

Digital Forensics ACCA7031

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Marker Name: Dr. Nitheesh Murugan Kaliyamurthy

Name of the Student: MD IMRAN BISWAS (2436882)

Overall Mark: 65

The work shows some technical effort, particularly the use of Python for a dictionary attack, which could have been a strong element if it had been clearly evidenced, demonstrated, and discussed in the report. However, the overall analysis needs more refinement, as the conclusion should not simply focus on finding a password, but should explain what the evidence reveals and what investigative outcome it supports. More detailed discussion was required around the USB evidence, including metadata analysis, hidden partition checks, file structure, and artefact interpretation. The work also lacked strong arguments and clear evidential links; findings should have been cross-referenced with logs, chats, files, and other available evidence to build a coherent investigative narrative. The recommendations and conclusions should have been more specific, for example considering possible corporate espionage, intellectual property theft, corporate policy violation, or suspicious financial/technology-related transactions. Rather than referring generally to “AI tools,” the analysis should clearly identify what was being transferred, sold, or discussed and why it matters to Quantum Tech. Overall, the work demonstrates some useful technical activity, but stronger explanation, evidence presentation, cross-referencing, and argumentation were needed. Clearer demonstration of the Python script, USB analysis, motives, and investigative conclusions could have significantly improved the final mark.

Engagement with Literature Skills

Total Marks: 6 out of 8

Comments: To achieve high marks, students should use a wide range of credible academic and industry literature, summarise relevant literature clearly, and critically appraise sources using correct in-text citations and referencing.

+ Good work that meets the expected standard, although further depth and development would strengthen adequate academic credible literatures, diversity of sources and materials referred for current state of the field, the tools – features and capabilities, intersection of digital forensics and cybersecurity, emerging trends in digital forensics, key challenges, national and international job market.

+ More academic credible literatures required

+ Good work that meets the expected standard, although further depth and development would strengthen proper in-text citations, summaries of literatures referred and critical appraisals.

Knowledge and Understanding Skills

Total Marks: 7 out of 12

Comments: High-mark work should demonstrate clear understanding of the current state of digital forensics, relevant tools and capabilities, the intersection with cybersecurity, emerging trends, key challenges, and national/international employment contexts.

+ A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in discussions reflecting adequate understanding on the current state of the field, the tools – features and capabilities.

+ Good work that meets the expected standard, although further depth and development would strengthen discussions reflecting the clear intersection of digital forensics and cybersecurity, the emerging trends and key challenges.

+ Use of Tables to list the tools is good. However, need to provide summary and critical appraisals.

+ A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in insights on national and international job market focusing of digital forensics.

Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

Total Marks: 16 out of 25

Comments: High-mark work should demonstrate a structured forensic investigation approach, including evidence continuity, timeline reconstruction, identification of key discussions and files, careful interpretation of additional evidence, and clear professional recommendations.

+ Very good work with only minor improvements needed in document the continuity of evidence for each device, ensuring integrity and admissibility of evidence.

+ Very good work with only minor improvements needed in reconstruct a timeline of interactions between emma, joe, and norman.

+ Good work that meets the expected standard, although further depth and development would strengthen identify key discussions related to the theft and sale of the qt-ai-2025 patent, including any mentions of payment, meeting arrangements, or file transfers.

+ Open.docx. No password found. Used Python for dictionary attacks - Could have explained it more in details

+ Very good work with only minor improvements needed in examine the contents of emma's usb flash drive to identify files related to the qt-ai-2025 patent (e.g., pdfs, cad designs).

+ More discussion on examining the USB is required. Steg Images found. However, could have analysed it more detail. Lack of strong arguments

+ A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in investigate any additional files that may constitute other evidences.

- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in professional forensic investigation report that includes: summary of the incident and investigation scope, their chain-of-custody details.
- + This area requires improvement, as the work does not yet demonstrate sufficient depth, accuracy, or completeness in professional forensic report: actions for quantum tech and law enforcement (e.g., charges for corporate espionage, possession of illegal content).
- + More discussion on Actions for quantum Tech and law enforcement required

Practical Application Skills

Total Marks: 17 out of 25

Comments: High marks require industry-standard acquisition, integrity verification, extraction and analysis of communication logs, file metadata and email evidence, plus a clear professional forensic report summarising tools, techniques, timeline and evidence.

- + Very good work with only minor improvements needed in acquire forensic images of emma's, norman and joe's smartphones and emma's usb flash drive using industry-standard tools.
- + Exceptional work demonstrating outstanding depth, accuracy, and professionalism in verify the hashes (e.g., md5, sha-1) of the acquired images to confirm no tampering.
- + Very good work with only minor improvements needed in extract and analyse communication logs from whatsapp, instagram dms, and emails across all three smartphones.
- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in analyse file metadata (e.g., creation dates, modification dates) to determine when and how the files were created or copied.
- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in analyse email exchanges, particularly those involving patent sample transfers, to verify the intent to sell proprietary data.
- + A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in identify any additional evidence that supports or refutes their involvement in the corporate fraud.
- + Very good work with only minor improvements needed in professional forensics report: list of devices, tools and techniques used for acquisition and analysis, detailed timeline, communication analysis, file analysis, and suspect roles.
- + This area requires improvement, as the work does not yet demonstrate sufficient depth, accuracy, or completeness in professional forensics report: summary of the evidence proving the attempted theft and any illegal materials.

Transferable Skills for Life and Professional Practice

Total Marks: 19 out of 30

Comments: High-mark work should communicate the investigation process and outcomes fluently, use supporting materials effectively, cross-reference evidence, justify roles and motives, and include clear personal and technical reflection.

+ Good work that meets the expected standard, although further depth and development would strengthen demonstrate the investigation process and the outcomes fluently with clarity and adequate evidences, submit the acquired images, flow of demonstration, supporting materials (use appropriate media to effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences; fluency of expression; clarity and effectiveness in presentation and organisation. work should be coherent and well-structured in presentation and organisation).

+ A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in cross-reference call logs from all three smartphones to confirm communication events, such as a key call between emma, joe and norman.

+ Need to cross reference the logs

+ A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in based on the evidence, determine the roles and motives of emma (perpetrator), joe (intermediary), and norman (buyer).

+ Could have demonstrated the motives in a more detailed way. Rather than saying AI Tools, could have stated specifics.

+ A reasonable attempt showing basic understanding, but the response requires more detail, clarity, and evidence in clear personal and technical reflection (during demonstration).