FUNDACIÓN RAMÓN ARECES

Digital Evidence

Emerging Challenges

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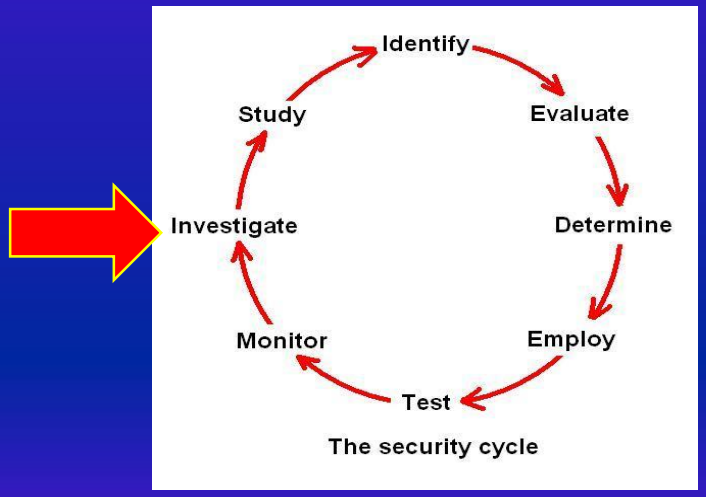
Why Digital Evidence?

- **Within "Cyber Security": it's about recovery, loss mitigation, remediation; *not* prevention and detection**
- **Main needs are:**
  - ➔ **to be able to prove what events have occurred**
  - ➔ **to withstand potential litigation**
  - ➔ **to demonstrate compliance with a regulatory regime**
  - ➔ **to make successful insurance claims**
  - ➔ **to assist law enforcement / respond to their requests / respond to court order**

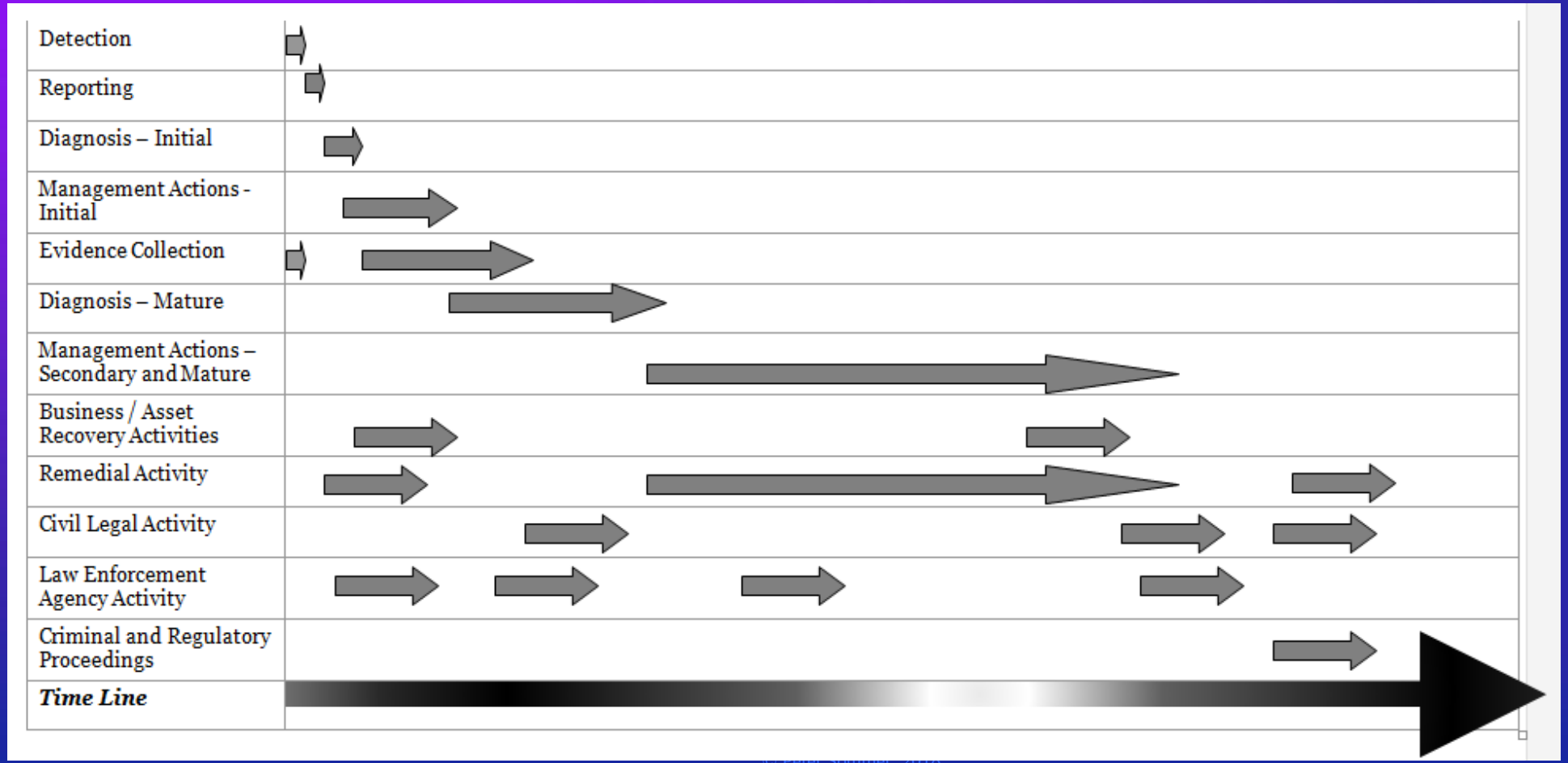
Digital Forensics Strategy

- **Subsidiary aim is:**
  - ➔ After an incident to gather reliable information so that lessons can be learnt - the security cycle



The security cycle

What happens in an “incident”



What sorts of incident?

- computer outage
- network failure
- fire
- flood
- terrorism
- employee frauds
- third-party frauds
- blackmail attempts
- data breach
- regulatory breach / accusations of compliance failure
- theft of data and code – industrial espionage / trade secrets

What sorts of incident?

- unauthorised access by employees
- unauthorised access by outsiders
- unauthorised data modification
- denial of service attacks - DDoS
- e-mail and Internet abuse
- online defamation
- employee disputes
- sexual harassment
- acquisition and storage of porn / paedophilia
- use of computer resources as one stage in a complex crime, incl crypto mining
- copyright abuse, piracy

What is evidence?

- **Anything which tends to persuade**
  - ➔ On the balance of probabilities
  - ➔ Beyond a reasonable doubt
  - ➔ (In practice several different strands of evidence are often brought together)
- **Admissibility**
  - ➔ Are there laws/rules preventing consideration?
    - Hearsay, illegal acquisition, data protection etc
- **Weight**
  - ➔ How persuasive?

Corporate Plan

How to plan for evidence collection

- Identification of risk / threat scenarios
- Analysis and identification of likely evidence requirements
- Procedures and resources for sourcing, acquiring and preserving evidence
- Identification of need for additional logging/audit facilities
- Integration with existing BCP, HR, regulatory compliance and legal management structures

Digital Forensic Process

- ***Problem Report,*** ***then dealing with potential evidence:***
- **Identification**
- **Acquisition**
- **Preservation**
- **Analysis**
- **Presentation**

Digital Forensic Process

Identification

Material within your control

- Substantive documents and records
- Deliberately created log and audit files
- Informal records, eg emails
- Unintended but never-the-less reliable artefacts
- Deleted but recoverable instances of any of the above
- Phone / PBX records
- Physical access records (to various buildings, rooms etc)

Material required from others

- Private mobile phones
- Private mobile phone records (of calls, location etc)
- Privately held laptops etc (BYOD)
- Social media and messaging services
- Data held by third parties

Digital Forensic Process

Acquisition

- How to reliably capture the state of a device at a particular time
  - ➔ Freedom from contamination
  - ➔ "Complete"
    - Including the ability to recover deleted and hidden files
  - ➔ Audit trail of activity
- How to reliably capture data in transit at a particular location and time

Digital Forensic Process

Preservation

- **Having captured your evidence, how to persuade that it remains unaltered for your examination and for others to examine**
  - ➔ **Write-once media**
  - ➔ **Hashing / digital signing**
- **Audit trail**

Digital Forensic Process

Analysis

Presentation

These require specialist tools……

Digital Forensic Tools

Types

- Acquisition / Preservation
- "Evidence Finder" / Kiosks
  - ➔ Useful for quick initial searches
- Advanced – bits and bytes
  - ➔ Hidden data
  - ➔ Data recovery
  - ➔ Complex searches
  - ➔ Examinations at fundamental level
- Big Data / eDiscovery

Digital Forensic Tools

- **Acquisition**
  - Physical / Logical acquisitions
  - Forensic disk imaging
  - Smart phone etc acquisition
  - Big system acquisition
  - Cloud / downloaded social media
- **Preservation**
  - Professional tools usually perform file hashing & create records of their activity

Acquisition

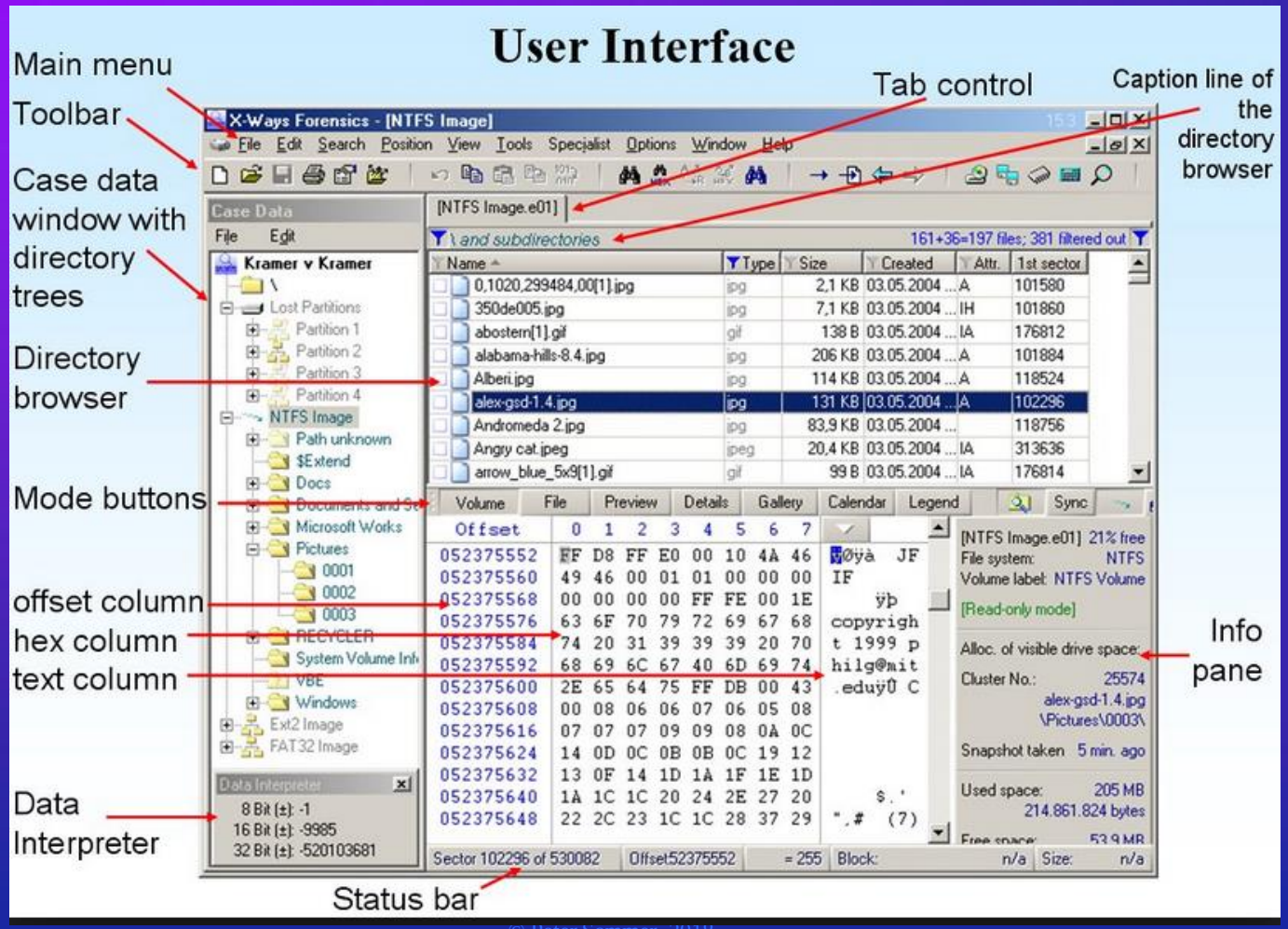
Hardware plus software

Digital Forensic Tools

Evidence Finder Analysis

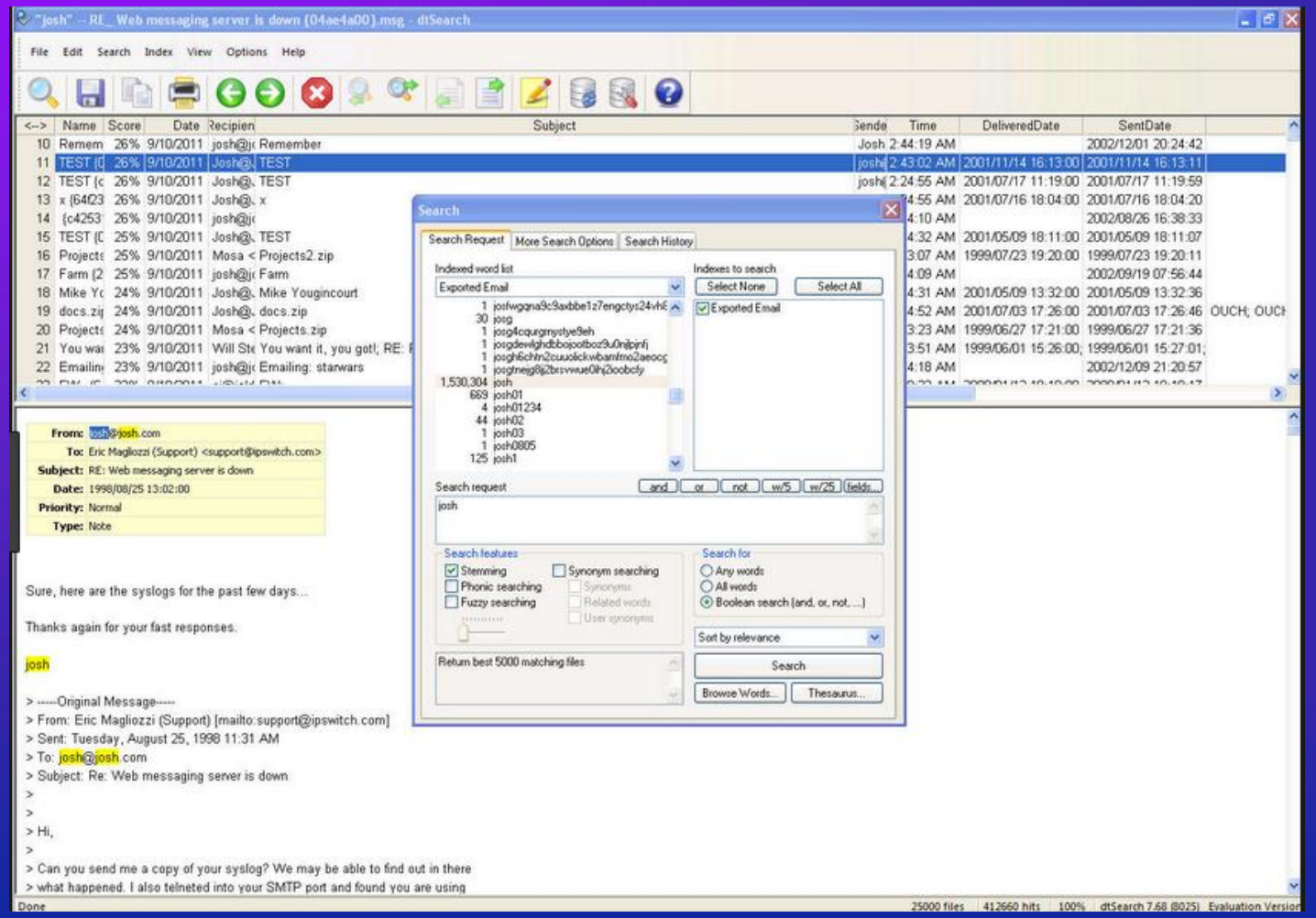
Digital Forensic Tools

Advanced Analysis



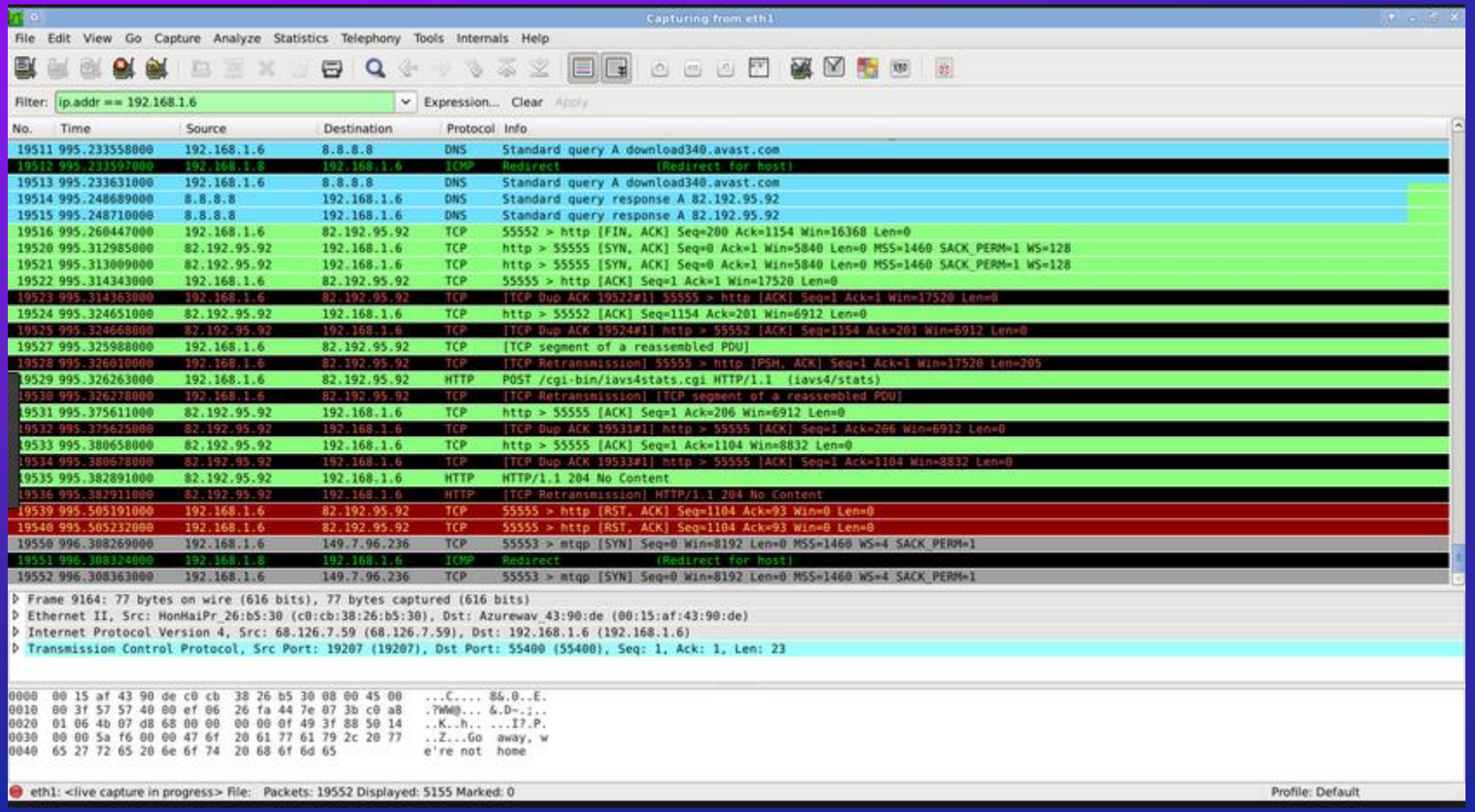
Digital Forensic Tools

Keyword search - Boolean



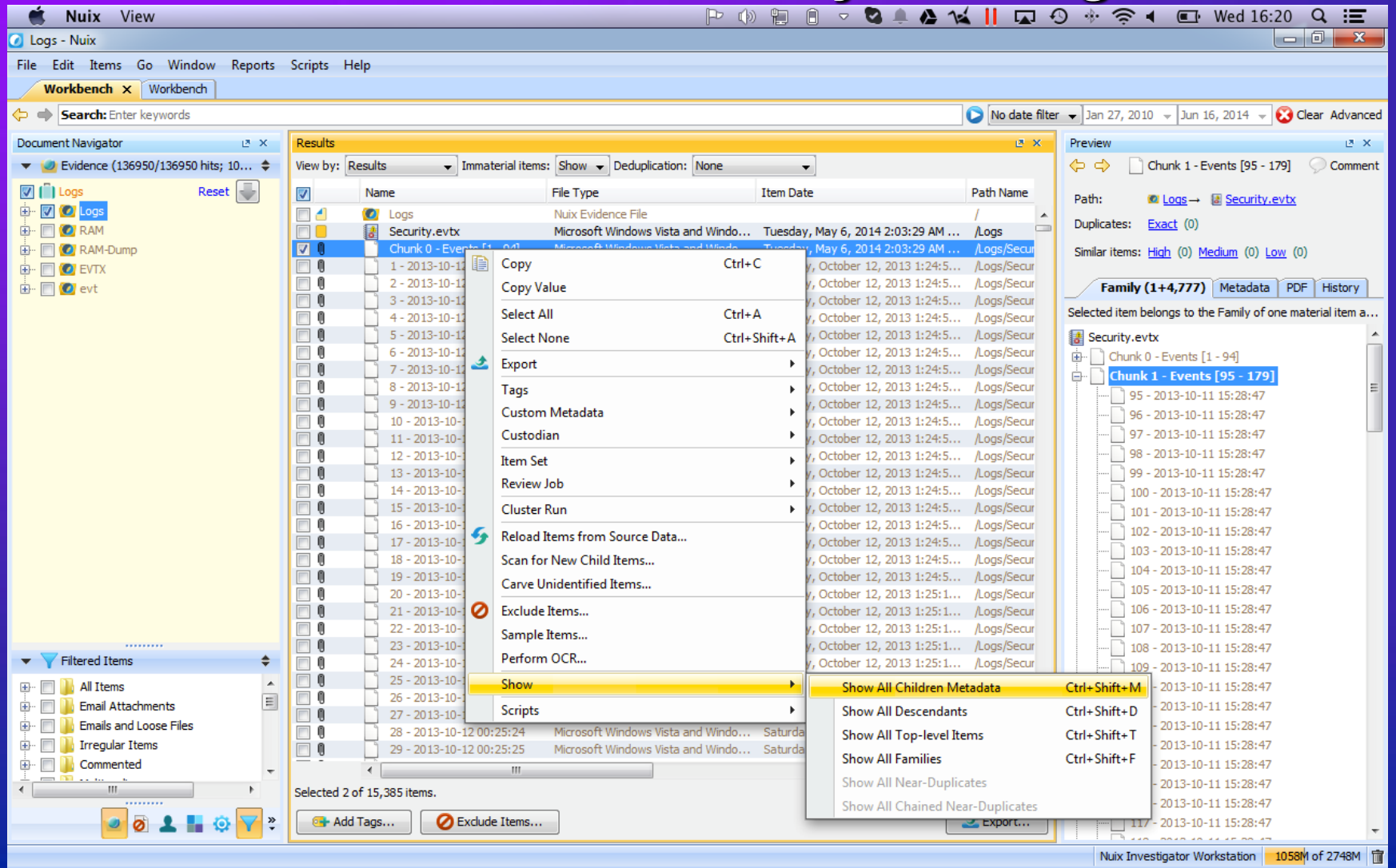
Digital Forensic Tools

Advanced Analysis – Network Traffic



Digital Forensic Tools

Advanced Analysis – Big Data



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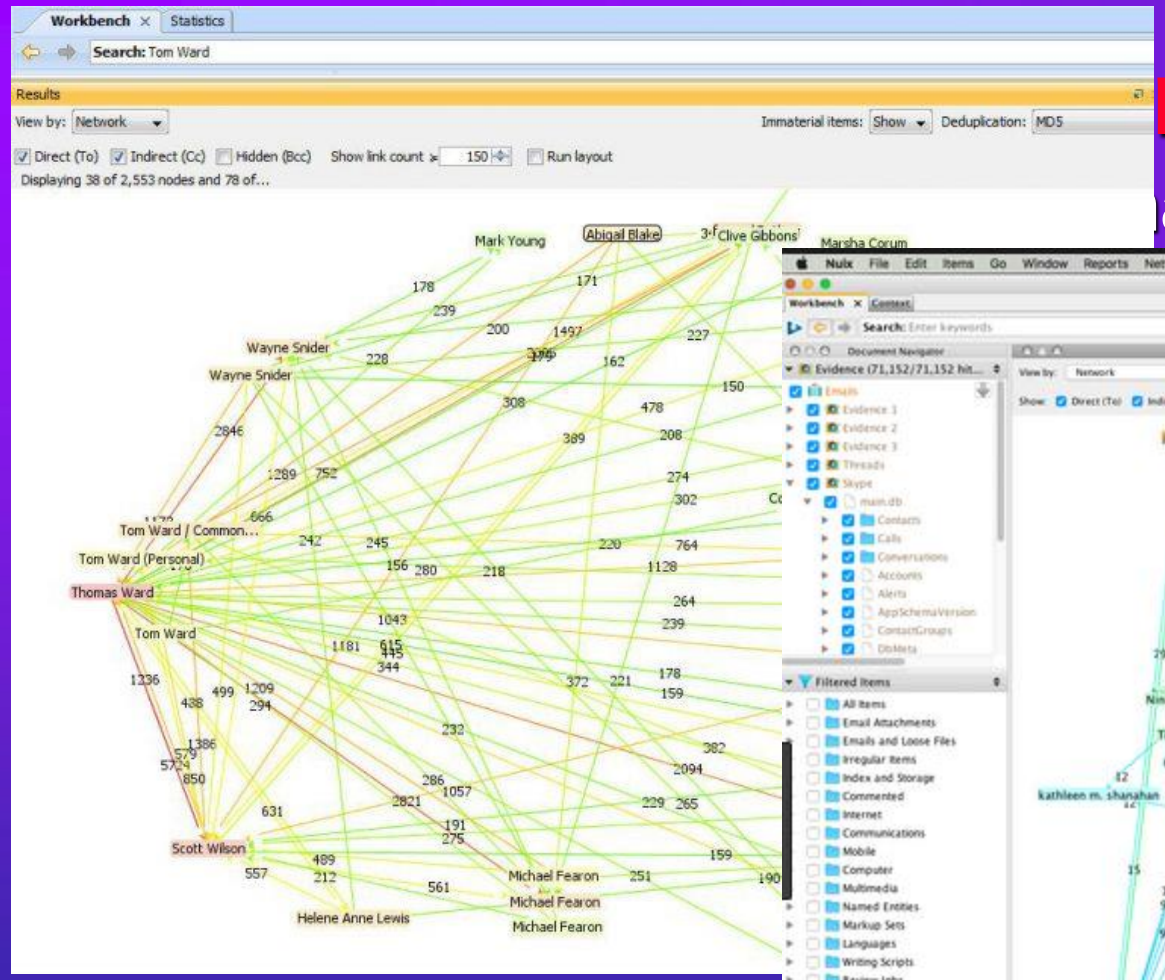
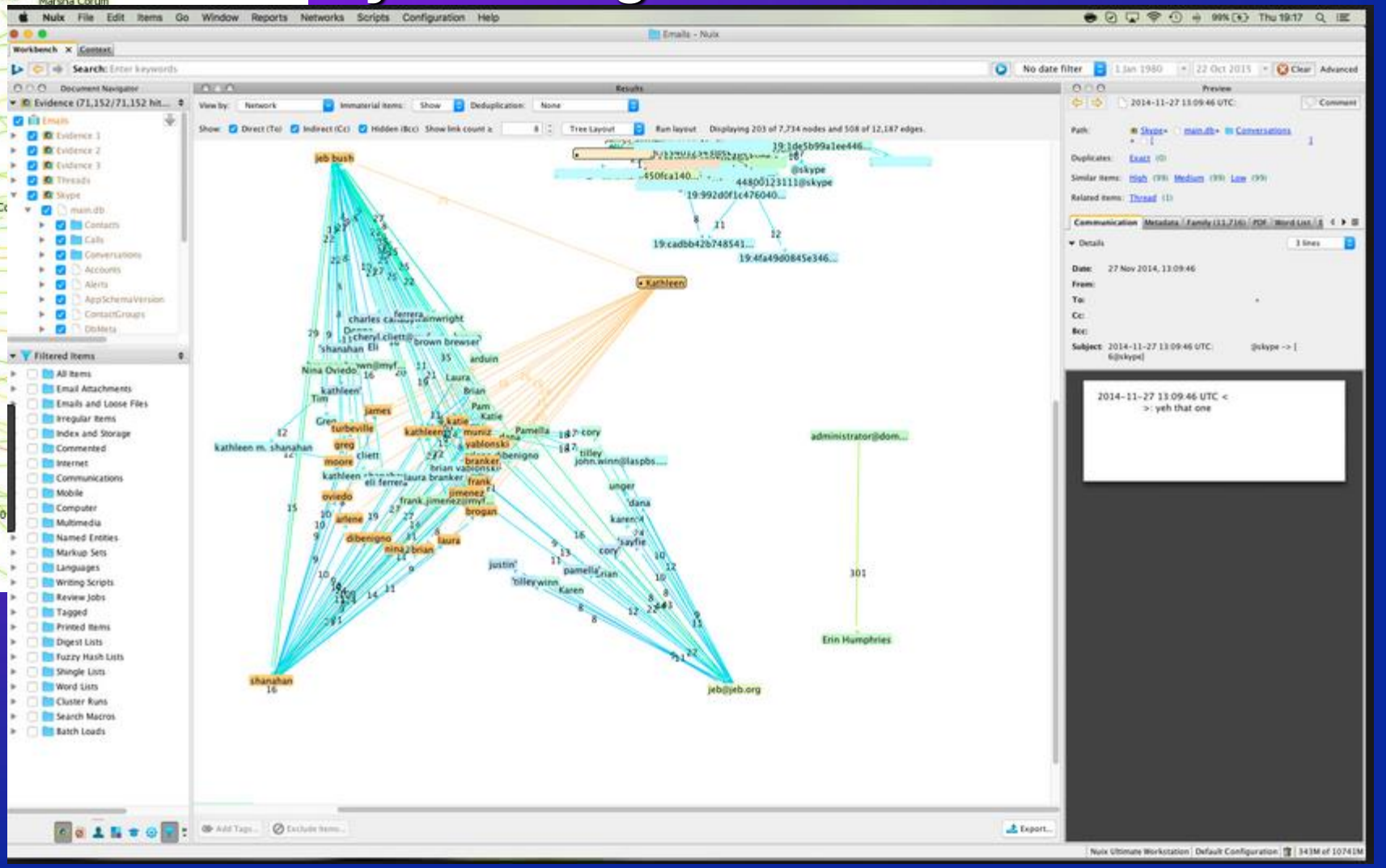


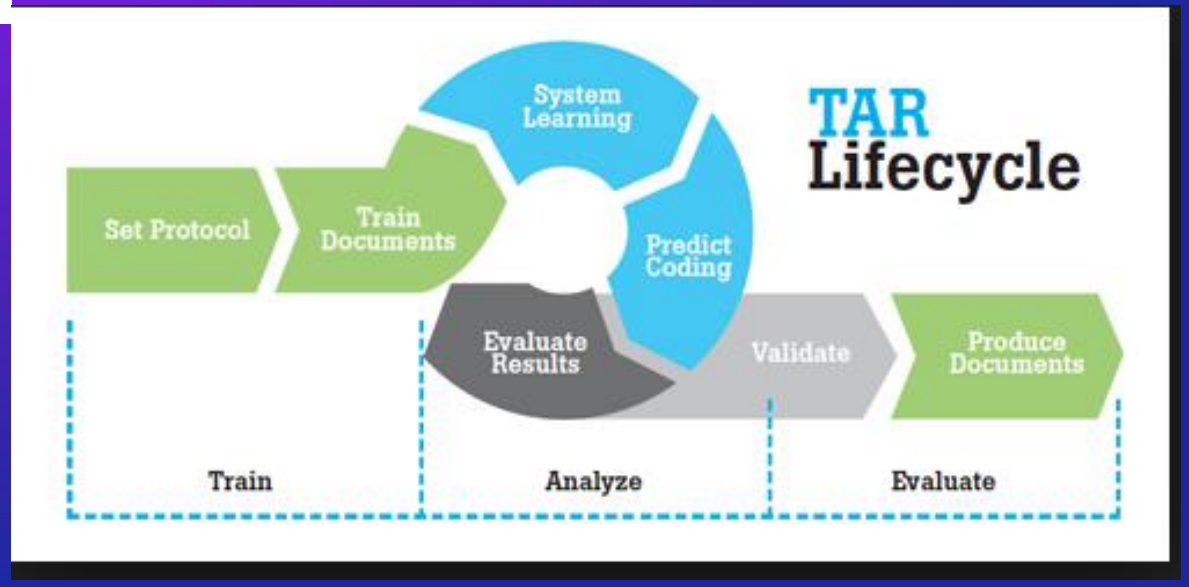


Digital Forensic Tools

Advanced Analysis – Big Data

- Predictive coding allows a skilled reviewer to train a computer algorithm to identify responsive and non-responsive documents in a litigation document collection.
- As an alternative to manual linear review, predictive coding can drastically reduce the amount of time needed to review increasingly large ESI volumes.

"Artificial Intelligence" Machine Learning



Emerging Challenges

- Capture from Social Media
  - ➔ Facebook, Instagram, etc etc
- Acquisition of evidence from Cloud services
  - ➔ Stored data / Data being processed / where are they located?
- Acquisition from “Dark Web” and other hidden services
- What evidence is there from the Internet of Things?
  - ➔ Many IoT devices are “dumb” – you may have to find their controller
- How would you test an Artificial Intelligence (AI) system you suspected had “misbehaved”?
- Covert investigation & acquisition (law enforcement & intelligence agencies)

Emerging Challenges

- Forensic Science standards – how do we protect the courts from "bad" forensic evidence?
- Some standards for traditional forensic science – ISO 17025 – but this is about the adequacy of laboratories and the tools they use
- In digital forensics:
  - ➔ Fast-changing environment means tools are being constantly updated
  - ➔ DF tools are multi-faceted and complex
  - ➔ Much of the work of experts is in reconstructing events – but ISO 17025 does not directly measure individual expertise and competence
- In the UK: pre-trial meetings between opposing experts

Legal Aspects

- Civilian Powers
- Law Enforcement / Intelligence Agency Powers

Legal Aspects

Civilian Powers

- Powers to investigate your own systems
  - ➔ Usually not difficult
- Powers to investigate your own staff
  - ➔ Depends on employment contract, human rights, data protection
- Powers to investigate a potential external threat
  - ➔ May involve committing a crime
- Powers to acquire evidence from third parties (voluntarily)
  - ➔ Usually not difficult but there may be Data Protection issues
- Powers to acquire evidence from third parties (who don't want to co-operate)
  - ➔ Court order!

Legal Aspects

Law Enforcement / Intelligence Agency Powers

What types of warrant / authorisation ?

- Powers to seize computers / devices
- Powers to require production of files etc
- Powers to intercept
- Powers to acquire communications data
  - ➔ Who called whom, when, for how long, from which location, which IP address, what internet application – but *NOT* content
- Powers to "hack" (equipment interference, network compromise / exploitation)

Legal Aspects

Some problems

- Civilian:
  - ➔ Disclosure / Discovery
  - ➔ Privacy / Data Protection
  - ➔ Commercial secrets
- Law enforcement agencies
  - ➔ Disclosure of collected evidence
  - ➔ Disclosure of sensitive methods
- Intelligence Agencies
  - ➔ Disclosure of sensitive methods
  - ➔ Concealment of discovered vulnerabilities (the “equities” problem)

Legal Aspects

Evidence from overseas

- Law enforcement
  - ➔ Joint investigations
  - ➔ Letters of request
  - ➔ Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs)
  - ➔ Trans-jurisdictional Production Orders legislation (to come?)
  - ➔ International cyber police (sovereignty?)
- Civilians
  - ➔ Overseas businesses will need to comply with their local laws – privacy, free speech etc etc
  - ➔ Starting proceedings in foreign courts is expensive and may not be productive

7-step Forensic Readiness Plan

Identify:

- the main likely threats faced by your organisation
- what sorts of evidence you are likely to need if you have to proceed to civil or criminal litigation
- how far you may have that evidence already
- what you will need to do to secure additional essential evidence
- legal issues
- the management, skills and resources implications for your organisation

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