Computer Forensics Solutions

Outstanding performance for the acquisition, analysis, and storage of digital evidence in law enforcement investigations—at an affordable price.

While most computer users have good intentions, a small minority do not. Computers can hold confidential information captured by identity thieves, photographs hoarded by online predators, and calendars that divulge the recent activities of criminals.

Law enforcement and security officials need flexible, powerful tools for examining the computers of those suspected of wrongdoing. In the past, the collection and analysis of digital evidence were performed at centralized labs. But with the proliferation of crimes with electronic ties—and a growing backlog in caseload—many law enforcement agencies are realizing the benefits of developing in-house computer forensic capabilities. In the corporate world, forward-thinking IT departments are also realizing the importance of forensic tools in investigating employee malfeasance and ensuring compliance with federally mandated regulations.

The Apple Macintosh platform is the best solution for computer forensics because it:

- Features a UNIX-based operating system that gives investigators the most secure and reliable desktop platform for performing forensics.
- Is the only platform that can both run and analyze virtually all operating systems and filesystems you will encounter in your investigations.*
- Runs leading Windows and Mac OS forensic software, including EnCase, Macintosh Forensic Suite, and MacForensicsLab.*
- Has built-in support for vital USB and FireWire attachments, such as write blockers.
- Provides seamless support for high-performance, high-capacity storage and servers.
- Offers a great sandbox environment, safe from Windows-specific malware.

No wonder that Mac computers are used extensively in federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as by computer forensics consultants and professionals.

Flexible
You never know what type of computer or software will hold crucial evidence. That’s where Macintosh really shines. Of course, it’s the platform of choice for analyzing other Mac computers. Beyond that, virtualization software from vendors such as Parallels and VMware enables you to run Mac OS, Windows, UNIX, Linux, Solaris, and other operating systems simultaneously on a single Mac. Such versatility means you can perform all of your analyses on one system. If that system is a MacBook Pro laptop, you can even examine a host of different operating environments right in the field.

Secure and reliable
If your computer is compromised, so is your investigation. Apple’s Mac OS X is based on UNIX, an operating system renowned for its security and reliability. Mac OS X gives you the secure platform you need for capturing, storing, managing, and protecting crucial evidence. It also enables you to run your forensic investigation applications with greater stability than is possible with non-UNIX operating systems.
Powerful and expandable
From their powerful processors to flexible connectivity with external devices, Mac computers meet the demanding requirements of forensic investigations. Mac Pro desktops come standard with two quad-core Intel Xeon processors; MacBook Pro laptops use the impressive Intel Core 2 Duo processor. Both systems have USB and FireWire 800 ports for connecting high-speed peripherals, such as write blockers for securely extracting data from storage devices.

Xserve is Apple’s powerful 1U rack-optimized server. With up to two Quad-Core Intel Xeon processors for 8-core performance, Xserve offers the ideal platform for high-performance cluster computing.

Apple-certified storage solutions provide the security and reliability that forensic labs need, including highly reliable RAID systems. You can deploy a separate archival or backup system to meet legal obligations for retaining case files.

Xsan, Apple’s enterprise-class SAN solution, allows multiple computers to simultaneously access your RAID storage volumes. By connecting users through a high-speed Fibre Channel network, Xsan enables them to stay productive. Xsan is platform independent, so no matter what workstations (Mac OS X, UNIX, Windows, or Linux) you already have in your forensic lab, they can access your shared storage using Xsan.

Affordable
Because a Mac Pro or MacBook Pro computer with virtualization software can run virtually any operating system, it eliminates the need to purchase many different types of computers. That means it provides a significant cost savings over purchasing and maintaining multiple systems. The multitude of built-in capabilities in both Apple desktop and laptop systems also significantly reduces the number of accessory cards and external devices you need to purchase to do your job.

Summary
Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies can no longer afford to wait for overburdened centralized labs to gather computer evidence for them. Under public pressure to get criminals off the street, these agencies must be able to process seized computers themselves, swiftly and accurately.

Apple Macintosh systems offer the flexibility, security, reliability, power, and expandability that enable even small agencies to set up outstanding computer forensic labs—at an affordable price. Mac computers also reflect Apple’s legendary commitment to ease of use, so your investigators can spend their time focusing on their cases, not on managing technology.

For more information, please contact your Apple representative or Apple Authorized Reseller.

* May require third-party virtualization and/or operating system software, sold separately.