As smartphones and tablets have become fixtures in our lives, both in and out of the office, the discovery landscape has expanded from collecting computer data to include collecting and processing data from mobile devices.

Mobile devices are no longer just phones — they are mobile computers, tablets, text devices, and more, with the ability to intentionally or unintentionally contain a record of daily life. Just as computer data has been critical in litigation matters in the past, data from mobile devices such as photographs and text messages can be more valuable than ever before. A complete capture of mobile device data and its backups can provide an essential part of the electronic data collection for a custodian in a litigation or investigation.

**Getting prepared**

As with any discovery effort, mobile device discovery can become more effective with preparation. Essential to this preparation is collaborative planning involving professionals in management, legal, and IT departments.

Utilizing our extensive experience with large scale discovery matters involving mobile devices, Deloitte Discovery can assist you with planning and organizing your efforts to prepare for mobile device litigation hold, discovery and production.

**Policies and procedures**

Preparing for investigations and litigation discovery includes possessing written policies and procedures that cover the data types found on mobile devices, but that are flexible enough to anticipate new applications and data types as they arise. The move to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) brings inventory and policies into sharp focus. In a BYOD environment, having policies and procedures to address the wide inventory of devices is essential to collecting data.
Mobile device discovery
Deloitte Discovery has the experience and knowledge to help you navigate the complexities of mobile device collections and forensics. Typically, mobile device manufacturers release new models or operating systems every six months, which results in an increasingly complex landscape of makes, models, data types and applications. Combine these with the variety of forensic tools available, each with their own unique capabilities and the challenge of knowing how to effectively obtain mobile device data in this rapidly evolving landscape becomes more difficult. Deloitte Discovery’s particular experience in this area has helped companies improve the effectiveness of their mobile device discovery.

Exporting mobile data for review
Collecting the mobile device data may not be the last step for you. Exporting the mobile device data from forensic images into structured data is an important part of document review prior to production. Deloitte’s team can support your review platform, taking the mobile device data from industry standard tools and producing a compliant load file, text files and natives, maintaining all of the metadata for each data type and preserving the family relationships.

Our experience
• A multi-national corporation involved in numerous civil actions and subject to criminal scrutiny, hired Deloitte Discovery to provide forensic and discovery services, including the collection and imaging of mobile devices, mobile device voicemail, and deleted data from mobile devices, involving hundreds of different mobile device makes and models using tools and protocols that would stand up in court.
• Deloitte Discovery assisted a corporate client with the preservation and extraction of digital data in foreign languages from mobile devices. Deloitte was able to quickly format the data, preserving the metadata, family relationships, and foreign language, producing the structured data, load files, text files and natives for loading into the client’s review platform.

• Deloitte Discovery is assisting a large health care provider with planning and process development to affordably inventory, collect, and process for review, data from hundreds of custodians on a rolling basis in order to satisfy a legal hold requirement.

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The Deloitte Way — A unique approach
At Deloitte Discovery, we don’t believe that one tool can meet the needs of each client. Instead, we customize an approach tailored to your needs, using the resources of our toolkit to arrive at the solution that can help preserve and capture the desired data. Using the results of our robust testing and validation program to guide our professionals in customizing solutions is what sets Deloitte apart.

About Deloitte
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