



Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

IT and electronic evidence

Boštjan Kežmah



Data retention

- How do you store electronic evidence in the case file?
 - Do you have an electronic case file system?
- In paper-based case file systems
 - Printouts
 - Various data media
 - CD, DVD, Blue-Ray
 - USB Keys
 - Hard drives



Evidence conversion

- Usually from paper to electronic form
 - Scanners
 - Document cameras
- Easy to do, no technical issues really?
 - How many colors?
 - DPI?
 - Forensic analysis there is no information about the paper, paper defects (dents, pressure etc.)



Massive conversion

- Numerous documents
- Stapled documents
 - Many documents, stapled differently
 - Many sizes of documents
 - Single/double sided
- Extensive documents
 - Many pages resulting in large size of files



Evidence conversion

- Electronic to paper form even easier?
 - Perception based on "button-click" printing
 - What information will be lost because of printing?
 - Electronic signatures?
 - Information not visible on printed document?
 - What information will be changed because of printing?
 - Self-changing fields in documents
 - Use of different software/version for printing



Data transmission

- How to transfer and store large quantity of electronic data?
 - Communications throughput
 - Storage capacity
 - Electronic case file
 - Data media CD, DVD, ...?



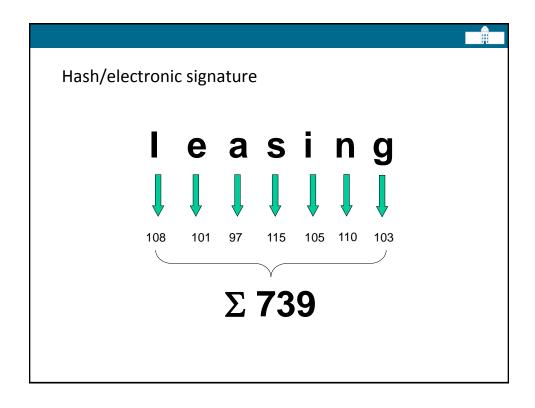
Data security

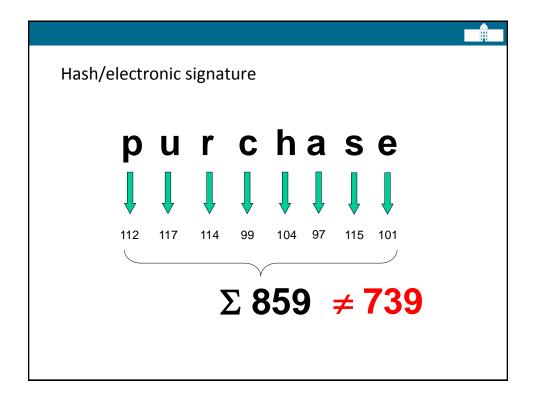
- How do you prove that the electronic evidence has not changed since it was put in the case file?
 - Why is this different than with the evidence in the paper form?
 - Don't we trust the court already?
 - Properties of the paper as a medium for preservation of authenticity is quite different than properties of electronic media!



HASH

- Is basic technology for protecting integrity of information
- **■** Examples
 - Fiscal number, social security number
- Cryptographic hash function
 - More sensitive to changes in information
 - MD4, SHA-1, SHA-256, SHA-512







Hash security

- Free collision
 - Looking for any kind of information (any data) with the same hash
 - May even be audio/video file, image or even a number of bits without a meaning
 - Possible with weak hash algorithms
- Tied collision
 - Looking for a document with specific content with the same hash
 - Almost impossible to achieve

11



HASH

- Sample for SHA-512
- 13ed241e5d2c6ba17b2bd3cdc031b772cc9 2bfc9ab42123e7f8183e5ee2bc3f0dc75c79 0e4d1c8d0afe8f4b0cf2dde70eee3e479f90d 65e1dda643aad30b8430
 - Large hexadecimal number

12



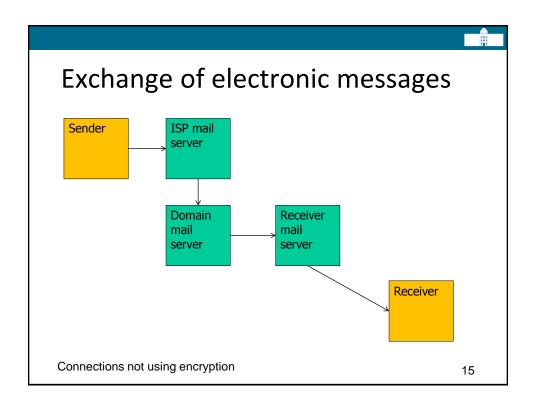
Why not printouts

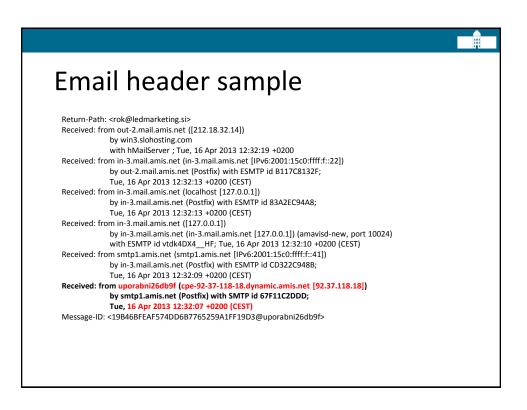
- Usually printouts lack information for further thorough examination of evidence (judicial experts?)
 - Printed electronic photo does not contain EXIF information (time, date, GPS, exposure information, device information)
 - Printed electronic document does not contain information about date/time created, last changed, time edited etc.



Electronic mail

- Can be used as evidence usually stored for prolonged periods
 - Use COMPLETE email not just text of the message
- Forging
 - It is very easy to forge electronic mail
- **■** Eavesdropping
 - Messages are not encrypted by default
- Web clients
 - Gmail (Google)
 - Outlook.com (Microsoft)

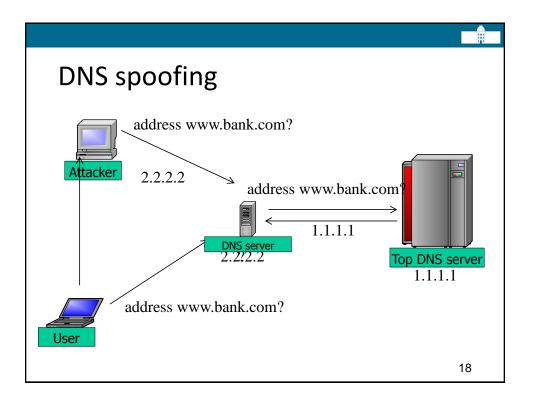




Technical view on identity

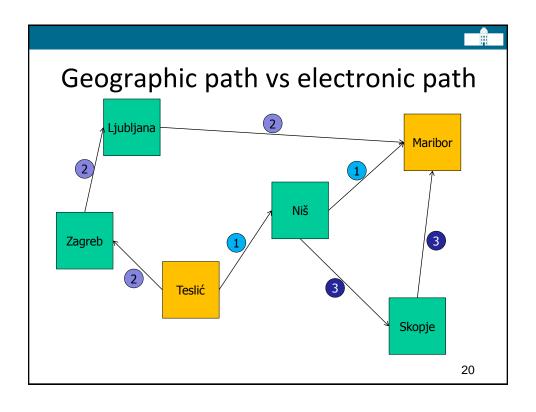
■ DNS

- Domain Name System
- Translates human readable names of computers into IP addresses
- IP addresses can change over time
- One can not reliably connect IP address with physical location





- Can we avoid using personal data in videoconference hearings?
 - Identification of the witness, judge, ...
 - Content of the hearing
 - Content of evidence transmitted during the hearing
- Can we risk transmitting personal data over unsecure communication channel?
 - Who will "filter out" personal data?





Let's put in some bureaucracy

- DIRECTIVE 95/46/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
- Article 17
 - controller must, where processing is carried out on his behalf, choose a processor providing sufficient guarantees in respect of the technical security measures and organizational measures governing the processing to be carried out, and must ensure compliance with those measures.



Guarantees in Slovenia

- In written form
- General terms not acceptable
 - Processor will provide service according to Directive...
- Specific measures should be clearly specified in the terms
 - Using encryption AES-256
 - Using Lampertz cell with physical security based on biometric key lock



Export to 3rd countries

- Are you sure you are not exporting personal data to 3rd countries?
- How about Skype?
 - May be supported by your videoconference system, but should you use it?
 - All communications are using about 20.000 Microsoft's servers
 - Clear evidence of support for foreign governance agencies eavesdropping (e.g. US, China)

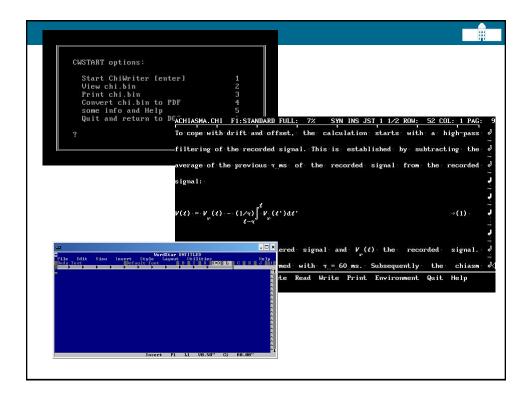


Electronic evidence availability

- Last but not least
- How long will electronic evidence last?
 - Physical deterioration of data media
 - Outdated software
 - Outdated hardware

















What do we do about it?

- Protection of Documents and Archives and Archival Institutions Act
 - Uniform Technical Requirements based on Moreq2
- Detailed organisational and technical requirements for long term preservation of records
 - Yes, that includes case files!



Retention process

- Devices/software, formats, procedures for:
 - Capture material
 - Store material
 - Search and access material
 - Control and audit access to material
 - Destroy Material



Enforce usage of the Act

- Public entities
 - Should use accredited
 - Hardware
 - Software
 - Internal rules
- Is there a consequence for using other (unaccredited) equipment and procedures?



Internal rules

- There is a consequence at least for internal rules
 - Accredited internal rules and entity operating as required by internal rules
 - Every unit is equal to original by the law
 - Unaccredited internal rules and entity operating as required by internal rules
 - Every unit is equal to original if internal rules meet requirements for accreditation
 - No internal rules / not following internal rules
 - Equality determined for every unit of material in question



Solution?

■ Standardization!

36





Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Discussion

bostjan.kezmah@uni-mb.si

37