### **AVALON** Legal

Case Study: Internal Investigations – Sexual Harassment/Inappropriate Conduct



Social media conversations and other data indicated that the primary user of the computer appeared to be the executive in question A male corporate executive was alleged to have been sending anonymous harassing and inappropriate e-mails to various females employed by the company and other companies. The corporation's IT department could not find conclusive evidence that the anonymous e-mail messages were being sent by the suspected executive.

#### The Challenge

A laptop belonging to the corporation was found outside one of the corporation's buildings. The corporation suspected that this device was assigned or loaned to the executive in question. Avalon had to conduct a forensic analysis on a formatted computer system to determine prior users and evidence of inappropriate activity.

#### The Strategy

Avalon performed a forensic analysis on the computer system to recover any and all information on the disk to determine whether or not this machine had been involved with the aforementioned harassing e-mails.

Avalon recovered data, such as social media conversations, that indicated that the primary user of the computer appeared to be the executive in question.

Through the review of recovered Internet history and web cache, it was also determined that the accounts used to send the anonymous harassing e-mails were activated and then later deactivated from the respective e-mail provider while using this computer device. The dates of the account creation and deletion were consistent with the dates and times of the e-mail threads provided by the corporation.

Review of the data also determined that the system had connected to various domains from an IP address. Through legal subpoena, Avalon confirmed that the IP address was assigned to the Internet-facing router of the executive's residence. Avalon issued a formal forensic findings report based on the investigation to be used in expert affidavits or as the basis for courtroom testimony, if needed.

#### The Results

As a result of the forensic investigation, termination proceedings were initiated and the executive was removed from the company without further legal proceedings.



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