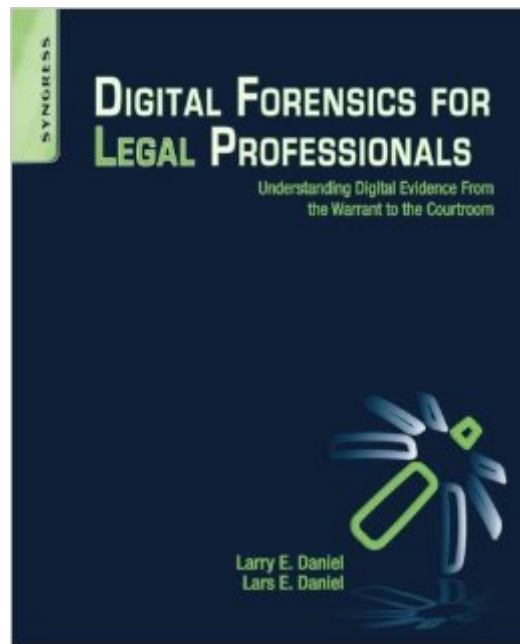


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# Digital Forensics For Legal Professionals: Understanding Digital Evidence From The Warrant To The Courtroom



## Synopsis

Digital Forensics for Legal Professionals provides you with a guide to digital technology forensics in plain English. In the authors'™ years of experience in working with attorneys as digital forensics experts, common questions arise again and again: "What do I ask for?"; "Is the evidence relevant?"; "What does this item in the forensic report mean?"; "What should I ask the other expert?"; "What should I ask you?"; "Can you explain that to a jury?"; This book answers many of those questions in clear language that is understandable by non-technical people. With many illustrations and diagrams that will be usable in court, they explain technical concepts such as unallocated space, forensic copies, timeline artifacts and metadata in simple terms that make these concepts accessible to both attorneys and juries. The authors also explain how to determine what evidence to ask for, evidence might be that could be discoverable, and the methods for getting to it including relevant subpoena and motion language. Additionally, this book provides an overview of the current state of digital forensics, the right way to select a qualified expert, what to expect from a qualified expert and how to properly use experts before and during trial. Includes a companion Web site with: courtroom illustrations, and examples of discovery motions Provides examples of direct and cross examination questions for digital evidence Contains a reference of definitions of digital forensic terms, relevant case law, and resources for the attorney

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## Customer Reviews

I am a criminal defense attorney who purchased this book so that I could ask intelligent questions of

an expert, who happened to be Larry Daniel, one of the authors. Larry has taken a subject which is ubiquitous and complicated and communicated to someone like me in a way that is clear and concise. If you read this book and expect to understand everything within the pages, you will not. Nor will you find all the answers to the nearly limitless questions that may surface in digital forensics. You will have a portal through which you may expand your knowledge base, whether you are a legal professional or someone merely interested in this area. I guarantee you will be able to ask intelligent questions regarding this field after reading it. Digital Forensics for Legal Professionals is an indispensable part of my legal library and remains on my desktop. As an aside, my objectivity may be limited. I recently used Mr. Daniel as an expert in cell phone/tower in a first degree murder case. This case was dismissed by the district attorney against a client in whose innocence I believed. Mr. Daniel's expertise was in my opinion a critical part of the equation and kept an innocent young man from facing a life sentence.

When I got this book to review, I was worried that a book for "Legal Professionals" would be extremely boring and technically "light." I was happily wrong on both accounts. While this book is a legal textbook, it's an "easy read" because it's written in plain language and is a walkthrough from pre-trial to trial. I work in IT security, and this is one of the most helpful books I've read in quite some time. It helps me understand what attorneys look for and how to use what amounts to "best practices." I've also learned about a few good tools as well. If you're a security manager, you need to buy this book. For attorneys, even non-technical ones, this book is extremely valuable. It provides quality explanations that aren't jargon-laden, and has lots of current case law references. If you're going after any sort of digital evidence for any reason, then this book should live on your desk. This book is a page turner, and that's not any slight against the book. It's filled with lots of information that you'll want to keep easily accessible for handy references.

As the title tells you, this book is for legal professionals who deal with digital evidence and not for computer professionals. This book educates legal professionals on what types of digital evidence are out there and what you may need to ask for to ensure you are getting as much evidence as possible, without overlooking something. In today's world of smartphones, this is particularly relevant. The book provides what to look for in a computer forensics expert, what that person can/should do for the money you are paying, and how to get access to evidence stored on devices, search engines, websites, social media, or even online gaming data. The book also presents explanations of what statutes are out there, such as the Stored Communications Act and the

Electronic Communications Privacy Act, and how they may make acquisition of digital evidence more procedurally complex. Will a subpoena get the job done? Do you need a search warrant? It all depends on the specific situation. This book not only discusses the matters, but also devotes a section to motions necessary to acquire the evidence and how to preserve it for court. All told, it is an incredibly valuable overview of the field for any legal professional.

I wanted to read this book because I'm a writer and in one of the books that I'm working on the plot involves a bit of forensic probing into a computer. Rather than simply sound like a TV detective using cliché terms, I thought it would be useful and interesting to know how such work is really done and just how complex (and reliable) this type of forensic investigation can be. I can't say that I sat down and read the book cover to cover (though if you were a lawyer or someone studying criminology you would certainly get a lot out of reading it), but I've read the chapters that are pertinent to my story and I have to say I've found the writing interesting, entertaining and extremely useful. I think this is a book most lawyers (including prosecutors) should have on their shelf and if you happen to be a fiction writer or a crime writer, I think you'll find this book well worth the cover price. The book goes well beyond the scope that I was expecting, too. It includes information on how digital forensics can be used with social media, finding files and photos files on computers that have been erased, how to hire the right expert to do the work for you (if you're an attorney, those pages alone are worth owning the book) and then takes you through preserving evidence, presenting it to get warrants, using the evidence in court, etc. It really is a fascinating book and I'm sure every writer in Hollywood will be buying a copy. It is an excellent writer's reference tool--and the only one like it that I could find. A good read on a somewhat obscure subject and I'm sure it's destined to be the classic text on the subject. I just hope the publisher is willing to have it updated every few years--it's certainly worth the effort.

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