

Speed Up Access to Cloud Data with Cellebrite's Collection Suite

How immediate access to cloud data has empowered the Victoria Police Department to better serve and protect victims of crime

For forensics examiners across the globe, encryption and access to cloud-based digital data artifacts remain challenging job realities. For the Victoria Police Department, working with cloud data service providers brings the added complexity of distance and processing time. Since many are based in the U.S., they typically measure that time in months (for non-exigent cases). Leveraging Cellebrite UFED Cloud, forensics examiners can remotely access cloud data servers to get key evidence within minutes or hours, allowing them to return victims' devices promptly which reduces their reluctance to cooperate.

"Victims of crimes – particularly those of sexual assault, harassment or domestic violence – are reluctant to give up their mobile devices for the same reason anyone is; they function as their lifelines and often provide a window into their daily activities," said Detective Roger de Pass, a digital forensics examiner with the Victoria Police Department. "But with advanced forensic tools, consent to device and application credentials, we can extract the relevant details we need quickly and efficiently and return those devices promptly. The ability to do that significantly eases victims' stress and increases their cooperation."

With more and more digital data now residing on cloud servers, Det. de Pass credits Cellebrite UFED Cloud with dramatically increasing the department's efficiencies relative to extracting this type of data – a growing requirement – and making arrests.

In one case they had a suspected pedophile's phone, but by gaining access to the GPS location data from both the suspect and victim's phone, they were able to obtain video surveillance footage in the area showing him stalking the victim and using his phone to call the victim.

"We've used the Cellebrite UFED Cloud tool on five recent occasions when victims were anxious about turning their phones over to us," he said. "The evidence we collected from their cloud accounts (Facebook and Gmail), allowed us to corroborate victim's statements and support other evidence to close cases faster."

Case Summary



Date

August 2017



Challenge

Facing encryption, speeding the time to access cloud data.



Tools

Cellebrite UFED Cloud.



Result

Faster prosecutions and reducing valuable time and costs to investigations.

The race to keep pace with device technology

For the last two years, Det. de Pass has served as one of two mobile forensics examiners for the roughly 300 member Victoria Police Department. In addition to processing scores of computers and tablets, he has processed more than 100 mobile devices in that time. Thanks to a robust suite of industry-leading digital intelligence solutions from Cellebrite and others, the Forensic Unit can handle pretty much any extraction required, but notes that both access to cloud-based data artifacts and encryption increasingly challenge their daily work.

“Criminals here seem to prefer the latest, higher-end devices,” said Det. de Pass. “And they are definitely getting more sophisticated with how they use them. The good news is, because of our ability to invest in the latest digital intelligence technology and training; we are getting more evidence out of each phone. The efficiencies we’ve been able to drive using Cellebrite technology are huge.”

Speeding cloud data extractions remotely

Cellebrite UFED Cloud delivers timely access, preservation and analysis of social media data. Within preapproved legal boundaries, it enables examiners and investigators to collect both existing cloud data and metadata without account credentials. Cellebrite UFED Cloud mimics the user’s credentials stored within the device to perform the remote collection and then packages the data in a forensically sound manner. Users can easily search, filter and sort data to quickly identify key details and reveal critical evidence that can ultimately establish innocence or guilt.

Critical location insights in minutes

Forensic examiners and investigators can also use Cellebrite UFED Cloud to instantly extract Google Location details from social media, webmail and cloud data sources. It then normalizes the results so investigators can quickly visualize common places of interest between one or more suspects on a map based on frequency of visits in chronological order. Map-based location events can be easily exported into Excel or KML formats for further analysis in Cellebrite Pathfinder and other tools.

The tool also allows users to decode mobile login information from Gmail on devices running the latest iOS versions (8.3+), opening up even more potential evidence sources.

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Navigating a new normal

Cloud data sources represent a virtual goldmine of potential evidence for forensic investigators. Together with digital data, they often capture the details and critical connections that solve crimes. Cellebrite UFED Cloud puts this powerful data into investigators' hands so arrests can be made and criminals can be prosecuted in a timelier manner.

With mobile data growing at a blinding pace, it's not surprising that the information found in social media posts and cloud-data servers has the power to reveal critical evidence in criminal cases. Det. de Pass feels like cloud data will only get more relevant over time, and that law enforcement is going to heavily rely on tools that allow them to manage the volume and complexity of that data efficiently. Cellebrite UFED Cloud removes the technology roadblocks involved in gaining real-time data access from cloud service providers, reducing valuable time and cost to investigations.

"Because we have a full suite of digital intelligence solutions at the ready, we benefit from full end-to-end capabilities," said Det. de Pass. "And that makes it easy for us to quickly move from mobile data acquisition, extraction and decoding to presenting the data to investigators for more in-depth analysis and action."



To learn more about Cellebrite's Digital Intelligence Solutions, visit: [Cellebrite.com](https://www.cellebrite.com)

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About Cellebrite

Cellebrite is the global leader of Digital Intelligence solutions for law enforcement, government and enterprise organizations. Cellebrite delivers an extensive suite of innovative software solutions, analytic tools, and training designed to accelerate digital investigations and address the growing complexity of handling crime and security challenges in the digital era. Trusted by thousands of leading agencies and companies in more than 150 countries, Cellebrite is helping fulfill the joint mission of creating a safer world.

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