

COMPREHENSIVE SHOW NOTES

Episode 2: Dissecting Computers, Social Media, & The Internet of Things As They Relate to Forensics

In Episode 2 of Data Discourse, Pete Mansmann and Jeff Stiegler break down changes, challenges, and evolutions in digital forensics - zeroing in on computers, social media, and the Internet of Things. They examine how advancements in technology are reshaping data collection and analysis methods. This episode provides valuable insights for how investigators can adapt to the complexities of modern digital evidence.

The discussion on social media highlights the difficulties investigators face due to the constantly-updating of platforms and strict privacy settings. With new applications like TikTok and WhatsApp becoming prevalent, traditional methods of collecting comprehensive social media histories are no longer feasible.

Instead, investigators now need to conduct targeted searches and rely on data from mobile devices to understand a subject's social media interactions more effectively.

The episode also covers the impact of the Internet of Things. Devices such as smart home assistants and security cameras can offer critical information for your case, but accessing this data can be challenging due to legal and technical barriers.

Pete and Jeff spend time emphasizing the need for proper legal channels, such as subpoenas, to retrieve information from companies like Amazon, highlighting the increasing role of the Internet of Things in shaping forensic investigations.

Key Topics Covered

- **Challenges in Social Media Forensics:** The evolving landscape of social media platforms and the difficulty in accessing comprehensive data due to privacy restrictions.
- **Targeted Data Collection:** The shift towards targeted searches and the use of mobile device data to understand social media engagement.
- **Role of Internet of Things Devices:** How everyday Internet of Things devices like smart assistants and security cameras contribute valuable data points in investigations.
- **Legal and Technical Barriers:** The challenges of retrieving data from Internet of Things devices and the necessity of legal authorization for accessing information.
- **Changing Forensic Methods:** Adapting forensic techniques to handle the complexities introduced by new technologies and platforms.
- **Future of Digital Forensics:** The growing importance of incorporating Internet of Things data and social media insights into comprehensive forensic investigations.