



Targeted Forensic Examinations Saves Critical Time in Child Exploitation Case

Challenge:

A criminal forensic lab located in one of the largest US Federal agencies was recently working on an extensive child exploitation case and had seized 37 total hard drives that contained over 38 terabytes of data. The case was high profile and the forensic team had a short window to examine the contents of the confiscated drives. Technical resources were limited and imaging drives and conducting traditional forensic examinations would be very time consuming. With the amount of data that needed to be searched meant that it could potentially be weeks before the examinations were complete and the case could move forward. In addition it would require significant disk storage space to hold all of the images.

The Solution:

Triage-Examiner from ADF Solutions was used to conduct targeted forensic examinations to help determine which drives would require imaging and a traditional examination saving valuable time and storage space. In less than one week the lab was able scan the drives to determine which ones contained the incriminating files.

The targeted examinations identified 5 drives with a combined capacity of 2.3 terabytes that contained the evidence. Once isolated, these drives were sent for traditional examinations and were found to contain over 1400 videos and 1900 images of child pornography. In addition the forensic team was able to easily preview the video content through Triage-Examiner, extracting frames to analyze, and quickly providing report of the content to the case agent.

Summary:

By using targeted examinations and Triage-Examiner, the lab was able to dramatically save valuable time and technical resources:

- Reduced the drive processing time by two thirds.
- Ultimately saved time and disk storage by isolating the drives with incriminating files.
- Examiners could scan computers for incriminating files without imaging and could run multiple scans simultaneously.
- Decrease the number of traditional forensic examinations required, saving valuable time and technical resources.
- Turned a seemingly overwhelming task into an easily manageable one.