# Digital forensics

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**Digital forensics** (sometimes known as **digital forensic science**) is a branch of [forensic science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forensic_science) encompassing the recovery and investigation of material found in digital devices, often in relation to [computer crime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_crime).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_forensics#cite_note-ijde-2002-1)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_forensics#cite_note-carrier-2) The term digital forensics was originally used as a synonym for [computer forensics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_forensics) but has expanded to cover investigation of all devices capable of [storing digital data](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_data_storage).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_forensics#cite_note-ijde-2002-1) With roots in the [personal computing revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_computer#The_Home_Computer_.22Revolution.22) of the late 1970s and early 1980s, the discipline evolved in a haphazard manner during the 1990s, and it was not until the early 21st century that national policies emerged.