

# Computing Terms Glossary

- **ACL** - Access Control Lists
- **ACPO Guidelines** - Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Good Practice Guide for Computer Based Electronic Evidence.
- **Acquisition** - The stage in a computer forensic investigation wherein the data involved is collected. Often the means used is a bit-by-bit copy of the hard disk or other media in question.
- **Bit** - The smallest unit of data, consisting of a zero or a one
- **Bit-by-bit copy** - A copy of every consecutive sector on a hard disk or other media.
- **DCO** - Device configuration Overlay - Hidden area on many hard disk drives
- **Disk mirroring** - simultaneously storing a copy of information on another disc so that the information can be recovered if the main disc crashes.
- **Disk striping** - Storing sections of information across several discs (RAID 0)
- **DLL** - Dynamic-link library. A library that contains code and data that can be used by more than one program at the same time.
- **Executable Packing** - Compressing an executable file and combining the compressed data with decompression code into a single executable.
- **FAT** - File Allocation Table
- **File carving** - File carving is the process of reassembling computer files from fragments in the absence of file system metadata.
- **GDPR** - General Data Protection Regulation
- **HDD** - Hard Disk Drive
- **HPA** - Host Protected Area - Manufacturers hidden area on many of today's hard disk drives
- **Image (Forensics)** - A forensic image is an exact, bit by bit, copy of a storage medium used for forensic analysis
- **Internet** - Global computer network providing a variety of information and communication facilities, consisting of interconnected networks using standardized communication protocols.
- **NTFS** - New Technology File System
- **PE** - Portable Executable format. File format for executables, object code, DLLs, FON Font files, and others used in Windows operating systems.
- **PST** - Personal Storage Table - Open proprietary file format used to store copies of messages, calendar events, and other items within Microsoft software
- **RAID** - Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks
- **Shimcache** - Tracks compatibility issues with programs. The cache stores various file metadata depending on the operating system, such as: File Full Path, File Size, Last, Modified time.
- **Slack space** - Leftover storage space that exists on a storage medium. Used to hide files.
- **SSD** - Solid State Drive
- **Steganography** - Techniques to communicate information in a way that is hidden.
- **Unallocated space** - Clusters of a media partition not in use for storing any active files.
- **Windows Registry** - Hierarchical database that stores low-level settings for the Windows OS and for applications that use the registry.
- **Windows Registry Hive** - A hive is a logical group of keys, subkeys, and values in the registry that has a set of supporting files containing backups of its data.
- **World Wide Web ("WWW")** - A network of servers on the Internet that use hypertext-linked databases and files.
- **Write blocker** - Hardware used to access digital media in a read only fashion