Virtual currencies, such as Bitcoin, have recently dominated news headlines. The term virtual currency has been around since 2012. However, virtual currencies as we know them have existed before then. Most virtual currencies can be used to buy goods anonymously, which has made them popular among privacy concerned individuals. Bitcoin’s recent spike in popularity has caused a proliferation and dissemination of information regarding its use and advantages to mainstream audiences. Adoption of virtual currencies by the public has increased, which has introduced a novel issue in digital forensic examinations.

This summer, MultiBit, Litecoin, and Darkcoin desktop wallet software was examined for valuable artifacts on Windows 7 and Ubuntu 14.04 operating systems. This was accomplished in a three-fold fashion: Hard drive, Memory, and Network evidence. In all cases, some form of application settings, user timeline information, and transaction logs were among the type of information able to be recovered. The MultiBit wallet contained the greatest amount of user timeline information including a file created upon uninstalling the application. Overall, the three wallets shared remarkable similarity in artifacts generated.

Materials used for this research project include:
1. One external hard drive
2. VM Workstation and ISO files for operating systems analyzed
3. Bitcoins, Litecoins, and Darkcoins for trading purposes
4. Access to forensic software programs