

COLE POPKIN

Senior Digital Forensics Analyst • Expert Witness • Litigation Forensics

616-214-0540 | contact@litigationforensics.com | Grand Rapids, MI 49504

litigationforensics.com

CCFE • CMFE • B.S. Digital Forensics, Davenport University

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cole Popkin is a Senior Digital Forensics Analyst and Expert Witness at Litigation Forensics, where he oversees and conducts digital forensics examinations specializing in analyzing digital evidence related to cybercrime and other digital investigations. His expert services span device analysis, OSINT, metadata forensics, cyber data recovery, video and audio analysis, malware reverse engineering, report writing, and expert testimony. He manages all client relations and marketing services, advises clients on investigative and litigation services, participates in the formation of affidavits and legal reports, negotiates contracts and deals with clients and partners, and has developed and implemented marketing and business development strategies, as well as protocols and structure for the Digital Forensics department.

With nearly five years of experience in Digital Forensics and Cyber Investigations, Cole has developed a deep understanding of digital forensic principles and practices across both law enforcement and private sector roles. He has assisted multiple townships in investigations involving Missing Persons, Armed Robbery, Homicide, Grand Theft, and Fraudulent Activities, and has collaborated with the Department of Homeland Security on investigations involving Malware Analysis, Deep Web investigations, and Cryptocurrency analysis. He has authored numerous affidavits and reports used in legal proceedings, presenting complex technical information clearly to aid courts in understanding the significance of digital evidence. Cole provides audio forensics services — specializing in spectral analysis to authenticate voices, calculate distances, and enhance difficult-to-hear speech — as well as video forensics services including standard enhancements of persons, license plates, and faces, and expert 2D and 3D measurements of objects within video. He possesses strong networking, surveillance, and open source intelligence skills acquired through fugitive apprehension work.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Technical Services

- Device analysis (Android, iOS, laptops)
- OSINT investigations
- Metadata forensics
- Cyber data recovery
- Video and audio forensic analysis
- Cryptocurrency and deep web investigations

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- Mobile device forensics
- Contraband and USB history analysis

Legal / Advisory Services

- Report writing and expert testimony
- Affidavit and legal report preparation
- Litigation strategy advisory
- Criminal and civil case consultation
- Contract negotiation and deal structuring
- Audio forensics for legal proceedings
- Video forensics for legal proceedings
- OSINT for asset and evidence location
- Client relations and case advisory
- Business development and client relations

EDUCATION

Davenport University

B.S. Digital Forensics — Minor in Information Assurance

StraighterLine

Minor in Accounting

Kent County Tech Center

Mechatronics and Avionics

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Digital Forensics Analyst & Expert Witness

Litigation Forensics — Grand Rapids, MI

- Conducts and oversees cyber investigations ranging from device analysis, OSINT, metadata, cyber data recovery, video/audio analysis, report writing, expert testimony, and more.
- Manages and oversees all client relations, as well as all marketing services.
- Advises clients on best courses of action regarding investigative and litigation services, as well as participating in the formation of affidavits and other legal reports.
- Negotiated and designed contracts and deals with clients and partners.
- Developed and implemented marketing and business development strategies, as well as protocols and structure for the Digital Forensics department.

Digital Forensics Contractor

Department of Homeland Security Investigations

- Assisted multiple agents with their caseloads, providing valuable support in research, investigations, and special projects.
- Played a key role in notable cases involving cryptocurrency and insurance theft.
- Utilized open-source intelligence programs to investigate and gather information on cryptocurrency-related crimes.
- Applied expertise in reverse engineering malware used in cyber-attacks, unraveling their functionality and providing critical insights for investigative purposes.
- Tracked and analyzed online activity relevant to the cases, identifying patterns, and extracting valuable evidence.
- Provided vital language support by translating phone calls from Spanish to English.
- Collaborated with the team to develop effective strategies and techniques for investigations.
- Prepared and presented comprehensive reports to support the investigative process.

Digital Forensics Contractor

Michigan State Police — Internet Crimes Against Children Unit

- Worked in the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes involving the exploitation of children online.

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- Conducted thorough analysis of Android and iOS devices to extract and examine evidence relevant to ongoing investigations.
- Collaborated with the investigative team in collecting and analyzing evidence at crime scenes.
- Demonstrated expertise in performing hardware teardowns of various laptops to ensure accurate data analysis and retrieval.
- Managed a high caseload, successfully working on approximately 30+ cases during the Fall semester of 2022.
- Provided detailed reports documenting findings, analysis, and interpretation of digital evidence.

Forensic Analyst Contractor

Calvin Prison Initiative

The Calvin Prison Initiative is an educational nonprofit for incarcerated men. Cole was hired to determine which students were participating in contraband smuggling and who had initially introduced the material into the program.

- Analyzed laptop devices for contraband material, identifying files, their creation timestamps, and recipients involved in distribution.
- Curated and cataloged over 50 contraband files, collecting hash values for each file.
- Developed a custom Python application to streamline the parsing and analysis process, cutting down repetitive tasks and minimizing manual effort required for investigations.
- Implemented a multi-step forensic process, utilizing FTK Imager for imaging, followed by Magnet Axion and Autopsy for in-depth data analysis.
- Addressed contraband smuggling via USB drives by employing tools such as Nirsoft, USBdeview, and Registry Editor to extract USB history data.

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NOTABLE CASES CONSULTED ON

The following represents a summary of several more involved cases and does not represent every case consulted on.

Commonwealth of Virginia v. Wassily, Peter Kamal Nabih

Provided digital forensic analysis of electronic devices in a criminal investigation.

Manukian v. Woodway, USA

Authenticated and enhanced surveillance video to clarify key details in a civil litigation matter.

Sihler et al v. Global E-Trading, LLC (Chargebacks911)

Analyzed deleted and altered metadata from a third-party messaging app in a complex RICO and fraud lawsuit. Studied and analyzed behaviors of JSON files to determine fraudulent claims.

Ng v. Allied Games

Conducted metadata analysis of emails and documents in a business dispute.

Robert's Restorations v. Ford & Jacobsen

Performed open-source intelligence (OSINT) investigations to locate online assets and critical information relevant to the case.

Irwin Jr, David Gary, et al v. Farm Bureau

Recovered deleted messages and performed mobile device analysis in a personal injury matter.

Zachary Rye Adams v. State of Tennessee

Conducted both cell phone and video forensic analysis as part of post-conviction relief efforts.

Melzer v. Powell

Investigated email communications and extracted device data for a civil litigation case.

Depuydt v. American Barbell

Conducted device forensic analysis in an intellectual property theft investigation.

State v. Justin Mongold

Performed mobile device forensic analysis for the defense in a criminal trial.

Robinson v. Hamilton

Analyzed both email records and cell phone data in a personal injury lawsuit.

Unger v. CMR

Conducted forensic analysis of devices relating to intellectual property theft allegations.

Freddy Nelson v. TMT Development Co

Utilized OSINT techniques and video analysis to support claims in a civil litigation matter.

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CREDENTIALS

Certifications

- Certified Computer Forensics Examiner (CCFE)
- Certified Mobile Forensics Examiner (CMFE)

Forensic Tools Proficiency

Cellebrite • Encase • Berla • Magnet Axiom • Autopsy • FTK Imager • GrayKey • iZotope RX11 • Amped Five • Nirsoft • USBdeview • Registry Editor

RECOGNITIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Cole was awarded the prestigious Scholarship for Service Award at Davenport University, in recognition of his academic achievements and commitment to digital forensics. This award underscores his dedication to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in his work.

Cole has lectured with CPCS and other organizations on various forensic topics.

INSIGHTS AND NEWS

Cole has published several educational articles regarding Digital Forensics topics and how to conduct investigations. He is also leading research into using metadata forensics in forensics cases.