



LO#12: Explain Different Phases of Computer Forensic Investigation

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Computer Forensics



- Computer Forensics refer to a **set of methodological procedures and techniques** that help identify, gather, preserve, extract, interpret, document, and present evidence from computing equipment, whereby any evidence discovered is acceptable during a legal or administrative proceeding

Objectives of Computer Forensics:

- 1 To track and prosecute cyber crime perpetrators
- 2 To gather evidence of cyber crimes in a forensically sound manner
- 3 To estimate the potential impact of a malicious activity on the victim and assess the intent of the perpetrator
- 4 To find vulnerabilities and security loopholes that help attackers
- 5 To recover deleted files, hidden files, and temporary data that could be used as evidence

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Phases Involved in the Computer Forensics Investigation Process



Pre-investigation Phase

- Deals with tasks to be performed prior to commencing the **actual investigation**
- Involves setting up a **computer forensics lab**, building a forensics workstation, developing an investigation toolkit, setting up an investigation team, gaining approval from the relevant authority, and so on

Investigation Phase

- The **main phase** of the computer forensics investigation process
- Involves the acquisition, preservation, and analysis of **evidentiary data** to identify the **source of the crime** and the culprit behind it

Post-investigation Phase

- Deals with the **documentation** of all the actions undertaken and findings uncovered during an investigation
- Ensures that the **report** is well explicable to the target audience, and provides **adequate** and **acceptable** evidence

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