



International Organization of Computer Evidence

Checklist for handling digital Image and Audio evidence

Gathering evidence

New technologies may make it possible to determine someone's activity from the audit of history files on devices such as interactive television systems

It is recommended that the Investigator tries to determine which service providers supply data services and services for Image/audio to the crime scene and any account details.

Removing from the Scene

The person removing the evidence must take all possible measures to ensure that the chain of evidence [custody] is documented and that all evidence is labelled and the origins of that evidence can be determined at a later stage by reviewing that documentation.

Devices that are active

Considerations must be given to whether objects should be switched off, or maintained in their present state in order to preserve the best evidence.

Electronic devices and media are sensitive to physical shock [dropping], water, magnetism and electrostatic discharge, and should be as far as possible, protected from these extremes. Objects and media should be placed in containers designed where possible to exclude this damage.

Objects and media should be secured so that no accidental access or tampering can occur. Any storage medium should not allow the device to be viewed and manipulated through the container. Special handling may also be required to preserve traditional forensic evidence (fingerprints/dna).

Preparing for examination

Chain of custody

- Temporary storage before it is examined.
- Validate the evidence by a hash
- Make sure you have a (digital) copy of the evidence, if possible
- Photograph evidence



International Organization of Computer Evidence

- In the case it is recordable be careful
- After examination check the hash again
- There should be an audit trail available

Administrative procedure

Who had access to it ?

Location of evidence should be known

Sequence of lab examination should be co-ordinated

Statistics – what kind, how much, types of examination are needed for trends and funding equipment