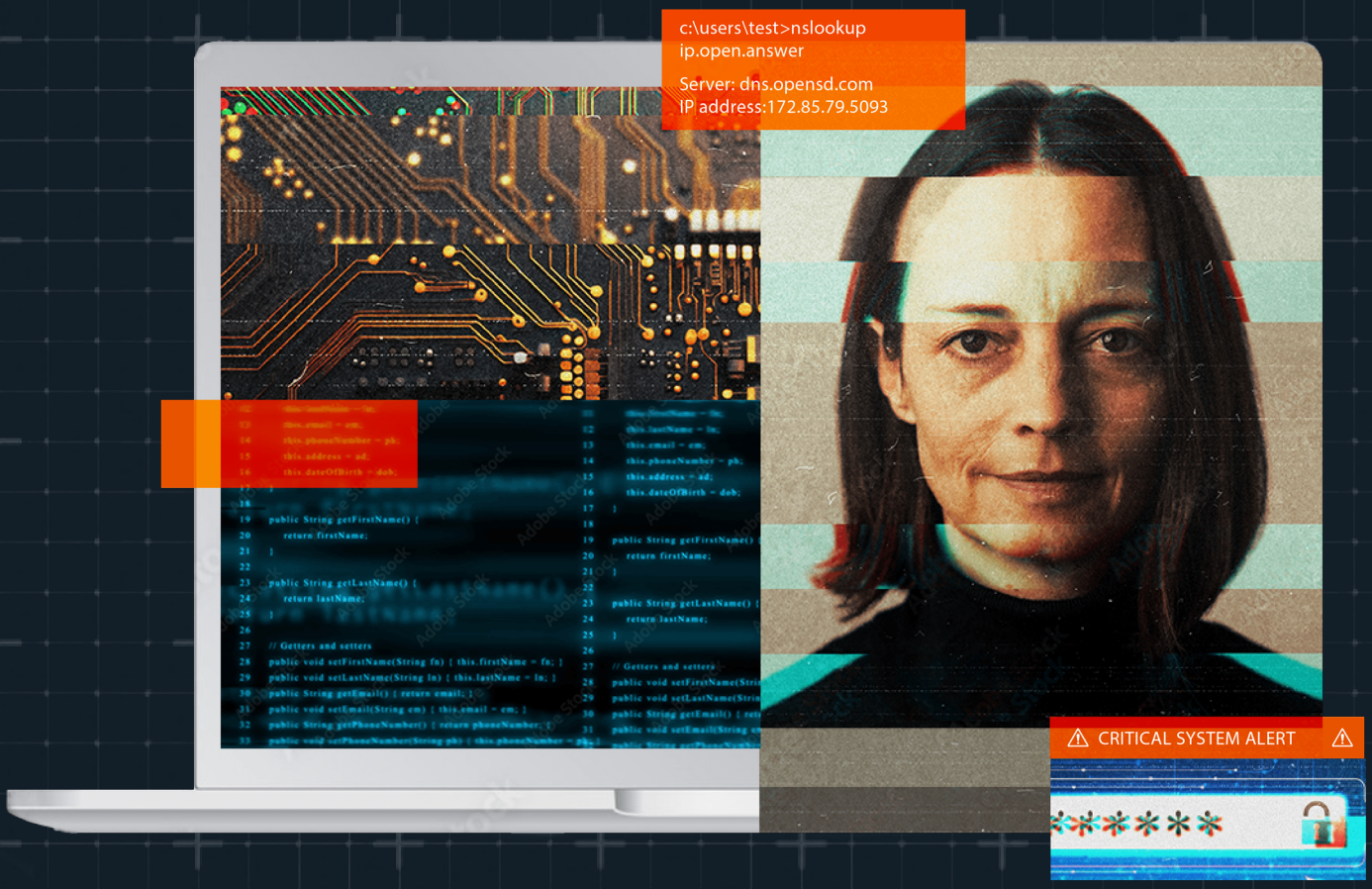
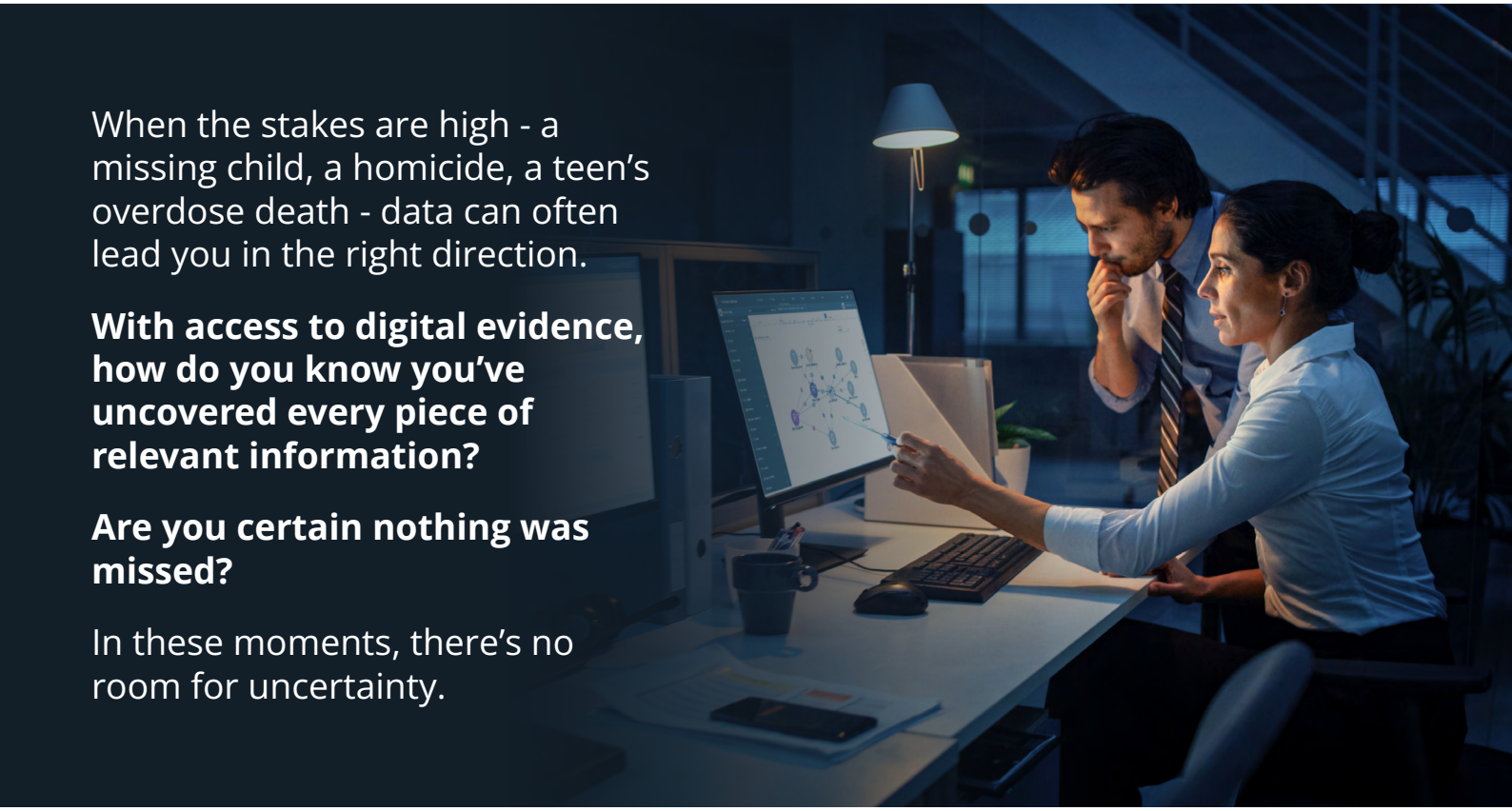
Cellebrite



BUYER'S GUIDE

An Investigator's Guide to Cellebrite



When the stakes are high - a missing child, a homicide, a teen's overdose death - data can often lead you in the right direction.

With access to digital evidence, how do you know you've uncovered every piece of relevant information?

Are you certain nothing was missed?

In these moments, there's no room for uncertainty.

Overview

Choosing the right technology partner is critical to keep pace with the demands of modern investigations. As digital evidence grows in volume and complexity, agencies need more than just tools — they need secure and adaptable solutions that align with operational needs, legal requirements and long-term goals.

The right partner not only provides cutting-edge technology but also offers training, support and strategic collaboration to ensure the agency can effectively serve its community while maintaining the highest standards of integrity, efficiency and accountability.

Cellebrite offers a suite of digital investigative and intelligence solutions to speed workflows, enhance collaboration, simplify evidence collection, preserve forensic integrity and turn raw device data into actionable intelligence that is court admissible.

Go beyond extraction so you can get the whole picture

There's so much more to mobile evidence workflows beyond the device extraction. From the moment a device is submitted to the lab, maintaining the chain of custody is especially critical and sharing that digital evidence with key stakeholders only adds to the challenge. However, many agencies are still using old habits and risky shortcuts during evidence handoffs that can ultimately delay justice.

Ready to amplify your expertise with data to uncover what others can't?

Here's a practical guide with **10 tips** on how investigators can use the Cellebrite portfolio to improve efficiency, reliability and courtroom readiness.

TIP #1

Unify, Centralize and Normalize Data

The key to success is creating a centralized database of evidence. Investigations involve data from many places: mobile device extractions, cloud accounts, call detail records, open-source intelligence, file shares, email, chat logs and more. Traditionally, these sources sit in silos, making analysis and holistic understanding a manual, laborious process.

How you benefit:

- By mapping and documenting each data source as soon as it's ingested, investigators gain a clear understanding of where evidence originated. This helps ensure data is not overlooked and makes it easier to trace information to its source.

How we help:

- Cellebrite solutions consolidate outputs from multiple extractions (mobile device exports, cloud exports, images, OSINT data, etc.) into a single location.
- The system normalizes data such as CDRs, email addresses, usernames and timestamps and presents them uniformly across sources.

> **Cellebrite and the tools that it provides are so advanced that it allows the investigators to really, fully complete the case and get all the minutiae details.**
>
> David Crain, Analyst Supervisor, Florida Department of Law Enforcement

TIP #2

Be Specific When Submitting Evidence

When submitting devices to the lab, clearly state what information is needed. This streamlines the process and helps examiners prioritize and prepare for court more effectively. Specificity is also a legal requirement, and agencies can lose the ability to use the data if the search is overly broad.

How you benefit:

- Clearly specifying what data is needed helps the forensics lab target relevant evidence, saving time and preventing unnecessary analysis.
- Precise requests ensure the lab delivers data that directly supports investigative goals, reduces misunderstandings and the need for rework.

How we help:

- Cellebrite's workflow management features allow investigators to specify extraction goals and evidence types before processing, reducing ambiguity.
- Automated data extraction from mobile devices, cloud accounts and computers accelerate turnaround times.
- Centralized case management ensures all stakeholders see priorities clearly.
- Data integrity features ensure evidence remains admissible by maintaining forensic standards.

TIP #3

Expand Ownership Beyond Forensic Examiners

Take ownership of analyzing digital evidence by learning basic skills such as reviewing text messages, images and location data. This helps reduce bottlenecks and supports examiners in focusing on complex tasks.

How you benefit:

- When investigators handle basic digital evidence analysis, it reduces dependence on digital forensic examiners, empowering proactive investigative decisions rather than waiting on formal lab reports. This frees examiners to extract more data and perform more complex analysis when needed.
- Investigators with access to the proper tools can triage and interpret straightforward data, ultimately speeding the time to case closure.

How we help:

- Cellebrite solutions give investigators the power to analyze data to understand case narratives. There's no need to be a technical expert or analyst; Cellebrite simplifies the process so investigators can easily review data.
- The systems unify data from multiple sources into a single visual dashboard, enabling investigators to quickly identify connections, timelines and patterns across complex cases.
- At times, case knowledge transfer between the lab and the investigations team can be limited. As cases evolve, having a tool to review evidence in real time is critical.
- Cellebrite helps ensure no evidence is overlooked, even in complex cases spanning multiple devices or platforms.

TIP #4

Protect Chain of Custody

Maintain a documented chain of custody to ensure the integrity and admissibility of digital evidence. Every step in handling, transferring and analyzing data from mobile device extractions must be carefully recorded and protected.

How you benefit:

- By assigning unique identifiers to each piece of digital evidence, investigators can easily track and reference items. This reduces the risk of misplacing evidence, streamlines case review and strengthens the credibility of findings.
- When every team member follows standardized documentation protocols, the chain of custody is clear and defensible. This protects the integrity of the evidence, supports legal compliance, and provides transparency if the investigation is challenged in court.

How we help:

- Cellebrite documents the transfer and handling of extracted data, including documenting who accesses it and when. This safeguards evidence against unauthorized access by using a secure storage system.
- The system records all actions performed, from ingestion to analysis, providing transparency and accountability.

TIP #5

Stop Stitching, Start Solving

Run investigations end-to-end with AI-powered solutions designed for today's multi-device, multi-source complexity.

How you benefit:

- Uncover critical connections faster by eliminating manual piecing together of UFDRs, CDRs, and reports.
- Strengthen case outcomes with complete, correlated evidence from all sources in one workflow.

How we help:

- Unified investigative platform that integrates mobile and cloud data, witness statements, video and images for seamless analysis.
- AI-driven insights and automation to accelerate evidence correlation and boost clearance rates.

> **There's no way they could have physically done any of that leg work with individual UFDRs. So much data, so little time is what I called it.**

Billy Ballard, Digital Evidence Examiner, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Houston, Texas

TIP #6

Prioritize and Collaborate

Time is critical. The faster you identify key artifacts, the faster you can act. Reviewers don't need to wait for the forensic lab to deliver finished reports — they can access data earlier and work together in real time.

How you benefit:

- A consistent tagging system ensures that team members can quickly identify and organize evidence. This reduces confusion, improves collaboration and makes it easier to locate key information.
- Sharing data back with officers at another station or region immediately saves travel and wasted investigation time.

How we help:

- Cellebrite enables investigators to run high-level searches to help immediately identify which devices contain relevant data, reducing time wasted on low-value targets.
- Built-in AI and automation help surface leads to help with prioritization.
- Collaboration and sharing features allow teams to quickly flag and share pertinent evidence – in just a few clicks.
- Multiple investigators can work on the same case, and supervisors can assign tasks to monitor progress.

TIP #7

Simplify Construction of Timelines and Event Sequencing

Investigators need to quickly understand the sequence of events surrounding a crime to identify patterns and build case narratives. This can be challenging when doing it with manual processes and a vast amount of data. Save time and reduce errors by leveraging technology to showcase case event timelines.

How you benefit:

- By annotating maps with specific evidentiary context, investigators can visually connect digital evidence—such as photos, CDRs, messages or location pings—to real-world locations and events. This helps clarify timelines, establish movement patterns and demonstrate the relevance of evidence in relation to key scenes. It also makes it easier to present findings to colleagues, supervisors or in court.

How we help:

- Cellebrite can build timelines from call logs, messages, app events, OS artifacts and location pings.
- The system can map movement patterns and event locations to help place subjects at key scenes – or not.

> **Instead of having to open seven phones and try to match them up... Cellebrite Pathfinder allows us to quickly do that. It was amazing.**
>
> David Williams, Chief Assistant Prosecutor
> Oakland County, MI

TIP #8

Leverage AI and Analytic Tools

Teams need to transform raw digital evidence into actionable intelligence. This can often take weeks when using manual processes. Investigators should utilize AI-powered solutions to reduce manual work. By applying AI and always with a human in the loop, investigators can focus on uncovering evidence rather than manual data handling.

How you benefit:

- By automating data analysis and visualization, investigators have faster interpretation of evidence, leading to quicker and more informed investigative actions.
- These features help investigators identify patterns, connections and anomalies within large datasets that might be missed through manual review.
- Investigators can tactically respond to the digital evidence while the trail is hot. They can seize evidence before it perishes and interview relevant suspects who have been identified in hours, not days.
- AI flagging reduces human error in reviewing large datasets, ensuring more reliable findings.

How we help:

- Cellebrite solutions use AI-powered tools to automatically identify key entities across large volumes of data, helping investigators quickly surface relevant connections and patterns.
- Our systems have built-in automation to reduce manual review time.
- Enrichment capabilities allow the system to cross-reference and link data points across multiple sources, revealing hidden relationships, communication networks or behavioral trends that might otherwise go unnoticed.

TIP #9

Prepare Comprehensive Reports

Presenting evidence analysis can be challenging when using manual processes. To ensure a strong case, investigators should leverage strong reporting tools to clearly present case narratives.

How you benefit:

- By documenting the exact queries and filters used to produce charts or lists, investigators can ensure findings can be reliably reproduced by others. This transparency strengthens the credibility of the analysis, supports peer review, ensures traceability and helps defend the methodology in court if challenged.
- Retaining raw exports ensures underlying evidence is accessible for legal review and disclosure. This practice supports compliance, promotes fairness in legal proceedings and protects the integrity of investigations.
- Exporting case snapshots allow investigators to share progress and findings with external reviewers, supervisors or legal teams. This transparency supports quality assurance, enables timely feedback and helps ensure that the investigation meets legal and procedural standards.

How we help:

- Cellebrite allows investigators to quickly generate visual timelines, communication charts and detailed summaries to ensure integrity.
- These reports are easily exportable in formats like PDF, CSV, and multimedia packages, making it simple to present findings to prosecutors, defense teams or in court.

TIP #10

Embrace Continuous Learning

Investigators should proactively learn about digital artifacts and tools—even if they're not examiners. Understanding which apps are supported and basic data types can improve case outcomes and reduce reliance on overburdened lab teams.

How you benefit:

- By developing a working knowledge of common data types and tools, investigators can more effectively identify, interpret and leverage digital evidence. This understanding helps ensure that critical information is not overlooked, improves the accuracy of case analysis, and empowers investigators to act independently without relying solely on forensic examiners.

How we help:

- Cellebrite provides accessible resources and training that empower investigators to understand digital artifacts and tools—without needing deep forensic expertise.
- Our support program includes simplified guides on app behaviors, data types and extraction methods, helping reduce dependency on lab teams and accelerate case progress.

CELLEBRITE SOLUTIONS

Reader	Open UFDR Files			
Pathfinder	Multi-Device Data Visualization	Cross-Case Analysis	Link Persons of Interest	Automatic Translations and Transcriptions
Guardian Investigate	Unify and analyze UFDRs, CDRs and Documents	Manage Case Details	Collaborative Investigator Workspace	

Conclusion

Cellebrite offers an end-to-end digital investigative and intelligence solution that streamlines every phase of an investigation — from data extraction to analysis and reporting. Our tools are trusted by law enforcement agencies worldwide and are designed to handle the increasing complexity of digital evidence found in mobile devices, cloud accounts and computers. With industry-leading tools, Cellebrite enables investigators to extract, decode and visualize critical data quickly and accurately, even across multiple devices and data sources. This ability to uncover actionable intelligence in hours — rather than days or weeks — while maintaining traceability and legal defensibility to reinforce compliance and court readiness.

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 Investigative solutions for the public and private sectors, empowering organizations in mastering the complexities of legally sanctioned digital investigations by streamlining intelligence and investigative processes. Trusted by thousands of leading agencies and companies worldwide, Cellebrite's Digital Investigative platform and solutions transform how customers collect, review, analyze and manage data in legally sanctioned investigations.

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