

CELLEBRITE 2023
CAPTURE THE FLAG (CTF)
ABE IPHONE

CTF Questions Only 2

About This CTF Challenge 5

Starting this challenge in Forensic Explorer 6

Question 1 - iCloud - Level 1 (10 points) 7

Question 2 - Comm App - Level 1 (10 points) 8

Question 3 - Wallet - Level 1 (10 points) 9

Question 4 - iCloud Backup - Level 1 (10 points) 10

Question 5 - Tracking - Level 1 (10 points) 11

Question 6 - Steps - Level 2 (30 points) 13

Question 7 - BlueTooth - Level 2 (30 points) 14

Question 8 - App Notification - Level 2 (30 points)..... 15

Question 9 - Parked - Level 2 (30 points)..... 17

Question 10 - About - Level 2 (30 points) 20

Question 11 - Permissions - Level 2 (30 points)..... 21

Question 12 - Email - Level 3 (50 points) 22

Question 13 - Search - Level 3 (50 points) 25

Question 14 - Navigation - Level 3 (50 points)..... 27

Question 15 - Crypto - Level 2 (30 points) 28

Question 16 - Picture - Level 2 (30 points)..... 29

Question 17 - Location - Level 2 (30 points) 33

Question 18 - BokerTov - Level 3 (100 points)..... 35

CTF QUESTIONS ONLY

1	iCloud - Level 1 <i>Abe used a unique email address for his iCloud account. What is that email address?</i>	10
2	Comm App - Level 1 <i>Abe used different types of communication channels, through different applications. What communication application was used the most?</i>	10
3	Wallet - Level 1 <i>A payment card was used on Abe's device - Wallet. What are the last 4 digits of that card?</i>	10
4	iCloud Backup - Level 1 <i>Abe's phone was setup using iCloudBackup method. What is the Date & Time for that (UTC+0 time)?</i>	10
5	Tracking - Level 1 <i>Abe was suspicious about being tracked. After searching the rental vehicle he was using while in NJ, he found a device attached to his vehicle, what was the make/model (need to refine)?</i>	10
6	Steps - Level 2 <i>Abe was not really active on 6/24/2023 local time. How many steps were recorded?</i>	30
7	BlueTooth - Level 2 <i>Abe pairs his iPhone with few different Bluetooth devices. How many unique Bluetooth connections were paired?</i>	30

8	<p>App Notification - Level 2</p> <p><i>Abe got notified by Harold of a potential arrest, Abe then opened which app?</i></p>	30
9	<p>Parked - Level 2</p> <p><i>Abe went to a party at RAIN Event Space. What is the name of the street (just the street name) where he parked his vehicle?</i></p>	30
10	<p>About - Level 2</p> <p><i>What was Abe Rudder's About bio on WhatsApp?</i></p>	30
11	<p>Permissions - Level 2</p> <p><i>Abe is paranoid and not always giving access to everything. One of the apps Abe used on the iPhone received access to Photos however as an "Add Photos Only" permission. What is the name of the app (one word i.e.: Starbucks)?</i></p>	30
12	<p>Email - Level 3</p> <p><i>Abe used a specific method to find/check/share locations via an app. In order to keep privacy up, Abe signed up with a different email address which keeps it isolated to that vendor. What is that email address?</i></p>	50
13	<p>Search - Level 3</p> <p><i>Abe got suspicious when he had to deal with some shady people almost as if a crime was known to be committed and wanted to leave no traces. Abe wanted to create an anonymous email. Where did Abe search for that? (3 words)?</i></p>	50
14	<p>Navigation - Level 3</p> <p><i>Abe was navigating while driving, on June 26, 2023. What was the destination address on the navigation?</i></p>	50

15	<p>Crypto - Level 2</p> <p><i>Abe used MOB to send/receive crypto within Signal. Can you find the Recovery Phrase for Signal Mobile Coin wallet? What is it? (24 words)?</i></p>	30
16	<p>Picture - Level 2</p> <p><i>Abe loves taking pictures and videos on the iPhone, the problem is when Abe is trying to look for a picture, he is having hard time finding it therefore he utilizes the Search within the Apple Photos app. If Abe would have looked for a picture of: Myself, Pawel, and Hat he would end up with one photo. Can you name that filename?</i></p>	30
17	<p>Location - Level 2</p> <p><i>Abe went for some shady meeting on an island but tried to conceal as a vacation so he took a boat tour and tracked dolphins. He then decided to mark a location with "dolphins". What was the timestamp for that location? [HH:MM:SS] written in UTC time"?</i></p>	30
18	<p>BokerTov</p> <p><i>Within the last month before Abe got arrested (and his device was extracted), Abe used to wake up naturally however, there was one day the phone did. What was the day and (local) time? [YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS] e.g: 2021-09-19 08:35:00?Within the last month before Abe got arrested (and his device was extracted), Abe used to wake up naturally however, there was one day the phone did. What was the day and (local) time? [YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS] e.g: 2021-09-19 08:35:00?Within the last month before Abe got arrested (and his device was extracted), Abe used to wake up naturally however, there was one day the phone did. What was the day and (local) time? [YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS] e.g: 2021-09-19 08:35:00?</i></p>	100

ABOUT THIS CTF CHALLENGE

This challenge was created by Cellebrite (see: <https://cellebrite.com/en/cellebrite-capture-the-flag-september-2023/>).

FORENSIC IMAGE SOURCE

Download (24gb):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dn5IRU1Sa3A9NokW5v5HhJsiRud3tYHa/view>

OTHER ONLINE CELLEBRITE 2023 ABE SOLUTIONS

The following other solutions can be found online:

- <https://cellebrite.com/en/cellebrites-ctf-2023-recap-answers-on-abes-iphone/>
- <https://www.stark4n6.com/2023/10/cellebrite-ctf-2023-abe.html>
- <https://forensafe.com/blogs/challenges/CellebriteCtfAbe.html>

OTHER FORENSIC EXPLORER CTF WALKTHROUGHS

Other Forensic Explorer Capture the Flag walkthroughs are located on this page:

<https://getdataforensics.com/capture-the-flag/>

STARTING THIS CHALLENGE IN FORENSIC EXPLORER

In the **Evidence** module:

1. Select the **New Case** button.
2. Enter investigator details (if required) and a **case name**.
3. Click the **Add Image** button.
4. Add the Cellebrite file: **EXTRACTION_FFS.ufd**

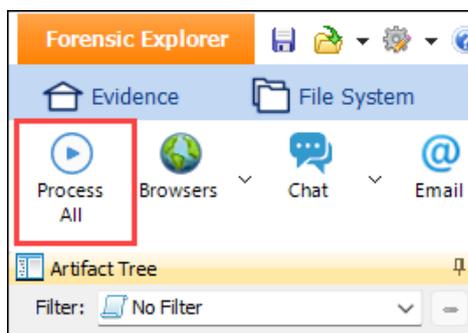
In the **Evidence Processor** window use the default options.

ARTIFACTS > PROCESS ALL

The Forensic Explorer **Artifacts module** extracts common forensic artifacts from SQLite, Plist, TXT, XML and other files. To populate artifacts:

1. Click the Artifacts module > **Process All** button.

Figure 1: Artifacts > Process All



QUESTION 1 - ICLOUD - LEVEL 1 (10 POINTS)

Abe used a unique email address for his iCloud account. What is that email address?

Q1. ANSWER

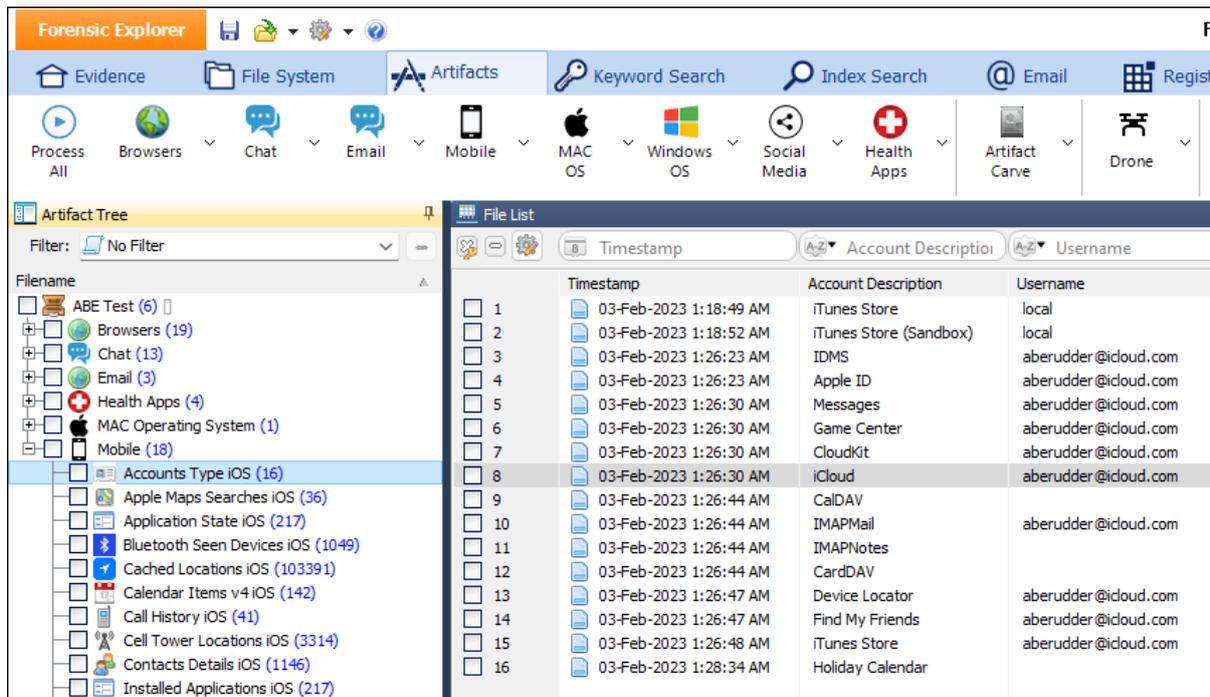
aberudder@icloud.com

Q1. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer Artifacts module:

1. Select **Mobile > Accounts Type iOS**.
2. The **iCloud** account **Username** is listed as: **aberudder@icloud.com**.

Figure 2: Artifacts > Mobile > Account Types iOS



QUESTION 2 - COMM APP - LEVEL 1 (10 POINTS)

Abe used different types of communication channels, through different applications. What communication application was used the most?

Q2. ANSWER

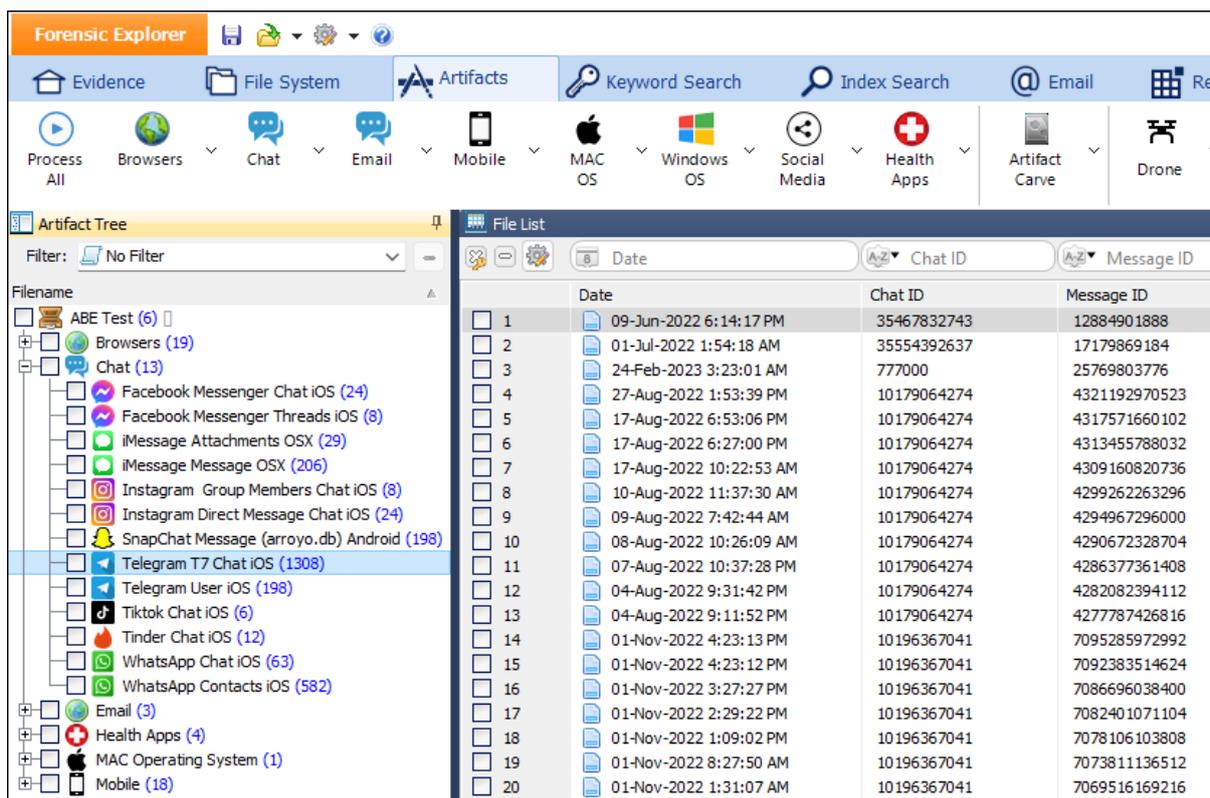
Telegram (1038 messages).

Q2. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

1. Select **Chat**.
2. **Telegram T7 Chat IOS** has the most chat messages.

Figure 3: Artifacts > Chat > Telegram T7 Chat iOS



QUESTION 3 - WALLET - LEVEL 1 (10 POINTS)

A payment card was used on Abe's device - Wallet. What are the last 4 digits of that card?

Q3. ANSWER

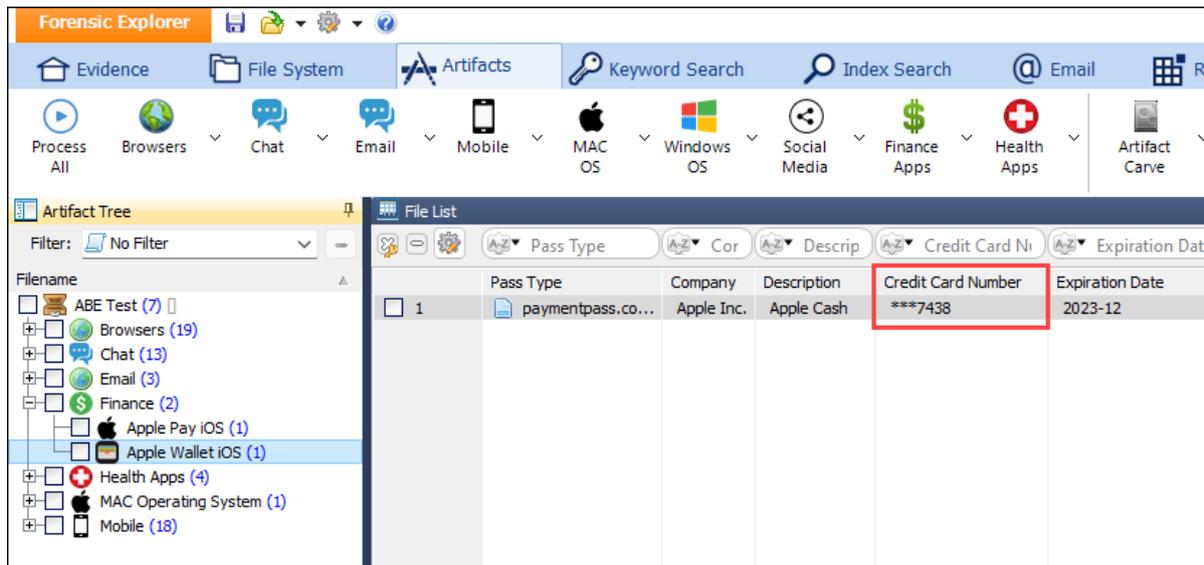
7438.

Q3. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

1. Select **Finance > Apple Wallet**.
2. The last 4 digits of the **Credit Card Number** are listed as **7438**.

Figure 4: Artifacts > Finance > apple Wallet iOS



QUESTION 4 - ICLOUD BACKUP - LEVEL 1 (10 POINTS)

Abe's phone was setup using iCloudBackup method. What is the Date & Time for that (UTC+0 time)?

Q4. ANSWER

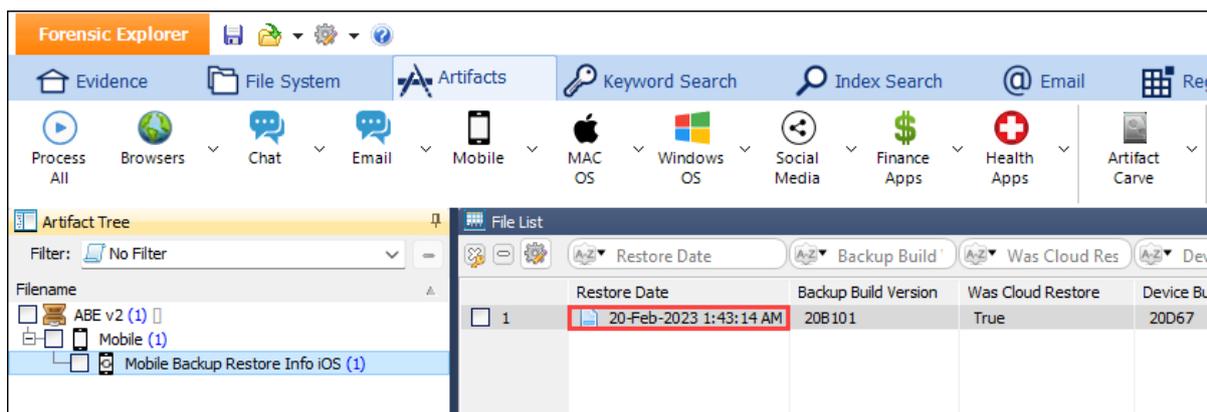
20-Feb-2023 1:43:14 AM.

Q4. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

- 1. Select **Mobile > Mobile Backup Restore Info iOS**.
- 2. The **Restore Date** is listed as **20-Feb-2023 1:43:14 AM**.

Figure 5: Artifacts > Mobile > Mobile Backup Restore Info iOS



QUESTION 5 - TRACKING - LEVEL 1 (10 POINTS)

Abe was suspicious about being tracked. After searching the rental vehicle he was using while in NJ, he found a device attached to his vehicle, what was the make/model (need to refine)?

Q5. ANSWER

Geotab go9 lte or Geotab go9

Q5. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

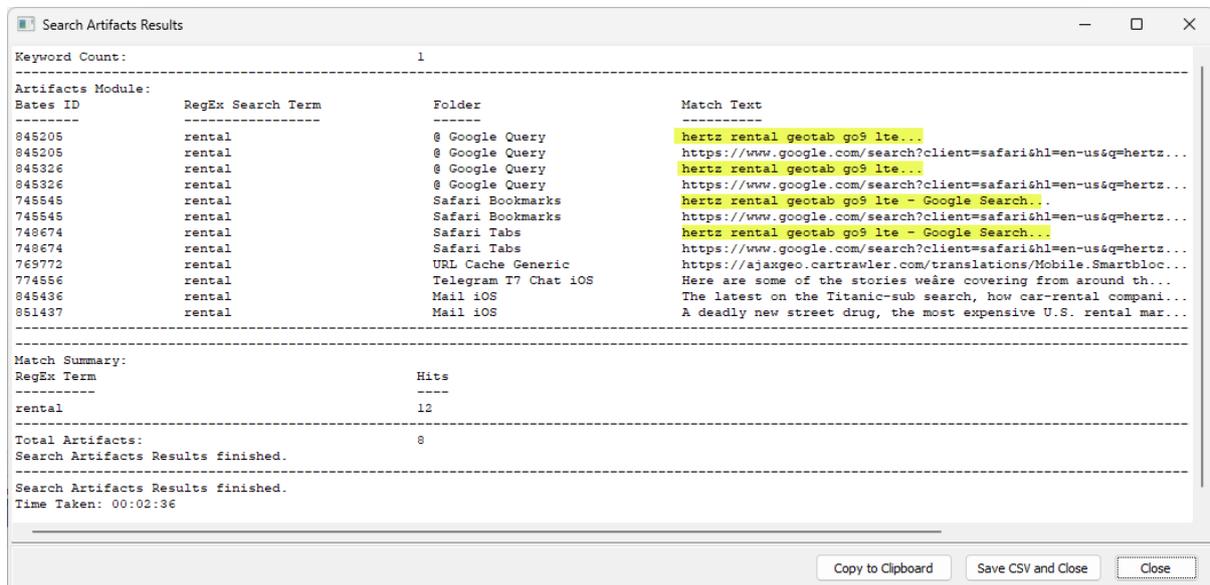
1. Use the **Search Artifact Results** toolbar button to search for **rental**.

Figure 6: Search Artifact Results



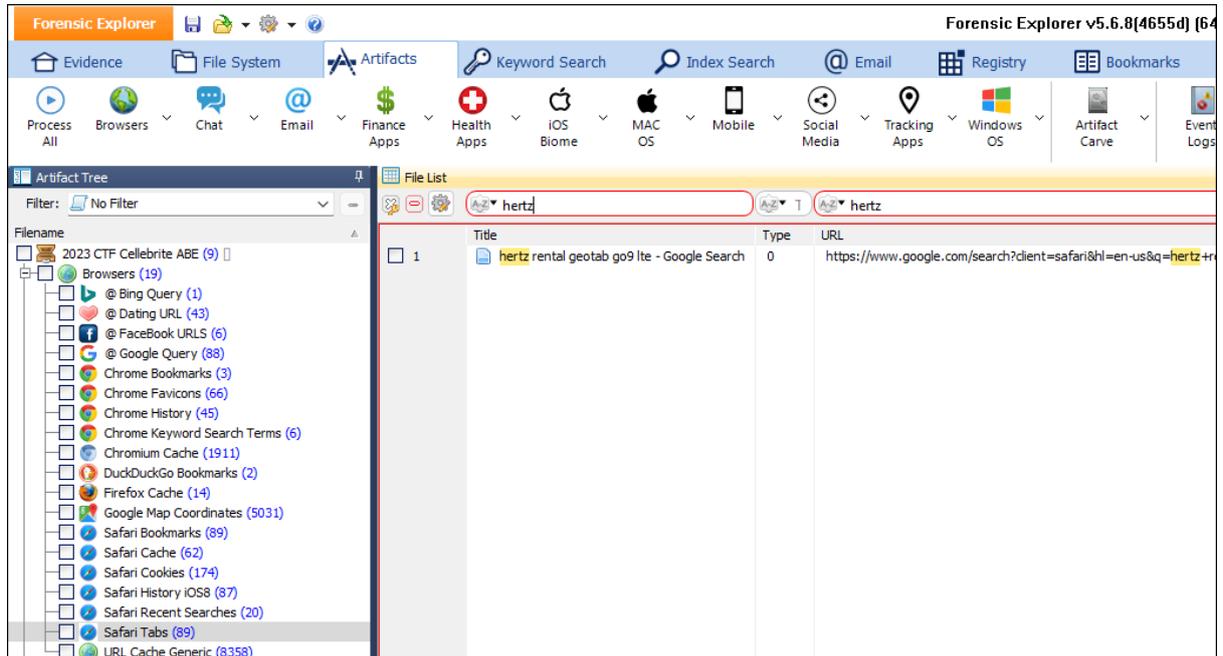
2. Search activity indicates that the **Safari Browser** was used to research **hertz rental**.

Figure 7: Search Artifact Results output



Safari Tabs shows a search activity relating to **Geotab go9 lte** and **Geotab go9**.

Figure 8: Artifacts > Browsers > Safari Tabs



QUESTION 6 - STEPS - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

Abe was not really active on 6/24/2023 local time. How many steps were recorded?

Q6. ANSWER

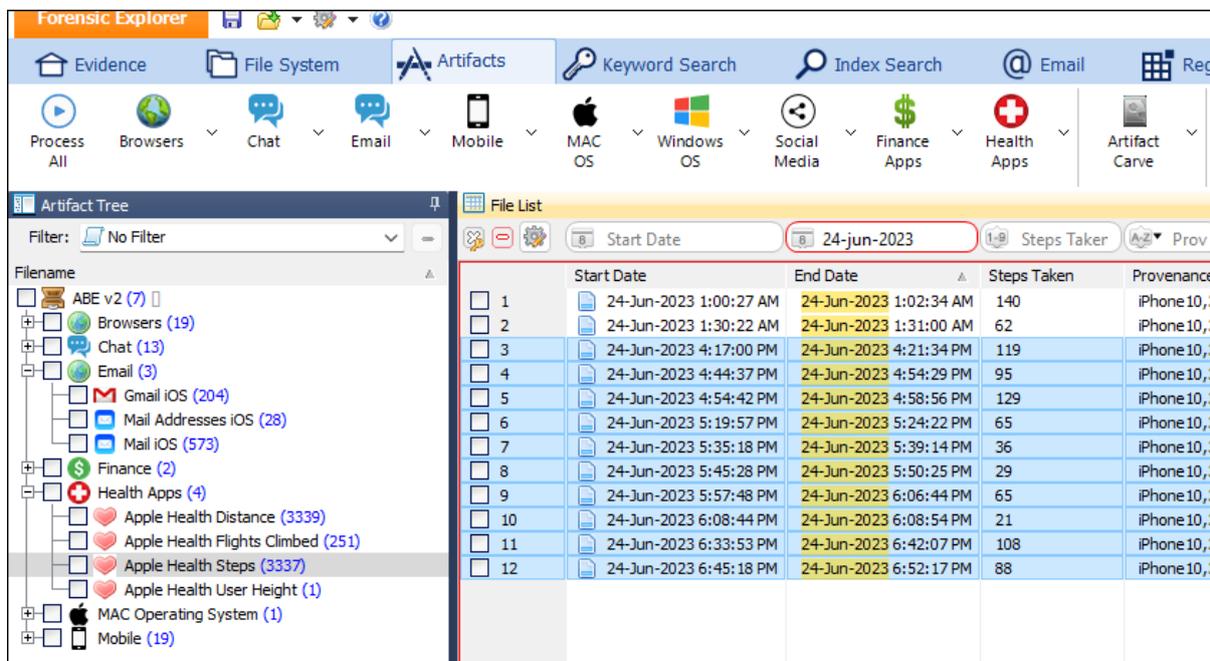
755.

Q6. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

1. Select **Health Apps > Apple Health Steps**.
2. In the **End Date** column header, filter for **24 June 2023**.

Figure 9: Artifacts > Health Apps > Apple Health Steps



119
95
129
65
36
29
65
21
108
88
755

Note that **local time is requested**, so the displayed UTC dates must be adjusted.

The sum of steps on **24 June 2023** is **755**.

QUESTION 7 - BLUETOOTH - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

Abe pairs his iPhone with few different Bluetooth devices. How many unique Bluetooth connections were paired?

Q7. ANSWER

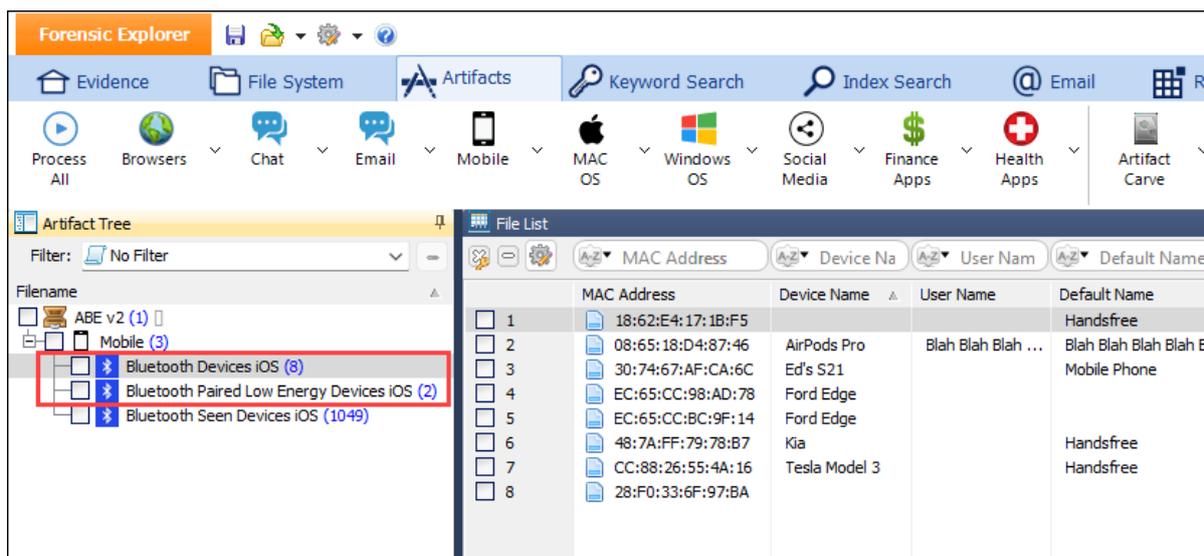
10.

Q7. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

1. Examine results for **Mobile > Bluetooth Devices iOS** and **Bluetooth Paired Low Energy Devices iOS**.
2. The sum of these devices is **10**.

Figure 10: Artifacts > Mobile > Bluetooth



QUESTION 8 - APP NOTIFICATION - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

Abe got notified by Harold of a potential arrest, Abe then opened which app?

Q8. ANSWER

Signal.

Q8. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

1. Use the **Search Artifact Results** toolbar button to search for **arrested**.

Figure 11: Artifacts > Search Artifact Results



2. The search results show hits in **Biome User Notification Events**.

Figure 12: Search Artifact Results

The screenshot shows a window titled "Search Artifacts Results" with a search term of "arrested". The results are displayed in a table with columns for Bates ID, RegEx Search Term, Folder, and Match Text. The following table represents the data shown in the screenshot:

Bates ID	RegEx Search Term	Folder	Match Text
772816	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Ruling on Brittney Griner's Appeal Set for TuesdayA cour...
773389	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around th...
773411	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around th...
773430	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around th...
773468	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	The chair of Ukraine's Supreme Court was removed from his ...
773484	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine is set to appear in ...
773506	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around the ...
773529	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around the ...
774455	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around th...
774476	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	The U.S. on Monday designated Evan Gershkovich, the Wall Str...
774479	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	The Airman Who Wanted to Give Gamers a Real Taste of WarFe...
774618	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Hundreds of thousands of people in southern Ukraine do not h...
774662	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around the ...
774678	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around the ...
775033	arrested	Telegram T7 Chat iOS	180 people were arrested after protesters burned cars and bu...
674977	arrested	Mail iOS	Disgraced crypto star arrested, haunting photos of the Dead ...
683923	arrested	Mail iOS	A notorious mafia boss arrested, the hidden cost of cheap TV...
695857	arrested	Mail iOS	IRS hands over Trump's tax returns, why more seniors are get...
820698	arrested	Mail iOS	U.S. journalist arrested in Russia, a tale of two housing ma...
825995	arrested	Mail iOS	Here's what you need to know....
826995	arrested	Mail iOS	Here's what you need to know....
1044989	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	7-year-old arrested for setting house on fire with parents a...
1047669	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around t...
1047676	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around t...
1047845	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around t...
1048476	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around t...
1048818	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	Here are some of the stories we're covering from around t...
1049462	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	Yo! Keep this. I may be getting arrested shortly....
1049467	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	Yo! Keep this. I may be getting arrested shortly....
1049648	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	180 people were arrested after protesters burned cars and...
1049667	arrested	Biome User Notification Ev...	180 people were arrested after protesters burned cars and...

Match Summary:

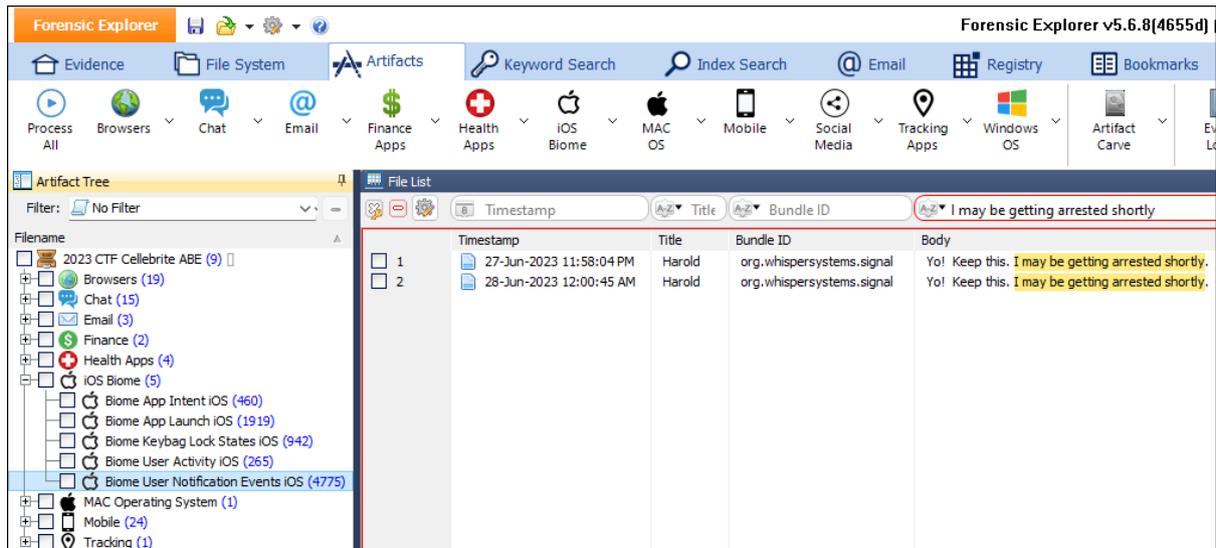
RegEx Term	Hits
arrested	31

Total Artifacts: 31
 Search Artifacts Results finished.
 Search Artifacts Results finished.
 Time Taken: 00:02:26

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

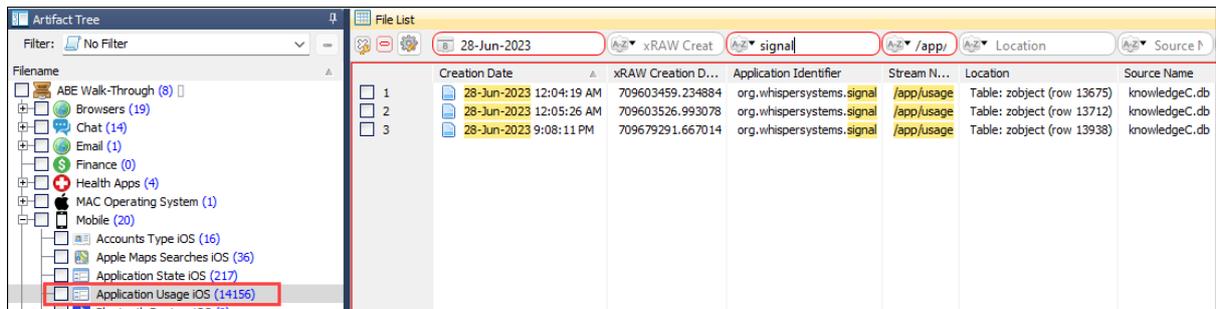
1. Select **iOS Biome**.
2. Use a **column filter** in the **Body** field for “I may be getting arrested shortly”.
3. This identifies a **Signal** message from **Harold**.

Figure 13: iOS Biome > Biome User Notification Events iOS



The **Mobile > Application Usage iOS** records also show use of **Signal** at that time.

Figure 14: Artifacts > Application Usage iOS



QUESTION 9 - PARKED - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

Abe went to a party at RAIN Event Space. What is the name of the street (just the street name) where he parked his vehicle?

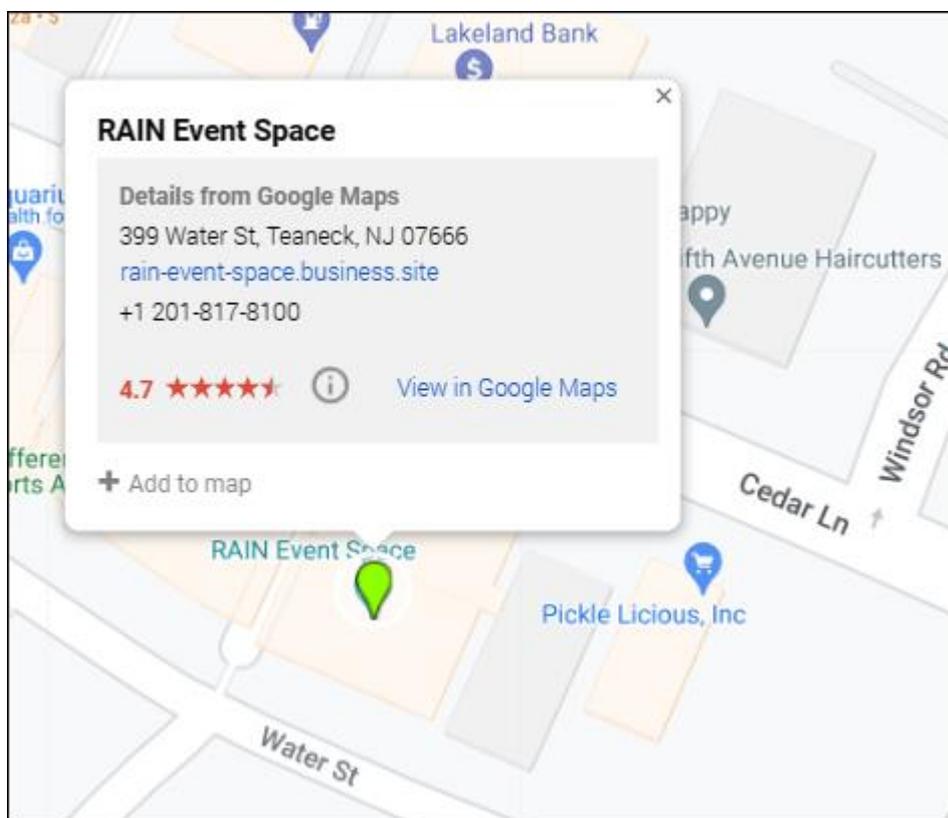
Q9. ANSWER

Water street.

Q9. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

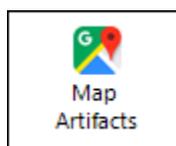
The first step is to locate the address of the **RAIN Event Space**. This is done using **Google My Maps**.

Figure 15: Google My Maps > RAIN Event Space



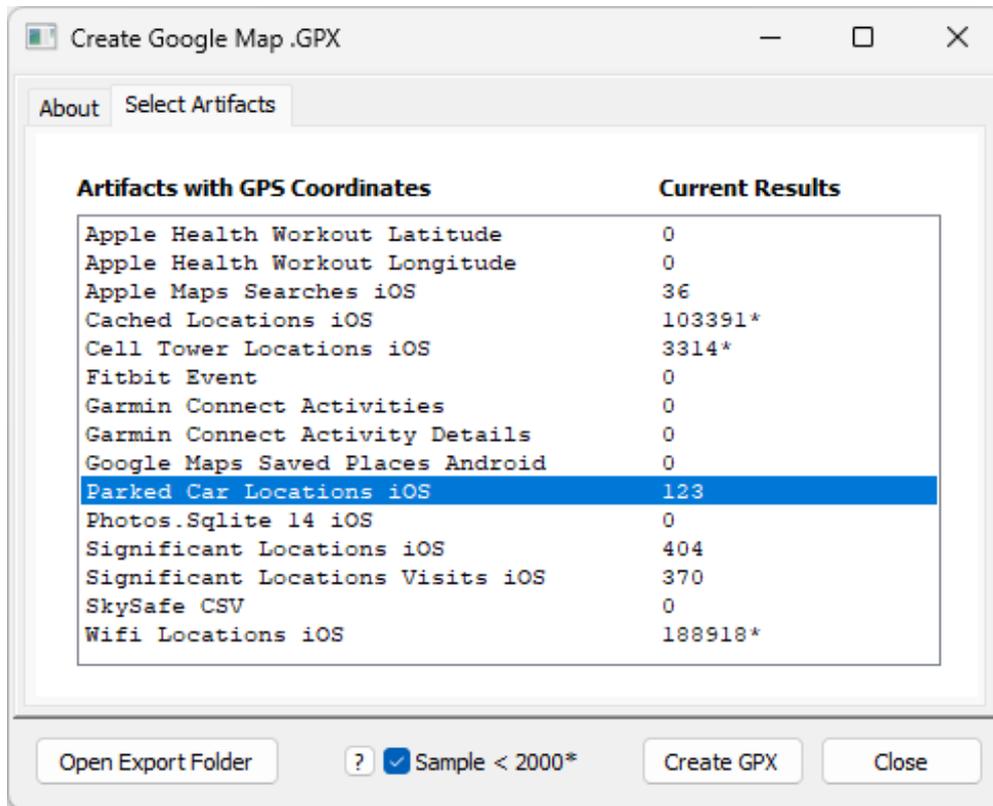
This question is likely to be answered using data from: **Artifacts > Mobile > Parked Car Locations**. Launch **Map Artifacts** from the toolbar button.

Figure 16: Artifacts > Map Artifacts



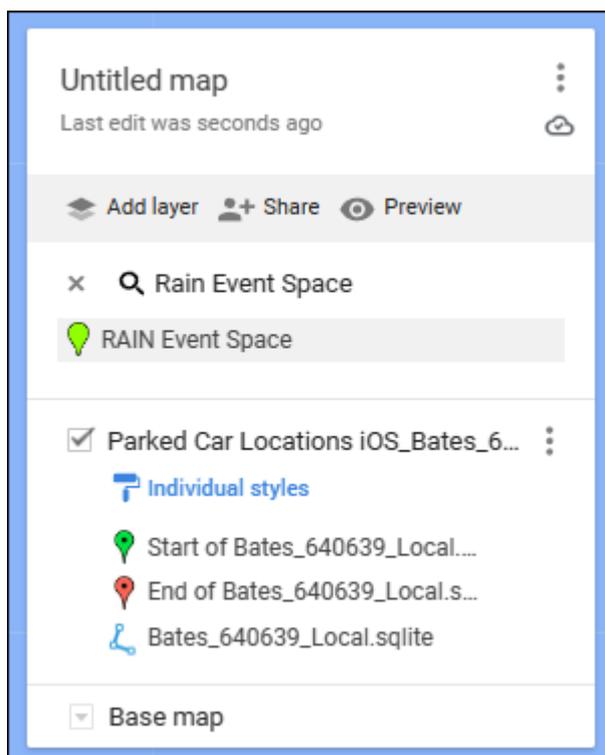
Select **Parked Car Locations iOS** from the list of available artifacts:

Figure 17: Map Artifacts



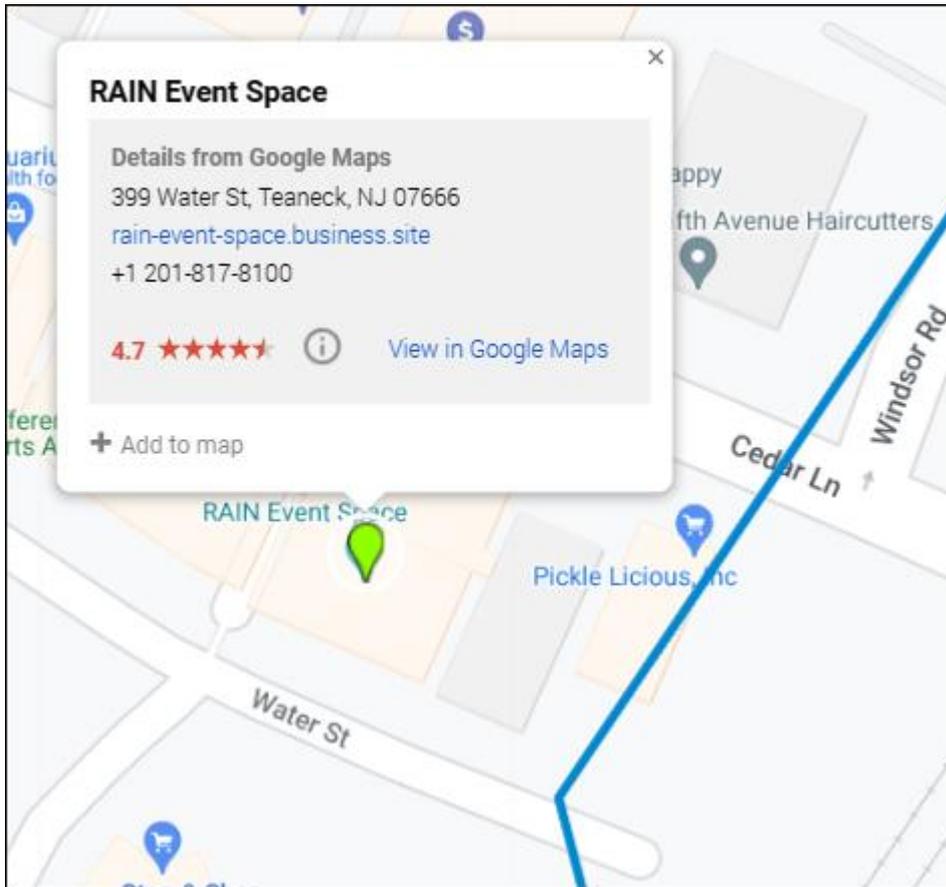
Create a **GPX** file and import into **Google My Maps** (or similar).

Figure 18: Google My Maps import



The map shows a data point on **Walter St** near the **Rain Event Space**.

Figure 19: Google My Maps



QUESTION 10 - ABOUT - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

What was Abe Rudder's About bio on WhatsApp?

Q10. ANSWER

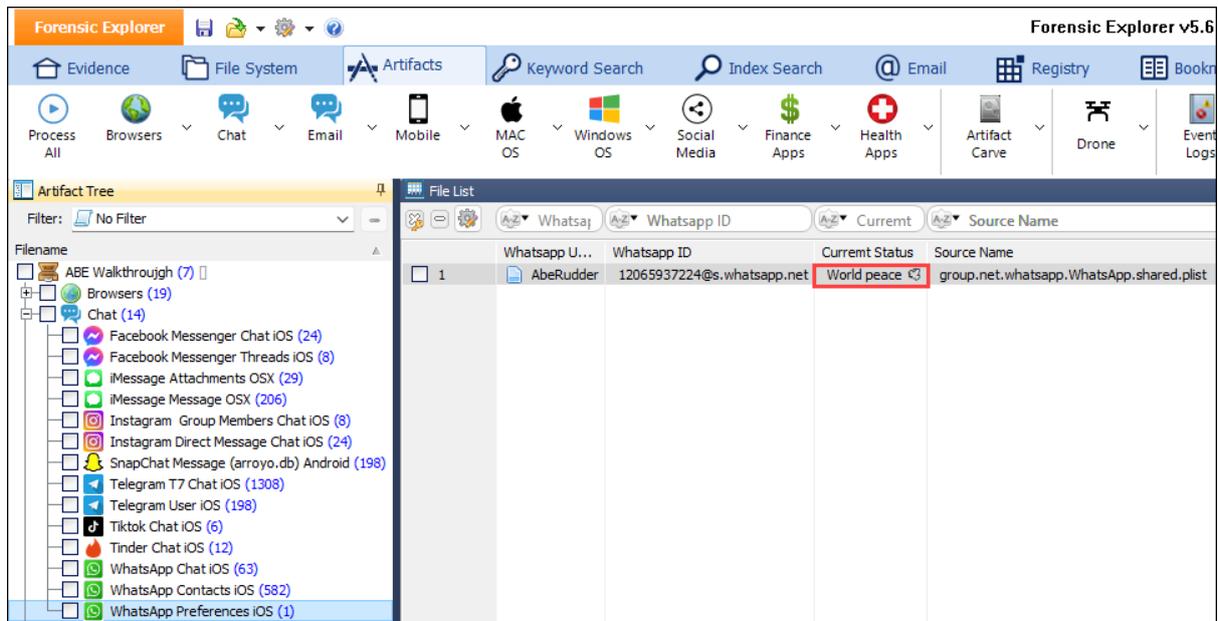
World peace.

Q10. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

1. Select **Chat > WhatsApp Preferences iOS**.
2. **Current Status** is set to **World Peace**.

Figure 20: Artifacts > Chat > WhatsApp Preferences iOS



QUESTION 11 - PERMISSIONS - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

Abe is paranoid and not always giving access to everything. One of the apps Abe used on the iPhone received access to Photos however as an "Add Photos Only" permission. What is the name of the app (one word i.e.: Starbucks)?

Q11. ANSWER

Chrome.

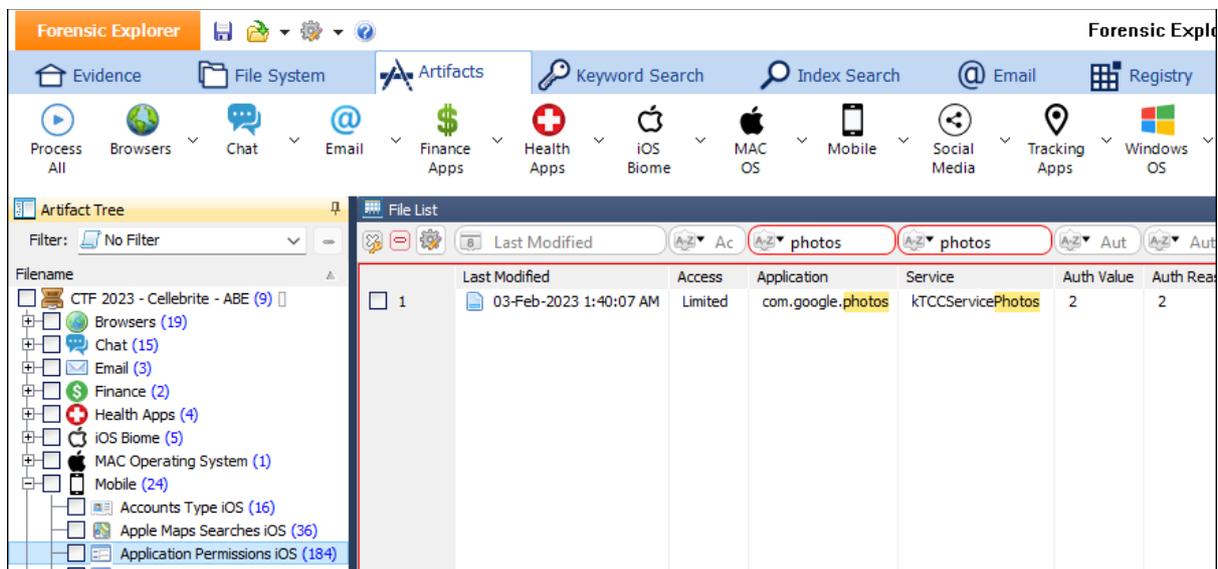
Q11. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Artifacts** module:

1. Select **Mobile > Application Permissions iOS**.
2. Apply a column filter in the **Application** and **Service** columns for **photos**.

A single entry for Chrome is associated with the **ktCCServicePhotosAdd** access permission. The **Auth Value** of **2** indicates that the application was granted permission (see <https://www.rainforestqa.com/blog/macos-tcc-db-deep-dive>).

Figure 21: Artifacts > Mobile > Application Permissions iOS



QUESTION 12 - EMAIL - LEVEL 3 (50 POINTS)

Abe used a specific method to find/check/share locations via an app. In order to keep privacy up, Abe signed up with a different email address which keeps it isolated to that vendor. What is that email address?

Q12. ANSWER

j9by422yjc@privaterelay.appleid.com

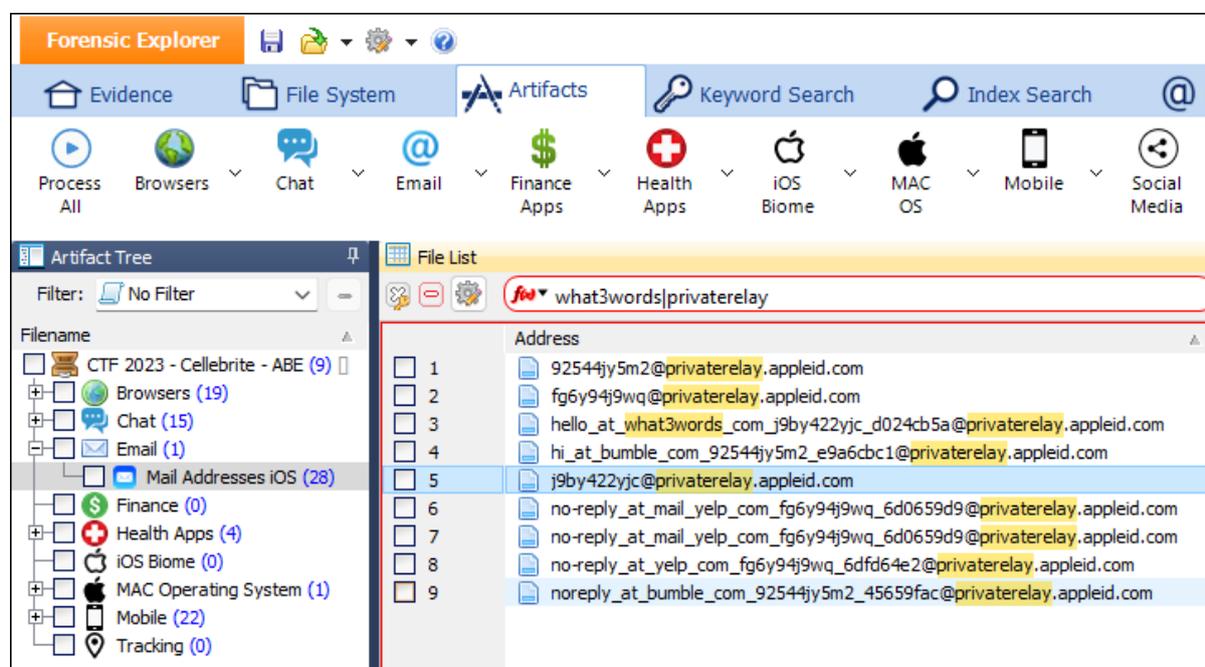
Q12. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

There are several ways to approach this question. The biggest clues are **privacy** and **email address**.

To examine email addresses used on the iPhone:

1. In the Artifacts module, select **Email > Mail Addresses iOS**.
2. Of the 28-email address listed, the domain **privaterelay.appleid.com** stands out as a potential candidate.
3. One of the entries related to **privaterelay** is **what3words**, and its Wikipedia entry indicates that it is geocode system used to share location information.

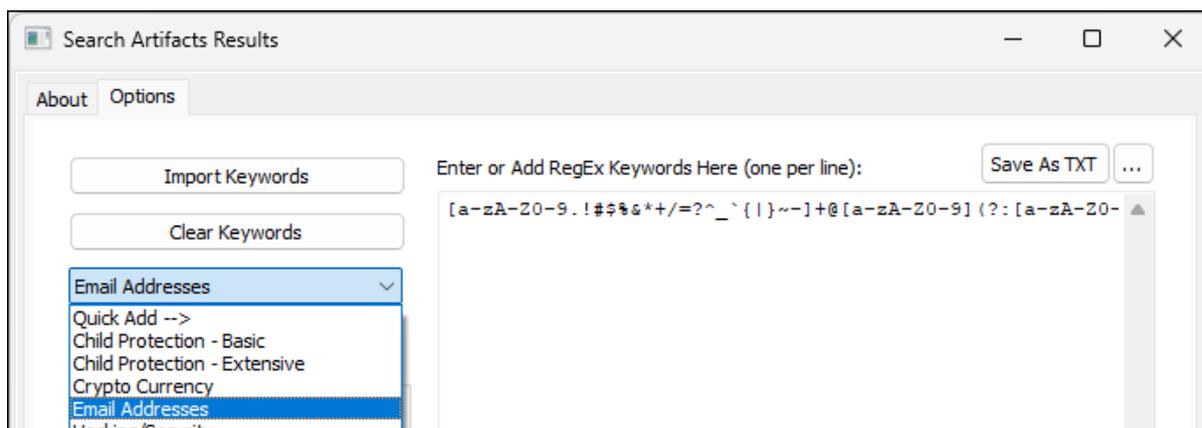
Figure 22: Artifacts > Mail Addresses > iOS



A broader search of all **Artifact module** results for email addressed can be done using the **Search Artifact Results** button.

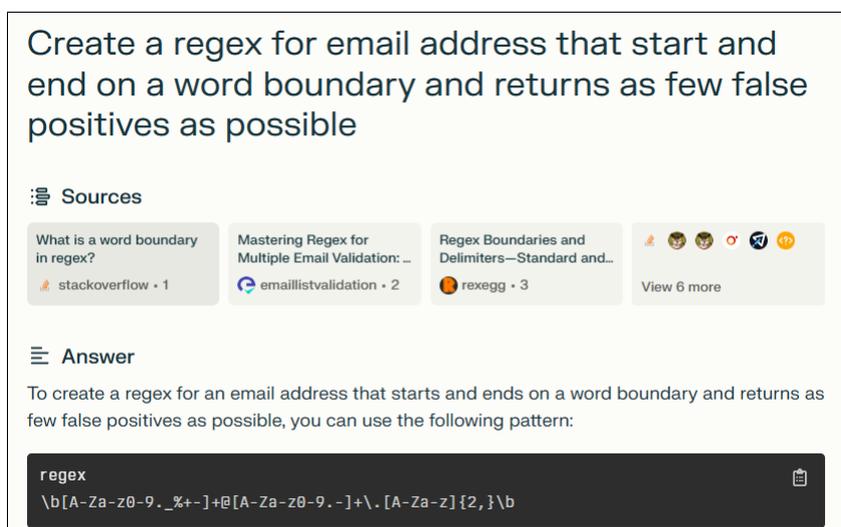
1. Use the **Quick Add** menu option to add a regular expression for email addresses.

Figure 23: Artifacts module > Search Artifact Results > Quick Add > email regex



Artificial Intelligence websites, like Perplexity.com have made the creation and/or refinement of regular expression statements much simpler.

Figure 24: Perplexity



Save the search result to CSV and refine in Microsoft Excel (i.e. remove duplicates) to identify candidates.

Figure 25: Refine results in Microsoft Excel

73	no-reply_at_yelp_com_fg6y94j9wq_6dfd64e2@privaterelay.appleid.com
74	appleid@id.apple.com
75	hi_at_bumble_com_92544jy5m2_e9a6cbc1@privaterelay.appleid.com
76	hello_at_what3words_com_j9by422yjc_d024cb5a@privaterelay.appleid.com...
77	j9by422yjc@privaterelay.appleid.com
78	applepaylater@insideapple.apple.com
79	Dear Abe Rudder
80	Security alert for aberudder77@gmail.com

Artifacts > Application State iOS and **Artifacts > Installed Applications iOS** can be used to confirm the presence of the what3words application on the iPhone.

Figure 26: Mobile > Application State and Installed Applications

The screenshot displays the Forensic Explorer interface. The top navigation bar includes tabs for Evidence, File System, Artifacts, Keyword Search, Index Search, and Email. Below this is a toolbar with icons for Process All, Browsers, Chat, Email, Mobile, MAC OS, Windows OS, Social Media, Finance Apps, Health Apps, and Artifact Carve. The main area is split into an Artifact Tree on the left and a File List on the right. The Artifact Tree shows a hierarchy of artifacts, with 'Application State iOS (217)' and 'Installed Applications iOS (217)' highlighted in red. The File List shows a table of application artifacts, with 'com.what3words.ios.what3words' at row 207 highlighted in red.

Application	Location	Source
com.openai.chat	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.qscend.yourredmond	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.squareup.cash	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.starbucks.mystarbucks	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.target.Target	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.thehome depot.homedepot	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.thetileapp.tile	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.toyopagroup.picaboo	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.tripadvisor.LocalPicks	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.united.UnitedCustomerFac...	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.uvvn.mintsim	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.waze.iphone	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.weather.TWC	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.what3words.ios.what3words	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.windytv.ios	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.yelp.yelpiphone	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
com.zhiliaoapp.musically	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
net.whatsapp.WhatsApp	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
org.merlos.OpenGpxTracker	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
org.mozilla.ios.Firefox	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
org.toshi.distribution	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica
org.whispersystems.signal	Table: application_identifier_tab (ro...	applica

QUESTION 13 - SEARCH - LEVEL 3 (50 POINTS)

Abe got suspicious when he had to deal with some shady people almost as if a crime was known to be committed and wanted to leave no traces. Abe wanted to create an anonymous email. Where did Abe search for that? (3 words)?

Q13. ANSWER

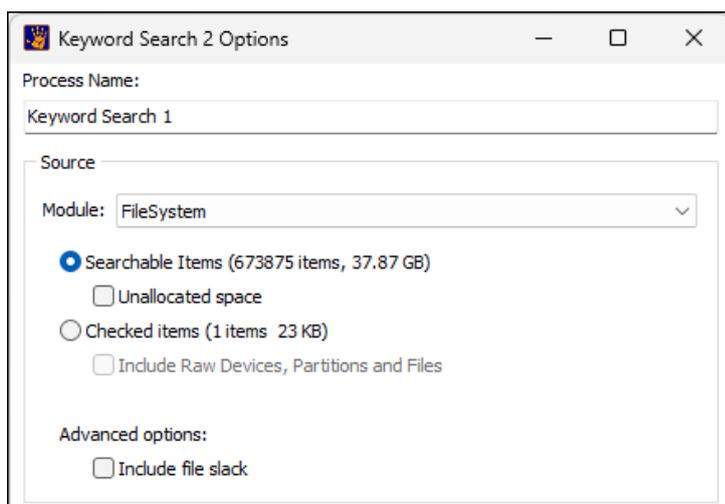
Duck Duck Go

Q13. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

In the Forensic Explorer **Keyword Search** module:

1. Add the keyword **anonymous email**.
2. Run the keyword search across all **FileSystem** searchable items.

Figure 27: Keyword Search



Keyword search hits are located that relate to the web browser **DuckDuckGo**. DuckDuckGo is considered good for anonymous browsing due to its strong privacy focus.

Figure 28: Keyword Search results

Filename	Hits	File Signat...	Hit Text	Hit Offset (File)
Localizable.loctable	2	Plist (Binary)		
27AF2E1C68777A7EC...	4		title>how to create anonymous email at DuckDuckGo</titl	11575
	1/4		tent="how to create anonymous email "><link rel="preconn	12152
	2/4		,rqd="how to create anonymous email ",rfq=0,rt="",ra="dd	13362
	3/4		alue="how to create anonymous email "><input id="search_	20652
	4/4			
com.duckduckgo.mobil...	1	Plist (Binary)	..._.+how to create anonymous email at DuckDuckGoÓ-..)0	831
	1/1			
6B3F14B8E5F435C097...	1			
E5420DB330D033AA8...	1			

Artifacts > Mobile > Application State iOS confirms that DuckDuckGo is installed:

Figure 29: Artifacts > Mobile > Application State iOS

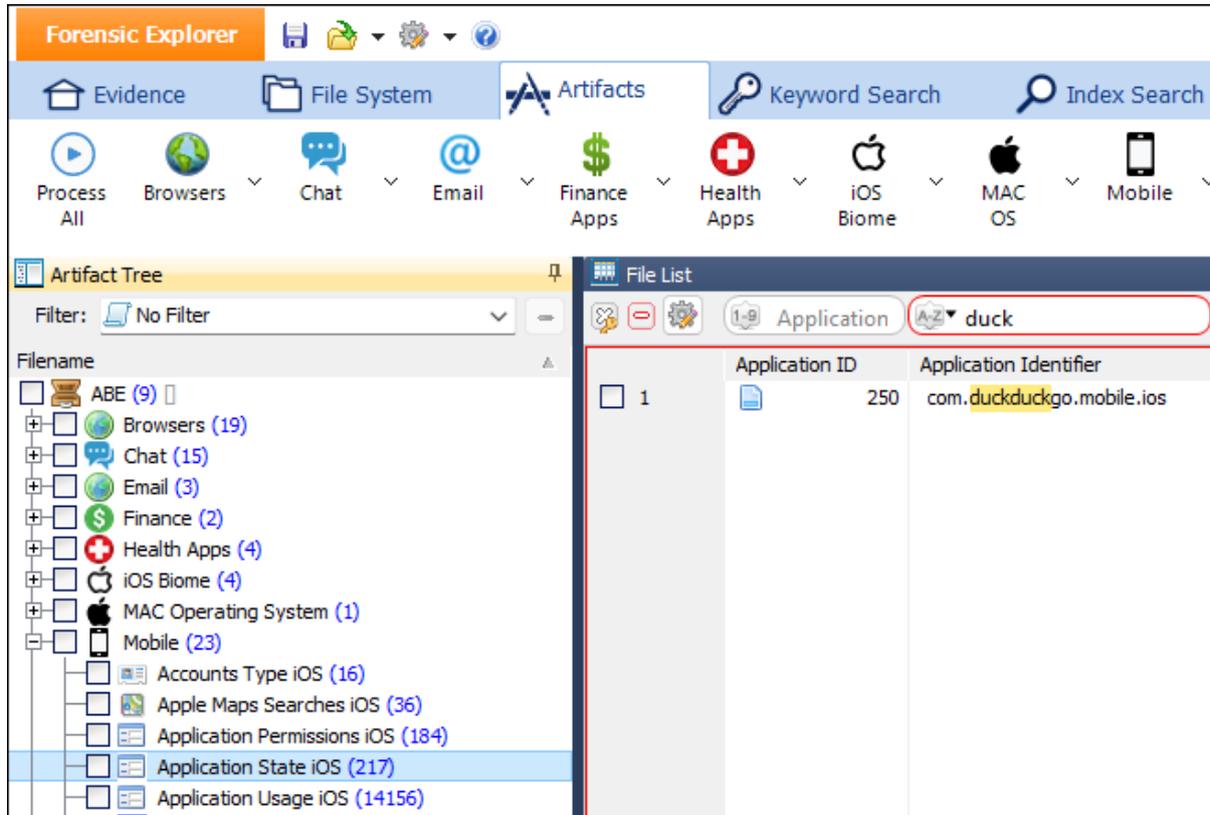
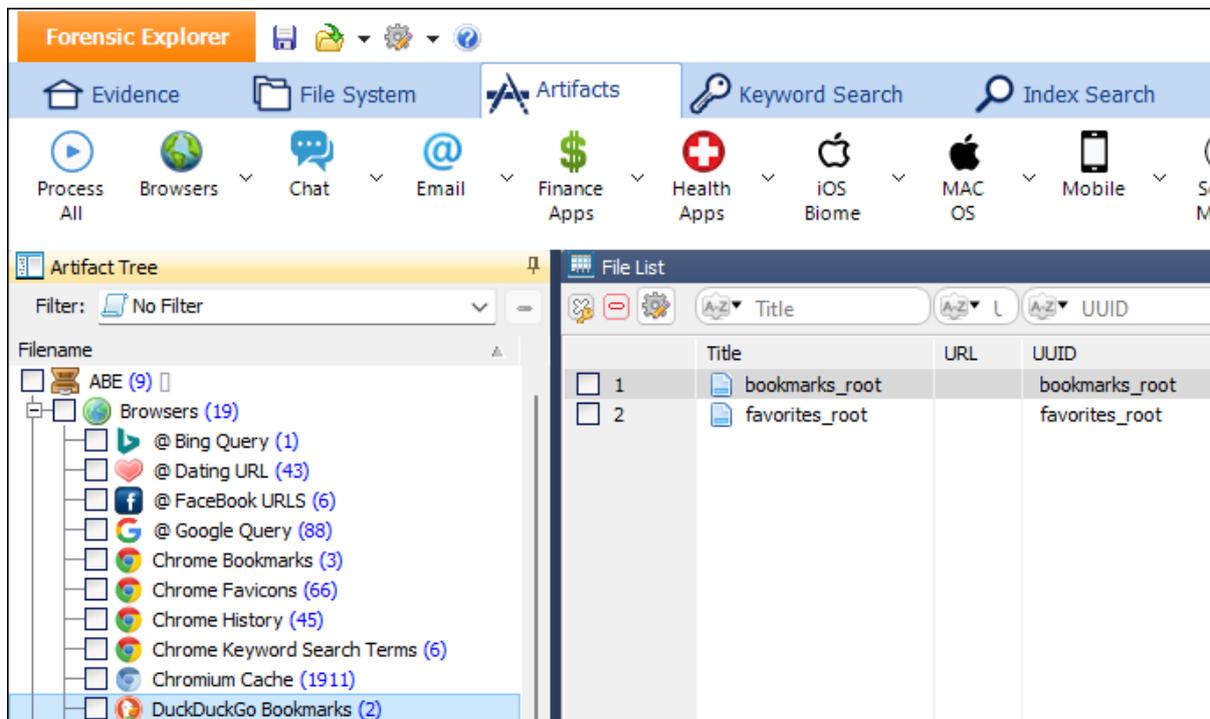


Figure 30: Artifacts > Browsers > DuckDuckgo



QUESTION 14 - NAVIGATION - LEVEL 3 (50 POINTS)

Abe was navigating while driving, on June 26, 2023. What was the destination address on the navigation?

Q14. ANSWER

284 Central Way, Kirkland

Q14. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

This question is in progress. Check back soon.

QUESTION 15 - CRYPTO - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

Abe used MOB to send/receive crypto within Signal. Can you find the Recovery Phrase for Signal Mobile Coin wallet? What is it? (24 words)?

Q15. ANSWER

pet element blast mix trumpet usual leg aim office jaguar emerge fatigue tent volcano other unfair
absent hope power annual banana speak initial gold

Q15. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

This question is in progress. Check back soon.

QUESTION 16 - PICTURE - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

Abe loves taking pictures and videos on the iPhone, the problem is when Abe is trying to look for a picture, he is having hard time finding it therefore he utilizes the Search within the Apple Photos app. If Abe would have looked for a picture of: Myself, Pawel, and Hat he would end up with one photo. Can you name that filename?

Q16. ANSWER

IMG_1100.HEIC

Q16. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

The Photos.sqlite database on an iPhone contains a wealth of information about all the photos and videos stored on the device, including their metadata such as creation date, modified date, location data, and more. It also stores information about face recognition and the relationships between photos and the applications they were created with. The database can be challenging to work with due to its complex structure, but it provides valuable insights for forensic investigations.

In Forensic Explorer, to **identify names attributed to iPhone photos**:

1. Select **Artifacts > Mobile > Photos.Sqlite Person iOS**.
2. In the **Display Name** or **Full Name** columns, change the column filter to **RegEx**.
3. Filter the column by **Myself|Pawel** (Myself OR Pawel).
4. **Double-click** on the **File Name** column header to sort the filtered result by **File Name**.
5. Search in the sorted File Name list for a file that contains both **Myself** and **Powell**. This identifies **IMG_1100.HEIC** as a candidate.
6. **Right-click** and **Copy cell** to copy the **Filename**.
7. In the **File System** module, **branch plate** [] the **entire case** and paste the copied filename into the **Filename** column.
8. In the bottom window, change to the **Display View** to view the photo.

Figure 31: Artifacts > Photos.sqlite

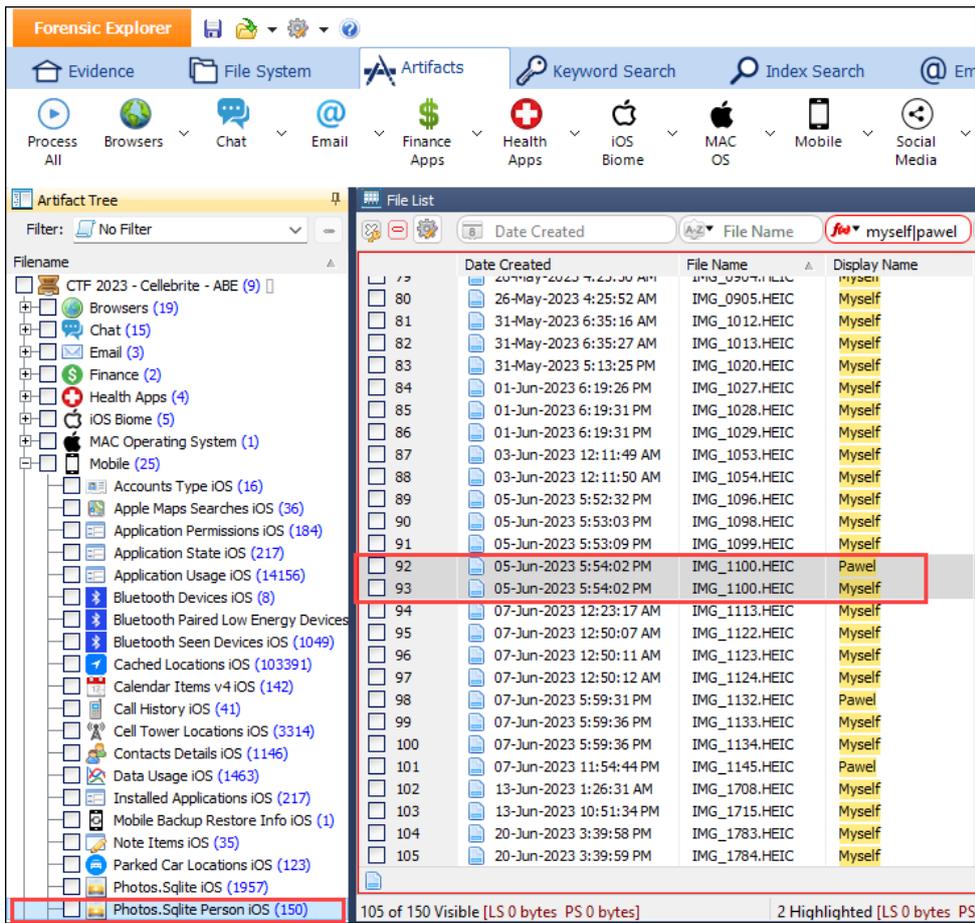
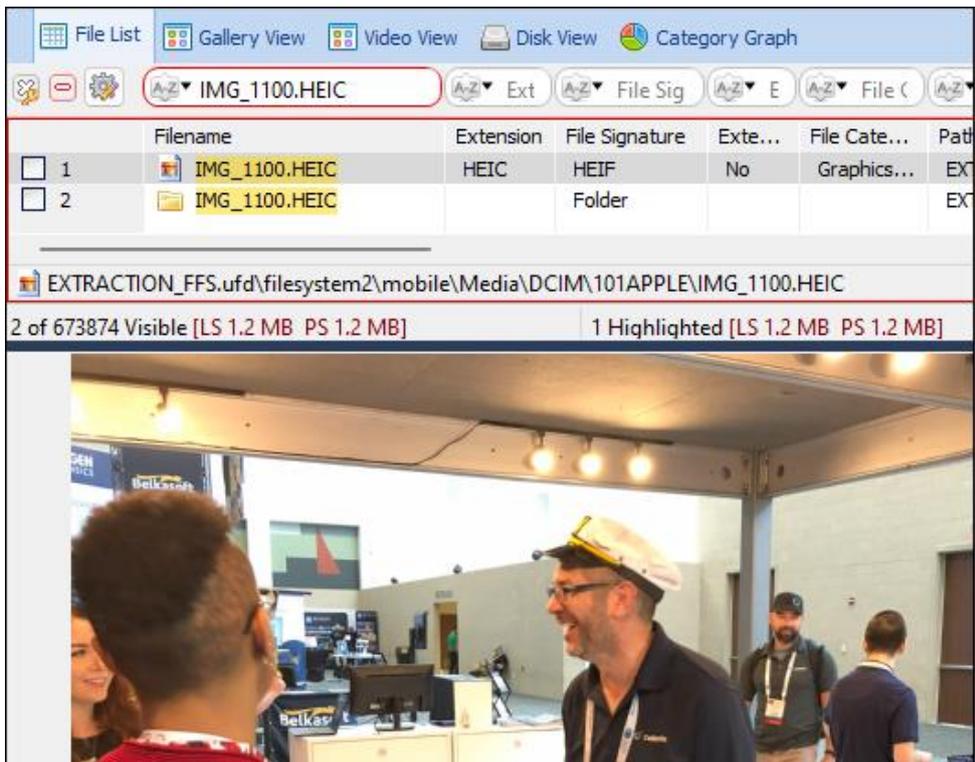


Figure 32: File System > column filter > Display View > IMG_1100.HEIC

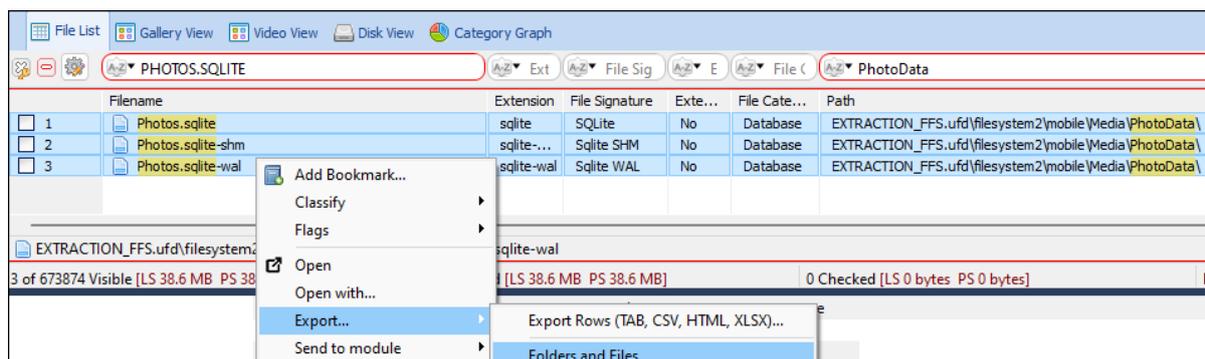


Alternate Method – Custom SQLite Query

As the question asks for specific information that is drawn from sever different SQLite tables inside Photos.sqlite, a custom SQLite query is an effective method of locating the filename of interest. To perform a custom SQLite search:

1. In the Forensic Explorer **File System** module, **branch plate** [] the **entire case** and use the **column filter** to locate the **Photos.sqlite** file and its associated **-wal** and **-shm** files.
2. Highlight the files, right-click and **Export > Files and folders**.

Figure 33: Open the raw Photos.sqlite database (and associated -shm and -wal)



3. Use the shortcut folder at the top of Forensic Explorer to navigate to the **Exported** folder of the current case.
4. **Open Photos.sqlite** with a **3rd party application**, e.g. DB browser for SQLite.
5. The SQLite query suggested by STARK-4n6 is:

```
SELECT DISTINCT ZPERSON.ZFULLNAME AS FULL_NAME, ZASSET.ZFILENAME AS FILENAME,
ZASSET.ZDATECREATED + 978307200 AS DATECREATED
FROM ZPERSON
INNER JOIN ZDETECTEDFACE ON ZPERSON.Z_PK=ZDETECTEDFACE.ZPERSON
INNER JOIN ZASSET ON ZDETECTEDFACE.ZASSET=ZASSET.Z_PK
WHERE ZPERSON.ZFULLNAME LIKE "Pawel"
ORDER BY ZASSET.ZDATECREATED DESC
```

Figure 34: DB Browser for SQLite (Query source: <https://www.stark4n6.com/2023/10/cellebrite-ctf-2023-abe.html>)

The screenshot shows the DB Browser for SQLite application. The title bar indicates the database path: "C:\Users\graha\Documents\Forensic Explorer v5\Cases\ABE Walk-Through\Exported\Photos.sqlite". The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Tools, Help) and a toolbar with buttons for "Open Project", "Save Project", "Attach Database", and "Close Database". Below the toolbar are tabs for "Database Structure", "Browse Data", "Edit Pragmas", and "Execute SQL". The "Execute SQL" tab is active, showing a SQL query in a text editor:

```
1 SELECT ZPERSON.ZFULLNAME, ZPERSON.ZDISPLAYNAME, ZASSET.ZFILENAME
2 FROM ZPERSON
3 INNER JOIN ZDETECTEDFACE ON ZPERSON.Z_PK=ZDETECTEDFACE.ZPERSON
4 INNER JOIN ZASSET ON ZDETECTEDFACE.ZASSET=ZASSET.Z_PK
5 WHERE ZPERSON.ZFULLNAME LIKE "myself" or ZPERSON.ZFULLNAME LIKE "pawel"
6 ORDER BY ZASSET.ZFILENAME
```

Below the query editor, a table displays the results of the query. The table has four columns: an index, ZFULLNAME, ZDISPLAYNAME, and ZFILENAME. The results are as follows:

	ZFULLNAME	ZDISPLAYNAME	ZFILENAME
89	Myself	Myself	IMG_1098.HEIC
90	Myself	Myself	IMG_1099.HEIC
91	Pawel	Pawel	IMG_1100.HEIC
92	Myself	Myself	IMG_1100.HEIC
93	Myself	Myself	IMG_1113.HEIC

On the right side of the application, there is a "Remote" panel with options for "Mode: Text", "Identity", and "Name".

QUESTION 17 - LOCATION - LEVEL 2 (30 POINTS)

Abe went for some shady meeting on an island but tried to conceal as a vacation so he took a boat tour and tracked dolphins. He then decided to mark a location with “dolphins”. What was the timestamp for that location? [HH:MM:SS] written in UTC time”?

Q17. ANSWER

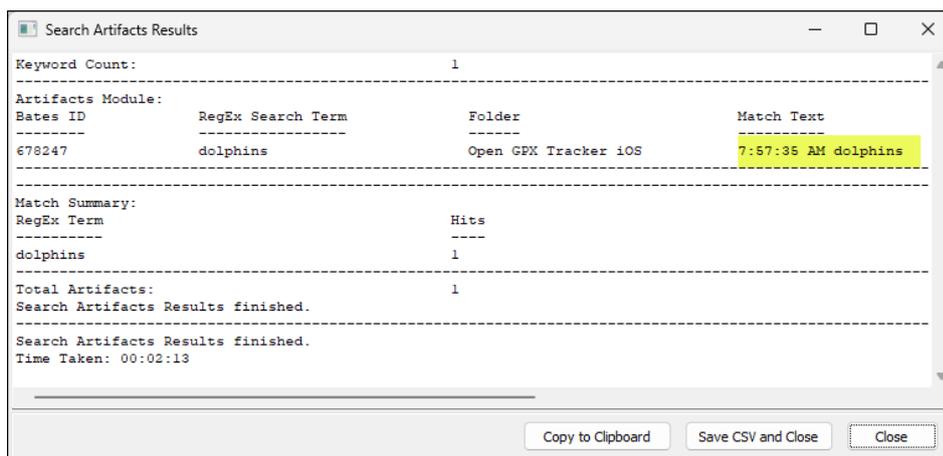
17:57:35.

Q17. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

Figure 35: Artifacts > Search Artifact Results



Figure 36: Artifacts > Search Artifact Results > Dolphin



In the **Artifacts** module, select **Tracking > Open GPX Tracker iOS** and examine the **Waypoint Name**. To confirm the **UTC time**:

1. The **Artifacts > Source Name** column identifies **open-gpx-tracker-session.sqlite** as the source file. Right-click to copy the **Source Name**.
2. In the **File System** module, branch plate [] the **entire case**, and use the column filter to locate **open-gpx-tracker-session.sqlite**.
3. In **Display View**, locate the **ZCDWAYPOINT** table, and for **dolphins** entry, copy the raw **ZTIME** integer value.
4. Enter this value into a time decoding program (e.g. DCode) to confirm that the time value is in **UTC**.

Figure 37: Artifacts > Tracking > Open GPX Tracker iOS

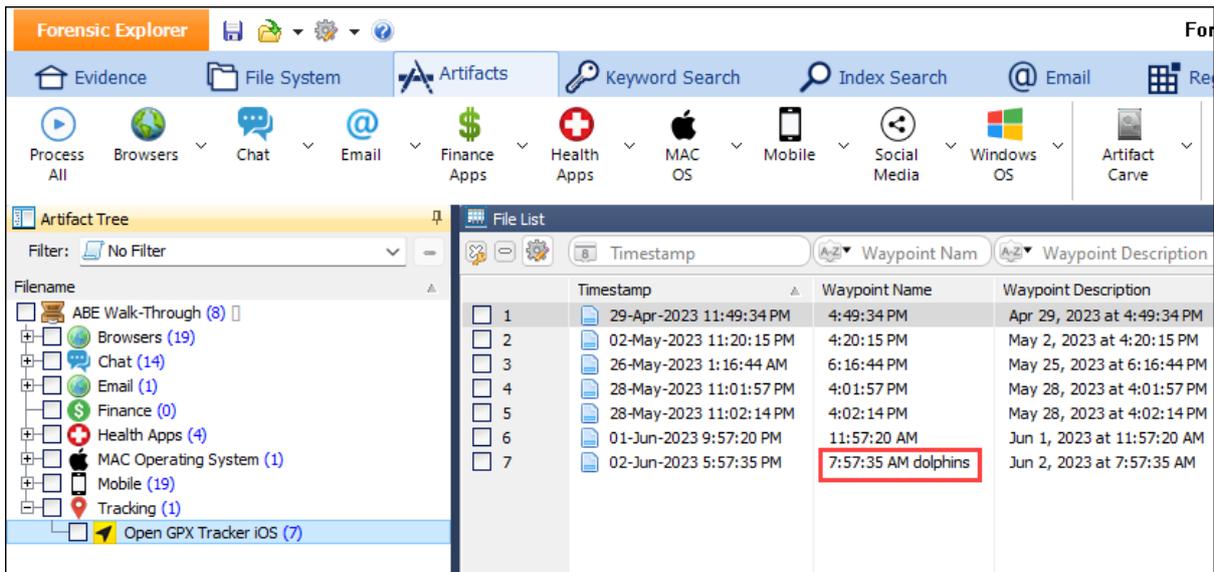


Figure 38: open-gpx-tracker-session.sqlite

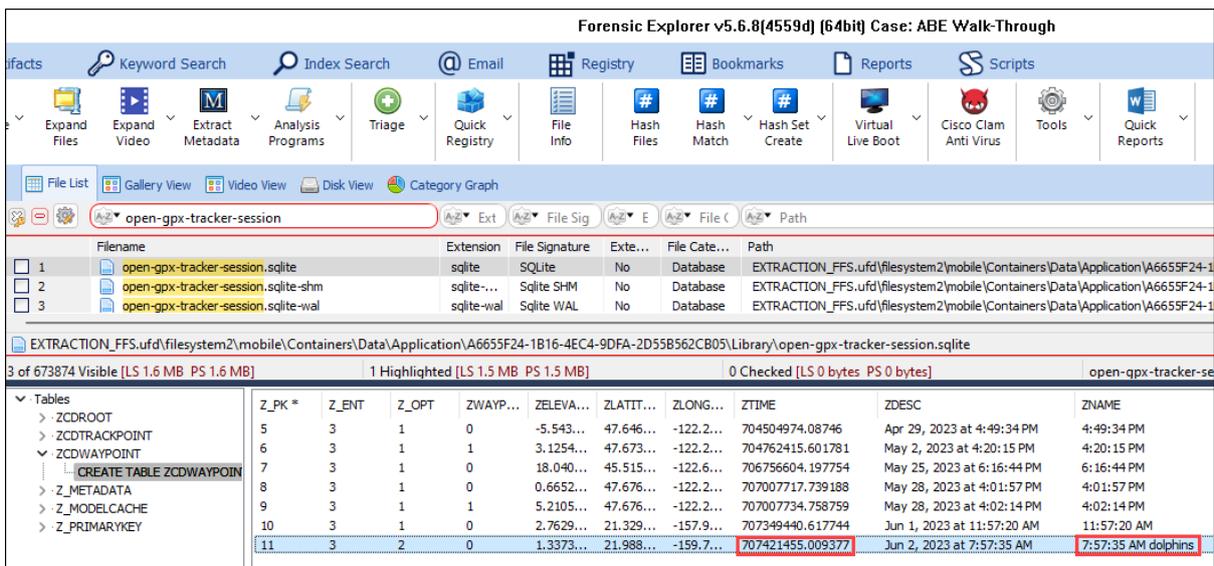
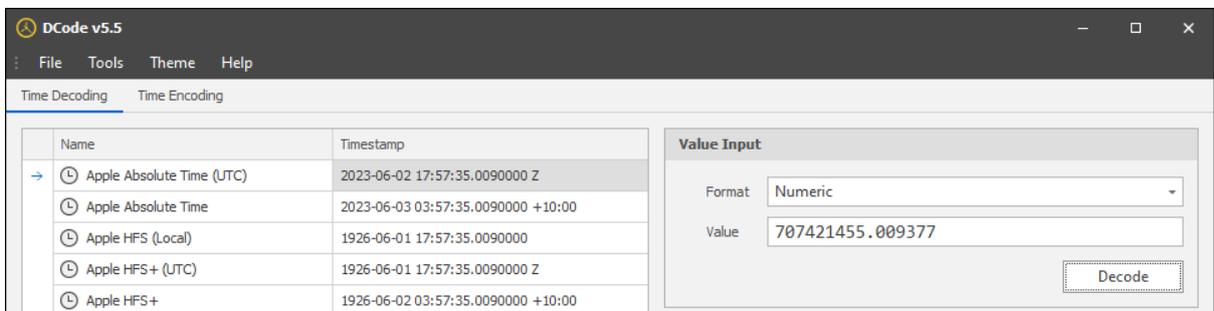


Figure 39: DCode (<https://www.digital-detective.net/dcode/>)



QUESTION 18 - BOKERTOV - LEVEL 3 (100 POINTS)

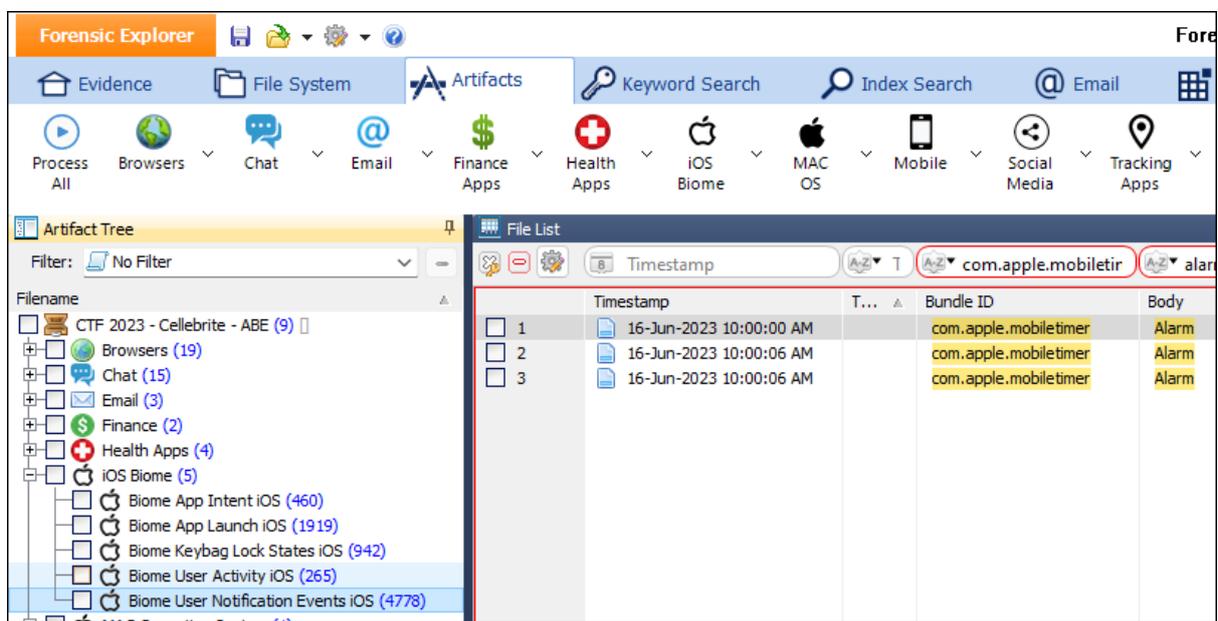
*Within the last month before Abe got arrested (and his device was extracted), Abe used to wake up naturally however, there was one day the phone did. What was the day and (local) time?
[YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS] e.g: 2021-09-19 08:35:00?*

Q18. ANSWER

2023-06-16 06:00:00.

Q18. FORENSIC EXPLORER METHODOLOGY

Figure 40: Artifacts > Biome > User Notification Events iOS



Screen Snapshot:

There is a screenshot in the following path:

filesystem2\mobile\Containers\Data\Application\73B09176-74A6-4676-AE95-0769BC8603D3\Library\SplashBoard\Snapshots\sceneID_com.apple.mobiletimer-default\17FA1799-E1EF-42E8-A76F-91F7E63319E4@3x.ktx

Forensic Explorer does not currently view .ktx files. This feature is currently in development.