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Thread: [How do digital forensics experts actually pull data from a mobile device?](#)

1stShepherd - April 22, 2026, 9:46 pm

Digital forensic professionals use this tool called Cellebrite UFED Touch 2 to navigate three distinct levels of extraction.

It is a dedicated, portable digital forensics workstation used primarily by law enforcement and cybersecurity professionals to extract data from mobile devices, SIM cards and flash drives.

The 3 ways data can be extracted from digital devices.

1. Logical Extraction (The Front Door)

It asks the phone nicely for the basics. It's like walking through the front door and looking at the photo albums on the coffee table. You see what's out in the open (contacts, recent calls).

2. File System Extraction (The Basement)

This goes deeper. It pulls the internal database files and logs. The tool starts looking in the closets and under the rugs. It finds the hidden notes and logs that apps like WhatsApp, X, Instagram etc., leave behind.

3. Physical Extraction (The Secret Vault)

This is the magic part. Even if you shred a document (delete a photo, audio, pdf etc), the UFED can sometimes find the tiny scraps left behind on the floor and put them back together. This is how we find things people thought were gone forever.

Privacy isn't just about a password, it's about understanding that digital footprints are much deeper than we think.

Mr. Undefined - April 22, 2026, 11:10 pm

I think these tools don't just see what's on your phone, they can dig much deeper... what's visible, what's hidden, and even things you thought you deleted....

So privacy isn't just about having a password... your phone keeps a lot more than you think. so be selective about your searches ^_^

DramaKing - April 23, 2026, 3:49 am

Logical and Full Filesystem are types of mobile forensic extraction. Physical extraction doesn't exist. At least it hasn't since early smartphones.