-demand **over the Internet**
- E.g. web-based office applications like Google Docs or Calendar, Salesforce CRM, etc.



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# Cloud Deployment Models

Cloud deployment model selection is based on the **enterprise requirements**

## Private Cloud

Cloud infrastructure operates solely for a **single organization**



## Community Cloud

Shared infrastructure between **several organizations from a specific community** with common concerns (security, compliance, jurisdiction, etc.)

## Hybrid Cloud

Cloud infrastructure with the attributes of two or more types of the cloud (i.e. private, community, or public), offering the benefits of multiple deployment models

## Public Cloud

Services are rendered over a **network that is open for public use**





# Cloud Computing Threats

1. Data breach/loss
2. Abuse of cloud services
3. Insecure interfaces and APIs
4. Insufficient due diligence
5. Shared technology issues
6. Unknown risk profile
7. Inadequate infrastructure design and planning
8. Conflicts between client hardening procedures and cloud environment
9. Loss of operational and security logs
10. Malicious insiders
11. Illegal access to cloud systems
12. Privilege escalation

13. Loss of business reputation due to co-tenant activities
14. Natural disasters
15. Hardware failure
16. Supply chain failure
17. Modifying network traffic
18. Isolation failure
19. Cloud provider acquisition
20. Management interface compromise
21. Network management failure
22. Authentication attacks
23. VM-level attacks
24. Lock-in

25. Licensing risks
26. Loss of governance
27. Loss of encryption keys
28. Risks from changes of Jurisdiction
29. Undertaking malicious probes or scans
30. Theft of computer equipment
31. Cloud service termination or failure
32. Subpoena and e-discovery
33. Improper data handling and disposal
34. Loss or modification of backup data
35. Compliance risks
36. Economic Denial of Sustainability (EDOS)



# Cloud Computing **Attacks**

1

Service Hijacking using Social Engineering Attacks

6

Service Hijacking using Network Sniffing

2

Session Hijacking using XSS Attack

7

Session Hijacking using Session Riding

3

Domain Name System (DNS) Attacks

8

Side Channel Attacks or Cross-guest VM Breaches

4

SQL Injection Attacks

9

Cryptanalysis Attacks

5

Wrapping Attack

10

DoS and DDoS Attacks





- Cloud forensics is the application of **digital forensic investigation** process in the cloud computing environment
- It is considered as a subset of network forensics, as the network forensics deals with forensic investigations in both the private and public networks
- Cloud forensics procedures vary with cloud computing service and deployment model
  - ⊖ **Ex: SaaS** and **PaaS** service models provide **restricted control** over process or network monitoring, compared to that of IaaS
  - ⊖ The data collection procedure in **SaaS** is **reliant** on the **CSP**, whereas in case of IaaS, VM instance can be acquired from the customer for evidence analysis
- Also, physical access is available to the data in private cloud, but restricted in the public cloud



# Usage of Cloud Forensics

## ■ Investigation

- Involves investigating organized cyber crime, policy violations, suspicious activities, etc. in the cloud ecosystem

## ■ Troubleshooting

- Involves resolving functional, operational, and security issues in the cloud ecosystem

## ■ Log Monitoring

- Involves gathering, examining, and correlating log entries across multiple systems in the cloud ecosystem
- Assists in auditing, due diligence, regulatory compliance and other efforts

## ■ Data and System Recovery

- Involves recovering deleted or encrypted data and systems from damage or attacks

## ■ Due Diligence/Regulatory Compliance

- Involves assisting organizations exercise due diligence and comply with requirements such as securing critical data, maintain records for audit, notify parties affected due to exposure of sensitive data, etc.



- Crime committed with cloud as a subject, object, or tool is a cloud crime

## Cloud as a subject:

In this case, crime is carried out within the cloud environment

Ex: Identity theft of cloud user's accounts

## Cloud as an object:

In this case, target of the crime is the CSP

Ex: Techniques such as **DDoS attacks** are implemented that target few sections of the cloud or the entire cloud

## Cloud as a tool:

In this case, cloud is used to plan and carry out a crime

Cases include using a cloud to perform an attack on other clouds or when a crime related evidence is saved and shared in the cloud



# Case Study: Cloud as a Subject

## Major cloud services such as Google Drive and Dropbox at risk from 'man-in-the-cloud' attacks

07 Aug 2015

- Major cloud services such as Box, Google Drive, Dropbox, and Microsoft OneDrive are at risk of 'man-in-the-cloud' (MITC) cyber attacks, according to a research paper published by Imperva.
- The firm said at the Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas that **cloud-based businesses are vulnerable to exploitation by hackers, even claiming that data can be accessed without needing usernames or passwords.**
- Imperva revealed that if hackers gain access to a user's authentication token, a unique log-in file, they can steal data and even inject malware or ransomware into an account.
- The research team explained that hackers are able to insert an internally developed tool named Switcher into a system through a malicious email attachment or a drive-by download that uses a vulnerability in browser plug-ins.
- "From an attacker's point of view, there are advantages in using this technique. Malicious code is typically not left running on the machine, and the data flows out through a standard, encrypted channel. In the MITC attack, the attacker does not compromise explicit credentials," the report stated.
- Furthermore, this method of hacking works in such a way that end users may not be aware that their account has been compromised. In some circumstances, according to Imperva, the only option is to delete the compromised account as the token acquired by a hackers used to get access will remain in place regardless of a password change.
- Amichai Shulman, chief technology officer at Imperva, warned that businesses using cloud services need to be aware of the risks.

<http://www.v3.co.uk>



# Case Study: Cloud as an Object

## iCloud hole closed following brute force attack

January 05, 2015

- ❌ A hole in iCloud's security allowed attackers to access any iCloud account via a brute force attack that side-stepped blocks - but it is now reported to have been patched.
- ❌ The tool, iDict, uses an exploit in Apple's security in a "100 percent working iCloud Apple ID dictionary attack that bypasses account lockout restrictions and secondary authentication on any account, " according to a 2<sup>nd</sup> January report in Business Insider (BI).
- ❌ The tool was able to avoid Apple's blocks on brute force attacks using a hole in its security to allow it to repeatedly guess at user passwords, including running through the most commonly used passwords, so in time any account could be hacked.
- ❌ The hacker, Pr0x13, said that there was a **"painfully obvious" flaw in Apple's iCloud which could be used to bypass security systems like passwords, security questions, and even two-factor authentication**
- ❌ The tool did require its users to know the email address associated with an iCloud account before it tried to hack into it.
- ❌ "Remote password brute force attacks are a slow and noisy attack, but can be effective against users who chose poor passwords. Best practice is for service providers to limit the number of password guesses allowed and enforce multi-factor authentication at every possible entry point, but in complex applications developers will often 'lock the front door' but forget about less obvious interfaces.
- ❌ This attack targets the loginDelegates functionality, which is the sort of side-door functionality that can easily receive less scrutiny.
- ❌ "The lesson for service providers is to put in place strong, consistent standards across entire development organizations and to proactively think about alternate authentications processes that might slip under the security radar."

<http://www.scmagazineuk.com>



# Case Study: Cloud as a Tool

## *Botnets are getting bigger and DDoS attacks more frequent according to Kaspersky*

May 02, 2016

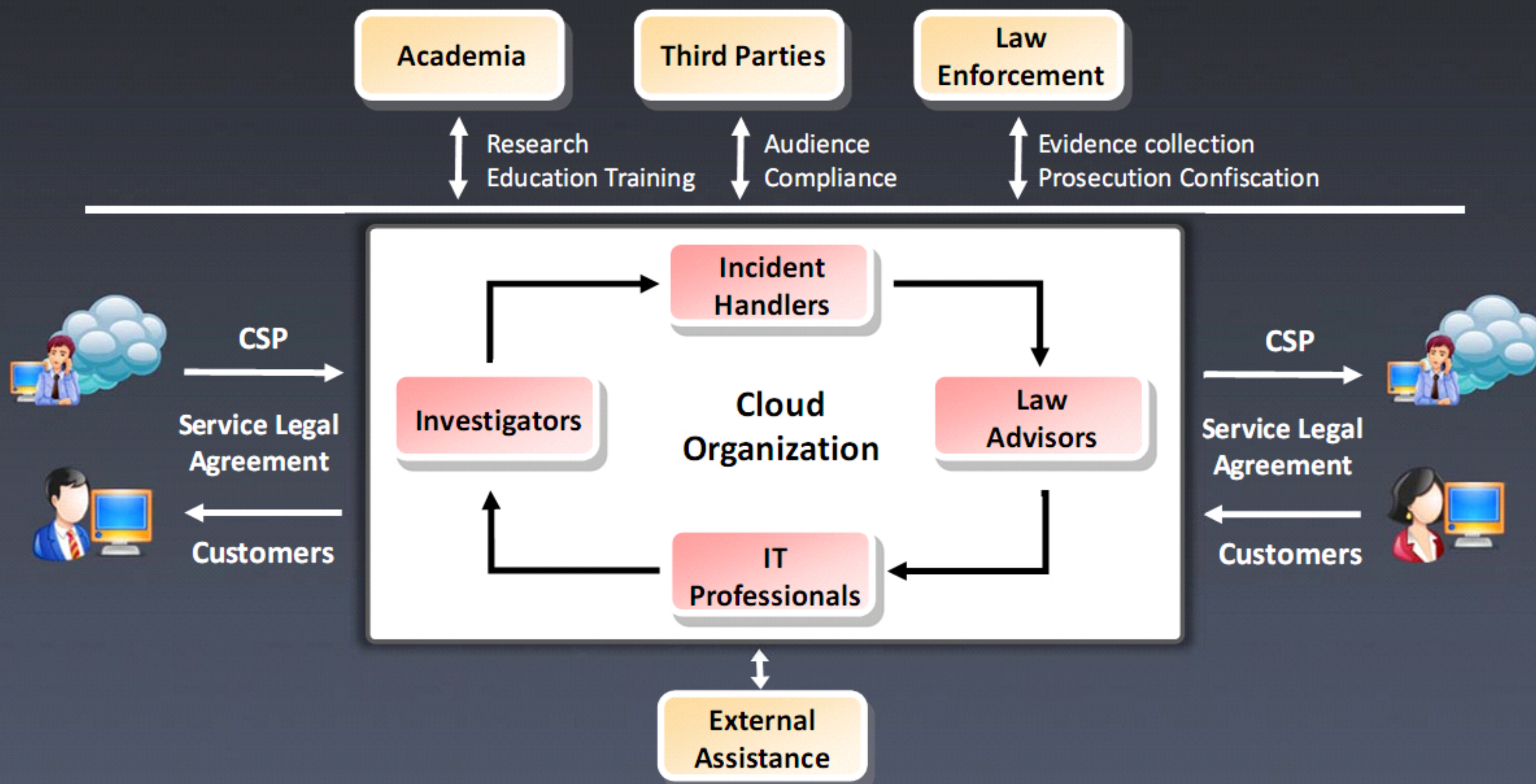
- 🚫 Cyber-criminals are shifting away from cheap DDoS attacks that are easy to implement to more complex and focused ones, according to a new report from Kaspersky.
- 🚫 The report said that over 70 per cent of attacks in the first quarter lasted no longer than four hours. At the same time, there was a reduction in the maximum attack duration with the longest DDoS attack lasting just eight days (the longest registered attack in Q4 2015 lasted almost two weeks).
- 🚫 Evgeny Vigovsky, head of Kaspersky DDoS Protection, Kaspersky Lab, said that almost all telecom companies have learned to cope with the most widespread types of DDoS attacks. “This has forced cyber-criminals to turn to more complex and expensive – but more effective – methods in order to improve the efficiency of their work. Attacks at the application level are a good example.
- 🚫 Carl Herberger, vice president of security solutions at Radware, told SCMagazineUK.com that the botnets are being distributed in ways in which it is very difficult to stop them.
- 🚫 **“They are being launched from cloud services providers like Amazon Web Services, they are increasingly infecting the Internet of Things (IoT) causing a zombie-like army which is hard to eradicate and more difficult to halt and lastly they know how to encrypt attacks so that today's casual security architectures will not notice them,” he said.**
- 🚫 Dave Larson, COO at Corero Network Security, told SC that due to the fact that botnet attacks are launched and then disappear without leaving enough information for victims to trace its origins – effectively acting like a giant cloud computer – organizations really have no choice but to defend themselves at the edges of the network.
- 🚫 “The only proper defense is to use an automatic, always-on, in-line DDoS mitigation system, which can monitor all traffic in real-time, negate the flood of attack traffic at the Internet edge, eliminate service outages and allow security personnel to focus on uncovering any subsequent malicious activity, such as data breaches,” he said.

<http://www.scmagazine.com>



# Cloud Forensics: Stakeholders and their Roles

Forensic investigations in cloud **involve a minimum of CSP and the client**. But, the scope of the investigation extends when the CSP outsources services to third parties



Chain of Cloud Service Providers/ Customers



# Cloud Forensics Challenges: Architecture and Identification

Challenge	Description
<b>Deletion in the cloud</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The total volume of data and users operating regularly in a cloud ecosystem confines the amount of backups the CSP will retain</li><li>➤ CSPs may not implement necessary methods to retrieve information on deleted data in an IaaS or PaaS delivery models</li></ul>
<b>Recovering overwritten data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ It is very difficult to recover data marked as deleted, as it may get overwritten by another user sharing the same cloud</li><li>➤ Also, a snapshot might not be taken in time (ex: backup) that contains data duplicate before it was overwritten</li></ul>
<b>Interoperability issues among CSPs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Collection and preservation of forensic evidence is challenging as there is lack of interoperability among CSPs and lack of control from the consumer's end into the proprietary architecture and/or the technology used</li></ul>
<b>Single points of failure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Cloud ecosystem has single points of failure, which may have adverse impact on the evidence acquisition process</li></ul>
<b>No single point of failure for criminals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Collection and analysis of evidentiary data from distributed and disparate sources is highly difficult as criminals may choose one CSP to store their data, second CSP to obtain computing services, and third CSP to route all their communications</li></ul>

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges: Architecture and Identification (Cont'd)

Challenge	Description
<b>Detection of the malicious act</b>	➤ It is tough for an investigator to detect a malicious act by identifying a series of small changes made across many systems and applications as a result of attacks launched by perpetrator to penetrate a cloud
<b>Criminals access to low cost computing power</b>	➤ Cloud computing provides computing power that would otherwise be not available to criminals at a low budget, thus letting unpredictable attacks that would be unfeasible outside a cloud environment
<b>Real-time investigation intelligence processes not possible</b>	➤ Investigating real-time incidents in the cloud is very difficult as it requires intelligence process, which is often not possible while working along with the CSPs or other actors and a special legal means is to be applied in many cases to collect data
<b>Malicious code may circumvent VM isolation methods</b>	➤ Vulnerabilities in server virtualization allow malicious code to evade VM isolation methods and interfere with either other guest VMs or the hypervisor itself
<b>Multiple venues and geo-locations</b>	➤ Managing the scope of data collection is challenging as distributed data collection and chain of custody from multiple venues or geo-location unknowns can cause various jurisdictional issues

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges: Architecture and Identification (Cont'd)

Challenge	Description
<b>Lack of transparency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Cloud's operational details are not clear enough to investigators that results in lack of trust and difficulties of auditing</li></ul>
<b>Criminals can hide in cloud</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Distributed nature of cloud computing allows criminal organizations to maintain isolated cells of operation, to preserve anonymity of each cell by the others, thus it may be difficult for investigators to identify and correlate the cells</li></ul>
<b>Cloud confiscation and resource seizure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Cloud confiscation and resource seizure may often affect the business continuity of other tenants</li></ul>
<b>Errors in cloud management portal configurations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Configuration errors in cloud management portals may allow an attacker to gain control, reconfigure, or delete another cloud consumer's resources or applications</li><li>➤ It is hard to find the source of such unauthorized change as the cloud management portal is being used by multiple tenants simultaneously</li></ul>

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges: Architecture and Identification (Cont'd)

Challenge	Description
Potential evidence segregation	➤ Segregation of potential evidence pertaining to one tenant in a multi-tenant cloud system is a challenge as there are no technologies that do it without breaching the confidentiality of other tenants
Boundaries	➤ Protecting system boundaries is challenging as it is tough to define system interfaces
Secure provenance	➤ It is a challenge for investigators to maintain proper chain of custody and security of data, metadata, and possibly hardware, as determining ownership, custody, or exact location may be difficult
Data chain of custody	➤ It is probably impossible to identify and validate a data chain of custody due to the multi-layered and distributed nature of cloud computing

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges:

## Data Collection

Challenge	Description
Decreased access and data control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In every combination of cloud service model and deployment model, the investigator faces the challenge of limited access and control to the forensic data</li><li>➤ CSPs hide data locations purposefully to ease data movement and replication</li></ul>
Chain of dependencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Often, CSPs and most cloud apps rely on other CSP(s), and the dependencies in a chain of CSP(s)/client(s) can be prominently dynamic</li><li>➤ In such conditions, cloud investigation may rely on investigation of each link in the chain and level of complexity of the dependencies</li></ul>
Locating evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Locating and collecting evidence is a challenge because data in cloud may be quickly altered or lost and lack of knowledge on where and how data is stored in cloud</li></ul>
Data Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Collecting data of the target is challenging because of the flexibility CSPs have to migrate data between data centers and geographic regions</li></ul>
Imaging and isolating data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Data imaging and isolating a migrating data target is challenging in the cloud ecosystem due to its key characteristics: elasticity, automatic provisioning/deprovisioning of resources, redundancy, and multi-tenancy</li></ul>

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges:

## Data Collection (Cont'd)

Challenge	Description
Data available for a limited time	➤ Data collection and preservation of VM instances is challenging due to the lack of standard practices and tools
Locating storage media	➤ Locating storage media with certainty in cloud ecosystem is difficult as it requires in-depth understanding of the cloud architecture and implementation
Evidence identification	➤ Evidence identification is challenging because the sources/traces of evidence are either not accessible or are created or stored differently compared to non-cloud environments
Dynamic storage	➤ Often, CSPs dynamically allocate storage based on the consumer's request. In this case, data collection is challenging because of the dynamic allocation of storage, and systems that search storage after an item is deleted
Live forensics	➤ Validating the integrity of data collected is challenging as data within the cloud is volatile and frequently changing. Also, live forensics tools may make modifications to the suspect system

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges:

## Data Collection (Cont'd)

Challenge	Description
Resource abstraction	➤ Identifying and collecting evidentiary data is challenging because resources are abstracted and the info about cloud architecture, hardware, hypervisor, and file system type is not available to exactly understand the cloud environment
Application details are not available	➤ Obtaining details of cloud-based software/applications used to create records is challenging because such details are usually unavailable to the investigator
Additional collection is often infeasible in the cloud	➤ Collecting additional evidence is often unfeasible in the cloud as specific data locations are not known, the sizes may be huge, and non-standard protocols and mechanisms may be used to exchange data and poorly or not documented
Imaging the cloud	➤ Imaging the cloud is a challenge as it is unfeasible, while partial imaging may have a legal consequence in the presentation to the court
Selective data acquisition	➤ Selective data acquisition in the cloud is a challenge as it requires gaining prior knowledge about the relevant data sources, which is very difficult

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges:

## Data Collection (Cont'd)

Challenge	Description
Cryptographic key management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Decryption of data is challenging because ineffective cryptographic key management makes it easier to lose the ability to decrypt forensic data stored in the cloud</li></ul>
Ambiguous trust boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ In a multi-tenant cloud environment, using cloud services may enhance risk to the integrity of data at rest and during processing</li><li>➤ Not all CSPs implement vertical isolation for tenants' data that leads to questionable data integrity</li></ul>
Data integrity and evidence preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ For stakeholders, maintaining evidence quality, evidence admissibility, data integrity, and evidence preservation is challenging as faults and failures in data integrity are shared among multiple actors, and the chance for such faults and failures is higher in the cloud environment due to sharing of data/responsibilities</li></ul>
Root of trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Determining the reliability and integrity of cloud forensics data is a challenge because of the dependence on the collective integrity of multiple layers of abstraction throughout the cloud system</li></ul>

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges:

## Lags

Challenge	Description
<b>Decentralization of Logs</b>	➤ Log information is not stored at any single centralized log server in cloud but are decentralized among many servers.
<b>Evaporation of Logs</b>	➤ Few logs in cloud environment are volatile. E.g. Virtual machines. Once the VM instance is powered off the logs will vanish.
<b>Multiple Layers and Tiers</b>	➤ There are many layers and tiers in cloud architecture and logs are generated in each tier which are valuable to the investigator but collection from different places is a challenge E.g. application, network, operating system, and database.
<b>Less Evidently Value of Logs</b>	➤ Different CSPs and different layers of cloud architecture provide logs in different formats (heterogeneous formats) and not all the logs provide crucial information for forensic investigation purpose, E.g., who, when, where, and why some incident was executed.



# Cloud Forensics Challenges:

## Legal

Challenge	Description
Missing terms in contract or SLA	➤ Lack of forensic related terms in the cloud contracts is challenging as it could prevent the generation and collection of existing appropriate data as well as generating potentially appropriate data
Limited investigative power	➤ In civil cases, investigators are often provided with limited investigative power to properly obtain data under the respective jurisdictions
Reliance on cloud providers	➤ Acquiring forensic data from cloud is challenging as it requires CSPs cooperation, which may be limited by the number of employees and other resources at the provider end
Physical data location	➤ Specifying the physical location(s) of data on a subpoena is challenging as the requestor often does not know where the data is stored physically
Port protection	➤ Scanning ports is challenging as CSPs do not provide access to the physical infrastructure of their networks
Transfer protocol	➤ Dumping of TCP/IP network traffic is a challenge because CSPs do not provide access to the physical infrastructure of their networks
E-Discovery	➤ Response time for e-discovery is challenging because of ambiguity of data location and ambiguity about whether all relevant data were discovered

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges:

## Legal (Cont'd)

Challenge	Description
<b>Lack of international agreements &amp; laws</b>	➤ Gaining access to and exchanging data is challenging due to the lack of international collaboration and legislative mechanisms in cross-nation
<b>International cloud services</b>	➤ Real-time, live access to data on international cloud services is challenging because of lack of definition on the scope of data acquisition on non-national cloud service and agreements dealing with authority to access the data
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	➤ Gaining legal access to the data is challenging as questions of international jurisdiction have not been worked out
<b>International communication</b>	➤ Achieving effective, timely, and efficient international communication when dealing with an investigation in a multi-jurisdictional cloud is challenge as the existing mechanisms and networks for such communication are often slow and inefficient
<b>Confidentiality and Personally Identifiable Information (PII)</b>	➤ Preserving privacy of personal, business, and governmental information in cloud is challenging due to the lack of legislation governing the conditions under which such data can be accessed by investigators
<b>Reputation fate sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ For CSPs and co-tenants, recovering the reputation affected by illegal activity of some cloud consumer is challenging as a spammer using the CSP's IP range may get these IP address blacklisted</li><li>➤ This could potentially disrupt service of legitimate cloud customers if they are later assigned blacklisted IP addresses</li></ul>

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges: Analysis

Challenge	Description
Evidence correlation	➤ Correlation of an activity across multiple CSPs is a challenge due to the lack of interoperability
Reconstructing virtual storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Virtual storage media duplication in some cloud ecosystems may cause damage to the actual media, thereby adding the risk of being prosecuted</li><li>➤ Also, the reconstruction algorithms have to be developed and validated</li></ul>
Timestamp synchronization	➤ Correlating the activities observed with accurate time synchronization is a challenge as the timestamps may be inconsistent between different sources
Log format unification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Unifying log formats or making them convert to each other is very hard from the enormous resources available in the cloud. This may also result in lack and/or exclusion of critical data</li><li>➤ On the other hand, uncommon or proprietary log formats of one party can become a major hurdle in joint</li></ul>
Use of metadata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Using metadata as an authentication method may be at risk, as common fields – creation date, last accessed date, last modified date, etc. may change when data is moved into and within the cloud and at the time of data gathering process</li><li>➤ Consider the impact of cloud on metadata and check if the CSP preserves metadata and is readily accessible for e-discovery purposes</li></ul>
Log capture	➤ Timeline analysis of logs for DHCP log data is a challenge as there is inconsistency from one CSP to the other on how they collect log data

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges

## Role Management

Challenge	Description
Identifying account owner	➤ Identifying owner of the account is challenging because the technology or policy does not support sufficient identification of the owner of the account
Fictitious identities	➤ Determining the actual identity of a cloud user (legitimate or illegitimate) is challenging because criminals can often create accounts with fake identities
Decoupling user credentials & physical location	➤ Positively attributing a cloud user's credentials to a physical user is a challenge as there is no mandatory non-repudiation methods implemented in the cloud and sophisticated encryption and network proxy services may raise questions to the validity of network-type metadata
Authentication and access control	➤ Positively identifying the entities that accessed data without being authorized is challenging because the authentication and access control to users' cloud accounts may not meet data protection regulations

## Standards

Challenge	Description
Testability, validation, and scientific principles not addressed	➤ Using and/or collecting results from tested and validated tools and techniques is challenging because test beds, test processes, validated techniques, and trained test engineers specializing in cloud environments are rare.
Lack of standard processes & models	➤ Establishing standard procedures and best practices for investigations in the cloud is a challenge because standards and procedures in cloud forensics are much less mature than in traditional forensics and far from being widely adopted

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Cloud Forensics Challenges (Cont'd)

## Training

Challenge	Description
Limited knowledge of logs and records	➤ Trusting records/logs kept in cloud environments is challenging because custodians and individuals responsible for these operations might have only limited knowledge and may not be qualified for evidence preservation
Cloud training for investigators	➤ Getting trained in cloud computing technology and forensics operations in cloud environments are challenging because most digital forensic training materials are outdated and do not address cloud environments

## Anti-forensics

Use of anti-forensics techniques (ex: obfuscation, data hiding, malware, etc.) prevent or mislead forensic analysis. They may affect the collection, preservation, and identification phases of the forensic investigation process

Ex: Malware may circumvent virtual machine isolation methods

## Incident First Responders

Challenge	Description
Competence and trustworthiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ For stakeholders, confidence, competence, and trustworthiness of CSPs acting as first-responders is a challenge as the objectives and priorities of the CSPs may differ from those of the investigators</li><li>➤ Ex: when an incident occurs on CSP end, his/her main concern will be to restore service rather than preserving evidence</li></ul>

Source: NIST Cloud Computing Forensic Science Challenges (<http://csrc.nist.gov>)



# Investigating Cloud Storage Services

Cloud storage services such as **Dropbox**, **Google Drive**, **SkyDrive**, **iCloud**, etc. create artifacts on a system they are installed upon that may provide relevant information to investigation



## Some of the artifacts that you have to look at during cloud storage service investigation include:

- ✓ Artifacts created during the installation process
- ✓ Artifacts left behind after the uninstallation process
- ✓ Information present in the database files
- ✓ Artifacts created when a file is uploaded or downloaded
- ✓ Artifacts left when a file is shared
- ✓ Artifacts left behind after using anti-forensics software
- ✓ Logs recorded and their accuracy
- ✓ Other sources of information





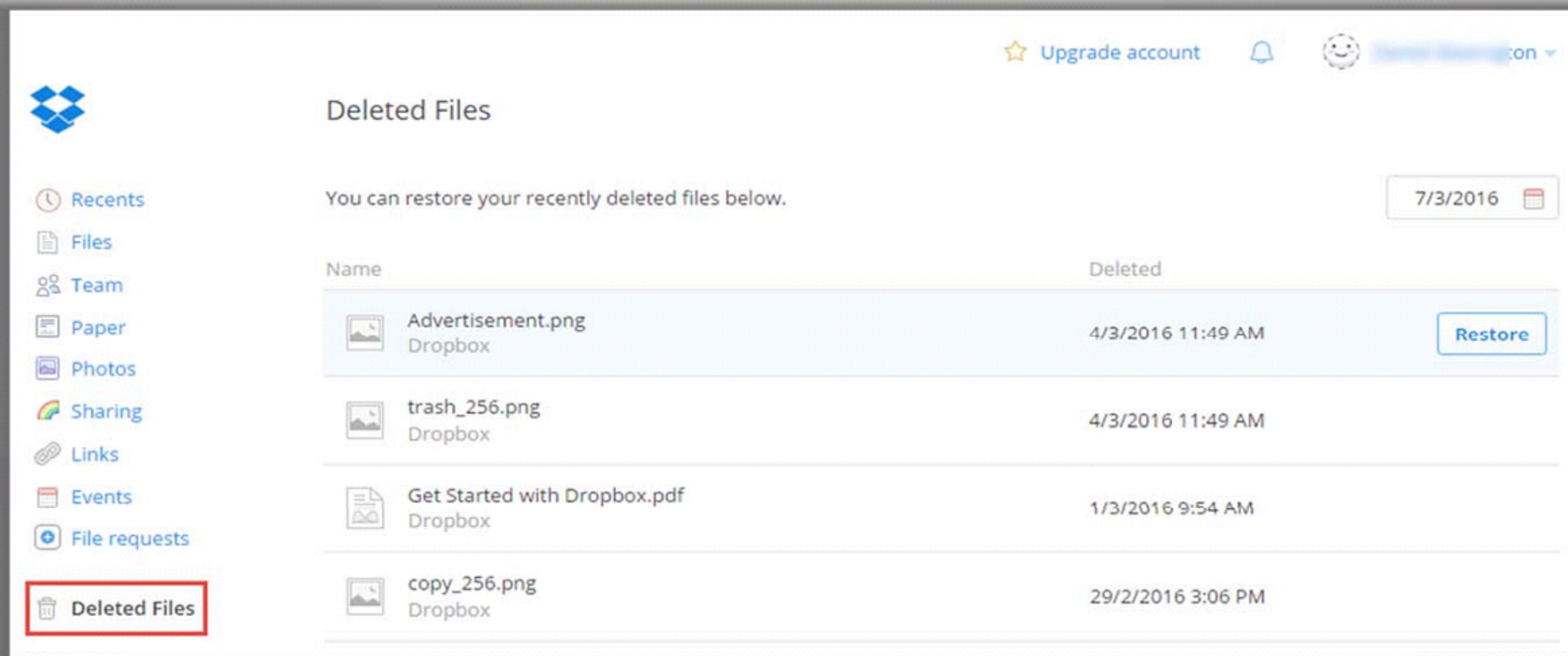


# Investigating **Dropbox** Cloud Storage Service



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Web** Portal

- You can login to the user's Dropbox profile and access information about **deleted files**
- For the **free version**, only files deleted in the **last 30 days** can be recovered
- For the **commercial** version, **all the deleted files** can be recovered



The screenshot shows the Dropbox web interface for a user's account. The top navigation bar includes the Dropbox logo, a sidebar with navigation links (Recents, Files, Team, Paper, Photos, Sharing, Links, Events, File requests), and a 'Deleted Files' link highlighted with a red box. The main content area is titled 'Deleted Files' and contains a message: 'You can restore your recently deleted files below.' To the right of this message is a date selector showing '7/3/2016'. Below the message is a table of deleted files with columns 'Name' and 'Deleted'. The table lists four files: 'Advertisement.png', 'trash\_256.png', 'Get Started with Dropbox.pdf', and 'copy\_256.png'. Each file entry has a 'Restore' button next to it.

Name	Deleted
Advertisement.png Dropbox	4/3/2016 11:49 AM
trash_256.png Dropbox	4/3/2016 11:49 AM
Get Started with Dropbox.pdf Dropbox	1/3/2016 9:54 AM
copy_256.png Dropbox	29/2/2016 3:06 PM



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Web Portal** (Cont'd)

■ You can get information about:

🌐 last browser sessions      🌐 devices linked with the Dropbox      🌐 Apps linked with the Dropbox

■ Click on user name in the top-right. From the **menu** → **Settings** → **Security**

**Sessions**

These are the web browsers currently logged in to your Dropbox.

Browser	Location	Most recent activity	
🖥️ Chrome on Windows	🌐 a ⓘ	in the last hour ⓘ	
🖥️ Chrome on Windows	🌐 a ⓘ	in the last hour ⓘ	×
🖥️ Chrome on Windows	🌐 a ⓘ	about 3 hours ago ⓘ	×
🖥️ Edge on Windows	🌐 a ⓘ	about 3 hours ago ⓘ	×
🖥️ Chrome on Windows	🌐 a ⓘ	about a week ago ⓘ	×

**Devices**

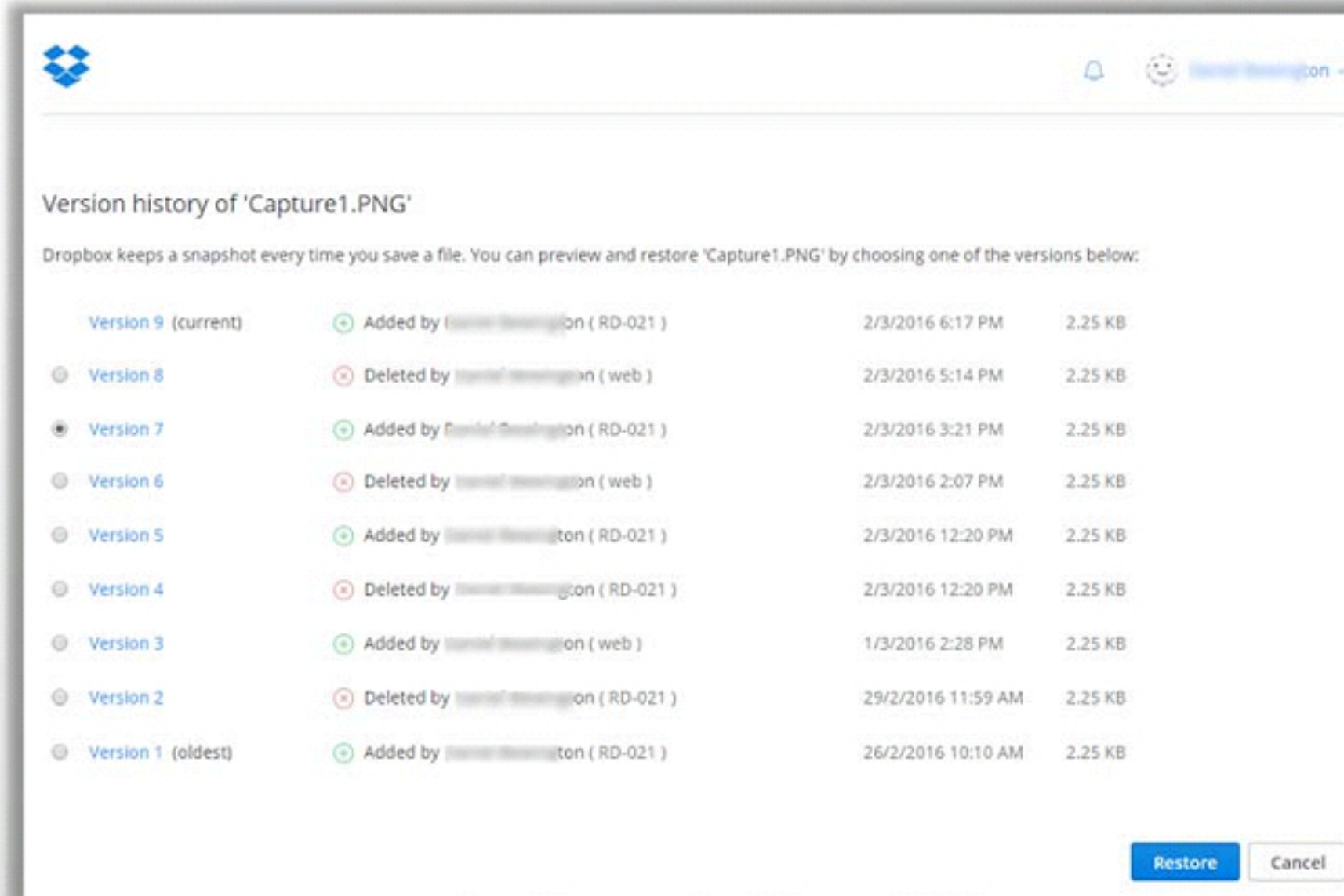
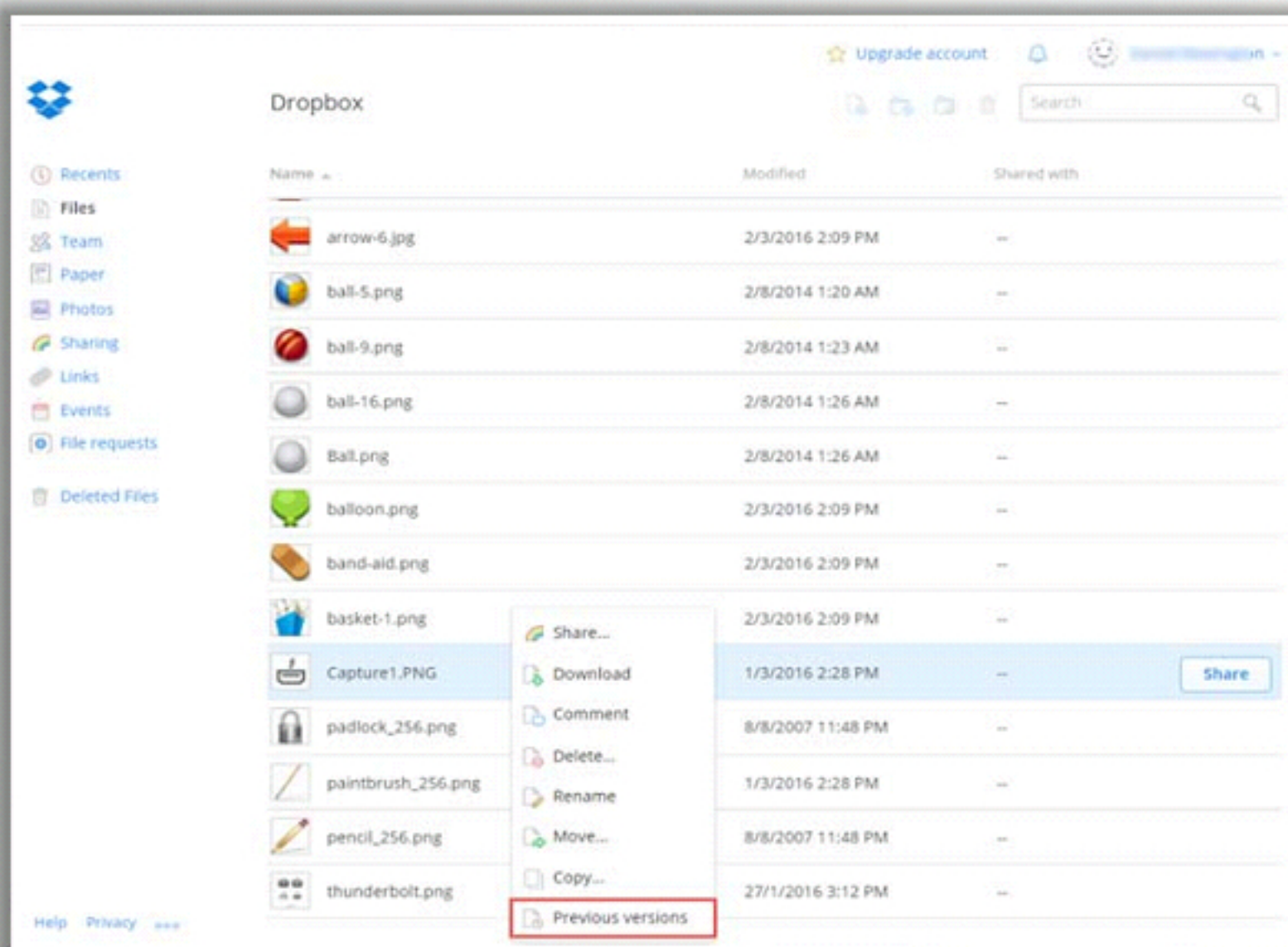
You've linked these devices.

Name	Country	Most recent activity	
📱 Android XT1053	🌐 a	Today ⓘ	×



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Web Portal** (Cont'd)

- You can view **version history** for each file and can recover previous version of a file
- Right-click the file and select **previous versions**





# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Web Portal** (Cont'd)

- You can view **Events** section to know the timeline of changes to the Dropbox
- In addition, it also shows which account did the action, what the action was, and the target of the action

A screenshot of the Dropbox web portal's 'Events' section. The left sidebar shows navigation options: Recents, Files, Team, Paper, Photos, Sharing, Links, Events (highlighted with a red box), File requests, and Deleted Files. The main content area is titled 'Events' and includes a sub-header 'Events gives you a timeline of changes to your Dropbox.' Below this is a list of events with icons indicating the type of action (addition, deletion, or linking). The events are listed with their timestamps and the files involved. At the top right, there are links for 'Upgrade account', a notification bell, and a user profile icon. At the bottom left, there are links for 'Help' and 'Privacy'.

Event	Time
You added the file <b>advert-600.png</b> .	5 hrs ago
You added the file <b>ball-16.png</b> .	5 hrs ago
The computer <b>RD-021</b> was linked to your account	5 hrs ago
You deleted the file <b>Advertisement.png</b> .	4/3/2016 11:49 AM
You deleted the file <b>trash_256.png</b> .	4/3/2016 11:49 AM
You added <b>Advertisement.png</b> and 10 more files.	2/3/2016 6:17 PM
The computer <b>RD-021</b> was linked to your account	2/3/2016 6:17 PM
You deleted <b>Capture1.PNG</b> and 2 more files.	2/3/2016 5:14 PM
You deleted <b>pencil_256.png</b> and 2 more files.	2/3/2016 5:14 PM
You deleted <b>Advertisement.png</b> and 4 more files.	2/3/2016 5:14 PM
You added <b>analysis-603.png</b> and 5 more files.	2/3/2016 3:21 PM
The computer <b>RD-021</b> was linked to your account	2/3/2016 3:14 PM
You added the file <b>basket-1.png</b> .	2/3/2016 2:09 PM
You added the file <b>band-aid.png</b> .	2/3/2016 2:09 PM



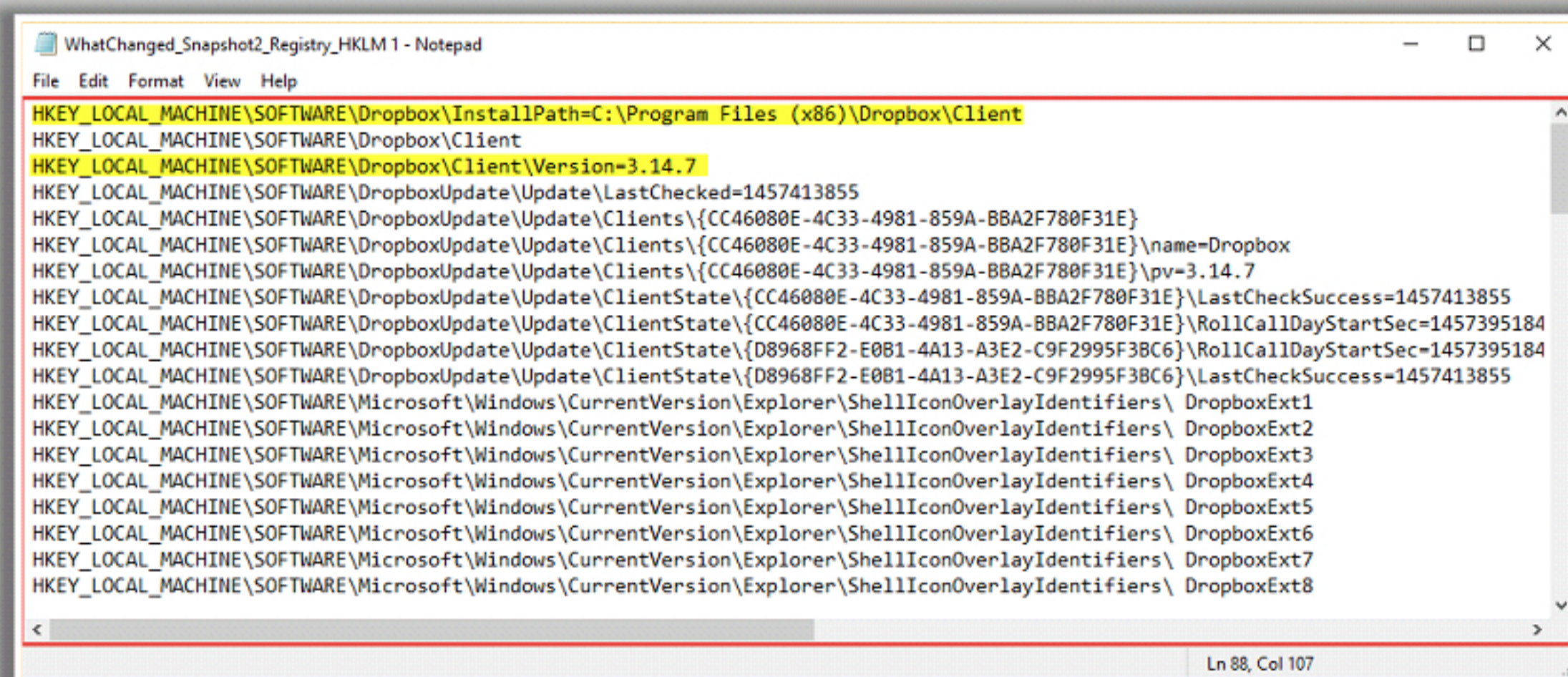
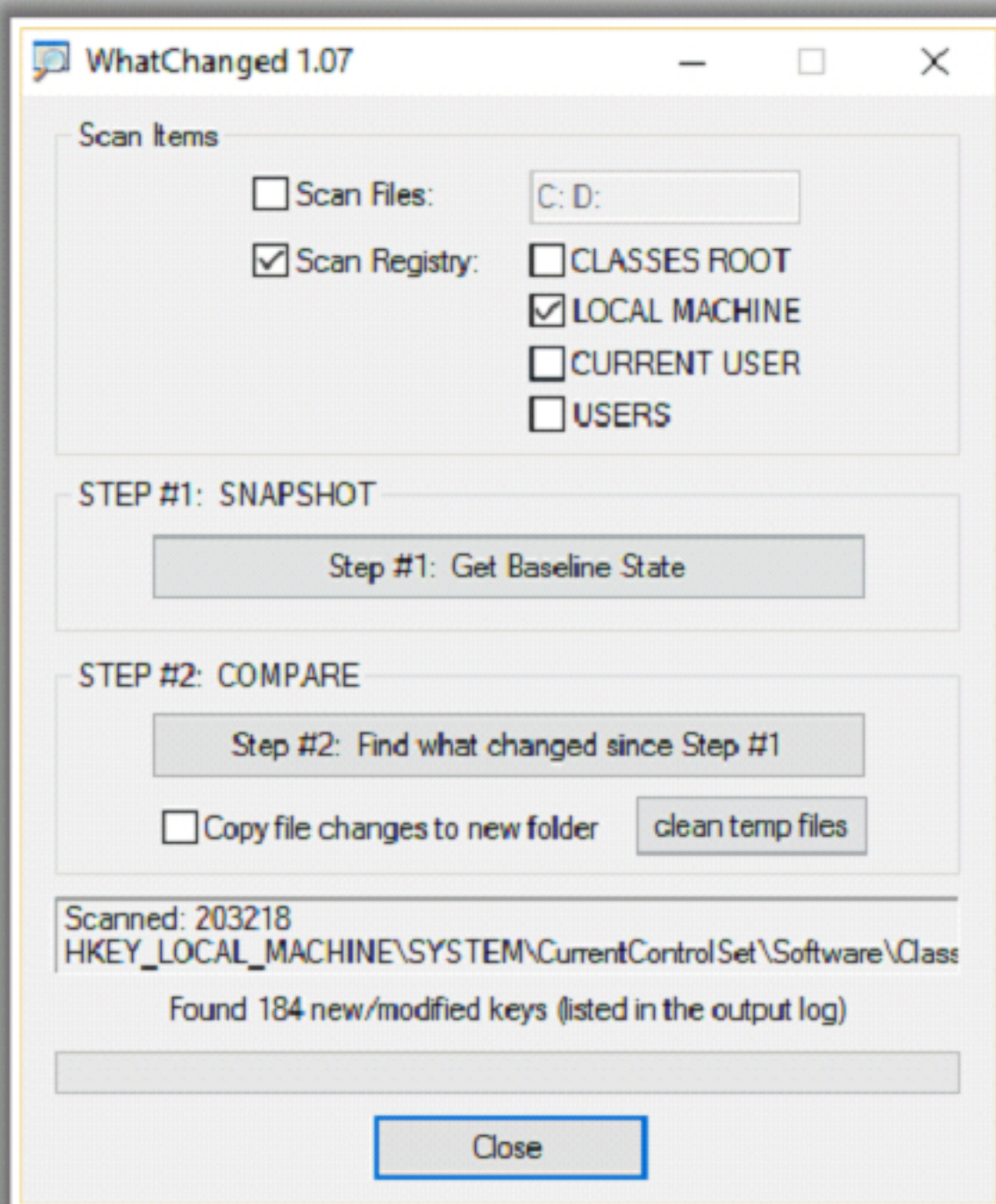
# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Client** on Windows

- On Windows 10 OS, by default Dropbox client is installed at **C:\Program Files (x86)\Dropbox**
- The default folder used for syncing files is **C:\Users\<username>\Dropbox**
- The **Dropbox folder** contains all the files that have been uploaded or downloaded from the cloud
- Dropbox installation creates various keys and values inside the registry:
  - HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\SharedAccess\Parameters\FirewallPolicy\FirewallRules
  - HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\ShellIconOverlayIdentifiers\DropboxExt(n)
  - HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\Dropbox
  - HKLM\SOFTWARE\Classes\DropboxUpdate.ProcessLauncher
  - HKLM\SOFTWARE\Dropbox\InstallPath
  - HKLM\SOFTWARE\Dropbox\Client\Version
- From the registry changes, you may obtain Dropbox **installation path** and the **version**



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Client** on Windows (Cont'd)

- **WhatChanged Portable** is a system utility that scans for modified files and registry entries. It uses the '**brute-force method**' to check files and the registry.



<http://portableapps.com>



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox** Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- Configuration files are saved inside the Appdata folder in the user profile

C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Dropbox\instance(n)

- Executable and libraries are stored at:

C:\Program Files (x86)\Dropbox\Client

- Files created during Dropbox client installation:

- LINK files or Shortcut files:

C:\Users\<username>\Desktop\Dropbox.lnk

C:\Users\<username>\Links\Dropbox.lnk

- Prefetch Files:

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOX.EXE-1AFC8E96.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOX.EXE-BC41F124.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXCLIENT\_3.14.7.EXE-67CA8E4C.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXCLIENT\_3.14.7.EXE-68E912D2.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXCRASHHANDLER.EXE-3D55A98C.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXINSTALLER.EXE-1EDCCE18.pf

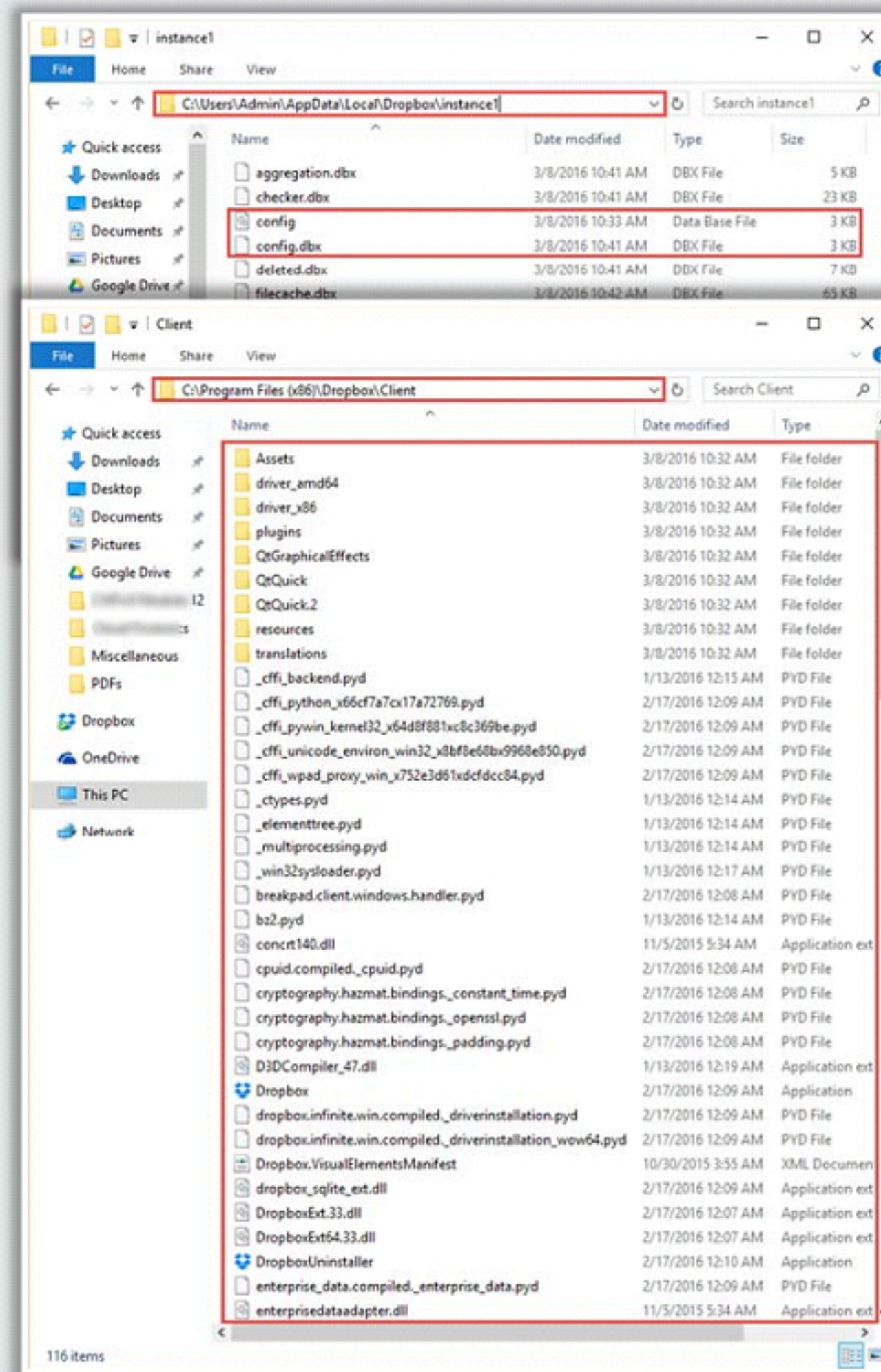
C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXUNINSTALLER.EXE-A866A871.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXUPDATE.EXE-59B5AB7D.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXUPDATE.EXE-48534C67.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXUPDATE.EXE-AA3CC021.pf

C:\Windows\Prefetch\DROBOXUPDATEONDEMAND.EXE-229B2726.pf





# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox** Client on Windows (Cont'd)

Some of the files that contain configuration information:

Database Files and Others	Path	Information Available
config.db	C:\Users\<Username>\AppData\Local\Dropbox\instance(n)	Contains some information about local Dropbox installation and account. Lists the email IDs linked with the account, current version/build for the local application, the host_id, and local path information "config.dbx" is an encrypted variant of "config.db"
filecache.db		It consists of several columns of which, "file_journal" is important as it contains a list of all directories and files inside "Dropbox". It appears as if they are existing files, not deleted ones.
sigstore.db		Records SHA-256 hash and each file's size information, but no names etc.
host.db	C:\Users\<Username>\AppData\Local\Dropbox	plain text file containing hash value(s) of usernames
unlink.db		binary/database file
.dropbox.cache	C:\Users\<Username>\Dropbox	It is a hidden directory located at the root Dropbox folder that is used as a staging area for downloading and uploading files

**Note:** Current version of Dropbox makes use of encrypted SQLite DB (.dbx) files



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox** Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- MAGNET IEF can be used by forensics professionals to **find, analyze, and report on the digital evidence** from computers, smartphones, and tablets
- It can **recover evidence from a variety of data sources** (ex: here Dropbox) and integrate them into a single Magnet IEF case file

**Magnet IEF v6.7.5.1029**

File Tools Licensing Help

PROFILE: All Artifacts (Default) [DELETE PROFILE] [SET AS DEFAULT]

### Windows and Mac Artifacts

Cloud (1 of 6 items)

- ☒ Carbonite
- ☒ **Dropbox**
- ☐ Flickr
- ☐ Google Docs
- ☐ Google Drive
- ☐ OneDrive

E-mail (0 of 7 items)

- ☐ Gmail® Webmail
- ☐ GMX® Webmail
- ☐ Hotmail® Webmail
- ☐ Hushmail
- ☐ Mailinator
- ☐ Outlook Webmail

Encryption (0 of 2 items)

- ☐ Encrypted Files
- ☐ Encryption/Anti-forensics Tools

Media (0 of 3 items)

[CHECK ALL] [UNCHECK ALL] [ABOUT THE ARTIFACTS...]

**IEF Report Viewer v6.7.5.1029 - Investigator Mode - Case: 002**

File Edit Tools Go To Licensing Help

Evidence... Go To #: [ ] Default Encoding [ ] Search: [ ]

#	Local File Na...	File Path	Local Created Dat...	Local Modified Dat...	Local File Size (By...	Local File Versio...	Source	Evidence Number
1	apple-1.png	1159733893/apple...	03/02/2016 08:39...	03/02/2016 08:39:0...	4716	228	PhysicalDrive0 - Partition ...	filecache.dbx
2	thunderbolt.png	1159733893/thunde...	01/27/2016 09:42...	01/27/2016 09:42:2...	18884	240	PhysicalDrive0 - Partition ...	filecache.dbx
3	padlock_256.p...	1159733893/padioc...	08/08/2007 06:18...	08/08/2007 06:18:2...	29580	234	PhysicalDrive0 - Partition ...	filecache.dbx
4	balloon.png	1159733893/baloo...	03/02/2016 08:39...	03/02/2016 08:39:1...	5464	182	PhysicalDrive0 - Partition ...	filecache.dbx
5	analyse-201.png	1159733893/analys...	08/07/2014 05:01...	08/07/2014 05:01:3...	62448	224	PhysicalDrive0 - Partition ...	filecache.dbx
6	pencil_256.png	1159733893/pencil...	08/08/2007 06:18...	08/08/2007 06:18:4...	30185	238	PhysicalDrive0 - Partition ...	filecache.dbx
7	paintbrush_25...	1159733893/paintbr...	03/01/2016 08:58...	03/01/2016 08:58:3...	19440	236	PhysicalDrive0 - Partition ...	filecache.dbx

Showing results 1 - 17 of 17

Go To Page: [ ]

Details Hex Text

Local File Name padlock\_256.png  
File Path 1159733893/padlock\_256.png  
Updated Modified Date/Time - (UTC) (MM/dd/yyyy) (not found)  
Local Created Date/Time - (UTC) (MM/dd/yyyy) 08/08/2007 06:18:24 PM  
Local Modified Date/Time - (UTC) (MM/dd/yyyy) 08/08/2007 06:18:24 PM  
Updated File Name (not found)  
Local File Size (Bytes) 29580  
Updated File Size (Bytes) (not found)  
Local File Version Id 234

[Alerts] [Bookmarks] [Chat Threading] [Filter] [Search] [Timeline] [World Map]

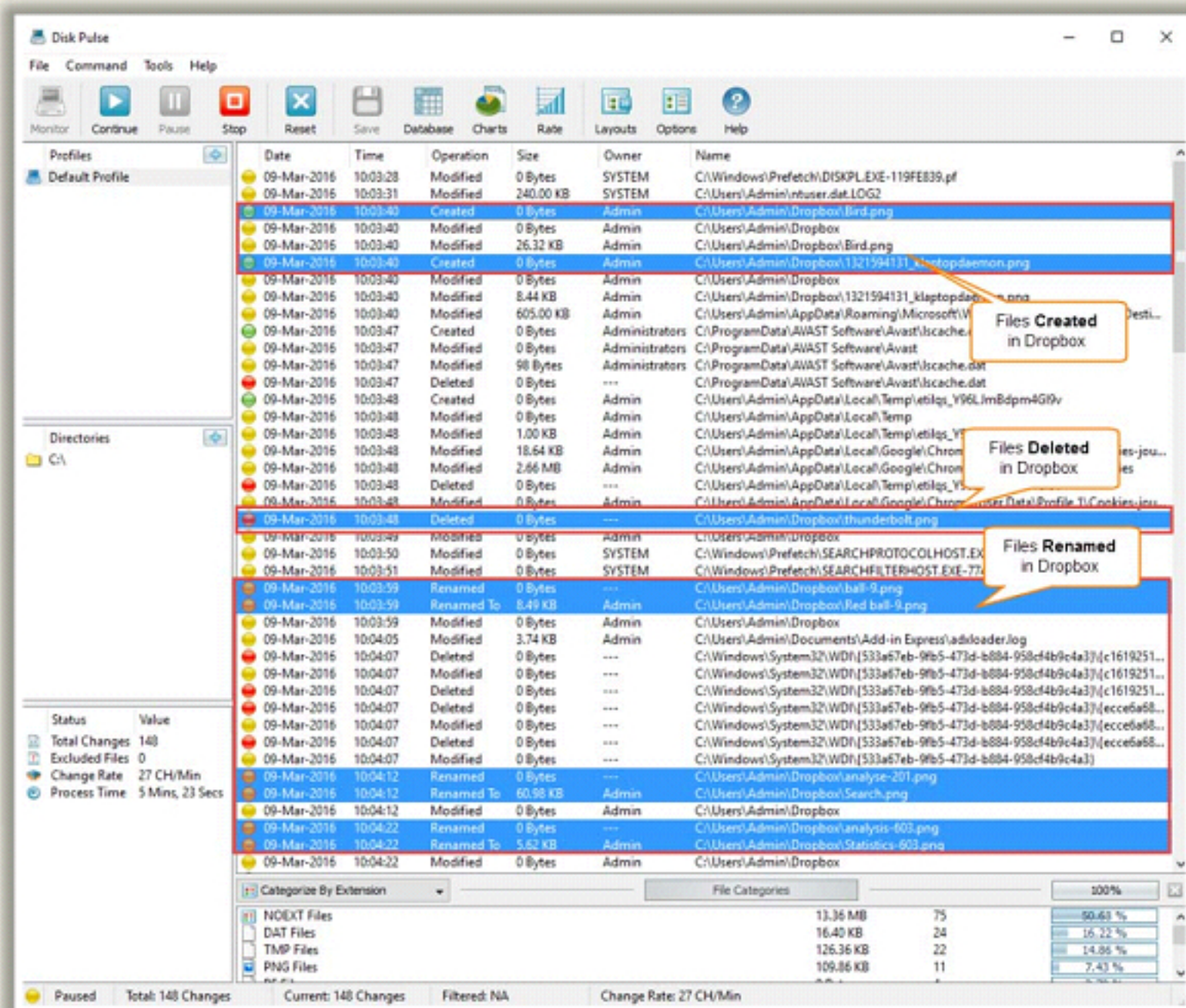


# Artifacts Left by Dropbox Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- You can view changes (create, modify/rename, and delete) to the Dropbox using tools such as **DiskPulse**, **Directory Monitor**, etc.

## DiskPulse

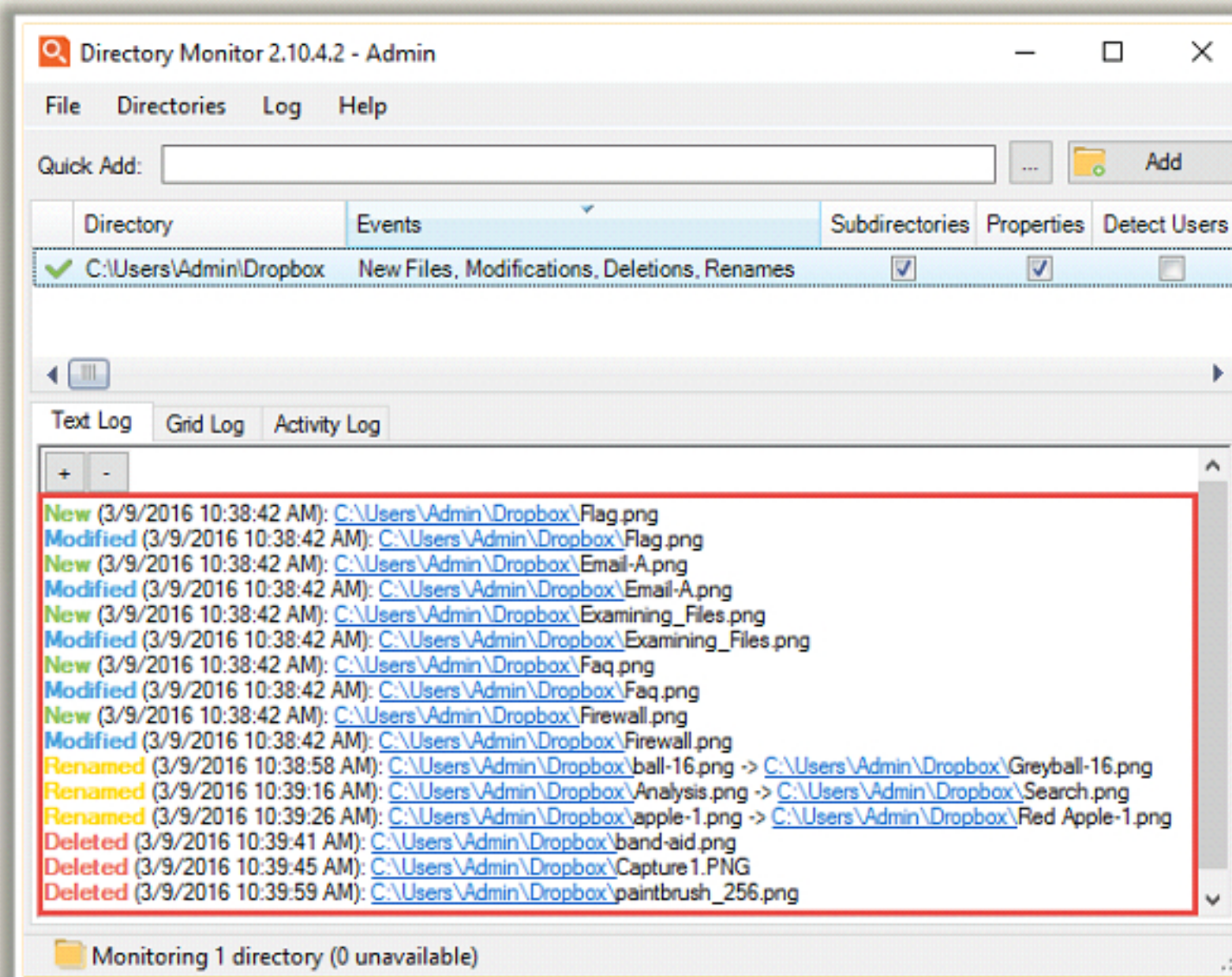
Monitors the disks or directories, saves reports and disk change monitoring statistics, executes custom commands, and sends E-Mail notifications when unauthorized changes are detected in critical system files



<http://www.diskpulse.com>

## Directory Monitor

Monitors and detects changes to the directories and/or network shares and will notify user of file changes/access, deletions, modifications, and new files

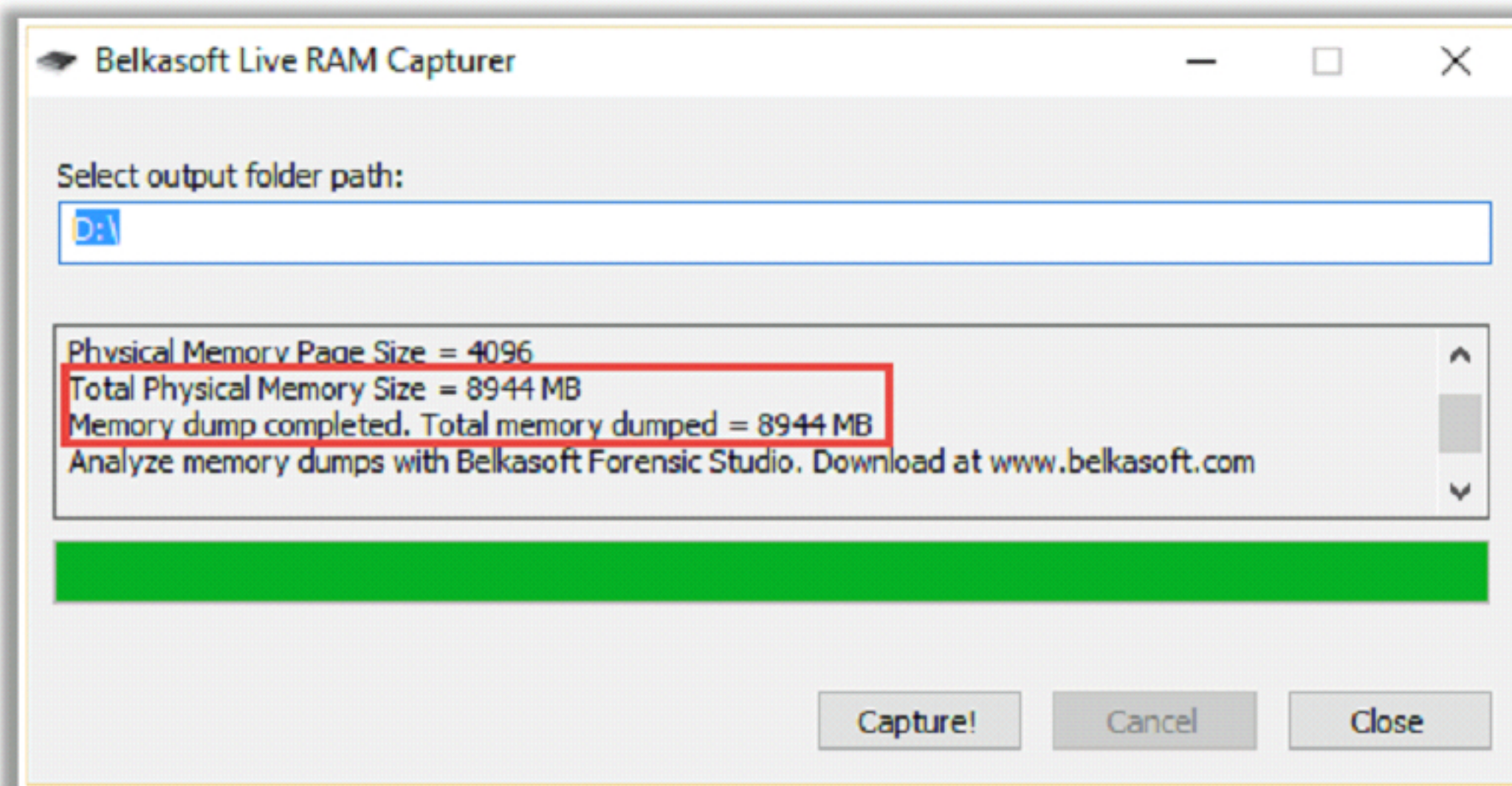


<https://directorymonitor.com>



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Client** on Windows (Cont'd)

- If the Dropbox client is installed on the PC, you can find information about the **sessions in RAM**. For this, first you need to run tools such as RAM Capturer to dump the RAM contents and then use a hex editor tool to analyze the RAM contents
- **RAM Capturer:**  
Forensic tool that allows to reliably extract the entire contents of computer's volatile memory – even if protected by an active anti-debugging or anti-dumping system



<https://belkasoft.com>



**CHFI**  
Computer Hacking Forensic  
INVESTIGATOR



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox** Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- **filecache.dbx** - displays path for filecache.dbx

```
...i%YHO_gHÖd....Ä.....K.....BRw.D.r.o.p.b.o.x.....\..1.....gHÜd..INSTAN~2..D.....i%YH.agHÜd....{.....i
*W.i.n.s.t.a.n.c.e.1.....h.2..ü..gHÖd .FILECA~1.DBX..L.....i%gH"cgH"c....P".....è...f.i.l.e.c.a.c.h.e...d.b.x....
...j.....-.....i.....ôB.}|.....C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Dropbox\instance1\filecache.dbx|..`.....X.....rd-
021.....æ9Ýef«ûF%Ö</k\'b.!-..aää.,'Ô%ÜÄ±<æ9Ýef«ûF%Ö</k\'b.!-..aää.,'Ô%ÜÄ±<r.....-...1SPSU(Lÿyÿ9K"ĐáÔ-áÖó.....ÿÿ....
..9...1SPS±.mD..pHSH@.x=xÇ....h...H...ÄäÖŠ..ä..O€nonic.....
```

- **server\_time** - provides server time

```
] A`ü".NTICATE : u'pubserver': u'dl.dropboxusercontent.com',. 42.975 | [ ] AUTHENTICATE : u'quota': 21474
83648L,..û". 42.975 | [ ] AUTHENTICATE : u'ret': u'ok',. 42.975 | [ ] AUTHENTICATE : u'root_ns': 1
15973389`ü". 42.975 | [ ] AUTHENTICATE : u'server time': 1457512663,. 42.975 | [ ] AUTHENTICATE
: u'ssc.ü".th': u'AACOP18G2YnVppdHljczorpswt6I26wETnjlE5UVk5wDGN2cJeVVYX6-du0g7FtRXXTHqZva5HMqfB0xd6kX524SPJDWFwZKnTOdESJDq6ObL
Q',. `ü"..975 | [ ] AUTHENTICATE : u'sscvserver': u'client-web.dropbox.com',. 42.975 | [ ] AUTHEN
```

- **updated/deleted** - displays updated/deleted file

```
' attribute of input details had an invalid dir attribute: %r.._...../<.A...ÿÿÿÿ....'dir' attribute of ing
lid dir attribute: %r.y...../<.<...%Vp$....MountRequest(mount_point_sp=%r, target_ns=%r, mount_sjid=%r):.
....Ignoring entry for updated/deleted but not pre-existing file %r.E.³"...../<.A...ø;.....f...`..P..f...
P..R..f...`..p..)p..e..w..f..B..}²...../<.>...&.)'....f..f..f..p...\\..f..f..p..R..o...{:P..R..f..f..p..)p..e.
>...ÿÿÿÿ....Local updated entry had bad attrs... %r, local %r vs remote %r..w\Q²...../<.A...x..8....f...`..
..f...{=.P..R..f...`..p..)p..e..w..f..B..q...../<.>...&.)'....f..f..f..p...\\..f..f..p..R..o...{:P..R..f..f..f
```



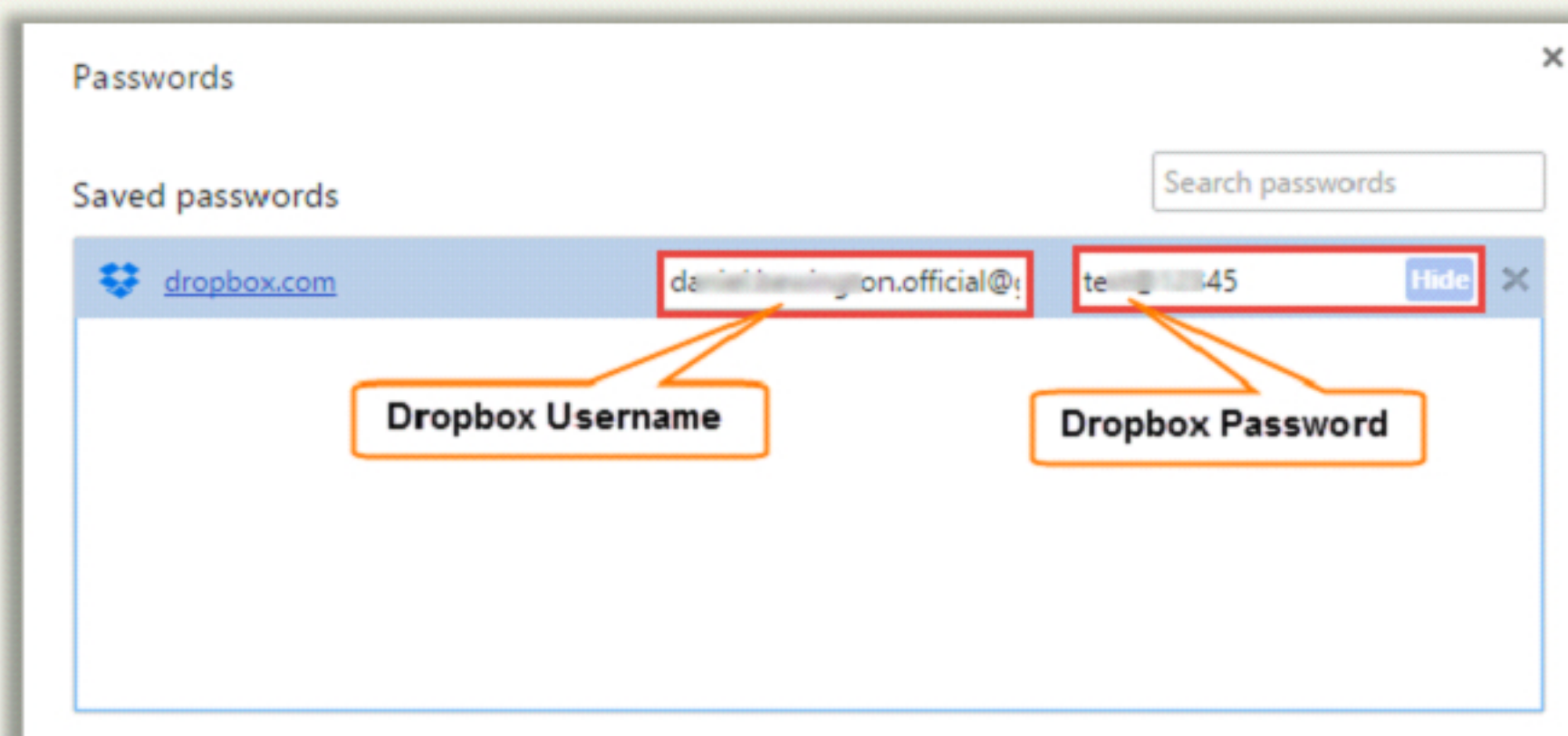
# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Client** on Windows (Cont'd)

■ In case of Web-based Dropbox, you can find the username and password in clear from RAM dump using strings:

- login\_email
- login\_password

```
s%3AShockwave+Flash%2CWidevine+Content+Decryption+Module%2CChrome+PDF+Viewer%2CNative+Client%2C--ss%3Atrue%2C--ls%3Atrue%2C--ldb%3Atrue%2C--tzo%3A-345%2C--rtc%3Atrue%2C--colorDepth%3A24%2C--pixelDepth%3A24%2C--cookies%3Atrue%2C--java%3Afalse%2C--dnt%3A-1%3Adlm%3Afps%2C34204%3Adlm%3Ayy%3Adlm%3Azz&signup_data=&third_party_auth_experiment=EXPERIMENT&signup_tag=&login_email=dar...@wi...on.official%40gmail.com&login_password=te...45&remember_me=True...h....>....è....¹....<.$ç*...è....h....>....è....¹....<.$ç...è....h....>....è....¹....<.$ç2...è....h....ÿù.#...€...è....Ph...h....°....<|$.è....<uüfÄ.¹....<.$ç6...è....
```

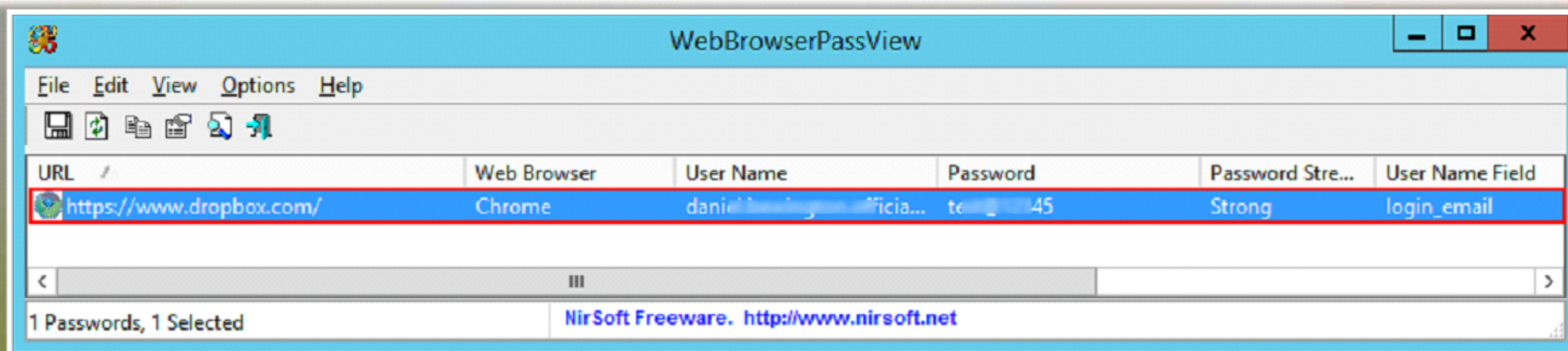
■ Also, you can find the Web-based Dropbox login credentials stored somewhere in the PC (ex: browser). Screenshot below is with respect to the Chrome





# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Client** on Windows (Cont'd)

- You can use tools such as **WebBrowserPassView**, a password recovery tool that reveals the passwords stored by the following Web browsers: Internet Explorer (Version 4.0 - 11.0), Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari, and Opera



<http://www.nirsoft.net>



# Artifacts Left by **Dropbox Client** on Windows (Cont'd)

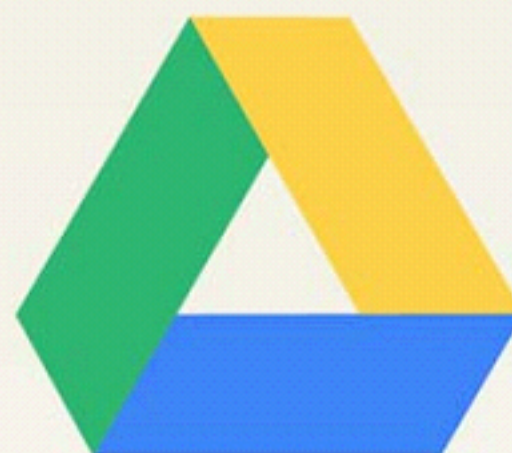
## Uninstalling the Dropbox Client application

- removes the config folder
- does not delete the local copy of the file
- preserves the registry key HKLM\SOFTWARE\Dropbox (but without values)
- preserves the Prefetch files even after uninstallation

## You can also recover information from

- Registry keys of recent files
- LiNK files
- Browser history and cache
- Thumbnails
- Registry Point/Volume Shadow Copies
- Pagefile.sys
- Hiberfil.sys



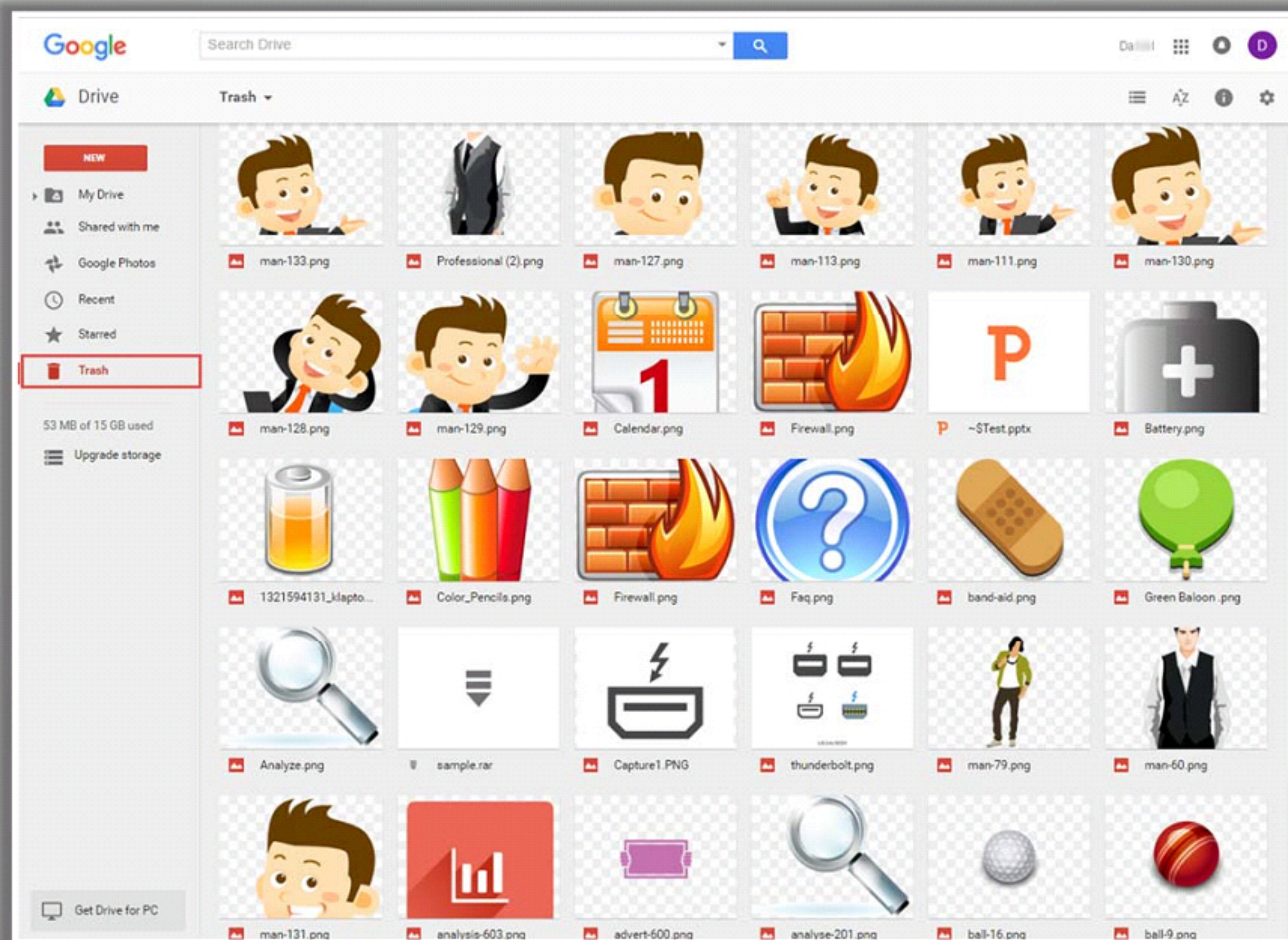


# Investigating **Google Drive** Cloud Storage Service



# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Web Portal

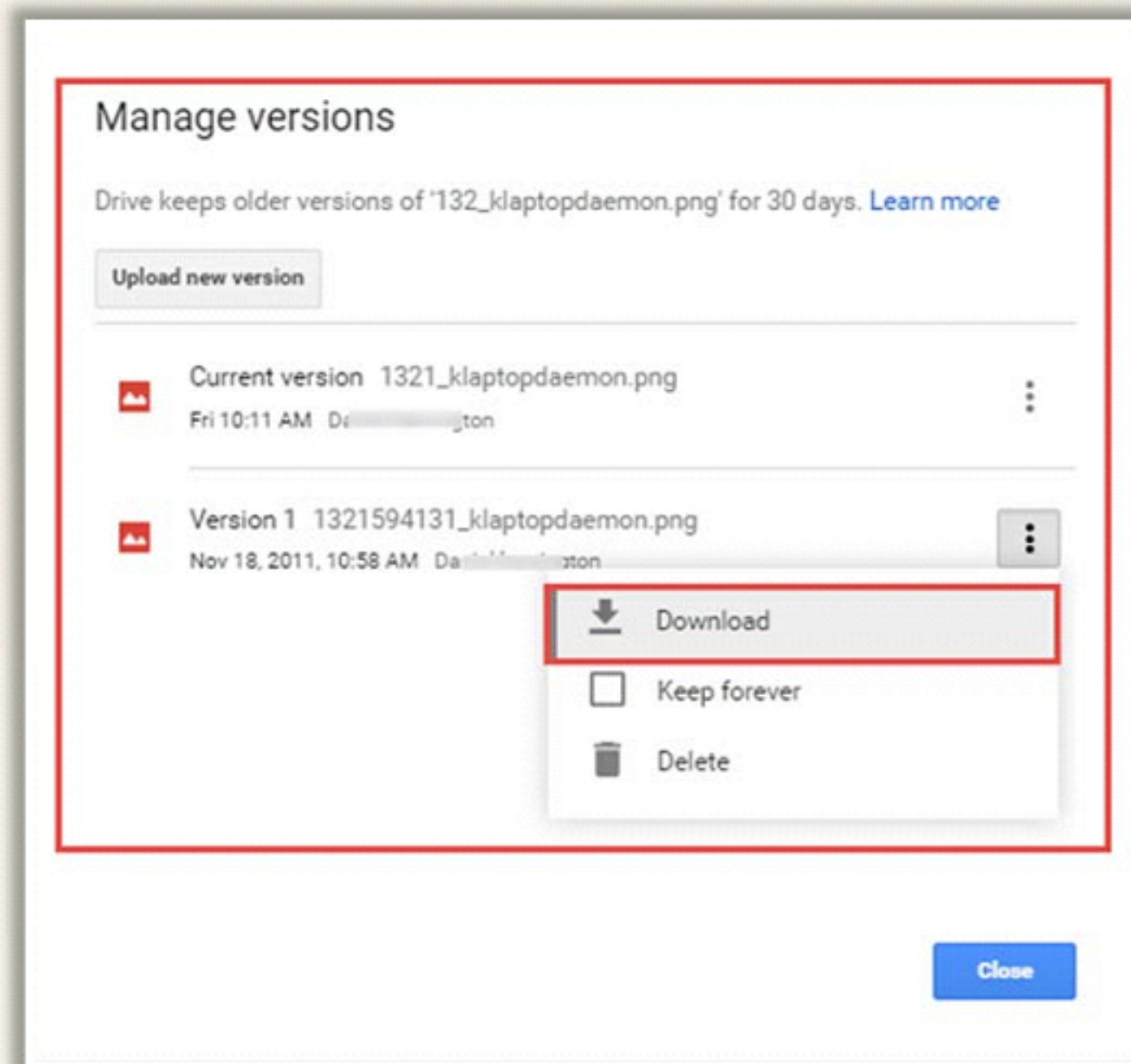
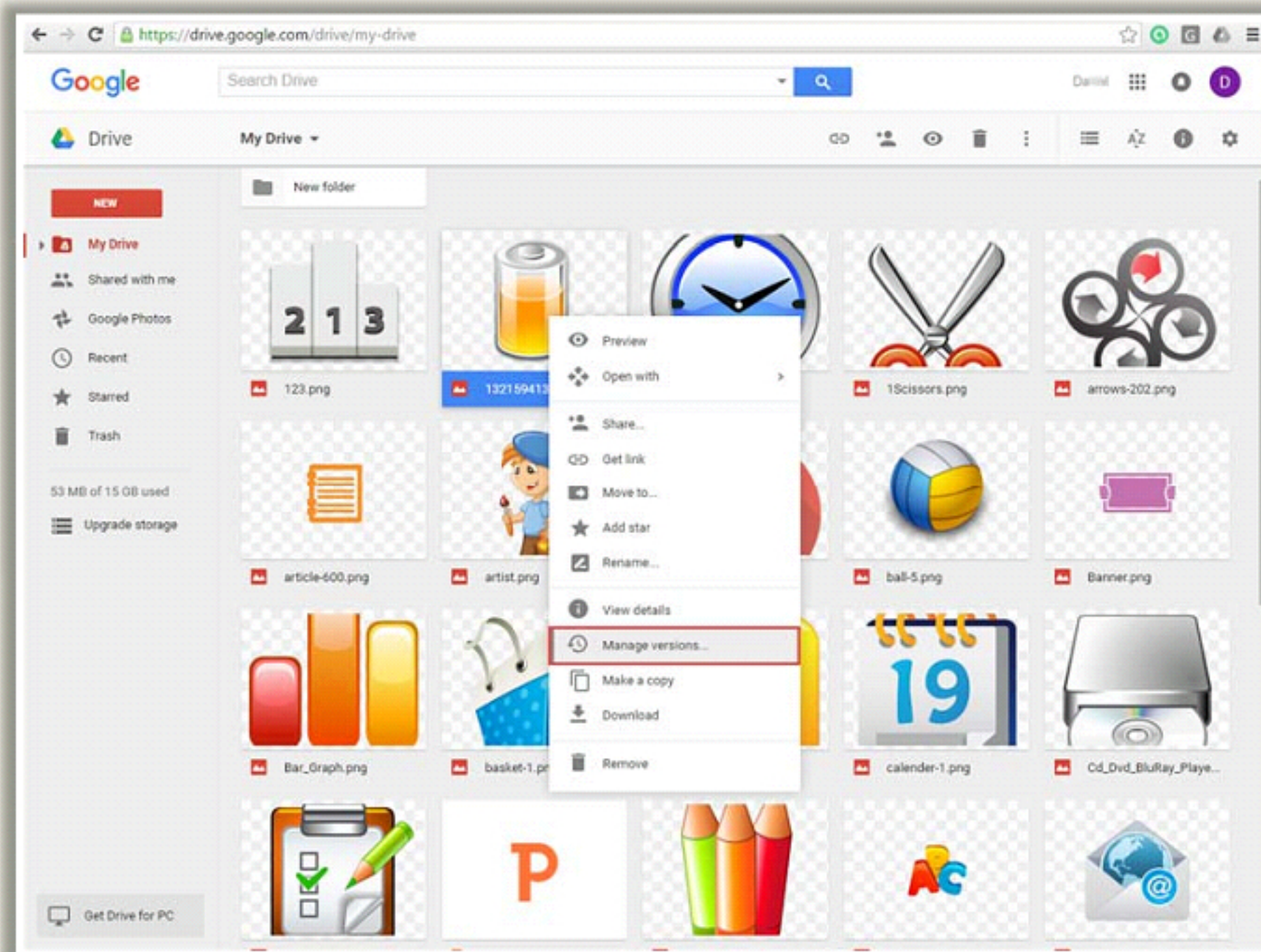
- You can login to the user's profile and access Google Drive's information about **deleted files**
- Click on the **Trash** tab to view the deleted files





# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Web Portal (Cont'd)

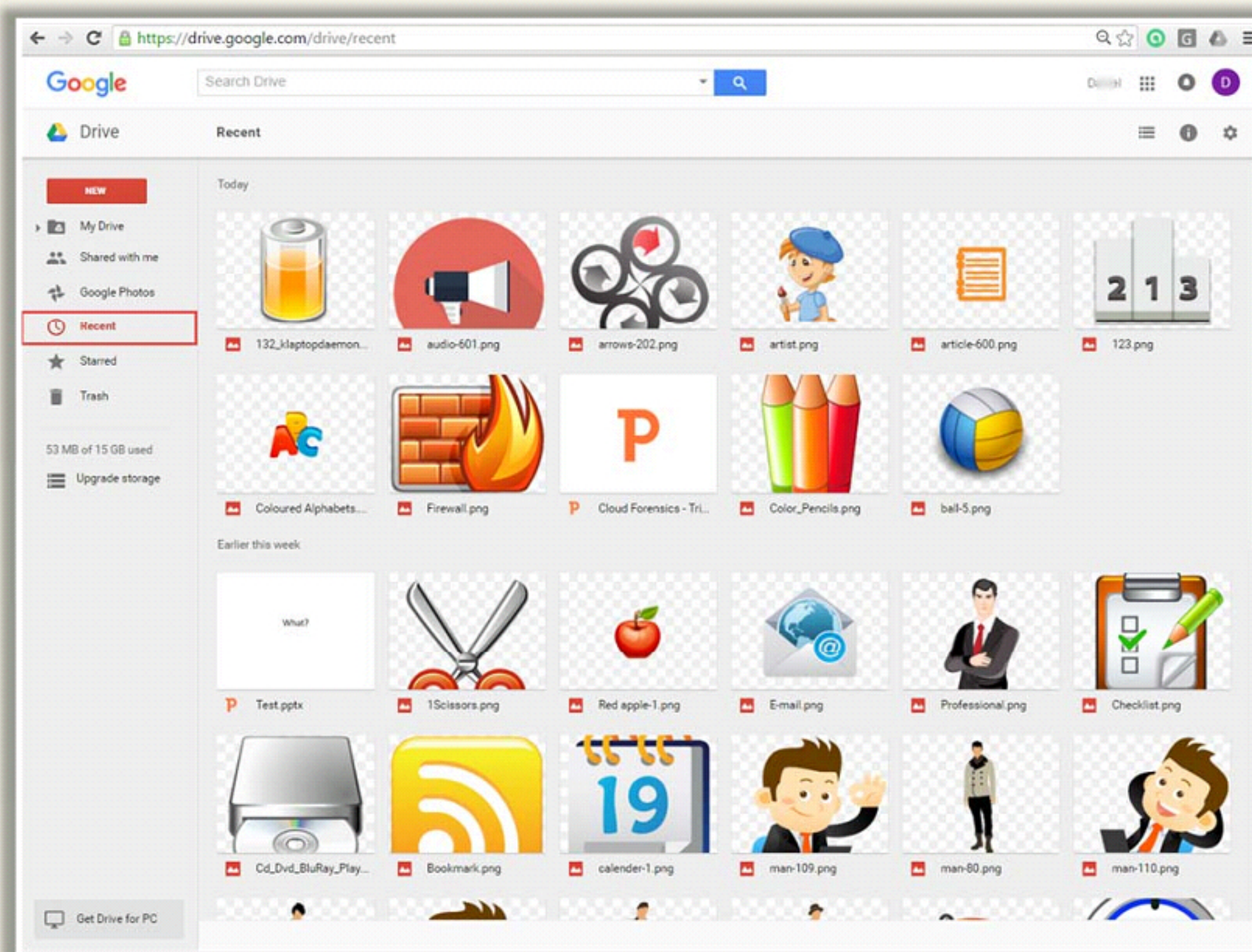
- You can view version history for each file and can recover previous version of a file
- Right-click the file and select **Manage versions...**





# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Web Portal (Cont'd)

You can view the recent visits by clicking the **Recent** tab

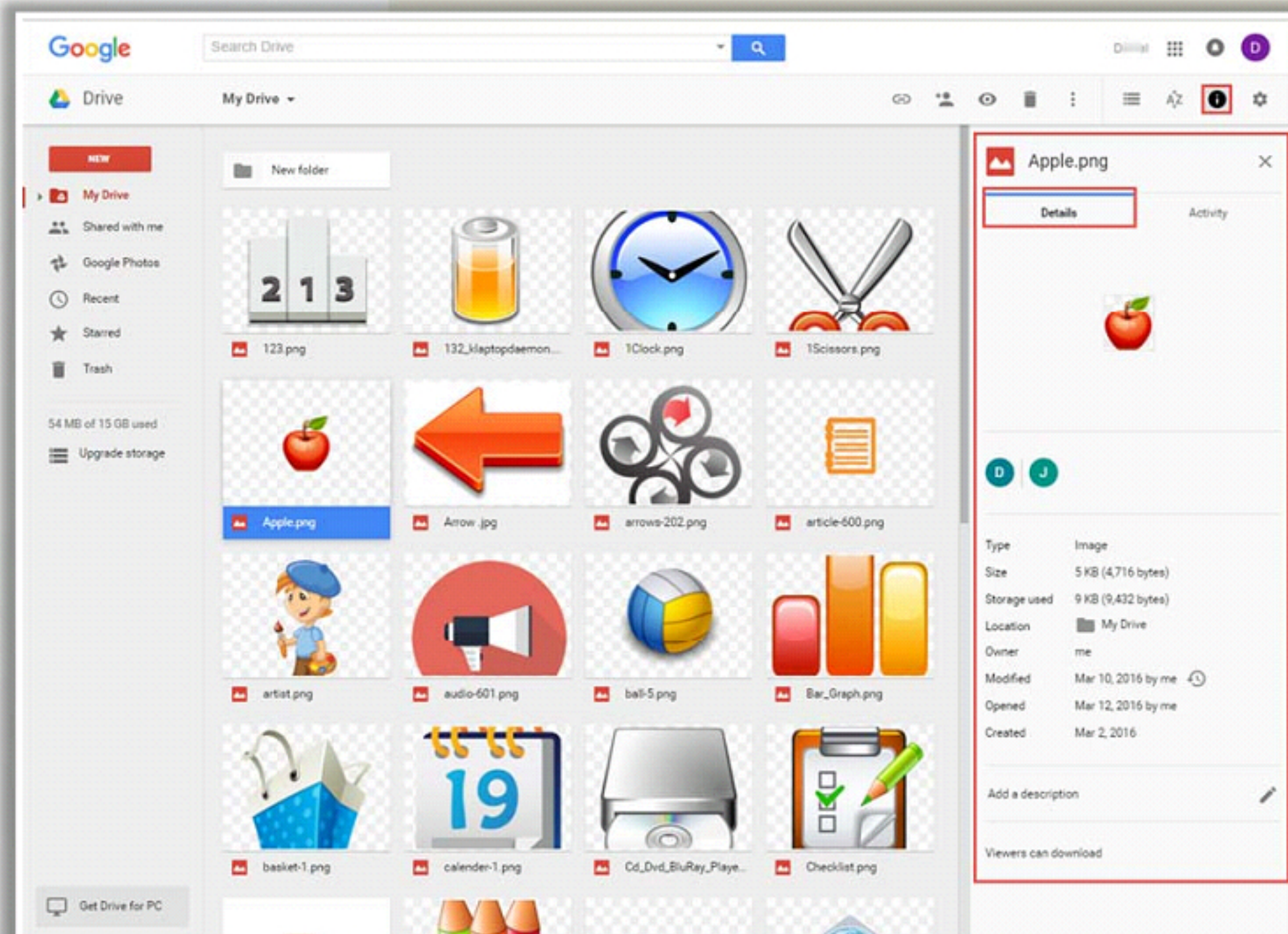




# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Web Portal (Cont'd)

- You can view valuable information of a particular item by selecting the item and clicking on the **information** button (i) on the top-right
- For each item, there exists 2 panes: **Details** and **Activity**

**Details pane** – Contains information about the selected item such as the owner, the size of the file, when it was created, opened, modified, etc.

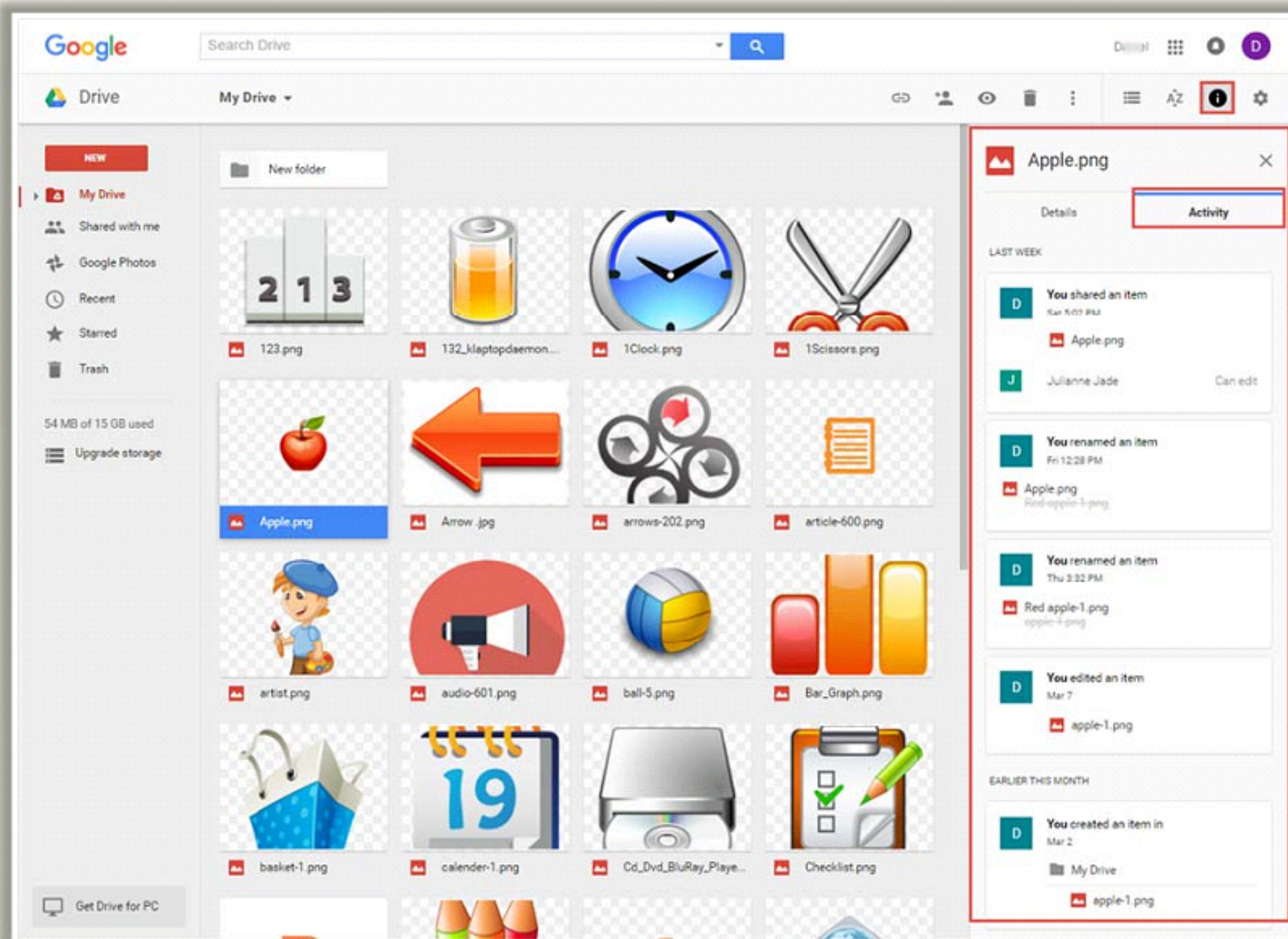




# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Web Portal (Cont'd)

## Activity Pane

**Activity pane** – shows activities performed on a selected item such as moving and removing, renaming, uploading, sharing and unsharing, editing and commenting



**Note:** You can click **My Drive** in the left-hand navigation, then **information** button on the top-right to view details and track activity of all items created in, or uploaded to, "My Drive."



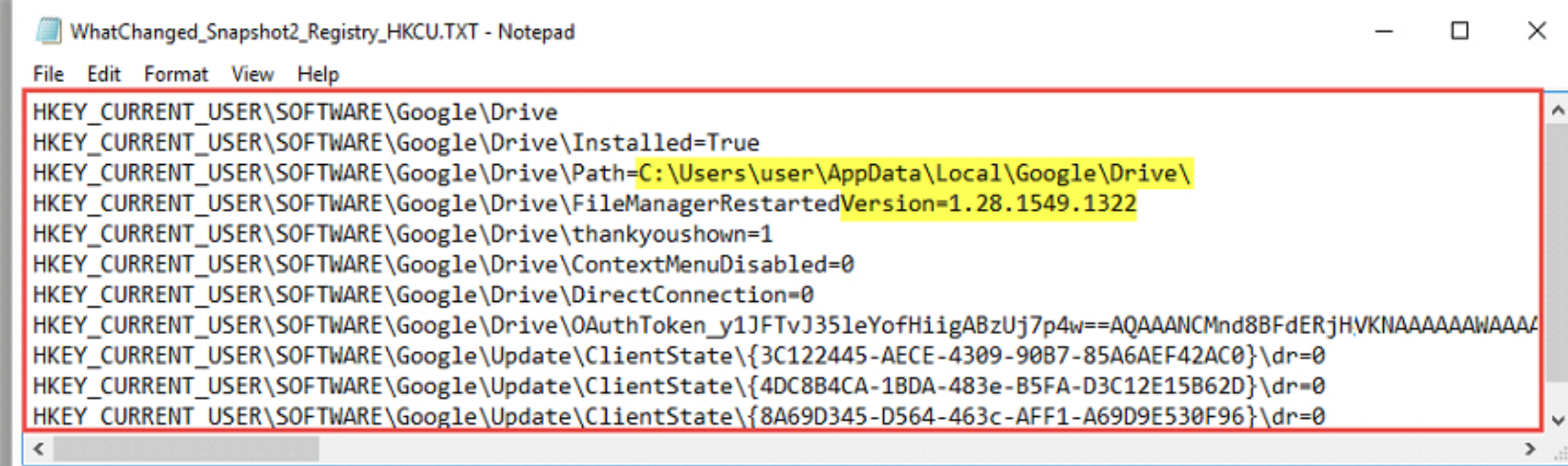
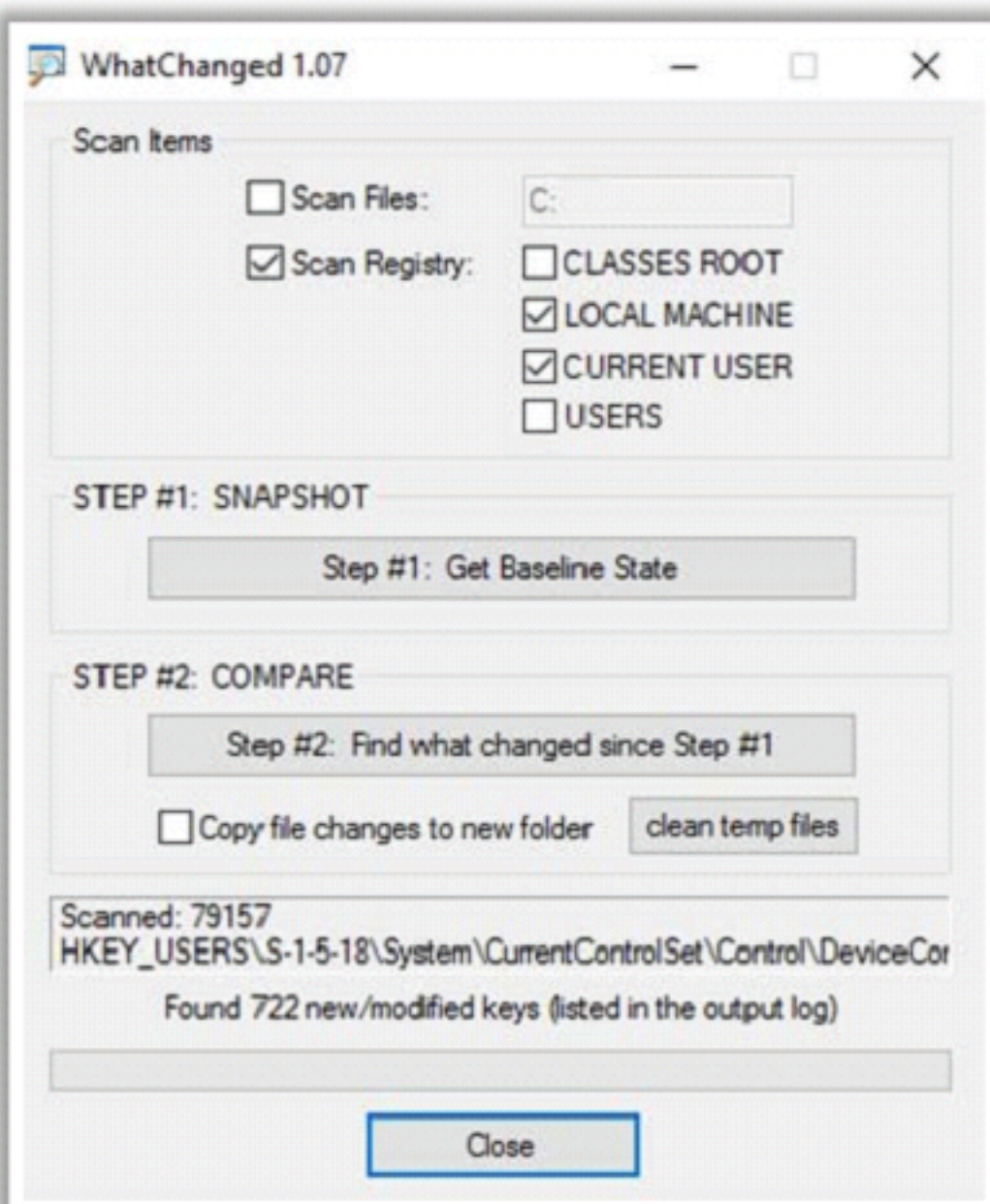
# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows

- On Windows 10 OS, by default Google Drive client is installed at **C:\Program Files (x86)\Google\Drive**
- The default folder used for syncing files is **C:\Users\<username>\Google Drive**
- Google Drive installation creates various keys and values inside the registry:
  - HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Installer\Folders
  - HKCU\SOFTWARE\Google\Drive
  - HKCU\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\GoogleDriveSync
  - HKCU\SOFTWARE\Classes
- From the registry changes, you may obtain Google Drive **installed version** and the **user folder**



# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

You can use tools such as **WhatChanged Portable** to scan for modified files and registry entries





# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

Configuration files are saved inside the installation folder in the user profile

**C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Google\Drive\user\_default**

Executable and libraries are stored at:

**C:\Program Files (x86)\Google\Drive**

Files created during Google Drive client installation:

LiNK files or Shortcut files:

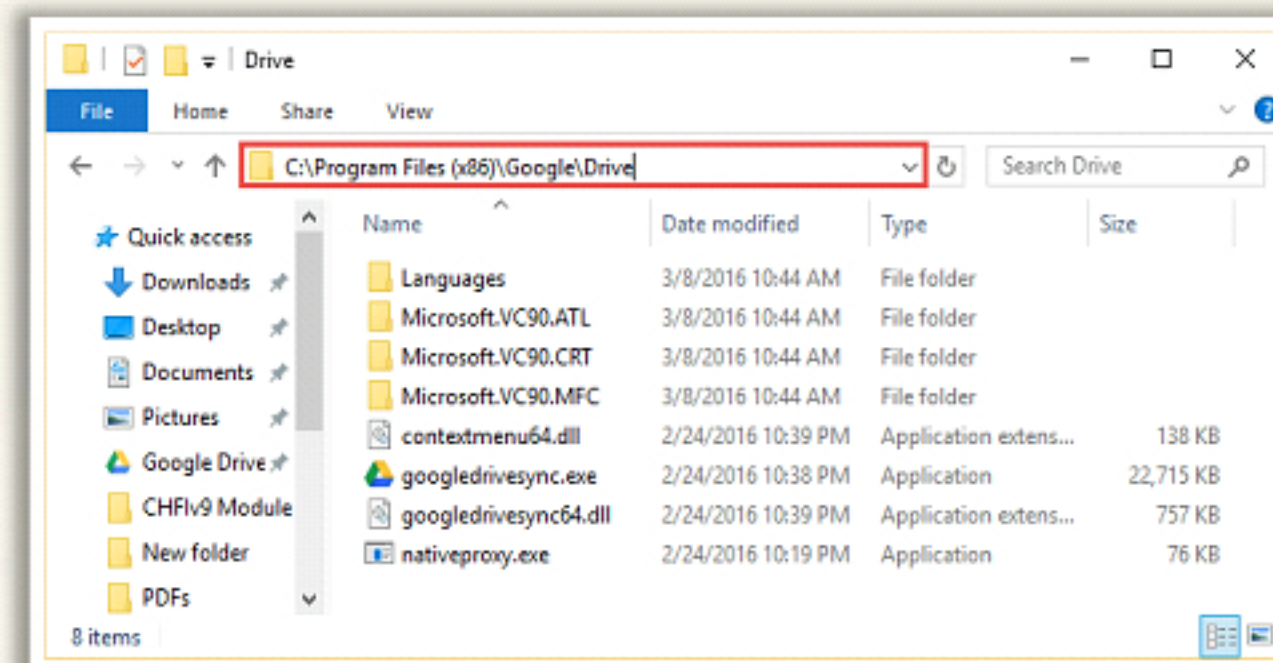
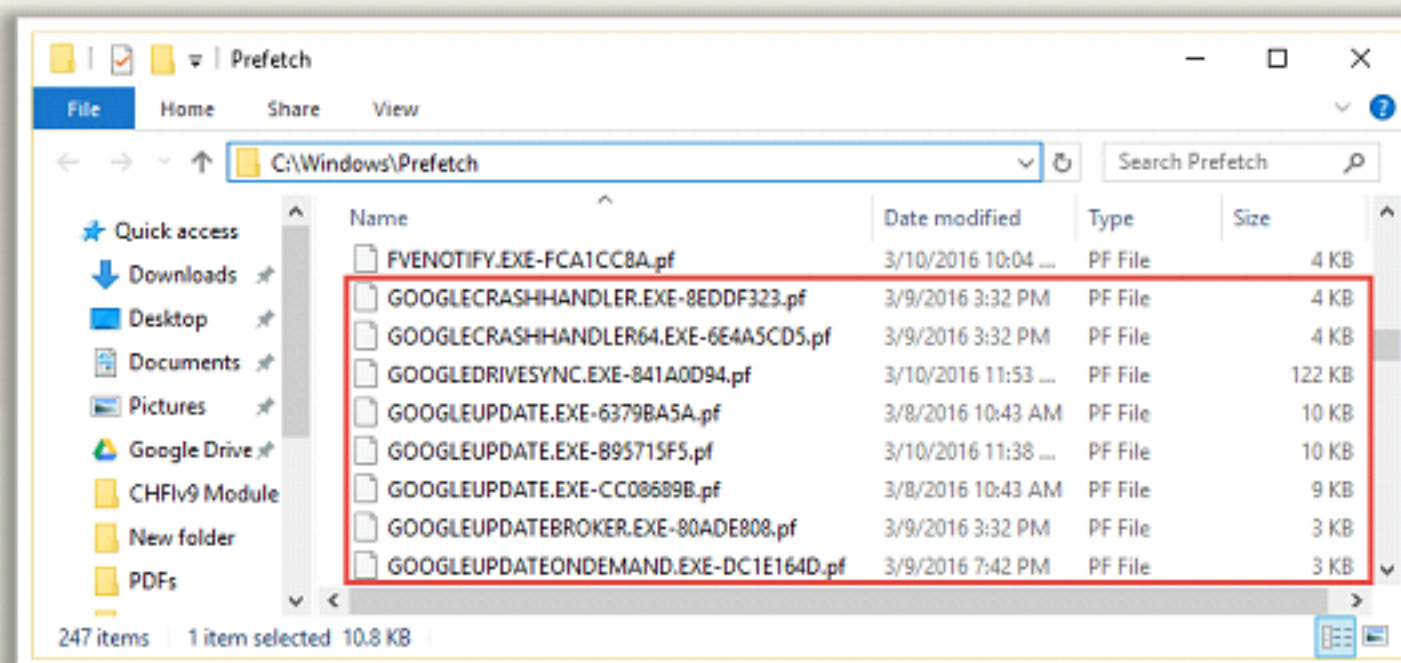
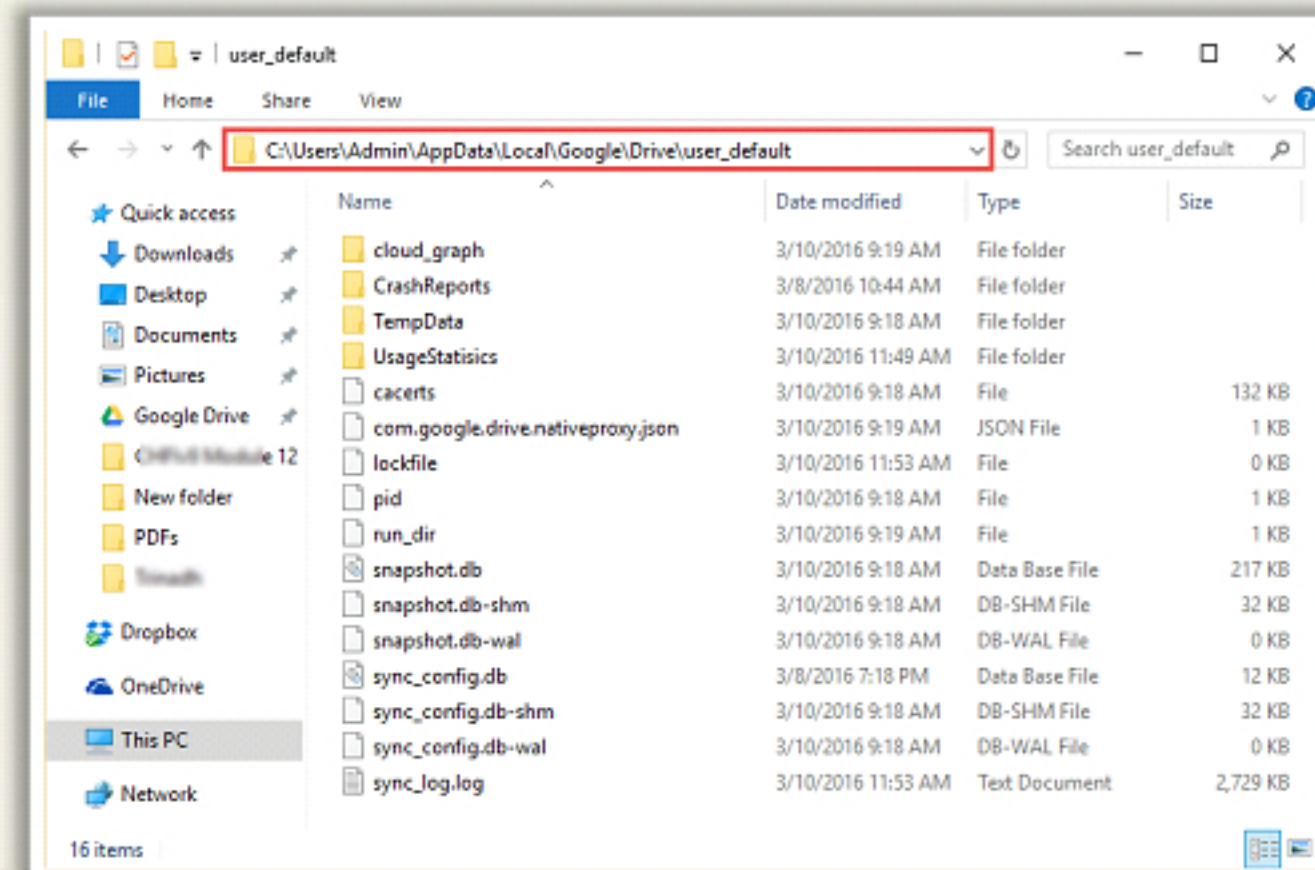
**C:\Users\<username>\Desktop\Google Drive.lnk**

**C:\Users\<username>\Links\Google Drive.lnk**

**C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs\Google Drive\Google Drive.lnk**

Prefetch Files:

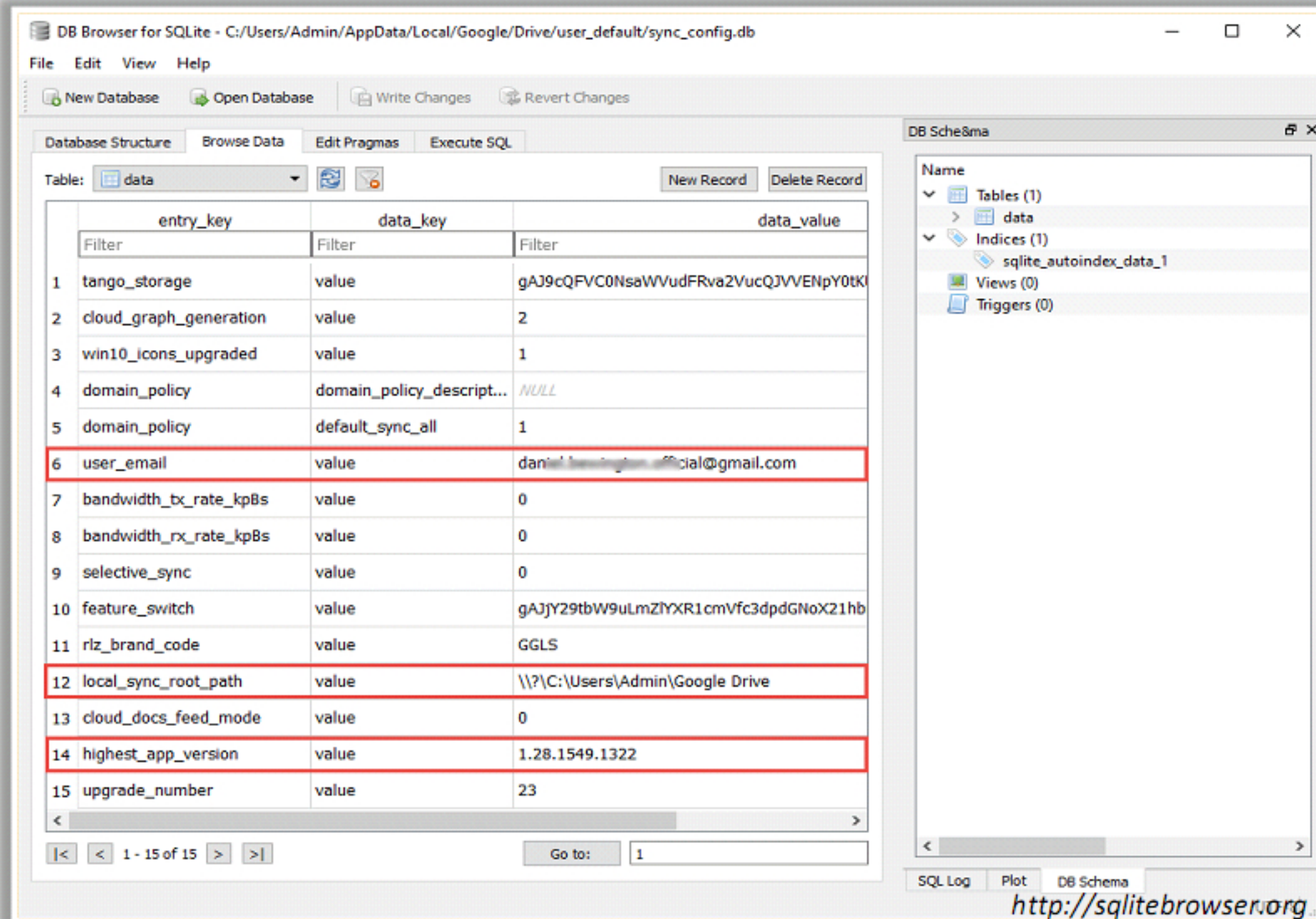
Located at **C:\Windows\Prefetch**





# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- You can run tools such as **DB Browser** to view evidentiary data in the **Sync\_config.db**
- Information includes:
  - Client version installed
  - Local Sync Root Path
  - User email ID





# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- Files given below are in SQLite3 format and can be accessed using SQLite browsers:
  - snapshot.db      sync\_config.db
- You can run tools such as **DB Browser for SQLite** to find information about **local entry** and **cloud entry** in the **Snapshot.db**
- Given below is the snapshot for **cloud entry**, displaying information: file name, created, modified, removed, size, checksum, shared, resource\_type, etc.

DB Browser for SQLite - C:/Users/Admin/AppData/Local/Google/Drive/user\_default/snapshot.db

File Edit View Help

New Database Open Database Write Changes Revert Changes

Database Structure Browse Data Edit Pragma Execute SQL

Table: cloud\_entry

	doc_id	filename	modified	created	acl_role	doc_type	removed	size	checksum	shared	resource_type
	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter	Filter
1	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	Test.pptx	1457605068	NULL	0	1	0	32451	36f5c2624d88...	0	file
2	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	New folder	1457604731	NULL	0	0	0	NULL	NULL	0	folder
3	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	1Scissors.png	1457604559	NULL	0	1	0	117969	2dbd1b6126e...	0	file
4	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	E-mail.png	1457604124	NULL	0	1	0	8974	a41b5972b5a...	0	file
5	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	Checklist.png	1457603144	NULL	0	1	0	89632	bd39052b999...	0	file
6	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	Cd_Dvd_BluRay...	1457603107	NULL	0	1	0	97802	229cb0a1dbe...	0	file
7	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	Battery.png	1457603101	NULL	0	1	0	5899	2d0c1abd06d...	0	file
8	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	Bookmark.png	1457603102	NULL	0	1	0	8807	5984e2ec7...	0	file
9	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	calendar-1.png	1457603102	NULL	0	1	0	10740	c81298e79c1...	0	file
10	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	Calendar.png	1249230084	NULL	0	1	0	77782	0209ae2637b...	0	file
11	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	paintbrush_256...	1186597104	NULL	0	1	0	19440	3511ec4e9db...	0	file
12	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	Flag.png	1248759670	NULL	0	1	0	20494	8e5b4b2ee66...	0	file
13	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	1Clock.png	1249933660	NULL	0	1	0	122025	166e49cf60e0...	0	file
14	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	Bar_Graph.png	1249231434	NULL	0	1	0	50883	2a7f5b0a1be...	0	file
15	0Bwvuwve_Xsk...	man-108.png	1413455363	NULL	0	1	0	47298	7746bbb1bd4...	0	file

DB Schema

Name

- Tables (6)
  - cloud\_entry
  - cloud\_relations
  - local\_entry
  - local\_relations
  - mapping
  - overlay\_status
- Indices (10)
  - cloud\_relations\_child\_doc\_id\_idx
  - cloud\_relations\_parent\_doc\_id\_idx
  - local\_relations\_parent\_inode\_number\_idx
  - mapping\_doc\_id\_idx
  - mapping\_inode\_number\_idx
  - sqlite\_autoindex\_cloud\_entry\_1
  - sqlite\_autoindex\_cloud\_relations\_1
  - sqlite\_autoindex\_local\_relations\_1
  - sqlite\_autoindex\_mapping\_1
  - sqlite\_autoindex\_overlay\_status\_1
- Views (0)
- Triggers (0)

SQL Log Plot DB Schema UTF-8



# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- Given below is the snapshot for **local entry**, displaying information: file name, modified, checksum, size, and is\_folder

The screenshot displays the DB Browser for SQLite application. The main window shows the 'local\_entry' table with the following data:

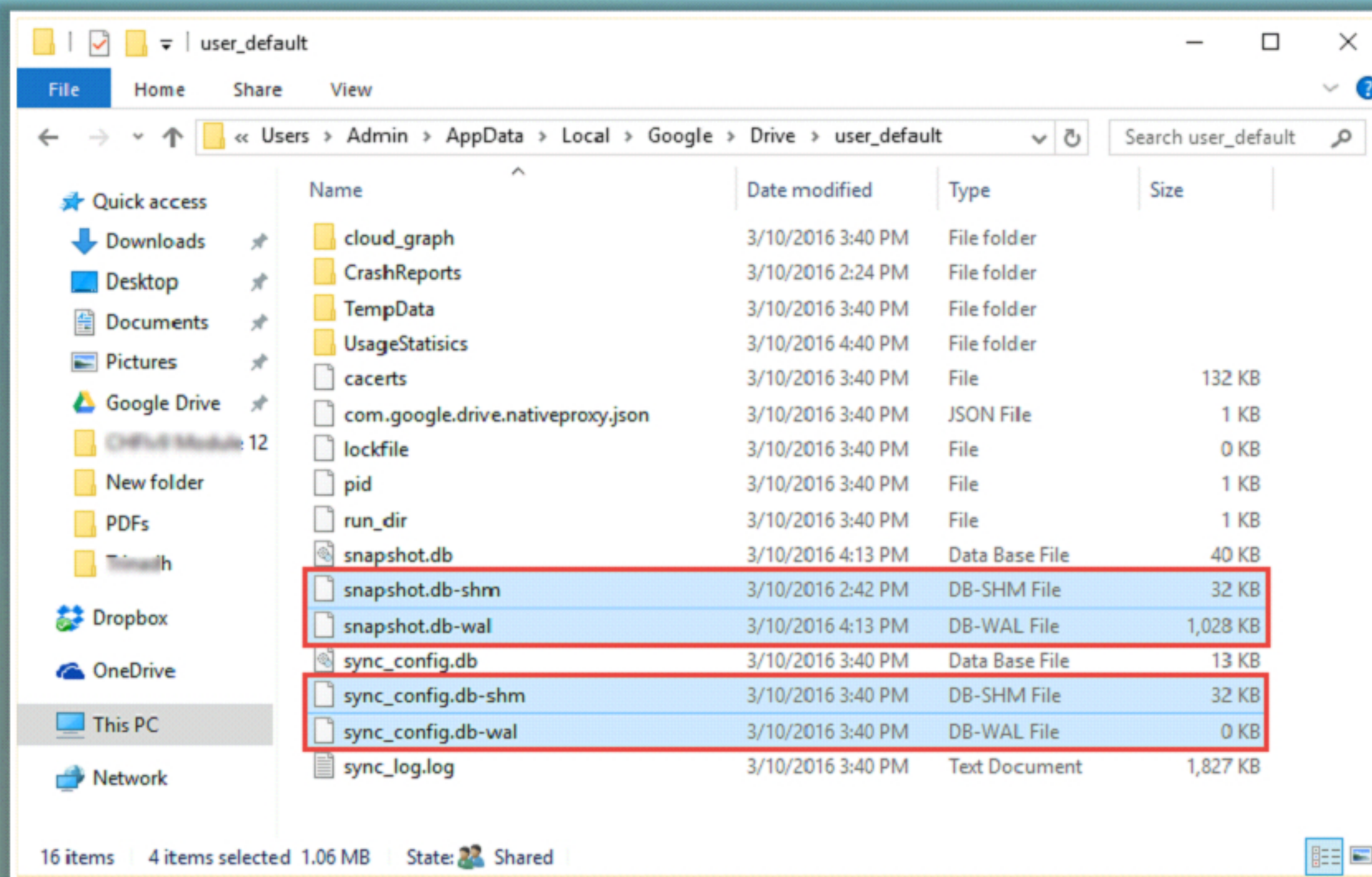
	inode_number	filename	modified	checksum	size	is_folder
1	50665495808...	arrow-6.jpg	1456907909	687e8e9da31...	67885	0
2	50665495808...	basket-1.png	1456907909	c8b94df19ab6...	21366	0
3	50665495808...	Test.pptx	1457605068	36f5c2624d88...	32451	0
4	53480245575...	Banner.png	1456901598	26db69d7dee...	720	0
5	67553994410...	man-133.png	1413455385	4af6873b93f3...	61308	0
6	67553994410...	calender-1.png	1457603102	c81298e79c1...	10740	0
7	70368744177...	Calendar.png	1249230084	0209ae2637b...	77782	0
8	81627743246...	\\?\C:\Users\...	NULL	NULL	NULL	1
9	10414574138...	man-113.png	1413455373	eae7466abcfe...	109143	0
10	10696049115...	man-132.png	1413455383	2ab113ae795...	73487	0
11	10977524091...	man-59.png	1413455386	5ee533ecd0...	17325	0
12	10977524091...	man-129.png	1413455378	51c322cb775...	57413	0
13	11258999068...	man-80.png	1413455392	0a0d096072d...	2972	0
14	12666373951...	man-127.png	1413455374	06917ab40f67...	35412	0
15	13792273858...	man-83.png	1413455396	10b5ba1ac96...	2186	0
16	15199648742...	man-84.png	1413455396	f062f503ad57...	2710	0

The right sidebar shows the database schema, including tables (cloud\_entry, cloud\_relations, local\_entry, local\_relations, mapping, overlay\_status) and indices (cloud\_relations\_child\_doc\_id\_idx, cloud\_relations\_parent\_doc\_id\_idx, local\_relations\_parent\_inode\_num..., mapping\_doc\_id\_idx, mapping\_inode\_number\_idx, sqlite\_autoindex\_cloud\_entry\_1, sqlite\_autoindex\_cloud\_relations\_1, sqlite\_autoindex\_local\_relations\_1, sqlite\_autoindex\_mapping\_1, sqlite\_autoindex\_overlay\_status\_1).



# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- An additional 4 files are created in the default database path directory `C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Google\Drive\user_default` after data is added and synced into Google Drive
- They are temporary files created by SQLite, mainly used for transaction logging such as **rollback changes** when a transaction fails





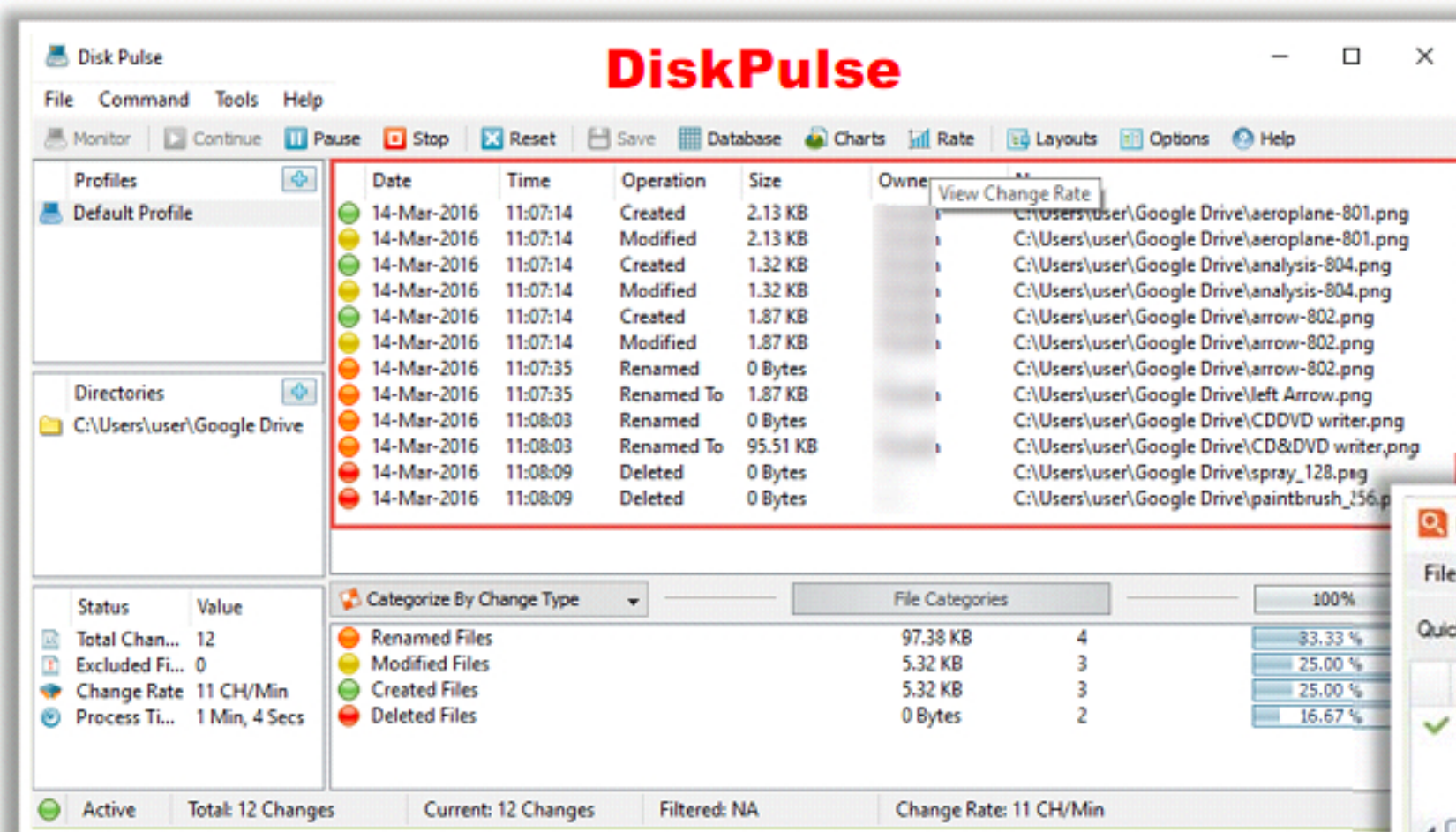
**CHFI**  
Computer Hacking Forensic  
INVESTIGATOR

- 
- The screenshot shows a Windows File Explorer window with the address bar set to `C:\Users\Admin\AppData\Local\Google\Drive\user_default`. The file list includes various folders and files, with `sync_log.log` highlighted. An inset window titled `sync_log.log - Notepad` displays the log content, which includes entries for file creation and deletion events, such as `RawEvent(CREATE, path=..., time=1457605068.176, is_dir=False, ino=LocalID(inode=50665495808))`.

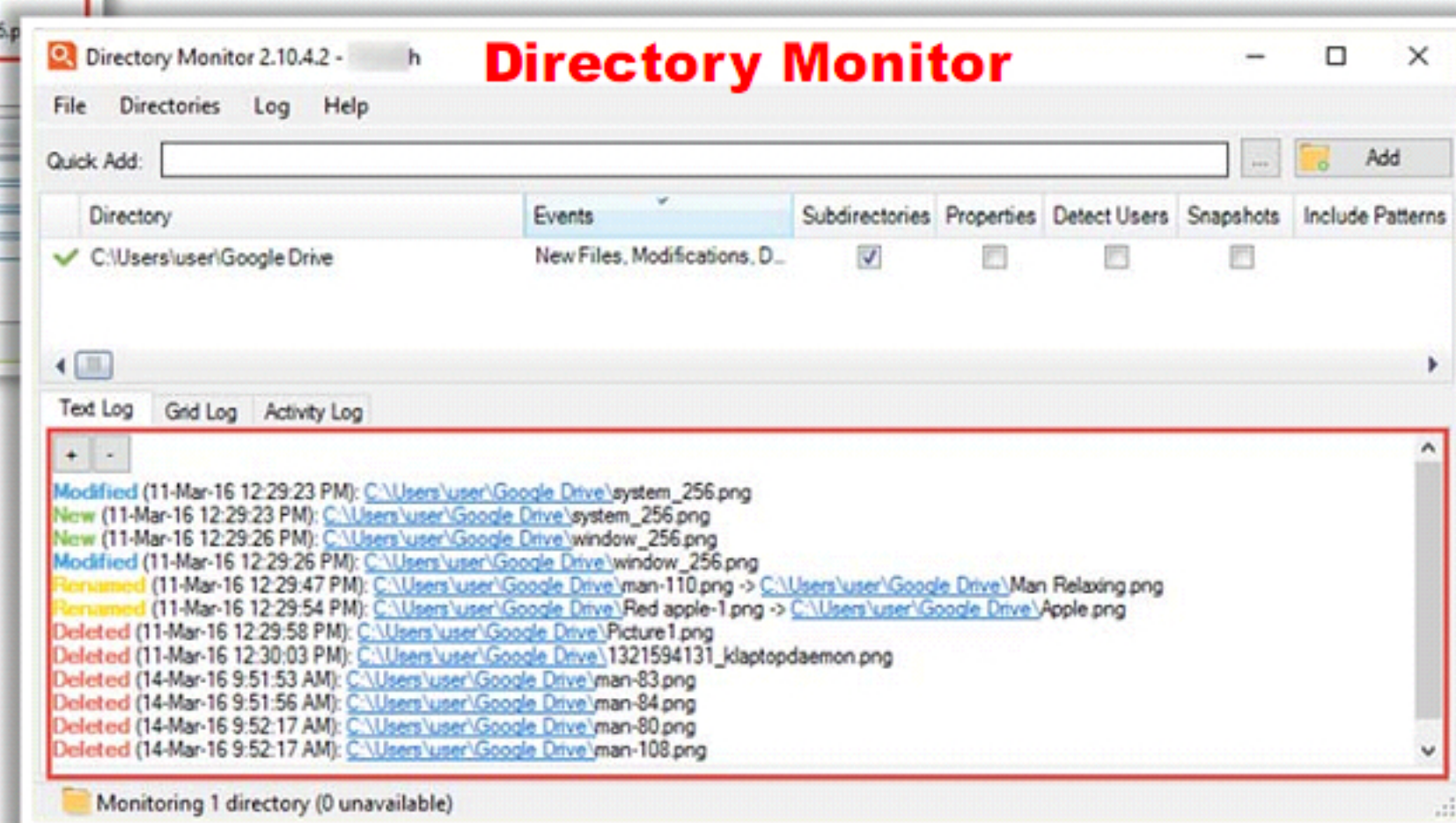


# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- You can view changes (create, modify/rename, and delete) to the Google Drive using tools such as **DiskPulse**, **Directory Monitor**, etc.



<http://www.diskpulse.com>



<https://directorymonitor.com>

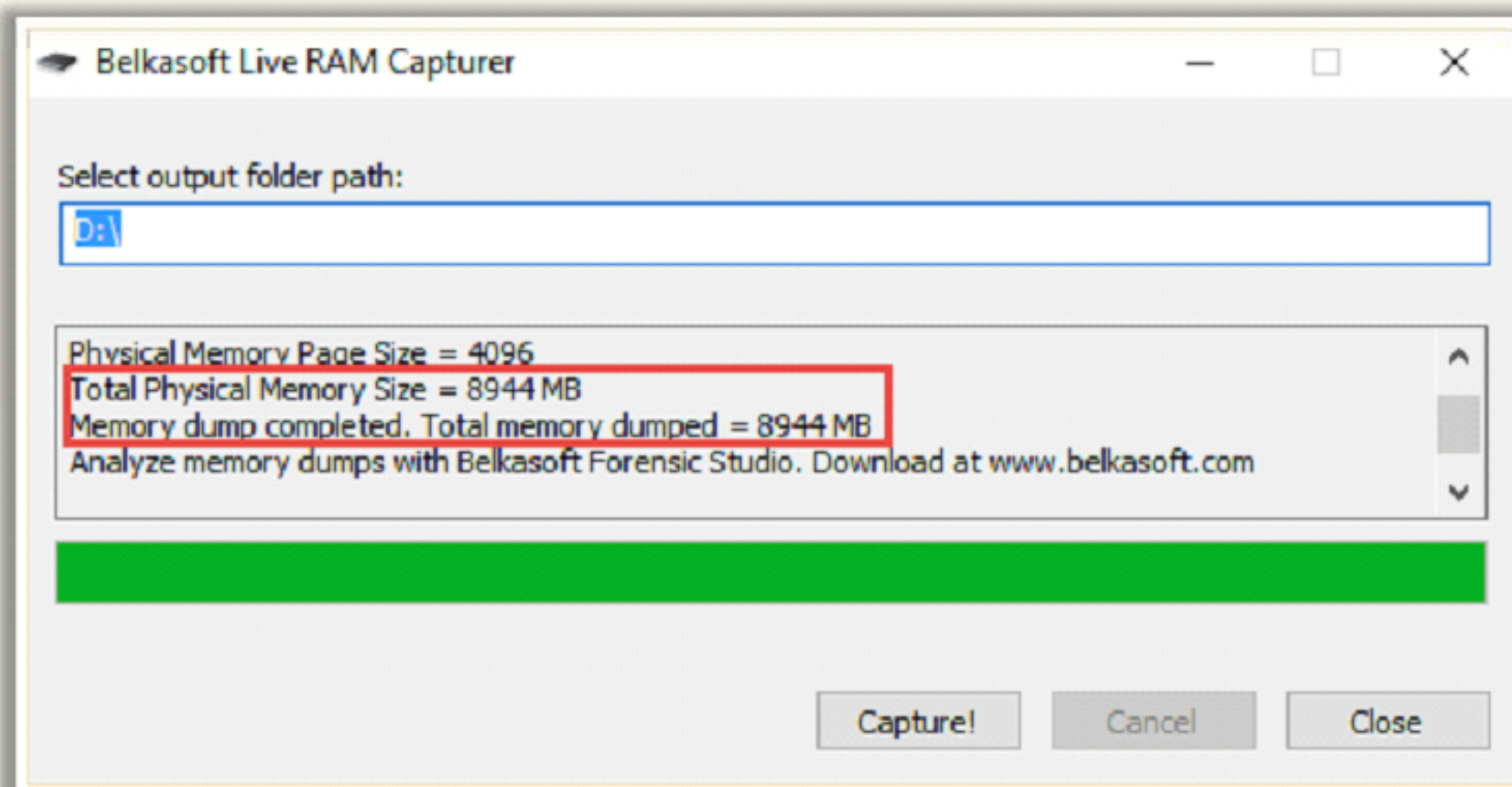


# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- If the Google Drive client is installed on the PC, you can find information about the **sessions in RAM**
- For this, first you need to run tools such as **RAM Capturer** to dump the RAM contents and then use a hex editor tool to analyze the RAM contents

## RAM Capturer:

Forensic tool that allows to reliably extract the entire contents of computer's volatile memory – even if protected by an active anti-debugging or anti-dumping system



<https://belkasoft.com>



# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

## HxD:

HxD is a hex editor which, additionally to raw disk editing and modifying of main memory (RAM), handles files of any size

Given below are the strings that assists you to find out information of evidentiary value (such as user email ID, version number, local\_sync\_folder\_path, snapshot.db and sync\_config.db paths):

■ **User\_emailvalue** – provides user email ID

```
user_emailvalue da...on.official@gmail.com... ..snapshot_reconstructvalue1  
..9..bandwidth_tx_rate_kpBvalue0 ..9..bandwidth_rx_rate_kpBvalue0...)..Selective  
_syncvalue0šd..) .µ%feature
```

■ **local\_sync\_root\_pathvalue** – displays path for the default sync folder and  
**Highest\_app\_versionvalue** – provides version number of Google Drive client

```
local_sync_root_pathvalue \\?\C:\Users\user\Google Drive...5..cloud_docs_feed_mode  
value0*..3.)highest_app_versionvalue1.28.1549.1322...)..upgrade_numbertvalue23  
.....}ÛNÒö(^.Û}.`.I.....V..V
```

<https://mh-nexus.de>

**Note:** Also, the information mentioned above can be obtained from within **Hiberfil.sys** and **Pagefile.sys** located in **C:\**



# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

- **snapshot.db** – displays path for the snapshot.db file

```
...C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Google\Drive\user_default\snapshot.db..C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Google\Drive\user_default\snapshot.db-journal.C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Google\Drive\user_default\snapshot.db-wal.....£7Ža...€2.0.1.6.-.0.3.-.0.7. .1.1.:.4.4.:.4.6.,.6.2.1.
```

- **sync\_config.db** – displays path for the sync\_config.db file

```
sync_config.db..C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Google\Drive\user_default\sync_config.db-journal.C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Google\Drive\user_default\sync_config.db-wal
```



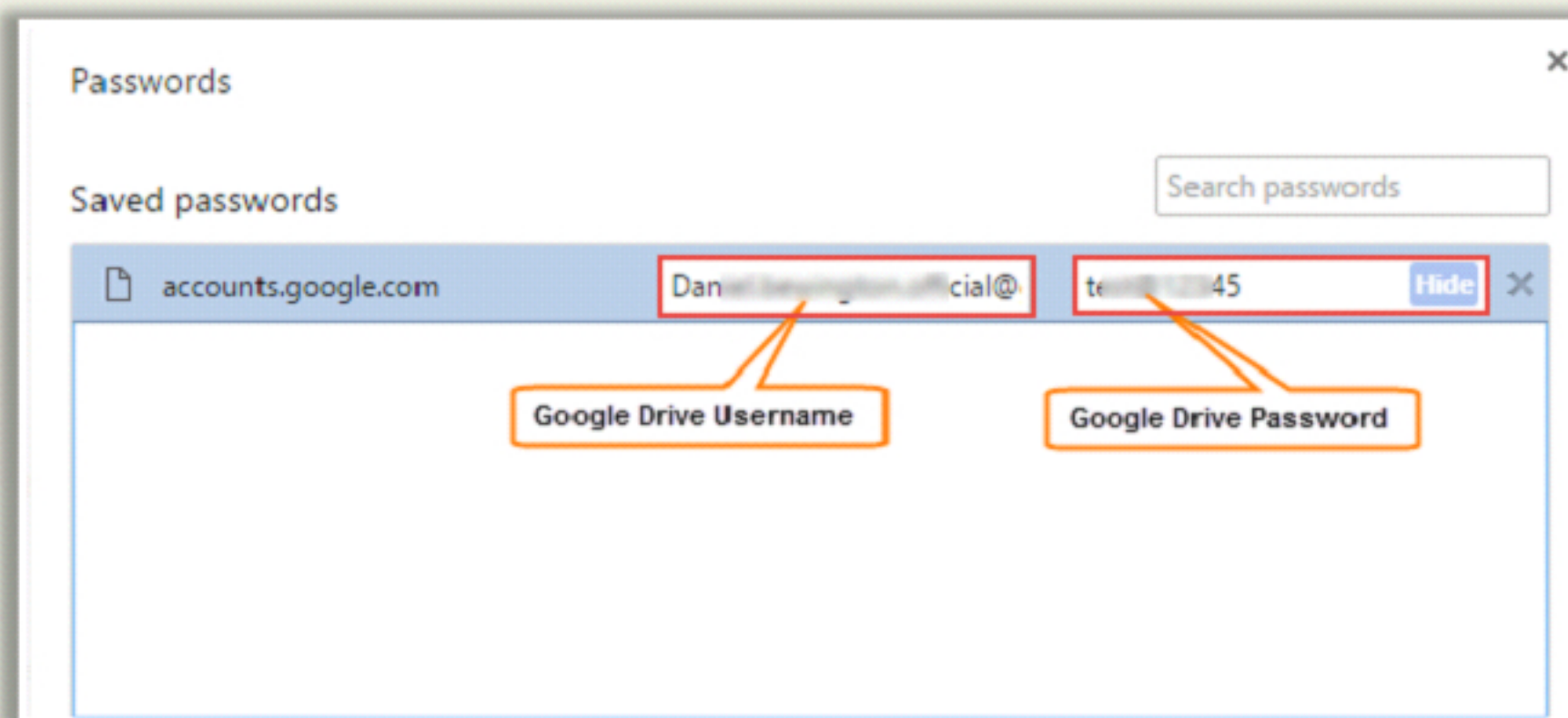
# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

In case of Web-based Google Drive, you can find the **username** and **password** in clear from **RAM dump** using strings:

- "Email= "
- "Passwd="

```
PypfxmQfWuWGdmBiZ2PWdkAxJ19oB2x7DCQP15kABvZz2Aoj2xPp10rwHrI5zVelhelpQ5Z6gwOSJEVWAF05N  
usHcOJDo_v3zYDXmaPiRgEJ2guR9biUtK2JQ42ohytsPODZfCtXx4-5B7D-  
Kbs&pstMsg=1&dnConn=&checkConnection=youtube%3A136%3A1&checkedDomains=youtube&Email=d  
an[REDACTED]cial%40gmail.com&Passwd=te[REDACTED]45&PersistentCookie=yes&signIn=  
Sign+in....:=2n-.....B...a.p.p.l.i.c.a.t.i.o.n./.x.-.w.w.w.-.f.o.r.m.-  
.u.r.l.e.n.c.o.d.e.d.....i...h.t.t.p.s:./.a.c
```

Also, you can find the Web-based Google Drive **login credentials** stored somewhere in the PC (ex: browser). Screenshot below is with respect to the **Chrome**

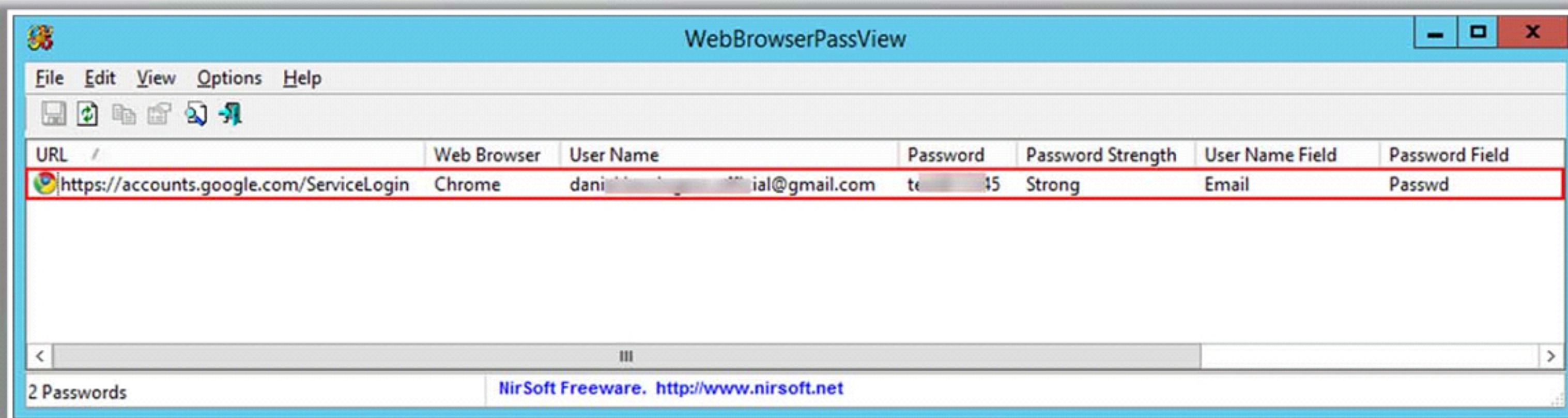




# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)



You can use tools such as **WebBrowserPassView**, a password recovery tool that reveals the passwords stored by the following Web browsers: Internet Explorer (Version 4.0 - 11.0), Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari, and Opera



<http://www.nirsoft.net>



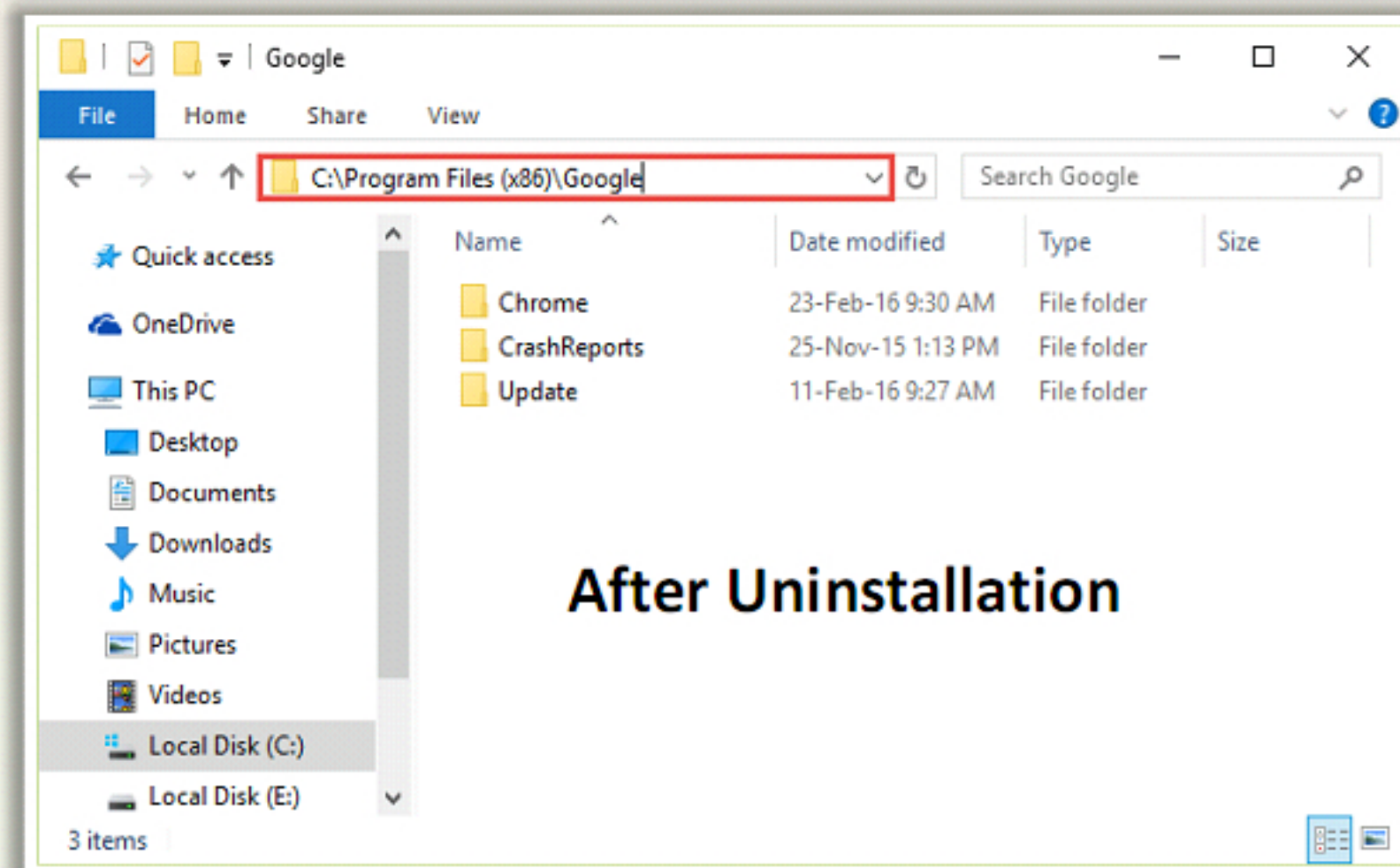
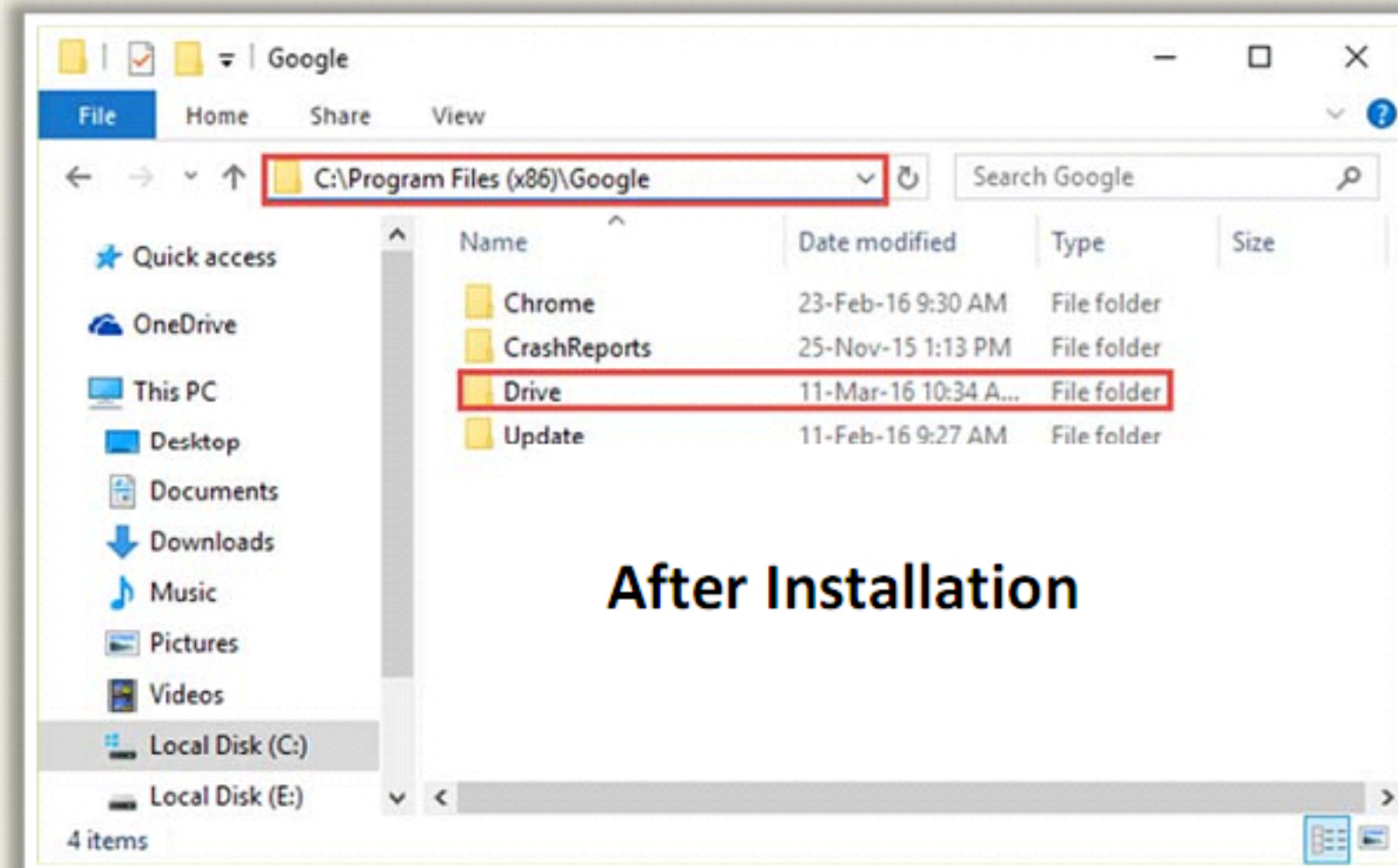
# Artifacts Left by Google Drive Client on Windows (Cont'd)

## Uninstalling the Google Drive Client application:

- removes the client config folder (sync\_config.db)
- Sync\_log.log entries are identified from unallocated space
- does not delete the local copy of the file
- preserves the Prefetch files even after uninstallation

## You can also recover information from:

- Registry keys of recent files
- LiNK files
- Browser history and cache
- Thumbnails
- Registry Point/Volume Shadow Copies
- Pagefile.sys
- Hiberfil.sys





# Cloud Forensics Tools: UFED Cloud Analyzer

The screenshot displays the Cellebrite UFED Cloud Analyzer 4.2.2.14 interface. The main window shows a timeline of 94 events, with a filter for '18 MAY 2015' selected. The events are listed in a table with columns for Time, Parties, Content, and User. The left sidebar contains filters for Data Sources (Dropbox, Google Drive, Google Location History, Facebook, Twitter), Time Ranges, Content Categories & Types, Parties, and Event Properties. The right sidebar shows a detailed view of a specific event, including its content and properties.

Time	Parties	Content	User
18/05/2015 05:15:36 +00:00	Cloudio Brite	Testing back chat in activity log	User
18/05/2015 05:12:44 +00:00	Cloudio Brite	Testing chat in activity log	User
17/05/2015 12:01:52 +00:00	Cloudio Brite	Only me post	User
13/05/2015 13:28:53 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
13/05/2015 12:17:55 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
12/05/2015 08:43:26 +00:00	Cloudio Brite	Cloudio Brite on tour	User
12/05/2015 08:43:26 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
12/05/2015 08:22:33 +00:00	Cloudio Brite, Mareike Neumayer	Hi Mareike, Greetings from Cloudio Brite (aka your ex colleague Joachim ☺).	User
23/03/2015 13:55:01 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
23/03/2015 13:55:01 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
23/03/2015 13:55:01 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User

Provides forensic practitioners with instant extraction, preservation, and analysis of private social media accounts -- Facebook, Twitter, Kik, Instagram -- file storage and other cloud-based account content that can help speed investigations

<http://www.cellebrite.com>



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13/05/2015 13:28:53 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
13/05/2015 12:17:55 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
12/05/2015 08:43:26 +00:00	Cloudio Brite	Cloudio Brite on tour	User
12/05/2015 08:43:26 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
12/05/2015 08:22:33 +00:00	Cloudio Brite, Mareike Neumayer	Hi Mareike, Greetings from Cloudio Brite (aka your ex colleague Joachim ☺).	User
23/03/2015 13:55:01 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
23/03/2015 13:55:01 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User
23/03/2015 13:55:01 +00:00	Cloudio Brite		User

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