

Android Secure Folders Knox And Manufacturer Security Containers

e-discovery.uk, Computer Forensics Lab. Published 2026-09-02.

<https://e-discovery.uk/library/android-secure-folders-knox-and-manufacturer-security-containers>

SECURE FOLDERS & CONTAINERS · A GUIDE FOR UK LAWYERS
Android Secure Folders, Knox and Manufacturer Security Containers
A Second, Separately Locked Phone Inside the Phone, and Why It Is So Often Where the Evidence Is

COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB § ABOUT THE AUTHOR
PREPARED BY COMPUTER FORENSICS LAB E-DISCOVERY TEAM
FULL CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY DOCUMENTATION § CONTENTS

In this guide
01 Executive summary
02 The problem in plain English: a second phone inside the phone
03 The containers: Secure Folder, Knox, private spaces and work profiles
04 How containers are secured
05 Finding the container and reaching it law full y
06 What a container holds, and honest limits
07 Deployment: the concealed second life
08 Source architecture: where else the evidence lives
09 Worked examples
10 Common mistakes and technical limitations
11 Questions to ask · Suggested wording
12 Checklist and red flags · When to involve a digital forensic expert
13 Frequently asked questions
14 Glossary · References · Disclaimer · How a specialist laboratory can assist

§ 01 · ORIENTATION
Executive summary
The headline point: many Android phones carry a second, separately secured space, Samsung's Knox-based Secure Folder, other makers' private spaces, or Android's work profile, each a second phone inside the phone with its own apps, second-account messaging, photos and files, sealed behind its own credential and keys and must be looked for on every device and reached law full y.
§ 02 · FIRST PRINCIPLE

The problem in plain English: a second phone inside the phone
§ 03 · THE CONTAINERS
The containers: Secure Folder, Knox, private spaces and work profiles
§ 04 · HOW CONTAINERS ARE SECURED
How containers are secured
§ 05 ·

FINDING AND REACHING
Finding the container and reaching it law full y
§ 06 · WHAT IT HOLDS
What a container holds, and honest limits
§ 07 · DEPLOYMENT
Deployment: the concealed second life
§ 08 · THE WIDER MAP

Source architecture: where else the evidence lives
EVIDENCE COUNTERPARTS INSIDE THE PROFILE ACCOUNTS' BACKUP
USAGE CONTAINER (SYSTEM CLOUD S / (MAKER ARTEFACTS MAIN SECOND CONTAINER RECORDS) PROVIDER S CLOUD)
§ 09 · IN THE WILD
Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1 · THE UNLOCKED PHONE WITH THE LOCKED FOLDER INSIDE
EXAMPLE 2 · THE CONTAINER THAT STAYED SHUT, AND THE ACCOUNTS THAT DID NOT
EXAMPLE 3 · THE CONTAINER THAT WAS A WORK PROFILE, READ FAIRLY
§ 10 ·

WHERE IT GOES WRONG
Common mistakes and technical limitations
Common mistakes
Technical limitations
§ 11 · INTERROGATORIES & DRAFTING AIDS

Questions to ask · Suggested wording
Ask your client
Ask your opponent
Ask your e Discovery / forensic provider
2. Please, preserving the device's state and integrity: (1) detect from the system's user, profile, package
§ 12 · QUICK CONTROL

Checklist and red flags · When to involve a digital forensic expert
The security-container checklist
Red flags
When to involve a digital forensic expert
§ 13 · COMMON QUESTIONS
Frequently asked questions
What is a Secure Folder or security container?
If the phone is unlocked, isn't everything accessible?
How do you find a hidden container?
Can the container be broken into?
If the container stays locked, is the

evidence lost? Does having a container prove someone was hiding something? § 14 ·
REFERENCE Glossary Sources and authoritative references DISCLAIMER § HOW A
SPECIALIST LABORATORY CAN ASSIST Working with Computer Forensics Lab Speak to a
forensic examiner, not a salesperson. INSTRUCT THE LAB NEW ENQUIRY EMAIL -
DISCOVERY

Questions and answers

What is a Secure Folder or security container?

A second, separately locked space inside an Android phone (

If the phone is unlocked, isn't everything accessible?

No, and that assumption is the commonest mistake (

Can the container be broken into?

Not safely, and it should not be attempted (

Does having a container prove someone was hiding something?

Not by itself, and containers are read in context (

Source: <https://e-discovery.uk/library/android-secure-folders-knox-and-manufacturer-security-containers>. Free to read and share with attribution to Computer Forensics Lab, e-discovery.uk.