



Leveraging Connections to Find Child Exploitation Victims and Suspects

How Connections in Magnet AXIOM Focuses Team Efforts and Enhances Collaboration

THE CHALLENGE

Smartphones are investigators' primary source of evidence in all of TICAC's cases. However, new mobile apps are constantly introduced and updates to existing apps mean new features, new databases, and other changes. As a result, investigators have found themselves spending sometimes too much time manually parsing and carving for evidence.

This can impact their ability to share information rapidly enough with investigators in partner agencies. On the other end, the sheer amount of evidence makes it difficult to help nontechnical stakeholders understand how the data can help them build their cases. Investigators need a way to collaborate with examiners by providing comments and flagging what's important for deeper examination.

“ Since AXIOM provides the most relevant features for digital investigation, it remains solely a powerful tool [to share] compatible exports to further investigation. It leverages a single effective tool to offer seamless collaboration to local investigators getting in touch with lab scientists, without an obstacle of distance.”

— Usanut Sangtongdee, Digital Forensic Examiner, Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC)

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Thailand Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (TICAC) was founded in 2015 to work more directly with investigators in the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) as they work to identify suspects and victims. Funded in part by Operation Underground Railroad, TICAC interrupts global human trafficking and rescues children from exploitation.

HOW AXIOM HELPS

Because AXIOM brings more artifacts to light—those that are unknown, or are typically difficult to find from otherwise unsupported apps—it can save significant time by automating many of those manual parsing and carving processes.

In the first place, AXIOM carves deleted, encoded, or encrypted data that other tools don't find in the file system or through a binary keyword search. In the second place, AXIOM's Dynamic App Finder (DAF) automatically finds potential chat, web activity, contact, and geolocation databases, enabling users to discover applications that aren't yet supported by a native artifact.

When it comes to sharing the information they uncover, examiners first can send investigators a Portable Case file, which allows them to tag and comment findings to help focus and direct examinations. Meanwhile, JSON exports let them ingest picture and video data into tools such as Griffey.

For final reports sent to attorneys and others, flexible report format options include HTML—which can include reconstructed chat threads, pictures, and document content—and PDF. All reports include findings from cloud, smartphones, computers, and other data sources, along with visual representations of how evidence connects via Connections in AXIOM.



SEE AXIOM IN ACTION FOR YOURSELF

If you'd like to learn more about Magnet AXIOM and how it can help you run smoother investigations, visit magnetforensics.com/magnet-axiom. While you're there, you can learn more about the product, request an in-depth personal demo from an AXIOM expert, and request a free 30-day trial version.

Learn more at magnetforensics.com

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