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How a Computer Forensics Investigation Firm Can Help with Child Exploitation Cases pt. 2



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A 2009 Associated Press investigation found cases in which innocent people were branded as pedophiles after their co-workers or loved ones stumbled upon child pornography placed on a PC through a virus.

In 2007, an employee aroused suspicion after the Internet bill for his state-issued laptop showed that he used four and half time more data than his colleagues. A technician found child porn on the PC folder that stores images viewed online.

An inspection for the defense revealed the laptop was severely infected. It was programmed to visit as many as forty child porn sites per minute— an inhuman feat!

While out to dinner one night, someone logged on to his computer and unsecured network

and pornography flowed in for an hour and a half.

Prosecutors performed another test and confirmed the defense findings. The charge was dropped—eleven months after it was filed.

In the first publicly known cases of individuals being victimized, two men in the United Kingdom were found innocent in 2003, after viruses were shown to have been responsible for the child pornography cases on their PCs.

In one case, an infected email or pop-up poisoned a defense contractor's PC and downloaded the offensive pictures.

These types of defenses can be plausible, but only a Computer Forensic Expert can determine if it really happened in your particular case.



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Choosing a Computer Forensic Expert should be a very careful process. But what can an expert do for you once you've retained him or her?

Child Exploitation cases are incredibly difficult. Even being accused of such can ruin reputations as well as professional and personal relationships. Defense can be costly but not utilizing all of your resources can cost you more. Hiring a Licensed Computer Expert can make or break your Child Exploitation case. And remember, the earlier a forensics specialist is involved in the matter, the greater the chance that usable evidence will result from the investigation.



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A Licensed Computer Expert, who is familiar with law enforcement procedures, can verify the forensic images created by law enforcement to ensure that they match. Your Computer Forensic Expert can review procedures; such as chain of custody, use of lack thereof of certain dongles. Your expert will verify text messages (sent, received and deleted), emails, downloads, and site visitation history.

A licensed Computer Forensic Expert can also determine how many times a file was accessed, whether or not a file was copied and if so, how many times.





Remember:

~Peer-to-Peer (such as LimeWire) networks can contain files claiming to be one thing and truly be another.

~Unprotected wireless networks can lead to intrusion or imitation of usage.

~Never try to do a forensic search yourself, you risk making evidence inadmissible to court.

~ Always use a licensed Computer Expert.

~**Unallocated File Space** – area or space on the hard drive of the computer/device that is available to write data to.

~**Allocated File Space** – area or space on the hard drive that contains the operating system and user data files that are easily accessible to the computer user.

Your Expert will run searches on key words in the allocated and unallocated areas (definitions at left). When the data

Forensic Expert penetrates the unallocated file space; intact files, temporary files and remnants of files and subdirectories can be found. These files and fragments of data can contain important evidence for any given case.

The expert will also check for access dates and make sure no undocumented or unauthorized access was made to the accused’s belongings.

Once your expert has completed his investigation he or she will write a report and keep copies of this report in anticipation of any possible Expert testimony in court.

*Note: Our newsletter is going paperless! Beginning July 2010 the Expert Data Forensic Newsletter will be available online at expertdataforensics.com or through email subscription.



The Methodology

- Seize eEvidence
- Authenticate
- Analyze
- Report

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Case Logs for May

What's in Our Lab?

- 2 x Infidelity Cases
- 4x Corporate Dispute Cases
- 1 Copy write infringement dispute
- 3 Child Exploitation cases

And counting...