

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction: Purpose and Scope	1
Purpose	1
Scope	3
What Is Not Covered.....	3
Defining Digital Evidence.....	4
2. Hard Drive Technology, File Systems, and Computer Forensics	5
Hard Drive Technology	5
Platters.....	6
Low-Level Formatting: Tracks and Sectors	6
High-Level Formatting.....	8
Clusters	8
File Systems: File Allocation Table (FAT)	9
Defining Computer Forensics	11
First Responders	13
Mirror or Bit Stream Image.....	15
Computer Is Not Turned On	16
Much More Than Copying Files	18
Write Blockers	18
Computer Forensics Tool Testing (CFTT).....	22
Forensic Examination Is Done on the Mirror Image	24
Mirror Images Are Verified with Hash Algorithms	25
Mathematical Certitude—Higher than DNA	26
MD5 Collision.....	28
SHA Hashes.....	29
SHA-1 Collision.....	30
One-Way Hash.....	31
Hash Algorithms Used for Identifying Known Files	31
National Software Reference Library.....	33
PhotoDNA	34
Computer Forensic Software Tools.....	35
Computer Forensic Reports	38
Recovering “Deleted” Files in Unallocated Clusters.....	39

Why Files Are Not Actually Deleted.....	41
Reversing the Delete Process.....	41
“Deleted” Files That Are Completely Overwritten Are Not Recoverable	45
Defragmenting a Hard Drive	47
Regular Computer Usage Will Overwrite Some Deleted Files.....	48
File Slack.....	49
File Slack and Unallocated Clusters Are Not the Same	50
File Slack Is in Allocated Clusters	51
Ram Slack	52
Physical Level and Logical Level.....	52
Deleted Files Remain at the Physical Level	53
Clusters Are Logical Storage Units Where Active Files Are Stored.....	56
Active File Evidence.....	58
Recycle Bin.....	60
INFO2 File.....	61
Recovering File Names	62
3. Computer Forensic Techniques and Sources of Digital Evidence	65
Keyword Searches	65
GREP.....	67
File Signature Analysis.....	68
File Carving.....	69
Windows Registry.....	71
Restore Points	73
Page File and Swap File.....	74
Thumbs.db File.....	75
Link Files	79
E-mail	81
E-mail Technology	81
E-mail Evidence on Computer Hard Drives.....	84
E-mail Headers	89
Web Mail	92
Log Files.....	93
Internet Searches	97
Previews and Gallery Views	101
Anti-Forensics	102

TABLE OF CONTENTS
ix

Criticism of the Booby Trap Argument	105
Data Hiding Techniques.....	105
Hiding Files by Changing the File Extension	106
Defendants Argue That Searches Should Be Restricted to Certain File Types	107
Steganography	109
Host Protected Area and Device Configuration Overlay	110
Temporary Internet Files (Cache).....	111
Temporary Internet File Evidence.....	113
Computer Forensics and Child Pornography Found in Temporary Internet Files.....	117
Dominion and Control.....	119
Constructive Possession.....	121
Knowledge of Web Browser Caching	123
Only Sophisticated User with Specialized Software Can Access Cache?.....	124
Temporary Internet Files and Unallocated Clusters.....	125
Evidence of Internet Searches Can Help Establish Knowing Possession or Receipt	126
Child Pornography in TIFs Prompts Amendments to Federal and State Laws	127
Index.dat Files	129
Content.IE5 Folder.....	130
What Computer Forensics Cannot Do	131
Secondary Sources	133
Computer Forensics.....	133
Books.....	133
Articles	134
Temporary Internet Files/Cache	136
4. Child Pornography Investigations	137
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)	140
Child Pornography Investigations Using Peer-to-Peer Software.....	142
IP Addresses and Peer-to-Peer Networks.....	143
Newsgroups	146
Internet Relay Chat.....	148
Direct Connection and Fserve	149

Defenses.....	150
Adult Websites.....	151
Computer Viruses or Trojans	152
Computer Forensics and the Virus or Trojan Horse Defense.....	153
Pop-Up Defense	154
Hacker.....	155
Someone Else Had Access to Defendant's Computer	156
Ostrich Defense.....	157
Search Terms May Undermine Defenses.....	158
5. Fourth Amendment and Computers	161
Fourth Amendment	161
Reasonable Expectation of Privacy.....	161
Reasonable Expectation of Privacy in Closed Containers.....	163
Computers as Containers.....	163
Shared Computers.....	165
Networked Computers	167
Reasonable Expectation of Privacy in Workplace Computers.....	168
Internet Communications	170
Fourth Amendment Reasonableness.....	172
Computers Complicate Reasonableness Analysis.....	173
Search Warrants	173
Probable Cause	175
Illinois v. Gates.....	176
Great Deference	177
Probable Cause to Support Seizing and Searching Computers.....	178
IP Address	178
MAC Address	179
Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6).....	183
Probable Cause and Investigations of Peer-to-Peer Networks	185
Nexus.....	186
Screen Names and Usernames	188
Wireless Defense.....	190
Non-Internet Scenarios.....	192
Private Search Doctrine—Computer Searches by Private Parties	196
Scope of the Private Search.....	198

TABLE OF CONTENTS**xi**

Good Faith Exception	198
Good Faith Exception and Computer Searches	200
Membership to Child Pornography Website as Basis for Probable Cause	202
United States v. Gourde	204
Staleness.....	206
Staleness and Computer Searches.....	207
Computer Forensic Recovery of Deleted Files Supports Probable Cause	213
Temporary Internet Files Support Probable Cause	215
Staleness Found by a Few Courts	216
Particularity Requirement	217
Guard Against General Searches	217
Particularity and Computer Searches.....	219
Must a Search Warrant Specifically State That Computers Can Be Seized and Searched?	221
Massive Storage Capacity.....	224
Intermingled Documents.....	226
Relaxing the Particularity Requirement in Computer Searches	227
Limited to a Particular Crime.....	230
Child Pornography Investigations Raise Particularity Concerns.....	232
Incorporation by Reference.....	235
Special Approach to Computer Searches.....	236
United States v. Carey	238
Carey Extended Tamura Rule.....	240
Carey Has Been Limited	241
Carey Limited to Its Particular Facts.....	241
United States Supreme Court Has Rejected Requiring Search Warrants Be Executed in a Certain Way.....	242
Plain View Doctrine and Computer Searches	247
Plain View Doctrine in Comprehensive Computer Searches.....	249
Everything Comes into Plain View	251
Intermingled Data.....	253
Plain View Doctrine Is Based on Physical Rules.....	253

Subjective Intent and Inadvertence.....	257
Inadvertence and Searches in the Physical World.....	258
Abolish the Plain View Exception for Computer Searches?.....	259
Major Plain View Ruling: United States v. Comprehensive Drug Testing, Inc.....	260
Strong Dissents.....	262
Reaction to United States v. Comprehensive Drug Testing, Inc.....	263
CDT Decision Welcomed by Defendants but Criticized by Other Courts.....	265
Ninth Circuit Issues Revised En Banc Opinion: CDT III.....	266
Ramifications of Computer Searches on Plain View Doctrine in Physical Searches.....	266
Hash Searches and the Fourth Amendment	267
Off-Site Searches: Seizure and Search	271
IPv6 Addresses, MAC Addresses & Off-Site Searches.....	276
Length of Time to Search a Computer.....	276
Time Delays May Require Justification	277
Statutory Warrant Requirements.....	278
Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure Amended to Explicitly Recognize Unique Nature of Computer Searches	281
Secondary Sources.....	282
6. Federal Privacy Statutes	285
Introduction.....	285
Why Federal Privacy Statutes Are Needed	288
Third Party Problem	289
Low Subpoena Burden	291
Private Search Doctrine.....	291
Content and Non-Content.....	292
Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (ECPA)	294
Real-Time and Stored Content and Non-Content.....	295
ECPA Privacy Shortcomings.....	296
Lack of Suppression Remedy	297

TABLE OF CONTENTS**xiii**

Wiretap Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510–2522	298
Real Time Interception.....	300
Super Warrant.....	302
Interception Contemporaneous with Transmission	304
Interception of Computer Communications	304
How Is E-mail Wiretapped?.....	306
Exceptions.....	308
Consent Exception	309
Provider Exception	310
Why the Provider Exception May Not Work in Hacking	
Investigations.....	311
Computer Trespasser Exception.....	312
The Need for the Computer Trespasser Exception.....	313
Stored Communications Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2701–2711.....	314
Electronic Communication Service (“ECS”) and Remote	
Computing Service (“RCS”)	315
Voluntary Disclosure and Required Disclosure.....	319
“Specific and Articulable Facts” Order.....	322
Notification	324
Non-Content Records	325
Subscriber Information.....	326
IP Addresses	326
Screen Names and E-mail Addresses.....	333
Lack of Suppression Remedy	336
Monitoring by ISPs.....	337
Unresolved Issue: Privacy Protection for Opened E-mail.....	338
SCA Held Unconstitutional: United States v. Warshak.....	343
Pen Register Statute, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3121–3127	344
DRAS—Dialing, Routing, Addressing, or Signaling	
Information.....	346
Overcollection.....	347
Secondary Sources	351
Book.....	351
Articles	351
Legislative History	353
Conclusion	355

<i>Appendix: Web Resources</i>	357
Computer Forensics	357
Government	360
Law Enforcement.....	361
Organizations.....	363
Encryption	364
Steganography.....	364
<i>Index</i>	365

MAC address, 179, 181, 183–184, 276
MD5, 25–26, 29, 31–32, 34, 145, 185, 267, 337
MD5 collision, 28–29
message header, 147
mirror image, 15–16, 18, 20, 24–25, 27, 32, 36, 48, 71, 102, 159, 254, 284

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), 140, 189, 363
National Software Reference Library (NSRL), 33, 361
networks, 167
newsgroups, 32, 146, 330, 335
nexus, 186, 189, 334
non-content, 292–296, 314, 316, 319, 321, 325–326, 344, 346–349
NTFS, 10

off-site searches, 247, 253, 271, 278, 281–282
one-way hash, 31
oral communications, 296–297, 300, 302, 304
ostrich defense, 151, 157
overcollection, 347
overwritten files, 45, 48

packet sniffer, 304
page files, 36, 74
particularity, 200, 202, 217, 219, 221, 224, 227, 230, 232, 235, 238, 243, 247, 249, 260, 273, 287
peer-to-peer networks, 142–143, 149, 185

peer-to-peer software, 29, 32, 142, 171, 181, 271
Pen Register Statute, 294–296, 344, 346–347
PhotoDNA, 34
physical level, 52–54
plain view doctrine, 240, 247–253, 257–260, 262, 264, 266, 270, 282–283
plain view exception, 248, 267
platters, 6
pop-up defense, 150, 154
Post Office Protocol (POP), 342
preview, 20, 101
private search doctrine, 196, 198, 283, 291, 296
probable cause, 163, 175–178, 182–186, 190, 192, 198, 201–202, 204, 206–207, 213, 215, 217, 244, 248–254, 256, 267, 278–279, 301, 328, 330–331, 334, 353
provider exception, 309–311

ram slack, 52
real time interception, 295, 300, 344
reasonable expectation of privacy, 161, 163, 166–168, 171, 173–174, 196, 198, 237, 288, 290, 293, 299, 301, 350
reasonableness, 172–173, 175, 223, 279, 323
recycle bin, 60–61
remote computing service (RCS), 315–317, 319–321, 339
restore points, 73
Rule 41, 247, 264, 281, 282