

# Prosecutors Presentation Fall 2013,

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### Simple overview of data contained on cellular telephones:

- ❖ First off, most “cellular telephones” now are handheld computers which happen to make telephone calls.
- ❖ Steps I take as an investigator when I obtain a cell phone as evidence in a case.
  - Place the phone in airplane mode, and turn off wifi. (preserve information as snapshot in time)
  - Look for information in settings – about phone, then if removable flash media is present.
    - Contact list
    - Recent calls both incoming and outgoing
    - SMS and MMS
    - Photographs
    - Videos

### Case Study 1: Obtaining information from a cell phone to track down runaways

- ❖ Cell phones contain numerous clues to locate runaway juveniles, or people in general
  - Check with parents / friends and determine if they have a cell phone
  - Send Preservation Request to cellular provider for data associated with phone number
  - Obtain investigative subpoena or search warrant for information about cellular phone records including cellular sites and sectors of site location
  - Map where phone is relative to cell site location, strike arc if available from phone info and start looking for known friends or associates by checking call history near the location
  - Old fashioned investigation from there
    - Interesting when they are located where they should be i.e. school or work

### Case Study 2: Obtaining metadata from cell phones to assist in identifying users

- ❖ Pictures, videos, and stored wifi information assist in identifying where the phone has been
  - The device stores quite a bit of information to better assist the user
    - Automatically connects to wifi services in frequented locations like Starbucks, or McDonalds, home and work networks
    - Sometimes stores internet favorites, or frequent searches
    - If location services are turned on, latitude and longitude will be stored with the photos
  - Marijuana grow near REI in Sandy
    - Suspect took several photos of grows throughout Utah, and locations were discovered using gps files attached to the photos

### **Case Study 3: Using Communication Data Records to view anomalies for further investigation**

- ❖ Phone information will assist in painting a picture of who, what, when, where and how's when used with other information. What isn't there is as important as what is there.
  - Device usage
    - Who do they communicate with
    - What do they text about
    - Where are they normally throughout the day
    - When do they meet with people, when do they get up, and how late do they stay up?
    - Possibly information on why something happened
  - Village Inn Homicide
    - Suspect purchased pre paid phone
    - Activation of phone gives a location
    - Communication between persons
    - Dates and times of travel and history of where
    - Movement of cell phones in close proximity of each other
    - Cell phone proximity to credit card usage, witnesses, other cell phones
  
- ❖ Questions?