

Forensics Report

Overview / Case Summary

On February 10, 2023, State's Attorney Office and the Office of the County Executive requested County IT perform a forensics search of Auditor Danos' computer, based on a claim of pornographic images being present on, or accessed by, the system on or around February 9, 2023.

Objectives

This report is a summary of County IT's findings, based on its analysis of the media searched/investigated as part of discovery. This report is not intended to detail each and every aspect of County IT's work in this engagement.

Evidence Analyzed

Within a matter of days of the request, County IT utilized industry best practice techniques and procedures to create bit-for-bit verified forensic copies of the hard drive within Danos' Lenovo desktop computer. The digital forensic copying process captured the entire contents of the hard drive, including the active user-accessible files, the deleted files, and the unallocated space, which may contain deleted content.

Additionally, County IT performed an export of all cloud-based data under Danos' account, stored within Microsoft 365.

Investigation Steps

County IT conducted its investigation by searching and analyzing the hard drive and cloud-based data to identify documents, data, fragments, and artifacts that reasonably appeared to be related to this work.

The documents, data, fragments, and artifacts found by County IT that reasonably appeared to be related this work were shown to and discussed with the Office of the County Executive.

Utilized methodology included: (1) conducting keyword and other searches of the digital forensic copies of the hard drive and cloud-based data to identify responsive documents or fragments of documents and (2) manually reviewing the documents containing keyword hits, certain unsearchable file types, such as image files with no text, and other documents to determine whether they were relevant to this investigation.

Findings

No findings by County IT were able to confirm anything of a pornographic nature being accessed on or around February 9th. However, compelling documents were found on Danos' hard drive, which included numerous files which could be construed as pornographic, as well as some images which featured fully naked men.