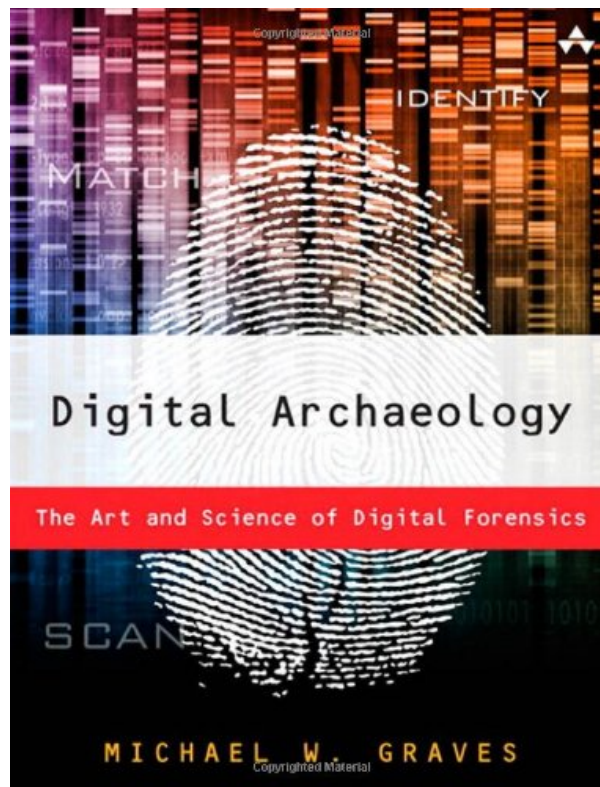
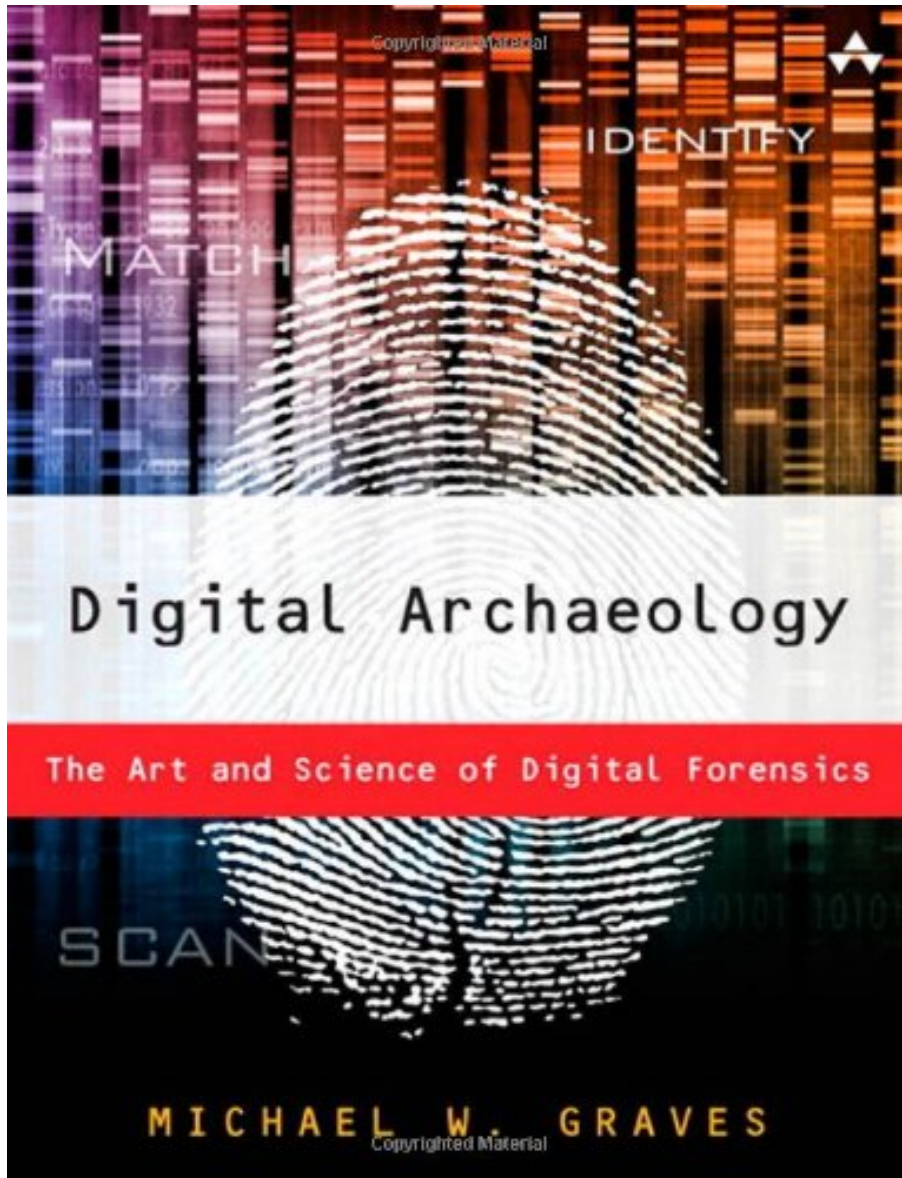


DIGITAL ARCHAEOLOGY: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF DIGITAL FORENSICS BY MICHAEL W GRAVES



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Review

"For those looking for an introductory text on the topic of digital forensics, *Digital Archaeology: The Art and Science of Digital Forensics* is an excellent read. Its comprehensive overview of the entire topic, combined with the author's excellent writing skills and experience, make the book a worthwhile reference."

-- Ben Rothke, CISSP – information security manager

About the Author

Michael W. Graves has worked for more than fifteen years as a network specialist, security analyst, and forensic analyst. He worked as a contractor for the federal government on jobs involving digital investigations ranging from simple employee violations to potential national security threats, and participated in e-discovery for a major bank. Graves holds an M.S. in digital investigation from Champlain College, where he studied under pioneers Gary Kessler and Robert Simpson, among others. He also served several semesters as adjunct professor of computer science for the college.

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The Definitive, Up-to-Date Guide to Digital Forensics

The rapid proliferation of cyber crime is increasing the demand for digital forensics experts in both law enforcement and in the private sector. In *Digital Archaeology*, expert practitioner Michael Graves has written the most thorough, realistic, and up-to-date guide to the principles and techniques of modern digital forensics.

Graves begins by providing a solid understanding of the legal underpinnings of and critical laws affecting computer forensics, including key principles of evidence and case law. Next, he explains how to systematically and thoroughly investigate computer systems to unearth crimes or other misbehavior, and back it up with evidence that will stand up in court.

Drawing on the analogy of archaeological research, Graves explains each key tool and method investigators use to reliably uncover hidden information in digital systems. His detailed demonstrations often include the actual syntax of command-line utilities. Along the way, he presents exclusive coverage of facilities management, a full chapter on the crucial topic of first response to a digital crime scene, and up-to-the-minute coverage of investigating evidence in the cloud.

Graves concludes by presenting coverage of important professional and business issues associated with building a career in digital forensics, including current licensing and certification requirements.

Topics Covered Include

- Acquiring and analyzing data in ways consistent with forensic procedure
- Recovering and examining e-mail, Web, and networking activity
- Investigating users' behavior on mobile devices
- Overcoming anti-forensics measures that seek to prevent data capture and analysis
- Performing comprehensive electronic discovery in connection with lawsuits
- Effectively managing cases and documenting the evidence you find
- Planning and building your career in digital forensics

Digital Archaeology is a key resource for anyone preparing for a career as a professional investigator; for IT professionals who are sometimes called upon to assist in investigations; and for those seeking an explanation of the processes involved in preparing an effective defense, including how to avoid the legally indefensible destruction of digital evidence.

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"For those looking for an introductory text on the topic of digital forensics, *Digital Archaeology: The Art and Science of Digital Forensics* is an excellent read. Its comprehensive overview of the entire topic, combined with the author's excellent writing skills and experience, make the book a worthwhile reference."

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Superb guide to mastering the art of digital forensics

By Ben Rothke

The book *Digital Archaeology: The Art and Science of Digital Forensics* starts as yet another text on the topic of digital forensics. But by the time you get to chapter 3, you can truly appreciate how much knowledge author Michael Graves imparts.

Archaeology is defined as the study of human activity in the past, primarily through the recovery and analysis of the material culture and environmental data that they have left behind, which includes artifacts, architecture, biofacts and cultural landscapes.

The author uses archeology and its associated metaphors as a pervasive theme throughout the book. While most archeology projects require shovels and pickaxes; digital archeology requires an entirely different set of tools and technologies. The materials are not in the ground, rather on hard drives, SD cards, smartphones and other types of digital media.

In the preface, Graves writes that in performing an investigation that explores the use of computers or digital data, the investigator is embarking on an archaeological expedition. In order to extract useful artifacts, information when dealing with our topic at hand; the investigator must be exceedingly careful in how he approaches the site. The similarities between a digital investigation and an archaeological excavation are much closer than you might imagine. Data, like physical artifacts, gets dropped into the oddest places. The

effects of time and environment are just as damaging, if not more so, to digital artifacts as they are physical mementos.

The book shows you precisely how to extract those artifacts effectively. And in a little over 500 pages, the books 21 chapters, provides a comprehensive overview of every area relevant to digital forensics. The author brings his experience to every page and rather than being a dry reference, Graves writes an interesting reference guide for the reader who is serious about becoming proficient in the topic.

Rather than provide dry overview of the topics and associated hardware and software tools. The books take a real-world approach and provides a detailed narrative of real-world scenarios.

An important point Graves makes is that a digital investigator who does not understand the basic technology behind the systems they are investigating is going to be at a distinct disadvantage. Understanding the technology assists in the investigative process and ensures that the evidence can be held up in court.

The need to a proficiency in digital forensics is manifest in the recent attack against Target stores. After an aggressive attack, the store called in external digital forensics consultants to help them make sense of what happened.

The book starts with an anatomy of a digital investigation, including the basic model an investigator should use to ensure an effective investigation. While the author is not a lawyer; the book details all of the laws, standards, constitutional issues and regulations that an investigator needs to be cognizant of.

The author notes that notes that forensic experts Warren Kruse and Jay Heiser wrote in their definitive tome on the topic *Computer Forensics: Incident Response Essentials* that the basic computer investigation model was a four-part model with the following steps: assess, acquire, analyze and report. Graves breaks those into more detailed and granular level levels that represent processes that occur within each step. These steps are: identification and assessment, collection and acquisition, preservation, examination, analysis and reporting.

Chapter 2 has a section on the constitutional implications of forensic investigation, of which is the topic is also pervasive throughout the book.

As noted, a significant portion of the book is dedicated to the legal aspects around digital investigations. Graves spends a lot of time on these needed issues such as search warrants and subpoenas, basic elements of obtaining a warrant, the plain view doctrine, admissibility of evidence, keeping evidence authentic, defining the scope of the search, and when the Constitution doesn't apply.

The only chapter that was deficient was chapter 13 – Excavating a Cloud. Graves writes that the rapid emergence of cloud computing has added a number of new challenges for the digital investigator. The chapter does a good job of detailing the basic implications of cloud forensics. But it unfortunately does not dig any deeper, and does not provide the same amount of extensive tool listings as do other chapters.

Each chapter closes with a review of the topic and various exercises. Those wanting to see a sample chapter can do so here.

For those looking for an introductory text on the topics of digital forensics, *Digital Archaeology: The Art and Science of Digital Forensics* is an excellent read. Its comprehensive overview of the entire topic combined with the authors excellent writing skills and experience, make the book a worthwhile reference.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Sounds like any other boring book on forensics BUT IT'S NOT!!!

By George

SDSUG Book Review

Digital Archaeology – the Art and Science of Digital Forensics” by Michael W. Graves, review by George Toft

ISBN-13: 978-0-321-80390-0

\$79.95

Available:

http://www.amazon.com/Digital-Archaeology-Art-Science-Forensics/dp/0321803906/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1425960252&sr=8-1&keywords=Digital+Archaeology+by+Michael+W.+Graves

The book “Digital Archaeology – the Art and Science of Digital Forensics” by Michael W. Graves sounds like any other boring book on forensics. I expected the same old “chain of custody rules, make exact copies of the hard drive” boring rules we've all read. Not so – Graves starts off with a thorough treatment of Constitutional Law supported by ample and recent case law citations explaining how and why certain procedures must be followed. The most obvious is the forensic examination – what is the legal justification that allows an investigator to actually look inside a computer? Did I say “starts off with . . .?” Actually, the first 20% of the book is devoted to Constitutional Law and it was far from boring, which law seems to be for many people. In this discussion, Graves points out the stark difference between a government investigator (any level of government) and a private investigator (anyone not employed by the government).

Next, Graves develops establishing the credentials to be an investigator, because to be a credible investigator, one must be a credible witness in court, which means one must have credibility – training, certifications, use court-approved tools, and follow specific procedures to maintain the integrity of the evidence. Here's where the book gets really intense as Graves details all of the records the investigator needs to keep. Every decision and every action must be meticulously documented, and the clock begins from first contact.

The book also comes with Chapter Exercises and Chapter References. It smacks of a college text book (not a bad thing, but useful to know), which also means it is highly searchable with a good table of contents and a 49 page Index – yes, almost 10% of the book is the Index. I noted a few typographical errors, but all-in-all, a surprisingly good book that really opens the reader's eyes to the minutia and attention to detail required in the world of digital forensics.

If you think you knew something about digital forensics (and are not an investigator), this book will clearly show you how much you don't know.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Five Stars

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Great book for forensic studies

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