SORINTEQ

ADVANCED DIGITAL FORENSICS

5-Day
Specialist training for
the Government sector

- 5 Day Programme
- Specialist Training for Law Enforcement
- All Training Equipment Provided
- In Association With the University of Buckingham

Contact Us

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Sorinteq Academy

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Course Overview

In many investigations, the opportunity to seize a device for full forensic examination is either unavailable, operationally undesirable, or would compromise wider investigative objectives. In these environments, the ability to conduct covert digital acquisition becomes a critical capability.

The Advanced Digital Forensics – Enhanced Covert Digital Acquisition course is a specialist 5-day programme designed for experienced digital forensic practitioners, covert investigators, and operational teams who require the skills to recover intelligence and evidential opportunities discreetly, lawfully, and efficiently where overt seizure is not possible.

This course focuses on the planning, execution, and forensic integrity of covert acquisition activity across a wide range of operational environments. Learners will develop the knowledge required to support covert bag searches, prisoner property examinations, time-limited acquisitions, and targeted digital recovery opportunities across multiple device types.

The programme combines operational planning, legal considerations, technical tradecraft, and evidential strategy to ensure delegates can maximise recovery opportunities while maintaining covert integrity and professional defensibility.

This is an advanced-level course for practitioners already working in digital investigations, covert operations, or digital forensic environments.

Who is the course for?

This course is designed for experienced professionals involved in covert digital investigations and forensic recovery, including:

- Digital forensic examiners
- Law enforcement investigators
- Government intelligence officers
- Technical Equipment Interference (TEI) support staff
- Cyber investigators and incident responders
- Serious and organised crime investigation teams
- Prison intelligence and covert recovery specialists
- Operational teams supporting covert search activity

Participants should already possess a strong understanding of digital forensics fundamentals and investigative procedures.

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Course Content

Day One – Foundations of Covert Digital Acquisition

Introduction to Enhanced Covert Digital Recovery

- Operational purpose and investigative value
- Intelligence vs evidential recovery priorities
- When covert acquisition is preferable to overt seizure

Legal Frameworks and Authorities

- Lawful authority considerations
- Proportionality and necessity
- Governance, oversight, and documentation
- Evidential defensibility and disclosure obligations

Planning Covert Acquisition Activity

- Target assessment and operational preparation
- Prioritisation of devices and opportunities
- Time, access, and threat management
- Integration with wider operational planning

Day Two – Operational Recovery Opportunities

Covert Bag Search Techniques

- Fast-time acquisition opportunities
- Device handling considerations
- Identifying high-value targets
- Maintaining covert integrity

Prisoner Property and Custodial Opportunities

- Prisoner property exploitation
- Custody environment recovery opportunities
- Evidential continuity considerations
- Immediate intelligence development

Covert Search Considerations

- Search discipline and scene integrity
- Working alongside covert teams
- Preventing subject awareness and compromise

Day Three – Time Limited Acquisition & Device Prioritisation

Time Limited Data Acquisition

- Working under severe operational time constraints
- Prioritising the most valuable data
- Quick extraction methodologies
- Live decision-making under pressure

Different Device Considerations

- Mobile phones and tablets
- Laptops and desktop systems
- External storage devices
- Cloud-linked environments
- Secure messaging platforms
- Wearables and IoT opportunities

Volatile Data Awareness

- Live systems and transient opportunities
- Memory considerations
- Network-connected devices and active sessions

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Day Four – Advanced Covert Recovery Techniques

Live Environment Considerations

- Acquiring data without full device removal
- Supporting cyber incident and ransomware response
- User presence and active access considerations

Cloud and Remote Storage Opportunities

- Accessing linked accounts and remote data
- Cloud continuity and preservation strategy

Anti-Forensics and User Awareness

- Identifying subject defensive measures
- Encrypted devices and hardened environments
- Indicators of monitoring and operational compromise

Operational Security for the Investigator

- Personal OpSec
- Infrastructure protection
- Secure handling of recovered material

Day Five – Evidential Strategy & Final Exercise

Evidence Handling and Reporting

- Recording covert acquisition activity
- Exhibit management and continuity
- Intelligence product vs evidential product
- Supporting interview strategies and case progression

Court and Professional Defensibility

- Justifying covert recovery decisions
- Preparing for disclosure and legal challenge
- Professional standards and expert witness awareness

Final Exercise Phase

Live Covert Recovery Scenario

Learners will participate in a realistic operational exercise involving:

- Covert bag search opportunities
- Time-limited acquisition decisions
- Multiple device prioritisation
- Evidence recovery strategy
- Investigative reporting and operational debrief

Delegates will be required to justify decisions, preserve covert integrity, and maximise intelligence and evidential outcomes.

The Outcome

Successful learners will leave with:

- Advanced covert digital forensic capability
- Strong operational planning and prioritisation skills
- Greater confidence in time-critical acquisition environments
- Improved evidential defensibility and reporting standards
- Enhanced support capability for covert investigations and intelligence operations

Graduates become a critical asset to serious investigations where overt recovery is not an option.

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Aims and Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course, learners will be able to:

- Plan and execute covert digital acquisition operations safely and effectively
- Understand legal frameworks, authority requirements, and evidential defensibility
- Conduct covert recovery opportunities during bag searches and property examinations
- Manage time-limited acquisition opportunities under operational pressure
- Identify recovery priorities across multiple device types and operating systems
- Apply forensic strategy in covert search environments
- Preserve continuity and evidential integrity during covert acquisition
- Understand operational risks, compromise indicators, and covert mitigation strategies
- Support wider investigations through structured intelligence and evidential recovery

Why Choose Sorinteq

Sorinteq delivers university-accredited, practitioner-led training trusted by Government and commercial organisations worldwide.

Our advanced forensic programmes are designed by operational specialists who understand the reality of covert investigations and the importance of precise, defensible digital recovery in high-pressure environments.

This course moves beyond standard forensic tool use and develops the true operational capability required for enhanced covert digital acquisition.

Students undertaking courses provided by Sorinteq may earn credits towards formal academic qualifications such as Post Graduate Certificate, Diploma or MSc at the university of Buckingham.

For further enquiries please email info@sorinteq.com or call Sorinteq on +44 (0)333 0063248.

Sorinteq provide all necessary training equipment including laptop computers, internet connectivity, mobile devices and training material.