

# Transforming Digital Investigations: Key Insights from the 2025 Industry Trends Survey

Based on responses from more than 2,100 law enforcement professionals, including digital forensic examiners, analysts, investigators, prosecutors and agency managers.



## Introduction

**98%** of prosecutors say digital evidence is pivotal for successful prosecutions, with 9 in 10 saying it contributes to facilitating plea deals; more than half agree it's more important than DNA evidence.

## Rising Variety of Devices in Investigations

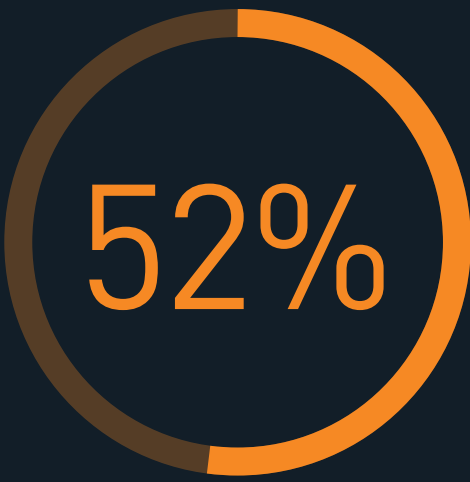
On average, digital forensics and investigative units handle **2 to 5 devices per case**, with smartphones being the most common, and computers, drones, cryptocurrency devices, cars and wearables on the rise.



## Biggest challenges examiners face:



**Two-thirds** of devices are locked, limiting access to critical evidence



**52%** lack the ability to extract data from encrypted apps



**39%** say lengthy extraction processes delay case resolution



## Impact on Investigators

The growing volume and complexity of digital data delays investigations. Investigators spend an average of **69 hours per case** reviewing multiple devices and lack the tools for efficient data analysis.

## Analysts' Burden

Analysts spend significant time reviewing digital evidence and cross-referencing datasets to identify patterns. More than half conduct online searches daily and average **79 hours per case** analyzing multiple devices.



## Prosecutors' Struggles

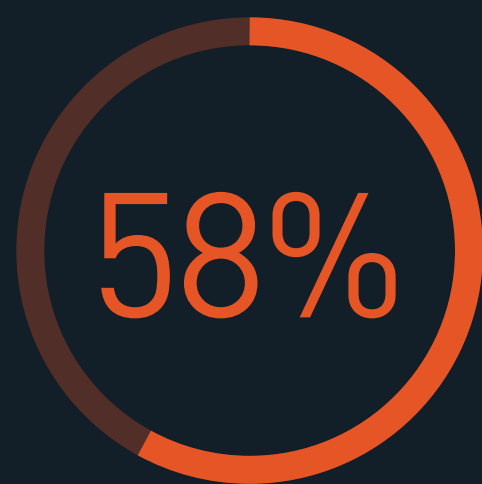
Digital evidence is crucial for successful prosecution, yet current data-sharing methods are hindering case closures. **Two-thirds** of prosecutors express frustration over:



**Slow transfer speeds and security issues with physical media**

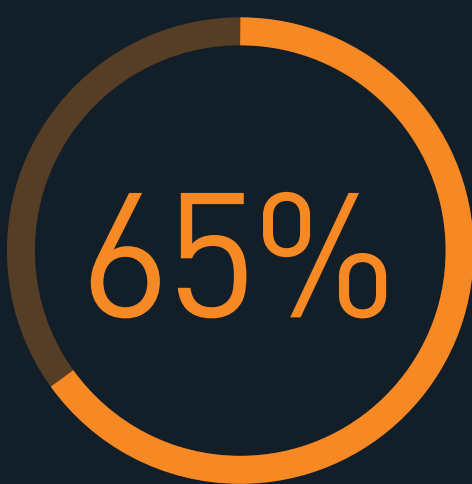


**Outdated sharing methods such as USBs and DVDs**



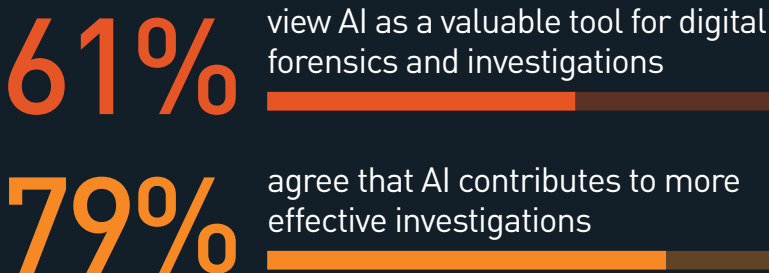
## Agency Management Challenges

The growing volume of evidence is straining agencies, with **58%** of managers rating their digital evidence management as mediocre or poor, while **65%** report that a lack of funding significantly impacts their ability to effectively investigate cases.



## The Role of AI in Digital Investigations

Many in the industry see AI as a game-changer, offering the potential to improve both the speed and accuracy of digital investigations.

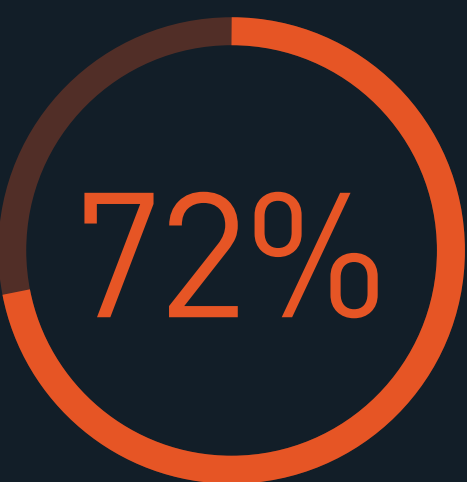


**61%** view AI as a valuable tool for digital forensics and investigations

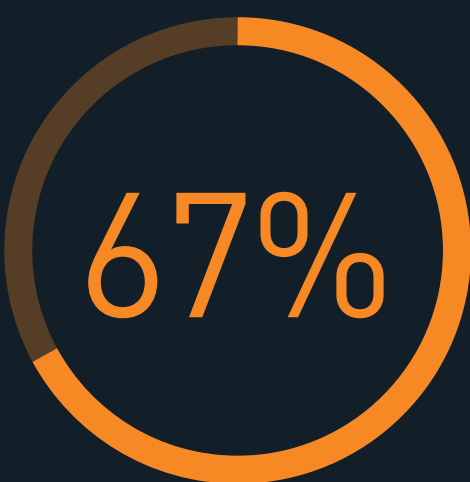
**79%** agree that AI contributes to more effective investigations

## Most Valued AI Functionalities

Survey participants highlighted key AI features:



**72%** prioritize content classification and evidence prioritization



**67%** value automated device extraction and lead identification



**>50%** appreciate tools for generating reports and automating forms

With **9 in 10 cases** involving digital evidence, the demand for modernized, AI-driven workflows is increasing. AI acts as an assistant, helping investigators who verify all findings to close cases faster and more efficiently.

**We have automated data collection and sharing, streamlining forensic analysis and ensuring timely reporting which are very essential in enhancing efficiency and accuracy in investigations.**

**-Large U.S. Federal Agency**

Ready to let integrated, scalable solutions reduce the strain of your digital investigations?

**READ THE FULL REPORT** ►



## About Cellebrite

Your trusted partner from crime scene to courtroom. Cellebrite's Digital Investigative platform transforms how law enforcement agencies collect, review, analyze and manage data in legally sanctioned investigations. Process more data faster, extract more actionable insights, facilitate seamless collaboration and create stronger, more defensible evidence, leading to better outcomes for the communities you serve.

Learn more at [www.cellebrite.com](http://www.cellebrite.com)