

The Last Analyst — Mini-SAT Case Study

Case #2: The Vanishing Roommate

Background

A college student hires a private investigator after her roommate suddenly vanishes. There are no signs of struggle, but also no note, and her phone was left behind. The university and police believe she left voluntarily—but the client isn't convinced.

Mini-SAT Applied: The 4 Quadrants of Information

This method breaks information into four categories: 1. Known Knowns 2. Known Unknowns 3. Unknown Knowns 4. Unknown Unknowns It's used to sort messy information quickly and expose blind spots in an investigation.

Analysis

Known Knowns:

- She disappeared on a Tuesday afternoon.
- Her laptop and bag are gone.

Known Unknowns:

- Where she went and why she left.
- Who the last person to see her was.

Unknown Knowns:

- What the client might assume is true (e.g., 'She would've told me if she planned this').

Unknown Unknowns:

- Unseen external stressors (online relationships, secret plans, etc.).

Outcome

Mapping out the information this way helped the PI identify critical data gaps—and helped the client emotionally detach from unverified assumptions. It redirected the investigation toward device data, transit records, and possible digital motives.