COMPSFI 202 Homework 1

Due Date: 09/02/2025 @ 11:59pm

Short Answer

Answer each question in 3–5 complete sentences.

- 1. Explain the difference between public-sector and private-sector investigations. Give one example of each.
- 2. What is the role of the Fourth Amendment in digital investigations, and why is it significant?
- 3. Define chain of custody and explain why it is critical in both legal and corporate investigations.

Application Scenarios

Read each scenario and respond in 1–2 paragraphs.

- 1. You are a Digital Evidence First Responder (DEFR) called to a suspected insider data theft at a company. Describe the first three steps you would take.
- 2. A company has a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policy. An employee's personal laptop is suspected of being used for industrial espionage. How would you handle the investigation while respecting both company policy and personal property rights?
- 3. During an investigation, you discover that the IT manager accessed an employee's emails without proper authorization. Discuss the ethical and legal implications of this situation.

Technical Understanding

- 1. List at least five essential components of a digital forensics workstation and explain why each is necessary.
- 2. What is the difference between a bit-stream copy and a regular backup? Why is a bit-stream copy required in forensic investigations?