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(57) Abstract:

The present disclosure relates to a system (100) for file carving in computer forensics, and the system includes a processor (102) that searches a source file for file headers of supported file formats, extracts data from the source file based on the file headers, creates one carved file for each supported file header signature found in the source file, and recover data and conduct a digital forensic investigation by examining the carved files without using the file system that produced the files. Additionally, the system enables the recovery of data from unallocated space on a storage device, even when directory entries are corrupted or missing. The file carving technique is used to extract evidence in criminal investigations, including cases involving child pornography, and to examine fragmented data within a RAM dump and restore programs that were previously operating on the system.

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