DATA RECOVERY TECHNIQUES FOR COMPUTER FORENSICS

Editors:
Alex Khang
Sanchit Dhankhar
Sandeep Bhardwaj
Avnesh Verma
Satish Kumar Sharma

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Data Recovery Techniques for Computer Forensics

Edited by

Alex Khang
Faculty of AI and Data Science
Global Research Institute of Technology and Engineering
Raleigh, North Carolina
USA

Sanchit Dhankhar
Chitkara College of Pharmacy
Chitkara University, Rajpura-140401, Punjab
India

Sandeep Bhardwaj
DRP Education Centre, Chennai
Tamil Nadu 600021, India

Avnesh Verma
Department of Instrumentation
Engg Kurukshetra University
Kurukshetra, India

&

Satish Kumar Sharma
Glocal School of Pharmacy, Glocal University
Mirzapur Pole, Uttar Pradesh 247121, India

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PREFACE

This technical book will provoke a lot of debate as it covers an interesting topic. We feel compelled to share our knowledge, analyses, and conclusions after working for numerous years in the field of pharmacy. We have written many papers and book chapters on various facets. Perhaps this description will increase knowledge of the issue and initiate a discussion that could result in significant ideological transformations. There are two reading categories for this book. First off, it can be read by regular individuals with little to no prior knowledge of science. Professionals from academia and government organizations will be represented by the second set of readers. It is hard to believe that all members of the scientific community will comply with the concepts and ideas presented in this work. But we do hope that the knowledge and information provided will serve as a guide for all the sections of society. In this introductory volume, we embark on a journey into the realm of data recovery, a critical aspect of any forensic investigation. In the digital age, evidence often resides not on physical documents, but within the intricate labyrinth of storage devices. The deleted files, hidden partitions, and encrypted data – these are the challenges computer forensics professionals face, tasked with recovering the hidden pieces of the digital puzzle. There are eleven chapters in the book. The introduction to elementary knowledge of data recovery is introduced in chapter 1 of this book. The reasons for data loss are discussed in Chapter 2, which also provides a detailed knowledge of hardware and software reasons for data loss. The data protecting technologies, elementary knowledge of hard disk, hard disk organization, common cases of partition recovery, FAT16 file system check, management of FAT32 file system, management of NTFS file system, and dynamic disk introduction were introduced in chapters 3 to 10 respectively, along with introduction of data security software in chapter 11. We wish a lot of people read this book. In order to escape the mistakes of the past, we must alter course and begin utilising knowledge built up by scientists.

Happy reading!

Alex Khang
AFaculty of AI and Data Science
Global Research Institute of Technology and Engineering
Raleigh, North Carolina
USA

Sanchit Dhankhar
Chitkara College of Pharmacy
Chitkara University, Rajpura-140401, Punjab
India

Sandeep Bhardwaj
DRP Education Centre, Chennai
Tamil Nadu 600021, India

Avnesh Verma
Department of Instrumentation
Engg Kurukshetra University
Kurukshetra, India

&
Satish Kumar Sharma
Glocal School of Pharmacy, Glocal University
Mirzapur Pole, Uttar Pradesh 247121, India

List of Contributors

Anjali Garg	Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India Swami Devi Dyal College of Pharmacy, Golpura Barwala, Panchkula, Haryana, India
Ankush	Ganpati Institute of Pharmacy, Bilaspur 135102, Haryana, India
Abhinav Singhal	Guru Gobind Singh College of Pharmacy, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India
Ankit Kumar	Ganpati Institute of Pharmacy, Bilaspur, Haryana, Yamuna Nagar, India
Heena Dhiman	M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India
Himanshu Sharma	Ganpati Institute of Pharmacy, Bilaspur 135102, Haryana, India Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura 140401, Punjab, India
Manni Rohilla	Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India Swami Vivekanand College of Pharmacy, Ram Nagar, Banur, Punjab, India
Monika Saini	Swami Vivekanand College of Pharmacy, Ram Nagar, Banur, Punjab, India M.M. College of Pharmacy, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India
Mani Goyal	M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India
Nitika Garg	Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India
Neelam Oberoi	M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India
Pooja Mittal	Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India
Rishabh Chaudhary	M.M. College of Pharmacy, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India
Rajneesh Gujral	M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India
Rajesh Khanna	M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India
Rohini Tewatia	Mahamaya Government Polytechnic of Information Technology, Hariharpur, Khajani, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India
Sachin Dhiman	Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India
Sanchit Dhankhar	Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India
Samrat Chauhan	Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India
Shivam	Ganpati Institute of Pharmacy, Bilaspur 135102, Haryana, India
Shushank Mahajan	Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura 140401, Punjab, India
Vishnu Mittal	Guru Gobind Singh College of Pharmacy, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India
Wasswa Shafik	School of Digital Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Jalan Tungku Link, Gadong, BE1410, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam Dig Connectivity Research Laboratory (DCRLab), Kampala, Uganda

CHAPTER 1

Elementary Knowledge of Data Recovery

Heena Dhiman[1,*], **Sachin Dhiman**[2], **Manni Rohilla**[2,3], **Rishabh Chaudhary**[5], **Anjali Garg**[2,4], **Sanchit Dhankhar**[2], **Nitika Garg**[2], **Monika Saini**[3,5] and **Samrat Chauhan**[2]

[1] *M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India*

[2] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

[3] *Swami Vivekanand College of Pharmacy, Ram Nagar, Banur, Punjab, India*

[4] *Swami Devi Dyal College of Pharmacy, Golpura Barwala, Panchkula, Haryana, India*

[5] *M.M. College of Pharmacy, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India*

Abstract: Data recovery is the process of recuperating deleted, formatted, corrupted, damaged, or inaccessible data from storage media or obtaining files that have no backups. In forensics, data recovery is a crucial stage that aids in extracting digital evidence from devices under suspicion. As cybercrime continues to rise daily, IT enterprises must develop strategies and resources to manage these criminal activities. Logical recovery and physical recovery are the two types of attempts to damage data. Physical damage refers to the act of permanently deleting evidence, which requires specialized tools to fix broken components of the storage device, such as burnt chips, halted spindles, and scratched or smashed plates. In contrast, logical damage occurs when the device's internal data is corrupted by virus attacks, but its physical components remain operational. Software-based techniques can restore data from a storage device that has experienced an operating system logical error or unintentional user deletion. Cybervandals cause damage or destruction in digital form. Digital vandalism seeks to damage, destroy, or disable data, computers, or networks. Various methods are used to retrieve and examine data, even when the file structure has been destroyed or damaged. This chapter addresses many tools and methods available for data recovery from a forensic standpoint.

Keywords: Data, Digital, Hardware, Recovery, Software.

INTRODUCTION

Data recovery in computer forensics involves the retrieval of lost, erased, or corrupted digital information from storage media such as hard disks, solid-state

* **Corresponding author Heena Dhiman:** M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India; E-mail: dhimanheena001@gmail.com

drives, USB drives, and other digital storage devices. The objective of data recovery is to reconstruct and restore data in a functional format for investigative or legal objectives. Data recovery in computer forensics is a crucial procedure that entails retrieving lost, destroyed, or corrupted digital information from storage devices. The goal is to reconstruct and restore data in a functional manner to aid in investigative, legal, or security-related tasks. Data recovery is crucial when digital evidence is endangered by inadvertent deletion [1]. Data loss is the inadvertent or deliberate destruction, alteration, or unavailability of digital data. Data loss in a forensic setting can provide substantial obstacles when investigators attempt to retrieve and examine evidence. Understanding the primary causes of data loss is crucial for forensic investigators and cybersecurity professionals, as it can occur in many situations. Users might unintentionally remove files, directories, or complete partitions, resulting in the loss of crucial data. Furthermore, malfunctions in storage devices such as hard drives, solid-state drives (SSDs), or external drives can also lead to data loss [2].

Common failures may involve disk crashes, faulty sectors, or controller malfunctions. Corruption of file systems or software can occur owing to faults, malfunctions, or malware infections, resulting in files becoming inaccessible or unreadable. Malicious software such as viruses, ransomware, or other malware can infect a system and either destroy or encrypt data, rendering it unusable. Physical damage to storage media, such as fire, water, or impact damage, can result in irreversible data loss. Abrupt power outages or electrical surges can lead to erroneous shutdowns [3].

IMPORTANCE OF DATA RECOVERY

- Data recovery is crucial in cybersecurity, law enforcement, litigation, company operations, and personal data management. It aids in recovering lost or deleted data, assisting in investigations, assuring responsibility, and maintaining the authenticity of digital material. Data recovery is essential for various reasons, particularly in the fields of computer forensics and digital investigations.
- Data recovery allows for the preservation of vital evidence in criminal investigations, civil lawsuits, or cybersecurity incidents. Recovering erased or missing data might offer crucial insights for identifying suspects, establishing timeframes, or demonstrating intent.
- Analyzing recovered data can help recreate events, reveal trends, and discover linkages between individuals or groups involved in illicit acts or security breaches. This analysis can be crucial for constructing a case or comprehending the modus operandi of cybercriminals.
- Data recovery safeguards individuals' rights by enabling access to information that could be pertinent to their defense in legal matters. It helps to preserve

evidence that could prove someone's innocence and guarantees a just trial [4].

- Corporate business continuity depends heavily on data recovery to maintain operations in the face of data loss. Recovering critical corporate data, like customer records, financial information, or intellectual property, minimizes disruptions and financial losses.
- Data recovery helps reduce financial losses caused by data breaches, system failures, or inadvertent deletions. Organizations can prevent the expenses of recreating lost information or compensating affected parties by retrieving vital data [27].
- Many sectors must adhere to stringent regulatory standards for data retention and protection. Data recovery helps enterprises comply with rules by allowing them to recover and store data as required by law.
- Data recovery is essential for individuals to retrieve personal or sentimental data, including family photos, documents, and other digital assets. Data loss due to hardware failure or accidental deletion can be devastating, but data recovery offers a chance to recover these irreplaceable items [2].

COMMON CAUSES OF DATA LOSS

Common reasons of data loss include:

- Preservation of Evidence: If the storage device containing evidence suffers a hardware failure, such as a hard drive crash or corruption, data loss can occur.
- Investigative Analysis: Software errors in forensic equipment might result in data loss. For instance, a flaw in a data recovery tool could accidentally replace or erase crucial evidence.
- Human Error: Errors committed by forensic investigators, like unintentionally deleting files or mishandling evidence, can lead to data loss.
- Malicious Actions: Deliberate alteration or destruction of evidence by attackers or insiders can result in data loss in computer forensics investigations.
- Loss of evidence: Data loss can lead to the destruction of important digital evidence needed for investigations. Compromised investigations can be hindered by incomplete or insufficient data, impacting the ability to recreate events [5].
- Business Continuity: Businesses may experience intellectual property loss, which can affect their competitiveness and security by compromising sensitive information.
- Mitigation of Financial Losses: Failure to safeguard or retrieve essential data might result in legal consequences and non-compliance with regulations.
- Compliance and Regulatory Requirements: Overwriting occurs when investigators neglect to employ appropriate write-blocking methods, leading to the potential loss of valuable evidence by writing over data on the storage medium.

CHAPTER 2

Data Loss Software Reason and Hardware Reason

Wasswa Shafik[1,*]

[1] *School of Digital Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Jalan Tungku Link, Gadong, BE1410, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam Dig Connectivity Research Laboratory (DCRLab), Kampala, Uganda*

Abstract: Data loss (DL) is a detrimental state that occurs inside information systems when data is deleted due to failures or negligence during the processes of storage, transfer, or processing. To minimize the potential for DL or expedite the retrieval of lost data, it is necessary to implement measures like disaster recovery, backup mechanisms, and protocols. Due to the dynamic nature of digital information, the potential threat of DL is a critical concern, highlighting the need for a thorough comprehension of its various underlying factors and the implementation of effective measures to minimize its impact. This study explores the complex domain overview of software and hardware, elucidating the intricate fabric of data vulnerabilities. Human errors, encompassing unintentional deletions and formatting errors, constitute a critical vulnerability in maintaining data integrity. Simultaneously, malicious software and viruses present an ongoing risk by encrypting or destroying crucial data. In addition to the inherent risks, the presence of software faults, malfunctions, and file system corruption exacerbates the situation. In terms of hardware, potential challenges include hard drive failures, degradation of storage media, physical damage, and the unpredictable impact of natural disasters is examined. This research delves into the intricate relationship between software compatibility and firmware difficulties, aiming to get insight into the multifaceted factors contributing to DL. It offers a framework for enhancing resilience by implementing proactive steps, including periodic data backups, selecting safe hardware options, and educating users. Furthermore, it underscores the significance of comprehensive data recovery strategies. Finally, the study argues for a full examination of these aspects, promoting a holistic strategy to protect data at a time when its loss has significant consequences for both individuals and organizations.

Keywords: Data loss, Data recovery, Emerging technologies, Hardware reason, Hardware reason.

[*] **Corresponding author Wasswa Shafik:** School of Digital Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Jalan Tungku Link, Gadong, BE1410, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam Dig Connectivity Research Laboratory (DCRLab), Kampala, Uganda; E-mail: wasswashafik@ieee.org

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INTRODUCTION

Within the complex realm of data integrity, a multitude of software and hardware vulnerabilities create opportunities for potential loss of data. Human errors, which are frequently disregarded, pose a substantial risk [1]. Accidental deletions and formatting errors serve as examples of how vital data can be easily lost. Simultaneously, the surreptitious intrusion of malicious software and computer viruses presents an incessant peril, as it encrypts or corrupts data without exhibiting any remorse. Hardware, despite being commonly considered reliable, also possesses weaknesses [2]. These vulnerabilities include mechanical breakdowns in storage devices and the slow degradation of storage media. These issues might potentially lead to catastrophic data loss incidents. The diverse nature of vulnerabilities necessitates a nuanced approach to prevention and recovery techniques, as highlighted in a research study [3].

In the midst of a complex network of vulnerabilities, the concept of readiness emerges as a crucial and indispensable factor. Proactive data recovery strategies serve as a proactive measure to mitigate the impact of unforeseen data loss incidents, enabling prompt and efficient actions in the face of unexpected occurrences [4]. By acknowledging the inescapable presence of vulnerabilities, these strategies provide a protective mechanism, allowing both organizations and individuals to recover from the verge of data loss. Acknowledging the interconnected nature of software and hardware vulnerabilities, it becomes crucial to adopt an integrated approach that combines preventive measures with strong recovery tactics [5]. The imperative does not solely involve the identification of vulnerabilities but rather encompasses the reinforcement of defenses and the establishment of a resilient infrastructure that can effectively withstand the future onslaught of attacks.

The quantity and diversity of this phenomenon serve as catalysts for pioneering developments across several industries. Data analytics plays a crucial role in the operations of businesses by enabling them to analyze consumer behavior, forecast market trends, and enhance operational efficiency [6]. In the domains of technology like machine learning and artificial intelligence, data plays a fundamental role in providing the basis for advancements in autonomous systems, natural language processing, and predictive analytics [7]. The utilization of data-driven innovation extends beyond the realm of business, as it facilitates progress in scientific research, hence facilitating the exploration of solutions to global concerns such as climate change and healthcare developments [8]. The integration of data with technical advancements has emerged as a crucial catalyst for societal advancement and economic expansion, consistently transforming various sectors and unlocking unparalleled opportunities [9].

Data serves as the medium by which our global society maintains its interconnectedness. Social media platforms, communication networks, and worldwide systems are highly dependent on the efficient flow and processing of data [10]. The phenomenon of interconnection surpasses the limitations imposed by geographical boundaries, hence promoting the formation of global communities, facilitating instantaneous communication, and enabling collaboration on an unprecedented magnitude. The utilization of data-driven communication has fundamentally transformed the processes of information dissemination, sharing, and consumption, leading to significant changes in several domains, such as personal relationships, economic transactions, and diplomatic relations [11]. The efficient functioning of contemporary civilization heavily depends on extensive networks that facilitate the uninterrupted transmission of data, hence enabling a global environment characterized by easy access to information and immediate communication.

The inherent worth of data is in its capacity to furnish actionable insights. Fig. (**1**) presents the top causes of data loss. The emergence of advanced data analytics and big data approaches has provided firms with unparalleled access to useful patterns, trends, and predictions. The utilization of data-driven decision-making has emerged as a fundamental aspect of successful strategies in various industries [12]. Business enterprises utilize data in order to optimize operational procedures, improve customer satisfaction, and foster innovation. Governments utilize data analytics to enhance policy-making processes and the quality of public services. The utilization of data-derived insights enables executives to make well-informed decisions based on evidence, thus promoting efficiency, productivity, and growth [13]. The utilization of data analytics enables the conversion of unprocessed data into practical knowledge, thereby unleashing the capacity for well-informed choices that significantly impact our society.

The acquisition, examination, and application of healthcare data have brought about a transformative impact on the provision of patient care, advancements in medical research, and the enhancement of treatment outcomes [4]. The utilization of electronic health records, medical imaging, and genomic data has facilitated the implementation of personalized medicine, allowing for the customization of therapies based on the distinctive attributes of individual patients. The utilization of data-driven research expedites the process of uncovering novel therapeutic interventions, diagnostic instruments, and techniques for disease prevention [15]. Furthermore, the utilization of data analytics in the healthcare sector has been shown to promote operational efficiency, streamline processes, and improve patient outcomes through the identification of patterns and the prediction of potential health hazards [16]. The integration of data and healthcare has facilitated the advent of precision medicine and significant advancements in medical

CHAPTER 3

Data Protection Technologies

Ankush[1], Shivam[1], Sanchit Dhankhar[2,*], Nitika Garg[2], Himanshu Sharma[1,2], Samrat Chauhan[2], Monika Saini[3] and **Shushank Mahajan[2]**

[1] *Ganpati Institute of Pharmacy, Bilaspur 135102, Haryana, India*

[2] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura 140401, Punjab, India*

[3] *M.M. College of Pharmacy, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana 133-207, Ambala, Haryana, India*

Abstract: The digital age, which can be defined as a collection of various technological solutions such as virtual environments, digital services, intelligent applications, machine learning, knowledge-based systems, *etc*., is responsible for determining the particulars of e-communications, virtualization, information sharing, intelligent applications, and other aspects of the modern world. These particulars are determined by the digital age. The uncontrolled access to information and personal data that is stored at various nodes of the global network poses a possible danger to some fundamental principles of information security and privacy, which may be violated by the technology that is prevalent in the digital era. The purpose of this article is to investigate the factors that distinguish information and personal data protection from other forms of protection, as well as to provide a summary of the most significant dangers to user privacy and security in the digital era. This chapter goes over the fundamentals of data protection architecture, as well as the components of information security that help ward off attacks and threats. In conclusion, the chapter concludes by presenting data protection as an endeavor that is constantly evolving and necessitates continuous adjustments in order to stay up with the ever-changing technical and risk landscape. In order to assist businesses in navigating the complexities of the digital age, this chapter provides insights and recommendations for the development of trustworthy data protection plans.

Keywords: Data, Hardware, Information security.Protection, Software.

INTRODUCTION

The hardware, software, and communications are the three basic components that makeup information systems [1]. This is done with the purpose of developing and executing information security industry standards as protection and prevention

* **Corresponding author Sanchit Dhankhar:** Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura 140401, Punjab, India; E-mail: sanchitdhankhar@gmail.com

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measures at three separate levels or layers: physical, personal, and organizational. The implementation of procedures or policies is essentially the process of instructing individuals (administrators, users, and operators) on how to utilize goods in order to guarantee the confidentiality of information within the companies [2]. Throughout the subsequent sections of this paper, we will examine various aspects of information technology security, and lastly, we will examine the technologies that are now associated with IT security.

The demand for sophisticated data protection systems has become of the utmost importance in light of the growing incidence of cyber threats such as ransomware attacks, phishing efforts, and threats initiated by insiders [3]. To ensure that data is protected during its entire lifecycle, these technologies not only serve as a defense mechanism against external dangers, but they also address weaknesses that exist within the organization [4]. In the realm of data protection technologies, encryption is considered to be one of the fundamental components. Information security refers to the measures taken to prevent unauthorized individuals from gaining access to, using, disclosing, interfering with, altering, or destroying data or information systems.

Commonly, people will use the words information assurance, computer security, and information security interchangeably [5]. While there are some subtle differences between these areas, they are often interconnected and work toward the same goal of protecting information in three ways: availability, integrity, and secrecy. Despite this, they do share a few commonalities [6]. The main elements that cause these variations are the methodologies used, the regions of concentration, and the overall perspective on the topic. The fundamental goals of information security are to ensure the privacy, authenticity, and accessibility of data. This holds true irrespective of the format the data is in, be it digital, printed, or any other form. Computer security does not necessarily have to worry about the data stored or processed by a computer; it might focus on keeping the system up and running smoothly.

Governments, militaries, corporations, banks, hospitals, and private companies all gather vast amounts of sensitive information on their personnel, clients, goods, studies, and financial situation [7]. Many computers now collect, process, and store this data before sending it on to other computers *via* networks. A loss of revenue, legal action, or even bankruptcy may occur if a competitor gets their hands on sensitive information about a company's consumers, finances, or new product line. In many cases, both ethical and legal considerations make it imperative that firms take reasonable precautions to protect customers' personal information.

Individually, privacy, which varies from culture to culture and is perceived in diverse ways, is significantly impacted by information security. Much progress and growth have been achieved in the realm of information security since the turn of the century. There are a number of entry points into the field, which makes it a viable career option. Among the many subfields covered by this site are digital forensics science, business continuity planning, information systems auditing, security testing, application and database security, and network and related infrastructure safeguarding [8]. Lastly, data protection solutions are crucial due to the increasing number of cybersecurity risks and digital data. Data loss prevention (DLP), data encryption, access controls, data masking, and other security measures prevent unauthorized access, data breaches, and privacy violations. Information is better protected with cloud security and better threat detection [52].

Organizations must invest in comprehensive data protection technology as they navigate the digital landscape. This is crucial for keeping the trust of customers, partners, and stakeholders, as well as for meeting compliance requirements. To stay ahead of risks and issues, businesses must continually update and alter their data protection procedures in response to changing technology and cyber threats [9]. Data security and its underlying principles are thoroughly discussed in this chapter.

CRYPTOGRAPHY AND ENCRYPTION

Fundamentals of Cryptography

"Secret communication" is the definition of cryptography. Important for keeping networks safe, this is an outgoing technology [10]. Disclosing private information securely is the goal of cryptography. Conferences marked by divergent opinions, alignment, information, non-denial, and informational objectivity can be usefully examined in this way. Secure computer systems and networks must be safeguarded from such unwanted access in order to process and communicate sensitive or important information. Cryptography is the study of secret codes for communication. To take a larger view, it is all about creating and evaluating rules that thwart attackers. In order to transmit muddled information efficiently, testing is necessary.

One promising approach to achieving robust security in sensor systems is to encrypt messages using a secret key that is known only during transmission and by the recipient [11]. In asset compulsory sensor arrangement, there are a lot of nagging messages about secure key deals between the sender and the receiver. Before clients send their data to a remote distributed storage service, they should encrypt it. This will ensure the data's security. The distributed storage architecture will make the information available without knowing the exact nature of the

CHAPTER 4

Elementary Knowledge of Hard Disk

Manni Rohilla[1,2], Anjali Garg[1,3], Sachin Dhiman[1], Heena Dhiman[4], Rishabh Chaudhary[5], Sanchit Dhankhar[1], Nitika Garg[1], Monika Saini[5] and **Samrat Chauhan[1,*]**

[1] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

[2] *Swami Vivekanand College of Pharmacy, Ram Nagar, Banur, Punjab, India*

[3] *Swami Devi Dyal College of Pharmacy, Golpura Barwala, Panchkula, Haryana, India*

[4] *M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India*

[5] *M.M. College of Pharmacy, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India*

Abstract: A hard disk, also known as a hard drive or HDD (Hard Disk Drive), is an essential element of a computer system that offers extended storage for digital data. Hard disks serve as a storage medium for a diverse array of digital data, encompassing the computer's operating system, applications, documents, multimedia files, and other content. A hard disk is a durable storage device that has one or more magnetically coated platters, arranged in a stacked configuration. These platters are commonly composed of materials such as glass or aluminum. Information is stored on hard disks in the form of magnetically polarized regions on the platters. The platters rotate at high speeds, while a read/write head traverses them to retrieve and alter data. The storage capacities of hard disks can vary significantly, spanning from a few megabytes to many terabytes, and even exceeding that for drives designed for enterprise-level usage. Increased capabilities enable the storage of greater amounts of data. Hard disks have comparatively reduced data access and transfer speeds in comparison to other storage technologies such as Solid-State Drives (SSDs). The velocity of a hard drive is impacted by variables such as rotational speed (measured in RPM), data density, and interface type. Hard disks are mechanical devices, rendering them more vulnerable to physical impacts, which might result in data loss. It is crucial to handle and protect against physical damage in a correct and careful manner. Hard drives establish a connection with a computer through different interfaces, such as SATA (Serial Advanced Technology Attachment) and the more contemporary NVMe (Non-Volatile Memory Express). Over time, the data recorded on a hard disk can undergo fragmentation, which refers to the scattering of distinct parts of the same file across several physical locations on the drive. Performance can be impacted by this, and regular defragmentation can assist in alleviating this problem. To mitigate the potential

[*] **Corresponding author Samrat Chauhan:** Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India; E-mail: samrat.chauhan11@gmail.com

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loss of data resulting from a drive failure or corruption, it is imperative to routinely create backups of critical data, either by utilizing an external hard drive or by utilizing cloud storage. The lifespan of hard disks is finite and can be affected by variables such as usage patterns, climatic conditions, and manufacturing quality. It is crucial to oversee the condition of a hard disk and contemplate replacing it whenever it begins to exhibit indications of deterioration or malfunction. SSDs are typically less cost-effective than hard disks in terms of storage capacity. Consequently, they are widely favored for extensive data storage requirements. To summarize, hard disks are mechanical storage systems that offer cost-effective long-term data storage, with a lower cost per gigabyte compared to SSDs. Desktop and laptop computers extensively utilize them for diverse functions, although consumers must acknowledge their constraints, such as reduced speed and susceptibility to bodily harm. Regular data backups are essential for safeguarding against data loss.

Keywords: HDD, Multimedia, Non-volatile memory express, SSD.

INTRODUCTION TO HARD DISK DRIVES

An HDD, or hard disk drive, is an essential component in contemporary computing, functioning as a key data storage option for many devices [1]. The system functions based on the concept of magnetic storage, employing high-speed rotating disks covered with a magnetic substance to store and retrieve digital data. Every platter is fitted with read/write heads that traverse its surface to retrieve and store data. The actuator arm, which is operated by an actuator motor, precisely sets these heads over the designated tracks on the platters. The entire assembly is driven by a spindle motor, which rotates the platters at different rates, measured as revolutions per minute (RPM).

Hard disk drives (HDDs) provide a cost-efficient option for storing large quantities of data, making them well-suited for applications that require significant storage capacity, such as desktop PCs, servers, and data storage systems. Although HDDs have a long history in the business and utilize mature technology, they encounter obstacles from SSDs because of their mechanical parts, slower speeds, and vulnerability to physical impacts. However, HDDs continue to be a dependable and extensively utilized storage option, effectively combining cost-effectiveness and large store capacities in the constantly changing field of data storage technology [2].

What is a Hard Disk Drive?

An HDD, or Hard Disk Drive, is a data storage device utilized in computers and other electronic devices for the purpose of storing and retrieving digital information. A non-volatile storage medium is capable of retaining data even in the absence of power. An HDD consists of magnetic platters, read/write heads, an actuator arm, an actuator motor, and a spindle motor.

The magnetic platters, commonly composed of aluminum or glass, are circular disks covered with a magnetic substance. The platters contain data in the form of magnetic patterns. Every platter is equipped with an individual read/write head that is positioned on an actuator arm. The actuator arm is responsible for displacing the read/write heads across the platter surfaces in order to access various tracks where data is stored [3].

A spindle motor is tasked with rotating the platters at high velocities, quantified in revolutions per minute (RPM). The velocity at which the platters rotate is a crucial determinant of the efficiency of a hard disk drive (HDD). The actuator motor governs the motion of the actuator arm, precisely positioning the read/write heads over the intended track to facilitate data reading or writing [4].

Hard disk drives (HDDs) are renowned for their substantial storage capabilities and comparatively economical cost per gigabyte in comparison to other storage technologies. For numerous years, they have served as an essential element of computer systems, offering a dependable and economical method for storing substantial quantities of data, such as operating systems, applications, and user files. Nevertheless, HDDs are comprised of mechanical components that are subject to physical deterioration, rendering them vulnerable to damage and potentially constraining their overall performance in comparison to more advanced storage technologies such as Solid-State Drives (SSDs). Notwithstanding these constraints, HDDs remain extensively utilized in diverse computing applications.

Historical Overview

The chronicle of hard disk drives (HDDs) extends over multiple decades and is characterized by notable progressions in technology, storage capacity, and operational efficiency. Below is a concise historical summary of the development of hard drives:

1950s-1960s: Early Concepts and Magnetic Drum Storage

The utilization of magnetic storage for data originated in the 1950s. Magnetic drum storage, although an early iteration of data storage, was characterized by its cumbersome size and restricted capacity [5].

CHAPTER 5

Hard Disk Data Organization

Sanchit Dhankhar[1,*], **Nitika Garg**[1] and **Himanshu Sharma**[1]

[1] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

Abstract: The ideas and sophisticated methods governing the storage and retrieval of digital information are explored in depth in this chapter as they pertain to the complex world of hard disc data organization. The path starts with a deep dive into hard disc drives (HDDs), exposing their inner workings, disc geometry, and storage basics. The research explores FAT32, NTFS, and exFAT, among others, to better understand their inner workings. The trade-offs involved in maximizing storage efficiency and performance are unpacked, including those involving sequential *versus* random access, fragmentation, and clustering schemes. Disk partitioning is also investigated in detail; topics covered include partitioning fundamentals, partition kinds, and the significance of the Master Boot Record (MBR) and GUID Partition Table (GPT). These frameworks provide the groundwork for learning how data is organized on storage devices, taking into account things like available space, compatibility, and redundancy. The last leg of the journey is an examination of developing tendencies, with a focus on the revolutionary effects of Solid State Drives (SSDs) and cloud storage. The trend toward quicker, more reliable, and scalable storage solutions is highlighted by comparisons between SSDs and conventional HDDs, insights into data organization on SSDs, and the incorporation of cloud storage and remote data organization. This section summarizes an exploration of the ever-changing world of data storage, with a focus on why it is crucial to be aware of current concepts and trends in data organizing on hard drives. These discoveries aid in the development of storage structures that meet the ever-changing needs of modern computing, allowing for the preservation of data accessibility, security, and efficiency in the face of shifting paradigms.

Keywords: Data, ExFAT, GPT, GUID, Hard disk, HDD, MBR FAT32, NTFS, Organization, SSD.

INTRODUCTION

The intricate tapestry of hard disc data organization emerges as a crucial facet shaping the functionality and efficiency of modern computing systems in today's ever-changing technological landscape, where the digital realm is pervasive and the demand for data storage has reached unprecedented heights [1]. Hard disc

* **Corresponding author Sanchit Dhankhar:** Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India; E-mail: sanchitdhankhar@gmail.com

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drives (HDDs) store an ever-increasing sea of digital information, and their pervasiveness highlights their everlasting significance as repositories [2]. This section begins an exhaustive investigation, a subtle voyage, into the complexities of hard disc data organization, peeling back the layers that govern how information is stored, retrieved, and administered within these magnetic archives [3].

One must become well-versed in the narrative that led us to the current technological juncture in order to fully grasp the relevance of hard disc data organizing [4]. The advent of the digital age did not happen all at once, but rather as a result of a cascade of technological breakthroughs [5]. The progression from the early days of computers, when information was saved on punch cards and magnetic tapes, to the modern era, when high-capacity hard disc drives are commonplace, has been nothing short of astonishing [6]. As we move forward through history, it becomes clear that the explosion of digital data has required a corresponding leap forward in data storage technology [7].

The introduction of hard disc drives changed everything by providing a more flexible and user-friendly option for archiving data [8]. Data storage, retrieval, and manipulation were no longer constrained by the slowness or inefficiency of physical media [9]. The sophisticated link of bits and bytes on hard discs serves a greater purpose than just archiving information [10]. The art and science of maximizing the terrain over which the digital storey is played out is at the heart of hard disc data organizing [11]. Data management is the art of making the retrieval, modification, and use of data flow like a well-orchestrated symphony of ones and zeros [12].

The effectiveness of hard disc data organization becomes the cornerstone upon which the stability and performance of computer systems swing, whether we're talking about desktop PCs, corporate servers, or massive data centers [13]. Now think about the personal computer, a tool that has become indispensable in today's world. Everything is deeply intertwined in the fabric of hard disc data management, from the operating system that controls its functionality to the countless applications and files that populate its storage. Not just technical jargon, measurements like access times, file fragmentation, and data integrity determine how easily and quickly information can be retrieved and used [14].

The stakes are considerably higher in the business world, where information is a commodity with enormous worth [15]. Enterprises rely on elaborate databases, complex file systems, and interconnected networks, all of which are grounded by the principles of hard disc data organization [16]. Effective data organization strategies are crucial to a company's success because they provide for easy access to relevant information, protection of sensitive data, and the capacity to adjust to changes in the company's digital footprint [17]. Data organization on hard drives is revealed to be more than just a technicality as we proceed through this investigation; it is the unseen conductor of today's computer symphony [18]. It determines whether or not a user has a quick, fluid interaction with a piece of technology or a slow, choppy one [19].

In a world where knowledge is encoded in the binary language of computers, it is the lynchpin that ensures the reliability of digital information [20]. Exploring the intricacies of data structure on hard drives is a complex adventure that spans the worlds of theory, practice, and a constantly shifting technological landscape [21]. This investigation is not a dry rundown of facts; rather, it is an open invitation to explore beneath the surface of this essential component of contemporary computing to discover its basic principles [22].

The storey will wind its way through the fundamental ideas that determine the very anatomy of hard disc drives as we move through the chapters. From platters and heads to the delicate dance of disc geometry, we will unpack the layers of complexity that make up these magnetic marvels. Deciphering the language in which the history of data storage is written requires an understanding of the fundamental parts. File systems, the underlying architecture that controls how information is stored and retrieved, will be investigated further. Each file system, from the common FAT32 to the powerful NTFS and the flexible exFAT, represents a different part of the wider storey of information management.

We will dissect file allocation tables, revealing their inner workings and exploring the benefits and drawbacks they bring to the table when it comes to arranging data. In addition, the route will take you through the many methods of data organization. Each thread in the tapestry of effective data retrieval and storage — the contrast between sequential and random access, the subtleties of fragmentation, and the strategic grouping of data — is essential. The methods behind digital information organization, including contiguous allocation, linked allocation, and indexed allocation, will be laid out in detail across the chapters.

BASIC CONCEPTS

Understanding Hard Disk Drives

Hard disc drives (HDDs) are the unsung heroes of today's ever-changing computer landscape, working in the background to make it possible to store and retrieve massive amounts of digital information. In order to really appreciate the ingenuity of a hard disc drive, one must take the time to explore its inner

CHAPTER 6

Common Cases of Partition Recovery

Heena Dhiman[1], Rajneesh Gujral[1], Rajesh Khanna[1], Neelam Oberoi[1], Sachin Dhiman[2], Rohini Tewatia[3] and **Manni Rohilla[2]**

[1] *M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India*

[2] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

[3] *Mahamaya Government Polytechnic of Information Technology, Hariharpur, Khajani, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India*

Abstract: A number of automatic operations are carried out by partition recovery tools in an effort to repair damaged or erased partitions and/or recover data from them. A deleted partition results in the removal of its entry from the partition table. The data has not been erased from the disc, even if it looks intimidating that a whole information partition is no longer visible. In essence, eliminating the partition is like taking out a book's table of contents—all the material that is not on the table is still there; you simply need to use different techniques to locate it. Partition recovery tools can be useful in this situation. Partition table entry restoration is the process of looking across the disc space for a missing partition or a boot sector. It will contain all the data required to recreate the partition table entry by locating the partition boot sector. You can restore the boot sector to recover the volume because both FAT32 and NTFS drives keep backup boot sectors. Partition table entry reconstruction involves looking across the disc space for a partition boot sector or data from destroyed partition information. There are numerous tools for partition recovery that can be used to recover data that was accidentally erased or damaged to the partition. These tools have different features that can make the process of restoring data easier.

Keywords: Cyber Attacks, Corruption, Data Retrieval, Hardware, Malware, Partition, Recovery.

INTRODUCTION

Background

Within the domain of digital investigations, forensic examiners frequently face the significant obstacle of partition loss on storage systems. A partition is a crucial

* **Corresponding author Heena Dhiman:** M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India; E-mail: dhimanheena001@gmail.com

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element of any storage medium, functioning as a logical divide that arranges and stores data. Accidental deletion, corruption, or formatting of partitions can lead to the loss of important evidence that is crucial for forensic examinations. It is essential for forensic investigators to comprehend the complexities of partition loss and employ effective recovery methods in order to retrieve vital information from storage devices. Partition loss can result from a wide range of circumstances, including unintentional user actions and malicious interventions. Partition loss can occur due to several factors such as accidental deletion, disk formatting, partition table corruption, hardware malfunctions, software mistakes, and virus attacks [1]. Forensic examiners face distinct obstacles in recovering lost partitions and the crucial data they hold in each of these instances. The absence of partitions can greatly complicate forensic investigations, obstructing the recovery of crucial evidence and jeopardizing the integrity of the examination process. Lack of access to vital data contained in missing partitions might impede investigators in their efforts to recreate digital timelines, identify culprits, or establish the chronological order of events pertinent to the case at hand [2]. Furthermore, the incapacity to retrieve lost partitions could compromise the acceptability and reliability of evidence in court processes.

Purpose of Partition Recovery

Partition recovery in computer forensics serves multiple purposes and is crucial for effectively investigating digital occurrences. The main objectives of partition recovery in computer forensics are as follows:

1. Data Retrieval: The primary objective of partition recovery is to recover data that has been lost, erased, or is not accessible, and is contained within partitions on storage devices. Essential digital evidence for forensic investigations can be found in lost or destroyed partitions, encompassing many types of data such as documents, emails, photos, videos, system logs, and metadata. Forensic examiners can retrieve and extract significant evidence related to the inquiry by restoring lost partitions.
2. Evidence Preservation: Preserving the integrity of digital evidence is of utmost importance, and partition recovery is a vital component in achieving this goal. If partitions are lost or erased, there is a potential for data corruption or overwriting, particularly if the storage device is still being utilized. Forensic examiners reduce the possibility of data loss or modification and maintain the integrity and admissibility of evidence in judicial proceedings by rapidly retrieving lost partitions.
3. Reconstruction of Digital Timelines: The reconstruction of digital timelines involves recovering lost or deleted partitions that may include valuable historical data pertaining to the sequence of digital events being investigated.

Forensic investigators can develop timelines of user activity, system events, file updates, and conversations by reconstructing missing partitions and examining the data contained within them [3]. An accurate chronological reconstruction is crucial for comprehending the order of events and assigning actions to particular individuals or entities.

4. Identification of Malicious Activities: Malicious actions can be identified and analyzed through the use of partition recovery, which allows forensic investigators to detect and examine evidence of cyber assaults, data breaches, or insider threats. Restored partitions may contain traces of malicious software, unauthorized intrusion attempts, or data theft operations. Through the analysis of retrieved data, forensic examiners can ascertain the characteristics and extent of security events and identify the individuals or entities responsible for them.
5. Support for Legal Proceedings: Recovered partitions and their data are vital evidence in legal procedures, such as criminal investigations, civil litigation, and regulatory compliance problems. The retrieved data can be utilized to confirm or contradict assertions, determine responsibility, or exhibit adherence to legal obligations. Thoroughly established procedures for recovering partitions and conducting forensic examinations guarantee the acceptability and reliability of evidence in a court of law [4].

UNDERSTANDING PARTITION LOSS

Partition loss presents substantial obstacles to forensic investigations, requiring a sophisticated comprehension of its origins, consequences, and methods of recovery. This chapter seeks to provide forensic practitioners with the necessary knowledge and strategies to minimize the effects of partition loss and achieve favorable results in digital examinations. Partition loss in computer forensics can arise from various factors, each carrying its consequences for digital investigations [5].

Causes of Partition Loss

Partition loss in computer forensics can arise from diverse sources, each with its consequences for digital investigations. Below are a few prevalent factors that might lead to partition loss in computer forensic situations:

- Accidental Deletion: Human mistakes are frequently responsible for the loss of partitions. Novice users or system administrators may unintentionally erase partitions when attempting to carry out disk management operations.
- Disk Formatting: The process of formatting a storage device involves completely erasing all previous data, including any partition information. Although disk formatting is typically done purposefully to prepare a drive for usage or to address disk-related problems, it can also lead to partition loss if

CHAPTER 7

FAT16 File System Disk

Vishnu Mittal[1,*], **Abhinav Singhal**[1] and **Shushank Mahajan**[2]

[1] *Guru Gobind Singh College of Pharmacy, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India*

[2] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

Abstract: Background: The historical development of the FAT16 file system highlights its inception, evolution, and key milestones. It explores the technological landscape that necessitated the creation of FAT16, shedding light on the challenges and requirements that shaped its design.

Objective: The primary objective is to conduct a detailed analysis of the FAT16 file system considering its architecture, functionality, and historical significance. By dissecting the internal workings of FAT16, we aim to provide readers with a deeper comprehension of its strengths, weaknesses, and enduring relevance.

Method: The methodological approach involved a meticulous examination of the FAT16 file system architecture, data organization principles, and operational mechanisms. We employed a combination of literature review, system analysis, and practical experimentation to unravel the intricacies of FAT16 and its role in data storage.

Results: The findings present a nuanced understanding of FAT16, elucidating its role in early computing, its file structure, and the constraints it imposes on modern storage solutions. This chapter explores how FAT16 influences disk space utilization, directory organization, and file access, providing valuable insights into its impact on data management.

Conclusion: While recognizing its historical importance, we explored the constraints that FAT16 poses in light of present-day storage requirements. This conclusion reflects the lasting impact of FAT16 and ponders its influence on the design and development of future file systems.

Keywords: Disk Drives, Data Management, FAT16, File System, Storage Solutions.

* **Corresponding author Vishnu Mittal:** Guru Gobind Singh College of Pharmacy, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India; E-mail: Vishnumittal720@gmail.com

Alex Khang, Sanchit Dhankhar, Sandeep Bhardwaj, Avnesh Verma & Satish Kumar Sharma (Eds.)

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, computers have gradually become the primary record keepers of human activity. The trend has been further amplified by the emergence of PCs, handheld devices such as mobile phones, the Internet, multimedia, and telecommunications. Data have become increasingly important in today's world as they can be lost either intentionally by users to free up storage space or accidentally [1]. In the future, if the user requires the same data, it will not be possible to retrieve it at that time; it can only be obtained if a backup copy is obtained. Data recovery, both for the general public and for forensic purposes (*i.e.*, digital forensics), is an evolving field in computer applications [2].

File systems are the most critical component of a computer, as they serve as a durable storage and retrieval mechanism for data. File systems enable users to organize data in a hierarchical structure comprising directories and files (Fig. **1** & Table **1**) [3].

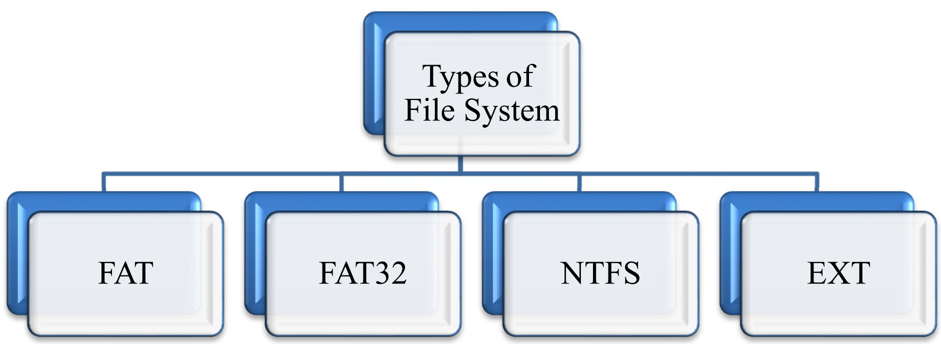

Fig. (1). Types of File System [5].

Table 1. Aspects of FAT16.

Aspects	Details
Definition	A file system is a structured method for organizing and managing data on storage devices, enabling the storage, retrieval, and modification of files.
Importance	File systems play a pivotal role in computer forensics, serving as the foundation for data storage and retrieval. Understanding them is essential for evidence extraction and data recovery.
FAT16 Overview	Definition: FAT16 (File Allocation Table 16-bit) is a file system commonly used in earlier Windows operating systems and on removable storage devices Structure: It consists of a boot sector, FAT, root directory, and data clusters.

(Table 1) cont.....

Aspects	Details
Key Concepts	Boot Sector: Contains critical information about the file system's layout and structure, crucial for forensic analysis. FAT Entries: Record the allocation status of data clusters, determining the file storage location. Root Directory: Initial directory structure containing file and folder information.
Data Storage and Retrieval	Allocation Methods: FAT16 employs cluster allocation for storing data files. Directory Entries: Information about files, including attributes, file names, and extensions. File Deletion: Deleted files leave traces in the FAT, posing challenges and opportunities for recovery.
Challenges in FAT16 Analysis	Fragmentation: Fragmented files impact data recovery and necessitate specialized handling. Deleted Files: Recovering deleted files involves understanding FAT entries and potential file carving.
Forensic Tools for FAT16	Disk Imaging: Essential for creating forensic copies, and preserving the integrity of the original disk. File Carving Tools: Aid in recovering files by searching for file signatures and structures.
Legal Considerations	Admissibility: Ensuring that forensic practices adhere to legal standards that is crucial for the acceptance of findings in court. Chain of Custody: Maintaining a secure chain of custody for forensic evidence is imperative for legal validity [4].

FAT16 BASICS

Basics and Historical Context

File systems typically possess a predetermined structure that is highly beneficial for storing a multitude of files within a storage array. Certain data require a fundamental structure and arrangement within their file hierarchy (Fig. **2**) [6].

Fig. (2). FAT16 Basics [7].

CHAPTER 8

Management of FAT32 File System

Rohini Tewatia[1,*], **Heena Dhiman**[2], **Rajneesh Gujral**[2] and **Sachin Dhiman**[3]

[1] *Mahamaya Government Polytechnic of Information Technology, Hariharpur, Khajani, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India*

[2] *M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India*

[3] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

Abstract: File Allocation Table (FAT) is a file system that maintains track of where files are placed on a disk and how much storage space is available for new files. The FAT file system is divided into several sections that are arranged in a specific order. Initially, the boot sector holds the data that the file system requires in order to access the volume. The allocation table region includes a file index to the system. Small disks as well as basic folder structures were the original targets of the FAT file system's design. It is still utilized in drives that are meant to run multiple operating systems, like those found in shared environments for Linux, DOS, and Windows. The cluster number for the FAT file system needs to be a power of two and fit in 16 bits. FAT32 is so straightforward and has such a long history, nearly every operating system supports it. Moreover, Windows permits NFTS and FAT32 to live together on a system. ExFAT, the successor to FAT32, supports files and partitions up to 128 petabytes, or 128,000 terabytes, and comes with more options and more storage capacity than FAT32. There are some FAT security factors to consider such as hardening, passwords and several more will be covered in a later section.

Keywords: FAT32, Forensic, Linux, MacOS, Windows.

INTRODUCTION

Background

FAT32, an abbreviation for File Allocation Table 32, is a prevalent file system format employed in diverse storage devices, including USB drives, memory cards, and older hard drives. FAT32 was created by Microsoft as an expansion of the previous FAT file system. The introduction of the FAT32 file system in 1996 with Windows 95 OSR2 aimed to overcome the restrictions of the old FAT file system,

* **Corresponding author Rohini Tewatia:** Mahamaya Government Polytechnic of Information Technology, Hariharpur, Khajani, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India; E-mail: er.heenacse@mmumullana.org

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such as the restricted maximum volume size and file size. FAT32 is capable of accommodating files up to 4 GB in size and volumes up to 2 terabytes, making it ideal for various storage devices. FAT32 enjoys extensive compatibility with many operating systems, such as Windows, macOS, Linux, and various embedded systems. It employs a hierarchical directory structure to efficiently arrange files and directories on the storage device. The system utilizes a File Allocation Table (FAT) to monitor the assignment of clusters to files. This cluster-based allocation method is used for storing data on the disk [1]. The cluster size is subject to variation based on the volume's size, with larger volumes often having greater cluster sizes. The size of the cluster directly impacts the effectiveness of utilizing disk space and storing files. FAT32 is widely utilized in portable storage devices such as USB flash drives, memory cards, and digital cameras due to its extensive interoperability and cross-platform support. Additionally, it finds applications in specific embedded systems and outdated external hard drives. Due to the emergence of more recent file systems like NTFS (New Technology File System) and exFAT (Extended File Allocation Table), which provide superior performance, increased file size support, and sophisticated functionalities, FAT32 has become less prevalent in contemporary computer settings [2]. Nevertheless, it continues to be favored in specific contexts where adherence to earlier systems is necessary.

Purpose of FAT32 File System

FAT32 is a crucial tool for forensic investigators, as it offers a standardized and easily accessible format for storing and examining digital evidence in different forensic investigations. The compatibility, simplicity, and well-documented structure of FAT32 make it a valuable tool for forensic examiners to conduct comprehensive and efficient examinations of storage media. FAT32 is widely supported by various operating systems such as Windows, macOS, Linux, and various embedded systems. Forensic examiners can conveniently access and analyze storage devices formatted with FAT32 on various platforms, enabling cross-platform forensic investigations.

The extensively documented structure of this file system simplifies the process for forensic investigators to recover deleted files and lost data from such storage devices. Examiners can reconstruct file systems and recover significant evidence that may have been erased or hidden by studying the File Allocation Table (FAT) and directory entries [3]. Forensic analysts have the ability to examine directory entries, timestamps, file attributes, and other metadata in order to reconstruct the structure of the file system and trace the usage and modification history of files and directories. By generating forensic disk images or logical backups of storage devices that are formatted with FAT32, analysts can ensure the preservation of the authenticity and admissibility of digital evidence in legal proceedings [1].

Scope of the Chapter

The scope of this chapter typically includes a comprehensive exploration of various aspects related to the FAT32 file system.

OVERVIEW OF FAT32

Introduction to FAT32

The progression and development of the file allocation table (FAT) system took place,specifically from the 16-bit version (FAT16) to the 32-bit version (FAT32). The transition from FAT16 to FAT32 in computer forensics signifies a notable progression in storage technology and the capabilities of file systems. Below is a summary of the change and its ramifications for forensic investigations:

- Enhanced Storage Capacity: The main motive behind the shift from FAT16 to FAT32 was the requirement for a greater storage capacity. The FAT16 file system imposed restrictions on both the capacity of volumes and files, which became more constricting as storage technology progressed.
- File System EfficiencyFAT32 resolved this constraint by enabling greater capacities for volumes and individual files, thus fitting the expanding storage demands of contemporary computer systems. FAT32 brought enhancements to file system efficiency when compared to FAT16.
- Compatibility and Interoperability: FAT32 improved storage efficiency by employing lower cluster sizes and optimized disk space allocation, resulting in enhanced storage use and reduced wastage on storage devices. The enhanced efficiency has ramifications for forensic investigations, as analysts were able to scrutinize storage media more efficiently and retrieve erased files with heightened precision.
- Forensic Analysis Challenges: FAT32 ensured compatibility with FAT16 while simultaneously enhancing interoperability with contemporary operating systems and devices. Due to its compatibility with various platforms, FAT32 became the favored option for portable storage devices like USB flash drives and memory cards. From a forensic standpoint, the compatibility and interoperability of FAT32 allowed investigators to examine storage media formatted with FAT32 using a diverse array of forensic instruments and software.
- Forensic Analysis Challenges: The shift from FAT16 to FAT32 posed difficulties and advantages for investigative purposes. Although FAT32 provided improved functionalities and compatibility, it also brought about intricacies in the process of recovering and analyzing data. Forensic examiners

CHAPTER 9

Management of NTFS File System

Neelam Oberoi[1,*], Mani Goyal[1], Heena Dhiman[1], Sachin Dhiman[2] and **Shushank Mahajan[2]**

[1] *M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India*

[2] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

Abstract: A sector is the smallest physical storage unit on an NTFS disk. The size of the data, expressed in power of two bytes, is typically 512 bytes. The smallest file allocation unit in NTFS, on the other hand, is called a cluster and is independent of sectors. It may consist of one or more adjacent sectors. As of right now, NTFS supports files up to 248 bytes in size. A straightforward yet effective method is used by NTFS to arrange data on a drive volume. Each element on a volume is a file, and each file is made up of a set of properties. To help secure user data, NTFS makes use of user-level encryption and access control lists, or ACLs. Thus, this chapter's goal is to manage the NTFS file system.

Keywords: ACLS, Bytes, NTFS, Windows.

INTRODUCTION

The NTFS File System, a marvel of software innovation that forms the foundation of data structure and management, is hidden away in the background of a Windows-powered machine. The New Technology File System (NTFS), which replaced the File Allocation Table (FAT) system, is the ideal combination of performance, security, and dependability. It converts the abstract disk space into an organized, readable environment of files and directories, serving as an elegant example of the intricacy and sophistication that underlie contemporary computing.

NTFS is more elegant than just a data storage system. Many cutting-edge capabilities, like as journaling, encryption, and access control, are hidden within its design and are carefully crafted to meet the diverse requirements of Outdated

* **Corresponding author Neelam Oberoi:** M.M. College of Engineering, Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India; E-mail: neelamoberoi1030@mmumullana.org

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contemporary users. This article delves deeply into the NTFS File System's inner workings, revealing its architectural wonders, its place in the Windows environment, and its ongoing development. For anyone interested in learning more about NTFS, be they an IT expert, a computer enthusiast, or just a curious user, it looks like an insightful and exciting intellectual journey.

Overview of NTFS

Microsoft developed the proprietary New Technology File System or NTFS File System. It was first included in Windows NT 3.1 in 1993, and since then, Windows operating systems have used it as their primary file system. Instead of its FAT family forebears, NTFS included a number of advancements and improvements, offering a strong foundation for contemporary computing requirements [1]. NTFS is primarily used for managing and organizing data on storage devices, such as SSDs and hard disks. It accomplishes this by using a tree-like hierarchical structure made up of files, directories, and different metadata properties. However, NTFS goes beyond simple categorization; it incorporates sophisticated features like disk quotas for user space management, encryption for security, journaling for data integrity, and complex permission systems for access control. As a result, a file system that supports anything from complicated enterprise-level processes to personal computing can be used with flexibility and control.

Evolution and History

The New Technology File System (NTFS) has undergone significant evolution since its introduction alongside the Windows NT operating system in 1993 [2].

NTFS was "built from the ground up," as is frequently stated (and occasionally even by me, I must confess). Nonetheless, that is not exactly true. From the perspective of not being reliant on the outdated FAT file system, NTFS is unquestionably "new." Rather than designing it to remain compatible with something else, for example, Microsoft made the decision to build its system with an awareness of the needs of its upcoming operating system. But parts of NTFS's ideas were borrowed from HPFS, another file system that Microsoft helped develop, so it is not totally original.

Operating System/2 existed prior to Windows NT. When OS/2 was first being developed in the early 1990s, IBM and Microsoft collaborated on it together.

Microsoft, on the other hand, has not allowed NTFS to stagnate. The file system has been enhanced with new functionality throughout time. The most recent version of NTFS was released with Windows 2000. The NTFS used in Windows

NT is largely comparable to it, however, it has a few extra features and functionalities. Over time, Microsoft has also fixed issues with NTFS, which has increased its stability and its recognition as a “serious” file system. NTFS is currently the most often utilized file system for implementations of new, high-end PCs, workstations, and servers. In the realm of small to medium-sized corporate systems, NTFS competes with other UNIX file systems and is gaining traction with individual “power” users [3].

Microsoft has made available five NTFS versions (Table **1**):

Table 1. Available five NTFS versions made by Microsoft.

NTFS Version Number	First Operating System	Release Date	New Features	Remarks
1.0	Windows NT 3.1	1993	Initial version	NTFS 1.0 is incompatible with 1.1 and newer: volumes written by Windows NT 3.5x cannot be read by Windows NT 3.1 until an update (available on the NT 3.5x installation media) is installed [18].
1.1	Windows NT 3.5	1994	Named streams and access control lists	NTFS compression support was added in Windows NT 3.51
1.2	Windows NT 4.0	1996	Security descriptors	Commonly called NTFS 4.0 after the OS release.
3.0	Windows 2000	2000	Disk quotas, file-level encryption in a form of Encrypting File System, sparse files, reparse points, update sequence number (USN) journaling, distributed link tracking, the $Extend folder and its files	Compatibility was also made available for Windows NT 4.0 with the Service Pack 4 update. Commonly called NTFS 5.0 after the OS release.
3.1	Windows XP	October 2001	Expanded the Master File Table (MFT) entries with redundant MFT record number (useful for recovering damaged MFT files)	Commonly called NTFS 5.1 after the OS release. LFS version 1.1 was replaced by version 2.0 as of Windows 8 to improve performance.

Subsequent versions included additional file system-related features but did not modify NTFS. For instance, Windows Vista featured partition shrinking, self-healing, NTFS symbolic links, and transactional NTFS. All other capabilities are

CHAPTER 10

Dynamic Disk

Himanshu Sharma[1], Pooja Mittal[1], Ankit Kumar[2], Nitika Garg[1], Sanchit Dhankhar[1], Shushank Mahajan[1,*] and **Samrat Chauhan[1]**

[1] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

[2] *Ganpati Institute of Pharmacy, Bilaspur, Haryana, Yamuna Nagar, India*

Abstract: The computer and consumer electronics sectors came together for the first time with the DVD (digital versatile disk) standard, but it also sparked an unprecedented discussion over copy protection and its ramifications. The DVD is much more than just an upgraded and redesigned CD. Many of the technological advancements that have transpired in the roughly fifteen years since the CD was invented are included in the new disc, including enhancements in disc manufacturing processes, optical storage, and signal processing. The music and film industries, however, have also benefited from the introduction of DVDs, which have prompted the new era of digital content delivery, preparing their intellectual property. Regarding the physical medium itself, there are four primary standards that apply: one for each of the DVD-ROM, DVD-R, DVD-RAM and DVD-RW. Then every application is supported by A STANDARD FILE SYSTEM definition at the logical layer. It was created by Santa Barbara, California Optical Storage Trade Association and is known as the universal disc format. An overlaying application set described by the DVD-Video, DVD-Audio, and DVD-professional standards are supported by the logical and physical layers working together.

Keywords: Basic disk, Dynamic disk, Disk spanning, Mirrored volumes, Mbr-master boot record, Raid.

INTRODUCTION

Full control over disk-based devices may be achieved with the Microsoft Windows application Disk Management [1]. The Microsoft Management Console was extended by it, and it was initially seen in Windows XP. Viewing and managing disk devices, including optical, flash, and internal and external hard drives as well as their corresponding partitions, is made possible for users of computers and laptops. Formatting drives, partitioning hard drives, renaming

* **Corresponding author Shushank Mahajan:** Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India; E-mail: shushank740@gmail.com

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drives, changing the drive letter, and performing numerous other disk-related operations are all done with the help of disk management.

Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, and Windows 10 now all have disk management accessible. Disk Management is included in every version of Windows, however there are some minor variations between them. Disk Management lacks a shortcut to open it straight from the Start Menu or Desktop, in contrast to other computer programs that have shortcuts to open them from the Taskbar, Desktop, or Start Menu alone [2]. This is because, unlike every other piece of software on a computer, it is not the same kind of program. It does not take long to open because there is not a shortcut accessible. Opening it takes relatively little time—a few minutes at most.

Evolution of Disk Structures

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the first millimeter pictures (Beckwith *et al*. 1986, Sargent & Beckwith 1987, Rodriguez *et al*. 1992) and spectroscopy (*e.g*. Koerner *et al*. 1993) of these disks were obtained, indicating their presence and commonality as a by-product of star formation [3]. The double-peaked line profiles supported the regular Keplerian rotation pattern, and the mm dust emission showed that young stars were surrounded by extended structures.

The 1990 launch of the Hubble Space Telescope opened up a new field of research for protoplanetary disks. The Orion nebula, a star-forming area located 450 parsecs away, was able to be seen in detail thanks to the excellent spatial resolution obtained from space (O'Dell *et al*. 1992). The Wide Field Camera was used to capture these pictures using a variety of optical narrow band filters, including Hα, [Oiii], [Oi], and [Sii]. The data indicates the influence of disk irradiation and erosion by adjacent hot O and B stars, in addition to demonstrating the prevalence of such protoplanetary disks around recently formed stars (discard in 50% of stars) [4].

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BASIC DISK AND DYNAMIC DISK

Basic Disk

One sort of hard drive configuration that comes with the Windows operating system is called a basic disk [5]. Regular partition tables or logical drives are used to handle all partitions and data on the hard disk. These are the kinds of storage that Windows users most frequently utilize. Either three primary partitions and an extended partition with several logical drives, or up to four primary partitions, can be found in it.

Tasks Must be Completed

- Main and extended partitions can be created and deleted.
- Inside an expanded partition, logical disks can be added and removed.
- Create a partition and designate it as active.

Dynamic Disk

A dynamic disk is a disk that has been configured for dynamic storage from the beginning. Not relying on a partition table to maintain track of every partition allows it to offer greater flexibility than a standard disk [5]. Using a dynamic disk setup, the partition may be expanded. In order to handle data, it employs dynamic volumes.

Tasks must be completed

- Simple, spanned, striped, mirrored, and RAID-5 volumes may be created and deleted.
- Stretch out a spread or basic volume.
- Maintenance on RAID-5 or mirrored volumes.
- Turn on an offline or missing disk again.

Let us see the difference between the basic disk and dynamic disk:

Characteristics of Basic Disks

Basic disks typically employ the Master Boot Record (MBR) partition format, but on systems that support it, they can also support the GUID Partition Table (GPT) partition style [6].

If the disk is MBR, it can handle four primary partitions or three primary partitions plus one extended partition, which can include up to 128 logical drives if an extended partition is made. Moreover, MBR disks are limited to 2 TB drives in capacity. A portion of the surplus capacity cannot be used if the basic disk space exceeds 2TB.

The following operating systems are compatible with MBR disks: Microsoft MS-DOS, Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Windows 98, Microsoft Windows, Millennium Edition, all NT versions, all XP versions, all Windows Server 2003 versions, and all versions for x86 and Itanium-based computers.

An extended partition is not necessary if the disk is GPT, as it can accommodate up to 128 main partitions. GPT disks are compatible with the following operating systems: Windows 10, Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows Vista, and so on. As

CHAPTER 11

Introduction of Data Security Software

Nitika Garg[1,*,#], **Himanshu Sharma**[1], **Sanchit Dhankhar**[1,*,#], **Samrat Chauhan**[1] and **Monika Saini**[2]

[1] *Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India*

[2] *M.M. College of Pharmacy, Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana 133207, Ambala, Haryana, India*

Abstract: In this chapter, we will explore the complex world of data security software and examine its basic concepts, components, and several advantages. Data security software is becoming increasingly important in the modern digital world, as it helps to prevent data breaches and protect against new forms of cybercrime like quantum computing and the Internet of Things. This chapter explains what encryption, access control, and intrusion detection are, as well as the other fundamental principles of data security. The narrative elucidates the far-reaching benefits, which extend far beyond mere precautions and include trust-building, regulatory compliance, intellectual property protection, and risk minimization. A look into the future reveals a world where technology advancements like AI-driven threat detection, zero-trust architectures, and breakthroughs like homomorphic encryption and blockchain will shape the way we live today. The emergence of automation, user-centric security, and continuous monitoring as cornerstones is indicative of a proactive approach. This synthesis foresees a time when data security software and broader cybersecurity initiatives combine to deliver unified platforms for comprehensive protection. In short, in today's linked, data-driven society, data security is no longer a tactical afterthought; it is a strategic imperative that determines an organization's trustworthiness and stability.

Keywords: Access control, Anti-malware, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Cryptography, Data, Data loss prevention, Encryption, Firewalls, Internet of Things, IDPS, Security, Software.

INTRODUCTION

Data security has risen to the forefront of worry for consumers, companies, and governments in today's linked digital society [1]. The need for stringent data security measures is more pressing than ever before as the amount of sensitive

* **Corresponding authors Nitika Garg and Sanchit Dhankhar:** Chitkara College of Pharmacy, Chitkara University, Rajpura, Punjab, India; E-mails: nitikagarg1609@gmail.com, sanchitdhankhar@gmail.com

# Both the authors contributed equally

information stored and communicated online continues to increase. In a world rife with cyber threats, data security software stands as the last line of defense, protecting the privacy, accuracy, and accessibility of sensitive information. This diverse sector of software solutions comprises a spectrum of tools, methods, and methodologies, all intended with a unified purpose: to safeguard data against unauthorized access, breaches, and tampering. This chapter digs into the varied world of data security software, revealing its relevance, important elements, deployment options, problems, rewards, and the expanding role it plays in our daily lives.

Software designed for data security has one major goal: to protect private information from the ever-present dangers that are always evolving around it. Hackers, thieves, and even state-sponsored espionage are all part of this picture because they aim to exploit security flaws in digital systems for their own ends [2]. Data breaches involving the unauthorized disclosure or theft of sensitive information, including personal details, financial records, and intellectual property, can result from security flaws. These infringements not only have the ability to inflict significant monetary damage, but they may also break trust, ruin reputations, and even have legal repercussions. The first line of defense against these dangers is data security software, which may be thought of as a digital fortress.

Data security relies heavily on encryption methods. Encryption is the process of transforming data using complicated algorithms into a format that is unreadable to all but those who have access to the correct decryption keys. Data encryption protects information at rest on a storage device or in transit across a network from being read by an unauthorized party who does not have access to the decryption keys [3]. Another crucial part is the technique used to regulate who can access what data and under what conditions. Access can be limited based on user roles, permissions, and the principle of least privilege with the use of role-based access control (RBAC) and user authentication. The risk of insider attacks or unauthorized access is mitigated because of these procedures, which grant users varying degrees of access to data and allow them to view, edit, or delete it.

When it comes to protecting your data and your network, firewalls are an essential piece of software. These virtual walls inspect both incoming and outgoing data packets on a network and selectively discard those that are malicious or otherwise inappropriate while allowing valid communications through. Along with firewalls, intrusion detection and prevention systems (IDPS) keep an eye out for any suspicious activity on a network or computer [4]. By immediately reacting to threats when they are discovered, IDPS helps strengthen the safety of the network. The use of anti-malware and anti-virus software is also crucial in this fight. These programs protect against the most common forms of cyberattack by detecting and removing malware like viruses, Trojans, worms, and ransomware.

When it comes to protecting sensitive information from being leaked either inside or outside of a business, data loss prevention (DLP) software is indispensable. Data leakage and accidental disclosures can be prevented by using this software, as sensitive information can be isolated and prevented from moving around. For businesses, especially those operating in highly regulated sectors, compliance with data privacy legislation and sector-specific rules is of utmost importance [5]. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard all have criteria that must be met, and data security software is a big part of that (PCI DSS).

SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) software acts as the ears and eyes of a network's security system. They examine security alerts from numerous programs and network components in real-time. By collecting and correlating these warnings, SIEM solutions may provide a comprehensive overview of an organization's security status. This facilitates real-time detection of security issues and permits prompt action, which may lessen the severity of any resulting breaches or assaults.

A company's data security software deployment strategy can be tailored to its unique requirements and available resources [6]. For on-premises deployments, a company uses its own servers and IT staff to set up and run the data security software. This method allows for unfettered access to all of your data and programs, but it comes with a hefty price tag for setup and upkeep. On the other side, cloud-based data security solutions are scalable and adaptable. In contrast to on-premises hardware and upkeep, these solutions are hosted on remote servers and typically offered as a service. Smaller businesses or those interested in taking advantage of cloud computing benefits will find cloud-based deployments particularly attractive. Factors such as a company's size, budget, and desired level of security should be considered when deciding between on-premises and cloud-based solutions.

There are always new risks and obstacles to deal with, despite the improvements in data security technologies. Hackers and cybercriminals are always coming up with new ways to attack data security, thus the threat landscape is always changing. As a result, data security software needs regular upgrades and tweaks to stay up with evolving threats. The relevance of human elements in data security cannot be understated [7]. Human error, such as falling for a phishing attack or accidentally revealing sensitive information, can damage even the most

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Alex Khang

Alex Khang, is a professor of IT, D.Sc., D.Litt., MBA, AI and data scientist and chief of technology at Faculty of AI and Data Science, Global Research Institute of Technology and Engineering, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. He is a professor of information technology at different universities and institutions in Vietnam, India and the USA. He is a software industry expert, workforce consultant in High-Tech Corporations in Vietnam, EU and USA.