



# Mobile Devices & the Defensibility of Self-Collection

## Digital Forensics – Case Study & Analysis

### Innovative Discovery, LLC

#### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a brief summary of a forensic collection conducted by Innovative Discovery, LLC (“ID”), which consisted of 25 custodians across multiple locations and an unknown number of varying types of mobile devices. The client, a multi-billion dollar construction & manufacturing company, needed to collect the devices for preservation purposes but expressed concern over the defensibility of self-collection.

**ID was able to successfully complete the mobile device collection, educate the client on forensic software solutions, and enable the client to complete a self-collection that would limit the argument against defensibility in the future.** *The client continues to partner with ID for more complex forensic requests and consults with the Digital Forensics team on a regular basis.*

#### Collection

The initial collection was expected to consist of cellphones and laptop computers only. ID traveled to the client headquarters for one-week and coordinated with each custodian to accommodate their schedule and obtain their devices. As the full scope of the collection began to develop, it became clear that the collection would include also tablets, Apple products, Samsung products, and Androids as well. ID anticipated that this may be the case and arrived fully prepared with the additional resources necessary to collect the various types of mobile devices.

At the end of the week, ID had collected over 50 different devices which consisted of many major manufacturers - including Apple, Motorola, and Samsung. Devices were returned to each custodian with minimal, if any, interruption to daily workflow.

#### Education

ID’s forensic experts spend an invaluable amount of time learning the best and the latest solutions in the market. By using each software and building upon their already extensive knowledge of the variety of forensic tools available, ID’s forensic experts are intimately familiar with the software solutions deployed in this collection. Consequently, ID was able to provide end-user guidance to the client for multiple solutions and demonstrate each tools’ strengths, challenges, and overall capabilities that would be most applicable to the client’s needs.

For this specific collection, ID provided a comprehensive report for each device collected, which was created using various forensic software solutions, including, but not limited to, Lantern & Cellebrite. ID used these results to present the different software solutions in a manner that would be most similar to how the client would use these in the future. As a result, the client had a better understanding of investigative software and was confident moving forward with self-collections in the future.

This collection served as a foundation upon which the client could build their forensic knowledge. By completing the forensic collection with the client on-site, ID was able to demonstrate the entire process across multiple types of devices and operating systems.

**Types of Devices Collected**

