

Digital Forensic Examination Report

Report #FR-2026-0001 | Version 1.0

Case Information

Case Number: 2026-CF-00123

Case Name: State v. John Doe

Agency: Metro Police Department

Requestor: Det. Jane Smith

Examiner

Name: Alex Johnson

Title: Senior Digital Forensic Examiner

Organization: Metro Police Forensic Lab

Certifications: EnCE (EnCase Certified Examiner), GCFE (GIAC Certified Forensic Examiner), ACE (AccessData Certified Examiner)

Executive Summary

This report documents the forensic examination of digital evidence seized pursuant to Search Warrant #2026-SW-456. The examination revealed several artifacts of evidentiary value including documents, communications, and internet history relevant to the investigation. Key findings include evidence of document manipulation and communication records between subjects of interest.

Evidence Examined

ID	Description	Type	Serial
E001	Dell Latitude laptop computer	Laptop	SN-DELL-2024-001
E002	Samsung Galaxy S23 smartphone	Mobile Phone	IMEI-123456789012345

Findings

F001: Deleted Financial Documents Recovered

Severity: High | Category: Deleted Data

Analysis of unallocated space revealed 47 deleted Microsoft Excel spreadsheets containing financial records. These documents appear to have been deleted on 2025-12-15, approximately one week before the search warrant was executed. Document metadata indicates they were created by user 'JDoe'.

Related Files:

- /Users/JDoe/Documents/Financials/Q4_2025_Report.xlsx
- /Users/JDoe/Documents/Financials/Transactions_Dec.xlsx

F002: Encrypted Communication Application

Severity: Medium | Category: Communication

Signal messaging application was installed on both the laptop and mobile device. Message database was recovered from the mobile device backup. Analysis revealed communications with 3 contacts during the relevant time period.

F003: Browser History Analysis

Severity: Low | Category: Internet History

Chrome browser history shows searches related to 'how to permanently delete files' and 'forensic file recovery' on 2025-12-14, the day before the deleted documents were removed.

Related Files:

- /Users/JDoe/AppData/Local/Google/Chrome/User Data/Default/History

Timeline of Events

Timestamp	Type	Description	Source
2026-01-04 04:19:50	File Creation	Q4 Financial Report created	NTFS \$MFT
2026-01-04 04:19:50	Web Search	Search: 'how to permanently delete files'	Chrome History
2026-01-04 04:19:50	File Deletion	47 Excel files deleted from Documents folder	NTFS \$MFT / \$UsnJrnL

Tools Used

Tool	Version	Vendor	Purpose
FTK Imager	4.7.1.2	Exterro	Forensic imaging and hash verification
EnCase Forensic	23.4	OpenText	Evidence analysis and artifact extraction
FFX Forensic Toolkit	0.1.0	CORE Project	Report generation and timeline analysis

Conclusions

Based on the forensic examination of the submitted evidence, the following conclusions are supported:
1. Financial documents were systematically deleted from the laptop computer approximately one week before the search warrant was executed.
2. Internet search history indicates the user researched file deletion methods the day before the documents were removed.
3. Encrypted communication applications were in use on both devices during the relevant time period.
These findings are presented for investigative purposes and are subject to further analysis as needed.

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