



Comparison of Forensic Tool Results on Android Smartphone Backup Files Using NIST Method

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Abstract

Smartphone technology currently developing not only has a positive impact but can also have a negative impact if it is used to commit crimes which can be called cybercrime. Choosing the right forensic tools is very important when conducting an investigation. So it is necessary to research the results of the comparative analysis of the performance of forensic tools on android smartphone backup files. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) method was used in this study as a parameter and for the digital evidence obtained. The results of the extraction of the OPPO A37f android smartphone from the MOBILedit tools acquired android backup files and the analysis results from using the Magnet AXIOM tools with a data accuracy rate of 39.3% from the predetermined variables. The Oxygen Forensic Tools obtained a data accuracy rate of 28.6% from the variable that has been determined. The Belkasoft Evidence Center tools can get a data accuracy rate of 35.7% of the predetermined variables. The results of this study can be concluded that the Magnet Axiom tool has a high level of accuracy compared to the Oxygen Forensic and Belkasoft Evidence Center tools in extracting data from android smartphone backup files.

Keywords: Mobile Forensic Tools, Smartphone, Android Backup, NIST

INTRODUCTION

Mobile device technology is increasingly developing, bringing human life to the virtual world community. One of them is a smartphone, whose use continues to increase yearly. Smartphones have more advantages than ordinary cell phones that can only be used to make voice calls and send short messages (Short Message). The benefits of smartphones include being able to communicate on social networks and make video calls. In Indonesia, the most popular Android-type smartphone today, as reported on the Mobile operating system Market Share Indonesia, with an android smartphone usage rate of 91.37% [1].

The increasing use of smartphones raises several problems, especially in a cyber crime known as cybercrime. Crimes committed can hide or delete digital evidence to eliminate evidence of crimes committed by the perpetrators. This digital evidence can be in the form of smartphone data, such as contact data, call logs, messages, videos, pictures, and document files that will be used as evidence of crimes in court [2].

Digital forensic knowledge in an investigation is needed, especially in analyzing a smartphone device. Forensic tools must also support success in an investigative process. The maximum success of an examiner in extracting data from a smartphone is

not only fixated on one tool but by trying other tools. In addition, the variety of Android devices' uses presents challenges in choosing the right forensic tools to extract and analyze effectively [3].

Various studies have been carried out on comparing forensic tools on smartphones based on the Android operating system using the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) method. One of these studies is that conducted by Riadi, Yudhana, and Putra (2018) [4], using the NIST method by comparing mobile forensic tools on the Instagram application with an Android-based operating system. This research uses AXIOM Magnet and Oxygen Forensic tools to obtain digital evidence. Other studies, such as those conducted by Ahmadi, Akbar, and M Putra (2021) [5], Used the Belkasoft Evidence Center and Magnet AXIOM tools to compare the performance of the tools against Android Smartphone Image Files using the NIST method.

The method used in this study also uses the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) method because this method of obtaining digital evidence is more devoted to handling mobile devices. This method measures the stages and flow of research to be carried out so that it can be used as a guide in forensic activities to get effective results. The NIST method has several stages: Collection, Examination, Analysis, and Reporting. In this study, we will simulate android backup files from the OPPO A37f android smartphone as a comparison of three tools: Magnet AXIOM v 4.10.0.23663, Oxygen Forensic v 12.0.0.151, and Belkasoft Evidence Center v 9.9800.4928. The selection of the three tools is based on exposure from the background and several references, as well as the support base on the installed mobile forensic tools. The android backup file is a backup of some or all that is stored on an android device. The backup file is obtained using the Android Debug Bridge (ADB) extracted from the android smartphone [6].

METHODS

The method used is the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) which is divided into four (4) stages, namely Collection, Examination, Analysis, and Reporting, as shown in Figure 1[7].



Figure 1. The Stage of NIST mobile forensic method

The explanation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) method scheme is as follows:

Collection

This stage is also known as the preservation stage. The collection is a collection or identification of evidence used in the form of hardware from which the data will be taken to be used as digital evidence of a digital crime case. During the forensic process, all smartphones will be isolated by turning off telecommunication connections or activating airplane mode so that there is no active network to avoid data modification and maintain the integrity of the collected evidence. At this stage, the imaging process or copying of data against physical evidence is carried out using the MOBILedit Enterprise tool to get an android backup file.

Examination

It is the stage of processing data collected by digital forensics using a combination of various scenarios, both automatic and manual, as well as assessing and releasing data as needed while maintaining data integrity. Furthermore, the digital backup android file data from the imaging results are extracted using the Oxygen Forensics, Magnet Axiom, and Belkasoft Evidence Center tools.

Analysis

Conduct analysis of examination results using technically and legally justified methods to obtain helpful information and answer questions that serve as an impetus for collection and examination. This analysis stage is carried out after getting the desired digital file or data from the previous inspection process. The results of the analysis carried out to obtain several files that were successfully extracted using these mobile forensic tools were then successfully obtained.

Reporting

The reporting stage is the process of reporting the analysis results, which includes data information that has been found and is used as the final report of the forensic process. The following is the process scheme using the NIST method in this study, as shown in Figure 2.

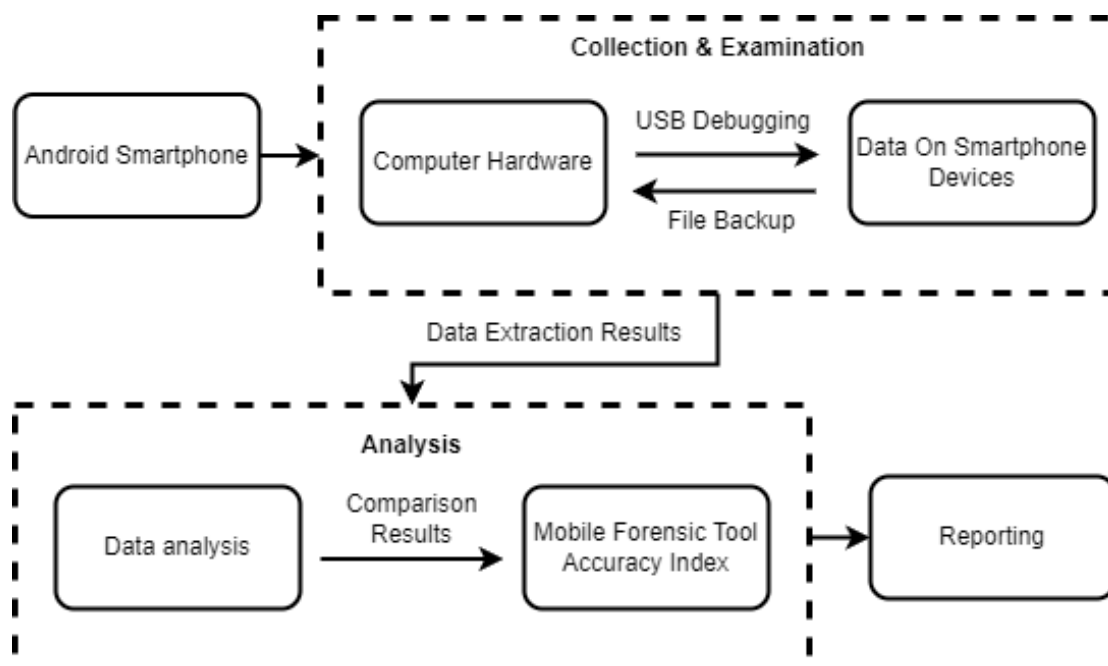


Figure 2. Process using the NIST method

The preparation and implementation of scenarios are carried out to get maximum results. The smartphone forensic process uses a guidebook from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Mobile Device Tool Specifications, Test Assertions, and Test Cases [8]. The parameters above are divided into Core Features and Optional Features. The parameters used to analyze the application performance are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Tools performance parameters

Parameter	Description	
	A mobile device forensic tool extracts and presents all supported data artifacts from a mobile device image file.	
MDT-CR-02	The tool renders text correctly.	
MDT-CR-03	A mobile device forensic tool does not modify a mobile device image file being examined.	
MDT-CR-04	A mobile device forensic tool notifies the tool user if a mobile device image file has been modified.	
MDT-CA-01	The tool presents all subscriber and equipment information available from an image file.	
MDT-CA-02	The tool presents all PIM (address book, calendar & notes) data available from an image file.	
MDT-CA-03	The tool presents all call data (call type (incoming, outgoing, missed), date-time stamps, duration) available from an image file.	
Core Features	MDT-CA-04	The tool presents all message (SMS, MMS & instant messages) data available from an image file.
	MDT-CA-05	The tool presents all stand-alone (audio, documents, graphic & video,) files available from an image file.
	MDT-CA-06	The tool presents all browsing (history & bookmarks) data available from an image file.
	MDT-CA-07	The tool presents all email data available from an image file.
	MDT-CA-08	The tool presents all social media application data available from an image file.
	MDT-CA-09	The tool presents all geo-location application data available from an image file.
	MDT-CA-10	Presented text is rendered with the correct character glyphs.
	MDT-CA-11	The tool does not modify an image file.
	MDT-CA-12	If an image file is modified, the tool notifies the user that a change has been made to the image file.
	MDT-RO-01	A mobile device forensic tool creates an image file from a physical memory acquisition (e.g., boot loader).
	MDT-RO-02	A mobile device forensic tool creates an image file from a logical acquisition of all supported memory artifacts.
	MDT-RO-03	mobile device forensic tool creates an image file from a logical acquisition of selected memory artifacts.
MDT-RO-04	A mobile device forensic tool creates an image file from an acquisition of the mobile device file system.	
Optional Features	MDT-RO-05	A mobile device forensic tool notifies the user if there is a failure to access a connected mobile device.
	MDT-RO-06	A mobile device forensic tool notifies the user if an acquisition is interrupted before completion.
MDT-AO-01	An image file is created of physical memory.	
MDT-AO-02	An image file is created containing supported memory artifacts.	
MDT-AO-03	An image file is created containing selected artifacts.	
MDT-AO-04	An image file is created of the device file system.	
MDT-AO-05	The user is notified if the tool fails to establish a connection or acquire data from a connected mobile device.	
MDT-AO-06	The user is notified if an acquisition is disrupted.	

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

After the scenario process is successfully carried out, the next step is to find information and analyze the Android backup file to obtain evidence as has been scripted. The process of analyzing the backup android file using measurements from NIST. Four (4) stages are Collection, Examination, Analysis, and Reporting.

Collection

At this stage, data is collected and recorded from physical evidence. In forensic analysis at this stage, the smartphone needs to be isolated by activating airplane mode so that there is no active network to avoid data modification. The Android used in this study is the OPPO A37f smartphone. The following specifications for the smartphone used can be seen in Figure 3.

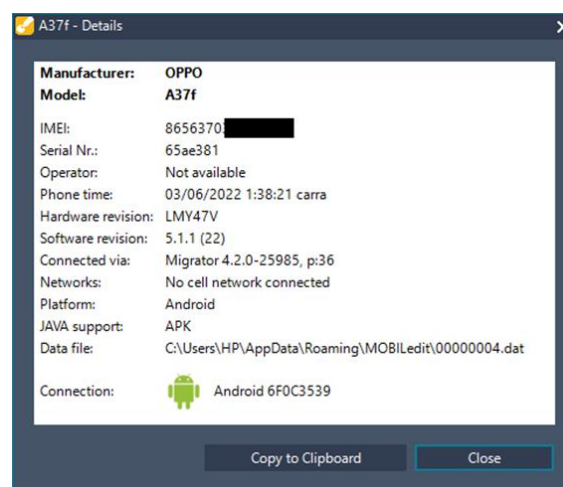


Figure 3. Smartphone specifications used

The following process in this stage is imaging or copying data to be used as an android backup file which Mobile Forensic tools will process. Copying data or imaging is done using the MOBILedit tool with the help of a data cable as a connector. MOBILedit Enterprise is only used for imaging processes and cannot perform inspection and analysis of the acquired data. Because MOBILedit Enterprise is used to access mobile data and modify content, perform backups and restores, access applications, manage files, and others, as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4. MOBILedit Enterprise features view.

The imaging process uses the ADB Unlocked mode technique, which uses the USB debugging permission process by confirming prior permissions from the smartphone [9]. Quoted from the official android developer website <https://developer.android.com/> (2022), ADB is a tool that allows communication between computers and connected android devices. The backup android file from imaging can be seen in Figure 5.

This PC > MASTER (E:) > file > mobi-bc			
Name	Date modified	Type	Size
file-bc.ab	03/06/2022 13:44	AB File	303.053 KB

Figure 5. Imaging backup Android files

Examination

At this stage, the inspection process is carried out on the data that has been collected in the previous location. This process includes retrieving or extracting digital data on android backup files with tools to be tested, including Magnet Axion, Oxygen Forensic, and Belkasoft Evidence Center.

The extraction process carried out using mobile forensic tools has several differences. The AXIOM Magnet Tools require a longer time to extract compared to the Belkasoft Evidence Center. Then Oxygen forensics requires the fastest time in the extraction process compared to Magnet AXIOM and Belkasoft Evidence Center, as shown in Figure 6.

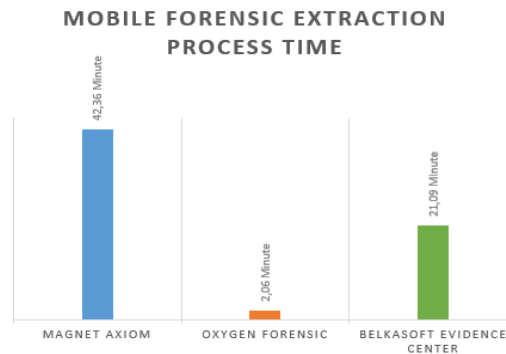


Figure 6. Mobile forensics extraction process time

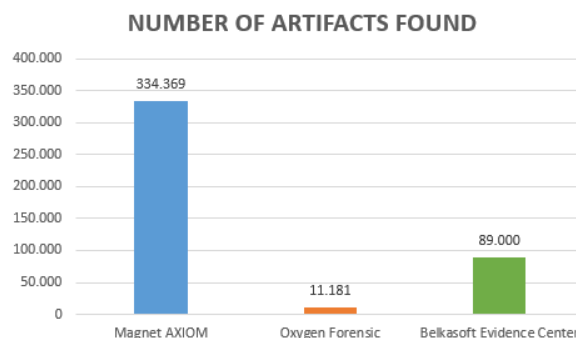


Figure 7. The number of artifacts found.

Furthermore, at the stage of the results obtained, Magnet AXIOM got more artifacts than the Belkasoft Evidence Center, and Oxygen Forensic managed to get the fewest artifacts, which can be seen in Figure 7.

Analysis

The analysis stage examines and compares the results to get the performance of mobile forensic tools. This stage is carried out from the results of the Examination stage or data extraction for android backup files with the results obtained as shown in Figure 8 with AXIOM Magnet tools, Figure 9 with Oxygen Forensic tools, and Figure 10 with Belkasoft Evidence Center tools.

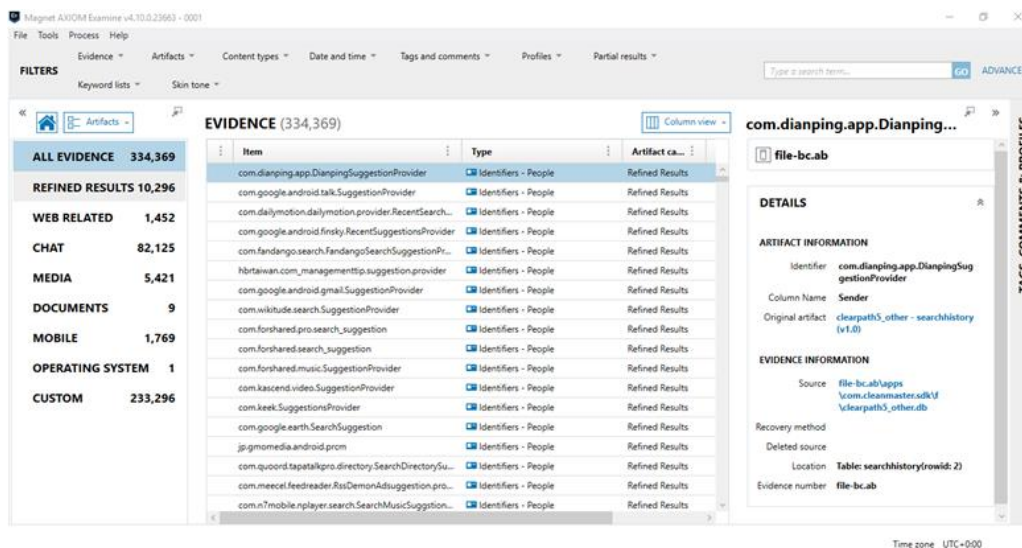


Figure 8. Extraction results on AXIOM Magnet tools

The results of the OPPO A37f smartphone data analysis from Figure 8 using the Magnet AXIOM tool get several files such as Refined Results, Web Related, Chat, Media, Documents, Mobile, Operating System, and Custom.

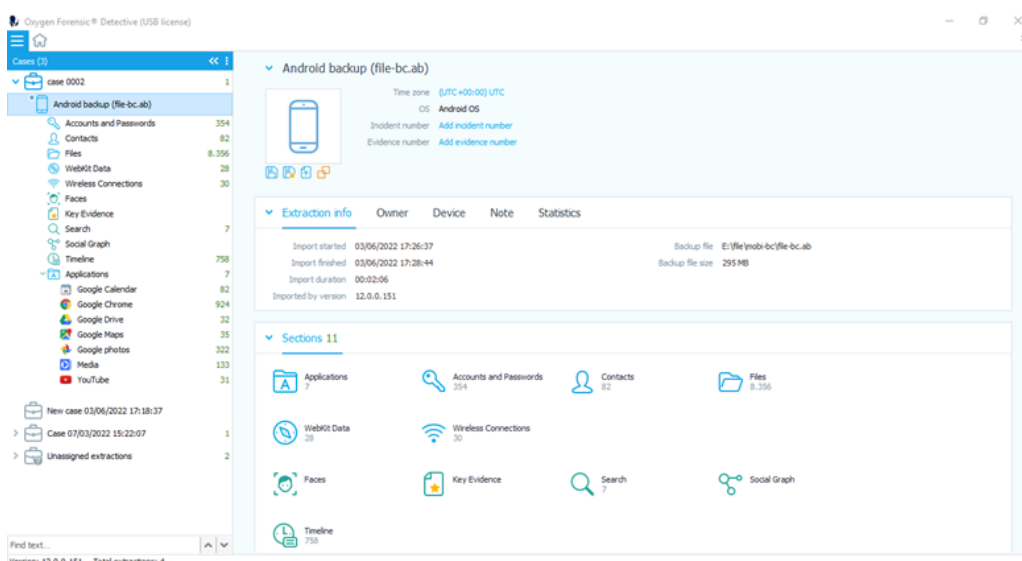


Figure 9. Extraction results on Oxygen Forensic tools

The process carried out with the AXIOM Magnet tool found more artifacts than the Oxygen Forensic and Belkasoft Evidence Center tools. The AXIOM Magnet tool has successfully met the MDT-CA-8 parameter criteria, namely, that the AXIOM Magnet tool can display Instagram social media application data which can be seen in the following Figure 13.

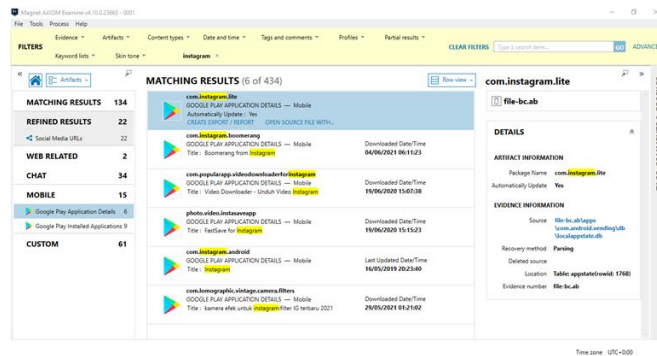


Figure 13. The Magnet AXIOM can display social media application data.

Reporting

At this stage, the results of the analysis are reported based on the tests that have been carried out as a whole. The following is a report on the performance of the forensic tools presented in Figure 14.

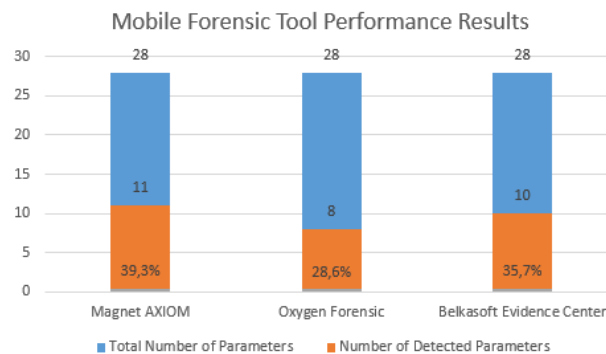


Figure 14. Forensic tools performance results

Report on the performance test results of each mobile forensic tool obtained with scenarios and parameter variables determined at the planning stage. The capabilities of each mobile forensic device can be calculated using a formula to get the desired accuracy index [10].

$$Par = \frac{\sum ar0}{\sum ar T} x 100\% \tag{1}$$

Where Par is forensic tool accuracy index number, ar0 is number of detected variables and arT is all variables used

The accuracy index is used to measure the extent of the ability of each tool to extract data [5]. In this case, from an OPPO A37f backup android file which can be calculated as follows:

Magnet AXIOM:

$$Par = \frac{11}{28} \times 100\% = 39.3\%$$

Oxygen Forensic:

$$Par = \frac{28}{28} \times 100\% = 28.6\%$$

Belkasoft Evidence Center:

$$Par = \frac{10}{28} \times 100\% = 35.7\%$$

The results of testing the performance of mobile forensic tools on android backup files using the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) method in detail can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Parameter result comparison

Parameter	Tools Mobile Forensic		
	Magnet AXIOM	Oxygen Forensic	Belkasoft Evidence Center
MDT-CR-01	✓	✓	✓
MDT-CR-02	✓	✗	✓
MDT-CR-03	✓	✓	✓
MDT-CR-04	✗	✗	✗
MDT-CA-01	✗	✗	✗
MDT-CA-02	✓	✓	✓
MDT-CA-03	✗	✗	✗
MDT-CA-04	✓	✗	✓
MDT-CA-05	✓	✓	✓
MDT-CA-06	✓	✓	✓
MDT-CA-07	✓	✓	✓
MDT-CA-08	✓	✓	✗
MDT-CA-09	✓	✗	✓
MDT-CA-10	✗	✗	✗
MDT-CA-11	✓	✓	✓
MDT-CA-12	✗	✗	✗
MDT-RO-01	✗	✗	✗
MDT-RO-02	✗	✗	✗
MDT-RO-03	✗	✗	✗
MDT-RO-04	✗	✗	✗
MDT-RO-05	✗	✗	✗
MDT-RO-06	✗	✗	✗
MDT-AO-01	✗	✗	✗
MDT-AO-02	✗	✗	✗
MDT-AO-03	✗	✗	✗
MDT-AO-04	✗	✗	✗
MDT-AO-05	✗	✗	✗
MDT-AO-06	✗	✗	✗

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion from the results of the research that has been done regarding comparing the results of forensic tools on android smartphone backup files using the NIST method is that the forensic tools used do not always meet every parameter set.

The results of the analysis of forensic tools as a whole, the Magnet AXIOM succeeded in extracting the longest time and got the highest accuracy index value of 39.3% with 11 parameters out of 28 fulfilled, followed by Belkasoft Evidence Center with extraction time faster than the Magnet AXIOM and an accuracy index score of 35.7% with 10 of the 28 parameters met. The Oxygen forensics extracted the fastest time between AXIOM Magnet and Belkasoft Evidence Center and had the lowest index performance value of 28.6%, which only met the 8 parameters of the 28 parameters set.

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