# SOURCE AND GENERATIONAL ANALYSIS OF

# TRANSMITTED VIDEO FILES TO AN APPLE IPHONE

by

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## ABSTRACT

Forensic video examiners are often asked to determine authenticity and provenance of unknown video files. Evaluation of an unknown video file's structure can give insight into the device that created the file as well as the way it was transmitted, independent of file metadata and visual content. Identifying common file structures among devices and transmission methods may allow for examiners to map a file back to an originating make and/or model of device and determine how it was transmitted. This methodology can be used as part of an overall authentication framework or when other avenues for authentication such as file metadata may be unavailable or unreliable.

The form and content of this abstract are approved. I recommend its publication.

Approved: Catalin Grigoras

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to my wife Leigh Anne and my daughter Alex. Thank you for recognizing the importance of education and providing an unfathomable amount of support not only throughout this entire program and but in every part of life. Alex, I hope daddy makes you proud.

And to the memory of William "Billy" McCaw. The quest to provide justice for you and your family started my journey into video forensics and the path to the NCMF and this thesis.

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- ISO -- International Organization for Standardization
- IEC International Electrotechnical Commission
- FBM Facebook Messenger

## **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The smartphone has revolutionized the way people communicate around the world; advances in smartphone technology and cellular infrastructure has allowed for video files to be transmitted like never before. As such, transmitted video files often play an integral part in criminal investigations and legal proceedings. Video files can either be a record of critical events or themselves be prima facia contraband; either way, digital forensic examiners can be tasked with determining the source of a transmitted video file or the manner in which it was transmitted.

A common method employed by examiners is to evaluate a file's metadata to gain insight into many aspects of the file, including its source. However, certain metadata may become altered/removed during file transmission, complicating this approach. Unlike descriptive or administrative metadata, whose values display information to the user about a specific file, structural metadata is the organization and relationships of objects within a file, irrespective of their actual values [1]. This research and thesis will focus on the evaluation of a video file's structure, absent other metadata to determine the source and method of transmission of the file.

#### **Prior Research**

Using a structural analysis approach to evaluate video files is not a new concept. Prior research by Gloe, et al. [2] as well as Hall [3] have identified file structure as part of an overall approach to video file authenticity including other descriptive metadata. In a proposed framework for video authentication, Wales [4] identifies file structure as an initial step to optimize an overall authentication workflow. In the aforementioned research, structural analysis had focused on a one-to-one comparison and/or evaluation of authenticity from a specific source

device. In contrast to a one-to-one comparison, Iuliani, Shullani, Fontani, S. Meucci, and Piva. [5] propose the use of structural analysis as part of an overall approach to authenticity by identifying the provenance of files without a known source.

While structural analysis has been explored as part of an overall authenticity and/or provenance evaluation, analysis of the effects of transmission to a video file's structure has not been fully addressed. As part of a comprehensive attempt to identify the source of video files transmitted to YouTube, Giammarrusco [6] examined elements of file structure that showed promise in determining provenance, but did not evaluate the entirety of the objects within a transmitted file. Wolanin [7] explored the structure of files downloaded from Facebook and identified specific structural consistencies/inconsistencies.

While the goal Wolanin's research was not to identify provenance or transmission method of video files uploaded to Facebook, the results showed promise that different platforms may use unique file structures, which may allow the mapping of those structures to a specific transmission method or group of devices.

Lyons and Fischer [8] explored the concept of using an unknown file's structure, absent administrative metadata, to identify its provenance without a reference file. This approach involves evaluating file structures and assigning unique signatures to structures in common. As part of this concept a forensic video examination tool, Medex, is used to automate this process by identifying structural signatures and comparing against a reference library. It should be noted that in addition to developing the concept, Bertram Lyons served as a member of this thesis committee and the Medex tool was utilized in order generate signatures and perform comparisons that were used to complete this thesis.

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## **ISO/IEC Base Media File Format File Structure**

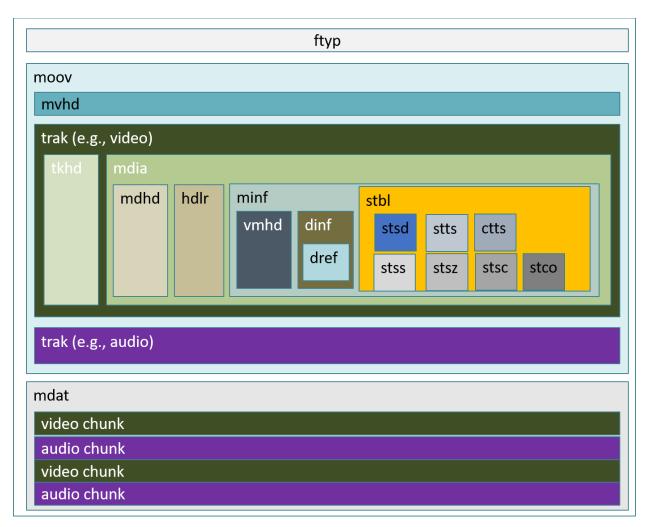
In order for video files to be created by a multitude of devices and then played back on another, different device, established standards must be adhered to. One of the most common specifications for file formats encountered in smartphone video transmission is the ISO/IEC base media file format 14496-12 – MPEG-4 Part 12 [9]. The ISO base media file format specification was originally created in 2001 from the QuickTime file format specification for .MOV files by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Now in its fifth edition, the 2015 ISO/IEC base media file format specification extends coverage to the commonly encountered .MP4, .MOV and .3GP file formats as well as other lesser used formats.

At the core of the specification is the use of a sequence of objects, termed boxes, to construct a multimedia presentation (video file). All data encoded in the file is contained within boxes and there are specific requirements as to how a box is constructed [9].

	box size	box type	version	flags	payload
length	4 bytes	4 bytes	1 byte	3 bytes	variable
value	32 bit unsigned Big Endian	ASCII text	0 or 1 8 bit unsigned	24 bits	dependent on box type

#### Figure 1. Basic MP4 Box Construction

One of the requirements to build a valid box is a header with a four-byte code describing the type of box (i.e., what kind of information it contains) as well four additional bytes providing the length of the box (i.e., allows for the understanding of when the next box begins). Boxes may be sequential in their arrangement or nested within other boxes as the file is encoded as seen in figure 2 [8].



## Figure 2. Basic MP4 Box Structure

While the ISO base media file format specification has rigid requirements for the construction of individual boxes, it is very flexible in regard to their presence and order within a file. For example, the file type 'ftyp' box is typically required in all files and should be ordered first with very few exceptions. The specification also requires a singular movie 'moov' box but allows for the placement either at the beginning or end of the file. Even when boxes are required for playback, their arrangement is not strictly dictated by the specification. Additionally, there are a number of optional boxes that may or may not be present in a file whose order is flexible as well. Table 1 [9] provides greater detail of required and optional boxes and a sample

arrangement. Users can also create custom boxes for inclusion in files that have not been

specifically identified within the specification.

Box type						Description
ftyp						file type and compatibility
pdin						progressive download information
moov						container for all the metadata
	mvhd					movie header, overall declarations
	meta					metadata
	trak					container for an individual track or stream
		tkhd				track header
		tref				track reference container
		trgr				track grouping indication
		edts				edit list container
			elst			an edit list
		meta				metadata
		mdia				container for the media information in a track
			mdhd			media header
			hdlr			handler, declares the media (handler) type
			elng			extended language tag
			minf			media information container
				vmhd		video media header
				smhd		sound media header
				hmhd		hint media header (hint track only)
				sthd		subtitle media header (subtitle track only)
				nmhd		Null media header (some tracks only)
				dinf		data information box, container
					dref	data reference box
				stbl		sample table box
					stsd	sample descriptions
					stts	(decoding) time-to-sample
					ctts	(composition) time to sample
					cslg	composition to decode timeline mapping
					stsc	sample-to-chunk
					stsz	sample sizes
					stz2	compact sample sizes
						chunk offset, partial data-offset information
					co64	64-bit chunk offset
					stss	sync sample table
						shadow sync sample table
					padb	sample padding bits

 Table 1. Specification Defined Boxes

Table 1.	Continued
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				atdn	comple degradation priority
				_	sample degradation priority
<u> </u>				_	independent and disposable samples
<u> </u>				sbgp	sample-to-group
ļ				sgpd	sample group description
<u> </u>					sub-sample information
					sample auxiliary information sizes
<u> </u>				saio	sample auxiliary information offsets
		udta			user-data
	mvex				movie extends box
		mehd			movie extends header box
		trex			track extends defaults
		leva			level assignment
moof					movie fragment
	mfhd				movie fragment header
	meta				metadata
	traf				track fragment
		tfhd			track fragment header
		trun			track fragment run
		sbgp			sample-to-group
		sgpd			sample group description
		subs			sub-sample information
		saiz			sample auxiliary information sizes
		saio			sample auxiliary information offsets
		tfdt			track fragment decode time
		meta			metadata
mfra					movie fragment random access
	tfra				track fragment random access
	mfro				movie fragment random access offset
mdat					media data container
free					free space
skip					free space
- I	udta				user-data
		cprt			copyright etc.
		tsel			track selection box
		strk			sub track box
		buik	stri		sub track information box
			strd		sub track definition box
meta			Suu		metadata
meta	hdlr		+		handler, declares the metadata (handler) type
	dinf		$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right\}$		data information box, container
	uiiii	dref	$\left  \right $		Data reference box
1	1	uiei			Data reference box

	ipro			item protection
	-	sinf		protection scheme information box
			frma	original format box
			schm	scheme type box
			schi	scheme information box
	iinf			item information
	xml			XML container
	bxml			binary XML container
	pitm			primary item reference
	fiin			file delivery item information
		paen		partition entry
			fire	file reservoir
			fpar	file partition
			fecr	FEC reservoir
		segr		file delivery session group
		gitn		group id to name
	idat			item data
	iref			item reference
meco				additional metadata container
	mere			metabox relation
		meta		metadata
styp				segment type
sidx				segment index
ssix				subsegment index
prft				producer reference time

 Table 1. Continued

## **Research Focus/Limitations**

Due to the nature of the ISO base media file format specification, it is feasible that different recording devices, software platforms and transmission methods may use differing sets of boxes, and may present those boxes in differing sequences and hierarchies when creating files of the same format. The absence or presence of these boxes as well as their arrangement may be used to develop unique structural signatures that correlate to a specific device, software, or transmission method [8]. This thesis will look at the ability to use a structural signature alone to provide insight into provenance or method of transmission of an unknown file. The specific hypothesis being that file structure alone will show some degree of file provenance and/or the transmission method. While this thesis focuses on structural evaluation and exploring the limits of using file structure to identify the source and transmission methods, file structure analysis is already a recognized approach when performing video authentication examinations, particularly in one to one evaluations [4]. Rather, this thesis will examine what effects certain methods of video file transmission have on file structure and if these effects produce unique signatures. The intent of this thesis is not to have structural analysis replace any other forms of authentication, rather be incorporated as part of an overall workflow/triage for file authentication from unknown sources (without a known or reference file for comparison).

## **CHAPTER II**

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

# **Transmitting Devices/Videos**

Eight devices (detailed in table 2) were used to capture sample videos (detailed in tables 3 and 4) to be transmitted. The specific devices were chosen based upon their popularity among users in North America [10]. To maintain consistency between devices, the forward camera was used to record videos that included background audio for 20 seconds. The device's GPS was disabled and the native camera app that records directly to the phone's DCIM folder was utilized.

Table 2. Test Devices	Tab	le 2. 🛛	Гest I	Devices
-----------------------	-----	---------	--------	---------

Make	Model	OS	Version/Revision	Chipset
Apple	iPhone 7	iOS	13.6	A10
Apple	iPhone 8	iOS	13.5	A11
Apple	iPhone X	iOS	13.5.1	A11
Apple	iPhone XR	iOS	13.6	A12
Apple	iPhone 11	iOS	13.6	A13
Samsung	Galaxy Note 9	Android	10.QP1A.190711.020.N960U1UES4DTD1	Qualcomm Snapdragon 845
Samsung	Galaxy S10	Android	10.QP1A.190711.020.G973U1UES3DTDD	Qualcomm Kryo 845
LG	Stylo 5	Android	9.PKQ1.190302.001.201561850950d	Qualcomm Snapdragon 450

Device	iPhone 7	iPhone 8	iPhone X	iPhone XR	iPhone 11
Format	MPEG-4	MPEG-4	MPEG-4	MPEG-4	MPEG-4
Format profile	QuickTime	QuickTime	QuickTime	QuickTime	QuickTime
File size	19.8 MiB	17.9 MiB	19.1 MiB	19.5 MiB	19.0 MiB
Duration	21 s 188 ms	20 s 722 ms	20 s 688 ms	20 s 685 ms	20 s 435 ms
Overall bit rate mode	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable
Overall bit rate	7 825 kb/s	7 254 kb/s	7 749 kb/s	7 910 kb/s	7 782 kb/s
		Video Dat	a		
Track ID	1	1	1	1	1
Format	HEVC	HEVC	HEVC	HEVC	HEVC
Codec ID	hvc1	hvc1	hvc1	hvc1	hvc1
Duration	21 s 188 ms	20 s 722 ms	20 s 688 ms	20 s 685 ms	20 s 435 ms
Bit rate	7 722 kb/s	7 153 kb/s	7 649 kb/s	7 724 kb/s	7 588 kb/s
Width	1 920 pixels				
Height	1 080 pixels				
Display aspect ratio	16:9	16:9	16:9	16:9	16:9
Rotation	90°	90°	90°	90°	90°
Frame rate mode	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable
Frame rate	29.970 FPS	29.970 FPS	29.970 FPS	29.970 FPS	30.000 FPS
Minimum frame rate	28.571 FPS				

Table 3. iOS Video File Details

Maximum frame rate	30.000 FPS				
Color space	YUV	YUV	YUV	YUV	YUV
Chroma subsampling	4:2:0	4:2:0	4:2:0	4:2:0	4:2:0
Bit depth	8 bits				
Bits/(Pixel*Frame)	0.124	0.115	0.123	0.124	0.122
Stream size	19.5 MiB	17.7 MiB	18.9 MiB	19.0 MiB	18.5 MiB
Color range	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited
Color primaries	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709
Transfer characteristics	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709
Matrix coefficients	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709	BT.709
		Audio Dat	a		
Track ID	2	2	2	2	2
Format	AAC	AAC	AAC	AAC	AAC
Format profile	LC	LC	LC	LC	LC
Codec ID	40	40	40	40	40
Duration	21 s 188 ms	20 s 720 ms	20 s 687 ms	20 s 685 ms	20 s 433 ms
Source duration	21 s 246 ms	20 s 782 ms	20 s 759 ms	20 s 735 ms	20 s 503 ms
Bit rate mode	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable
Bit rate	88.6 kb/s	87.6 kb/s	85.9 kb/s	152 kb/s	162 kb/s

Table 3. Continued

Channel(s)	1 channel	1 channel	1 channel	2 channels	2 channels
Channel positions	Front: C	Front: C	Front: C	Front: L R	Front: L R
Sampling rate	44.1 kHz				
Frame rate	43.066 FPS				
Compression mode	Lossy	Lossy	Lossy	Lossy	Lossy
Stream size	229 KiB	222 KiB	217 KiB	385 KiB	404 KiB
Source stream size	230 KiB	222 KiB	217 KiB	385 KiB	405 KiB

Table 3. Continued

# Table 4. Android Video File Details

Device	Galaxy Note 9	Galaxy S10	Stylo 5			
Format	MPEG-4	MPEG-4	MPEG-4			
Format profile	Base Media / Version 1	Base Media / Version 1	Base Media / Version 1			
File size	36.7 MiB	43.0 MiB	40.4 MiB			
Duration	20 s 878 ms	20 s 922 ms	19 s 733 ms			
Overall bit rate	14.8 Mb/s	17.2 Mb/s	17.2 Mb/s			
	Video Data					
Track ID	1	1	1			
Format	AVC	AVC	AVC			
Codec ID	avc1	avc1	avc1			
Duration	High@L4	High@L4	High@L4			
Format Settings	CABAC / 1 Ref Frames	CABAC / 1 Ref Frames	CABAC / 1 Ref Frames			

GOP	M=1, N=30	M=1, N=30	M=1, N=30
Duration	20 s 878 ms	20 s 922 ms	19 s 556 ms
Bit rate	14.5 Mb/s	17.0 Mb/s	17.0 Mb/s
Width	1 920 pixels	1 920 pixels	1 920 pixels
Height	1 080 pixels	1 080 pixels	1 080 pixels
Display Aspect Ratio	16:9	16:9	16:9
Rotation	90°	90°	270°
Frame Rate Mode	Variable	Variable	Variable
Frame Rate	29.970 FPS	30.000 FPS	30.000 FPS
Minimum Frame Rate	20.404 FPS	15.048 FPS	21.162 FPS
Maximum Frame Rate	30.010 FPS	30.100 FPS	30.303 FPS
Color Space	YUV	YUV	YUV
Chroma Subsampling	4:2:0	4:2:0	4:2:0
Bit Depth	8 bits	8 bits	8 bits
Scan Type	Progressive	Progressive	Progressive
Bits/(Pixel*Frame)	0.233	0.273	0.273
Stream Size	36.1 MiB	42.3 MiB	39.7 MiB
Color range	Limited	Limited	Limited

Table 4. Continued

Transfer characteristics BT.709		BT.709	BT.709					
	Audio Data							
Track ID	2	2	2					
Format	AAC LC	AAC LC	AAC LC					
Codec ID	mp4a-40-2	mp4a-40-2	mp4a-40-2					
Duration	20 s 779 ms	20 s 885 ms	19 s 733 ms					
Bit rate mode	Constant	Constant	Constant					
Bit rate	256 kb/s	256 kb/s	156 kb/s					
Channels	2 channels	2 channels	2 channels					
Channel layout	L R	L R	LR					
Sampling rate	48.0 kHz	48.0 kHz	48.0 kHz					
Frame rate	46.875 FPS	46.875 FPS	46.875 FPS					
Compression mode	Lossy	Lossy	Lossy					

## Table 4. Continued

# Method of Transmission

After capture, a total of 21 video files were then transmitted – 15 files from 5 iPhones using the iMessage app , WhatsApp, and Facebook Messenger (FBM) and 6 files from 3 Android devices using WhatsApp and FBM. Video files were attached to messages from their stored location in the DCIM folder. It should be noted that the apps utilized allow the user to record video within the app and directly transmit it without being stored in the DCIM folder. Those methods of transmission were outside the scope of this research and were not considered.

#### **Receiving Device/Data Acquisition**

All files were transmitted to an Apple iPhone 6S (iOS 13.2) for evaluation. Once received, the iPhone 6S was connected to a computer and the 21 transmitted video files were copied from the phone's DCIM folder for analysis. Prior to copying files from the device, testing was conducted to ensure that the method of acquisition did not affect any file attributes.

Initial acquisition testing was conducted by acquiring video files from the iPhone 6S in the following manner:

- Cellebrite UFED Physical Analyzer (v.7.35.2.16) Advanced Logical extraction Method 1&2
- Cellebrite UFED 4PC Checkm8 Filesystem extraction (v.7.34.1.133)
- Copy from DCIM folder
- iTunes backup

Once acquired, SHA256 hash values were created for the test video files for each method of extraction. Those hash values were compared and it was found that the corresponding video file's hash values matched regardless of acquisition method. Once confirmed that acquisition method did not affect video files, copying from the DCIM folder was selected for its ease of use and speed.

To ensure that the receiving iPhone 6S did not process or change the received files in any way, video files were downloaded using alternate methods as well. Files transmitted through iMessage were accessed through the Messages application in the Mac operating system and downloaded to a MacBook. Files transmitted through Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp were accessed on a Windows operating system though provider's web application and downloaded. SHA256 checksums of all files acquired using the aforementioned methods were calculated and compared to the files acquired from the iPhone 6S. Those hash values were found to be the same, confirming that the receiving device did not alter any video files.

## **Structural Mapping/Signatures**

Medex forensic video examination software (developer version) [11] was utilized to parse and visualize the box structure of all files. While manually decoding and noting the file's box structure within a hex editor is possible, it is inefficient and time consuming to evaluate video files in this manner without a known reference to compare the data to. The use of automated tools, such as MediaTrace [12], AtomicParsley [13], and Medex is preferred as they will analyze a video file and report the order of the structural boxes to the user without the need for manual decoding. In addition to reporting the box structure of files, the Medex software will assign a specific structural signature based upon the presence of unique boxes and their order within a file. These structural signatures and the method employed by the Medex software were utilized in the analysis of all files for this thesis.

The creation of a unique signature based upon box structure allows for efficient comparison of file structures. Instead of performing a comparison against multiple box structures, unique signatures can be evaluated to identify like structures [14]. To demonstrate how box structure allows for attribution of signature to a specific group of devices, Table 5 shows a comparison of the structural composition of between Signature A (iPhone 7, iPhone 8, and iPhone X) and Signature B (iPhone XR and iPhone 11). Tables 7-18 (see appendix) contain the 12 unique structural signature maps from the 29 analyzed files (8 directly from the source device and 21 transmitted).

Sig	Signature A			Signature B		
Box	Box	Box		Box	Box	Box
Sequence	Depth	Name		Sequence	Depth	Name
1	1	ftyp		1	1	ftyp
2	1	wide		2	1	wide
3	1	mdat		3	1	mdat
4	1	moov		4	1	moov
5	2	mvhd		5	2	mvhd
6	2	trak		6	2	trak
7	3	tkhd		7	3	tkhd
8	3	tapt		8	3	tapt
9	4	clef		9	4	clef
10	4	prof		10	4	prof
11	4	enof		11	4	enof
12	3	edts		12	3	edts
13	4	elst		13	4	elst
14	3	mdia		14	3	mdia
15	4	mdhd		15	4	mhdh
16	4	hdlr		16	4	hdlr
17	4	mif		17	4	minf
18	5	vmhd		18	5	vmhd
19	5	hdlr		19	5	hdlr
20	5	dinf		20	5	dinf
21	6	dref		21	6	dref
22	7	alis		22	7	alis
23	5	stbl		23	5	stbl
24	6	stsd		24	6	stsd
25	6	sgpd		25	6	sgpd
26	6	sgpd		26	6	sgpd
27	6	sbgp		27	6	sbgp
28	6	stts		28	6	stts
29	6	ctts		29	6	ctts
30	6	cslg		30	6	cslg
31	6	stss		31	6	stts
32	6	sdtp		32	6	sdtp
33	6	stsc		33	6	stsc
34	6	stsz		34	6	stsz
35	6	stco		35	6	stco
36	2	trak		36	2	trak
37	3	tkhd		37	3	tkhd
38	3	edts		38	3	edts

Table 5. Comparison of Signatures A and B

#### elst elst mdia mdia 5 mdhd 4 mdhd hdlr hdlr minf 4 minf smhd smhd 6 hdlr 5 hdlr dinf 5 dinf 6 dref dref alis alis stbl stbl stsd stsd stts stts stsc stsc 6 stsz stsz stco stco trak trak tkhd tkhd edts edts elst elst tref 3 tref 4 cdsc cdsc cdep cdep 4 mdia mdia mdhd 5 mdhd 5 hdlr hdlr 5 minf minf 6 gmhd gmhd gmin gmin hdlr 6 hdlr dinf dinf dref dref alis 8 alis stbl stbl stsd stsd stts stts stsc stsc 6 stsz stsz stco stco trak trak tkhd tkhd edts edts

# Table 5. Continued

Table 5. C	ontinued
------------	----------

81	4	elst	81	4	elst
82	3	tref	82	3	tref
83	4	cdsc	83	4	csdsc
84	4	cdep	84	4	cdep
85	3	mdia	85	3	mdia
86	4	mdhd	86	4	mdhd
87	4	hdlr	87	4	hdlr
88	4	minf	88	4	minf
89	5	gmhd	89	5	gmhd
90	6	gmin	90	6	gmin
91	5	hdlr	91	5	hdlr
92	5	dinf	92	5	dinf
93	6	dref	93	6	dref
94	5	alis	94	7	alis
95	4	stbl	95	5	stbl
96	5	stsd	96	6	stsd
97	5	stts	97	6	stts
98	5	stsc	98	6	stsc
99	5	stsz	99	6	stsz
100	5	stco	100	6	stco
101	2	meta	101	2	trak
102	3	hdlr	102	3	tkhd
103	3	keys	103	3	edts
104	4	mdta	104	4	elst
105	4	mdta	105	3	tref
106	4	mdta	106	4	cdsc
107	4	mdta	107	4	cdep
108	3	ilst	108	3	mdia
109	4	data	109	4	mdhd
110	4	data	110	4	hdlr
111	4	data	111	4	minf
112	4	data	112	5	gmhd
			113	6	gmin
			114	5	hdlr
			115	5	dinf
			116	6	dref
			117	7	alis
			118	5	stbl
			119	6	stsd
			120	6	stts
			121	6	stsc
			122	6	stsz

# Table 5. Continued

123	6	stco
124	2	meta
125	3	hdlr
126	3	keys
127	4	mdta
128	4	mdta
129	4	mdta
130	4	mdta
131	3	ilst
132	4	data
133	4	data
134	4	data
135	4	data

#### **CHAPTER III**

## RESULTS

Twelve unique structural signatures were identified from the 29 video files (8 acquired directly from the originating device and 21 transmitted) evaluated. Those unique signatures were then analyzed for any possible correlation between device and/or method of transmission. Table 17 identifies the individual unique signatures and their corresponding video file(s).

	iPhone 7	iPhone 8	iPhone X	iPhone XR	iPhone 11	Galaxy Note 9	Galaxy S10	Stylo 5
On Device	Sig A	Sig A	Sig A	Sig B	Sig B	Sig C	Sig C	Sig D
iMessage	Sig E	Sig E	Sig F	Sig F	Sig F			
FBM	Sig G	Sig G	Sig G	Sig G	Sig G	Sig H	Sig I	Sig H
WhatsApp	Sig J	Sig J	Sig J	Sig J	Sig J	Sig K	Sig L	Sig L

**Table 6.** File Signature by Device and Transmission

#### **On Device Analysis**

It was found that video recorded to the DCIM folders of the iPhone 7, iPhone 8, and iPhone X shared the same signature while the iPhone XR and iPhone 11 shared another. It should be noted that the iOS version of the devices varied. While the iPhone 8 and iPhone X share the same chipset, the other devices do not. Videos recorded to the DCIM folder of the Samsung Note 9 and Galaxy S10 also shared the same signature. Those devices had similar operating systems and chipsets were from the same manufacturer, but not the same model. The LG Stylo 5 exhibited its own unique signature. It should be noted that the chipset for the LG Stylo 5 is the same brand as in the Samsung devices used, but a different model.

## iMessage Analysis

When files were transmitted between iPhones via iMessage, the file signature changed from when the file was stored in the DCIM folder. The iPhone 7 and iPhone 8 shared the same signature while the iPhone X, iPhone XR, iPhone 11 shared a different signature. Additionally, it was found that the signatures in common between devices when transmitted between devices by iMessage is different than the signatures in common between devices when the video file is stored in the DCIM folder without transmission.

## **Facebook Messenger Analysis**

When files were transmitted by Facebook Messenger all Apple devices tested shared the same unique signature which was different than that stored on the device or transmitted by other methods. The Galaxy Note 9 and the LG Stylo 5 also shared a unique signature for transmission by Facebook Messenger while the Galaxy S10 had its own unique signature specific to this method.

## WhatsApp Analysis

Like Facebook Messenger, the iPhones shared a unique signature specific to WhatsApp for the transmission method. Unlike the Facebook Messenger results, the Galaxy S10 and LG Stylo 5 shared a unique signature while the Galaxy Note 9 exhibited its own unique file signature for WhatsApp transmittal.

#### **CHAPTER IV**

## CONCLUSIONS

The results of the research conducted for this thesis support the hypothesis that file structure alone will show some degree of file provenance and/or the manner it was transmitted. Three distinct on-device, two distinct iMessage, three distinct FBM, and 3 distinct WhatsApp signatures were found during this analysis. Given this finding, and the supposition that these distinct signatures would not be found elsewhere or in common between each other, it could be determined with confidence that, evidence characterized by one of these twelve signatures could be attributed to either an iPhone or Android device as well as iMessage, FBM, or WhatsApp. While devices of the same operating system did share some of the same signatures, no single signature found to be shared by both iOS and Android operating systems.. The lack of any similarity between iOS vs Android files lends support that structural analysis can be an effective approach when triaging unknown files for analysis. Additionally, each transmission method showed a different structural signature, giving unique insight into if the file was transmitted and/or method of transmission.

When looking at files that were captured on a device and not transmitted, file structure can also be used to further narrow potential source devices. Even though devices like the iPhone 7, iPhone 8, and iPhone X shared a signature, it was different than the signature for the iPhone XR and iPhone 11. Additionally, the iOS versions on the devices did not appear to affect the structure of files as different signatures shared the same iOS version. While both Samsung devices tested did share a common signature, the LG device exhibited a different one, showing promise that file structure could be used to discern between manufacturers of Android devices.

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Apple devices that send video files via iMessage were also found to have a unique signature to the method of transmittal. This unique signature can not only be used to identify a video file transmitted by iMessage, but identify a potential group of device models that it originated from. Even though the Apple devices exhibited 2 different signatures for videos stored to the DCIM folder and 2 different signatures for files sent by iMessage, the signatures shared by devices are not the same for both scenarios. Identifying the cause for these differences was outside the scope of this thesis but could aid in a deeper understanding of determining provenance from unknown files.

File signatures of videos transmitted by Facebook Messenger may allow for the identification of Facebook Messenger as the method of transmission and identification of operating system of the originating device. Apple devices were found to share the same unique signature when video files were transmitted in this manner. Again, those signatures were different than Android devices, allowing structural analysis to limit potential methods of transmission and narrow down source devices. Android devices can also be further narrowed down as the Galaxy Note 9 and LG Stylo 5 exhibited the same signature while the Galaxy S10 displayed a different unique signature.

WhatsApp signatures may also allow the identification of WhatsApp as a method of transmission and identification of operating system of the originating device. Android device make and model may be further narrowed as evidenced by the Galaxy S10 and LG Stylo 5 sharing a unique signature to WhatsApp transmittal while the Galaxy Note 9 had its own unique signature.

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#### **CHAPTER V**

## **FUTURE RESEARCH**

The results of this thesis show promise in using an unknown file's structure to identify a source device and/or method of transmission. Expanded testing and structural signature identification with a larger number of iOS and Android as well as other recording devices such as security digital video recorders and camcorders could help to demonstrate validity to this approach. Additional testing involving an expanded group of applications and software could allow for structural signatures to be used on a broader scale.

To be increasingly effective against unknown files sources, a library of known file structure signatures could expedite authentication examinations by identifying the source device and method of transmission [11]. This could aid in developing investigative leads as well as conduct authenticity examinations. Once established, any library would have to be consistently updated as new devices and operating system versions are introduced.

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#### APPENDIX

Signature A								
e 7 (sou	rce) / il	Phone 8	(source)	) / iPho	ne X (s	source)		
trak	.1.1.1							
	tapt	1.0						
		enof						
	edts							
		elst						
	mdia							
		hdlr						
		minf						
			vmhd					
			hdlr					
			dinf					
				dref				
					alis			
			stbl					
				stsd				
				sgpd				
						1		
						1		
						1		
trak				5100				
uax	tkhd			<u> </u>				
	e 7 (sou mvhd trak	Imwhd           mwhd           trak           tkhd           tapt           rak           rak <td>7 (source) / iPhone 8         I      I        <td< td=""><td>7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source)         <math>a</math> <math>a</math></td><td>e 7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone           Image: Source / iPhone         Image: Source / iPhone           Image: Source / iPhone<!--</td--><td>e 7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone X (second conditional second conditinal second conditional second conditional second condit</td></td></td<></td>	7 (source) / iPhone 8         I      I <td< td=""><td>7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source)         <math>a</math> <math>a</math></td><td>e 7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone           Image: Source / iPhone         Image: Source / iPhone           Image: Source / iPhone<!--</td--><td>e 7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone X (second conditional second conditinal second conditional second conditional second condit</td></td></td<>	7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) $a$	e 7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone           Image: Source / iPhone         Image: Source / iPhone           Image: Source / iPhone </td <td>e 7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone X (second conditional second conditinal second conditional second conditional second condit</td>	e 7 (source) / iPhone 8 (source) / iPhone X (second conditional second conditinal second conditional second conditional second condit		

### **Table 7.** File Signature A Structural Map

Table 7. Continued

		elst				
 		mdia				
		mara	mdhd			
			hdlr			
			minf			
				smhd		
				hdlr		
				dinf		
				41111	dref	
					urer	alis
				stbl		unio
				5001	stsd	
					stts	
					stsc	
					stsz	
					stco	
 trak					~~~~~	
 	tkhd					
	edts					
		elst				
	tref					
		cdsc				
		cdep				
	mdia	1				
		mdhd				
		hdlr				
		minf				
			gmhd			
			0	gmin		
			hdlr	<u> </u>		
			dinf			
				dref		
					alis	
			stbl			
				stsd		
				stts		
				stsc		
				stsz		
				stco		
trak						
	tkhd					
	edts					
	euts					

Table 7. Continued

		elst			
	tref				
		cdsc			
		cdep			
	mdia				
		mdhd			
		hdlr			
		minf			
			gmhd		
				gmin	
			hdlr		
			dinf		
			dref		
				alis	
		stbl			
			stsd		
			stts		
			stsc		
			stsz		
			stco		
meta					
	hdlr				
	keys				
		mdta			
	ilst				
		data			

			Signat	ture B			
	iPh	one XR	(source)	/ iPhone	11 (sour	ce)	
ftyp						_	
wide							
mdat						_	
moov							
	mvhd					_	
	trak					_	
		tkhd					
		tapt				_	
			clef				
			prof				
			enof				
		edts					
			elst				
		mdia					
			mhdh				
			hdlr				
			minf				
				vmhd			
				hdlr			
				dinf			
					dref		
						alis	
				stbl			
					stsd		
					sgpd		
					sgpd		
					sbgp		
					stts		
					ctts		
					cslg		
					stts		
					sdtp		
					stsc		
					stsz		
			1	1	stco		
	trak						
		tkhd					
		edts					
			elst				

# Table 8. File Signature B Structural Map

#### Table 8. Continued

		mdia					
			mdhd				
			hdlr				
			minf				
				smhd			
				hdlr			
				dinf			
					dref		
						alis	
				stbl			
					stsd		
					stts		
					stsc		
					stsz		
					stco		
	trak						
		tkhd					
		edts					
			elst				
		tref					
			cdsc				
			cdep				
			mdia				
				mdhd			
				hdlr			
		_		minf			
		_			gmhd		
		_				gmin	
					hdlr		
					dinf		
						dref	
							alis
					stbl		
						stsd	
						stts	
						stsc	
		_		ļ		stsz	
						stco	
	trak						
		tkhd		ļ			
		edts					
			elst				

#### Table 8. Continued

	tref					
	uei	csdsc				
	mdia	cdep				
	mdia	ار ماله ما				
		mdhd				
		hdlr				
		minf				
			gmhd			
				gmin		
			hdlr			
			dinf			
				dref		
					alis	
			stbl			
				stsd		
				stts		
				stsc		
				stsz		
				stco		
trak						
	tkhd					
	edts					
		elst				
	tref					
		cdsc				
		cdep				
	mdia	Cuep				
	mara	mdhd				
		hdlr				
		minf				
	+		gmhd	+		
			giinu	amin		
			hdle	gmin		
			hdlr			
			dinf	1. 6		
				dref	1.	
					alis	
	-		stbl	-		
				stsd		
				stts	ļ	
				stsc		
				stsz		
				stco		

Table 8. Continued

meta				
	hdlr			
	keys			
		mdta		
	ilst			
		data		

 Table 9. File Signature C Structural Map

	Signature C									
Galaxy Note 9 (source) / Galaxy S10 (source)										
ftyp										
mdat										
moov										
	mvhd									
	udta									
		SDLN								
		smrd								
		smta								
			saut							
	meta									
		hdlr								
		keys								
			mdta							
			mdta							
		ilst								
			data							
	trak									
		tkhd								
		mdia								
			mdhd							
			hdlr							
			minf							
				vmhd						
					dinf					
						dref				

url stbl stsd stts stss stsz stsc stco trak tkhd mdia mdhd hdlr ound minf smhd dinf dref url stbl stsd stts stsz stsc stco

Table 9. Continued

### Table 10. File Signature D Structural Map

	Signature D LG Stylo 5 (source)							
ftyp								
moov								
	mvhd							
	udta							
		auth						
		stvd						
		vhdr						
	meta							
		hdlr						
		keys						
		-	mdta					
		ilst						

			data			
	trak					
		tkhd				
		mdia				
			mdhd			
			hdlr			
			minf			
				vmhd		
				dinf		
					dref	
						url
				stbl		
					stsd	
					stts	
					stss	
					stsz	
					stsc	
					stco	
	trak					
		tkhd				
		mdia				
			hdlr			
			ound			
			minf			
				smhd		
				dinf		
					dref	
						url
				stbl		
					stsd	
					stts	
					stsz	
					stsc	
					stco	
free						
mdat						

	Signature E iPhone 7 (iMessage) / iPhone 8 (iMessage)								
ftyp									
wide									
mdat									
moov									
	mvhd								
	trak								
		tkhd							
		edts							
			elst						
		mdia							
			mdhd						
			hdlr						
			minf						
				smhd					
				hdlr					
				dinf					
					dref				
						alis			
				stbl					
					stsd				
					stts				
					stsc				
					stsz				
					stco				
	trak								
		tkhd							
		tapt							
			clef						
			prof						
			enof						
		edts							
			elst						
				Entry					
		mdia							
			mdhd						
			hdlr						
			minf						
				vmhd					
				hdlr					

Table 11.	File Signatur	re E Structural	Map
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Table 11. Continued

			dinf			
				dref		
					alis	
			stbl			
				stsd		
				stts		
				ctts		
				cslg		
				stss		
				sdtp		
				stsc		
				stsz		
				stco		
trak						
	tkhd					
	edts					
		elst				
	tref					
		cdsc				
		cdeo				
	mdia					
		mdhd				
		hdlr				
		minf				
			gmhd			
				gmin		
			hdlr			
			minf			
				gmhd		
				1 11	gmin	
				hdlr		
				dinf	1.0	
					dref	1'
						alis
 				stbl	. 1	
					stsd	
					stts	
					stsc	
 					stsz	
41					stco	
trak	4],1,-1,-1					
	tkhd					

Table 11. Continued

	edts					
		elst				
	tref					
		cdsc				
		cdep				
	mdia					
		mdhd				
		hdlr				
		minf				
			mdhd			
			hdlr			
			minf			
				gmhd		
					gmin	
				hdlr		
				dinf		
					dref	
						alis
				stbl		
					stsd	
					stts	
					stsc	
					stsz	
					stco	
meta						
	hdlr					
	keys			_		
		mdta				
		mdta				
		mdta				
		mdta				
	ilst					
		data				
		data				
		data				
		data				

Signature F iPhone X (iMessage) / iPhone XR (iMessage) / iPhone 11 (iMessage)								
ftyp								
wide								
mdat								
moov								
	mvhd							
	trak							
		tkhd						
		edts						
			elst					
		mdia						
			mdhd					
			hdlr					
			minf					
				smhd				
				hdlr				
				dinf				
					dref			
						alis		
				stbl				
					stsd			
					stts			
					stsc			
					stsz			
					stco			
	trak							
		tkhd						
		tapt						
			clef					
			prof					
			enof					
		edts						
			elst					
		mdia						
			mdhd					
			hdlr					
			minf					
				vmhd				
				hdlr				
		1		dinf				

 Table 12. File Signature F Structural Map

Table 12. Continued
---------------------

				dref		
					alis	
			stbl			
				stsd		
				stts		
				ctts		
				cslg		
				stss		
				sdtp		
				stsc		
				stsz		
				stco		
trak						
	tkhd				1	
	edts	1	1		1	
		elts			1	
	tref				1	
		cdsc				
		cdep				
		mdia				
			mdhd			
			hdlr			
			minf			
				gmhd		
					gmin	
				hdlr		
				dinf		
					dref	
						alis
		l l		stbl		
1					stsd	
					stts	
		l l			stsc	
					stsz	
					stco	
trak						
	tkhd					
	edts					
		elst				
	tref					
		cdsc				
		cdep				

	mdia					
		mdhd				
		hdlr				
		minf				
			gmhd			
			0	gmin		
			hdlr			
			dinf			
				dref		
					alis	
			stbl			
				stsd		
				stts		
				stsc		
		1		stsx		
		1		stco	1	
trak		1			1	
	tkhd					
	edts					
		elst				
	tref					
		cdsc				
		cdep				
	mdia					
		mdhd				
		hdlr				
		minf				
			gmhd			
				gmin		
			hdlr			
			minf			
				gmhd		
					gmin	
				hdlr		
				dinf		
					dref	
						alis
				stbl		
					stsd	
					stts	
					stsc	
					stsz	

Table 12. Continued

				stco	
meta					
	hdlr				
	keys				
		mdta			
	ilst				
		data			

 Table 13. File Signature G Structural Map

			Signature								
ił	iPhone 7 (FBM) / iPhone 8 (FBM) / iPhone X (FBM) iPhone XR (FBM) / iPhone 11 (FBM)										
ftyp											
moov											
	mvhd										
	trak										
		tkhd									
		edts									
			elst								
		mdia									
			mdhd								
			hdlr								
			minf								
				vmhd							
				dinf							
					dref						
						url					
				stbl							
					stsd						
					stts						
					ctts						
					stsc						
					stsz						
					stco						
	trak										

	tkhd				
	edts				
		elst			
	mdia				
		mdhd			
		hdlr			
		minf			
			smhd		
			dinf		
				dref	
					url
			stbl		
				stsd	
				stts	
				stsc	
				stsz	
				stsco	
				sgpd	
				sbgp	
udta					
	meta				
		hdlr			
		ilst			
			data		
free					
mdat					

Table 13. Continued

 Table 14. File Signature H Structural Map

	Signature H Galaxy Note 9 (FBM) / LG Stylo 5 (FBM)									
ftyp										
moov										
	mvhd									
	trak									
		tkhd								
		edts								
			elst							
		mdia								
			mdhd							
			hdlr							

			minf			
			1111111	vmhd		
				dinf	1	
					dref	1
						url
				stbl		
					stsd	
					stts	
					stss	
					ctts	
					stsc	
					stsz	
					stco	
	trak					
		tkhd				
		edts				
			elst			
		mdia				
			mdhd			
			hdlr			
			ound			
			minf			
				smhd		
				dinf		
					dref	
						url
				stbl		
				501	stsd	
					stts	
					stsc	
					stsz	
					stco	
					sgpd	
					sbgp	
	udta					
		meta	1 11			
			hdlr			
			ilst			
				data		
free						
mdat						

Table 14. Continued

			Signatur	e I		
2		Ga	laxy S10 (	FBM)	1	
ftyp						
moov						
	mvhd					
	trak				_	
		tkhd				
		edts				
			elst			
		mdia				
			mdhd			
			hdlr			
			minf			
				vmhd		
				dinf		
					dref	
						url
				stbl		
					stsd	
					stts	
					stss	
					ctts	
					stsc	
					stsz	
					stco	
	trak					
		tkhd				
		edts				
		Cats				
			elst			
		mdia	Cist			
		inuia	mdhd			
			hdlr			
			minf			
			1111111	smhd		
				dinf	draf	
					dref	11
				- 41.1		url
				stbl		
					stsd	

 Table 15. File Signature I Structural Map

Table 15. Continued

					stts	
					stsc	
					stsz	
					stco	
	udta					
		meta				
			hdlr			
			ilst			
				data		
free						
mdat						

# Table 16. File Signature J Structural Map

	Dhana	7 (Whata	Signature		hota <b>A</b> nn	)			
	iPhone X	(Whats	(App) / iPl App) / iPh	one XR (V	TatsApp WhatsAp	) p)			
	iPhone X (WhatsApp) / iPhone XR (WhatsApp) iPhone 11 (WhatsApp)								
ftyp									
moov									
	mvhd								
	trak								
		tkhd							
		free							
		mdia							
			mdhd						
			hdlr						
			minf						
				vmhd					
				dinf					
					dref				
						url			
				stbl					
					stsd				
					stts				
					stss				
					sdtp				
					stsc				
					stsz				
					stco				
	trak								

	41.1.1				
	tkhd				
	free				
	mdia				
		mdhd			
		hdlr			
		minf			
			smhd		
			dinf		
				dref	
					url
			stbl		
				stsd	
				sgpd	
				sbgp	
				stts	
				stsc	
				stsz	
				stco	
mdat					

Table 16. Continued

Signature K Galazy Note 9 (WhatsApp)						
ftyp		Guluzy			,	
beam						
moov						
	mvhd					
	trak					
		tkhd				
		mdia				
			mdhd			
			hdlr			
			minf			
				vmhd		
				dinf		
					dref	
						url
				stbl		
					stsd	
					stts	
					stsc	
					stsz	
					stco	
					stss	
	trak				5655	
		tkhd				
		mdia				
			mdhd			
			hdlr			
			gmin			
			smhd			
			dinf			
				dref		
					url	
			stbl			
			5.01	stsd		
				stts		
				stsc		
				stsz		
				stco	1	
mdat					1	

 Table 17. File Signature K Structural Map

Signature L									
	Galaxy S10 (WhatsApp) / LG Stylo 5 (WhatsApp)								
ftyp					_				
beam									
moov									
	mvhd								
	trak								
		tkhd							
		mdia							
			mdhd						
			hdlr						
			minf						
				vmhd					
				dinf					
					dref				
						url			
				stbl					
					stsd				
					stts				
					stsc				
					stsz				
					stco				
					stss				
	trak								
		tkhd							
		mdia							
			mdhd						
			hdlr						
			minf						
				smhd					
				dinf					
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				stbl		uII			
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					stts				
					stsc				
					stsz				
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mdat									

 Table 18. File Signature L Structural Map