

DEUSOP14 – Examining Unidentified Media

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1. Scope

- 1.1. This standard operating procedure addresses the acquisition and examination of media that is not initially recognized.

2. Background

- 2.1. To establish the practices for documenting the examination of evidence to conform to the requirements of the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) *Quality Assurance Manual*, the accreditation standards under ISO/IEC 17025:2005, and any supplemental standards.

3. Safety

- 3.1. If necessary due to condition of evidence received (e.g. hazardous and/or biological substances), wear appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., lab coat, gloves, mask, eye protection), when carrying out standard operating procedures.
- 3.2. Refer to *DEUSOP01 – Handling Digital Evidence* for additional precautions and requirements when examining evidence items.

4. Materials Required

- 4.1. Toolkit, imaging software/hardware, connector cables, write blocker

5. Standards and Controls

5.1. Not applicable

6. Calibration

6.1. Not applicable

7. Procedures

7.1. Determine what type of device and what type of data the device could contain. Preliminary research using resources such as the Internet may assist with defining the type of device and data.

7.2. Once a preliminary hypothesis of the device is established, identify what tools are necessary for acquisition and/or examination.

7.3. Record unique identifiers of device on DEU acquisition form.

7.4. Acquire data using tools identified and record methodology. If possible, adhere to *DEUSOP02 – Mobile Device Acquisition*, *DEUSOP05 – Digital Device Acquisition*, *DEUSOP13 – Live Imaging a Device* and/or any other DEU standard operating procedure, if applicable.

7.4.1. If there is a deviation from any other DEU procedure, record the deviation and the technique used on DEUF05 Forensic Examination form.

7.4.2. Record deviation, reason for deviation and outcome on DEU Procedure Deviation Log.

7.4.3. If there is no prior record of data acquisition using a technique/methodology and data from a device was acquired, use another validated tool to ensure the integrity of the data acquired. This may or not be possible once data has been extracted.

7.4.4. If no data was capable of being acquired or examined, note this on acquisition/examination form and on DEU Deviation Log.

7.5. Create a best evidence copy of data and enter item into LIMS for DEU storage. Create a working copy of the data and store on DEUNet.

8. Sampling

8.1. Not applicable

9. Calculations

9.1. Not applicable

10. Uncertainty of Measurement

10.1. Not applicable

11. Limitations

11.1. Due to damage or other factors, some or all of the above examinations might not be possible. It is at the discretion of the digital evidence analyst as to what examinations are necessary and if they should be conducted.

12. Documentation

12.1. DEUF01 Mobile Device Acquisition Form

12.2. DEUF02 Digital Device Acquisition Form

12.3. DEUF05 Forensic Examination Form

12.4. DEU Procedure Deviation Log

13. References

13.1. Forensic Science Laboratory Quality Assurance Manual, (Current Version).

13.2. FSL Departmental Operations Manuals, (Current Versions).

13.3. FSL Laboratory Operations Manuals, (Current Versions).

13.4. Digital Evidence Unit Quality Assurance Manual, (Current Version).

13.5. SWGDE Capture of Live Systems, (v2.0 September 5, 2014).

13.6. SWGDE Best Practices for the Acquisition of Data from Novel Digital Devices, (v1.0 February 21, 2017).