

DIGITAL RISK Consulting & Investigations

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When CSI meets ESI: Lessons from the Casey Anthony Trial



You may have taken note of the high-profile Casey Anthony trial, and if so, the pivotal role of digital forensics. *TIME* magazine recently sought Stroz Friedberg's expert opinion on this very topic, which appeared in the June 16th on-line article, [Casey Anthony CSI: A Triumph of High-Tech Forensics?](#) It's a strong reminder of the indisputable and powerful nature of digital evidence.

The **TIME.com** article highlights

how qualified forensic examiners can skillfully unveil digital evidence, which to the bewilderment of the less-tech savvy, often appears to have been permanently destroyed. Even establishing the fact that a user attempted to erase certain data files might indicate that she or he was trying to hide something, or in other words, had a "guilty mind."

[Digital forensics](#) can establish a telling timeline of events. A qualified forensics expert can recover artifacts often revealing the content and time of web searches and websites visited on the computer, in addition to files that were accessed, modified or created. The tricks, rather techniques, of the trade do not end there.

The Casey Anthony trial also illuminates the fascinating degree to which "social networking forensics" is woven into the world of digital investigations. Proving a user's access to social media accounts can be significant "contextual evidence" to demonstrate that *a particular* person was "on the computer" at a specific time.

Whether it's a criminal matter of "CSI meets ESI," civil litigation, or internal corporate investigations – forensics brings an unbiased stance by preserving and revealing the integrity of "just the digital facts." The power of recovering digital data cannot be emphasized enough; when done right, digital forensic examiners help juries, courts, and attorneys better interpret the potential significance of electronic evidence.