Cybercrime & Investigative Technologies Section





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Cyber Crime Investigation

Crimes where computers or any digital media was used as an element of the crime

Traditional crimes that have "digital evidence"

High Tech crimes also have "digital evidence"

Traditional Crime

BTK Killer-Dennis Rader

–Gave the news media a floppy disk which contained data that led investigators to his church and eventually the suspect

Scott Peterson-

–A few weeks before his pregnant wife, Laci, disappeared, he surfed the Web for information on tides and water currents in the same bay where her body turned up five months later

Traditional Crime

Indiana Case

–Infant was killed by boyfriend punching stomach. Google searches of "what happens when infant stomach beaten"

High Tech Crime

Hacking for Personal Information

2015 Anthem security breach 80 Million accounts

Military or Terrorist Activities

China, North Korea, Russia military hacking

Legal Considerations

Reasonable Expectation of Privacy
Consent Searches
"Control" of computer files
Plain View
Employer agreements

Securing Digital Evidence

- There are so many different devices now that can contain digital evidence
 - -Computers
 - -Digital Cameras
 - -Thumb Drives
 - -Cell Phones
 - -Gaming Systems
 - -MP3 Players
 - -Refrigerator/Appliances



Micro SD Memory



Thumb Drives



Mini Thumb Drive



Micro Thumb Drive





Thumb Drives





Thumb Drives Leggo Thumb Drive Bracelet Thumb Drive

Thumb Drives











TiVo/Cable Box DVR









Securing A Computer

Remove any potential suspects from the area

- On/Off Principle
 - If it is off, leave it off
 - If it is on
 - Document and photograph the screen

 Pull the plug from the back of the computer (not the wall outlet)

Securing A Computer

Photograph the back of the computer including everything plugged into it

Note the make, model, and serial number of the computer

Label according to standard procedures

Take care during transport to avoid excess bouncing or jarring

Securing A Computer

Networked computers (such as a business computer) – bring in a specialist, CALL CYBER CRIME UNIT

 There could be other network computers with important data

 You could adversely affect the business operation and be held liable

Securing Other Digital Devices

Generally just "bag and tag" like any other evidence

Only seize a Laptop power cord, Not a Desktop computer









Smartphone Capabilities

- Phone calls and texting
- Digital camera with video, HD and 4k
- Full internet browsing
- Emailing, Social Networking (Facebook)
- File sharing (Flickr, Picasa, Mobileme)
- Advanced GPS (tracking kids)
- VOIP (via Internet) Skype, Google Voice









- Suspect or person helping suspect can send a Remote Wipe signal to the smartphone to delete the contents.
- We highly recommend that when phone is seized by police officer that they put the phone in "Airplane Mode" AND turn the WiFi OFF.
- Apple WIPES ALL data, Androids are getting better at Factory Resetting



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- Suspect uses computer or another smartphone to login to his account and wipe his phone.
- If smartphone is not in "Airplane Mode" or taken off the cellular or WiFi network, wipe command will start.



Remove device from all networks, then examine

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No Aluminum foil or paint cans needed

As long as Airplane Mode turned ON and Phone is turned OFF, remove battery if possible

Place in regular evidence bag