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Forensic Imaging & Hard Drive Cloning



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Forensic imaging is created using a computer forensic examiner's lab computer/laptop with special software. Basically, the examiner connects a write blocker to the drive of the subject's computer and all the content is captured as an image, known as a bit stream image. It is transferred to a separate hard drive. In some processes, multiple forensic images are captured on one single hard drive.

The difference between hard drive cloning and forensic imaging is that one allows you to explore, while the other only allows you to view. With cloning, everything is being copied, so you're able to access and click through the files on your own hard drive. Forensic imaging captures everything on the original drive. It is a thumb print of the drive. Another major difference is that the files in forensic imaging can't be accessed using most electronic discovery software or litigation

Getting the information you need for a case should be done in any way legally possible. If you have a computer with important data that could help you win a case, you will most likely need to clone the hard drive or use forensic imaging, so that you can review it on your own time.

Hard drive cloning is the process of copying content from the computer's hard disk to an image file (also known as Bit stream imaging); this is done using hard drive cloning equipment.

There are various reasons to use this technique, such as for system backups, provisioning new computers, reboot and restore, full system backups and system recovery, but it is also widely used for legal purposes.

support applications. Forensic images are only accessible by computer forensic software. Cloning allows you to review it any laptop or desktop that can connect to the hard drive the files were copied to.





Definitions:

Imaging– The examiner connects a write blocker to the drive and all content is captured as an image and transferred to a separate hard drive .

Cloning– Process of copying content from the computer’s hard disk to an image file , also known as Bit stream imaging.

How Can Forensic Images and Cloning Help My Case?

Forensic images and hard drive cloning can be very crucial to various types of cases. If you’re looking to obtain information off of a device, but aren’t able to get access to it or aren’t allowed ample time to view the files on the device,



cloning and imaging could definitely help. Then on your own time you can review chat logs, saved and deleted photos, financial records, computer activities and whatever else that may be stored on a computer’s hard drive belonging to the accused individual.

Some of the cases that could benefit from forensic imaging and hard disk cloning:

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Criminal
- Civil
- Corporate Litigation

Using a licensed Forensic Expert is essential to ensuring that all of the data is captured or cloned efficiently. You want to minimize the potential of damage or loss of important data as best possible and a Forensic Specialist can help you with that.



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