Cellebrite Insights

Advanced Extraction Capabilities

April 2024

What is FFS extraction?

First let's explain what FFS is. FFS stands for Full File System, which refers to the complete active directory structure and files stored on a digital device, including both user-generated data and system files. Since this is only active files, it does not include unallocated space from the device. A Full File System extraction is the richest type of extraction possible for today's modern devices.

What sets a Full File System Extraction apart from a logical extraction?

The differences are quite noteworthy: It's all about Access.

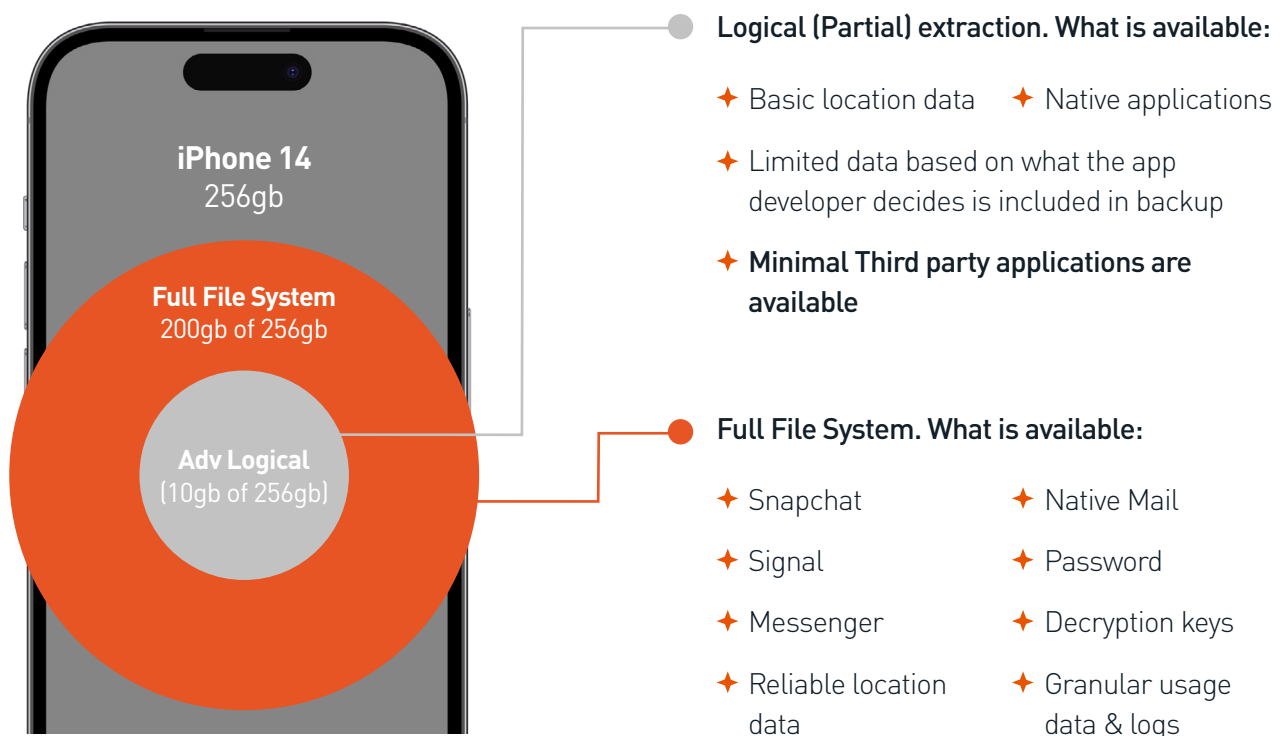|	
A logical extraction is gaining data that it has access to. It only offers you a fraction of the data available to the device as it's a partial extraction.	**Full File System (FFS) extraction**, you gain access to all the active or live files that are present on the device. The most comprehensive range of data, including user-generated content, system files, application data, logs, caches, and metadata.
Device backups, iTunes, or ADB back up are part of a logical extraction.	**VS** This provides a complete snapshot of the device's file system, crucial for thorough forensic examinations, and giving you the best chance of uncovering hidden or deleted data.
Application developers can choose to include an App or not as part of a backup, thus making it inaccessible in an advanced logical extraction.	
In short, you don't have access to all the data and files on the device.	The fullest picture to piece together a complete picture of the device's activity and history.

iPhone 14
256gb

Full File System
200gb of 256gb

Adv Logical
(10gb of 256gb)

Logical (Partial) extraction. What is available:

✦ Basic location data   ✦ Native applications

✦ Limited data based on what the app developer decides is included in backup

✦ **Minimal Third party applications are available**

Full File System. What is available:

✦ Snapchat   ✦ Native Mail

✦ Signal   ✦ Password

✦ Messenger   ✦ Decryption keys

✦ Reliable location data   ✦ Granular usage data & logs

Why is this data so important?

Here some examples of what you can gain when having access to FFS data:

Facebook Messenger

is extensively used for communication, making it a crucial source of evidence for establishing connections, intentions, and timelines in investigations.

The information obtainable through this app includes messages, media files, timestamps, and more.

Instagram

a prominent social media platform used for sharing visual content and communication, is valuable for gathering evidence related to various types of investigations. Its data can be instrumental in uncovering evidence relevant to a range of activities.

The information you can obtain from Instagram includes posts, comments, messages, user profiles, and more.

Snapchat

is favored by younger demographics and is frequently utilized for communication and sharing content that might not be meant for permanent retention, underscoring the importance of capturing evidence before it vanishes.

The data accessible includes images, videos, chats, location data, and more.

TikTok

a widely-used platform for sharing short-form videos capturing real-time events and behaviors, offers valuable insights for investigations.

Extracting data from TikTok can yield crucial evidence related to various cases.

The information available includes videos, comments, reactions, user profiles, and more.

Whether you require a comprehensive examination with a Full File System (FFS) analysis or a swift review with an advanced logical scan, Cellebrite Inseyets offers all the necessary options to access the pertinent data essential for expediting your case.

Find out more here.

Cellebrite

About Cellebrite

Cellebrite's (Nasdaq: CLBT) mission is to enable its customers to protect and save lives, accelerate justice, and preserve privacy in communities around the world. We are a global leader in Digital Intelligence solutions for the public and private sectors, empowering organizations in mastering the complexities of legally sanctioned digital investigations by streamlining intelligence processes. Trusted by thousands of leading agencies and companies worldwide, Cellebrite's Digital Intelligence platform and solutions transform how customers collect, review, analyze and manage data in legally sanctioned investigations.

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