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Global Action on Cybercrime  
Action globale sur la cybercriminalité

# Digital Forensics Laboratory Management and Procedures Guide

Global Action on Cybercrime

From GLACY to GLACY+

GLACY Closing and GLACY+ Launching Conference

Bucharest 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016

# Agenda



- Background
- Who is the Guide for
- Purpose of the Guide
  - What is in the Guide
  - What is not in the Guide
  - Symbols and Explanations
- Guide Structure and Content

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# BACKGROUND



# Background of the guide

- **The Need:** Following on from the production of the electronic evidence guide, countries requested a similar guide for digital forensic activities.
- The **Electronic Evidence** guide covered stages from the crime scene to the door of the laboratory.
- The **Digital Forensics Laboratory Management and Procedures Guide** picks up the procedures from when the lab door is opened until the evidence is produced for court

# Background of the guide

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# Background of the guide



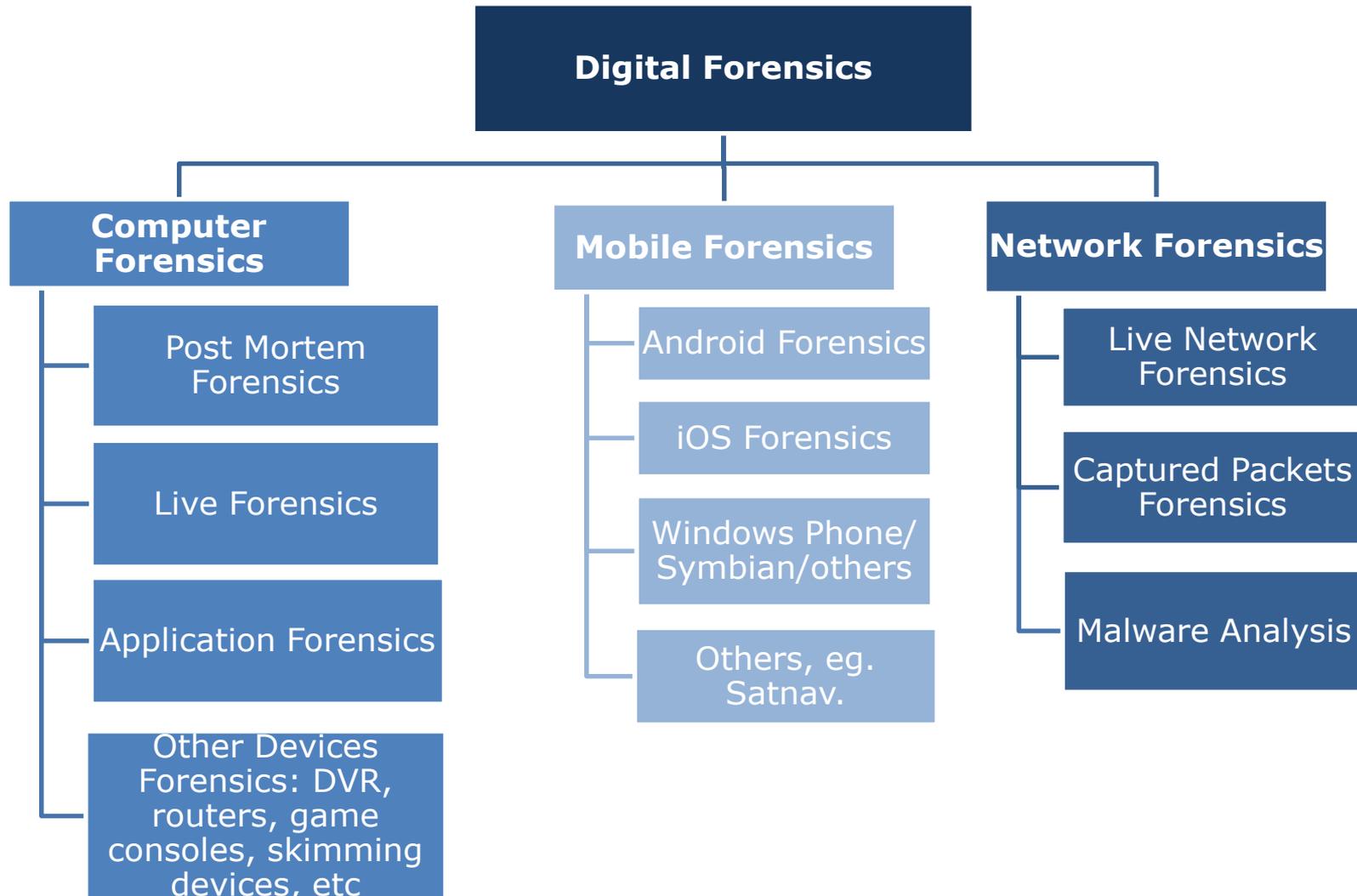


# Background of the guide

## What is Digital Forensics

- Digital forensics is the branch of forensic science that focuses on identifying, acquiring, processing, analysing and reporting on data stored on a computer system, digital device or other storage media.
- Each and every branch of Digital Forensics requires extensive training and experience making it impossible for one forensic examiner to be expert in all areas. The following chart shows the main subcategories and subject areas of Digital Forensics.

# Background of the guide



# Steps in Digital Forensics Examination



```
graph LR; A[Acquisition] --> B[Processing]; B --> C[Analysis]; C --> D[Presentation]
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**Acquisition**

**Processing**

**Analysis**

**Presentation**

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# WHO IS IT FOR

# Who is the Guide for?

- The Guide provides support and guidance to:
- **Managers and Practitioners of Digital Forensics Laboratories**
- The guide should also be at the disposal of **Prosecutors and Judges**. Although members of Judiciary are not, by rule of the thumb, obliged to be well acquainted, or specialised, in sciences other than legal; contemporary criminal acts and their perpetrators are putting additional pressure on professionals both in Prosecution and Courts to better understand and enhance their knowledge about cybercrime and raise their capabilities to render legal and rightful decisions in cybercrime criminal cases.



# How the Guide should be used

- This Guide should be seen as a template document that can be used by countries to consider when developing their digital forensics capability. The advice given is intended to be used at both strategic and tactical levels, according to their national legislation, practice and procedure.
- The overarching principles described in the **Electronic Evidence Guide** are just as relevant to the procedures conducted in the laboratory environment and are in accordance with generally accepted good practice for dealing with electronic evidence. The principles are set out below to reinforce their importance:





# Electronic Evidence Principles

- The Guide follows the principles adopted in the **Electronic Evidence Guide**, covering:
- Principle 1 – Data Integrity
- Principle 2 – Audit Trail
- Principle 3 – Specialist Support
- Principle 4 – Appropriate Training
- Principle 5 – Legality

DIGITAL FORENSICS LABORATORY

MANAGEMENT AND PROCEDURES GUIDE

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# PURPOSE

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe



# What is in the Guide

- The purpose of the Guide is to provide support and guidance to managers and practitioners of digital forensics laboratories in the setting up and running of such laboratories in such a way that any evidence produced by them is dealt with in such a manner that will ensure its authenticity for later admissibility in court.
- Although the Guide is not intended to be an instruction manual with step-by-step directions, it does provide an overview of the kinds of issues that often arise when developing and running a digital forensics laboratory and offers advice on how to deal with them. Readers of this document should check if such advice already exists at the national level.



# What is not in the Guide

- The guide does not make any recommendations regarding the hardware and software choices that may be available. Each country and organisation will decide what is appropriate given their needs and available funds. It should be remembered that digital forensics equipment and commercial software can be a very expensive long term commitment and is not easy to change once the initial decision is made.
- Details of the types of costs associated with forensic software purchases and information about some options to use open source software, are dealt with elsewhere in this document.

# Symbols and Explanations



This symbol indicates the section contains information.



This symbol indicates important information.



This symbol indicates highly technical information



This symbol indicates the section contains basic knowledge



This symbol indicates advanced knowledge



This symbol specialised knowledge

# Symbols and Explanations



## Prosecutors considerations

*Prosecutors considerations are very important to the criminal justice officials who are involved in development and management of digital forensics laboratory and to the staff employed within a digital forensics laboratory in technical roles relating to the digital forensics processes and procedures, since the outcome of the process should be evidence or evidentiary material, which should represent a corner stone for Prosecutorial decision in the criminal case.*

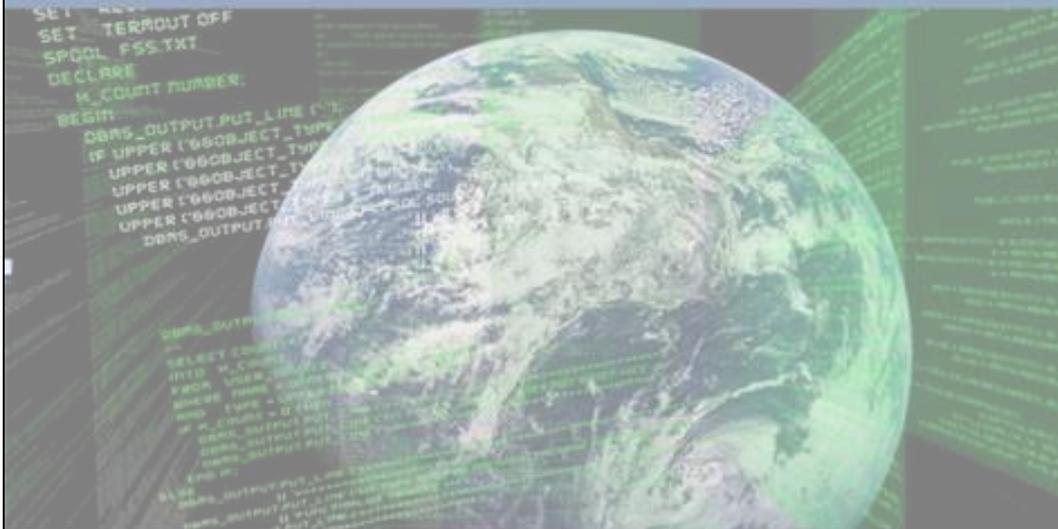
*Depending on the country's Criminal Legal framework, involvement of the Prosecutors will be at different stages, in the criminal justice process. In some jurisdictions, Prosecution will only request digital forensics expert opinion. In others, Prosecution will be more involved in the expertise processes, including involvement into particular phases of the process itself. In some jurisdictions, Prosecutors have an advisory role or legal responsibility for the investigation process.*

*Whichever legal framework exists, it is very likely that Prosecutors will be first judiciary officials who are going to be presented with evidence adduced from the digital forensic process. This guide, together with the Council of Europe Electronic Evidence Guide, and the information contained therein should be accessible to Prosecutors and other parties involved in the criminal justice process, irrespective of legal framework.*

DIGITAL FORENSICS LABORATORY

MANAGEMENT AND PROCEDURES GUIDE

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# STRUCTURE

Funded  
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe



# Guide structure and content

- **Introduction**
- **Management of a Digital Forensics Laboratory**
  - **Research**
  - **Budgeting/Capacity**
  - **Premises**
    - Security, Location, Size, Air conditioning
  - **Staff**
    - Recruiting, Police Officers or Police Support Staff?, Vetting, Staff Development and Human Resources, Welfare, Health and Safety
  - **Physical Laboratory Requirements**
    - Office Equipment, Software and hardware, Quality Assurance/ Review procedure, Streamlined Examination and Reporting, Retention of Data, Education and Training of All Stakeholders



# Guide structure and content

- **Digital Forensics Lab Processes and Procedures**
  - **Overall Process Model**
  - **Acquisition Stage**
    - Processing of computer systems, Processing of mobile devices
  - **Processing Stage**
    - Processing of computer systems, Processing of mobile devices
  - **Analysis Stage**
    - Analysing computer systems, Analysing mobile devices
  - **Presentation Stage**
    - Admissibility of electronic evidence, Report writing, Expert witness status, Alternative presentation methods
- **Appendices**

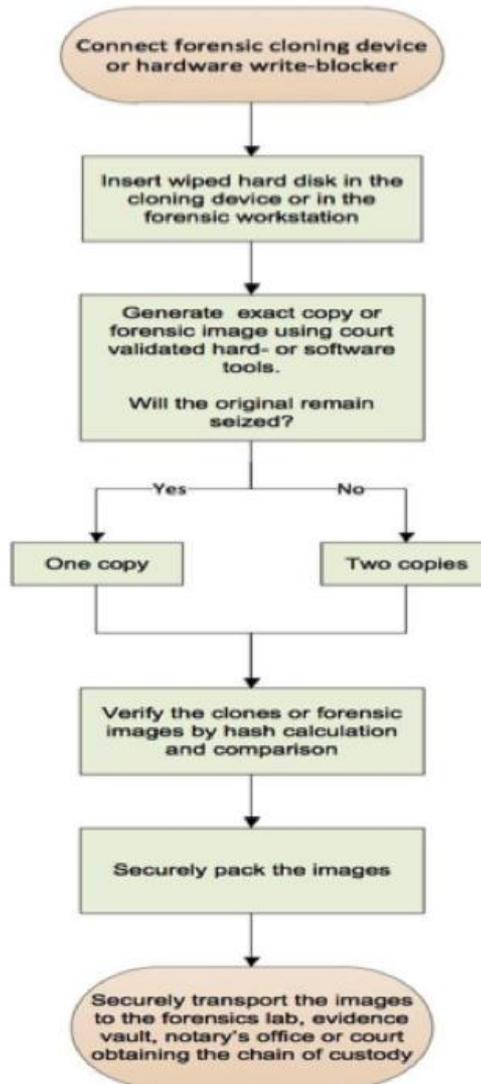


# Appendices

- EU Competency Framework
- Acquisition Process Flow Chart
- Processing Flow Chart
- Analysis Flow Chart
- Presentation Flow Chart
- Chain of custody record
- Exhibit Form
- Imaging Form
- Digital Forensics Analysis Form / Spreadsheet
- Digital Forensics Report Template

# Appendix Example

## Acquisition of digital evidence flowchart





# Validity of the Guide

- This guide and the information contained within are considered valid until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.
- It is intended that the guide will be updated before that date to take into account any relevant changes in technology, procedures and practices that are relevant to the content of this guide.
- Any person or organisation wishing to use the guide after the above date should contact the Council of Europe to obtain the latest version.



## Questions

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**THANK YOU**  
for your attention!