

Crime of material
found in the digital
devices.



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Crime has always been an issue and with advancing technology, it is becoming more complex. As technology progresses and crimes become more intricate, so must the tools and resources used to solve criminal investigations. Cybercrime is the involvement of devices where criminal activities are carried out on, like computers or mobile phones.

Digital Forensics is the recovery and investigation of material found in the digital devices. Child pornography and Sextortion are terrible and fast-growing cybercrimes. Digital Forensics is one of the most important fields of forensic science that can solve these crimes.

There are multiple cybercrimes that digital forensics can solve, but child pornography is one of the most widespread ones. Most people already understand that child pornography is illegal and how horrible it is, but it is still being produced. Child pornography is a crime that was birthed with the expansion of the Internet. The Internet allows images of child pornography to be available almost anywhere and everywhere.

Internet forums, social networking sites, file-sharing sites, and other media that allows communication are ways it spreads. The Internet allows these offenders to connect with each other. This is how child pornography has become one of the most widespread crimes. The consequences of being convicted for child pornography vary and can be very severe. The Federal law prohibits the production, distribution, reception, and possession of any images that depict child pornography. It is a serious crime and there are severe penalties. Depending on the offense and whether this is the

offenders first offense or not. First offenders can face a fine and jailtime from a minimum of 5 years to 30 years.

If the offender has been previously convicted for the same crime kind of crime, then they can face up to life in prison. Life in prison is a severe consequence that these offenders are willing to take.

Effects The consequences are not what make child pornography a horrible crime, it is the lasting effect that it has on its victims. Each victim is a victim of sexual abuse. Due to the nature of the crime, it is only found out after the child pornography has been distributed. This means that the victim could be in this situation for months or years.

Often the offender might give a false sense of security that makes the child think what is happening is okay. These things can impact the victim, psychologically, for the rest of their life. While still a child, the victim can begin wetting the bed, eating problems, and problems at school. As an adult, the victim can experience anxiety, alcoholism, and drug abuse. Being sexually abused as a child can ruin their adult relationships forever, feel betrayed, angry, and even turn them into offenders of the very thing that ruined their life. Child pornography emotionally ruins its victims, making it one of the worst crimes ever committed.

Sextortion Another awful crime related to child pornography is sextortion. Sextortion is a type of exploitation that blackmails a victim into sexual favors by threatening to spread sexual images or videos. Usually the offender will coerce girls into sharing explicit photos that are then used to blackmail the girls into “taking it to the next level” by threatening to send the photos to

their friends and family. Blackmail used against the victims can also include threats against their loved ones or people from their community.

Holly V. Hays from Indystar.com says, “ From October 2013 to April 2016, the tip line received more than 1, 400 reports of sextortion. Of those cases... average age: 15. The youngest: 8.

” The tip line refers to the NCMEC CyberTipline and the reports they gave suggest that sextortion is often used against girls still in high school or even middle school. NCMEC stands for National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. One of the most important ways for parents to prevent this crime to happen to their children is by keeping a healthy communication with them, so their child feels comfortable enough to approach them if the situation occurs. Parents should also ensure that their children are not sharing too much information online. Sextortion can be closely related to child pornography, but not always. Forensics There are multiple ways to catch someone that has saved or distributed child pornography, but digital forensics is the most significant. The offenders are always finding new ways to distribute child pornography.

They use encryption techniques and the Dark Web to hide their images and videos. Some offenders belong to criminal organizations that sometimes have security instructions that are used to evade law enforcement. Offenders also keep files in an unallocated space on their device, so when recovered there are no dates, times, file names, and an original location of where it was before it was deleted. Whatever is done on a digital device is always recorded and can almost always be recovered. Therefore, digital forensics is so

important. One of the most recent examples of digital forensics being used to convict someone was when a 18-year-old woman was found with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. An Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Officer was accused of deleting messages on the woman's phone.

The phone ended up being disabled due to numerous failed attempts by family and police officers trying to guess the password to the phone. A digital forensics company called Cellebrite Services, had extracted the information from the phone with the proof of the deleted text messages. There would not have been a case without the deleted messages. Everytime a case is solved like this, the manufacturer of the device tends to take note. The manufacturer will begin developing a new way to make their information more secure and harder to access. This means that digital forensic experts will also have to develop new ways of obtaining information from devices. When technology progresses, so does digital forensics.

Therefore, more people are coming to the digital forensic field and it is needed. With the advancement in technology, criminals are finding new ways to break the law and it is the job of a digital forensic expert is to keep up to date with tools and technologies. The tools used are considered to give active or live analysis of a device.

Sleuthkit.org says, "Autopsy® is a digital forensics platform and graphical interface to The Sleuth Kit® and other digital forensics tools. It is used by law enforcement, military, and corporate examiners to investigate what happened on a computer. You can even use it to recover photos from your camera's memory card.

” The investigator must be able to perform various tasks, such as recover data, trace hacks, and gather and maintain evidence. All these things require that the equipment and knowledge to use them is up to date. A Growing Field The use of computers and other technology is growing throughout the world and it isn't stopping soon. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for Forensic Science Technicians is expected to grow 17% from 2016-2026. This is just one job out of the entire field and it is above average.

It is generally a small part of the digital forensic field, but it is expected to create 2,600 jobs within a 10-year period. Computer system analysts and information security analysts are expected to grow by 22% through 2012-2022 with 120,000 new jobs created. As these fields grow, the number of cases that can be worked on and the integrity of the evidence gathered will increase. With the digital forensic field growing and the use of technology increasing, the need for high performance equipment increases. The digital forensic market is estimated to reach over 1 billion dollars between 2017-2022. Majority of the businesses that provide these machines are huge companies like AccessData Group LLC, Paraben Corporation, CISCO, Guidance Software Inc., NUIX, Binary Intelligence LLC, IBM Corporation.

These tools are needed to increase security. Along with the rise in a need of security, a rise in other jobs have occurred, including, banking, health care, information technology, law enforcement, and education. Conclusion Cybercrime has risen at an alarming rate with the advancement of technology. In parallel, so has digital forensics. Child pornography, Sextortion, and any other data on a digital device that needs to be recovered

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in cohesion with law enforcement are tasks that digital forensics takes care of. Digital forensics uses various tools and techniques that allow the recovery of data. Anything on a computer leaves a “footprint” that can be seen, essentially everything is recorded and can almost never be erased.

The digital forensics market is becoming more lucrative and is amassing very quickly. Jobs are only going to increase as long as the use of computers is being increased. With cybercrime like child pornography and sextortion, digital forensics will always be one of the most important sciences in the forensic field.